

THE CHEMAWA AMERICAN

H. E. WADSWORTH, Superintendent

VOLUME 17

ARRIL, 1915

NUMBER 7

OREGON FISH HATCHERY

THE GREATEST OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD



ONE of the most interesting and instructive articles that has come to our notice in a long time appeared in the Oregon Journal of March 14, 1915, and was written by Fred Lochley. It is well worth reprinting and is as follows:

The fish hatchery at Bonneville is the largest of its kind in the world.

Leaving Portland from the Union depot at 7:50 a. m. on the Pendleton local you arrive at Bonneville, 39 miles east of Portland, at 9:25 o'clock.

You can put in six hours both pleasantly and profitably at Bonneville, returning to Portland on the local train that passes through there at 3:50 p. m. and arrives at Portland at half-past five o'clock.

The Columbia Highway passes within a hundred yards of the hatchery and the run to Bonneville makes an ideal motor trip.

At present there are 17,000,000 fish at the Bonneville hatchery. Superintendent T. H. Wilson took me over the grounds—if a score or more of ponds, lakes and streams can be called grounds.

"It will soon be supper time for the fish," said Mr. Wilson, "so we will go to where their food is being prepared. We put up about 60 tons of smelt each year for this station as feed.

"We keep it in cold storage in Portland. We feed from a ton to a ton and a half of smelt a week, the amount depending on the weather.

"The water has been pretty cold lately, being about 41 degrees. The fish will not eat much when the water is cold. When the water ranges in temperature from 45 to 54 degrees the fish thrive best. At that temperature they will eat from three to four times as much as when the water ranges from 37 to 41 degrees and as a consequence they grow rapidly."

We went through the fishes restaurant. Great trays of smelt were being cooked and big kettles of middlings were being made into mush.