

Ontario Fishery Commission.

(M.)—LAKE SIMCOE.

BARRIE.

Alexander B. McPhee, registrar of Barrie (page 267):—In 1862 I could catch 16 salmon-trout in a morning in this bay; now I might fish 5 or 6 days and not catch one—whitefish and all fish have decreased.

John Stevens, photo artist, Barrie, (page 271):—Regards the fisheries of Lake Simcoe as so depleted that angling only should be permitted.

Samuel Wesley, 42 years resident in Barrie, publisher (page 274) say:—The close season for whitefish and salmon-trout should begin 1st October and end 31st December, Lake Simcoe is so depleted of fish, from fishing in the spawning season and overfishing, that it should be closed against nets entirely. The lake is too depleted for fishing in a commercial sense.

John Hines, Barrie (page 276) says:—Fourteen years ago fishermen could make lots of money catching whitefish, trout and maskinongé in the Lake—the fishermen have gone elsewhere, the fishing is done. The Rome and Snake Indians follow fishing all the year round and their harvest is during the close season. There was a great deal of fishing at Midland, Waubashone and Penetanguishene this year during the close season. The only whitefish caught now are speared about Big Bay Point.

(N.)—LAKE ONTARIO.

From evidence given at Hamilton.

William Depew, Burlington Beach, Lake Ontario (page 308) says:—In the destruction of the salmon-trout and whitefish fishing, these seines with 1-inch bar mesh in centre were used. He has seen thousands of fish piled on the beach and left there to spoil. "The pigs came down to eat what they wanted."

The salmon-trout and whitefish were destroyed on Burlington Beach, Lake Ontario, down towards Grimsby by seines during the summer, but the biggest part was with gill-nets in the autumn months while spawning. They were caught out by overfishing at all times, including the spawning time. Ciscoes are not so numerous as formerly.

Daniel McGwyn, Burlington Beach, Hamilton (page 303):—Ciscoes and herring are what we fish for here. Whitefish and trout were in plenty in 1860; got 680 trout and whitefish in one haul on this beach; none at all now; none to market; destroyed; the yellow pickerel are gone also.

Jonathan Corey, fisherman, Burlington Beach (page 311), says they fished on Burlington Beach with seines, 1-inch bar mesh or 2-inch extension, twenty to thirty years ago. Large and small whitefish were taken. The small ones were so numerous they were thrown away in piles on the beach. The fishing was destroyed by catching in spawning time, overfishing and killing too many small fish.

John Davis, Hamilton, fish-dealer, gets fish from all the lakes; says the mesh is too small. Even from Lake Superior, where the fish are abundant, they send down small fish. We get nothing from the east; all fresh water fish come from the west. These immature fish are chiefly salmon-trout and whitefish. Less than a three-pound salmon-trout is not wanted. Immature fish are unsaleable to a certain extent; they don't command weight and price as mature fish. Two pounds is the smallest salmon-trout that should be caught. These immature fish come from the islands in the Georgian Bay, and from all the western fisheries in Lakes Huron, Superior and Georgian Bay. Collingwood and Wiarton are the great shipping points; they are usually sent in June and July. They catch a tremendous lot of small