

habitat of this higher order of fish) have not only become unnatural, but wholly unsuited for the growth or after development of either speckled trout or in fact any other of the species of the salmon family.

The planting of the large number of brook-trout fry in this creek, and the pond connected with it, will, in a short time, thoroughly prove the feasibility of rearing trout with any prospect of success in the sections of the county referred to.

The place and the water selected for this experiment may be taken as a fair average of the numerous creeks in the country that were once largely filled with speckled trout, but in which they have now, from various causes, become wholly exterminated.

#### OVA LAID DOWN DURING THE SEASON OF 1879.

##### *California Salmon Eggs.*

Through the continued courtesy of Professor Baird, United States Fishery Commissioner at Washington, another consignment of these eggs was forwarded from the United States Government Hatchery on the Pacific Coast to this establishment, in October last.

To prevent a repetition of the loss experienced last year in the transportation of these eggs by express, a messenger was despatched to meet them on their arrival at Chicago, and watch their safe carriage to this place.

In 1878 the consignment of half a million of eggs was a total failure. This season the packages containing *ninety thousand* (90,000) reached here in very good order. These with only a moderate loss since have hatched out and are now lively little fish.

##### *Ontario Salmon Ova.*

The supply of eggs obtained from these fish last autumn was less than at any time during the past six years, numbering only *three hundred and nine thousand* (309,000). This great deficit in quantity can only be accounted for at present by the fact of the extreme lowness of the water in the stream, which prevented the parent salmon from entering it as in former years.

In 1878 the run of fish in the creek was *remarkably large*, and in 1879 the numbers were *unprecedently small*, bearing no fair comparison whatever with runs of fish for several years back.

Urgent duties in connection with the completion of the new hatcheries in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick called me to these places (and also to Cape Breton) during the spawning season. I was therefore unable to obtain a personal knowledge of this great falling off in the numbers of salmon entering this stream last season.

The employés of the hatchery are quite of the opinion that the extreme lowness of water from the autumn drought prevented the possibility of the salmon entering the creek. This is verified in the fact that numbers were noticed immediately at the mouth or outlet of the stream, and it is also stated that they were seen in the act of spawning on the shallow sandy beach of the lake. This latter occurrence has not hitherto been observed by any persons within my knowledge.

This circumstance of the scarcity of salmon was alike in all the streams where they have been known to enter formerly; a like falling off was experienced in the catch of salmon with nets in Lake Ontario last summer, and judging also from newspaper paragraphs, a similar phenomenon is related of the salmon fisheries last season, both on the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts.

##### *Salmon Trout Ova.*

Much difficulty was experienced this year by Mr. Parker, the officer usually despatched to collect these eggs at the Georgian Bay.