

easily for re-productive purposes; whilst those which are natives of the larger rivers are alike instinctively led to commence their migrations from the sea at a much earlier period of the year, in order that they may have time to overcome the numerous obstacles they have to contend against when travelling to their spawning grounds in the upper branches of these long and rapid rivers.

This well-known natural habit of the migratory salmon will explain, in part, why it is that the salmon of Lake Ontario are not now (and never were) taken more numerous during the summer months, when in their best condition. For in like manner, as the salmon of the sea, natives of the smaller rivers do not approach the coast in any numbers till September and October, so, in like manner, taking Lake Ontario to be the sea for these Ontario salmon, and the creeks being very small—in fact, many of them quite dried up at certain seasons—these fish do not approach its shores till late in October and in November, and only then when these streams will have become sufficiently increased in size by the late fall rains. At this time they are not only instinctively led, but actually compelled by the requirements of nature to make an effort to enter them and deposit their eggs.

Hence, it may then be quite rationally concluded, is the cause of the comparatively speaking scarcity of salmon found along the shores of Lake Ontario during the summer months, or open season for netting them; yet it must be remarked that, during the last few years, when freshets have filled the Newcastle stream late in the fall, thousands of salmon are known to have entered for a few days only for immediate spawning purposes. The testimony of this fact may be given by hundreds of eye witnesses. This circumstance is not confined only to the Newcastle creek, as it noticeable in other streams also, but not in such large numbers.

The question naturally arises, how and when are these Ontario salmon to be caught, and whether they will ever become a commercial article of food. A similar question may be equally and tritely asked, how and where are those Atlantic salmon to be captured during the open season that are natives of many of the smaller rivers along the coasts of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and P. E. Island, where they, in like manner as the Ontario Salmon, do not approach the coast in any numbers till very late in the autumn, and only during the close season? The simile is precisely the same in both cases.

A theory, however, is advanced by many with reference to the numbers of salmon fry bred in Ontario, which may be held to be somewhat tenable, namely: that these fish, impelled by their generally admitted natural tendency to migrate to salt water after arriving at their growth as smolts, pass instinctively down the St. Lawrence to the sea, where, after reaching maturity, many that have escaped their marine enemies, are captured on their returning journey in the wiers and other engines set like net work along the coast, leaving only the small remnant that may have escaped these difficulties to pass up into Lake Ontario to reproduce their species. If this be the case, and there appears to be a good deal of credibility in the statement, then the large number of salmon fry which are annually turned out of the Ontario nursery will have produced benefits which are more advantageous to the salmon fisheries in the lower St. Lawrence than those in Ontario.

It may not be out of place at this time to suggest the advisability of instituting some practical method by which the habitat of these Ontario salmon could be more definitely ascertained, and also establishing a plan by which they could be more largely netted in Lake Ontario during the open season, when they are in prime condition. In order to bring about this end, and to give it a degree of financial success, a considerable amount of capital must necessarily be expended by some person in getting up the requisite nets and other fishing material to make the trial. This outlay could not be reasonably expected to be incurred by fishermen, with the practice now adopted by the Department of granting season licenses from year to year. In this view of the matter, and to attain the end contemplated, it might be considered advisable for the Department to grant long leases for salmon stations on Lake Ontario covering a period of nine years. This lengthened term would, in all probability, induce some fishermen to invest sufficient capital to fit out nets and