
 APPENDIX No. 25.

 SPECIAL REPORT ON THE FISH BREEDING OPERATIONS CARRIED ON
 AT MOISIE RIVER IN 1874, BY THE LESSEE, JOHN HOLLIDAY, Esq.

QUEBEC, 31st December, 1875.

 Hon. A. J. SMITH,
 Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

SIR,—The Departmental Report of 1873 brought my operations in fish breeding at Moisie to November of that year. The two men I left in charge of the establishment in the winter of 1873-1874 were Scotchmen who never wintered in this country. Though fully instructed beforehand, they did not make sufficient provision to keep out the cold, and the water froze in the rills when they cut out the ice with an axe and destroyed a great bulk of the eggs. However, in the summer about 580 young fish were put above the dam.

Last fall I sent two Lorette Indians to go up the Moisie with Mr. Fraser, who is in charge of the Post; these with two additional men completed the party. As we were dependent on the steamer *Margaretta Stevenson* to get down the Indians, they were a few days later in starting from Quebec than we would have wished. They left the mouth of the Moisie on Tuesday the 20th October and reached the head of the rapids the same day; next day at 4 p.m. arrived at the spawning ground in time to camp, the weather being fine but cold. On the morning of the 22nd, they commenced seining and secured three females, partly spawned, and eight males. On the following day, 23rd, they went higher up the north-east branch and after a good deal of seining took three females, partly spawned, and nine males. The spawning beds shewed that a great number had already spawned. If the expedition had started a week earlier they would have obtained as many eggs as they desired. They estimated that they had got 60,000 eggs, and as the salmon seemed to have left for the deep pools, they thought better to make sure of what eggs they had and therefore on Friday afternoon they left, on their return making the Long Portage on Saturday. They deposited the eggs in this establishment on that afternoon. It had all been refitted and improved in the summer of 1874. After leaving particular instructions with the keeper the party went down to the Post.

The man in charge of the Post reports he has been up to the fish breeding establishment and that everything there is in good order and doing well.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN HOLLIDAY.