

Fish are the most prolific of all creatures, either terrestrial or aquatic. No class of animals contributes so abundantly to the reproduction of its species. And no other class of animals becomes so quickly extinct, if their natural haunts are interfered with.

A large proportion of the food of the sucker is the spawn of other varieties of fish. While they, in their turn are a prey to all others. Thus nature, when left to herself keeps up an even balance.

It is only when man, the noble white man, takes a hand in the game and brings his superior intelligence and inventive faculties into play that the lakes and streams begin to show any diminution in the number of their fish. The habitant, who has his home by the side of our inland waters, may use his trole, his angle worm and night line, or even spear a few hundredweight during the spawning season; may in fact keep his table supplied with fish at all times, and there is no appreciable reduction in their numbers. But let a block of saw logs be stranded for a season and leave its bark on a spawning shoal. Alter the level of a lake, by either raising or lowering its waters, to the extent of even a foot or two; let the saw dust from a saw-mill be distributed through it, or let the water be tainted to the smallest extent by depositing offal therein, or by decaying timber on drowned land, and disastrous effects become apparent at once.

This is not so much in evidence with the coarser varieties, such as the sucker, pike, bass, etc., but with trout and white fish it proves invariably disastrous.

In some of our lakes, which were at no distant date famous for their trout, they are now almost extinct. But I do not know of any such, where the water has been allowed to remain in every respect in its natural condition. The restocking of some of our lakes with the same variety