

5. The provisions of the bill are against sound State policy, unjust and discriminating, as it would drive those engaged in fishing with steam vessels to take out foreign registers and proceed to carry on their business under the protection of a foreign flag.

6. The bill is illegal and unjust because it seeks to deprive a certain class of vessels of the right recognized by the Federal Government, which has registered and licensed these vessels to carry on the fishing business in the waters within the scope of its jurisdiction.

7. The bill in its provisions is arbitrary and against the principle of all human laws, for it actually prohibits in section 2 a steam fishing vessel with its fishing gear to enter any port of the State under pain of confiscation or fine—whether the vessel by stress of weather, accident, springing a leak, or in any distress whatever, should be caught in any of the waters within the jurisdiction of this State, including the waters of the Atlantic Ocean within three nautical miles of the coast-line thereof.

8. The jurisdiction of any State along the sea-coast cannot extend beyond low-water mark, in matters relating to commercial or industrial pursuits which the United States have the power to regulate and control or which can be subject-matters of foreign treaties.

**101.—REPORT UPON THE RECEIPT AND HATCHING OF AMERICAN WHITEFISH OVA AND PLANTING OF THE FRY IN AUSTRALIA.\***

**By ALFRED GREENFIELD,**

*Honorary Secretary of the Nelson Acclimatization Society.*

On the 11th of February, 1884, the steamship *Zealandia* arrived from America at Auckland with one million whitefish ova. The mail agent, in whose charge they were placed, instead of causing the box to be transhipped with the mails by the southern steamer then in port, which left Auckland immediately on receipt of the mails, telegraphed to me asking that instructions might be sent to the secretary of the Auckland society "what to do with the ova." I immediately sent an urgent telegram requesting that they might be sent by the first steamer, but the message did not reach the secretary until the southern steamer had left. So the eggs were unfortunately detained in Auckland until the 14th, when, after receiving a fresh supply of ice, they were placed on board the steamship *Takapuna*, which arrived at Wellington about 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the 15th. The ova box was immediately transhipped into a small steamer, which left that evening and arrived at Nelson at 9 a. m. on the 16th. It was then conveyed to the society's hatching-boxes and unpacked. A considerable quantity of ice was found on the top and sides of the trays. Four trays were taken out and

\* Addressed to Hon. Thomas Dick, Wellington, Colonial Secretary of New Zealand, and by him forwarded to Professor Baird, under date of March 25, 1884.

the ova therefrom placed in the hatching-boxes. The temperature of the moss in the box was 44° and of the water in the hatching-boxes 54°. Of the four trays taken out the eggs in the first two were a good deal oaked together, although apparently not dead. The others looked to be in good condition. As soon as the eggs were placed in water hatching commenced, and the next morning a large number were hatched, but a very large proportion of the eggs were found to be bad and had turned color. The temperature in the hatching-boxes had increased to 60°, and a few days afterward was as high as 66°.

Great difficulty was experienced in keeping the fry in the boxes, although fine screens were used for the purpose. But as the water from the boxes discharged into the society's ponds, the fish were not lost.

Immediately after the four trays were taken out the remaining fifteen trays were repacked with ice and sent by rail 24 miles, then by express van 30 miles, to an inland lake, called Rotoiti, and a place prepared in a creek, which runs into the lake, to receive the ova.

Of the fifteen trays of ova placed in this creek a very large proportion hatched, estimated by the man in charge at two-thirds. The temperature was not taken, as both thermometers sent up were broken, but the water is much colder than in the society's boxes, and may be stated at about 48° or 50°.

The same difficulty was experienced of keeping the young fry in the hatching place, although screens were used as in the boxes; and most of them got out into the lake a few days after hatching. I am therefore unable to report on the growth and progress of the fry, except that those in the pond are growing and appear to be thriving. They have been frequently fed with blood.

Had the society received notice of the ova coming, more complete arrangements would have been made for hatching, and the results would have been better ascertained.

In conclusion, I have the honor to ask you to be kind enough to cause a copy of this report to be forwarded to Professor Baird, of the U. S. Fish Commission, with the thanks of this society, as previously conveyed to you in my letter of the 21st ultimo.

NELSON, N. Z., *March 17, 1884.*

## 102.—NOTES ON THE COD GILL-NET FISHERIES OF GLOUCESTER, MASS., 1883-'84.

By S. J. MARTIN.

[From letters to Prof. S. F. Baird.]

The cod gill-net fishing is most over, the fleet being reduced from 52 to 8 sail. Those remaining did well last week. The boats that used nets are now fitting out for spring fishing, and, had there been more nets, would have used them longer.

GLOUCESTER, MASS., *April 13, 1884.*