

Ontario Fishery Commission.

Wm. H. Bowman, New York, Fish Commissioner:—

"It seems to me, after discussing this matter properly, we can reach a compromise that would be satisfactory and just to all concerned, and we could pass laws in these different states that would be uniform, and that thereafter you will certainly have a much better supply of fish than heretofore."

A. Booth, President of the A. Booth Packing Co.:—

"I should very much like to see a more cordial feeling existing between our country and Canada in reference to a uniformity of fish laws, and trust that from your deliberations much good many result."

John H. Bissell, formerly Michigan Fish Commissioner:—

"I should like to go over the subject of the regulations of the fisheries by way of licensing. I became satisfied from my examination of the subject that that is one of the things that ought to be kept in view all the time. The time has got to come when the industry of fishing will be licensed."

C. V. Osborn, Dayton, Ohio, Fish Commissioner:—

"We will have to come to this upon our lakes, the leasing of the fishing grounds, for only upon leased grounds do we reach that enforcement of observance of law which will make the fishing perpetual. We have the decision in Ohio of some of our best lawyers, showing that this is constitutional and that it is in the power of the state to lease the fishing grounds."

W. P. Andrews, Minneapolis, Minn.:—

"It has been the idea of the Minnesota Commission that the time is not far distant when we will have to do as our Canadian friends do and lease the grounds."

A. G. McDonald, Detroit, manager of the Buffalo Fish Co.:—

"We have made up our minds that there should be a close season for herrings."

C. M. Keys, representing the Sandusky wholesale and retail fish-dealers:—

"I am firmly of the opinion that gill-net fishing as practised now on all the lakes is a great destructive force in fishing. In the Georgian Bay, when they take up those nets the fish are absolutely putrid, dropping from the nets almost as they lift them up. But a small portion of the fish taken are fit for the market, and consumed. The gill-nets are usually out three or four nights, and the fish that run in first are mostly decayed.

"My opinion is that gill-nets are the greatest engine of destruction that we have on the great chain of lakes. The fish are practically given no rest from the beginning of the season to the end. They do not claim that the fish are fit for the market, but they *do go to the market*. The Boards of Health of the various states have investigated the matter, and with one accord they have said that fish thus taken are absolutely *unwholesome as food*. There is not a man who is practically engaged in the business but what will say there isn't one fish out of ten taken in gill-nets that he would eat, especially in summer. I do not expect it will ever be possible to get laws passed which will prevent gill-netting, but if you could get laws past limiting that, it would go a long ways towards the protection of fish.

"I will make this proposition now: That with all the protection the Canadian laws afford, if gill netting is permitted in Georgian Bay, in less than five years fish will be scarcer there than they are in Lake Erie."