

the time being became a despot who could at any moment make or ruin any fisherman.

#### A STARTLING REPORT.

The report of the Department of Fisheries for 1904, says:—

“With increasing number of fishermen operating in the lakes, and with the improved means of handling the nets, it is more than evident that if something is not immediately done to meet the effect of this increased attack, our lakes will soon be exhausted of their riches.”

*“But no sane man can expect the Canadians to enforce measures to prevent such a calamity which are not adopted by the Americans.”*

Unless this was written solely with the hope of influencing the Americans “on the side of right,” it must be read in Ontario with misgivings, not to say alarm.

But what sane man can believe that the Americans—so-called—but who are in fact the “Fish Trust,” would be influenced by such a pronouncement? The religion of a trust is “to live,” not “live and let live.” That threatened contingency, in the above extract, is in fact what the American Fish Trust wants done. It would insure them a continuous supply of 95 per cent. of our catch of fish so long as our fish lasted and we continued to export. It means “a give away” of our fisheries.

If the Department saw destruction in sight from American methods of fishing, why was the Georgian Bay, (and other waters wholly our own, and waters that had been preserved), opened up for fishing and depleted, and the entire catch down to six-inch and eight-inch whitefish exported to the States? The Fishery Report of 1904 cannot be read without anxiety as to the future.

#### THE CONTENTION UNSOUND.

The contention is by no means sound that we cannot preserve and allow the fishes on our side of the lakes and rivers to grow to maturity and accumulate again.