

experience. It is an undeniable fact that we owe this increase to the hatchery, the increase being larger and larger every year, according to the larger quantity of spawn taken. While the herring and perch, whose spawn is not taken, show a very large decrease every year. I cannot help approving of our fish hatchery as a great benefit, and I feel confident that in a few years the whitefish will be as abundant in our Detroit River as in the years of long ago, if we can rely upon the stories told by the old fishermen of then."

*Mr. Remi Laframboise, of River Canard, writes :*

"As I have had a varied experience about our fisheries on the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair, and adjacent waters, for about twenty-five years, I would like to certify to the wonderful increase of whitefish in these waters during the past few years. This increase was more generally noticeable this year than any previous year, and I give your hatchery the full credit for this most phenomenal increase. There are many people around here who have been prejudiced against fish hatcheries, and declare they are not accomplishing the good that is claimed for them, but I am firmly convinced myself, and I am sure the most skeptical and hardest opponents of the system of fish propagation by the maintenance of fish hatcheries will agree with me in saying that the results and observations of this season's fishing prove beyond a doubt that fish hatcheries are accomplishing a wonderful work in replenishing our waters with a plentiful supply of whitefish.

"I met a man fishing on Lake St. Clair, who told me that the lake was full of whitefish, but there was scarcely any other variety to be seen. There is hardly any more sturgeon or herring left, and all kinds of wild fish are also scarce, which is another proof that the hatcheries are doing all that is claimed for them.

"About twelve years ago, I was fishing for C. W. Gauthier, and we caught as high as 20,000 herring at one haul, but now we cannot catch twenty in a season. The catch of whitefish this year has been better than it has been for the last twenty years or more, and I am confident that our hatchery has been the cause of this wonderful increase."

*Mr. Richard Gignac, of Sandwich, writes as follows :—*

"We often hear the question asked in this locality, 'Has the Government fish hatchery at Sandwich been beneficial to the propagation of whitefish in the Detroit River and Lake Erie?' In answer to the above, I am free to admit that any one who has made observations on the subject will agree with me, that the institution has been immensely beneficial. Of course, it took some time before these results became manifested and, in fact, as long as ten years after the establishment of the hatchery, no increase was perceptible in the quantity of fish in our waters. Hence, it was that people began to doubt the advisability of keeping up such an institution. It must be borne in mind that the whitefish is a long-lived creature and that the length of time it takes to come to maturity is proportionate to the time it lives. The case is the same with any animal. "But," we are often asked, "how is it that the young whitefish never find their way back into the Detroit River?" For the simple reason that they have no business there. When the whitefish ascends our streams in the fall of the year, it does so in obedience to the law of nature, which bids it go and deposit its eggs in a running stream. The spawn of whitefish falling in stagnant waters is lost. It must be stirred about by the current. But otherwise than for the purpose of spawning, no whitefish ever comes into a stream. Hence it is that the young fry, prior to the time that it has reached maturity, is never seen in the river. They remain in the deep waters of the lakes, and when they have reached maturity they return to their natural breeding grounds, the Detroit River, but not before about the time that the hatchery began operations. Our waters were about depleted of whitefish, so that what had once been a flourishing industry had to be abandoned as unprofitable. Where once as many as 500 whitefish were caught in one haul, scarcely ever more than ten or twelve fish can now be caught at a haul. This state of things continued on until about ten years ago, when the catch of fish began to increase slowly but gradually.

"I chanced to visit one of the Government fishing stations the other day on Fighting Island. It was about the middle of the whitefish season. I was greatly surprised on