

get injured and die. Notwithstanding this serious drawback to the healthiness of the eggs, it is confidently expected that a fair percentage of fry will be produced for next season's distributions.

A number of very satisfactory letters regarding the success attending the planting of fry from this hatchery in many waters in Ontario have been received by the officer in charge of the hatchery. These will be found inserted in the general report under the heading of "Practical Results from Artificial Fish Breeding."

(12.) *Sandwich Hatchery, Province of Ontario.* This nursery, unlike the others, is wholly devoted to the breeding of whitefish and lake pickerel, and its machinery and appliances are worked by steam power, which pumps the river water to an elevation from which it feeds the numerous automatic glass incubators. The institution gives two crops of fry in the season. One whitefish, the eggs of which are laid down in the late autumn and hatch in the following spring. The other is the lake pickerel (otherwise known as doré, wall-eyed-pike or pike-perch), the eggs of which are collected in April and May, and hatch in about four or five weeks after. The average output of these two species has been about 60,000,000 of fry for the past ten years. The capacity of the hatching room, when fully supplied with apparatus which is in contemplation of being provided for the coming season, will then accommodate upwards of 100,000,000 of the above-named eggs.

The success which has attended the operation of this hatchery for benefitting the white-fish fisheries on the Detroit River and Lake Erie, and elsewhere where the fry have been planted, has quite passed beyond the region of doubt by the verification of fishermen and fish dealers, who have voluntarily given their written statements to that effect. The work of this hatchery, coupled with the nurseries on the American side, has produced such a decided increase in the take of whitefish in Lake Erie, as to cause a spontaneous demand to be made by the principal fishermen and fish dealers to their separate Governments, to enlarge the present hatcheries and increase their numbers, so that this valuable description of fish may be more bountifully supplied to the inhabitants of these countries for domestic use and commercial traffic. By a reference to the annual reports of the Fishery Commissioners of the Federal Government and of the States of Ohio, Michigan and other States, and to the fisheries reports of Canada also, it will be found that the numerous certificates which are therein given by the fishermen themselves go to prove most conclusively the statements above made.

From the Sandwich hatchery there were put out last year 42,000,000 of whitefish fry; and 25,000,000 of pickerel, (wall-eyed-pike), in all 67,000,000. These were freely distributed in Lakes Huron, Erie, Ontario and St. Clair; and some millions of these in the "eyed" state, were transferred to Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The fry in all cases were reported to be distributed in the several waters in splendid condition.

The method adopted to procure supplies of whitefish eggs for this hatchery is precarious, having to rely largely upon the humour, or avarice of the fishermen, who occupy fishing stations on the Detroit River. By the action of the Department in exercising its rights to the Bois Blanc Island Fishery, the difficulties hitherto experienced in getting ova, will be in part overcome by operating it wholly by the employes of the hatchery. This one station will not, however, suffice for the full wants of the hatchery, and it becomes a necessity that some of the other stations on the river now licensed by individuals should be so controlled by the Department, as to make it compulsory upon the licensees to allow the fish taken by them at the spawning season, to be manipulated for the benefit of the Government hatcheries exclusively. Failing such arrangement a "close season" of the month of November should be established, in which no whitefish should be taken, except through the medium of the hatchery employes and for Government purposes only. At present no "close season" is set aside, or, at any rate, enforced on this river; the consequence is whitefish are netted all through their spawning season without let or hindrance of any kind, and the fishermen who are permitted to carry on this unnatural and destructive work for our Canadian fisheries, multiply the baneful effects of this un-