

catch of fish in 1905 is valued upon the same misleading plan at \$1,705,963, an excess of nearly \$500,000 over "old prices." The Ottawa Government, up to A.D. 1898, while managing these fisheries, had adhered strictly to uniform valuation of the catch as one safe guide to detect depletion or show increase.

A TREMENDOUS DECREASE.

The facts are that since the "Ontario blight" struck the fisheries in 1899, there has been a decrease in the yearly catch of nearly 5,000,000 lbs. It is the depletion of the waters, and the consequent greater expense in catching fish, which has compelled a rise in prices. More plant, more tugs, boats and nets are now required to take even a lesser quantity of fish. During the management of the late Ontario Government, steam tugs increased from 83 tugs and 430 men to 127 tugs and 714 men, and those, tugs of greater tonnage and fishing capacity; 1,262 boats and 2,417 men were increased to 1,462 boats and 3,247 men, and gill nets increased 300,000 yards. Seines were increased 50 per cent., 372 pound nets increased to 530, 406 hoop nets to 554. New, reserved and exceptionally valuable waters were opened up for spoliation, and improved machinery introduced for lifting nets.

NETS MULTIPLY, FISH DECREASE.

Evidence of a very convincing kind has recently been given before the Dominion Fishery Commission, that about five times the quantity of gill nets licensed were habitually fished; in fact, that for some years, when a gill net license was issued, the holder fished the extreme length of gill nets he and his men could handle, and not infrequently with a larger tug and a machine net lifter. This had become practically the "custom of the country." It is now a common saying among fishermen: "If I don't catch it somebody else will!" With all these adjuncts and advantages the catch of fish of 1905 is reduced 5,000,000 lbs., but it is valued at