

AN ALARMING DECREASE.

The fishery report, issued in 1903, shows a decrease of 10,294,274 pounds. For some reason this catch of fish was valued at nearly double the price of the catch of 1899. This decrease is truly alarming.

In 1899 there were 1,893,000 yards of gill nets licensed and 471 pound nets, while in 1903 there were 4,005,420 yards of gill nets fished, 488 pound nets, 523 hoop nets, 32 dip nets and 17,200 hooks and night lines. New waters, hitherto reserved, had also been opened for fishing.

In those five years, notwithstanding this great increase in nets, and new waters, instead of the fisheries becoming "a continuous source of food supply," they have become impoverished to a point to cause alarm. Instead of our lake fish being within the reach of every household, they have become a luxury for the rich. The products of the sea, which a few years ago were regarded as high-priced, are now the cheaper fish. Instead of the fisheries being a source of revenue there is no revenue beyond expenditure. Every phrase in the "inauguration address" of 1899 has been put to shame.

RISE, AMERICANS, SLAY AND EAT.

The late Government practically permitted the Americans to own and run our fisheries. The fishing has been done by or for the Americans. It is stated in all the recent reports that 95 per cent. of the catch is exported to the United States and only 5 per cent. remains in Ontario. To send this 95 per cent. of our fish to the States, and by so doing impoverishing our fisheries and denuding our own people of their rights, we have an expensive organization of clerks, 127 overseers, guardians, cruisers, patrol boats, and hatcheries distributing fry. With all this staff, outfit and the accompanying expenditure the people of Ontario cannot place a full grown fresh water lake fish on their tables except as an occasional luxury.

TO THE VICTORS THE SPOILS.

It is alleged that a very considerable member of Parliament, when these fisheries became the property of the pro-