

in a seine several times in July on Wellington Beach; those that were saved of the 90,000 were salted; many were lost because they could not be taken care of. There was another haul as large as this taken at Westlake Beach; the net was a 175-rod seine called "the sou'wester." When I left Lake Ontario some fourteen years ago there were no whitefish to be had by the fishermen where these great hauls had been made; in fact the whitefish fishery had ceased to exist; there was no more of it. I left Lake Ontario to fish here with a number of other fishermen who left for the same cause.

*James A. Smith*, Midland (page 235), says:—Has seen 20,000 whitefish on Consecon Beach, Lake Ontario, being one evening's catch, not one in twenty of which would weigh two pounds; this was in June; some were salted; others rotted on the shore and were made into manure. They were so plentiful that 100 could be bought for 25 cents. Whitefish were so plentiful in Lake Ontario that with one seine (I owned half of it), a 50-rod seine put up in one month 180 barrels for our net's share; the other men (eight of them) would get the equivalent to 180 barrels amongst them; this was in June, 1869 or 1870; there were other seines fishing also. The same year, in November, the fish were very numerous, and all larger fish than usual, weighing about 2½ pounds; as many as we could barrel we salted, but a great many were lost. Whitefish were so numerous that they were hauled away for manure for use upon the farms. The whitefish were so plentiful that in hauling the seine they could not pull it on the shore; they had to dip out what they wanted of the fish with small nets and let the rest go. When I left Lake Ontario some 15 years ago whitefish were almost exterminated; salmon-trout and whitefish in Lake Ontario were vastly more numerous than they have ever been in Georgian Bay.

*Capt. S. Whartman*, Midland (page 244), says:—Fished in Lake Ontario in 1874 at Presqu'Isle and Brighton, principally for trout of large size. The fish were quite plentiful then. Left there in 1878 to come to Georgian Bay to fish and better myself. The rough fish and whitefish in Lake Ontario have fallen off very much; understand from late residents that the fishing in Lake Ontario is all done now.

*William J. Hodgins*, Midland (page 247), says:—Fished in Lake Ontario from 1875 to 1877, and caught trout and whitefish; left there whitefish had become so very scarce. In 1856 and 1857 they were caught in great numbers. Whitefish were more plentiful in Lake Ontario than ever in Georgian Bay. Left Lake Ontario to come here to better his fishing, and other fishermen came here from there with the same intention.

*W. W. Church*, Midland (page 250), says:—In Lake Ontario whitefish years ago were caught by the thousands in seines from the 10th October to 1st November along the beach at Weller's Bay and the Consecon Bay, at Presqu'Isle along the shores of the lake; has known every 40 rods of the beach in five miles to have a seine; a seine would get from 1,000 to 6,000 whitefish at a haul. These fish were cleaned and salted in barrels. Seine owners would have sometimes as many as 15 persons cleaning and salting fish and sometimes many of the fish would be spoiled, they were taken so numerously. It was about 30 years ago when they began to drop off, then when I left it was not worth while going out with a boat, they were so scarce; has known as many as 40,000 caught in one seine in July. That business is all gone now, not worth carrying on at all. As the fish gave out in Ontario I came up to the Georgian Bay to fish, and quite a few other fishermen left for there in the same way.

*Joseph Cunningham*, Midland (page 257) says:—Fished in Lake Ontario for about 10 years but could not get enough to make a living out of it, and then came up here to carry on fishing; caught whitefish in Lake Ontario off Amherst Island, something like 1,900 at a haul at first but got very few later on. Both whitefish and trout became scarce from overfishing Lake Ontario.