

Gilchrist considers that nothing but prompt and efficient measures will save these valuable fish from extinction, as he estimates the take of whitefish by Indians and white men to be about 500,000 lbs. per annum, and these fish are caught almost exclusively during the close season.

Having dealt at some length with the value of the fisheries in the Territories, Inspector Gilchrist goes on to consider the question of their preservation; and he is of opinion, that in a sparsely settled country, where the distances to be covered are so great, and the protection of the fisheries is necessarily inadequate, if Indians and half-breeds are allowed to fish in season and out of season, without restriction, the result will be fatal, as they fish almost solely during the spawning season, when they can catch a larger number of fish in the shortest time. This question is one that affects the Indians, as, with the destruction of these fisheries, their principal food supply will be lost. The kind of net generally used throughout the North-West is the gill-net, and under proper restrictions this net would be the best for the country. The use of pound-nets, Mr. Gilchrist deprecates, owing to its deadly action upon whitefish and trout when they are running.

#### FISH-BREEDING.

The position of officer in charge of the Fraser River, B.C., fish hatchery having become vacant by the death of Mr. Thomas Mowat, Mr. John McNab, of New Westminster, was appointed to the vacancy.

Mr. Alfred Ogden was appointed officer in charge of the new lobster hatchery, situated at Bayview, County of Pictou, N.S.

#### THE FISHERIES PROTECTION SERVICE.

The work of this branch of the service has again been very satisfactory. The fleet was composed this year of the Government steamers "Acadia," "La Canadienne," "Stanley," and the chartered steamers "Dream" and "St. Nicholas," together with the government schooner "Vigilant" and the chartered schooner "Agnes Macdonald." For a short period in the summer the schooner "Prince Edward" was also employed.

The fleet was again under the immediate direction of Lieut. Andrew R. Gordon, R. N., commanding the SS. "Acadia."

The report of this officer which forms Part II of this report deals fully with the details of the season's operations, and contains suggestions of considerable importance which will be of interest to those directly concerned in the welfare of our deep sea fisheries.

The cost of this service for the fiscal year 1890-91 was \$83,050.16, and for the calendar year ending 31st December, 1891, \$99,831.75.

The expenditure in connection with the steam yacht "Cruiser," employed on Lake Huron, Georgian Bay, which amounts to \$5,538.59, and for which one-half (\$2,769.29) is borne by the Customs Department according to agreement, is included in the above figures.

Under command of Captain Edwin Dunn the "Cruiser" was commissioned for the protection of the fisheries of Georgian Bay and Lake Huron. She worked satisfactorily until the 1st November, when, owing to boisterous weather, it was found necessary to employ a larger ship, and the surveying steamer "Bayfield," belonging to