

21st October 1920.

Wm. A. Found, Esq.,

Ottawa.

Dear Mr Found;-

In the October number of the Canadian Fisherman you will probably find an article on the "Oregon Fish Commission's Rearing Pond System" which I wrote after a visit I made to the Bonnieville hatchery last month.

The ground covered by this article will show something of the accomplishments of the rearing pond system as compared to that formerly employed. Two outstanding facts have been proven by the Oregon authorities. First, contrary to the expectations of some upholders of the older system, and notwithstanding that the past summer was the warmest experienced for many years, young sockeyes were held without loss through June July and August, and are healthy, active and vigorous to-day. And second, the percentage of adult fish returns from salmon held in rearing ponds is very much larger than the BEST results ever obtained under the system which turned the fry adrift after the absorption of the egg sac.

To the points made in your letters of the 25th & 27th ulto., I would reply as follows:-

"Barren" lakes as rearing ponds.

From what I can gather there is but little hope of these lakes proving important factors in artificial propagation work. In the first place they are very limited in number; - near Harrison hatchery Hicks Lake seems the only suitable "barren" lake - while most sockeye spawning areas have no "barren" lakes whatever in their vicinity. For such areas some other system must be adopted.

In the second place the fact that young salmon are cannibalistic makes it impossible to retain fingerlings and fry in the same waters simultaneously. The Oregon authorities, who at first favoured the "barren" lakes plan, now oppose it for this reason. Mr Robertson too recognizes this and proposes to only use each lake every alternating year so that the fingerlings may pass out before new fry are planted. This would mean two sets of barren lakes, and even around Harrison it is doubtful if a sufficient number are available. Here again however, the experience of the Oregon authorities is against the plan as they have found that all young sockeyes do not leave the lake in their second year; some remaining until their third. They would therefore destroy two years plantings of fry. As a result of their observations Oregon is abandoning all attempts at lake plantings and are confining their efforts to rearing pond propagation.

