

There is one circumstance which I think is worthy of note. In a tray which I unpacked from Box 88 there were only 559 ova in the upper layer, thirty of which were bad; and in the bottom layer there were 887 ova, only four of which were dead, the rest being absolutely free from speck or blemish. They were certainly the best layer of ova I ever had the pleasure of opening. The result is that I have placed in the hatching-boxes 38,443 fine healthy ova; and if they only hatch out as they should, judging from present appearances, I shall be quite satisfied.

I beg to enclose a detailed statement of the good ova in each box.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Minister of Marine,
Wellington.

ARCHD. N. CAMPBELL,
Curator, Southland Acclimatisation Society.

DETAILED STATEMENT of good Ova *ex* "Arawa"—received 13th March, 1889, at the Southland Acclimatisation Society's Wallacetown Fish Hatchery.

Layers.	Trays.								
	No. 1.	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 3.	No. 4.	No. 4.	Total.
<i>Box 90.</i>									
Upper ...	920	815	889	912	933	815	852	960	7,096
Lower ...	860	810	795	819	799	825	832	804	6,544
	1,780	1,625	1,684	1,731	1,732	1,640	1,684	1,764	13,640
<i>Box 88.</i>									
Upper ...	746	1004	529	1008	907	949	948	Empty	6,091
Lower ...	870	980	883	911	1036	937	644	Empty	6,261
	1,616	1,984	1,412	1,919	1,943	1,886	1,592	...	12,352
<i>Box 85.</i>									
Upper ...	742	820	768	747	720	810	774	935	6,316
Lower ...	700	737	669	847	733	902	675	872	6,135
	1,442	1,557	1,437	1,594	1,453	1,712	1,449	1,807	12,451

Total number of good ova, 38,443, equal to 87.39 per cent.

The CURATOR, Otago Acclimatisation Society, to the ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Marine Department.

SIR,—

Otago Acclimatisation Society, Opoho, Dunedin, 6th April, 1889.

With reference to the first shipment of salmon ova—that per s.s. "Arawa"—I beg to report that the 12th March I took delivery of eight boxes from on board that steamer at Port Chalmers. Acting on your own instructions, who was present, I had them carefully placed in a close van, packed with plenty of straw and ice, and brought on to Dunedin that night. Next morning they were conveyed by the south express to Clinton, where I removed five boxes, containing 96,900, with a supply of ice, to the Clinton ponds, yourself taking charge of the remaining three boxes to the Wallacetown ponds, Southland. The weather was most favourable for the purpose, being bitterly cold with showers of hail. I lost no time in having them conveyed to the hatchery, and commenced unpacking in the usual way, strict attention being paid to the temperature, and I am glad to say the result was most satisfactory, the average of bad ones being barely 5 per cent., and in many of the layers they only numbered from 25 to 50. Who could wish for better results than this? They appeared to have received every attention on board the "Arawa." They are now all hatched, and are a splendid sample of salmon alevins. The packing was simply perfection itself.

The second shipment was by the s.s. "Aorangi," which arrived at Port Chalmers on the 29th March. This lot consisted of twenty-seven boxes, containing 481,650 salmon ova. The Railway Department had two close vans in readiness to convey them to their respective destinations. A number of these boxes were packed in large insulating-cases on board the steamer. These cases would have been used in which to convey the ova to the hatcheries, but the close vans would not admit them, and open trucks would have had to have been resorted to, so I deemed it best and most expeditious to place the small boxes in the close vans with a plentiful supply of ice, as on former occasions; so I procured a large quantity of good straw, and placed the boxes on good, soft beds, packing them well round with straw and blocks of ice interspersed, and then conveyed them to Dunedin for the night. After refilling the ice-trays of the boxes for the south I at once removed ten boxes, containing 170,900 ova, to Opoho. Of the remaining seventeen boxes I packed seven, containing 128,800 ova, in one van for Wallacetown, and ten, containing 181,950, in another van for Clinton, Ranger Burt, who assisted me all along, taking charge of them, and accompanying them to Clinton by the south express next morning, where his van was shunted off, and the other went on to Invercargill.

I commenced unpacking on the morning of the 30th March, and with the assistance of Mr. Carlton and others I had them all down by the evening of the 1st April. They were not in such good condition as the "Arawa" lot, and averaged about 62 per cent. good, some of the layers of ova being entirely bad, principally in the lower trays, the packing being exactly the same as in the other shipment, the bad eggs apparently having been dead a considerable length of time, as they