

## (H).—GODERICH.

Capt. *John Craigie*, fisherman, Goderich (page 89):—The whitefish are declining in Lake Huron—the herrings are so undersized that it is unprofitable to fish for them; the whitefish are the best fish; the public prefer them—and the fishermen caught them with less trouble than other fish. A Lake Huron gill-net license holder goes wherever he likes in the lake or Georgian Bay. The 8 or 10 boats here are all licensed to fish in the same waters—fishes half way across the lake in 600 feet of water; and at certain seasons of the year we fish along the shore.

*James Clark*, fish dealer, Goderich, (page 97):—In the interests of the fisheries and the fishing industry the close seasons should be sustained—the close season should begin 1st November and kept strictly. Does not believe fish move around much, but keep in families in the same locality.

*Malcolm McDonald*, fisherman, Goderich (page 118):—Whitefish are caught in the Georgian Bay now. They were once plentiful in Lake Huron. To preserve the fisheries for the future we should have close seasons; but it is very discouraging for us to be keeping it and the Americans not—and they fishing in our waters during that time.

*James Clark*, fish dealer and fisherman, Goderich (page 123) says:—In following the fish in their gill-net fishing in Lake Huron and Georgian Bay they use  $4\frac{1}{2}$  mesh, also 5-inch and  $5\frac{1}{2}$ -inch and sometimes  $5\frac{1}{4}$ ; we use  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in the fall, following the larger fish to the shores, these are large dark trout from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 10 lbs. The deep water trout are small and light in colour, average  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.; never saw eggs in them which were mature. The dark large trout show their eggs pretty well advanced when caught. They spawn in November, some earlier, some later. We catch these big trout in October and November. I think they come to spawn. The small trout averaging  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. are not caught at that time, they do not come inshore. We catch salmon-trout in Lake Huron and whitefish in Georgian Bay. Herring fishing is of no account in Lake Huron. Never heard of any one applying to fish with gill-nets who has ever been refused. In the interests of the fisheries and fishing industry the close seasons should be sustained. Does not believe it natural for fish to move around much, but keep in families in the same locality.

Capt. *James Inkster*, Goderich, fishermen (page 106) says:—There are a great many fishermen who depend upon the November herring fishing, they scrape along all summer and want to catch herring in the close season; other fishermen work hard all summer and don't feel like continuing on. It is no hardship but a benefit to the fishermen to have a close season and stop fishing in November. I doubt the migration of fish from side to side in the lakes. So long as there is a whitefish or salmon-trout left we don't want to bother with herring. Did not catch enough whitefish last season to pay men's wages.

*H. W. Ball*, fishery overseer, Goderich:—He considers gill-net fishing the most wasteful method of fishing. If a pound-net breaks away all the fish get free, if a gill-net is washed away there may be 10 tons of dead fish in it and they are blown all over the lake, the fish are lost and the lake full of decayed fish, equally destructive to the fisheries as cleaning the fish and throwing the offal into the lake. It is well known that many fisheries have been destroyed by throwing fish offal into the water. Whitefish have almost disappeared on this coast—the apparent increase in salmon-trout is explained by the mesh being reduced from 5 inches to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  and more small fish being caught and by the use of improved fishing gear tugs, and flexibility and make of the twine. Think the department should not discourage pound-net fishing. Has known the proceeds of a gill-net brought to shore and not one half of it marketable. The yellow or bad fish are salted it is not good for the reputation of Canada that we should salt such unwholesome food. There is considerable discontent among the fishermen, the business being now outdone—that is the principal cause. There are too many in the business. There are men with capital