

### THE FISH JUST DISAPPEARED.

James Pilgrim, fisherman, Meaford, said: "Whitefish have left here; they don't come here; they have just disappeared."

Adam H. Stephen, druggist, Meaford, said: "We used to catch great numbers of whitefish on the shore here. When I was fishing, eight years ago, eight miles off Meaford, I have taken 1,500 out of one gill net. Other fishermen did the same. They were full of spawn; they all left at once, and for a number of years we have not fished it. The mesh should now be five inches at the least."

John Nelson, fisherman, Meaford, said: "The fishermen follow the whitefish to the North Shore in October. The finest and largest whitefish and salmon trout go there to spawn, and are not caught there at any other time. They are caught right on shore on their spawning ground. I have seen forty boats of us within three miles—this is general with other fishermen. This is the time to catch these large spawning fish. The boats come from Manitoulin Island and all parts of the Georgian Bay. The fishermen follow the fish down from the north shore of the Manitoulin, and at this time the spawn is running freely from the fish. Whole families of fishermen have left Meaford, who formerly made their living there."

### THE MIDLAND CONSENSUS.

The evidence taken at Midland was almost identical to what has been written; with these additions:

"A great many fish are spoiled by the nets being out too long. The fish are spoiled. Local men take these dead fish and salt and smoke them."

"If the fishing goes on as at present the fishermen cannot live."

"Close seasons are sound in principle, but have never been enforced."

"The nets used in close seasons are generally sunk, and difficult to find without grappling irons."