

The following is a synopsis of the evidence, as taken before the Fishery Commission, in November and December, 1892.

14—LAKE ERIE.

Frank Jackson, Port Dover, fisherman and foreman, page 6, says:—

Even twenty years ago this lake and bay had whitefish in plenty, caught with gill-nets and seines. They were salted and were a food supply in winter on the farms and in cities, towns and villages. Herrings were valueless then, whitefish were so numerous. It is now played out, caused by overfishing in the spawning season and wasting and catching small fish. "Yes, sir, whitefish have become extinct in these waters; what was once a whitefish and salmon-trout fishery, is now a herring fishery."

The 2-inch extension mesh used in the pots of pound-nets in Lake Erie has hitherto been very destructive to small, immature fish. A 3-inch extension mesh is the proper mesh for Lake Erie. Blue pickerel are most destructive to the fry of all fish, and they now overrun Lake Erie. The average weight of the blue pickerel is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, and cannot be caught in anything larger than a 3-inch extension mesh. Has seen tons weight of small immature whitefish caught; the majority were buried. This was common in 1890 and 1891, but in former years the destruction of immature fish was far greater. Has known two or three tons of these small fish taken out of six or seven nets in May and June.

James Low, Fisherman, Port Dover, page 16:—Around Long Point and Port Dover is a herring fishery; without the herrings it would not pay to fish it.

Geo. F. Allen, Fisherman, Port Dover, page 9:—Get now and then a whitefish about the size of a big herring. Never saw a salmon-trout caught in these waters.

Capt. J. S. Allen, Port Dover and Nanticoke, page 11:—Very seldom catches a salmon-trout.

Crosby Morgan, Port Dover, page 12:—Fished formerly; now in business. Take the herrings out of the east end of Lake Erie and you might as well stop fishing.

W. F. Tibbetts, postmaster, Port Dover, page 14:—Fished formerly. Herrings are the principal fish.

William Backhouse, fisherman, Dayham, page 26:—Catch two or three salmon-trout in a season; they are about alone in this lake; it is now a herring and blue pickerel lake.

H. E. Ansley, Port Dover, warden of county, page 3:—Enforcement of judicious regulations as to mesh and close seasons might reduce the catch in the meantime, but would be better for the fishermen in the end.

(B.)

W. Emery, merchant and fisherman, Port Burwell, page 23:—Four or five years ago lifted considerable numbers of small, immature fish; gave some away and buried some; sold some at reduced price; the blue pickerel prey upon small fish; has lifted twelve tons of blue pickerel in one day in four nets; they would pass through a $3\frac{1}{2}$ -inch mesh.

C. C. Bates, fisherman, Clear Creek, page 17:—Have caught whitefish 5 inches in length in my 2-inch extension pots; have never thrown away immature fish from his nets; people buy them at $\frac{1}{2}$ c. per pound to smoke; blue pickerel are very numerous, but not many yellow; blue pickerel and herring average the same size; sturgeon under 3 feet should be thrown back.