

IT CAN BE DONE.

It would not be a serious problem to make Lake Ontario what it once was, although the entire catch of whitefish has been so reduced that it barely equals one haul of a seine in 1876, and the salmon trout are practically exterminated. The catch of those fish is not now larger than what the pigs ate in former years. The fishery frontage of Lake Ontario belonging to the province is quite double that of the State of New York and incomparably more valuable. All the old conditions are there; the beautiful, clean, deep, cold water; the food and the breeding places.

To re-establish these fisheries, nature can be assisted at both ends. We now have hatcheries to supply young fish. Hatcheries should have been a marked success in all our waters. These have been a failure in results for two reasons. The fishery experts claimed at first to supersede nature by artificial reproduction, whereas nature can only be assisted. Fishery license-holders believed that with artificial reproduction they could "go as they pleased," and have regarded close seasons as an imposition. The hatchery whitefish were caught and marketed when not larger than herring, and before they had reproduced their species. It is well known in fishery circles that no whitefish or salmon trout under three pounds should be marketed, and that would only give them two seasons for reproduction. All the best writers say, "that, from an economic standpoint, that the average size of fish sent to market should be as near the maximum as possible." Four to eight pounds in weight for whitefish would be correct. Salmon trout should exceed eight pounds—the larger the better. They are now caught, small and soft, and are wasted.

PREDACEOUS FISH.

Although the most helpless and easily preyed upon by other fish, whitefish not only held their own when the lake was in a primeval state, but they predominated over all other fish in our waters. Predaceous fish which prey upon young whitefish are now caught by man in large quantities. In other words, we can replenish the waters from the hatcheries