

abolish seine fishing in a river, where the practice was directly injurious to his constituency. When we contemplate "nature's plan" with the fisheries, so transcendently perfect, and contrast it with "man's plan," one might well enquire: What is man that Thou art mindful of him?

#### THE RED MULLET.

Aristotle, with extraordinary assiduity, and with the assistance of Alexander the Great, recognized in Grecian waters of the Mediterranean one hundred and seventeen species of fishes. He dwelt upon their mode of life, their peregrinations, their likings and dislikings, their cunning, amours and fecundity, the mode in which they are captured, the time they are most in season, and many other details. That was B.C. 384. That work and research made by Aristotle, no doubt, saved the fish of Greece and the Mediterrean Sea. Plutarch mentions a fish which sold for more than an ox when Rome was at her height of luxury and splendor. That fish was the "red mullet." It is plentiful to this day; it is even shipped to the London market from the Italian coast. Any fish permitted to spawn will last for all time. In Ontario waters the red mullet would have run its course in about fifteen years. It would have gone the way of our speckled brook trout, or the delicious ciscoe, which, when discovered in Lake Ontario, was caught when congregated for spawning, and when spawning, and in a few years exterminated.

#### THE ALARM UNHEEDED.

We have had no Aristotle in Ontario. No interesting book or one that would be generally read has been written on "our fishes." Some great names, however, are connected with our fisheries. Dr. Wakeham, Mr. Whitcher, Mr. Samuel Wilnot, Professor Prince, Professor Ramsay Wright, of Toronto University, all sounded the alarm, and fruitlessly. Their writings were embalmed in "blue books," and no attempt made to form public opinion. It may even be doubted whether some of our past legislators desired it. Under the short licensing system the Minister of Fisheries for