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TEMPERATURE

as observed by Hoarn & Harrison, Thermometer and Barometer Makers, Notre Dame Street, Montreal.

Table with columns for dates (June 30th, 1883, and Corresponding week, 1882) and rows for days of the week (Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat., Sun.) with sub-columns for Max., Min., and Mean temperatures.

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, Montreal, Saturday, July 7, 1883.

THE WEEK.

Mr. Bright has now come out squarely against the Irish agitators whom he calls disloyal and rebellious. This is perhaps the most remarkable tergiversation in that remarkable man's career.

THE Provincial Government deserve much credit for promptly acting on the report of the Civil Service Commission and proceeding to dismissal and curtailment in a large number of cases. This is the only way to make a serious beginning.

BEFORE we go to press, the probabilities are that the Count de Chambord will have passed away from what was to him, in a double sense, a land of exile. The result of his demise must have an influence on the state of parties in France and his political testament will be looked for with concern.

WE are glad to learn that the prospects of establishing a Canadian sanitary association are excellent. The provisional officers will meet at Kingston in September, and proceed to draft a constitution and by-laws. Following upon this we hope to see the publication of a periodical devoted to the different branches of sanitary science.

GOVERNMENT are spending a great deal of money this year for the camping of volunteers, and the money will be well spent, if expended upon bona fide men. But we fear that there is a great deal of sham in the making up of the Cadres, and complaints reach us of young men enlisting only a few days before marching, with the sole view of enjoying the fun of the camp.

It is a pity, that, for the sake of capturing a little electoral influence, the Government of

the United States should stoop to so puerile an act as the reshipping of "assisted immigrants" from New York. The matter is so simple as not to be worth while arguing, but it is a great satisfaction to know that the better class of the American press have treated the subject with rare good taste and wisdom.

HEALY'S return for Monaghan, over both the Conservative and Liberal Candidates, is unquestionably a striking victory for his party. No wonder he declared that landlordism had been trampled under foot, and that the elections represented the demand of Ulster for a speedy reform in the Land laws. Healy further stated that he had little doubt, every farmer in Ireland would be the owner of his holding before many years. "The victory of the Parnell party would lead to the reopening of the land question and other great reforms and his hearers would see the day when Irishmen would make laws on their own soil." These be brave words, but the election in Monaghan gives them much significance.

The Globe agrees with us that the government of Canada should be consulted in the choice of a Governor General, but the Gazette so far disagrees as to be "really anxious about the mental condition of our contemporary under its next management." The London Advertiser, abounding in the same view, says:—"The Government of the United Kingdom are responsible for the appointment of Governors-General. The efficiency with which the Colonial Office administers its affairs depends upon the skill and ability with which the Governor-General discharges his duties. Certainly the men who are called upon to administer the Government of England, know the public men on that side of the Atlantic very much better than they can be known here. Whether it will be better that the people of Canada should appoint their Governor-General, is a separate matter. It does not arise in this case. What we have here is an attempt to embarrass the Government of Mr. Gladstone by interfering in the appointment of a Governor-General." We confess that we see no argument in all this against our pretension. As a mere matter of political or diplomatical etiquette, if nothing else, Canada should be consulted in so important a matter.

PRACTICAL RESULTS OF FISH CULTURE IN THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

Having read attentively your two leading articles on "Fish Culture," I venture to offer some candid observations, founded upon facts within my own knowledge, concerning fish-cultural operations and their practical effects in Canada. The first of these articles, from the ability of its author and its matter of fact style, attracts especial attention. It deals with the report of Professor A. J. Malmgren, to the Russian Government, discouraging the artificial breeding of fish in Finland on the pattern described and adopted at Nikolsk in the district of Novgorod. His conclusion is supported by reference to various countries in which he contends that adequate substantial returns from public expenditure are not shown. Pardon me for saying that I not understand Inspector Malmgren to allege, as you say, that "the artificial breeding of fish, especially in the United States and Canada, has proved a failure." He concedes everything else excepting the financial success, which he alleges cannot be unquestionably proved by perceptible improvement in the fisheries of the United States and Canada from the output of large quantities of fry.

I have received a letter from M. Von dem Borne, of Germany, asking for information to refute the learned doctor's statement. Other Canadian correspondents have also received similar communications. My own answer to him refers solely to the case of Canada as understood from official reports printed for public use. In the present letter I shall confine myself to the same class of facts.

The fecundation of vast quantities of fish ova and their development into living and healthy fry, in fabulous numbers and promising condition, immeasurably exceeding the produce of natural operations, are practical results established beyond peradventure. Herein is certainly an important gain to human knowledge as bearing on the necessities of mankind. The means of safe transport and successful deposit of both vivified eggs and young fish to distant parts and numerous places, have also proved efficient and in keeping with other success. The very interesting and instructive spectacle lately on view at South Kensington, of American and Canadian ova in process of hatching after an

ocean voyage, not only shows complete facilities for transportation, but indicates the boundless possibilities of the same ingenious energy that has brought fish culture to its present state. Thus far there is no appearance of failure and no room for doubt. What requires yet to be done is to convince the world that a proportion of such prolific hatching and abundant distribution, commensurate to the prodigious numbers hatched and liberated alive, has reached maturity and reappeared in commercial and industrial channels as a commodity of trade and an article of supply to such an appreciable extent as the faithful are justified in expecting. The multiplication of marketable food-fishes, as evidenced by the actual, is what remains to be proved. There can, I presume, be no doubt that the public tax-payer has a right to demand this proof; and in Canada, parliament and the press are always asking for it in somewhat impatient terms. We cannot longer confound the practical results of successful reproduction and promising distribution with the other practical results which are no doubt comprised in Prof. Malmgren's idea of "financial success." It may be that there are still, as you so well describe, skeptics and carpers—it may be that there are faults and accidents; but there are also exaggerators and enthusiasts, and with enthusiasm lurks the danger of being unduly influenced on behalf of fish hatching, even to the extent of overlooking contributory and "stubborn facts" necessary to establish perfect success and justify public patronage.

In view of this increasing demand I put in a word to say, that it seems to me to be the truest interest of the enlarged propagation of fish, and the immense increase of fish food which we anticipate from artificial methods and their auxiliaries, that we should now begin to consider seriously the economic as the chief of "practical results."

It is proposed, therefore, to bring under notice a few statistical facts relating to the artificial cultivation of fish in Canada, and its bearing on domestic consumption and trade supply. The present time is favorable for such a retrospect, because the decennial census of Canada is now complete, and the concurrent fish hatching operations between 1872 and 1882 afford a reliable basis of comparison.

Canada has eleven government fish hatcheries now in operation, eight of which are occupied in hatching salmon eggs only, besides two private ones, which also hatch the true salmon; two are employed in hatching salmon, white fish and trout egg, and one hatches white fish and pike-perch. The earliest of these hatcheries has been in operation for about fifteen years, and the latest for two years; the principles ones have existed since 1873. The entire cost of these public establishments to date is \$259,400.

The whole number of fish bred and distributed from 1868 to 1881 is about one hundred and five millions of which about twenty and a half millions were salmon, and about sixty-nine and a half millions were white fish.

The total catch of these two kinds of fish in the five provinces where hatcheries exist is given in the Census returns as follows:—

Table with columns for years 1871 and 1881, and rows for Salmon and Whitefish with their respective weights in lbs.

This difference is seventeen per cent. under the natural increase during the decade next preceding. Considering the increased numbers of fishermen and amount of netting in the last ten years, and the actual yield from new places and districts far removed from areas of the deposit of fry from the hatcheries, the general evidence of this exhibit is not thus far assuring of commercial benefit. Unfortunately the proof in special comparative instances is even less encouraging. Taking, for example, the two hatcheries which represent the leading fish products of the maritime and lacustrine sections of Canada raised in their precincts, salmon and white fish, namely, the Bedford Basin salmon hatchery at the sea coast of Nova Scotia, near Halifax, and the Sandwich whitefish hatchery between the great lakes, in Ontario, as easterly and westerly exemplars. Both of these hatcheries were started about the same time, and have been some seven years in operation. There is an ample margin of time for realization; and to be perfectly sure I reckon along with the salmon fry at Bedford, these hatched at Sydney, C. B., also in Nova Scotia, and I add to the whitefish hatch reported at Sandwich the hatch returned from Newcastle, Ontario. The number of salmon fry distributed in Nova Scotia was six million and a quarter. The catch of salmon in that province, by the Census of 1871, was 343,600 lbs.; and for 1881 it was 316,900 lbs., the decrease in ten years being over fifty per cent. notwithstanding other causes which should improve the yield, such as protection, fishways, etc., etc. The young whitefish distributed in Ontario between 1876 and 1881, numbered sixty-five millions seven hundred thousand. The catch of white fish in the same province, by the Census of 1871, was 4,239,000 lbs.; and by that of 1881 it was 7,660,200 lbs. This improvement in the whitefish fishery may be due in a measure to artificial hatching, but is most noticeable in localities dependent entirely on nautical sources, and it is indisputable that the yearly catch from 1875 to 1881, in the immediate vicinity of the Sandwich hatchery, has declined.

The state of the salmon fishery in Nova Scotia is undoubtedly against us. But the weakest of all is the case where we ought to be strongest—at the parent institution, from which five millions six hundred thousand young salmon have

been distributed. The catch of salmon in Ontario, by the Census of 1871, was 17,800 lbs.; and by the Census of 1881 it was nil. The Superintendent's Report for 1881 states that, so far as returns go, it is a complete failure. This settles the point that absolutely nothing has resulted in fourteen successive years from the repeated deposit, prolific incubation, and annual distribution of salmon at the parent establishment.

If, then, as it appears, the economic results from this large outlay and enormous distribution of salmon and whitefish, in two exemplary instances on the sea coasts and inland waters of Canada, within the period of ten years, are, as the official returns establish, comparatively insignificant, it is not fair to assume and wise to acknowledge that the time has arrived to ask ourselves, if there may not be something wanting perhaps in our nursing and rearing of the broods, which want defeats fruition from the tried methods of impregnation and incubation that have thus far, from ova to fry, proven remarkably successful!

The presence of eminent scientists and experienced fish-culturists from all parts of the world now assembled at the International Exhibition in London, affords a rare and timely opportunity to discuss the matter, and to elicit information and opinions that may not only instruct and guide us in the future,—if there be defects in the system,—but give assurance to the public tax payer that we are reaping or shall sooner or later reap the fruits of so much zealous and expensive labor. This phase of the enterprise is of such great importance in its relation to the permanence and extension of the system of artificial fish hatching, that I think it merits the attention of distinguished and practical men in both hemispheres.

Your obedient servant, W. F. WHITCHER.

PERSONAL.

THE Prussian Ministry have decided to take the regulation of Church matters into their own hands, independent of Rome, and to submit a Bill in the Diet providing for a modification of the May laws. The bill is not intended to be an organic measure, but one removing the chief objections to those laws. The bill will consist of a single paragraph, allowing the saying of Mass and the dispensing of the sacraments, in consideration of recognition of the Government's modified rule in regard to the duty of informing the Government of Church appointments.

AS old hat of Herr Wagner's has lately been made the subject of a lengthy legal document. Not long before his death the great musician bought a new hat in Venice, and put it on at once, leaving his shabby old head-gear behind on the counter. With a keen eye to business the hatter kept the old hat, which was of white felt and the usual broad-brimmed shape often seen in Wagner's portraits, and he has now sold it for a handsome price to a devoted Wagnerian. The purchaser was determined that there should be no doubt of the relic's authenticity, and obliged the hatter to give a full account of Herr Wagner's visit and purchase before a lawyer, the deposition being duly signed, attested by witnesses, and carefully handed over to the lawyer's keeping.

ALLAN THORNDYKE RICE, the editor of the North American Review, recently bought up an ancestral estate known as "the Plains," a tract of seven hundred acres with palatial buildings, in Caroline county, Md., the property of the late Mrs. Bourne, whose father, Isaac Parnell, a typical Southern gentleman, married a daughter of Benjamin Sylvester, a large landholder in ante-bellum times. The Parnell family were related to Senator Pendleton of Ohio and some of the first Virginia families. They were very wealthy, and maintained all the social customs of the old Dominion aristocracy in old plantation times.

A CRUEL PRACTICAL JOKE.—A man, travel-stained and wearied, entered the office of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs at Washington a few days ago, and said he had just arrived from Muskovy, Indian Territory, and had come for the purpose of getting his instructions as agent at the Union Agency, in that Territory. He was informed that an agent was already there, and that no vacancies existed. Upon hearing this he seemed to be very much overcome, and said that his friends had told him that he had been appointed Indian agent, and all that was necessary for him to do was to go to Washington and receive his instructions. He said that he had spent all his money in coming here. He was told that he had been made the victim of a practical joke.

THE production of beer in the United States last year amounted to 525,000,000 gallons, an average of more than 14 gallons for every inhabitant. This average is still behind that of Belgium, of Great Britain, and of Germany, the German average being 22 gallons per head annually; but it is larger than that of any other country, and the increase in the consumption of malt liquors in this country is in every way remarkable. In 1865 the total production was but 62,000,000 gallons, so that the increase has been more than eight fold in twenty years, the population having increased about sixty per cent. To counterbalance this, the statistics show that the production of distilled liquors has diminished during this period, notwithstanding the increase of population.