

eight hundred and fifty thousand, all of which are at the present time looking well, with the exception of twelve trays which met with an accident on the way down from the pond, by the craft sticking on a stump or a log, thereby throwing the box containing the trays on its side and injuring some of the eggs.

The lessee of the Dartmouth River seems to be much opposed to the present system of netting parent salmon by the Department, for the purpose of fish-breeding. He need not be under any apprehension of losing good sport on the river, as the fact shewing that Messrs. Barnes and Guild caught last year sixty-five salmon with the fly, and other anglers seventeen, making in all eighty-two salmon taken with the fly and two hundred and thirty-two captured by the Department, is a sufficient proof that there is not a scarcity of salmon in the river. There is no doubt that netting is the only way for us to obtain our supply of parent fish for spawning purposes. Catching salmon up stream in the autumn months is not only uncertain, but very expensive, and is attended with much difficulty, besides having to run the risk of injuring the ova should the weather be cold, which is generally the case in the spawning season. I should, therefore, urge upon your Department the necessity of continuing the system which, for the past two years, has been done by netting the fish in June. The proof of this successful system is plainly shewn by the fact that only *four* fish died out of *two hundred and thirty-two* taken out last season, and *not one* having died out of *one hundred and twelve* caught this season. It would be impossible to have healthier or finer-looking salmon than those captured by the netting system during the past two years. The best kind of dip-net to use in removing fish from the net to the scow, is made of strong wrapper, or bagging, with many holes for the water to run through, as a net, no matter how small the mesh may be it is apt to injure the fish, on account of the small knots coming in contact with their gills and eyes.

The troughs and trays were properly dried and varnished during the summer. The pipes carrying off the water from the troughs were found very defective, and have been changed and renewed. I had a large window placed in the rear of the establishment in order to admit of taking in the pond scow, canoes, or other crafts, as there was ample space above, and it preserves them from the weather. A new scow will be necessary next year for spawning operations, and should be made this winter. Four tons of coal have been purchased, and the establishment is in first-class working order.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

PHILIP VIBERT, Jr.,

Officer in Charge.

RESTIGOUCHE DEE SIDE HATCHERY,

31st December, 1879.

The Honorable J. C. POPE,
Minister of Marine and Fisheries,
Ottawa.

SIR,—As no provision was made for any permanent improvement at this establishment the present season, and as the building is not worth putting any expense upon, I have merely endeavoured to keep it in such condition as will ensure the safe keeping of ova during the coming season.

Owing to last spring's heavy freshets the Indian House Brook overflowed the dam at the west end, tearing out the gravel and silt, filling up the pond, and making a new channel. In order to prevent such an occurrence again, I put up two hundred feet of cedar cribbing six feet high, backing it up with gravel, cleaning the