

Ontario Fishery Commission.

interested in the fishing business and they will start anybody to go fishing. A close season for herrings in November is absolutely necessary, and also to protect whitefish and trout.

(I.)—SOUTHAMPTON.

Donald McCauley, Southampton, fisherman (page 128):—There is too much fishing, too many men trying to make a living at it; too many gill-nets drive the fish away and prevent them reaching their spawning grounds—fouling the water with offal and dead fish has the same effect. When first started here, 1855, Canada took all our fish. Now there are so many at it that we must send them to the States. There are more fish caught now than this country wants. In stormy weather we find a good many dead fish in our gill-nets, they are not marketable as fresh fish, but there are many that will do for salting that won't do to use fresh. This year being stormy we lost a great many, too far gone for anything, and oil was made of them. There are men all over the lake making a living by making oil from rotten fish. There is a good deal of it made, it brings 30c. per gall. and is sent to the tanneries.

Malcolm McKenzie, Southampton, fisherman, (page 135):—People came up from Port Frank a few years ago, 1876, and commenced drawing seines on Sauble Beach, 8 miles north of Southampton. The decline of whitefish hereabouts then began. The whitefish came on the seining grounds thick. It was September, and they were young whitefish; lots of them were left dead in the water and on the beach, not being marketable nor fit for salting, not being over 4 inches long. They used herring seines (inch bar). We used to catch our whitefish off that shore but did not get them afterwards, the fish worked up north. It is advisable to have a close season while the fish are spawning; the Americans should do it also.

Daniel McCauley, Southampton, fisherman (page 143): Overfishing is the cause of the decline of the fisheries.

Finlay McLennan, fisherman, Southampton (page 147): He uses a seine for herrings, $1\frac{1}{4}$ bar mesh, and his great catch is in November, in the spawning season. He heard that young immature whitefish were caught at Sauble Beach and walked down just to see. There were plenty of them; some 2 inches long, some four inches and over. There were about 12 seines on the beach, these from one end to the other. It is about 5 miles long. The Indians had two seines, the whites ten seines. The white people who destroyed Sauble Beach with seines came from below Bayfield. Most of our fishermen have gone to the Georgian Bay. Fish have become scarcer here. We do not catch whitefish now.

Dougal McCauley, fisherman, Southampton (page 152):—It is seldom we can catch whitefish. They do not catch herrings or anything else on the Sauble Beach now. Two-thirds of the fish that are caught here in the fall of the year are caught by boats that do not take out a license, boats that do not follow fishing steadily. We paid \$50 for two tugs and did not catch one-quarter of the fish that the other boats did that did not pay for license. The license system is good if every body pays it alike.

(J.)—GEORGIAN BAY.

COLLINGWOOD.

George Knight, fisherman, Collingwood (page 195):—Whitefish are now scarce all over the Georgian Bay; we get very few indeed. Fifteen or sixteen years ago they were very plentiful. There are four times as many nets in the Georgian Bay as there were 15 or 20 years ago when the whitefish were in plenty. Those fish "have now taken some other course." Their spawning ground was