

other apparatus suitable for such an undertaking, whereas, under the present regulations, no person will be found willing to enter upon a work requiring considerable outlay, and which, under all the circumstances, must be held to be somewhat precarious in its character.

Having suggested to your Department on several previous occasions the views held by me of the expediency and the necessity that existed for encouraging this venture of salmon fishing in Lake Ontario, both in the use of such description of nets as might be found best to make the trial, and by giving station licenses covering a period of many years, it is now urged again, in order that capitalists or others engaged in fishing may be induced to invest means, and put forth their energies with hopes of ultimate success in the enterprise. For, under the present system of season licenses to fish for salmon, no person will be found to engage in the work except in some small and inefficient way, which must prove alike unsatisfactory to themselves and to your Department.

In treating upon the subject of Ontario salmon and their mode of capture, I beg to submit for your consideration the annexed letter from J. J. Robson, Esq., which was sent to your Commissioner by that gentleman in February, 1879, as touching very intelligently on the matter under consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

SAMUEL WILMOT.

NEWCASTLE, ONTARIO, 17th February, 1879.

MY DEAR SIR,—As I know from the conversation I had with you when in Ottawa, a fortnight ago, you will not consider it a piece of impertinence on my part if I take the liberty of addressing you on the subject of the artificial propagation of fish, which the Government of the Dominion have been for some years engaged in in this vicinity.

I caught salmon and trout in large numbers in the stream on which the Government Fish Hatchery is established in my boyhood, forty years ago, and have resided within two miles of said stream ever since, and being an ardent disciple of Isaac Walton, have for many years deplored the gradual extermination of fish, which was taking place not only therein, but in all the surrounding streams. Well do I remember when our friend Wilmot commenced his experiment some ten years since, at which time his total catch of salmon for propagating purposes during the spawning season of that year was, I think, five or six, the ova from which Mr. Wilmot hatched in his cellar, and turned out into the creek in June following, since which time no year has passed without my having often visited the stream during the spawning season, and have been delighted to see the marked increase of adult salmon which have year after year entered it, and I am satisfied I do not exaggerate when I say that in October last there were at one time, between the Government Fish House and the lake, a distance of less than two miles, three thousand salmon weighing from three to twenty pounds each. I would further state that from information I have received from persons living in other parts of Ontario, that there is hardly a stream between Brighton and Hamilton into which more or less salmon did not come during last autumn.

Many persons are of the opinion that more fish can be produced by watching the creeks during the spawning season, and thereby preventing poaching, and allow the fish to deposit their ova naturally than by Mr. Wilmot's process. With this opinion I do not agree for the following reasons :

The spawning season commences about the first day of October, and ends about the last of November. It is a well-established fact that salmon invariably deposit their ova in the gravel in swift water. We will suppose the first run of fish in October do so, during every rain storm thereafter, until the end of the season, more or less