

demand. If it were so, our fisheries would indeed be worth millions.

LIKE THE RUSSIAN NAVY.

The fishery report of 1903, in explaining the diminished catch, says: "that many of the fishermen had gone into more remunerative employment." Like the Russian navy, they were largely landmen. Under Government control many competent fishermen would have steady employment and be more content.

A SAFE BUSINESS.

The small catch of 1903 produced \$1,535,144. A good deal can be done with that sum of money. With good management half the catch should be net profit, but say one-third, \$500,000.

Financial details need not be dwelt upon here. Some plant would, no doubt, be taken from present license-holders at a valuation. The \$25,000 now paid annually to overseers and guardians would be saved; their usefulness would be gone; every fisherman in the employ of the department would, *de facto*, be a guardian. Export of fish would cease, except through the department. The fishing would be confined to strictly fishing and remunerative localities—in other words, concentrated as far as practicable, and be based upon the requirements of the Province without export.

FEDERAL INTERFERENCE.

That the Federal Government had "rights reserved," enabling it to interfere with our fisheries, is to be regretted. Under "Government ownership" that interference would practically cease, a feature in which there is much room for thought at the present time. It is a question whether Federal interference with Ontario fishery license-holders has not already made "Government ownership" a necessity.

Looking at this matter in the light of a purchase, the fisheries and the plant would in two or three years be a free asset to the Government, producing a revenue so large that the people of Ontario might again have the cheap and wholesome fish of former days.