

you, but upon investigation you will find it of much importance; should you deem it of sufficient importance to bring the subject before Congress, with a view of regulating our fisheries so far as the government has jurisdiction from the shore along our coast, I would be pleased to furnish you with further information and such suggestions as have come to my observation in years past.

Very respectfully,

B. P. CHADWICK,  
*Deputy Fish Commissioner, Massachusetts.*

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**THE PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF CATFISH INTO GHENT.**

**By THOMAS WILSON.**

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,  
*Ghent, December 2, 1881.*

Hon. SPENCER F. BAIRD,  
*Commissioner, &c.:*

MY DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 12th ult. was duly received, together with the pamphlets on carp and salmon, for all of which accept my thanks. My expectation and idea in regard to importation of catfish is as follows: There are many rivers and canals in this city and province which are capable of raising fish in great numbers, but owing to the muddy, sluggish character of the streams, the number of mills of every sort, the locks, &c., &c., together with the increased number of eels, the fish have been driven nearly out; fish like the salmon, pike, &c., &c., will not remain and thrive; therefore, while there are great quantities of water there are few fish. Fish are brought from the sea and are for sale in the markets, but I have thought to utilize these rivers by the importation of fish, such as would live and thrive and would be essentially a poor man's fish, such as could be caught on the banks in the country through which the streams flow. I have talked with the governor of the province and it meets his approbation. He said late laws had been passed for the protection of fish and that this general matter had received the attention of the government. I do not understand that there is any fish society or association in this kingdom, but I think such a step as I propose would excite sufficient attention to result in the formation of one.

Therefore, as a sort of pioneer and *pro bono publico*, I have thought to take this initiatory step solely for the good of the public, and knowing your devotion, &c., &c., to this fish business as one of your specialties, I have thought you and I could make the world a little better from our having lived in it by making the endeavors I have suggested. This is the whole matter. It will be necessary to give me full instructions what to do and how to do it on receipt of the fish. I know virtually

nothing about the manner, &c., of taking care of young fish. Have you no pamphlet giving such directions? I can easily arrange for the freight on the Red Star Line of steamers from New York to Antwerp, and from Antwerp here. I will see that all is paid, and so far as that is concerned you need not delay sending.

There are many canals in this country, very many of which communicate with the rivers direct, and at very short distances, making a network of canal and river extending over large areas of country. These canals have few locks, and are not usually drained or emptied. A look in the encyclopedia at Little Ghent will give you a better idea than I can in any letter. There are 27 canals, long and short, in this city, and 80 bridges.

My query is, Where, in such a system, ought young fish to be emptied? In the canals, or in the river? Ought they to have free access to the sea or lower river, or should it be to the upper river? There is one place which has been lately emptied and cleared of eels and everything, but it is closed at both ends by locks. With all this information, where and how should they be emptied?

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**A TRANSFER OF LEATHER CARP (CYPRINUS CARPIO) FROM THE GOVERNMENT PONDS AT WASHINGTON, U. S. A., TO SCOTLAND.**

**By A. WILSON ARMISTEAD.**

DOUGLASS HALL, NEAR DALBEATTIE, SCOTLAND,

*December 6, 1881.*

DEAR PROFESSOR BAIRD: You will be pleased to hear that the 25 leather carp have been safely landed after a very stormy voyage. The gale was a very severe one, and on Wednesday, November 23, the wind blew with hurricane force, and we were obliged to "heave to" for twenty-two hours; the seas were very large indeed. We shipped one during the night which disabled the four seamen on watch; one had two ribs broken and another his head badly cut; the other two were lamed. The wheel-house was "stove in" and the galley bulged in; one boat was carried away on deck, breaking down the chimney-stack of the donkey-engine. Through all this storm the carp did well. The temperature of the water was 50° Fahr. at New York, and during the voyage varied from 54° to 62½°. I also fed them with a little oatmeal and potato four times. The temperature of the water here at this time of year is about 44° to 50°, which, I suppose, will be rather too cold for the carp. I give them a little oatmeal, but think they don't touch it. My brother is much pleased with the carp, and would wish me to thank you for all your kindness. He will value these fish very much, remembering how he came to get them. We have got our fish-hatching house