

STATEMENT

--BY--

OTTAWA AND GATINEAU SAWMILL OWNERS

—ON THE—

SUBJECT OF THE SAWDUST IN THESE RIVERS.

OTTAWA, May 20th, 1895.

*To the Honourable the Senators and
Members of the House of Commons :*

HON. GENTLEMEN—

Referring to the Bill No. 67 lately introduced into the House of Commons by the Honourable the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, to amend the Fisheries Act of last session, the under-mentioned owners of saw mills on the Ottawa and Gatineau rivers beg most respectfully to draw attention to the following facts and documents.

For very many years prior to the passing of the Act of last session sawdust and other waste material from these saw mills had been lawfully permitted by the owners of the mills to pass into the Ottawa and Gatineau rivers. Owing to their being water-power mills, and to their location and construction there was no other way of disposing of it. Whilst, perhaps, some of the mills might, with a considerable outlay, be fitted with appliances to dispose otherwise of the sawdust, &c., as to others of them it would be practically impossible to comply with the provisions of the Act of last session except by a complete re-construction or total stoppage and abandonment of them. The greater number of the mills were built at a time long prior to there being any legislation in the direction of the prohibition now provided for in the Fisheries Act with reference to the putting of sawdust, &c., into the streams in question. As to those of them at least which would require to be either wholly rebuilt or reconstructed in order to comply with the law, the enforcement of the prohibition would mean the loss to the owners of the cost of the total reconstruction of their mills and the derangement