

ANNUAL REPORT  
—OF THE—  
Collingwood Board of Trade  
FOR 1893.

PREPARED AND READ BY THE RETIRING PRESIDENT,  
JOHN J. LONG, ESQ.

GENTLEMEN :

According to the usual custom, I will endeavor to review as briefly as possible the work of, and certain matters coming within the scope of, this Board during the past year.

FISHERIES.

At the commencement of last year the destruction of the fishing industry of the lakes, and especially of the Georgian Bay, was threatened by the action of the Fisheries Department, in limiting the quantity of net to be used by each boat, and the size of mesh thereof, to such a degree as to render it impossible for any fisherman to earn a living after paying for his outfit. But, owing in a great measure to the prompt and energetic action of this Board, aided by other Boards of Trade, municipalities and the Inland Fishermen's Association, the destructive order was withdrawn, and the fishing industry, the importance of which can scarcely be overestimated, has been preserved, and is likely to continue as one of the most useful industries of the country.

In this industry there is invested about \$100,000, in boats, steam tugs, nets and plant. The annual catch of fish amounts to about \$125,000, and the number of men employed is about 250, all able-bodied, who are ready and willing, should occasion require it, to assist in defending the country. It is, therefore, most desirable that this business should be fostered and the men engaged therein encouraged.

HARBOR.

The condition of our harbor has been a matter of great anxiety to this Board for several years, and especially during the past season, when valuable business would have come to our port, but for fear there was not sufficient depth of water in the harbor to accommodate the vessels. While this is a serious loss to the town, it is also a loss to the Grand