

ring. The inferior kinds spawn about the middle of September on the shoals of the different Islands, and the best so late as from the 1st to 15th November. The small Whitefish invariably go up the rivers and spawn in the rapids, while the larger and best kinds, like the Trout, spawn on the Island shoals. On the Saginah Islands, on the east of Thunder Bay, for instance, there is an excellent Trout fishery, although the fish is somewhat inferior from the middle of September to near the close of October, which is immediately followed by a fishery on the same grounds of the largest and finest Whitefish in the Lake. It may be stated as a general rule, that the later a fish is in spawning the better he is, with the exception of the Sturgeon, which goes up the river for that purpose in July. The Pickerel and Carp also, go up the rivers to spawn early in Spring, or as soon as the ice breaks up. This is a season anxiously looked forward to by the Indians of the Hudson's Bay territory, who may be pinched for food, because at the entrance of a river into any one of the lakes which abound in that territory, they are sure to find a plentiful supply of these fish. The Herrings come into the lake shores about the 1st of July, and are caught by the boat-load at the bottom of Michipicoton and Pic Bays, remain about a month, and after probably spawning in the rivers, return to deep water, and are no more seen till the year following. They are caught by seine nets, and very often a boat-load is taken by one haul. It is a very insipid fish, not nearly equal to the Salt Water Herrings; but the Indians make good use of them by splitting them up, and after thoroughly cleaning them and removing all the blood, drying them in the sun without curing of any kind; and after remaining spread out on a species of scaffolding for about ten days or a fortnight in clear dry weather, they become perfectly dry and are then packed up in bundles of from 100 to 200 each for winter consumption. If not good when fresh, the fish is still worse when dry, but it has often proved a god-send to an unfortunate Indian when every other kind of food temporarily failed him.

The Pike is the greatest carnivorous of the fresh water lakes or rivers. He spawns, I believe, in the Spring: like some land Pikes, he lives principally on his friends; indeed, where he abounds, he is apt to exterminate every other kind of fish. In Lake Superior, however, he is a small insignificant fellow, and cannot do much harm. He is not, I believe, a very fast swimmer; to procure his favourite food one of his dodges is to lurk in long grass or weeds, or lie like a log at the bottom of the water, ready to pounce upon an unwary stranger swimming his way. Nowhere in the Hudson Bay Territory have I seen the Pike attain so great a size as at Lake St. Johns, the source of the River Saguenay. The average weight