

2.—The fry endowed with their natural instincts inherited from the parent fish, exercise those instincts at the earliest moment, and do not become accustomed to an artificial environment.

3.—It enables a vast quantity of young fish to be handled, whereas, an infinitely smaller quantity alone can be dealt with if the labour, expense and difficulty of feeding, rearing and caring for are to be faced.

4.—Fry are most vigorous and alert soon after hatching, but when kept confined and their stock of food yolk becomes exhausted, they are less vigorous, swim less freely, and require great care in management.

5.—When fish are planted at the young fry age, the public receive the greatest return and most widespread benefit. This would not be possible were a restricted quantity of young fish merely available for planting. It allows of the maximum of output at the minimum of cost.

6.—Lastly the planting of young fry has been successful, in spite of losses when planting, and undoubted losses (from predaceous enemies) after planting. It is incredible that 50 or 80 or 200 millions of fry of various fishes can be planted in Canadian waters, as they have been planted for over a quarter of a century, and have no effect whatever. The popular opinion, the opinion of practical men, the strong conviction of fishermen especially is that the beneficial results are patent and undeniable.

It has been shown that most of the stock objections urged are not merely based on gross misconceptions, they are the reverse of the facts. The eggs in our hatcheries are, at any rate, safely shielded from numberless enemies and hurtful influences. When the fry hatch as Mr. Seymour Bower pertinently asked (in a paper in the Mich., Fish Commis. Rep., 1896,) 'the question of how much longer they should be held, without any attempt at feeding, becomes an important one. Whitefish fry, as such, are never more vigorous than at the time of hatching: they are free swimmers, and begin to take food within a very few days. It would seem, therefore, that the sooner they are set free in their native habitat, to mingle with nature's fry the better. There is nothing to be gained by holding them and there is great risk in carrying them beyond the time when nourishment other than that supplied by the food sack is essential to normal development.' It is indeed impossible to supply food, at all corresponding to the natural food in quantity, or in its nature, to fry retained until the post-larval condition; and the resulting fish may be stunted, or at any rate will bear evidence in the adult stage of the unnatural conditions under which they were reared. They will reveal what Frank Buckland called the 'semi-tame' condition all through life.