

vince, said: "These fisheries have always been managed to get votes, and we are not going to be the first to stop it." It looks like it when one regards the army of overseers and guardians and the financial as well as other disastrous results. The proposition is now plain. A thorough investigation of this fishery question is in order. It has been reported for some time that the Government has some such intention.

#### WORK FOR AN EXPERT.

Many men are well informed, all have some general knowledge on various subjects, but when it comes to fisheries and commercial fishing most men's minds are a blank. The time has come when the public must have a report and statement of the past, present and possibilities of the fisheries so clear that "he who runs may read."

The delusion that these fisheries belong to a few who happen to live on the water's edge at fishing points must now end. Hereafter they must be managed as a National possession for the people.

#### A GREAT PUBLIC QUESTION.

This has become a great public question, quite equal to "street car services" and "electric energy," or the "habits of good society." We were told in 1899 that these fisheries "were unsurpassed in any country"; "of great economic value"; "a continuous supply of fish food and revenue"; "that there would soon be a large increase and perceptible improvement," with something about "generations yet unborn." This was believed by the whole country, because it was true, or should have been true; but all has vanished "like the shadowy vision of a dream."

#### "GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP."

There seems to be no future for our fisheries other than to wipe out the present system, with its army of overseers and guardians and conduct the fisheries under "Government ownership." The first consideration should be a supply of fish to Ontario at rates within the reach of the people. That can never be done under the present licensing system.