

(No. 29.)



1882.

T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

SALMON COMMISSIONERS:

REPORT FOR 1881.

Laid upon the Table by the Attorney-General, and ordered by the House to be printed, July 12, 1882.



To His Excellency MAJOR SIR GEORGE CUMINE STRAHAN, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Tasmania and its Dependencies.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

THE Salmon Commissioners have the honor to report to you that on the 10th July last they paid a visit of inspection to the Salmon Ponds Establishment, which was found to be in a satisfactory condition.

The migratory salmonoids in the Long Pond having for years been unfruitful, it was determined that the fish remaining there should be liberated. This has since been done; and the pond has been cleaned, and stocked with smolts taken from the River Plenty.

The smolts which have been referred to in previous reports as passing down the River Plenty to the Derwent in September, were again to be seen in 1881, but a little later, viz., in October. Whilst on this subject, it may be interesting to mention that similar fish, placed in a pond about two years ago, have successfully spawned in the last season. It remains to be proved, however, whether they will eventually become barren, as those recently liberated have done.

Recognising the necessity of stocking the western rivers of the Colony with fish, your Commissioners caused 2500 Ova to be conveyed to the head waters of the Gordon River. The Ova were carried there and successfully placed in a suitable locality by Mr. James Moore, a gentleman in whom the Commissioners have great confidence.

4000 Ova were supplied to Mr. J. W. Norton Smith, of Emu Bay, Manager of the Van Diemen's Land Company, who had prepared suitable hatching-boxes for their reception. Mr. Smith succeeded in hatching about 2500, which he distributed amongst the Rivers Emu, Way, Black, Cam, and Inglis.

The demand for last season's Ova exceeded that of any previous year,—no less than 46,000 having been sent from the Ponds to Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, New Zealand, and for local requirements. The revenue from this source was therefore considerable.

The Commissioners are pleased to have to report that the number of fishing licences issued is annually increasing,—the number issued during the season 1881-82 being 408.

The cost of the Establishment during 1881 amounted to £314 5s. 4d., including special items, such as purchase of new boat for Water Bailiff; but the revenue exceeded that of any previous year.

It will be better shown thus—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Expenditure during 1881	314	5	4
Revenue—Sale of Ova	187	10	0			
Fishing Licences, Season 1881-82..	204	0	0			
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				391	10	0
Balance in favour of Establishment.....	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				77	4	8

To this balance might be added the value of Ova and Fry distributed amongst the rivers of the Colony.

It is gratifying to be able to state that, in addition to the main object of the Establishment, viz., the distribution of Ova throughout the Colony, the receipts from fees alone should more than pay for the cost of the machinery.

During the year 1881, the Hon. J. W. Agnew, one of your Commissioners, proceeded to England; and the Commission, taking advantage of such visit, and being most desirous of stocking other rivers of the Colony besides the Derwent with salmon, commissioned him to make enquiries as to the cost of a further importation of Salmon Ova.

When in London, Dr. Agnew consulted with Mr. J. A. Youl, C.M.G., and afterwards he visited Dublin, where he waited upon the Chief Inspector of Irish Fisheries, Mr. Thomas Brady. Upon Dr. Agnew communicating his mission, Mr. Brady, in the most handsome manner, placed his gratuitous services at the disposal of the Tasmanian Commission for the purpose of obtaining for them Ova of *Salmo salar* from the rivers in Ireland. Upon this generous offer being conveyed to your Commissioners, they at once requested the Government to provide the funds necessary for the further experiment; and Parliament having provided £500, Dr. Agnew was authorised to take the necessary steps to avail himself of Mr. Brady's offer.

Your Commission, recognising Dr. Agnew's ability and discretion, have given him uncontrolled direction in the matter.

Some correspondence has taken place upon the subject; and it is a matter for congratulation that the services of Mr. Youl, who has for so many years generously given his aid to Tasmania in similar movements, will again be availed of in this new experiment.

It is not yet known how the Ova will be forwarded, but it is hoped and anticipated that the fast-sailing Orient vessels will convey them to the Colony in the coming season.

Your Commissioners cannot sufficiently express their deep gratitude to Mr. Brady for the enthusiasm which he has shown in his desire to further the contemplated experiment.

On the 28th December, 1881, Mr. W. A. B. Jamieson, one of the earliest members of your Commission, met his death under melancholy circumstances, by drowning whilst returning from the performance of his public duties as a Coroner.

Mr. John Swan has been appointed to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Jamieson's death.

Your Commissioners, being desirous of availing themselves of the scientific knowledge of Mr. R. M. Johnston, submitted that gentleman's name for appointment, and Mr. Johnston has been added to the Commission.

ROB. CAR REID, *Chairman*.
HENRY BUTLER.
JOHN SWAN.
A. G. WEBSTER.
MATTHEW SEAL.
A. RIDDOCH.
ROBT. M. JOHNSTON.
H. WEEDON.
W. A. B. GELLIBRAND.

30 June, 1882.

RETURN showing the Distribution of Ova and Fry from the Salmon and Trout Breeding Establishment, River Plenty, during the Year 1881.

OVA.		FRY.	
New Zealand	5000	South Esk, Launceston	1000
South Australia	13,000	North Esk, ditto	500
Victoria	12,000	Lauriston, Ringarooma	500
New South Wales	9500	Mr. Lade, ditto	800
Great Bend, Gordon River, Tasmania ..	2500	River Plenty	3500
J. W. Norton Smith, Esq., Emu Bay ..	4000*	Northern Rivers	350

* About 2500 were successfully hatched, and the Fry placed by Mr. Smith in the Rivers Emu, Way, Black, Cam, and Inglis.

PHILIP S. SEAGER, *Secretary Salmon Commissioners.*