

## Ontario Fishery Commission.

to see if these fish would not accumulate again. They catch small whitefish off the island—the small, immature fish—(Mr. Wilmot's fish); they won't stand; are young, delicate and small; they won't keep. The business of the fishermen and fish-dealer will soon be at an end unless proper regulations are made to preserve fish and preventing their destruction at improper times and killing immature fish.

*Dawson W. Port*, fisherman, Toronto (page 202) says:—Immature whitefish and salmon-trout come to this market. They are soft, flabby and easily bruised and are to a certain extent unmarketable. They are not as saleable as full-grown fish. They come principally from the Georgian Bay and Lake Erie for the herring; and the head of Lake Superior for the salmon-trout. A good many of these small fish come from Port Arthur. There they get a large quantity of small whitefish, and being very soft they often come crushed by the weight of ice in the packing. Sometimes they are not saleable. If they come fit to sell, they are sold from 1 cent to 2 cents per lb. less than proper sized fish. The small herring are not saleable. If sold at all, it is at greatly reduced prices. These small fish are mixed up with big fish when sent to market. The fishermen, the dealers and the public are all interested in preventing the destruction of these immature fish. This and catching fish at the spawning season are the two great evils to be contended with. Whitefish have fallen off most by all odds, and salmon-trout are not so plentiful as formerly. Whitefish should receive special protection. Lake Ontario principally supplied the Toronto market in years past—Toronto and the east with whitefish and salmon-trout. They were caught in large quantities, with seines along the shores or about Willard's Beach, or Toronto Island, and at the eastern and western ends of the lake. Now there are only a very few brought to this market from Lake Ontario. We depend wholly on the western lakes. The speckled trout is gone, so far as the public is concerned. There are large quantities of fish destroyed by dying in the gill-nets when left out for three nights. This is caused by men trying to handle too many nets, and by stormy weather. If not altogether spoiled, they are generally salted. They would be unfit to sell as fresh fish. Lately the people won't touch them. They are unsaleable.

*Horatio John Bray*, fish-dealer, Toronto (page 297):—Pound-nets in salmon-trout and whitefish waters should have 5-inch mesh in pots and the same in gill-nets. We are now getting fish too small to be marketable. The really marketable fish now come from Manitoba. A barrel of herrings—a sugar barrel—should contain 350 herrings, 250 lbs. This would be a saleable fish. I receive many barrels more containing 600 and 700 herrings, and they are not worth the express charges when they come to the warehouse. They are perfectly unsaleable. You may sell a few for 50 cents per hundred and dump the rest. Large quantities of small herrings are used for manure and thrown away. My whitefish supply now comes from Port Arthur, Lake Superior mostly. The Lake Ontario whitefish are only half-grown. The seines destroyed whitefishing in Lake Ontario. That was done 14 or 15 years ago. Remembers some years ago they put in whitefish fry from the hatcheries over at Niagara. Afterwards the fishermen caught them in seines. Handled pretty much all of them that were shipped here. Got \$8 per 100; but they shipped so many we had to drop it. They were from  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 lb. They haven't had hardly any since. The speckled trout as a fish for the public is about extinct in Ontario.

*William Montgomery* (page 281) says:—A gill-net in Lake Ontario means a herring net. There are no salmon-trout. No whitefish have been caught in the fall for some years. Cannot tell when they spawn. The summer catch is not much. The ciscoe is our best fishing, and they have gone away for the present. Cannot account for the falling off in the whitefish. All he knows is they have disappeared. Our 2-inch bar mesh is too large, it will not catch the half-grown whitefish. The herrings are decreasing. The scarcer the fish get the less often we lift our gill-nets. They are now left out about four nights and catch 4,000. Three years ago we left them out two or three nights and got 6,000 or 7,000. On account of the way the fishing is, has only his brother helping him and a 28-foot boat. Three seines