

mechanical work, which have now become quite systematized from the experience already gained in the construction of the other hatcheries at present working in the Dominion.

In the selection of an eligible site, as previously stated, mainly depends the successful future of a fish-hatching institution. The stream upon which the establishment is to be built should be at or near a point where parent fish could be easily and cheaply secured. Its purity, volume and temperature of water ought to be practically weighed and duly considered from various stand-points. Its head and fall must be closely calculated with the view to obtain sufficient elevation for giving at all seasons of the year an ample supply of water for feeding the hatching-troughs and other apparatus within the building.

Another important matter to be considered is the convenience that may be had for the construction of a dam to form a pond of sufficient area and depth, in which a stock of parent or breeding fish can be safely and permanently kept until they become mature for manipulating purposes.

The facilities for shipment of eggs and young fry to and from the nursery, by means of land or water conveyance, is a most important item in the selection of a site for the economical working of a fish-hatchery.

These requisites cannot at all times be readily found, especially as establishments of this kind necessarily require to be located as far up the river into the interior of the country as may be deemed most suitable, where, in a great many instances, it is found that the facilities for transport referred to are difficult to be had, so that in securing one or more of these desirable objects the other requisites may be wholly lost, and hence the necessity of thoroughly inspecting every eligible point in the section of the country where it is contemplated to build, with a view of combining as many of these qualities for the establishment as it is possible to get together in one site.

TIME FOR SELECTING SITES.

Practically and for the purposes of safety in connection with the working of a fish-hatchery, the site for its location should be examined and chosen during the mid-summer months, when the streams are at their lowest pitch of water, for it is frequently found that many of them during the spring and autumn months which carry large supplies of water down their beds at this time are, comparatively speaking, almost dried up in mid-summer and in mid-winter, and as the latter period is the one in which the hatching process is carried on, it will at once be seen that it is great wisdom to select the stream upon which to erect the work during its lowest stage of water, and when it can be examined, namely, in mid-summer.

This fact itself gives indisputable evidence how very short the period is in which the selection of a site and the erection of a fish-hatchery, with all its appendages, can be performed, especially when it is to be completed within the limit of one short season.

NEW HATCHERIES.

With the view of informing your Department of the operations in connection with the construction of the new hatcheries ordered to be built, I desire to mention that a large proportion of the time during last summer was actively engaged in the selection of four sites for fish-breeding works in the Provinces of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, (Cape Breton) in Nova Scotia, and Quebec.

In the first two mentioned Provinces, the buildings with all the requisites for their necessary working, were fully completed and put in practical operation in October and November last. The proposed erection of hatcheries in the other two sections of the country was necessarily laid over for the work of the years 1880.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND HATCHERY.

The hatchery in Prince Edward Island, is located upon the Dunk River, at a point just at the head of its tidal waters, where a very desirable site was found for