

boats, 287; men employed, 337; fathoms gill nets, 209,000; pound nets, 15; tons of fish, 1,796.

Georgian Bay, tugs, 15; sailboats, 300; men employed, 436; fathoms gill nets, 733,000; tons of fish, 3,094.

Lake Erie, tugs, 12; sailboats, 52; men employed, 536; fathoms gill nets, 24,000; pound nets, 197; tons of fish, 4,262.

Value \$293,475 of fish caught in Manitoulin Island Division.

Value \$530,498 of fish caught in Georgian Bay.

Total \$823,973, the two about equal in size to Lake Winnipeg.

Value \$122,464.56 of fish caught on Canada side of Lake Erie.

Lake Winnipeg, tugs, 3; sailboats, 25; white men employed fishing, 188; fathoms gill nets, 60,415; tons of fish, 1,838; value \$150,052. There were 188 white men employed by fishing firms, and about 200 Indians.

To the fish caught on Canada side of Lake Erie should be added the following caught on United States side of Lake Erie, from the annual report of fisheries department at Washington by J. W. Collins, official report for 1890:

South shore of Lake Erie, tugs, 53; sailboats, 395; fathoms gill nets, 2,264,400; pound and trap nets, 2,097; tons of fish, 25,728; value, \$2,122,423. Two millions one hundred and twenty-two thousand, four hundred and twenty-three dollars of fish; add to this the catch on Canada side of Lake Erie will make \$2,544,887. Number of men employed fishing and shore hands on American side of Lake Erie, 4,298. Number of persons dependant on these 4,298 men was 8,698 persons, a total of 12,996 persons dependent upon the fisheries of American side of Lake Erie; this lake has been fished for one hundred years. Lake Winnipeg is capable of producing as many fish as Lake Erie. It is to be hoped the Hon. C. H. Tupper, minister of fisheries, and the Manitoba members of parliament will look after the true interests of Manitoba fishermen, settlers and Indians, and not be influenced by interested prominent officials and Indian agents, who are unreliable as they are friendly to fur traders. E. McColl, Dr. Schultz, S. Wilmot are not practical fisher-

men. They are interested one way or another and cannot see the true state of fishing industry on Lake Winnipeg. There is no other industry on the north end of the lake for two hundred miles; there is not ten white men except fishermen. Mr. Wilmot never saw a net lifted on Lake Winnipeg; he never visited the north end of the lake; he was not within one hundred miles of Great Saskatchewan, Nelson river, or Poplar river. This will show how unreliable his report is. He recommended reserves of water at places he was never at. No wonder Capt. Jonasson should say the proper place for Wilmot is the lunatic asylum. He is cranky on the subject of propagation of fish; he claims to have placed in Lake Erie, from the Sandwich Hatchery, 400,000,000 whitefish fry, which if they all matured, would make 500,000,000 tons, all of which, no doubt, died a short time after being liberated in the lake, at least, no proof can be shown that a single one came to maturity; his hobby is to curtail fishermen, so that fish will increase when he will claim credit for his hatcheries. It will be an evil day for Manitoba fishermen that sees a fish hatchery established here. Ask the fishermen of the county of Essex, if the hatchery is a failure or not.

Mr. Wilmot has made trouble for the fishermen in every province from British Columbia to Nova Scotia. Look at the great difference of number of men employed, number of nets and quantity of fish caught between the American and Canadian sides of Lake Erie. There is no reason for this other than the Canadians are not permitted to fish as many nets as they desire to do, and are harassed by a close season; the Americans pay no license fees, and fish when and how they like; they are free men. Canadian fishermen are not free men, but controlled by theoretical, unpractical officials, such as Wilmot. The deep sea fishermen of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick pay very little license fees and receive \$160,000 per year bounty to encourage them. Most of their fish are salted and shipped to West India, Brazil, etc. The fishermen of Manitoba and Ontario have to pay \$15 per ton duty on the fish imported into the United States, their principal market.

It is as reasonable to restrict the farmers of Manitoba from growing wheat, as to hamper our fishermen and the poor Indians who want to work fishing, but are stopped by the unjust regulations of the fishery department, who have adopted the report of Mr. Wilmot who neglected to learn the true condition of the fisheries of Lake Winnipeg or their extent. Why not consider what would be the true interests of the fishermen from their standpoint, as nearly all the proceeds of fish caught by them is expended here for labor, nets, provisions, salt, boxes and railway freights.

Manitoba should produce \$2,000,000 of fish annually, within five years from date. In 1886 there were only 750 tons of fish exported. So it can be readily noticed that her fisheries have scarcely commenced to be fished. Compare that with Lake Erie, having 4,334 men engaged in fishing, and producing a total of 29,990 tons of fish annually, and this, too, after being heavily fished for 100 years.

It is to be hoped the Minister of Fisheries, Hon. C. H. Tupper, will at once abolish the water reserves, permit Indians to sell fish during the fishing season and do away with the weekly close season, from Saturday night to Monday morning, as it is simply an impossibility to observe this law in fishing with gill nets in the open lake; it could be done by men fishing in a river, but not in the lake.

Truth is mighty and will prevail. I ask that the rights of fishermen and Indians should not be unjustly curtailed.

CANADIAN FISHERMAN.

### Greeting From the Balmy Pacific.

THE COMMERCIAL received the following telegram from J. C. McLagan, of the Vancouver World, on New Year's day:—

"The press gang, of the Pacific coast, are not out to-day in their shirt sleeves, but all the same are wearing button hole bouquets, provided by their best girl, and join in wishing their brethren east of the Rockies equally as great pleasure and many returns of this day."

In Manitoba we were not wearing button-hole bouquets, at least out-doors, but nevertheless we had a merry time with sleigh-riding, snow-shoeing, skating and other invigorating amusements.

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