

DIVISION OF FISHERIES.

By JAMES NEVIN.

It was in 1882 that I first became identified with Wisconsin's work in fish culture and for 33 consecutive years I held the position of superintendent of fisheries under the old Commissioners of Fisheries. It is only natural that I should have a feeling of sentiment at the passing of the old commission with which I was connected for so many years. Memories both sad and pleasant come to me as I read the names of the gentlemen with whom I was associated during the past thirty-three years. Many of them have passed to the great beyond. The roll of honor is large and one of which I am proud. These gentlemen served the state as commissioners of fisheries with no thought of recompense, freely and gladly giving their best efforts to the building of a fisheries department of which Wisconsin may well be proud.

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*Hon. James V. Jones.....	Oshkosh
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*Deceased	

The change, however, was inevitable, and, in my opinion, the creation of the present Conservation Commission is one that should have occurred years ago. I will be brief in my report covering the Fisheries Division,



DRIVE ON STATE HATCHERY GROUNDS NEAR MADISON

and confine my remarks to what may be deemed important, interesting and to what should be printed for the information of those interested in fish culture by the State of Wisconsin. I wish, however, to elaborate somewhat on the subject of the conservation of fish and the necessary restrictions in the taking, catching and killing of fish in our state.

On the following pages will be found full and complete statistics covering the output of our seven permanent hatcheries and three substations. These tables give a complete statement as to the output of each hatchery, varieties of fish hatched and planted, cost of operation, inventories, acreage, and value of lands, buildings and equipment.

HATCHERY IMPROVEMENTS.

Since the issue of the last report by the former Commissioners of Fisheries, the state established what may be called a "sub-station" in Tenney Park, Madison. This hatchery is operated only during the spring hatching period, and is equipped for the propagation of wall-eyed pike and pickerel.

An important improvement was made at the Bayfield Hatchery during the past year. The conduit carrying the water from Birch Run pond to the hatchery has been extended up through the pond so as to take the water from the headwater springs. The extension is of twelve-inch vitrified pipe and increases the length of the pipe line some 900 feet. By taking the water directly at the springs we hope to remedy the following trouble. In the spring when the young trout are in the hatchery troughs, the rains and melting snow cause a heavy wash into Birch Run creek and pond. These heavy spring floods are caused by the lands being cleared for cultivation in recent years. The timber and brush has been cut, the lands have been plowed and each rain causes a heavy surface wash. The soil is a red clay and the spring floods wash the soil into minute particles, carrying it into the pond in such great quantities that the water is turned a distinct red. These clay particles are carried through the conduit into the fry troughs, and the clay adheres to the gills of the little trout causing their death by thousands. We expect to overcome this clay-water by taking the water supply, as I stated above, from the head-water springs.

It is the intention of the commission to build a number of fry ponds at the head of Birch Run and in which we will hold and raise a great quantity of our spring hatch of trout, until they attain the fingerling size, such fish to be for fall planting.

The barn at the Bayfield station was destroyed by fire on the afternoon of September 22, 1916. The fire was caused by lightning. The loss of the building and contents was approximately \$1,500.00, which was covered by state insurance.

The Oshkosh Hatchery was moved from the former location in the North Shore Park to a lot the commission purchased on the river bank. The property has a 150 foot frontage on River street. The reason for the change was because in the old location the hatchery was not giving satisfactory results in the output of fry. This unsatisfactory condition was caused by the water supply which did not afford the proper quality of