

12.—SANDWICH HATCHERY.

SANDWICH, 20th December, 1884.

The Hon. A. W. McLELAN,
Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Ottawa.

SIR,—In obedience to the call made upon me by Mr. Superintendent Wilmot, to furnish a correct report of the doings in the Sandwich fish hatchery, on the Detroit River, of which I am in charge, I herewith send a statement of the operations for the past year, giving you a full account of the eggs gathered, the number hatched, and how disposed of.

In my last report I made a showing of having gathered thirty-five million (35,000,000) whitefish eggs at the different points along the Detroit River. Out of this amount of eggs I managed to hatch twenty-seven million (27,000,000), which I disposed of as follows:—

Peaché Island	2,000,000
Fighting Island.....	2,000,000
Bois Blanc Island.....	4,000,000
Leamington, Lake Erie.....	2,000,000
Peleé Island do	1,000,000
Port Stanley do	1,000,000
Belle Isle, Detroit River.....	2,000,000
Kent County, Lake Erie.....	1,000,000
Pigeon Bay do	1,000,000
Meaford, Georgian Bay	3,000,000
Niagara, Lake Ontario.....	2,000,000
At Hatchery, Detroit River	6,000,000
	27,000,000

The young fry were in a very healthy and lively condition when placed in the water at the different points, and I have the greatest hopes of hearing a good report of them in the future.

The amount of pickerel eggs gathered this last spring was fifteen millions (15,000,000), a much smaller amount than was gathered the spring before. This can be accounted for by two reasons. The first reason to be given is that the catch of pickerel this spring was very light: the second reason is that the Americans have taken a mania to hatch pickerel since we commenced the work, and are monopolizing all the fisheries on the American side, which side we have principally to look to for the eggs. The places where the eggs were got, and the numbers, are as follows:—

Weir Bros., Lake Huron.....	2,000,000
Loussau's do	1,000,000
Hichcock & Slochums, Lake Huron.....	6,000,000
Gauthier's grounds, River St. Clair, American side.....	5,000,000
Meloche's grounds, River St. Clair, Canadian side.....	1,000,000
Total.....	15,000,000

Six millions of these were planted in the river at the hatchery and four millions in River St. Clair, which makes a total of ten millions, all that were hatched. These figures show a decrease from last year's report, both in number of fish turned out and ova received. I had considerable trouble in collecting the eggs, which trouble I stated in my last report.

The hatchery was considerably run down and required some repairs, part of which I have had done. In my last report I stated that a new pipe was required to