

**95.—RESUSCITATION OF APPARENTLY DEAD CARP.****By MILTON P. PEIRCE.**

[From a letter to Prof. S. F. Baird.]

From a lot of 1,200 carp one of my assistants threw out 110 which he supposed to be dead. I do not think they were dead, but only torpid, for one was left floating in the tank when it was replaced in the store. A small boy called who was going on the street-cars to a distant part of the city [Philadelphia]. The mechanics gave him the supposed dead carp, which he wrapped in a piece of paper and placed in his pocket to show to his chum. After reaching his destination and playing awhile, the two boys passed into a room where the goldfish tank stood when he thought of his carp. The boys thought they would give the lady of the house a surprise, and so placed the carp in the tank. An hour or two later the lady discovered a strange fish swimming in her aquarium in an erratic manner, and upon inquiry, learned from the boys the almost incredible facts. Two weeks later she called and related them to me, saying that the carp was well, lively, eating readily, and growing rapidly.

WENONAH, N. J., *March 31, 1882.***96.—REMARKABLE RESUSCITATION OF FROZEN CARP.****By CHAS. W. SMILEY.**

On the morning of January 4, 1884, 2,100 German carp were forwarded from Washington by express to Birmingham, Ala. Mr. F. L. Donnelly, a messenger of the Commission, proceeded by the same train to watch them on their passage and to take charge of them upon their arrival at Birmingham. The fish had been placed in the usual four-quart tin pails, and packed in crates of 16 pails each. Each pail contained 15 carp.

Mr. Donnelly and the carp arrived at Birmingham at 1.30 a. m., January 6. The packages were left in the office of the Southern Express Company through the remainder of that night, but placed within 10 feet of the stove in order to prevent the water freezing. The thermometer indicated  $+4^{\circ}$  F. at the time of arrival. At 8 o'clock on the morning of the 6th, Mr. Donnelly examined the condition of the fish, and, in his official report dated January 14, says:

“I was greatly surprised to find every drop of water in the buckets frozen into solid ice, and all the fish apparently dead; but upon close examination of their eyes, I thought perhaps a great many of them were still alive though frozen solid in the ice.”

Mr. Donnelly thereupon courageously undertook to see if any of the fish could be saved. He procured the necessary laborers, four large tubs, and a supply of water. He then broke the ice from the small pails, transferring such as contained carp to the water. He states that "in this manner a great number of fish were soon freed from their confinement, and by constant working with them during the entire day we were able to save 1,300 fish." Although the thermometer continued to remain in the vicinity of zero, by careful management he succeeded in keeping the 1,300 fish alive until the 8th and 9th, when they were distributed to the applicants throughout the State.

The saving of 1,300 carp out of a lot of 2,100, under such circumstances, may be considered a very remarkable achievement.

Having prepared the foregoing statement from Mr. Donnelly's report, I sent a copy of it to Mr. L. H. Black, route agent, Southern Express Company, Montgomery, Ala., asking how far he knew the statements to be true. Under date of January 25, 1884, he wrote me in reply as follows: "As route agent of the Southern Express Company, my duties call me to Birmingham. I saw the carp first on the morning after their arrival at Birmingham and frequently during the day while Mr. Donnelly was at work with them. My opinion is that this statement is correct in every particular. I give it from what I saw myself and from information Mr. Donnelly gave me during the day, while he was working with the fish."

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 30, 1884.*

#### 97.—DESTRUCTION OF SMALL FISH IN WEIRS.

By **SETH NICKERSON.**

[From a letter to Prof. S. F. Baird.]

I desire to call your attention to the great destruction of small fish along our shores by means of deep-water weirs. These engines of destruction are set in water from 4 to 10 fathoms deep. Oftentimes last year, from many boat loads of codfish, hake, haddock, and other kinds of ground fish, together with mackerel and herring taken, only one barrel of fish large enough for market use would be saved. There were sometimes 25 barrels of fish thrown away, leaving the bottom of the sea covered with dead carcasses. If this destruction of spawn and young is not prevented we shall soon have no fresh fish from Provincetown. Formerly hundreds of tons of cod and haddock were caught here with hook and line and sent to Boston; whereas, during the past year, we had to depend upon Boston for our own supply of fresh fish. Seining is bad enough, but deep-water weirs are the worst engines of destruction I ever saw.

PROVINCETOWN, MASS., *April 28, 1884.*