

thousand (2,968,000), or nearly three millions, of young fish have been distributed amongst the principal rivers and lakes of Nova Scotia from this establishment in the short space of three years.

Of the thirty-five rivers, as per above list, eleven empty directly into the Atlantic Ocean, sixteen into the Bay of Fundy, and eight into the Gulf of St. Lawrence; thus the natural reproduction along the whole coast of this Province has been supplemented to the extent of the above number of young fish. Sufficient time not having yet elapsed for the return of these young salmon to the rivers in which they were planted, no evidence of the good results of the artificial propagation have as yet been observed, but I hope in the course of a year or two to be enabled to report a slight improvement in some of these streams; but to expect any marked increase in the coast or estuary fishery, as the result of the limited operations of this establishment, would be erroneous.

That the natural reproduction of salmon is very much restricted by the extension of manufacturing and lumbering interests is apparent, and it is beyond doubt that our present supply cannot be maintained by nature's process alone for any length of time in the face of the many unfavorable conditions it has to contend with.

The increasing demands upon that limited supply consequent upon the extension of lines of railway, and the opening up of many new markets in connection with the recent improvements in the art of preserving and shipping fish in a fresh state, renders it necessary that the supply should be increased by artificial means.

In this Province an urgent demand exists for increased propagation, and more hatching-houses are required, and if the proper system be adopted, twenty millions of young salmon could be turned into these rivers annually, and at a cost which, when compared with the increased wealth which would accrue, sinks into insignificance.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. B. WILMOT,

*Fishery Officer in charge of the*

*Bedford Fish-Breeding Establishment.*

---

## PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

### MIRAMICHI ESTABLISHMENT.

NORTH ESK, MIRAMICHI, 31st December, 1878.

To the Hon. JAMES C. POPE,

Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Ottawa.

SIR,—I beg to send you herewith my report of the proceedings at the Miramichi Fish-Breeding Establishment in the Province of New Brunswick.

The ova laid down in the hatching-house in the fall of 1877, was as follows:—

From the Miramichi, salmon, three hundred and ten thousand (310,000); from Halifax, two hundred thousand (200,000); and from Restigouche, two hundred and four thousand (204,000), making a total of seven hundred and fourteen thousand (714,000.)