

SALMON INDUSTRY

(Continued from Page 3.)

and I sincerely hope that our legislators will see this matter in its proper light and place the Warden in position to see to it that they are fully complied therewith. To do this, we should have a reliable party at each of these sections of the state that would give his entire time and attention thereto. Some people are disposed to think that to look after matters of this kind the Warden should have Water Bailiffs appointed which are paid for their services out of the money derived from the fishermen for licenses; but, it seems to me that the fishermen are already carrying their share of the burden in maintaining the hatcheries, which have become necessary to a great extent in order to keep up the supply of Salmon on account of these obstructions and irrigating projects, that have proven so disastrous to the natural spawning of the Salmon; and to expect of them that they carry this additional burden that has been brought about for the sole benefit of others, to the entire detriment of the fisherman is, in my estimation, an imposition. If it is a benefit to our common wealth at this time to take the waters from our fish for other purposes, which without doubt benefits the soil hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, they should see to it that the Salmon industry is not jeopardized thereby to any greater extent than is absolutely necessary and should bear the burden of the expense in so doing.

I am also asking the Legislature that a clerk be furnished the office of the Master Fish Warden and that a stipulated salary be provided for his services. My reason for asking this is that the detail work connected with the office is becoming altogether too excessive to permit of the Warden giving outside matters the attention that they deserve at his hands. The receipts from licenses have been more than doubled during the past few months, hatchery operations are being extended on every hand, and the work of the Department has been increased in a general manner along the lines, all of which has had a tendency to increase the work in the office to such an extent that I now find it impossible to meet the calls from complaints that are received from all directions that require the personal attention of the Warden. This is not as it should be, and I doubt if it ever was intended for the Warden to be tied down to office detail work as has been required of him during the past two or three years, but be that as it may, it is entirely wrong nevertheless, and to obviate this, the office should be provided with a competent clerk to issue licenses in the name of the Warden, during his absence, keep the accounts with the different hatcheries, and give his undivided time and attention to the interests of the Department. In this connection, I will state that I have been getting along in a fashion under the annual Expense Fund allowed me as will be seen by a statement thereof submitted herein and statements annually furnished; but in doing this, I have been required to use money that should be used for patrol and other like purposes. Now that I am asking for a patrol boat for use on the Columbia River, some will be disposed to think that other patrol services are not needed but such persons must be reminded of the fact that the Columbia River is not the only stream in the State that needs attention along this line, for, in addition thereto we have the Coquille, Coos Bay, Umpqua, Siuslaw, and the Yaquina, all of which are becoming great Salmon producers and need more or less attention during their respective fishing seasons. At the present time they do not need any great amount of such service but they are becoming more important every year and their interests deserve more attention at my hands than what they have been receiving. Things cannot run along much longer in such a manner and the Warden must be placed in a position to meet emergencies when they arise, small or large as they may be.

One or more good swift patrol boats should be furnished this Department for use on the Columbia River and the legislature will be strongly urged again this year to furnish such craft and make provision for the maintenance thereof. It is impossible for any officer, or set of officers, to look after three or four thousand fishermen scattered over an area of two or three hundred miles of fishing ground and see to it at all times that they are all complying with the rules and regulations governing their fishing privileges, without their having some means of getting around amongst them. Good work in this line, as well as in all water lines, can not be accomplished without the necessary appliances being provided, and a good swift patrol boat that will

be able to run down any fishing boat on the river is just as essential for the use in this vast extent of fishing ground as a good keen edged tool is to the mechanic.

HATCHERY OPERATIONS.

We see to have hatchery matters pretty well in hand on our Coast Streams, and under our present laws can now depend upon getting a full supply of Salmon spawn every year at all of our stations, but on the Columbia River we are apparently as far off from solving the perplexing problem as we ever were and it appears to me that, without depriving the thousands of net fishermen that depend entirely upon fishing for Salmon principally for a livelihood for themselves and their families, we never will be assured of a full supply of spawning Salmon on their natural spawning grounds on the upper waters of the Columbia River and its tributary streams until laws similar to those governing our Coast Streams are enacted. There was nothing, in my estimation, that was ever done for the Coast Streams that was quite equal to the law that was passed in 1901 restricting fishing to tide water and establishing dead lines on all of the streams. Before that time they had Summer and Fall Close Season periods and a Sunday law, but without the dead lines the Close Season times amounted to practically nothing, especially the Sunday law, for, it is not the nature of the salmon to leave the head of tide excepting on a freshet; and in consequence thereof, the salmon were simply caught Monday morning a few miles further up the river. Ever since this law went into effect, we have never wanted for a sufficient number of salmon on the upper waters of those streams for a supply of eggs for hatchery purposes; the salmon were there in large numbers and it was simply up to us to provide some means whereby they could be stopped and held until they were ready to spawn. An attempt in this direction was first undertaken on the Yaquina in the year 1904 when we put in a permanent stop rack across the river and have maintained it ever since at a trifling expense. At the Siuslaw River station we put in a similar rack during the year 1905, and at the Tillamook hatchery station we put in one this year. These racks are made very flat and strong and notwithstanding that we have had freshets after freshet to contend with this season, bringing down logs, trees and snags with immense roots, and which has at times put fully ten feet of water over these racks, the like of which has not been known for years, and permitting thereby thousands of salmon to get away from us and pass over these structure, still they are all intact and we have been enabled in between these freshet times to stop and hold salmon enough to give us a good supply of eggs at each of the stations.

On the Columbia river this past season it was very different, and while we were apparently favored with water and weather conditions, the collection of spawn fell far short again

this season, caused principally by the poor showing made in Eastern Oregon at the Ontario hatchery, on the Snake river and at the Willowa hatchery on the Willowa river. The main Columbia river below Celilo Falls seemed to be well supplied with salmon throughout the greater portion of the fishing season and especially was this noticeable during the early summer and fall seasons, the salmon having been successful in running the gauntlet of net fishermen on the lower Columbia river, and I felt confident that a considerable number would be able to get by the falls and rapids at this point and pass on up the stream for spawning purposes, so I made quite extensive preparations at both of our Eastern Oregon stations and took extra precaution in the matter of stop racks and traps that were put in to stop and hold the salmon, but it all amounted to practically nothing, for, on the Willowa we only managed to get 190 female Chinooks from which we took 596,000 eggs; and on the Snake river at Ontario we only got 576 female Chinooks, from which we took 2,149,000 eggs, whereas under such favorable conditions we should have had at the very least calculation ten times that many salmon at each station. On the upper Willamette, we were more favored, especially at the McKenzie river hatchery station, where we succeeded in getting 6,342-000 spawn from 1,265 female Chinooks, every one of which had to run this same gauntlet of net fishermen on the lower Columbia river, and in addition thereto had to pass through the state fishway in order to get by the Willamette Falls. When one stops to compare the conditions here at the Willamette Falls with conditions at the Celilo Falls in the Columbia, and the number of fish secured for spawning purposes above each obstruction, they can't help but wonder what is the cause of such a vast difference, and what to do to remedy matters, some have advocated the building of a set of fishways for the Celilo Falls, but upon investigation I find that there are plenty of ways for fish to get by if they are left alone until they are disposed to make the ascent. Some of these ways are hard to find and are in around about directions, but once a fish gets started right and is persistent, it will have very little trouble in running the course. There are places around the falls where fishways would be of considerable assistance and that would permit of fish getting by, without having to hunt for a passageway, but these could not be provided excepting at a considerable expense and would not be of great benefit unless the fish were left alone until they undertook to make the ascent.

In order to remedy matters, I think that fishing of all kinds should be stopped at this point (the Celilo Falls) and below thereof for a distance of five or ten miles; for, it is just as natural for the salmon to stop at these obstructions and wait, in the deep pools below, for favorable conditions before undertaking to make the ascent, as it is for the salmon in the Coast streams to stop and wait at the head

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of tide for favorable conditions. Then again, a great many salmon are heavy with spawn when they reach this point and are not strong enough to make the swift water, and if left alone would drop back and spawn on the vast extent of natural spawning bars that are in the immediate vicinity below.

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