

ARTIFICIAL DRYING OF FISH.

Mr. Cathcart Thompson, of Halifax, having brought to the department's notice a process of his invention, by which he claimed that fish could be dried by means of absorbent pads for merchantable purposes, thereby obviating the delays and dangers of present methods, his system was submitted to expert departmental officers for report, and on their reporting favourably, an appropriation of \$500 was obtained for the purpose of making practical experiments. A quantity of green codfish was purchased, and these after being dried under Mr. Thompson's directions, will be sent to the West Indies markets for sale, thus making a complete practical test of the value of the process.

The experiment is now being carried out, and should it prove successful, a bulletin will be issued, describing the process and giving the results.

INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION.

The diminution of marketable fishes in those waters which border on the United States and Canada demand early attention.

Whilst within Canadian jurisdiction, certain established rules control the dates and methods of fishing, there are practically no restrictions in the adjoining limits; consequently, much of the good which Canadian fishery laws are designed to accomplish is frustrated to the mutual damage of fishing pursuits in these waters. If it were possible to induce the state governments of Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont and Maine to unite in ascertaining how far, and in what manner, the prevalent causes of deterioration may be affected by judicious legislation, and promptly enforce some moderate restrictions, the existing regulations enforced by Canadian fishery officers might be assimilated as closely as practicable. The effect would prove mutually beneficial and we might confidently expect a marked improvement in the international fisheries of the bordering waters.

This matter engaged the attention of the Government as early as 1875, and strong representations were then made to the authorities of the above named states, inviting their attention to the necessity for joint legislative action on the subject; but no official action followed these appeals. Renewed representations of a similar nature were recently made, and it is sincerely to be hoped that they will meet with a better fate than the previous ones.

In connection with the above, the following remarks appeared in the number of 27th December, 1891, of *Forest and Stream*, a leadingsporting paper of New York, relative to the jurisdiction of the State of Pennsylvania over the waters of Lake Erie, on a judgment of the Supreme Court declaring that the legislative powers of the state over the waters of Lake Erie were absolute:

"The only rights which the states have surrendered to the General Government extend to admiralty and maritime cases. The fishery is regulated by the states. We have, therefore, along the chain of great lakes a body of waters controlled to their middle line by the states, while the other half is under the jurisdiction of Canada; but concurrent legislation in the interests of the fisheries cannot originate between the States and Canada jointly, for no agreement would be binding upon the latter government as against a commonwealth which has not the treaty-making power. This is the present cause of serious difficulty in the establishment and operation by the United States of a fish hatchery in the State of New York to stock the waters of Lake Ontario. In the resolution of Congress carrying an appropriation for such a hatchery, the stipulation was made that the United States Fish Commission must first be satisfied that