

Canada may be referred to in a concluding paragraph :—

(1.) Fish of supreme commercial importance only are hatched, hence species, which are chiefly valued for sport only, are excluded.

(2.) Eggs, the hatching of which is difficult or hazardous, e. g. black bass, maskinonge, sturgeon, etc., are not included. Results, commensurate with the expenditure of public money, are problematical in the case of such species.

(3.) As far as possible all parent fish are returned alive to the water after spawning.

(4.) Salmon are impounded in tidal ponds for many months prior to the breeding period in the fall. They cease to feed on entering the mouths of rivers, and the sea water keeps them free from fungus and disease. Lake trout and whitefish, also are kept in pens or pounds for a few days before being artificially spawned.

(5.) Fry are distributed gratis on the applications being officially approved, and the government bears the expense, wholly or partially, of shipment and planting.

(6.) Lastly the fry are all practically shipped in the recently hatched condition (three days to three weeks old). This is unavoidable when vast quantities, tens of millions, are handled. Retention of the fry would involve great expense and serious loss by death, and all the applications could not be filled.

It is hardly open to dispute that the planting, year after year for over 30 years, of countless numbers of young fry of valuable economic fishes must have vastly benefited the waters of the Dominion.

The hatching of cod, mackerel and other marine fishes has not so far been attempted in Canada. The eggs and fry of these fishes are not so favourable for the methods of artificial culture, and the vast numbers produced by each spawning female (a single cod shedding 9 to 10 millions of eggs each season), the extremely delicate pelagic character of the eggs, and the futility of handling successfully the fry, are the reasons which