

turned into them annually, there will be no great danger of overfishing. The netters in estuary and bay had grave fears that so many anglers would destroy the river, but the hatchery, combined with the thorough protection, has been more than compensated for by the large numbers of fish taken with the fly. In obedience to official instruction, I proceeded to the Carleton Pond, St. John, and began operations there, on the 26th October, the fish were in perfect condition, yielding upwards of 2,000,000 of eggs, which were distributed between Bedford and Rapide des Femmes hatcheries. The Carleton pond is certainly the finest place in the world for the impounding and retaining of the parent salmon. The numbers of parent fish could easily be increased and sufficient eggs obtained to supply several hatcheries. It is certainly the best system to pursue, and the one which will undoubtedly produce the best results.

Hoping the above report, together with the remarks I have felt called upon to make will meet with your approval,

I beg to remain, sir, your obedient servant,

ALEX. MOWAT, *Fishery Officer.*

*Mr. Robert D. Gerard* writes as follows :—

“I have been employed this year as usual, guarding the river. A great many salmon having passed up before the nets were set, the water was then so high, and there was so much debris running that fishermen could not get their nets out. As the salmon usually run altogether at night, I could very often see the water disturbed on the shallow places by large bodies of fish passing up. The law was well observed. I consider the fish are increasing in numbers all the while. I saw schools of the young smolt late in October passing out to sea, something I have never noticed before, so late in the season. I cannot help thinking but what this is due to the hatchery, which has been the life of our salmon fishing.”

*Mr. Daniel Lawlor* says :

“I have lived on the Metapedia all my life, and have been guardian on the lower end for the past number of years, and I never saw the salmon more plentiful than they were this year. The young parr were as thick as smelts, and I saw thousands upon thousands of the young fry along the river, which I am sure were the fry you planted from the hatchery. I think there ought to be a hatchery established on the Metapedia.”

*Mr. Steven Ferguson* writes :

“I have been guardian on the Petapedia River for the past four years, myself and another man guard the first thirty miles of it. Occasionally, we would go to the lakes. The river was well filled with salmon this year. I saw hundreds on the shallows spawning this fall. There were a great many salmon in the Restigouche this season. The anglers have had good success, and were well pleased. The fish are increasing and rivers becoming more valuable ; people are only beginning to realize that the hatchery has been doing a great work.”

*Mr. Alex. J. Adams* also reports :

“I have lived on the Restigouche above Metapedia for thirty years, beside one of the best salmon pools, and am particularly interested in the fisheries, and move up and down the river a great deal, which gives me a thorough knowledge of what I state. Now, in the year 1896 I never, in all my life, saw the salmon so plentiful. One hundred anglers on the river each averaging six and seven salmon per day. Ten years ago, they would not catch that many in a month ; 1897 was not so good, but go back a few years, and we would consider it a great year. This year, 1898, was almost as good as 1896, and I think there were more spawning salmon this fall in the pools than there were in 1896. My sons carry the mail daily for the Restigouche Salmon Club, and one would be amazed to see the canoe loads of salmon that come down the river from the anglers every five days. The value of fishing water on the Restigouche has increased 500 per cent in a few years ; there are far more nets and more anglers than there used to be ; consequently, more salmon caught, so we must ascribe it to the hatchery. If settlers on the river had known some fifteen or twenty years ago what our river is at the present time it would be thousands of dollars in their pockets to-day.