

ing grounds on the Harrison I found the work well under way, the men had the trap set, and the gates all repaired and put down. I find, by referring to the notes of A. E. Pettindrigh, who had charge in my absence, that the first eggs were taken on the 18th September, and that about 350 saw-quai salmon were in the trap. I also found the water had been very high when the men first went to the Harrison, as the pen had to be covered to prevent the fish from jumping out. Owing to the continuance of high water the whole season, it was difficult to proceed with the work, but the fish were very plentiful. On the 30th of September I started men fishing for spring or quinnat salmon. I did not let them fish sooner as it is difficult to keep the fish alive on account of the fungoid growth that attacks their gills, or wherever the mesh of the net takes the scales off. I found the quinnat salmon very plentiful on the bars; the first night's fishing we caught fifty-three fish in three short drifts which fitted the boxes, and they had to be emptied in the pens the next morning. On the 1st October I took a shipment of 404,000 eggs to the hatchery where I left one man in charge; on my return I found the water falling fast, and fish very plentiful below the trap, but very few going in, as they did not appear to be ready to spawn. On the 11th October the first quinnat ova were taken and I fully expected to lay in a million of these eggs but only managed to get 497,000, as we experienced great difficulty in keeping the fish in pens. I also expected to lay in about six millions of the sawquai ova this fall, but owing to the heavy rains and high water was prevented, as the trap we caught our sawquai salmon in was carried away with the freshet, and we could not replace it again before the fish had all gone up the creek, and once there we could do nothing with them. But I am pleased to state that the eggs that are now in the hatchery are doing better than in any previous year, and if no accident occurs, we will turn out nearly 90 per cent. of the whole number laid in. We have now about two million of young fish hatched out; they are in fine condition and will be ready to turn out in a few weeks.

The number of fish caught for spawning purposes was 4,084, but of this number 3,010 were males which leaves 1,674 females for stripping and a number of these were partly spawned before they were caught. The number of eggs laid in the hatchery this season was 4,921,000 so the fish scarcely averaged 4,000 eggs each this year. This is the reason so many fish have to be handled to get the required number of ova and necessitates so much work.

The first eggs were taken on the 18th September and the last on the 5th of November, making the time a little longer than in previous seasons owing to the continuous high freshets in those creeks.

I also experienced great difficulty in making connection with the river steamer, sometimes it would call for us but oftentimes we had to take the eggs down to Chilliwack in canoes which caused a great deal of inconvenience as it would take two men a whole day to make the trip.

I would recommend that a new flume be put in the hatchery the coming summer as the present one is getting leaky and I doubt if it would be safe for another season if the flow of the water was to stop at this season of the year the loss of fish would be very heavy. The hatchery otherwise is in good condition and will need no other repairs this season. The hatching trough, trays and baskets will require varnishing after the fish are put out as was done in former years.

MAX. M. MOWAT,

*Caretaker F. R. Hatchery, B.C.*

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., 31st December, 1888.