

The site of the "Rapid Des Femmes" stream, emptying into the St. John River, about three miles below the Grand Falls was chosen. It has many conveniences; the stream is large, the water is pure, limped, and highly aerated, from being precipitated some fifty feet over a ledge of rocks, creating a beautiful cataract, and forming a superior water-power. The line of the New Brunswick Railway runs through the property only a few yards from the hatchery, where also a station of the road is located, and the St. John River itself is but a few hundred feet from the works.

More than ordinary facilities are immediately at hand for the transportation of eggs and young fry throughout the entire length of the St. John River, either by water or railway conveniences.

A strong, permanent dam has been built across the stream, and forms a large pond just in front, and within a few yards of the hatchery. The surface of the pond is large, with a depth of water ranging from five to fifteen feet, with sufficient room to accommodate one thousand parent salmon, if it is found possible to procure that number there.

The young fry, when hatched, can be run out by a conductor pipe from the nursery into the stream, or carried in pails to the river, where, in either case, they have the whole length of the great St. John River from Grand Falls down to the sea (some two hundred and fifty miles in extent), to thrive and grow till their nature drives them to the great expanse of the ocean to become adult fish, when, if not too numerously destroyed by the avarice of the St. John's city authorities and tidal fishermen, sufficient numbers would yet reach the upper waters of this magnificent river to give food and riches to its inhabitants, and to reproduce their species in great numbers for all time to come, if fairly and honestly guarded and protected from the torch, spear and net of the ruthless slayers and poachers who now "run riot" in their wanton destruction of this great source of wealth, and who are winked at in the very act by many of the officers of the law.

Construction of the Works.

The plan adopted for the building of this establishment was by letting it by tenders. For this purpose plans and specifications were drawn up. The several builders and mechanics living at Grand Falls, Andover and Woodstock were personally called upon and duly informed of the desire to get tenders put in for the work. The plans and specifications were shown to each, when seven written offers were received, four from the County of Victoria and three from the County of Carleton.

The tenders for the building ranged between sixteen hundred dollars and twenty-one hundred dollars. T. R. Cameron, of Andover, in the County of Victoria, being the lowest bidder, and having given good sureties for performing the work, was awarded the contract.

In addition to the price of the building, five hundred dollars was given for the building of the dam, making a total of twenty-one hundred dollars for the whole establishment.

The job was fully completed in due time, and gave general satisfaction. The works were at once put in running order by myself, and the hatchery was afterwards partially supplied with salmon ova, and the institution was put in charge of Mr. Barber, an officer of your department from the Government Fish-breeding Institution at Newcastle, who had previously obtained practical knowledge and skill in fish-culture-qualities which are indispensable requisites for success in carrying out the delicate and precarious work connected with the proper management of an artificial fish-breeding establishment.

A sketch of the hatchery and grounds are hereto attached.