

Nelson Harman, of Collingwood, fishing off and on for twenty years, said :—Fishing is greatly injured from the rafting of saw-logs in such great numbers which are now towed across the lake to the United States. This injury is caused by the outside and inside bark ground off the logs which forms a sort of stringy substance which settles upon the nets and clogs up the meshes, making the nets useless. Nothing will clear this stuff off the nets except pushing off the particles with your fingers ; this causes so much expense and time as to make it better to throw the nets away and get new ones ; this rafting is very great, they are towed by tugs, covering 4, 5 and more acres. Their motion in the water works off the outer and inner bark which settles to the bottom, and besides injuring the nets it also destroys the fishing grounds by driving the fish away ; this log difficulty has been noticed by me some years, but only these in small spots caused by the local towing of logs for home work, of some saw-mills, but since the duty has been taken off logs, this evil has grown to great magnitude and threatens the fishing industry most seriously ; the rafts are generally towed by two large tugs, which are owned by Americans. The nets would last about two years before this bark difficulty came up, but now the whole net will only last one year with this stuff. The rafting of these saw-logs across to the United States employs hardly any Canadian hands. The United States dealers bring their men and tugs with them ; if these logs were sawn in our own mills in our own country a large number of Canadian workmen would be employed. As it is, these mills are shut up and this labour to our people is lost ; many of our former mill hands now follow these logs to the United States to work in the mills there.

George Larouche, of Little Current, fisherman for seven years, said :—The towing of saw-logs is destructive to the nets and the fishery, but this did not occur in Mudge Bay, it is felt, in the North Channel and in Georgian Bay ; the bark and the rind next to the bark is ground off by the rolling and rubbing of the logs together when towing. This stuff falls to the bottom and catches on the meshes of the nets, it is most injurious ; these rafts cover surface area of as much as ten acres at a time ; since this injury to the fishery by saw-logs has taken place, I do not know where the fish have been driven to, it is certainly a great injury to the fishermen. The rafting of logs did not exist here some time ago, it is only since the duty was taken off logs. (p. 104, pt. II.)

Joseph Rocque, a fisherman of 14 years' experience, said :—The present rafting and towing of saw-logs, which eats off the bark and rubbish, has had the tendency to injure and reduce the catch of fish and to destroy the nets ; I have had my nets destroyed by the bark and soft woods inside, which is rubbed off these logs when being towed ; some of these rafts are about three-quarters of a mile long, some of them when boomed will cover 3 or 4 acres. Before this rafting commenced the nets were not injured, but now the nets become useless and are destroyed for fishing purposes ; if this rafting goes on the fisheries will become almost ruined. The feeding as well as the breeding ground of the fish are most seriously injured by this stuff. (p. 105, pt. II.)

Adolphus Martin, fishing in Georgian Bay and at Killarney for 6 years, said :—Whitefish and salmon-trout have fallen off at the present to what they were in former years caused by the injury derived from saw-logs being towed over the lake covering the spawning ground with bark, and the small wood next the bark which is ground off by the rolling of the logs together while being towed by American tugs ; these logs come from all parts of the Georgian Bay and are towed to the American side ; the bark and stuff ground off settles on the feeding and breeding grounds of the fish, and collects on the nets ; this drives the fish away and starves them of their feeding places, so that they cannot be caught here as they used to be. I lost seven pieces of net last season with this stuff getting fastened to the meshes and making the nets useless. I lost 300 yards of net, other fishermen lost nets in the same way ; the rafts are quite numerous and very large, sometimes covering five acres square, at other times $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 mile long ; they are towed by tugs about 2 miles an hour. They are sometimes delayed by winds and shelter in bay or behind islands ; all this time the rubbing and grinding is going on, and the bark and soft parts setle to the bottom, it won't drift on shore, it gets water soaked and sinks ; this rafting has been going on for past 6 years, but more largely of late ; this was not done much before the duty was taken off saw-logs ; this