

7.—SYNOPSIS OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES CONFERENCE HELD AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN, DECEMBER 20TH AND 21ST, 1892.

*Hershell Whittaker*, Detroit Fish Commission, and chairman of the conference, said:—

"I assure you, gentlemen, that if we go on for just about five or ten years more in this way you can license your grounds for growing celery or fresh water oysters, but you cannot license them for whitefish. The fish will be gone. There will be nothing to lease. The state will have no fishing grounds that there will be any money in. There will be no temptation for a man to rent fishing grounds here at all. The destruction of the small fish is the thing, if it is possible we should overcome that. Our legislative bodies ought not to be apart from each other in the matter of regulations, we ought to be united."

*E. W. Gould*, Commissioner Sea and Shore Fisheries of Maine:—

"When nature establishes a season during which one species ought to be fully protected (while spawning), another of somewhat different habits is in its prime condition, thus wisely ordaining such a condition of affairs as will keep up throughout the entire year the fish food supply of the people, and now the thinking portion of the people are slowly awakening to the fact that the danger line of extinction has been passed in some instances and being rapidly approached in nearly all others. To those who have made a study of fish life and its underlying conditions the answer is a very simple and exceedingly plain one in explaining the great depletion of our fisheries—simply exhaustive fishing and at improper seasons. Men appear in conjunction with the legislatures and sending their most suasive members, giving a glowing account of the immense industry they represent, the large number of men they employ and the large amount of general good that is the result of their operations, and while arranging themselves to ail appearance on the side of intelligent restriction, oppose strenuously any restrictive measures that would be effective.

"The more intelligent fishermen promptly range themselves on the side of protection and preservation, foreseeing that without some means being employed to prevent this wanton destruction the business will not survive itself.

"The Commission of Sea and Shore Fisheries of Maine emphatically advocates protection for all edible fish during their seasons for spawning."

*Dr. Robert Ormsby Sweeny*, sen., Duluth, President Minnesota Game and Fish Commission:—

"I know from the experience of the protection given by the Canadian authorities to whitefish on Lake Superior, that it is most beneficent. The difference between our fishing on the north shore of Lake Superior in our waters and theirs is most marked. When you get within 35 or 30 miles of the Canadian line the fishing is fairly good, and when you cross it it is excellent compared to what it is on our side. The greater bulk of the whitefish are obtained from Port Arthur now on the Canada side, and the fishermen of Lake Superior on the American side are so well satisfied that it is the right thing to do that they have expressed to me their willingness, without any solicitation on our part, that we should join with the Canadians in having the same close season. It is their opinion that a close season for whitefish from November 1st to December 1st will be the salvation of the fishing. If they go on as they have been the fishing will be exterminated. In regard to our fisheries in Lake Superior I think our legislature will pass such a law."

*Hoyt Post*, Detroit, Michigan, Fish Commission:—

"There is no doubt in my mind from the experience I have had with the better class of fishermen and those whose support would be more valuable that they are going to see this matter somewhat in the light we look at it, and they appreciate the necessity for something being done in the way of prevention of destructive fishing."