

illegal practice of spearing, which had almost depleted these beautiful waters, were most successful, and are already showing the good results of efficient protection.

During the winter of 1882, it was reported that large numbers of bass died for want of air. This Officer applied himself to ascertain the real cause of this accident, and finally discovered that the whole trouble arose from the mills at Lindsay using so much water during winter time. This occasioned a serious drain on the lake, with no equivalent to supply the deficiency. As a consequence, during a severe winter, the ice will freeze right to the bottom along the bars, making stagnant pools of all waters inside these bars where the fish are smothered for want of fresh water. Not a single dead fish was found in deep water, which fact goes to support the value of the above theory.

Overseer Hastings states that, the residents on Thorah Island did not fish owing to the ice remaining so late. One hundred and twelve spearing licenses were issued. The Georgina Island Indians having violated the close-season, five nets were confiscated from them.

MUSKOKA DIVISION.

WM. E. FOOT, } *Overseers.*
C. ROPER, }

COMPARATIVE Statement of the yield and value of the Fisheries in this Division.

| Kinds of Fish. | 1882. | 1883. |
|---------------------|--------|----------|
| Whitefish..... Lbs. | 23,000 | 20,800 |
| Trout..... " | 4,600 | 3,537 |
| Herring..... Brls. | 90 | 83 |
| Bass..... Lbs. | 1,400 | 2,418 |
| Pickarel..... " | 1,600 | 12,470 |
| Totals in lbs..... | 48,600 | 55,825 |
| Value..... \$ | 4,458 | 3,255 24 |

Overseer Foot states that, he experiences a good deal of difficulty in procuring accurate returns of the catch of fish in his division. Fish are reported as being plentiful in the different lakes of the district of Muskoka. This Overseer issued fifty-eight gill net licenses and thirty angling permits. No complaints of violations of the law reached him.

Mr. C. Roper was, during the course of last season, appointed Fishery Overseer for North Branch of Muskoka River and Mary Lake to Nipissing Road.