

This creek is well situated for salmon, as it forms a natural inlet of the sheltered bend of the lake between Bond Head and Darlington. Although at its entrance into the lake it passes through a marshy lagoon the bed of the stream further inland is of a gravelly nature, and the water is pretty clear, regular and lively in its flow.

In early times it was famous for salmon, great numbers of which fish frequented it every autumn for the purpose of spawning. They were so plentiful forty years ago, that men slew them with clubs and pitchforks—women seined them with flannel petticoats—and settlers bought and paid for farms and built houses from the sale of salmon. Later they were taken by nets and spears, over one thousand being often caught in the course of one night. Concurrently with such annual slaughter, manufactories and farming along the banks had fouled and changed the creek from its natural state, and made it less capable of affording shelter and spawning grounds. Their yearly decreasing numbers at length succumbed to the destruction practised upon them each season from the time of entering the creek until nearly the last straggler had been speared, netted or killed. Such is, in short, an epitome of the history of every once populous water connected with Lake Ontario.

In 1865 a scanty remnant was snatched from extinction through the efforts of the Fishery Department. This remnant was afterwards utilized by Mr. Wilmot, who conceived the idea of restocking the stream by artificial reproduction. His initial experiments, purely of an individual character, were prosecuted during two years under much outside difficulty and at very considerable personal labor and expense. They were however successful, establishing the important fact that salmon eggs could be hatched out there, and the young fish reared through proper means and intelligent care. Aided to a very limited extent in the following years by the Government, Mr. Wilmot has persevered, and he now exhibits to us upwards of 140,000 well shapen, healthy and active Salmon Fry from three-fourths of an inch to one and a half inches long, already susceptible of being fed and reared to that stage of vigor and growth when naturally they would emigrate from their native stream and return adolescent salmon. Let us state here that these fry are no hybrids—no doubtful or inferior members of the salmon family—but the thorough progeny of the true salmon (*Salmo salar*) which forms so valuable a product of our sea-coast and tidal river fishings in other parts of the Dominion. Their identity is an ascertained certainty. We note this point for the double reason of anticipating a doubt which is known to exist in the minds of many persons and also to show that the commercial value of the fish so bred renders the subject of its increased production worthy of greater attention. Grilse, or in other words, two year old salmon of the experimental hatching of 1866, having revisited the creek in the fall of 1868, are actual progenitors of part of the present large hatch of salmon fry. The female grilse is not known to propagate on her first migration from sea, but the male does. The few full grown stock fish, male and female, which were last autumn accompanied by the large number of grilse returning to the stream, were rendered available towards supplying the fecundated ova laid in the hatching troughs.

Mr. Wilmot purposes bringing to Ottawa, and exhibiting to all interested, living specimens of the salmon fry so reproduced. Also the stuffed male and female full grown salmon from which the milt and eggs were obtained; together with a pair of grilse presumed to be from the hatch of 1867. This exhibition of the parent salmon, the adult, and the infant fish should convince the most skeptical of the reality and utility of the fish culture with which these experiments are connected.

The buildings in which Mr. Wilmot's operations are carried on are durable, efficient and economical. They consist of a hatching house and a reception house. The former is about sixty-four feet long and some twenty four feet in width, strongly roofed, and having a stone masonry wall seven feet deep, and so embanked with solid earth as to form a complete underground cellar impervious to frost. Within these walls are placed on trestles, longitudinally, a series of wooden hatching troughs extending nearly the whole length of the apartment, each about twelve inches wide and eight inches deep, raised three feet from the ground floor. These troughs are laid on a slight decline to facilitate the steady and constant flow of water through them to ensure due aeration. They are fed from a water-tight tank at the head pierced for tin spouts, and arranged to admit the water through filtering screens. This tank is supplied from the canal dug alongside of the main stream, on a small dam across it, which at once gives a head for the canal and turns the salmon into the tail race below, leading them into a commodious reception house adjoining, where they are enclosed and kept until