

SYNOPSIS OF FISHERY OVERSEERS' REPORTS IN THE PROVINCE  
OF ONTARIO, FOR THE YEAR 1883.

LAKE SUPERIOR DIVISION.

JAMES DICKSON, }  
JOSEPH WILSON, } *Overseers.*

COMPARATIVE Statement of the yield and value of the Fisheries in this Division

| Kinds of Fish.                        | 1880.     | 1881.   | 1882.        | 1883.          |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------|--------------|----------------|
| Whitefish .....                       | 1,372     | 859     | 1,448        | 1,467          |
| do fresh .....                        | 80,400    | 359,144 | 123,972      | 342,400        |
| Trout .....                           | 1,564     | 988     | 1,698        | 1,610          |
| do .....                              | .....     | .....   | 107,700      | 582,397        |
| Pickarel .....                        | 159       | 55      | lbs. 40,000  | lbs. 68,000    |
| Coarse Fish .....                     | .....     | .....   | .....        | brls. 50       |
| Fish used for local consumption ..... | 426       | 135     | 318½         | " 1,000        |
| Totals in barrels or lbs .....        | 3,923     | 3,832   | lbs. 964,572 | lbs. 1,948,197 |
| Value .....                           | \$ 35,879 | 25,116  | 56,215 76    | 116,533 76     |

The statistics of this division show a considerable increase in the yield and value of whitefish and salmon-trout exported fresh: the catch of the former being given at 342,400 pounds in 1883, against 80,400 in 1880; an increase of 262,000 pounds, and of the latter 582,397 pounds in 1883, against 107,700 in 1882.

*Overseer Dickson*, who has charge of the upper division of Lake Superior, reports that, although more licenses were issued, fewer nets were used this year than in 1882, owing to the fact that some fishermen were unable to procure their nets in time, and that others secured more remunerative employment elsewhere. Pound net fishing did not justify expectations, possibly because the nets were set too late. Taking these disadvantages into consideration, the supply of fish is nevertheless on the increase, as the yield of salmon-trout and whitefish surpasses that of previous years. The profits of fishermen are also larger than formerly, owing to the facility with which they can dispose of their catch in a fresh state without incurring the expense of preserving. On the whole, Mr. Dickson considers the season's operations as satisfactory to fishermen employed during the whole time, while those who had not similar success will be better prepared next year.

*Overseer Wilson* has charge of the lower division of Lake Superior. He reports that, the quantity and quality of all kinds of fish in his division are improving, although the heavy and frequent gales which prevailed during the fall somewhat interfered with the catch. The close season was generally well observed on Lake Superior, where most of the fishermen leave before the 1st November; but between Spanish and Bruce Rivers the law was openly disregarded. The Overseer seized five nets in McBeth's Bay, and, moreover, came across four double pounds and three trap nets which he could not, however, remove for want of assistance. Some of these pounds are controlled by Americans, who have not the slightest respect for our laws. The permit system established on the Nepigon River, where trout are as plentiful as ever, continues to give general satisfaction. Sportsmen kill only the fish they can use on the spot; the others are liberated alive and uninjured. Forty-eight angling permits were issued to foreigners, realizing \$208. The largest trout weighed 6½ pounds.