

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.*