

warm temperature of the water this winter. We have placed about one-half of the young California salmon in the spring water tanks and they are doing extremely well and growing much faster than those left in the creek water of the house; their rapid growth, I believe, is particularly due on account of the spring water in the tanks being freer from sediment. The eggs in the house at present are looking well, and I think in a short time a very large proportion of them will be living fish. The speckled trout are nearly all hatched out and are doing well. The whitefish are also commencing to break their shell and I think will turn out well. The large fish hatched last season in the spring water tanks are growing much faster than those kept in the aquaria in the house, although they all have the same amount of feed and attention. Everything in connection with the establishment is in good working order, but it is almost impossible to keep things looking as clean as I would wish as there is so much dirty water running through the building.

Before closing, allow me to make a few suggestions respecting the difficulty I had in gathering the salmon-trout ova from Georgian Bay for this establishment. When I arrived there last fall the fish were not ready to spawn, but as soon as they were I got men and went to work gathering the ova, but the weather came on so rough that the fishermen often had to return without having lifted their nets. This rough weather would often last for several days at a time, therefore the eggs cannot be expected to be as good, nor is it possible to save so large a percentage when the fish in the nets are so exposed to the storms, and battering against the rocks for several days. If the nets could have been lifted every day the percentage of loss would have been much less. It is very necessary to have men employed in this work who have had some experience in gathering ova, as it is often almost impossible to keep the eggs in the pans so rough is the weather, causing the boats to be knocked about, and besides running a great risk of being frost-bitten, as the water in the pans was often frozen over before reaching the shore. I think that there might be a better way of getting salmon-trout ova from the upper lakes, by way of taking the parent fish in pound nets and keeping them in some prepared pond, or other enclosure, until such time as they are ready to spawn. In the present system the fish are often strangled, having hung by the gills for days before they could be got at, on account of the severity of the weather; whereas, by the proposed system of pound nets, we would be sure of the ova being good. In this manner I think the expense of gathering the salmon-trout ova from Georgian Bay would be very much lessened.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed),

WILLIAM PARKER,

Caretaker.

## ONTARIO SALMON.

### SPECIAL REPORT.

To the Hon. J. C. POPE,  
Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

SIR,—I beg to submit for your consideration the following special report on the origin of fish-culture and some of the practical results obtained in fish-breeding in Ontario, and particularly with regard to Ontario salmon, containing also some suggestions respecting the best modes of capturing them.

It will be unnecessary to give lengthened details here concerning the origin of artificial fish-culture in Ontario, as it will be found related in the regular annual reports to your Department; unless to mention that its first inception originated with the undersigned as an amateur on a very small scale in 1866-67, by experiments