

Island, where they were not known to exist. In making enquiry from the Fishery Guardian in the Cowichan River relative to the fry planted there, I have received the following letters:—

(See General Report under "practical results from fish-breeding." page 20.)

Collection of Ova in 1888.

We have laid in the hatchery this season 4,921,000 eggs, which have been more successful thus far than in any previous season. I am of opinion we will turn out fully 90 per cent. of fry from the number laid in. The men employed last season naturally saw their mistakes, and were much more careful this season, but it is impossible for the men to thoroughly understand the business until they have some length of practical experience. Had the freshets not kept so high all through the spawning season, we would have captured a much larger number of fish and consequently secured a larger number of eggs; but anyone acquainted with the sudden rising and falling of the various mountain streams in the province (especially where our work is carried on) will readily understand the difficulties to be contended with.

We were not troubled with fungoid growth on the eggs this season, as they were all laid in the hatching baskets immediately after arriving from the spawning grounds.

Appended is the caretaker's report of operations on the Harrison spawning ground this season, which explains itself.

In last year's report it was mentioned that shad had been captured along the British Columbia coast at several points on Vancouver's Island, and in the Straits, but had not reached the Fraser. It is now gratifying to state that shad have been caught in the salmon nets in the Fraser River this season, these were no doubt the offspring of those planted by the United States Fish Commission, a few years ago, and they are now seeking more suitable spawning grounds in the Lower Fraser River; which it is believed is a better stream than that selected for the first fry turned in the Sacramento River.

I beg to again renew my suggestion that the Department have planted here a few hundred thousand shad, as the limited quantity which made their appearance last season may take years to stock this river; and during this lapse of time the people of the Province will derive no direct benefit, whereas if a few hundred thousand were planted this coming season, the results would be felt in the course of three or four years.

Whitefish have been asked for by the people of the interior, to stock the large lakes, and it is the opinion, if these fish are once introduced in these waters, the increase would be rapid, and a large trade with the people of the interior would spring up, as the growing towns in Oregon, Washington Territory, and British Columbia would consume large quantities of them.

The only repairs this hatchery will require for another season is a new flume to lead the water from the dam to the retaining tank in the building, the old one has been in use for six years and is becoming unsafe. New nets, and boats, and baskets were supplied last season. The ground was enclosed with a wire fence and the building is in thorough repair.

THOMAS MOWAT,

Officer in charge of Hatchery, Fraser River, B. C.

REPORT OF THE CARETAKER OF THE FRASER RIVER HATCHERY.

I herewith submit the following report of the work done at the Fraser River hatchery for the fall of 1888.

As you are aware I did not get down from the interior where I was employed as fishery guardian until the latter part of September. Upon arriving at the spawa-