

Fry turned out in 1879.

Twelve millions of young whitefish were successfully hatched out at the Sandwich Nursery last spring. These were all put into the Detroit River in mid-channel, where they were conveyed in proper vessels, without any loss whatever in transportation.

Ova laid down in 1879.

Satisfactory arrangements were made with Col. Rankin, the proprietor of the Bois Blanc Island Fisheries, by which supplies of eggs from that station might be collected. From the precariousness of all fishing operations the anticipated supply of eggs from that quarter was not obtained, as the numbers of whitefish captured there fell wonderfully short of the previous year's catch upon which the expected supply of eggs was predicated, and still more unfortunately nearly all the ova that were collected there proved worthless.

The real cause of this disaster remains as yet undiscovered, and strange to say it did not only occur with this batch of eggs, but it was similarly experienced in the supplies of ova gathered about the same time by the officers of the Michigan and Ohio state hatcheries. This I learned to be the case from information derived from a personal visit to both of these Governmental establishments, to ascertain if possible the cause of this general misfortune with the whitefish eggs. Nothing further, however, was elucidated than the fact that the percentage of loss at the Michigan Nursery was unprecedentedly great, and at the Ohio hatchery it was found to be much greater.

Realising at once the unpleasantness of closing the establishment at Sandwich for a whole season, another effort to stock the hatchery with eggs was made, which, under the circumstances resulted very successfully. It was then the 2nd of December, a period at which it could hardly be expected to gather eggs, as the usual spawning season had passed by, but just at this time Mr. Gauthier was about removing his stock of whitefish from the several pens under his control to his Petet Cote pond for greater convenience and safety till later on, so that he might take advantage of the winter's higher prices. Therefore arrangements were at once made with him by which such of these fish as might be found still to have eggs within them should be manipulated, for which privilege he was to be recompensed. The venture proved very satisfactory, as some fifteen millions of eggs were secured in this way, a fair proportion of which are now showing evident signs of fruitfulness.

Total number of whitefish ova laid down in 1879.....	18,000,000.
Total number of fry turned out spring of 1879.....	12,000,000.
Grand total of young fry distributed from this establishment since opening	48,440,000.

In concluding this summary of operations at the Sandwich Hatchery, I feel called upon to reiterate my previously recorded convictions in reference to the whitefish fisheries on the Detroit River, which in every successive year, from personal observation and practical study of the subject, have become more firmly impressed upon my mind as being correct.

The practice hitherto pursued and upheld at the present day of constantly killing the whitefish during their breeding season must sooner or later exterminate them, not only from the Detroit River, but also from all other waters where the same system is pursued. This much to be deplored result has been already largely verified by the long continuance of a similar unnatural procedure on all the whitefish grounds in Lake Ontario.

If therefore this unwise and destructive policy must and shall be persevered in by the people of this country, but one alternative is open by which this valuable fish may not become extirpated, and it behooves the people and the Government of the day whose guardians they are (or ought to be), of the present and future wealth of this country, to see this proposed remedy rigidly and vigorously enforced, by encouraging,