

the easy erection of a dam, and where an unlimited supply of water could always be relied upon, for the internal workings of the nursery.

In addition, this point gave great opportunities for economising labor and expense in obtaining a supply of parent salmon, and in the building of the dam it was so arranged that the fish in their migration up the river would be led into a safe reception house, or large tank immediately alongside the hatchery, though which any quantity of water could be run from the pond above.

The location is in the immediate neighbourhood of a rich and populous portion of the Island, nine miles by turnpike road from the town of Summerside, and four and a-half miles from the nearest station of the Island Railway. It can also be reached within a few rods during high tides from the sea, by small tugs, or other water-crafts, so that facilities are afforded for access to the building, and for transporting ova and fry to and from it cheaply and expeditiously to all parts of the Island.

Contracts were entered into for the building of the dam and for the erection of the necessary buildings, for a first-class salmon hatchery. The details in connection with the letting of the work, together with plans, specifications and all other matters relating to it, were forwarded to your Department at the time, and therefore unnecessary to recapitulate here, other than to mention that the dam is strongly and suitably built, having withstood the freshets of last autumn, and is now in first-class order.

The reception-house proved suitable for its requirements, and the hatching-house itself is both sightly and commodious, and possesses all the latest and most approved apparatus and other appliances, now used for the systematic and economic propagation of fish by artificial means. The contract price for the dam and building was twenty-four hundred and seventy-five dollars (\$2,475). See report August 26th, 1879.

ST. JOHN RIVER HATCHERY.

Selection of a Site.

Much difficulty was experienced in selecting the site for the fish-breeding establishment on this river. Commencing at Grand Falls, every river and stream entering either bank of the St. John as low down as Andover, received a close and personal inspection.

In this work I was very materially assisted by the kind and voluntary services of G. H. Connell, Esq., M.P., who was unceasing in his efforts, and unbiassed in his views in giving me the benefit of his practical knowledge of the various points that might possess advantages for a desirable location.

I very much regretted the absence from the Province, at the time, of Mr. Costigan, the Member for Victoria County, who, along with Mr. Connell, had exerted his influence to get an institution of this kind erected on the St. John River. Mr. Costigan's interests (though absent) were nevertheless impartially cared for by Mr. Connell.

As an evidence of the necessity of extreme caution being exercised in the selection of a reliable site for a fish-hatchery, I may here mention that streams to all appearances well supplied with water, and on the eve of being chosen, were, from the precaution taken by waiting for their subsidence, re-examined a short time after and found almost dried up; yet representations were made from generally supposed reliable sources, that these streams were *never* less in flow of water than when first examined.

The site selected at last was a most admirable one, for all the the purposes of a fish hatchery, save one, that of not having such facilities near at hand at the present time, for catching parent salmon as would have been desired. This was less objectionable than other wants to be overcome at other points, for with proper guardianship of the St. John River, hopes are confidently anticipated of getting supplies of salmon here, in the future.