

3.—BEDFORD HATCHERY.

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

REPORT OF THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE BEDFORD HATCHERY.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit my report upon the operations at this hatchery during the past year.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that the most gratifying results were obtained in hatching the large stock of ova laid down in the troughs of this institution last season. The trouble experienced in previous years in hatching the salmon trout ova was not met with, and not only here at the central hatchery, but at all the outlying auxiliary hatcheries, the proportions hatched were very satisfactory indeed.

As stated in my last report, the number of salmon ova obtained last season was 2,000,000. In March last I received from the Ontario hatcheries a further supply of 400,000 salmon trout and 2,000,000 whitefish ova. Shortly after their arrival here mild and open weather set in, and as evidences of hatching began to appear, I deemed it advisable to convey those intended for remote points to the smaller hatcheries as early as possible.

This work I commenced on the 15th of March, and the semi-hatched ova were distributed amongst these hatcheries, as follows:—

	Salmon Trout.	Salmon.
Tusket Hatchery	40,000	70,000
Kempt do	50,000	150,000
Shelburne do	50,000	90,000
Lochaber do	40,000	110,000
Kentville do	60,000
Sheet Harbor Hatchery	120,000

making a total of 240,000 salmon trout and 580,000 salmon ova disposed of previous to the first of April.

As stated above, the most satisfactory success attended the hatching of the ova deposited in these hatcheries—with one exception, that at Shelburne, where considerable loss took place.

After the distribution of the semi-hatched ova, as above, I had still left 130,000 salmon trout, 900,000 salmon and 2,000,000 whitefish ova. The latter hatched early, and were distributed among lakes adjacent to the hatchery, as follows:—

Round Hill Lakes, Annapolis County.....	250,000
Aylesford do Kings do	250,000
Grand do Halifax do	500,000
Sandy do do do	500,000
Williams' do do do	500,000

making a total of 2,000,000 of these young fish planted in lakes considered most favourable for their growth.

The remaining stock of salmon and salmon trout were successfully hatched and planted in the rivers of the central portions of this Province, as per following schedule:—

Musquodoboit River, Halifax County.....	40,000
Nine Mile do do do	40,000
Little Salmon do do do	40,000
Pennant do do do	40,000
Salmon do Colchester do	40,000
Stewiacke do do do	40,000
Wallace do Cumberland County.....	80,000
Philip do do do	80,000
West do Pictou do	40,000
East do do do	40,000