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LANDLOCKED SALMON IN BISBY LAKES.

IN February, 1889, the Bisby Club obtained from Fish Commissioner McDonald 17,000 eggs of landlocked salmon, and in April the fry, which were developed in the Bisby hatchery, were planted in First Bisby and the two spring ponds above. In April, 1891, a second deposit of 17,000 fry was made in the same waters. The results as announced by the president of the club, Gen. R. U. Sherman, to Commissioner McDonald, are so remarkable that we have obtained permission from the Commissioner to publish them. No better return from artificial introduction has appeared anywhere outside of the natural habitat of this salmon.

The township of Wilmurt embraces 5,000 or more square miles, almost all wilderness, containing many lakes and streams of cold water, in which several of the *Salmonidae* are native. Dace and other minnows are also present in abundance and serve as food for the game fishes. The First Bisby, into which the landlocked salmon was introduced, is known to be 100ft. deep in some places, with a bottom generally of compact sand, in which certain water plants thrive. Insects and crustaceans suitable as fish food abound. The lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*) is indigenous and rarely exceeds 1lb. in weight, but a few of 4lbs. to 6lbs. have been taken. In color they differ somewhat from the trout of the Great Lakes and their flesh is always white, but no specific differences have been observed between the two. During the last twelve years the brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout and frost fish (*Coregonus quadrialateralis*) have been introduced into Bisby Lake, and all of them are doing well. The frostfish is excellent for food and is a favorite with the lake trout. The brook trout has not made the showing naturally to be expected from the large number (nearly 1,000,000) planted, for the

landlocked salmon already makes a greater display in the lakes, proving that it is peculiarly suited to these waters.

The first plant, as stated above, was made in 1889. In 1890 the result appeared in salmon measuring uniformly 8in. This season they are 11in. long, present everywhere in larger numbers and take cut bait, the fly and trolling-gear with eagerness. They are especially abundant in the evening, breaching a foot above the surface of the water and gleaming like shafts of burnished silver. Other *Salmonidae* retire to deep water on the approach of warm weather, but the landlocked variety play and feed at the surface.

General Sherman finds that this fish has the habit of working down stream during the spawning season and, in order to prevent its escape into the second lake, the outlet from First Bisby will be closed by a screen. It may be that one thing more can be done to increase the growth of the salmon in these lakes, the landlocked smelt might be introduced from Maine or New Hampshire, where it forms the very best food of salmon and trout.

RESTOCKING LAKE ONTARIO.

IN our issues of Feb. 26 and March 19, 1891, we gave an account of the popular movement for increasing the supply of food fish in Lake Ontario and of the resulting appropriation for a great hatchery in the St. Lawrence basin, to be installed and directed by the Commissioner of Fisheries.

Commissioner McDonald has just gone over the region in which it is proposed to locate the hatchery and will decide which of the locations is most suitable for the undertaking. It will doubtless be remembered that the establishment is intended to accommodate 100,000,000 whitefish eggs and 1,000,000 salmon fry during a season, which would give it rank as one of the largest hatcheries in the world.

Contemplating operations of so great extent, it is not surprising that the Commissioner intends to protect the Government's interests by refusing to begin until New York assumes and performs the duty of protecting the spawning grounds of the fishes and regulating the fishery. It is certain that the depleted waters of Lake Ontario can be made to swarm with valuable fishes by the means of artificial culture, provided that these are allowed to reach adult life and reproduce in safety. Now let public sentiment gain the strength to enforce wholesome law and we shall see Ontario coming back to its old place as a productive lake.

THE MERRIMAC SALMON.

NOT only the Penobscot, but also the Merrimac has had a greatly increased salmon run this year. The obstruction at Amoskeag Falls has been partially overcome by means of a fishway into which the salmon enter with or without the assistance of agents of the New Hampshire Fish Commission. While the mills are shut down, from Saturday night to Monday morning, there is enough water passing through the fishway to make it accessible to salmon, but when they are in operation the channel becomes inadequate and the fish collect in rock pools, from which they must be helped into the fishway.

Below Livermore Falls, near the Plymouth hatchery, Commissioner Hodge nets salmon during the season and places them in a large pool, where they remain until ready to spawn in October. Here the large males become very restless at times and show their quarrelsome disposition, while the females sulk and starve in silence. The eggs are taken and fertilized in October and the fish are then returned to the Pemigewasset. In the spring the fry are deposited at Woodstock, and remain in the brooks until the sea-going instinct leads them into the Merrimac and off into undiscovered tracts of ocean, from whence some persons think they will never again return to falter at Amoskeag and fall at Livermore.

It is true that the migratory instinct of the salmon involves the fish in many dangers from savage enemies and deadly pollutions; but their decimation begins and progresses most rapidly in those innocent-looking little brooks in which the salmon passes its babyhood. Every salmon stream observed by us is inhabited by an insignificant but destructive little fish, whose special mission is the extermination of salmon and trout. At Plymouth this pest has been detected in the act of climbing up the outflow from the hatchery. The name of this salmon

destroyer is sculpin, miller's thumb, or blob, and its work in a stream means desolation. If then, adult salmon are wanted in the Merrimac, let the authorities rear the fry apart from natural enemies until their size will insure a safe journey seaward. It will cost something, but the result will amply justify the outlay.

SNAP SHOTS.

THAT comforting tenet of the angler's philosophy, that it is not all of fishing to fish, is of ancient origin and worthy of respect because of its age. Here it is in the treatise of Dame Juliana Berners, as written four hundred years ago:

For he maye not lesse at the moost, but a lyne or an hoke, of whiche he maye haue store plentie of his owne makynge, as this symple treatyse shall teche hym. Soo thenne his losse is not greuous, and other greiffes maye he not haue sauynge, but yf ony fysshe breke away after that he is take on the hoke; or elles that he catche nought; whyche ben not greuous. For yf he faylle of one he maye not faylle of a nother, yf he dooth as this treatyse techyth; but yf there be nought in the water. And yet atte the leest he hath his holsum walk and mery at his ease. A swete ayre of the swete sauoure of the meede floures: that makyth hym hungry. He hereth the melodious armony of fowles. He seeth the yonge sauannes: heeron: ducks: cotes and many foules wyth theyr brodes, whyche me semyth better than alle the noyse of hounlys: the blastes of hornys and the scrye of foulis that hunters: fawkeners and fowlers can mak. And yf the angler take fysshe: surely thenne is there no man merie than he is in his spyryte.

We have improved on the spelling since the Dame's "Treatyse" was printed in 1486, and our fishing tackle is finer nowadays, but the sentiment is there; and who shall say that it will not hold good for another four centuries?

It appears from the interesting little story told in our "Chicago and the West" letter this week that that city is not a whit behind New York in the illegal sale of game by restaurants and hotels. In fact, all over this beautiful country the same traffic in game out of season is carried on. In Chicago they serve July prairie chickens at Kern's, in New York Delmonico dishes up woodcock in the spring, at Narragansett Pier and Bar Harbor the summer hotels provide immature quail and grouse; in staid New England villages where college girls lunch, as at Barr's in Northampton, Mass., the June bill of fare includes quail on toast. It always has been so and the remedy is difficult of discovery. If the Illinois Association shall press the case against its whilom President Kern, the moral effect cannot fail of proving salutary; but in Chicago as in New York efforts to suppress this disgraceful game traffic are at the best spasmodic and ineffectual.

In a New Jersey shore town the other day a man died of hydrophobia, it was said, caused by the bite of a pet cat. Thereupon the people of the town began an unreasoning war of extermination against all cats, the entire feline tribe being held as accused because of the one that inflicted the bite. As the New Jersey townspeople with cats, so the human race with snakes; because a few reptiles are venomous and deadly, mankind wages war on the entire ophidian species; and harmless and beautiful and graceful and useful creatures are crushed beneath the heel, victims of an antipathy founded on ignorance and misconception.

And now they say that the prestige of lawn tennis is beginning to fade; that the game has become so scientific that the less expert are losing interest in it, the fad is declining, and tennis will take its place with croquet, archery and Newport fox hunting and the dead political booms of the past. Meanwhile angling is growing in popularity, and the ranks of the fishermen are increasing. There are two recreations—fishing and shooting—which never grow old; they have a sure lease of life; they will last so long as nature herself shall have a charm for man.

A curious instance of the clashing of diverse industries is afforded in the impending ruin of the fisheries of Saginaw Bay, Mich., where the famous fish supply is being destroyed by sawmills and salt block refuse. In the winter the salt factories deposit their refuse on the ice; in the process of time this waste has been deposited over the spawning beds.

Mrs. Stagg's biggest-on-record tarpon has been mounted and will be exhibited at the World's Fair. Do the tarpon fishermen propose thus to permit a woman to carry off the honors in sight of the nations of the earth?