

No. 26.

The SECRETARY, North Canterbury Acclimatization Society, to the SECRETARY, Marine Department.

SIR,— Canterbury Acclimatization Society, Christchurch, 7th May, 1886.

I am sorry I have been prevented replying to yours of the 1st ultimo long since; but my time has been so fully occupied I really could not do it. I can now report fully on the four boxes allotted to our hatchery. Each box contained about 22,200 eggs—total, about 88,800; of which 1,000 were handed over to Mr. Johnson, of Opawa. In the box that was outside the cool chamber we found 21,934 dead eggs, and from the other three boxes we took out 24,446; making a total of 46,380 which had lost all vitality—if they had ever possessed any, for many were unimpregnated. This large mortality is not at all surprising when the large quantity of fungus, as well as many patches of byssus, that was found among them is taken into consideration. We succeeded, however, in hatching out 41,420, of which 1,420 have since died, and about 4,000 (which I have had picked out, and put into a large tray by themselves) are deformed (crooked backs) and will die; leaving in our boxes at the present date about 36,000 fry. They are very small, but appear healthy and quite fit for removal. In fact, the sooner this is effected the better, as the risk will be less. I do not mean they are fit to turn out—certainly not; but removal to nursery connected with the streams into which they are eventually to be liberated. Please let this be understood.

Talking over the matter of distribution of these fry with our Council the other day, it was suggested that, as our streams have had some of last season's fry recently put in them, it would be well to divide this lot with the other societies which have applied for them—that is, if they are to be separated into small lots; which we think—and always have advanced that opinion—that success will never be achieved until we deal out large numbers into the individual streams. If you will inquire of Sir Julius Vogel how he would like them divided and distributed, I shall be willing to see that the numbers allotted are delivered at our hatchery to any accredited agent for the several societies and others; or I will undertake to deliver them at the appointed places if Sir Julius wishes. The temperature of the water running through our hatching-boxes has averaged 52·50° through the season, varying only 2·50°.

I am daily expecting the returns from each hatchery where the ova was delivered; on receipt of which I will make up the totals and forward a complete official report.

The ova taken out in boxes from the refrigerating cool chamber were frozen to death—result not at all astonishing to me, as I experienced the same termination to some I experimented upon in the “Kaikoura.”

I have, &c.,

S. C. FARR,

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

The Secretary, Marine Department, Wellington.

No. 27.

The CHAIRMAN, Otago Acclimatization Society, to the Hon. the COMMISSIONER of TRADE and CUSTOMS.

SIR,— Otago Acclimatization Society, Dunedin, 17th May, 1886.

In compliance with your request, I have the honour to forward herewith report by Mr. Deans, the curator of our society, giving all particulars as to treatment of salmon ova per “Ionic,” recently received from you by the hands of Mr. Farr. The result, giving twelve thousand healthy fish out of about twenty thousand ova received, is most satisfactory, being a great improvement upon all previous shipments, and shows that the arrangements effected by the Government at Home for obtaining and packing the ova were excellent. I think it will be found that Mr. Deans's report gives particulars on all points of any importance in connection with the hatching of the fish. We have now on hand, in all, fifteen thousand six hundred healthy young salmon, a number which will enable us to introduce the fish with a much greater chance of success than heretofore. Our society has now made arrangements for the reception of about half a million ova, and our accommodation can be increased almost indefinitely as occasion requires, so that, in the event of the Government receiving further shipments of salmon ova, which the society earnestly hopes may be arranged for, we shall be in a position to take charge of an almost unlimited number.

I have, &c.,

J. P. MAITLAND, Chairman.

The Hon. Sir Julius Vogel, Wellington.

Enclosure in No. 27.

REPORT of the Hatching of the Salmon Ova ex steamship “Ionic,” at the Otago Acclimatization Society's Ponds, Opoho.

7th May, 1886,

SIR,—

I have much pleasure in furnishing you with the particulars respecting the hatching of the Otago society's portion of the salmon ova per steamship “Ionic.” You will be pleased to hear that the result of this shipment, so far as our lot is concerned, has been most satisfactory, far exceeding my own expectations, hatching out better than any lot of ova I have yet seen imported. On the 23rd March I received from Mr. Farr a case of salmon ova (numbered 89), together with a good supply of ice, which I at once conveyed to the Opoho ponds, and next morning early I commenced the unpacking, the temperature of the water in the hatching-boxes being 30·54°. I reduced it to 46°. But, before putting the ova in this, I first placed them in a basin of water, the temperature of which I previously reduced to 36°; by this means the ova were more gradually brought to the natural temperature of the water in the boxes. When I got them all unpacked, and