

BETTER THAN GEORGIAN BAY.

Captain S. Whartman, Midland:—"Fished in Lake Ontario, in 1874, at Presque Isle and Brighton, principally for salmon trout of large size. They were quite plentiful then. I left there in 1878 to come to Georgian Bay to fish and better myself."

William I. Hodgins, Midland:—"Fished in Lake Ontario from 1875 to 1877, and caught salmon trout and whitefish. In 1856 and 1857 they were caught in great numbers. Whitefish were more plentiful in Lake Ontario than ever in Georgian Bay."

GREAT SEINE FISHING.

W. W. Church, Midland:—"In Lake Ontario whitefish were caught by the thousands in October and November, along the beach at Weller's Bay and the Consecon at Presque Isle, along the shore. Every forty rods in five miles had a seine; a seine would get 1,000 to 6,000 whitefish at a haul. Seine-owners would have as many as fifteen persons cleaning and salting. They were taken so numerously that many spoiled; 40,000 were caught in one seine in July. When I left it was not worth while going out in a boat, fish were so scarce."

Other Georgian Bay fishermen who had left Lake Ontario gave similar evidence.

HAMILTON'S STORY.

Sworn evidence taken at Hamilton was to this effect:—

"Thousands of salmon trout and whitefish were at times piled on Burlington Beach, left there to spoil. The pigs came down to eat what they wanted. These were mostly caught at the spawning time.

"Whitefish and salmon trout were in plenty in 1860. None at all now, destroyed. The yellow pickerel also."

"Large and small fish were taken. The whitefish and trout were so numerous they were thrown away in piles on the beach. The fishing was destroyed by catching in spawning time, over-fishing and killing too many small fish."

John Davis, a man of high standing at Hamilton, said:—