

had to elapse before they became sufficiently quieted down to enable the angler to cast his fly again with any degree of certainty for luring another."

Since the commencement of the Tadoussac Nursery up to the present time, upwards of *two millions and a half of salmon-fry* have been deposited in the waters of the Saguenay.

The accounts received from Gaspé with regard to the successful catch of salmon are of a very satisfactory nature also. Here, too, has been erected a breeding-establishment upon the Dartmouth River, one of the three important streams which enter directly into Gaspé Basin and Bay. These rivers have received already a *million and a half of salmon-fry* from this nursery.

It will invariably be found that very successful scores made by fly-fishermen on a river are a sure index of a satisfactory commercial catch of salmon at the estuary fisheries of the stream, and along the adjacent coast; and as it is pretty generally understood that in killing salmon with the fly it is the "exception" only, and not the "rule" therefore when large scores are made by fly-fishermen, it must be taken as conclusive that very great numbers of salmon are "running," and consequently the fishermen in the tidal waters would necessarily have secured correspondingly heavy draughts in their nets below; the numbers thus taken, however, would be in a superlative degree very much greater by comparison than the catch of the anglers up stream. This must be a very reasonable deduction from the fact that the fish killed up river by anglers are an infinitesimally small proportion only of those which have escaped the endless stands of nets that are set all along the lower portions of the river, and in the tidal waters.

To bear out these statements, and also to show the great contrast between the state of the Restigouche at the present time (brought about by protection) to what it was in 1868, when the total catch in the river by anglers was only *twenty salmon*, and the commercial yield *thirty-seven thousand pounds*; the fact may be here related that *one angler alone* (out of the hundreds that were fishing the river in 1878), in sixteen days, killed with his own rod *eighty salmon*, seventy-five of which averaged a trifle over twenty-six pounds each, whilst at the same time the numbers which were being taken by the net-fishermen below, for commercial purposes, were prodigious and beyond precedent, amounting in the aggregate in that one division alone (not counting local and home consumption) to the enormous weight of *half a million pounds* (500,000).

The above is given as an illustration of what may yet be done for obtaining similar results from rivers in other sections of the Maritime Provinces, which at one time were the nurseries for producing great sources of wealth, but have now become almost barren from the effects of over-avariciousness on the part of settlers and others in exterminating the gravid fish on their spawning-beds, and by the erection of dams and other obstructions across streams, which prevent the ascent of the salmon to their natural breeding-grounds. It is alike unnatural, unwise, and impolitic to allow any portion of a community to commit selfish acts, for their individual greed or aggrandisement, which shuts off from the general public a means devised by Providence, in its wisdom, for securing extensive supplies of food and wealth to the inhabitants of a country.

The total number of salmon-fry turned out from the several hatcheries into the rivers flowing into the Gulf of St. Lawrence during the past year amounted to upwards of *five millions*. A large proportion of these, together with upwards of *twenty millions of fish-eggs* secured last fall, would, but for the introduction of fish-breeding establishments, have become wholly lost for reproductive purposes, from the fact that the parent fish from which they were obtained would otherwise have been sold on the markets for consumption.

This clear gain of fish-eggs and fry will be shewn with greater force and clearness when applied to the artificial impregnation of the many millions of whitefish and salmon-trout ova which were vitalised and laid in the hatching-troughs of the Newcastle and Sandwich Nurseries in Ontario.