

## Ontario Fishery Commission.

The pound-nets have advantages over the gill-nets. The pound-net is stationary, and the fish come to it. The gill-nets are shifted from place to place, and follow up the fish, and therefore catch more fish. The fish in the pound-nets are always alive and fresh and in better condition for the market. The gill-nets on the other hand kill a great many fish, which are wasted.

With two pound-nets I caught about 13 tons in 1892, and in 1893 with four nets took about 28 tons. One boat about 24 feet long with four hands. As to quantity the sturgeon were the greatest, next whitefish, next pickerel, then salmon-trout. Sturgeon amounted to about 8 tons, these fish are sold dressed, that is, with heads, tails and entrails taken away. Sturgeon are the most valuable, not only the flesh, but the bladders as well as the eggs are valuable, which is not the case with other fish. Sturgeon flesh is sold for 3 cents per pound, bladders \$1.20 per pound. Eggs made into caviare sell from 20 to 25 cents per pound. Sturgeon run from 30 to 40 up to 130 pounds as taken from the water; one of 130 pounds weight will give 65 pounds of cured meat, and we will get 20 pounds of eggs, and about  $\frac{1}{4}$  pound of bladders ready for sale. When sturgeon spawn it is difficult to say, they are caught most in May, June and July, and then again in September and October. We catch them in the bay around French Island. The spawn of sturgeon has to be in a certain condition before it is fit to make caviare; this is when it is hard. When the eggs are soft they are ripest. I cannot state the time when sturgeon are actually ripe for spawning, and cannot say that I ever saw eggs running from the female or milt running from the male fish.

*By Mr. Harris :*

I take up nets about a couple days before the close season arrives. My nets are in shallow places. Gill-nets are fished in deep water, but they begin to come in in October for trout. They don't catch whitefish at this time on the shoals; they catch them in the deep water.

The gill-net fishermen came on this fall around my nets. I do not know much about gill-net fishing. I know the gill-net fishermen come on shore to catch trout in October. My best month for trout is October. The rafts of saw-logs are towed across to the American side. Pound-nets are set as early as the weather will permit. This year I had part of them in the water on the 2nd May. The pickerel I caught I threw out. As a rule the nets are set about the 15th of May or 20th. Pound-net fishing in these waters does not interfere with the close season for fish if they are legally fished. The usual mode of fishing pound-nets here is not when the close season exists. The nets cannot be set or stakes driven as a rule before the 16th May, and are taken up on the 1st of November.

I sell the caviare to Noble Brothers. They send it to New York. I get 20 to 25 cents per pound for it.

Mr. PETER CALGIOSGIE, (Indian) duly examined and said :

*By Mr. Wilmot :*

I am a Canadian. I was born at Sault Ste. Marie. I am 73 years of age.

About 15 or 20 years ago could catch plenty of whitefish here in the Sault Rapids. Could catch any number with scoop-nets and canoes. They are nearly all gone now. Only a few small ones left, hardly worth fishing for. Formerly the whitefish caught were very large. Think the rock blasting and the use of dynamite have helped to reduce the whitefish in the rapids. The whitefish begin to spawn about the 1st of November, and continue spawning nearly the whole of the month. Salmon-trout begin to spawn about the 15th of October, and keep on spawning till the 15th of November.

I fish with gill-nets near Whitefish Point, about seventeen miles up from the rapids. The fish are getting much more scarce than they were six and ten years