

and if found necessary, forcing those who are engaged in fishing operations to join with the proper authorities in saving to the utmost from destruction the eggs of such mature fish as may be taken during their gravid or pregnant state.

This would be no difficult work to perform by a process of "farming or seeding" the waters with the ova thus taken, after being properly impregnated, and by carrying out on a gigantic scale the now well-known and fully recognized methods of propagating fish by artificial means.

Every fisherman within the district where it may be found necessary to apply this system should be unswervingly compelled under the liberty which he obtains to fish, to comply with some such regulation, which should be enforced by the most stringent oversight of a few skilled officers possessing the knowledge sufficient to instruct or direct these fishermen in the work of impregnating the ova of fish so taken, and of planting them in such places as shall be pointed out; and, also, of assisting to furnish supplies of eggs for the Hatching Houses for artificial rearing.

By some well devised plan of this kind, a portion of the *tens of millions of ripe fruit-bearing eggs* could be husbanded and made to yield fish, all of these ova at the present time are cruelly destroyed by the avarice of the fishermen, who are backed in their sinister work by the partisanship of too many leading public men, who again in their turn are found importuning the authorities of the land to allow these greedy fishermen to blindly continue a course, destroying alike their own interests in the end, and exterminating a valuable source of food and wealth, which should be maintained as a lasting heritage, not only for the present, but also for the future inhabitants of the whole country.

SCHEDULES AND REPORTS.

The several tables and forms relating to the numbers, description and distribution of the fish-eggs and fry referred to in this report, as also the reports of the officers in charge of the several hatcheries, will be found hereto annexed.

Before closing this report of the transactions of the year, I desire to make favorable mention of the efficiency of the several officers now in charge of the fish-breeding establishments in the Dominion under my superintendency. The practical experience which they have now gained, which is so essential to the successful and economical working of fish hatcheries of the nature and extent of those now in operation under your Department, warrants me in stating that these institutions being now under the care of skilled hands, their success may be looked forward to, in the future, with much satisfaction.

I desire, also, to respectfully suggest that the several officers now in charge of the various hatcheries, as well as those who may be appointed hereafter, should be placed on some footing of permanency; and that skill, ability, close attention to the work, and good conduct should be their guarantee for promotion, believing that a system of this kind will add materially to the greater success of this branch of your Department.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

SAML. WILMOT,

Superintendent Fish-Culture for Canada.

NEWCASTLE, ONT., Dec. 31st, 1879.

EXTRACTS FROM OFFICIAL REPORTS.

The following extracts, taken from the reports of the local fishery officers, are here given as touching upon the subject of artificial fish-culture in Ontario:—

Overseer Boismier, of the Detroit River division, says that: "The catch of white-fish shows an increase of 31,900 lbs. over that of 1878. This is a most cheerful result