

85.—THE ARTIFICIAL RAISING OF COD IN AMERICA.

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In an October number, the Republican Journal, published in Belfast, Me., says: "The United States Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries is at present engaged in various experiments in the hatching of fish in an artificial manner at Wood's Holl, where work of this kind has been done for several years. In former years experiments were made at Gloucester in the artificial hatching of cod, and several millions of young fry of the cod have been placed in the water there. A large number of young fry also were placed in the sea among the rocks near Wood's Holl. Since that time nothing has been heard or seen of this fry until recently, when fishermen reported that enormous numbers of small codfish, measuring 4 to 6 inches in length, were swarming in the waters off the mouth of the Piscataqua, in the neighborhood of Portsmouth.

"As these schools of quite small fish are a phenomenon hitherto unknown in these regions, competent persons have declared them to be the first visible results of the experiments in artificially hatching cod made at the Government expense under the direction of Professor Baird. It is supposed, and with good reason, that these small codfish found on the coast near Portsmouth were really hatched in the Government hatcheries near Gloucester and Wood's Holl, and that, following their natural desire to get into cooler water, they moved further north. If this supposition, as can hardly be doubted, is correct, the result of the above-mentioned experiments must be considered as quite successful, and will doubtless cause people to take the necessary measures for stocking the coast waters from Cape Cod to the Bay of Fundy with millions of cod, such as were present in former times, before the fishermen, by their endeavors to make a living, nearly exhausted this portion of the Atlantic Coast of its enormous wealth of food-fish.

"If we succeed in finding means to maintain a large number of codfish near our coasts by artificial hatching the importance and the yield of the so-called coast fisheries, which during the last fifty years has risen from a few cargoes caught during the winter to 30,000,000 pounds in one port alone, will doubtless be doubled in the course of a few years. The efforts made in this direction by the Government will then be richly rewarded, and Professor Baird will have accomplished a great and good work."

* *Die Künstliche Dorschzucht in America.* Translated from the German by HERMANN JACOBSON.