

The innumerable license-holders, overcrowding and over-fishing the waters (too frequently waters which should not be fished), working under restrictions and conditions making it all but impossible to live at any time, would starve unless they obtained enormous American prices.

LICENSING SYSTEM WASTEFUL.

The licensing system is wasteful and has outlived itself. It was a reasonable system when our entire catch of fish was for home consumption. The great increase of population and wealth in the States and the depletion of their fisheries now imperils the existence of ours and compels a change. Under Government ownership and economic management, fishing with judgment, a limited export to the States of the coarse and mixed fish not marketable in Ontario, would be ample to finance the industry. That export should be reduced to the minimum point. Nothing but a shortage in supply will ever bring the States to joint action in preserving the fisheries.

Our fish dealers and peddlers should get their supply for Ontario with certainty, and a better quality, at less than half the present rates. The fish we are now permitted to eat are a sample not fit for export. As a consequence the fish diet of Ontario has been reduced to one-half that of Quebec. A reduction in the price of fish, together with a better quality supplied, would result in increased consumption. At present Ontario takes one-fifth of the fish caught. Obviously, the "Government ownership" problem is easy of solution if once seriously considered.

"FISH ARE CASH."

Government management of the fisheries would be easily feasible, nor is it possible to imagine a case where it would be more justifiable. Every license is held on condition of cancellation at any time, and all expire at the end of each year. It is also known that a large number of licenses to fish are held, under Canadian names, for American capitalists; usually the American "Fish Trust."

Fish are cash, and always have been; wholesale buyers and peddlers all pay cash. The supply is never equal to the