

but simply to unprecedented stormy weather, which fishermen experienced during the whole season. Close seasons were well observed.

Overseer McCrae mentions a falling off in the Grand River division. This he attributes to a late spring and high waters. Anglers met with poor success. There is now less spearing carried on than formerly, and the fishery regulations are better observed.

NIAGARA RIVER AND LAKE ONTARIO DIVISIONS.

J. W. KERR,
 CHAS. GILCHRIST,
 ANDREW HUGHSON, } Overseers.
 W. HULL,
 N. SIMMONS. }

COMPARATIVE Statement of the yield and value of the Fisheries in these Divisions.

Kinds of Fish.		1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.
Whitefish.....	Brls.	945	1,157		
do	Lbs.	125,200	50,000	69,100	34,100
do	No.	100			
Trout.....	Brls.	418	838	lbs. 110,300	lbs. 113,000
Herring.....	"	541	998	brls. 1,212	brls. 2,116
Sciscos.....	"	378	577		
Maskinongé.....	"	25	509	lbs. 100,000	lbs. 190,000
Pike and Bass.....	"	424	1,064	" 229,000	" 252,600
Pickeral.....	"	453	878	" 68,200	" 69,200
Sturgeon.....	"		146	" 103,800	" 69,600
Coarse Fish.....	"	938	1,430	brls. 1,878	brls. 1,698
Fish used for local consumption.....		950	459		
Totals in barrels or lbs.....		5,737	7,904	lbs. 1,298,500	lbs. 1,491,300
Value.....	\$	35,818	68,121	56,594	62,622

Overseer Kerr gives the catch of whitefish as almost a failure when compared with that of 1882, which was considered a poor year. This cannot be ascribed to any absence of these fish, supplemented as they were by millions of fry deposited in the lake during successive years, but to the fact that the number of gill nets used was trifling when compared with that of previous years. It is also presumed that, if whitefish did not approach their usual grounds, it is due to the fact that these were previously occupied by schools of herring, causing the whitefish to seek other feeding places. Herring were plentiful on Burlington Beach and large hauls were made. Anglers and trollers were very successful. Large gill nets of 12 inches mesh, replaced this season the more primitive mode of hook and line fishing for sturgeon, and proved a profitable investment to fishermen in the Niagara River, where these fish fetch as much as seven cents a pound, delivered on board the cars.

Overseer Gilchrist states that, while the yield of fish in that part of his division fronting Lake Ontario is steadily decreasing, Rice Lake and its tributaries improve wonderfully. Indians admit that they never had such fishing for the last fifteen years. Six hundred and forty-five angling permits were issued for the above named waters; seventy to foreigners, at \$1 each, seventy-five to Indians and the balance to local residents. Overseer Gilchrist expects a great rush of American sportsmen next season.