

fish at Southampton, and they must have small nets. There must be a larger mesh ordered for these lakes, both for gill-nets and pound-nets. If this is not done the fish will play out, and nobody will be able to live at it, neither dealers nor fishermen. The trout and whitefish were very numerous in Lake Ontario all the way down to Cobourg. Thirty years ago you could not put a net in the wrong place in Lake Ontario to catch fish; none now to be caught. The pound-net is the best. There are a great many fish destroyed in gill-nets. Fish are not fit for food that have been lying dead in those nets for four or five days. They are unfit for food whether they are herrings, whitefish or anything else. The ciscoes are falling off. To preserve the fish close seasons are necessary. The fish are not good then, and should not be caught. To keep up my reputation as a dealer I will not handle such fish. The public should be prevented from getting such fish, and everybody will be the better for it in the long run.

Frederick Corey, Burlington Beach, fisherman 60 years (page 320), says:—There was no law in 1840 to prevent our fishing our seines with any sized mesh, and we did not know what harm we were doing in catching small fish. We caught many thousands that were never used. They were unfit for use and were thrown away. We let them lie on the beach. These little whitefish would not weigh over a quarter of a pound or half a pound. The size of a mature fish was then four pounds. We fished all the year round for salmon-trout. The first gill-nets were used in 1853. Pickerel were very plentiful; we used to catch thousands of them with seines. The pickerel were destroyed by catching in the spawning season. They were always caught in that season. So far as salmon-trout are concerned they are not in existence now, in the way of business. They were all along the lake 40 years ago. We fished all the year round.

(O.)—LAKE ONTARIO.

From evidence taken at Toronto.

Michael Doyle, fishdealer, Toronto (page 287) says:—He deals in all kinds of fish. The biggest part of my whitefish and salmon-trout came last summer from Collingwood, some from Southampton and Goderich, and in the winter from Manitoba and Winnipeg; does not know anything about their nets, but knows they are catching unlawful fish and have been for years; the department has been busy putting in the spawn and the fishermen have been busy taking them up. They should be prohibited from fishing for three years now; if their nets were lawful they would not hold these fish; Southampton is a great place for them, both small trout and whitefish; they come fresh and cleaned and packed in ice along with the big ones; there are more small ones than big ones. There is a larger shipping place for these immature fish, but I forget the name (Warton, I believe). The salmon-trout would be from one pound to one and a half; the whitefish not larger than a good-sized herring; these fish are not fit to be killed; they should not be caught. All kinds of fish should be preserved while spawning; when fish are spawning they have neither taste nor flavour; it is like killing a cow in calf; there is plenty of law, but it is not enforced; whitefish and salmon-trout have fallen off most. I came here in 1862, and fishermen would bring in boats loaded with them down to the gunwale; this was at Toronto Island; now they are only catching the small whitefish you put in from the hatcheries; they have fallen off altogether. Formerly they brought so many whitefish and salmon-trout we could not get room in the market for them; we used to pile them up outside; they glutted the market; there were piles outside on the sidewalk on the street; we had so many to sell here at one time that we had liberty to sell till Sunday morning at 10 o'clock, the fish were that thick here. The whitefish weighed 4, 5 and 6 pounds and sold for half a dollar a dozen; the salmon-trout weighed 8, 10 and 12 pounds, and were so plentiful they sold for 50 cents each. There are none of these fish at all to be had now; they have emigrated or something has happened to them; should like to see Lake Ontario get a chance