

5,550 each. These are reported as being in a very healthy condition. The heavy freshet referred to caused a breakage in the supply pond, which was at once repaired, and the hatchery with all its requirements inside and outside, except a new towing scow, which must be built to replace the old one, are in good condition.

Some very satisfactory letters from leading persons regarding the benefits which have resulted from the artificial breeding of salmon in this hatchery, are sent in by the officer in charge and are inserted in the general report under the heading of "Practical Results from Fish-breeding."

(7.) *Ristigouche River Hatchery, Province of Quebec.* The officer in charge of this establishment reports the distribution of 1,720,000 salmon fry in the Ristigouche River, and its three principal branches, the Matapedia, the Upsalquitch and the Kedgewick, and also in the Jaquet and Nipissiguit Rivers, which empty into the Bay des Chaleurs a long distance below the mouth of the Ristigouche. There were also 50,000 semi-hatched eggs transferred to the Miramichi Hatchery in the month of April. The fry planted in the Ristigouche and its branches, and those conveyed to the Jaquet and Nipissiguit were put out in a strong, healthy and active condition. The fruits of the former plantings of Ristigouche fry in the Nipissiguit River are being experienced by anglers, who are strong in the belief that salmon of the Ristigouche family are now caught in the Nipissiguit. Their larger size, different shape and general appearance go to show that they are the product of the fry brought from the Ristigouche Hatchery in former years.

Owing to the unusually heavy freshet which prevailed in the Ristigouche River in the early part of June the first run of salmon passed by before the nets were set at the head of the tide-way; and the anticipated numbers of parent salmon for the uses of the hatchery were not obtained. The two departmental nets gave only 246 fish, these with 107 purchased from fishermen, made a total of 353. This number was reduced to 315 when taken from the reservoir in the month of November for spawning operations. Fungoid growth from the effects of wounds in capturing them, and the escape of others caused a loss of 38 from the original number put in the reservoir. One hundred and fifty-five females gave 1,500,000 sound eggs, with an average of 9,675 each. These fish after spawning were liberated in the tide way in better condition than the ordinary spent salmon far up river.

The severe freshets during the past season have very materially injured the banks of the reservoir or retaining pond in which the parent salmon are kept; considerable repairs will require to be made to make it safe for the retention of fish next season. The necessity for this is shown when some hundreds of salmon are kept in it, which if lost by any imperfection in the construction of the water pen would allow the salmon to escape and thus shut off the supply of eggs for the hatchery for the season. A small building was erected alongside the reservoir for the convenience of the watchmen, and prevention of injury by frost to the eggs during the time of their manipulation. The hatchery and its outworks are, generally speaking, in very good condition.

It is most desirable that another departmental station should be selected near the head of the tide way in order to ensure a full supply of salmon to fill the hatchery with eggs, as constant demands are now generally made upon this institution from other parts of the country for the introduction of the more famous family of Ristigouche salmon into other rivers where the native fish are smaller. The great benefit derivable from having fishing stations absolutely under departmental control, and worked by our own men and nets, is that greater certainty in procuring full supplies of salmon would be the result, and the chances of injury to the fish would be almost wholly overcome, thereby reducing the loss from fungoid disease to the minimum. Experience has shown that the salmon taken in the departmental nets are kept in the reservoir through the whole season, escaping fungoid disease and losses of any kind comparatively speaking, whilst those purchased from the ordinary fishermen are subject to fungus (*saprolegnia ferax*) and many die. With the working of a third station and net, both money and the loss of salmon would be saved, as the third stand of nets could be operated at a very trifling cost over the two now in use, and