

The Insect Food of Fresh-water Fishes

Its Economic Importance in Relation to Fish Culture and
the Conservation of Fresh-water Fish

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ON first thought and without reflection, it may appear strange that an entomologist should have any advice or recommendations of practical value to offer on the subject of fisheries. In regard to the problems relating to insect pests, he is able to assist the farmer, the fruit grower, the forester, the medical officer and sanitarian, the housewife and others who, at some point in their daily occupations, encounter injurious insects; but in what manner, it may be asked, can the study of insects and its application have any bearing on the various problems affecting fish culture, such as the depletion, restocking and general conservation of our fresh-water fish supplies?

If I were preaching you a sermon and offering spiritual in addition to scientific guidance, I should choose as my text, and direct your attention to a passage of the eighth chapter of St. Luke where the parable of the sower is described. We read, as you may remember, that a sower went out to sow his seed. Some of the seed fell by the wayside, some upon rock and some among thorns; but all this seed failed to grow. Some, however, fell on good ground and bare fruit an hundred fold. "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear," the parable concludes.

I wish to call your attention to an aspect of fish culture and conservation which has been entirely overlooked in Canada, but it is one which is of such fundamental importance that we cannot afford to neglect it, a statement to which I trust you will agree. This aspect to which I refer is the consideration of the bearing which the food of our fresh-water fishes has on their conservation. By the conservation of our fresh-water fishes, I mean, of course, their care and utilization to that extent which will enable us to make the greatest use of them to the advantage of the people generally.

Extent of
Fresh-water
Fisheries

In speaking of fisheries and in discussing fishery questions, reference is usually made to sea fisheries. In most cases, our fresh-water fishes have suffered a neglect which their importance and potential value do not in the least justify. We

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