

twenty-four names on same, so that it could not be won by any club under six ears, designs to be submitted to club's delegates at earliest opportunity. The following was the draw for precedence, Dipton first; Lumsden, second; Southland, third; and Winton, fourth. The arrangements for hours of fishing, place, etc., to be left to each club controlling their particular competition. Any angler fishing later than the time stipulated to be disqualified. Arrangements were also made for a week-end roving competition to take place on Saturday, December 4th to Sunday, December 6th. Hours of fishing from 12 noon Saturday, to weigh in Monday morning at 9 a.m. Town competition to weigh in at 12 noon Saturday, to weigh in Monday morning at 9 a.m. Entries close with secretary, W. McCarthy, on Saturday, December 9 p.m. Any legal bait. Competitors bag will be accepted if certified by stationmaster, J.P., postmaster, or constable. All fish to be weighed before weighed in and 25 per cent of total weight of bag to be forwarded to secretary for distribution to honorary members. Financial members to be paid clubs in the Southland district are eligible to compete on payment of 1s entry fee. Prizes were generously donated by Messrs Steans Bros., J. Wilkie and Co., Thompson, esq., and E. Keast, esq.

TROUT REARING.

(NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL).

In continuation of my previous article, I come to the "artificial" rearing of trout, or, in other words, the work carried out by Acclimatisation Societies. There are no fish culturists breeding for profit in New Zealand, as exist in other parts of the world. You have already been informed that when the spawning season is approaching, trout make up stream in search of suitable positions where they can perform their duties. These fish are captured by means of traps (formed of wire netting) all anchored, and placed in suitable places, such as where a stream joins a river, etc. The "runs" of fish do not take place according to schedule, but are governed by various reasons, such as climate, sufficient quantity of water in rivers, streams, but chiefly "ripeness" of the fish. New Zealand experience, however, shows that they usually start to run about the middle of May, finishing towards the end of July. The fish in the traps are taken out by landing nets, and placed in "pounds" (boxes made of wire netting) which are then submerged, the two boxes being kept separate. When there are sufficient on hand to warrant stripping the females are taken from their pound and stripped until all have yielded up their ova. To strip a fish, it must be held with its body somewhat sideways, obliquely downwards, and abdomen directed slightly towards the manipulator—large its body may also be a little bent. A dry pan, to receive the eggs, is placed on the ground as near as convenient to the fish's vent, then gentle pressure is exercised by stroking with the fingers, commencing from the ventral fins, and continued downwards towards the vent. If the eggs do not run freely, use no force, but put the fish back, as she is not ripe. When there is sufficient quantity of eggs in the pan, a male fish is taken and his milt extracted (by the same method as used with the female, and with the same caution) and distributed over the eggs. The pan is now tilted backwards and forwards causing the contents to be well mixed (thus practically ensuring total impregnation). Allow a little time for this to take place, then add water to depth of two to three inches, stir gently with the hand, and then let pan stand until the eggs harden or "frees," which will occur from one to three-quarters of an hour, according to temperature of weather, as cold lengthens the time required. By this process (known as the "dry" method), the average success in fertilising may range from 95 to 100 per cent. As soon as the eggs "frees," clean water must be carefully poured over them until no effete water is left, and as soon as the water is left, and as soon as the water is left, they may be transferred to the hatching tin in the proportion of one-third egg and two-thirds water. The number of eggs to pound weight is reckoned at 1000 amongst the salmonidae family. Fertile eggs can be safely transported so long as steps are taken to prevent shocks and violent oscillation, during a period of not longer than 48 hours after impregnation, thus enabling them to be brought from points far distant from the hatchery. On arrival, they are spread out evenly in a tray, must not lie on top of other eggs) at the bottom of a series of boxes, or in a tray of perforated trays, with a current of water flowing over them in the boxes, or under and over them, in the "tray" method is used, and there must be at least 1½ inches of water always present above the eggs. Whether boxes or trays are used, all parts exposed to the water

should be painted with "asphaltum paint" to prevent the formation of fungus, and light must also be excluded by means of covers. When the eggs are laid down, they require to be periodically examined, and any that are "white" in colour must be removed. They are unimpregnated, and if left, would be attacked by byssus, a product of decaying animal substance. This byssus is of a fleecy appearance, develops long tendrils, which branch out in every direction attaching themselves to all eggs in the vicinity and ensuring their destruction. Another form of fungus that attacks the eggs is Saprolegnia ferax, and the effect is usually fatal. Should any survive the fry will be weakly and worthless. This pest is hard to perceive, owing to its fineness and absence of colour. Absolute cleanliness, not only in the water, but everything near the eggs, is the best preventative.

In about forty days after the eggs were taken, the embryo (young fish) is distinctly visible through the outer shell, and the eggs can be handled almost with impunity. This is the time to send them any distance not exceeding fifteen or twenty days journey.

Hatching out of the eggs is determined by the temperature of the surrounding water. At Christchurch, where the water temperature is 53 degrees Fahr. brown trout hatch out in from thirty to thirty-two days; Wellington, 50 to 55 degrees, average time, thirty-five days; Clinton, 41 degrees, average seventy-five days; with Mataura approximating to the latter.

The first appearance of the young fish consists of its head and tail protruding from the egg, or "umbilical sac." This supplies most of the necessary food, until the shell is sloughed off, and the fish proper appears. They are then called "fry." In the "first appearance" stage, the young fish are called "alevins," and care must be taken that they are not too crowded, and that there is a good current of water passing through the boxes. The fish proper appears after a period varying from three weeks to three months, according to water temperature, and other disturbing causes. It is considered advisable that when the young alevins start to push upstream (which happens before the "sac" is absorbed) it is necessary to feed them. Opinions differ as to the best food. I believe the N.Z. practice is to use boiled liver, grated very finely, and this method of feeding is kept up until liberation time.

During this fry period incessant care must be taken. The fish must first be thinned out by shifting to other boxes, care must be taken to prevent the "cannibal" tendencies of the stronger fish, watch must be kept lest unconsumed food particles or dead fish generate disease, and the purity of the water must be maintained.

These young fish, when from six to nine months old, are well adapted for distributing purposes, as greater numbers can be carried each journey, and with less risk, and if suitable places are chosen for their output, they soon adapt themselves to their new surroundings. Their subsequent progress is determined by the amount of food available and decrease in natural enemies, namely, poachers, shags, and eels. Anglers should observe an open season for these three. By so doing they would greatly assist acclimatisation societies, whose work does not, at present, receive the consideration it is entitled to from the people of New Zealand.—Yours fraternally,

(Signed) A. H. STOCK.

WAR PENSIONS APPEAL BOARD.

GROUNDS FOR RECONSIDERATION.

The Finance Bill contains special provisions regarding war pensions. A War Pensions Medical Appeal Board, consisting of three medical practitioners, is to be set up. Appeals are provided for insofar as they consist in: (a) The rejection of any claim for a pension on the ground that the death or disablement of the member of the forces, in respect of whose death or disablement the claim is made, was not due directly or indirectly to his employment as a member of the forces, or, in the case of disablement, that the condition of disablement was not aggravated by such employment, and (b) the assessment of a pension granted to any member of the forces insofar as the assessment is based on medical grounds. On any appeal under this section, the board may confirm the decision of the War Pensions Board, or may grant a pension, or may increase or reduce the amount of any pension.

Argentina has in the Iguassu River a cataract 50ft higher and 1000ft wider than Niagara, though a smaller volume of water flows over it. Plans are in preparation to tap some of its energy for generating electricity.

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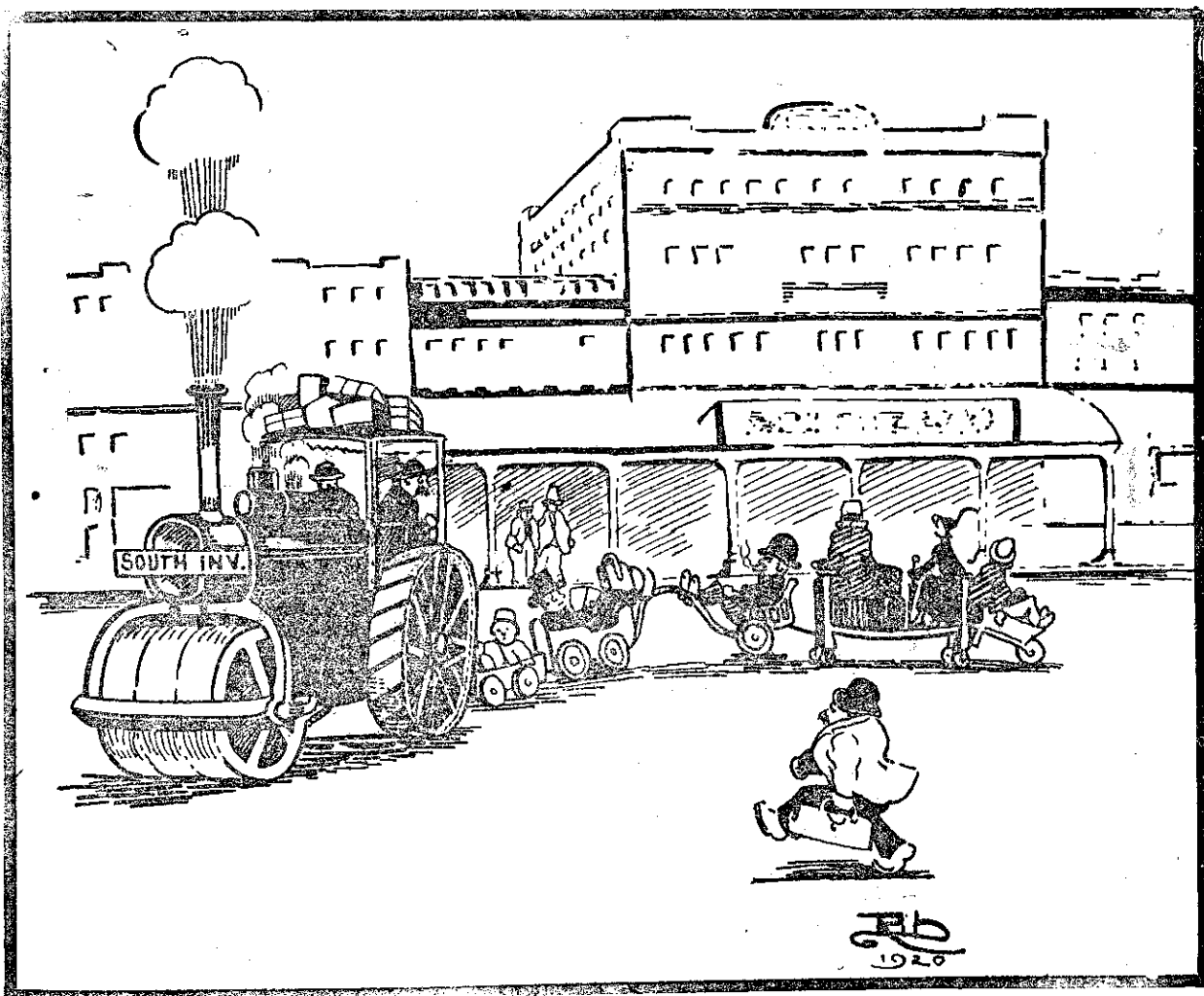
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A suggested method of relieving the congestion on the South Invercargill tram service.

Profits of breweries in Great Britain last year (there are 94 of them) amounted to £8,075,737, being £1,219,363 more than in the previous year. Although only half the profits were distributed, shareholders got a return of 12 per cent.

A fire alarm was given about six o'clock on Saturday evening, and when the brigade arrived at the intersection of Clyde and Bowmont street they found that someone had broken the glass in the box there. Constable Thompson made inquiries and ascertained that a boy had been the cause of the trouble, the urchin explaining that he had kicked a stone which flew up and struck the glass.

The introduction of the cinematograph in schools, an innovation in which the Auckland Education Board is keenly interested, formed the subject of a short discussion at last week's meeting, a cablegram having been received from the High Commissioner by the department with regard to the suggested purchase of a plant in London by Mr J. R. Penning on behalf of the Auckland Board. This plant was stated to be a new war surplus set, meeting the Board's requirements and obtainable on advantageous terms. Mr H. S. W. King was deputed to go into the matter with the department when visiting Wellington.

Dr. Addison, Minister of Public Health, announces that about 7000 houses have been completed throughout Britain, and 50,000 more are in various stages of progress. He found that several thousand houses had been in a semi-complete stage for months, but owing to labour shortage and the lack of fittings, progress was dismally slow. At the lowest estimate, London needed 60,000 houses. Work was being done on 11,000, but on September 1st only 2750 were well above the ground. There was urgent need of some 15,000 more skilled men, of whom 6000 were bricklayers.