

whole and not by the returns of a season's fishing from any particular locality. The gill-net fishermen of the Georgian Bay and Lake Huron will in a few years be forced into other occupations. This has already happened to the same industry in Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Simcoe, and the Detroit River and other waters. The process of exhaustion is entirely similar. It can only be checked by preventing the destruction of the young and immature fish, by having larger meshes in the nets and the strict enforcement of proper close seasons.

Fish are described by naturalists as being of two classes, local and migratory. Both may be quickly exhausted by improper fishing and overfishing: with regard to the species which lead a more or less migratory existence, there cannot be the least doubt, and where man has complete control over the area occupied by each, the same principle of more fish being caught than reproduced would lead to exhaustion likewise. It has been demonstrated that some of the Atlantic fish coming into the Mediterranean to spawn, and caught before and after spawning, have become extinct, although at one time so numerous as to interfere with navigation at the spawning season.

The diminution of any species of fish can usually be traced to the action of man.

In the great lakes fishing is carried on with gill-nets in almost any depth, even in 400, 500 and 600 feet of water with as great safety and less loss of nets than when used nearer the shores and shallows. It is in the deep water in the summer months that the immature fish or summer trout are now largely destroyed by the use of smaller mesh nets, which have been reduced from the former 5-inch extension size to $4\frac{1}{2}$ and 4 inches, and less.

The fish can be followed to almost every point in the lakes, and with this irregular fishing and overfishing their extermination is only a matter of time.

When any species of fish get much below nature's balance in the waters by such abnormal means, their natural enemies and parasites are usually sufficient to complete their destruction without the aid of man.

The doubtful expressions of several witnesses relating to whitefish: "All left at once," "They just disappeared," "Gone somewhere else," "They have emigrated," may also be made to apply to salmon-trout.

W. H. Church, a fisherman for 40 years, 28 years on Lake Ontario, and 12 years in Georgian Bay, says "more salmon-trout are caught as the whitefish drop off—that is the fish they go for now," is pregnant with warning—he had seen the fisheries of Lake Ontario destroyed, and then moved to the Georgian Bay to fish those waters.

Messrs. Cunningham and Campbell are to the point in giving their evidence, "that fish are not at all as numerous as they were, but there are more nets and more fishermen to make them appear so." The almost complete destruction of the whitefish and salmon-trout fisheries in Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Simcoe, and whitefish in the Detroit River, and the causes for it are too apparent in the evidence published, to require comment here.