

AMERICAN BIRDS, ANIMALS, AND FISHES FOR NEW ZEALANDERS.

[Extract.]

The persistent efforts of New Zealand in the work of acclimatization deserves the utmost commendation. Half a century ago there were no domestic animals in that country, except a few herds of cattle and horses introduced by the early missionaries at the Bay of Islands, near the extreme north of the northern island. The celebrated discoverer, Captain Cook, had introduced sheep and swine half a century earlier, but the sheep very soon perished. The swine, however, increased rapidly, and became a nuisance to sheep-farmers after the colonization of the country, rewards being paid for their destruction as if they were noxious vermin. The colony was founded in 1840, and the natives had then barely abandoned their cannibal practices—desolating intertribal wars having lasted till within a few years of that date. Since then, the progress of the country has been the most remarkable on record. It has succeeded in acclimatizing nearly all the game birds of the old and new worlds. California quail are more plentiful there than in that State. Pheasants, grouse, partridges, etc., afford excellent sport, the several provinces competing with each other in the work of acclimatizing them. The song-birds of England are fully represented, and these, with the native songsters, make mountain and plain vocal the year round. Prairie chickens and mountain quail have likewise been introduced, sixteen of the latter birds out of twenty-two recently sent to Nelson by Robert J. Creighton, agent of the colony, having arrived there. These birds were forwarded from Emigrant Gap by J. B. Chinn, who took great interest in the matter. Deer-stalking is now possible in many parts of New Zealand, red and fallow deer having been introduced and increased wonderfully. The rivers are full of English and California trout, eastern trout being likewise represented. In the San Francisco Post particulars were published of a cross between eastern and English trout by Mr. Johnson, of Opawa, in the Canterbury province of New Zealand; the hybrid growing larger and faster than the pure fish of either variety. California salmon have likewise been acclimatized, and are in almost every river of any volume in the islands. English salmon are established in New Zealand, also salmon trout. The latter fish has increased very fast, and is now purchasable in most of the markets of the colony. But the great interior lakes of the country are comparatively without fish; indeed, in several of them and tributary rivers fish-life can scarcely be said to exist. To remedy this defect two attempts were made to stock the lakes with whitefish from Lake Michigan. These attempts failed in the colony from local causes. This year, however, another effort is being made on a much larger scale than formerly. Mr. Creighton has arranged for the shipment of over

20,000,000 whitefish eggs from the fish-hatching establishment of Frank N. Clark, Northville, Mich., by the mail-steamer Australia. The eggs will be packed in mountain ice, and carefully watched during the voyage. On their arrival at Auckland they will be transferred to a colonial steamer, preparations having been made for their reception and distribution throughout the colony. Mr. Clark kindly forwarded to Mr. Creighton models of his patent hatching-boxes, and these are already in the colony, so that no hitch will occur in this regard. Mr. Clark telegraphed from Omaha on the 15th that the eggs had been shipped in good condition, and would arrive in San Francisco on the 19th. Mr. Clark came with the shipment from Northville to Omaha, to insure against any damage or accident en route. The friends of acclimatization in this State will be gratified, no doubt, at the success of the experiment. Of the Australian group of colonies New Zealand is more closely identified with this country than any other.—(*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper.*)

CARP IN THE HUDSON RIVER.

By E. E. SHEARS.

COXSACKIE, GREENE COUNTY, NEW YORK,

January 26, 1881.

Prof. S. F. BAIRD,

U. S. Fish Commissioner, Washington, D. C.:

DEAR SIR: Will you please send me your last report. If you have anything special on the carp, please send that also. Are there any carp in the Hudson River? I find in "Transactions of the American Institute," dated 1850, page 397:

"Mr. MEIGS. We are pleased to see among us Captain Robinson, of Newburgh, who brought the carp from England several years ago, thus conferring a great benefit upon his country by adding a fish before that unknown in our waters.

"Captain ROBINSON. I brought the carp from France about seven years ago, put them in the Hudson River, and obtained protection for them from our legislature, which passed a law imposing a fine of \$50 for destroying one of them. I put in gold-fish at the same time. Now some of these carp will weigh two pounds, and some of the gold-fish, which are a species of the carp, are quite large, some of them being pure silvery white. Both kinds are multiplying rapidly."

I notice that the gold-fish are quite plenty in the river in this vicinity; also a fish about the size and shape, which is called a silver-fish, but they do not correspond to Captain R.'s description of the silver-fish. These are nearly or quite as dark as a rock-bass. I have seen none that would weigh over one pound and a half. When caught in fykes by the fishermen they are usually pronounced unfit to eat and thrown back in the river.