

salmon enter from the lake, which following their natural instincts do likewise, thereby disturbing the ova previously deposited, and as chub and other fish are constantly on the lookout for food, a very large proportion thereof is destroyed. Again, during the winter months it frequently happens that the creek becomes as low as during the summer, and the places where the beds are become exposed to the air, and the ova is frozen, which, of course, destroys it. Again, the spring floods coming on in March, a month before the young fish are hatched, in many places uncovers the ova, which is washed away and eaten by other fish, and in other places washes the gravel so deep on the beds that, although the hatching may take place, it is impossible for the young fish ever to reach the surface. But the greatest objection I have to the natural mode of hatching is this: you are aware that for some weeks after hatching, the young fish are encumbered with an abdominal sac, which is gradually absorbed into the system, and that during that period their powers of locomotion are very imperfect, in fact they are quite unable to get out of the way of any other fish wishing to make a meal off them, and, consequently, a very large percentage are then destroyed, whereas if they are taken care of until June, in the boxes made by Mr. Wilmot for that purpose, they are quite able to take care of themselves.

Having, I think, satisfactorily shown the artificial hatching of salmon is a success, the question arises, how is it so few fish are caught, and when is the country to receive any return for the large sums yearly expended by the Fishery Department? You may reply: We have produced the fish, but it rests with private enterprise to initiate some method to catch them. This may be all correct, but it will not satisfy the people who pay the taxes.

Now, my idea is, that the attempts so far made to catch the fish have not been sufficiently thorough. I well remember when the late Mr. Strowger carried on fishing at this place, between twenty and thirty years ago, the large quantity of salmon he then caught; but he commenced fishing early in May, and continued the work until October, whereas, of late years, the nets have been set about the 1st of July and taken up on the 10th of August. When Mr. Wilmot left for the lower provinces last year, he asked me to superintend the fishing of the nets for him, and as I take a great interest in the matter, I consented to do so, although, as my services were gratuitous, my name does not appear in the list of officials. I see by referring to my diary, the fishing was commenced on the 1st day of July, from which date, until the 10th of August, I examined the nets daily.

I am satisfied more fish can be caught during the months of May and June than at any other time until September, when they return to the shore seeking an entrance to the streams for the purpose of spawning, at which time catching them is very properly prohibited. My reasons for forming these opinions are these, and are from personal observation:—I have noticed that during still weather, and when the water in the lake is clear and warm, no fish of any kind are near the shore for days at a time, but that shoals of herring can be seen on the surface at a distance out in the lake; but no sooner does a breeze come on sufficiently heavy to stir up and discolor the water, than salmon and other fish are certain to be caught. Now, as during the two former months, these breezes are of almost daily occurrence, whilst July and August are noted as still months, I think I am justified in the opinion that the best part of the season has been heretofore over before the fishing was commenced.

As I took a herring eight inches long out of the stomach of a salmon last July, I am satisfied they feed on those fish during the summer, and one reason of the small number caught, I think, is that the shoals of herring do not, as formerly, come so near the shore; this to a great extent arises from the fact of the gravel which formerly composed the bottom of the lake, almost to the shore, having of late years been gradually covered with sand, and as the insects on which the small fish feed are always found on beds of gravel, and never on sand, they have had to find other feeding ground further out in the lake, and the salmon following them have consequently not come within reach of the nets.