

Ontario Fishery Commission.

REPORT

OF

MR. SAMUEL WILMOT AND MR. EDWARD HARRIS,

Fishery Commissioners

Appointed by the Dominion Government to inquire into and report upon the description of nets used, the spawning periods of fish, and other matters connected with the Fisheries in the various lakes and other waters in the province of Ontario.

To the Honourable CHAS. H. TUPPER,
Minister of Marine and Fisheries,
Ottawa.

SIR,—Your Commissioners, duly appointed to examine into the particulars connected with the working of the fisheries of the province of Ontario, beg to submit their first report, which will cover the more important fisheries in Lakes Erie, Huron, Simcoe and the Georgian Bay.

The work of the Commission, after taking a large amount of evidence from fishermen, fish-dealers and others, all engaged more or less in the fishing industries of the country, necessarily closed their work temporarily, in December last, with the view, however, of entering into the investigations again during the season of 1893 in order to obtain information in relation to the fisheries connected with the other great lakes and waters of Ontario.

With two or three exceptions all the evidence submitted was taken under oath. Facts in sufficient number were obtained to enable an opinion to be formed of the present condition of the fisheries in several of the great lakes in Ontario.

Experienced fishermen and others having a special knowledge of the subjects upon which they gave evidence, were called as witnesses. They proved to be intelligent and well acquainted with their calling. A full report of the evidence as taken by the stenographers is annexed, and a synopsis of that evidence has been prepared for convenient reference.

1.—INTER-STATE FISHERY CONVENTION.

By permission your Commissioners attended the International Fisheries Conference held at Detroit in the latter part of December, 1892. The opinion of representative Americans, practical and experienced in the fisheries, are submitted, condensed from the report of the proceedings of the conference, comprising six states