

vations made by myself when travelling up and down and around the lakes, when I have seen the matters referred to plainly, and I am quite satisfied that the time has come to put a stop to this improper work, otherwise our fisheries must soon come to an end.

I am also impressed with the importance of establishing hatcheries to assist nature in sustaining our fisheries.

To protect this large expanse of fishing water the inspector should be provided with the necessary means to do so. The use of sail boats alone are not sufficient, but more speedy means of covering the fishing grounds should be had in the way of steam power. It is impossible for an officer to cover this large fishing area. It has been the habit for illegal fishing to be carried on at one place while the officer would be in another carrying out his duties.

*By Mr. Harris:*

I have been very much among the fishermen since 1865; watched their operations; in fact, could not help but do so. Some of the fishermen have evinced a desire to protect the fish, especially the resident fishermen. A portion have no other object than to catch all they can irrespective of consequences.

There are two kinds of whitefish; one is smaller, one is larger. They are quite different, as between two grades of cattle; that is, as between an Ayrshire and a Devon cow; do not know whether the two kinds of whitefish will breed together or not. The larger come in and spawn earlier in the season and breed together. The smaller kind breed together later in the season; they breed in shallow water from 3 to 12 feet; I know that myself. I have seen no distinctive difference in either of these fish when young; could not recognize any difference, not having paid special attention. The small kind run from 2½ to 5 pounds, the larger ones from 5 to 16 pounds. I do not know what becomes of the young of these large whitefish when they are about 2 to 2½ pounds.

I mean by winter months, January, February, March and part of April. This would be the time in which the fish could be taken on the suggested reserved grounds. The fish to be caught then would be whitefish, trout and all kinds. These reserved grounds would have pickerel, perch, pike, suckers, and general run of coarse fish, besides the salmon-trout and whitefish. The coarse fish live on the young of other fish; whitefish, I think, do not. Sturgeon and suckers are spawn-eaters, but not eaters of young fish. All fish may be caught during the winter on these reserved grounds; the grounds referred to are breeding-grounds as well as feeding-grounds.

Mr. JAMES GAULEY was duly sworn and examined.

*By Mr. Wilmot:*

I am a Canadian; I reside at Sault Ste. Marie; I have been a fisherman for the past 15 years; I have fished Georgian Bay, North Channel and Lake Superior.

I fish under a license for Lake Superior; I fish gill-nets; size of mesh, 4½ inches; I have fished a 5-inch mesh in Lake Superior for the large trout in the fall; I use a 4½-inch mesh at Lizard Island for whitefish and trout, principally the smaller or deep-water trout. I sell my fish to Ainsworth & Ganley, at my station, about 80 miles up; they call in their tugs for them, pack them in ice and put in cars; I get 3 cents a pound all round for dressed fish; the fish go to the Sault, then to Chicago, Cleveland, Port Huron and Buffalo. When the large or rock trout come in late in the fall, there is a small reduction in the value, only getting for them from 2¼ to 2½ cents per pound; the larger the fish the less the price; these fish do not sell as well in the market; the entrails, spawn, head and other parts are greater in the large fish, and consequently we lose more.

At the spawning time fish are always softer and clammy than at other times; they sour much quicker; in fact, they are not in as good condition before as after