

THE CURSE OF NETS.

Gill nets, pound nets, trap nets, fyke nets, hoop nets, and seines are now in use for the destruction of our fish. All combined these engines reach every nook and corner and every depth of water from six hundred feet to two feet, and it is admitted that 95 per cent. of the catch goes to the States.

Quebec, the Lower Provinces, and the Pacific coast have their sea fisheries, but even that supply is heavily drawn upon and liable to depletion. Public opinion has now to be formed in Ontario that her lakes and rivers are not producing, and in the future may not produce more mature fishes than requisite for home consumption. If the same conditions existed in the adjoining States, fish would not be permitted to be exported from one State to another State.

AN ABSURD REGULATION.

The operations of the late Government for the protection of the fisheries may be summed up in the childish regulations made for "public waters," of the greatest extent in the world. That men and women fishing with rod and line should have a pair of scales, a ten-inch rule and a basket to hold ten pounds, and be subject to the shadowing of a sneaking informer, while one draw of a seine did more damage, and destroyed more fish than every rod and line in the country. Could there be a greater condemnation of past methods?

SEINES.

In reference to seines, Professor Prince rightly says: "The fishermen when using the seine can hardly know the extent of the injury they inflict; for when very young our valuable food fishes are transparent, minute, and almost invisible. The seine is far the most injurious of all nets, and absolutely destructive to minute and small fish driven from their shelter."

Notwithstanding this, the late Government not only encouraged seine fishing, largely carried on at the entrance to rivers, and in rivers and bays, but an M.P.P., one of its principal supporters, resigned because the Government refused to