

season with the Fisheries Department. The Moisie, the Natashquan, and the St. John, are the three principal salmon rivers on the north shore of the St. Lawrence. The first was leased by the Department in 1859, and yielded in 1862, 576 barrels of salmon; in 1863, 505½; in 1864, 530; in 1865, only 424, with 6,000 fathoms (more than six miles) of fixed nets. Decline, 151 barrels.

The Natashquan produced in 1862, 241 barrels; in 1863, 320; in 1864, 70; in 1865, 86, with 1970 fathoms of fixed nets. Decline, 153 barrels.

The St. John produced 1862, 256½ barrels; in 1863, 243; in 1864, 114; in 1865, 122, with 1715 fathoms of fixed nets. Decline, 134½ barrels.

It is thus incontestable that not only the annual produce of the best fisheries in the country is destroyed, but the capital stock also of these fisheries is broken in upon and diminished by these devouring engines. The Government lessees perhaps have a right to destroy the public fisheries, for "what fishermen fish for," remarks Bertram in the *Harvest of the Sea*, "is money; so long as their mode of fishing brings them money, it is all right. It is the same with all fisheries. * * *

A man farming land would try to increase his capital by allowing his animals to breed—he would sow his crops in rotation; but the fish farmers destroy away without thinking of the next year's crop." * * *

Canada possesses not only a sufficient number of rivers to provide sport for the whole continent, if the waters now barren, in which salmon once abounded were restocked, as it is manifest from what has been done in the United Kingdom within the last few years by the removal from the waters of fixed nets and other obstructions, but should furnish a revenue from the salmon fisheries alone, under proper management, sufficient to pay a great part of the interest on the debt of the Province when confederated.

This Club would respectfully direct the attention of the people of Upper Canada to the importance of recreating the salmon fisheries which formerly existed in that section of the Province, and which have been destroyed by abuses, which a little public spirit and determination would effectually remove.

We have given these very important extracts, embracing, in as brief a manner as possible, the opinions of those we consider to be amongst the most intelligent of our own Pisciculturists; and whose suggestions, if acted upon with vigor, would in all probability result in a re-stocking our streams with salmon—whether the migratory, or, as some of the correspondents referred to contends, "a genus of the true salmon, but natives of Lake Ontario only," it matters but little. On this, and some other interesting points, we shall again quote from one of the latest communications to the *Globe* by "*Salmo Canadensis*," he says:—

"To show that the salmon frequenting Lake Ontario, are the true *salar*, I shall endeavour to prove by comparison with the *salar* in other countries, and in other waters, which they frequent, and if it can be shown by any one that our salmon are a genus of the true salmon and natives of

Ontario only, I shall be much pleased, because we shall then have within our reach, the greater source of wealth, as by the artificial process, which now appears to be practically introduced by Mr. Wilmot, we have only to place the fry of the Ontario salmon into the stream leading into Huron, Superior and other Lakes, and with care and protection, creating untold wealth to the Province. It is said as proof against having the 'salar' in Upper Canada, that they are never caught between Kingston and Montreal, that we get no 'giants' of their race, that our salmon are silvery in colour, rich and high in condition, which could not be the case with the 'Salar' when a long time in fresh water, and after travelling up the rapids of the St. Lawrence—all these objections, I think can be easily overcome. It will be necessary to state what naturalists say in reference to the salmon. 'That the most natural division of the salmon, having regard to characters, really important and conspicuous, and to the habits of the species, is the simple one, which is really nothing more than a formal recognition of groups practically recognized by every one acquainted with the fishes which compose them. 1. The silver or migratory species, those migrating to and from the sea—*Salmo Salar*. 2. The yellow or non-migratory species—*Salmo Trutta*. 3. The char or orange and red coloured species—*Salmo Umbra*.'"

Now, I believe that it is admitted by all, that the salmon frequenting the Tay, Tweed, Spey and Galway rivers in Britain; the Fraser, McKenzie and Columbia, on the Pacific coast; the Mingen, Moisie, Saguenay, Jacques Cartier and other tributaries of the St. Lawrence, are the pure *Salmo Salar*. Then why is it that a salmon frequenting the waters of Lake Ontario in like manner, and only a few hundreds of miles further up the St. Lawrence, with easy access to and from the sea, having the identical form, shape, colour, marks, habits and haunts, should not be the "silver or migratory salmon, *Salmo Salar*?" and if not, why should Ontario be the only exception to the universally acknowledged fact, that salmon frequent no waters in which they cannot have direct communication and easy access to and from the sea? As to salmon not being caught between Kingston and Montreal, I doubt very much, yet will admit the statement for the present, as it will not interfere with the fact of their migration. Salmon make their appearance in Lake Ontario as early as May, and continue working their way slowly along the shore, and, in accordance with the unerring laws of nature and their instinct, seeking the river or creek in which they were formerly hatched themselves, in order that they may sooner or later deposit their ova for procreation during May, June and July, and even later; they are a beautiful silvery-coloured fish, rich and high in condition and delicious in flavour. By the month of October and November the ova will have become so far matured that they are compelled to enter the stream (the place of their own birth) to seek a suitable place to lay them, which is always in some swift, shallow, gravelly place. The female commences making a bed by throwing up the gravel, using her head and tail in doing so, making a sort of basin in the gravel, perhaps three or four feet wide, the length being somewhat more. Beds are sometimes