

The nearest whitefish grounds to Cleveland are in Dover Bay, 13 and 14 miles to the west. Rocky River intervenes 7 miles west of here. But no fish of any account are found at or about the mouth of this stream. Dover Bay was not found to be a whitefish ground until within a few years, when, in their competition for the ordinary fishes, the fishermen pushed their pounds out to where the whitefish lay. The catches on the first discovery often ran from 3 to 5 and 8 tons; so great sometimes was the catch of a day that a market could not be found. The fish then ran large; now they run half the size and no trouble about a market. The fishermen at the time of the first catch supposed the whitefish had run in there for them, but the explanation is that in their greed to extend their pounds beyond each other they finally reached the ground where they lay. The whitefish very seldom approach the shore nearer than half a mile. The fishing grounds at Dover Bay, and many other places along Lake Erie shores, are owned and leased by them. They are, comparatively speaking, wealthy men; for this reason I do not understand why Uncle Sam or the State of Ohio should stock their waters gratuitously any more than their farms. I was out there five years ago and laid out a plan so they could help themselves; they have the finest facilities without the help of steam or wind-mill power, and can have 20,000,000 eggs every fall if they want them.

CLEVELAND, OHIO, *February 26, 1883.*

51.—WHAT DANGERS THREATEN THE PRODUCTS OF THE OLD POND CARP FISHERIES FROM ARTIFICIAL FISH CULTURE?*

By von TRESKOW-WEISSAGK.

At the present time fish culture is a subject in which the great public takes a lively interest, which is no longer confined to men of science, but which is shared by many people who formerly discussed the fish question only when they had before them some fine specimen of fish temptingly prepared for the table. At present there is actually a mania for fish culture and for carp-ponds. Landed proprietors ought to tremble when they read how many millions of young fish of the choicest kinds are annually placed in brooks, rivers, and lakes.

It seems but natural to suppose that when the objects of fish culture are fully reached, the products of the old pond culture will have to meet a very serious competition. The carp is a product of agriculture; a great portion of the territory used as ponds could again be transformed into fields, meadows, and forests; and just as our German farmers are compelled to lower the price of their products owing to the importation of American meat and grain, we, the pond culturist, of Germany, might

* "*Welche Gefahren drohen den Produkten der alten Teichfischerei durch die künstliche Fischzucht?*" In "*Deutsche Fischerei-Zeitung*," Vol. VI, No. 15, Stettin, April 10, 1883. Translated from the German by HERMAN JACOBSON.

also see serious competitors of our pond fish in the cheap salmon and trout which fish culture is expected to bring into the market, and which would in future relegate our carp to the place which at present is occupied by the smelt.

But as yet we are not afraid. Any one who, like myself, counts his carp twice every year, and who keeps a strict account of his ponds and their inmates, who, therefore, can, even before the fish are ready for the market, ascertain with tolerable accuracy what his losses will be, and who knows that a few pike may destroy a large stock of young carp fry in five or six months, will feel sorry for the millions of young fry which, hardly hatched, must, in all open waters, without fail, soon become a prey to fish-of-prey.

I believe that if half the money which at the present time is spent on hatching fish-eggs would be used for placing the young fish in ponds absolutely free from fish-of-prey, even if only for one year, so that they could reach a greater age by the time they are placed in open waters, there would be a possibility of seeing again some of these salmon in a condition to fit them for the table. But as things are managed now it is hardly possible that future fish harvests will pay for the present expense; even if here and there some specimens of the choicer kinds of are caught, this must be considered a very poor result of the stocking of the open waters with millions of young fry.

It requires a certain amount of moral courage for a man to state publicly that he does not believe in the stocking of our lakes and rivers with fine fish by means of placing in such open waters fish of a tender age which still need a good deal of protection. But I feel constrained here to make this very statement.

Our fishery legislation, moreover, extends but little aid to the earnest pisciculturist in his endeavors to stock open waters with fish. He sows, but others reap the harvest; with great trouble he hatches the young fish, only to see his neighbors across the river, or below or above him, share the fish harvest without any expense on their part. I will, in this connection, only mention the Dutch, who catch nearly all our salmon when they are on their downward journey, and who would also consider as welcome prey the products of German fish culture in the Rhine. Unless a similar policy is followed with regard to bodies of water as with regard to forests, unless large portions of a river are, by compulsory measures, formed into a large fishing district, similar to the hunting districts in our forests, even the most earnest endeavors to increase the stock of fish will remain in vain.

We, the pond cultivators, therefore watch with eager interest the progress of fish culture; we acknowledge that in certain specially favored localities favorable results may be seen, but so far at least we are not afraid that the products of fish culture will either crowd out of the market our good old carp or lessen its price.