
FISH-BREEDING.

REPORT OF SAMUEL WILMOT, ESQ., ON THE SEVERAL FISH-BREEDING ESTABLISHMENTS AND FISH-CULTURE IN CANADA, DURING THE SEASON OF 1878.

NEWCASTLE, ONT., 31st December, 1878.

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

SIR,—I beg to submit for your favourable consideration the following report, which will relate the general transactions which have taken place during the past year at the several fish-breeding establishments now in operation in the different provinces in the Dominion.

There will be found attached hereto reports from several of the officers who are in charge of these fish hatcheries, and as each of these will treat more particularly of the details therein, I shall, in order to make my general statement as brief as possible, collate from these minor reports, and give as succinctly as may be consistent with the importance of the subject, such information as will lay clearly before you the work performed at each of the nurseries, during the past year.

This information will embody with it an account of the numbers and kinds of young fry that were reared in each of the nurseries during the past season or spring of 1878, and also the several waters or streams in the different provinces into which the young fish were planted. A further statement will also be given of the numbers of fish eggs of various kinds that have been collected and placed in the hatching troughs during the past season or fall of 1878, and of the present condition and prospects of the ova thus laid down and now undergoing the process of incubation at each of the fish-cultural works in the Dominion.

The practical operations in connection with the science of rearing fish by the artificial methods of propagation have been of a more than ordinarily progressive nature in Canada since its first inauguration into the country but a few years ago. The status which fish-culture holds in the Dominion may be said to be second to none in any other country, either on this Continent or in the old world. This very desirable state of affairs for the improvement of a source of great national wealth has been brought about by the liberality of a wise and politic Government, which having within its boundaries all the elements necessary for producing the higher order of fishes, has adopted the now generally acknowledged wise policy of encouraging the science of pisciculture, wherewith to assist nature in the reproduction of more increased supplies of fish food for domestic purposes and for foreign traffic.

This desirable means of "tilling" extensive areas of water is by no means a work pursued in Canada alone, for it is found spreading itself rapidly, from State to State, throughout almost the whole of the territory of the adjoining Republic; and although fish culture was not adopted as a governmental work in any of the States of