

*James Stewart*, fisherman, Meaford (page 192) says:—Trout are full of spawn in October and November, and then go to the north shore to spawn. We used to catch them until 15th November. Unless hatcheries are established to take the place of a close season, the supply must go down. The fishing for salmon-trout and whitefish has so fallen off here that the fishermen have gone to the north shore. The whitefish have fallen off most. They have gone from this place. Whole families of fishermen have left Meaford who formerly made their living here.

*Charles Little*, Meaford (page 194):—"The fishing has greatly decreased."

(L.)—MIDLAND.

*Albert Hutchins*, Midland, fisherman (page 227) says:—Prefers a  $4\frac{1}{2}$  mesh. Some fishermen fish with mesh of all sizes, as small as 4 and  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches. These small meshed nets are injurious to fishermen and fish-dealers. They destroy too many small fish before they are full value and before they are able to reproduce their species. Whitefish come in the shoal waters very thick and close together to spawn, and if caught when spawning it is very injurious to the fishery. Immature fish are caught in pound-nets, seines, and hoop-nets with small mesh. Such nets would not be more injurious than gill-nets if they had a proper mesh. Pickerel are played out by overfishing, and whitefish are very much cleaned out by catching immature fish and fishing in the spawning time. A great many nets are lost with the fish in them by being out too long, several days usually during storms. The fish are spoiled; a great many are useless; some are salted. Local men take the dead fish if not too bad.

*Archibald Campbell*, fisherman, Midland (page 259) says:—Believes in close seasons, as they are right if properly selected. It would be in the best interests of fishermen, the public and the fisheries if the close seasons were maintained and maintained rigorously. The setting aside of the spawning grounds would be a correct thing if there were no close seasons. Would prefer this to the close seasons. Formerly less nets were used and more fish caught. If the fishing goes on as at present the fishermen cannot live.

*Charles W. Phillips*, Midland, fisherman (page 229):—Whitefish have fallen off most in these waters. The other fish have declined also, with the exception of herrings. The cause of the decline in the Georgian Bay and Lake Huron fishing is caused by overfishing—too many nets—too many boats. Sizes of mesh being too small, has also helped the falling off. The non-observance of close seasons has also done a good deal to lessen the number of fish.

*Samuel Fraser*, J. P. for thirty years, Midland (page 231), says the small mesh in pound-nets is very destructive to small fish; that large quantities of trout and whitefish caught in gill-nets are lost, and by reason of storms and neglect the nets are not lifted. In such cases the fish are not fit for food, nevertheless they are sold in a deceptive way throughout the country. Some are thrown away on the shore, some are seen floating on the water; these have fallen out of the nets. Some of the nets may be out a week and some longer, and some of the nets are never found at all; has seen them out in the bay with fish rotting in them. There is very considerable loss of nets and fish in this way late in the fall when fishermen are fishing along the shore during the close season. Close seasons are sound in principle but have never been enforced. The nets used in the close season are generally sunk, which makes it difficult to find out without boats and grappling irons. Small fish are thrown away on the ice below Waubaushene. Whitefish, salmon-trout, pickerel and herring are the most valuable fish, but they are becoming pretty scarce. The greatest falling off is experienced in salmon-trout and whitefish. This is very apparent.

*James A. Smith*, fisherman and dealer, Midland (page 235), says there were 100 miles of gill-nets used last year from Manitoulin to Midland, and around the bay