

ALPENA, MICHIGAN, AUGUST 26, 1894.

(RICHARD RATHBUN).

Mr. Case who gave testimony yesterday furnished the following dates today:

The first tug was fished from Alpena in 1874, using gill nets, by Capt. Persons. He caught any amount of trout then, but there was no sale for them. Some were salted but not much was thought of salt fish then. About 1876, he fished with the tug off Oscoda and South Point.

In 1859 the first trap net (pound) was set in Thunder Bay, at Whitefish Point, by Ruggles & Bennett. They set 4 nets that year and had splendid fishing from about September 1, on. The same year a small pound was set at Sulphur Island by Trombley of Saginaw.

Fishing began to show a serious falling

g. tug.

first history

P. history

W. f decrease

off (whitefish) about 1874 and 75.

Mr. Case began fishing at Sulphur Island in 1867. The pound had not been entirely set, when in taking it up they caught 60 barrels of whitefish. This was early in September, and the fact is referred to in his testimony.

In 1868, 3 of his pounds on Sulphur Island (the entire lot) took about 124 barrels of whitefish in one day's fishing.

Mr. Daniel Carter, one of the oldest settlers here used to do some seining in Thunder Bay, just to the west of the mouth of Alpena River, where sawdust land has since been made. In 1853 he remembers seining altogether during a short season about 100 bbls. of pickerel.

In 1845 to 1848, there were about 200 fishermen using small sail boats with gill nets from Thunder Bay Island and Sugar Is-

P. history

w/ abundance

Seines. history

g. history

land. They fished near shore, right in sight of land. They caught almost entirely whitefish, very few trout. Fishing was good, the catch being salted. About 1848 fishing dropped off there, and the same men went down to Au Sable or Oscoda, where good fishing continued up to nearly 1865. There were many boats fishing from there when Mr. Case first came to this region.

*catch
W. f. trout*

decrease

Scare Crow Island has furnished a great pound fishery. Ruggles and Bennett had pounds in there. They were set by Mr. Case, and the fishing let out on shares to a half breed, who knew nothing about fishing them, and did not do nearly as well as a man of some experience. He did not keep the nets mended, and they became riddled with holes. This was in 1861 or 1862, and there were 2 pounds. However, the half breed got 750 barrels of whitefish in the course of 2 1-2

*P.
history*

*catch of
W. f.*

P.

months.

copy
history
movements

Scare Crow Island was the last place in Thunder Bay to take whitefish each season. They came in first at North Cape, and reached Scare Crow Island about 2 weeks later.

Sawmills

The first saw mill put up in this region was a water mill at Ossineke, also called then Devil River, in 1848. The first saw mill at Alpena was put up in 1858.

m. f.
decrease

For three years previous to 1880, fishing ^{Figure} had been poor in Thunder Bay. In the year named, however, there was a great run of whitefish. But that was the last, and since then there has been no good fishing in the bay. Mr. Case allowed me to copy from his papers the catch made by him in his 5 pounds in 1880. He had the memorandum only for September and October, but he stated that the fishing continued good (not as good as in October) up to about the middle of

November when stormy weather came on. These pounds were located partly between the island and the mainland, but more off the island, the pots being in depths of 24 to 40 feet. It was a good spawning ground for whitefish about here. Since 1880 there hasn't been enough fish in that region to pay for any fishing, to pay expenses. S.H. Davis has tried at that place, and C. Alpern has pounds on the north side of the bay. The force of these remarks applies to all parts of Thunder Bay. There has been practically no whitefish fishing since 1880.

Mr. Case's record of catch in the five pounds on Sulphur Island, in 1880, is as follows:

Sept. 15,	2568	lbs.	dressed whitefish
" 16,	3255	"	" "
" 16,	2037	"	round "
" 16,	245	"	pickerel
" 17,	1226	"	dressed whitefish
" 17,	76	"	pickerel
" 22,	1515	"	round whitefish
" 22,	1510	"	dressed "
" 22,	80	"	pickerel

(walleye)

Sept.	23,	2550	lbs.	dressed whitefish.
"	23,	3171	"	round "
"	23,	990	"	pickerel
"	24,	2121	"	dressed whitefish
"	24,	2042	"	round "
"	24,	551	"	pickerel
"	24,	6		sturgeon, (\$1.50)
"	25,	3355	lbs.	dressed whitefish
"	25,	4765	"	round "
"	25,	215	"	pickerel
"	27,	2000	"	round whitefish
"	28,	3575	"	" "
"	28,	5000	"	dressed "

(Mr. Case says that on the 28th they might have secured 10 tons from the pounds, but they hadn't the means of caring for them).

Sept.	30,	2160	lbs.	round whitefish
"	30,	1960	"	dressed "
"	30,	140	"	pickerel
Oct.	1,	1175	"	round whitefish
"	1,	140	"	bass
"	2,	590	"	dressed whitefish
"	2,	1355	"	round "
"	2,	125	"	pickerel
"	4,	1665	"	dressed whitefish
"	4,	1050	"	round "
"	6 to			
	10,10,	200	"	whitefish
"	11,	1242	"	round whitefish
"	11,	682	"	dressed "
"	11,	100	"	pickerel
"	13,	2000	"	dressed whitefish
"	13,	3761	"	round

Oct.	15,	2800	lbs.	dressed whitefish
"	15,	3900	"	round "
"	15,	170	"	pickerel
"	18	1520	"	round whitefish
"	19,	3080	"	" "
"	19	3700	"	dressed "
"	20	1145	"	round "
"	21	2600	"	dressed "
"	21,	2100	"	round "
"	22,	1035	"	dressed "
"	22,	1845	"	round "

The rest of October is lacking. The total amount received for the above fish was \$3,124.75. The price of whitefish, both round and dressed was 3 1-4 cents per pound. Pickerel were the same in price, and also the bass. The kind of bass is not stated but was probably black bass.

Value

246.