Winter Work at State Hatchery Means Summer Sport for Anglers



COLLECTING THE SPAWN.

ATHOUGH fishing is entirely a occupy about fifteen acres of this. Rain- Holt, Rock, Keya Paha, Cherry, Sheridan, summer sport in this state, a bow trout weighing five pounds and bass Dawes and Sioux counties, and are also visit to the hatcheries in winter of the same size are kept at the fisheries found in a few streams in Custer and Deuel will furnish the sportsmen a for breeding purposese. There are 5,000 trout countles. Bass and crapple fishing at Cut sight which is at once a delight in the ponds and 10,000 black bass, 500 of Off lake has been better than ever during and instructive. Game fish are there these being adult. The hatcheries cost the the past year, due largely to the work of hatched by the millions, some artificially state about \$4,500 a year for current ex- the state fisheries. Splendid catches of their eggs do not fall an easy prey to the and some in their natural state, and that penses. Iowu spends \$8,000 and Kansas \$22, bass have been made at Crystal lake. In the dead of winter. The hatcheries are 600. The Wyoming fish commission had Dakota county, during the last summer, situated in Sarpy county, just across the \$21,300 set aside for fish culture for two while on the Elkhorn in Cuming, Madison, Platte river from South Bend and nine years and Missouri \$12,000, Minnesota \$70. Antelope and Holt counties, bass fishing miles south of Gretna. As the years roll 600, Wisconsin \$60,000 for current expenses is reported as good and the same favorable around these are gradually taking on a and \$20,000 for new hatcheries. The ground reports come from Cedar river at Spauld- suitable in many ways for Nebraska. It Rainbow trout seem to be producing bet- sary to purchase 100,000 eyed eggs yearly finished appearance until at present the for the hatcheries was bought in 1883 and ing and Ericson. Many Omaha anglers sefishery grounds are as pretty a sport in the property first improved in 1887. Since cured the limit allowed by law on bass and no fish surpasses it very much as a into the waters of Nebraska. They have and are now hatching at the hatchery. summer time as any park in the state of that time the fisheries have been contin- from lakes in Cherry and Brown counties. Nebraska. Situated on the south slope of a wously improved year by year until now When the state hatcheries were first es. numbers at Cutoff lake and the number seemed impossible for the brook trout to keep up the supply. high bank along the edge of the shallow they are one of the show places of the tablished private lakes and ponds were Platte the site was selected years ago be- state. A fish car belongs to the commis- stocked without cost all over the state. cause of the magnificent springs which bub- slon and the railroads were formerly inter- but in 1901 a charge was imposed for this ble out of the rock and sand in one of the ested in the propagation of the fish, but service and since that time the fish sales distributed over the entire state, and are with the eggs now collected and those Saginaw bay, Michigan. The collecting of the slow growth of this fish and the draws back from the river. A spring house seem to have changed their policy, for they have decreased. Nearly all the state hatch- the most numerous game fish to be found which are yet to be stripped from the fish crew seemed to have more interest in get- lack of results from plants made in former has been built over the largest spring, now place a charge upon hauling the car eries have discontinued the practice of along the sloughs of the Elkhorn. Crap- should have 400,000 eggs during February ting a large number of eggs than in get- years, which pours out a three-inch stream the around the country. This is a heavy tax, stocking private waters and have turned pies planted in the private lake on the and March, or enough to supply all the ting quality, and as a result the percentage. The state fisheries have made a hit all year around. This water, supplemented by as most of the fish go to the remote sec- this work over to privately owned hatch- Metzger farm near Cedar Creek had in- demands from all sections of the state for of impregnated or fertile eggs was very over the state with the channel catfish twenty other springs, furnishes the water for the ponds and hatchery house. About ten of the twenty-nine ponds which go to make up the fisheries are in the vale, succeeding each other toward the river, and the water flows from one to the other. A wind mill, with a twelve-inch pump to

out some of the water from the ponds. Winter Time for Spawning.

pump water from the river, is used in the

summer when the river is low and drains

Game fish spawn and hatch during the winter months, and to see the stripping of the trout a visit was made to the fisheries on the first of February. The ponds looked truly desolate, being completely frozen over and covered with snow, except for square holes in the corners, which had been sawed out to give the fish air. The first four ponds into which the waters from the springs flow do not freeze, as the spring water is sufficiently warm to keep them from freezing over. In the first of these are kept the gold fish, and then come the

As the stripping process was the principal object of interest at this season of the year, W. J. O'Brien, the fish commissioner, went through all the processes to enlighten his visitors. With the thermometer firting with zero, Mr. O'Brien went into the pond with a seine and made a splendid haul of rainbow trout. The brook trout had previously been stripped and were in the hatcheries. In milder weather the stripping is done at the bank of the pond, but the extreme cold made this out of the question, so an equal number of male and female fish were caught with the seine and taken to the hatcheries in a tub, when the rest of the interesting proceeding was wit-

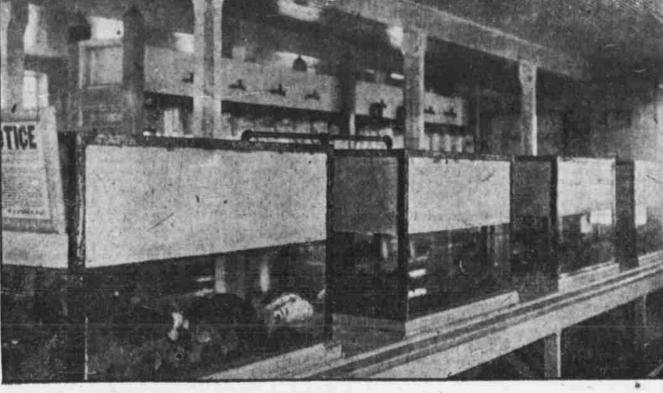
Dates for the Different Species. Taking a female ready to spawn firmly in his hands the thumb is pressed down the belly of the fish several times until all the eggs are pressed out and placed in a jar. A male fish is taken and the same process is gone through to fertilize the eggs, which are left to stand for half an hour, when they are washed in Tresh water and placed in the hatcheries trough on trays. A 3-year-old rainbow will lay 1,900 eggs. Fresh water running over these continuously for eight weeks will batch about 90 per cent, whereas hardly 10 per cent will hatch if the fish are left to spawn naturally

in the ponds. Brook trout spawn from November 10 to the middle of December; rainbow trout from January 26 to March 1; bass from May 15 to June 10 and crapples about the same; pike and perch from April 1 to 15; bullheads 15 to 20. Rainbow trout hatch in about eight weeks and brook trout in ten weeks, while bass take from five to seven days, not The only fish hatched in the hatcheries are

trays are placed one on top of the other, tion from your father." about five deep, the upper trays having the larger mesh, and as the fish hatch they drop to the lower tray which is closely

to 10 weeks old. ponds the trout can be seen preparing for I have ever met. His square chin I have spawning. The males fight fiercely for the only seen once duplicated, in the face of privilege of swimming around with some General Sherman." He always struck in nicely marked female and when they are the back and in the dark. Here is what mated the male with his fins and tail helps the soldiers who followed his last war traff prepare a smooth place in the bottom of sky of him: "If all of the redskins who the stream for the female to deposite her have over given the white man hell were eggs. Large males were seined out of the bunched together, their combined deviltry pond which had worn most of their fins wouldn't equal the record of Geronimo. If away by beating the leaves and rocks to ever Satan himself was in an Indian you make a smooth place for Mrs. Fish.

Capacity of the Hatchery.



TANKS FOR THE FISH INDOORS.

this gives a large revenue.

Nebraska Streams Well Stocked.

The state fisheries have been of immense value to Nebraska, although in this state, thing. where the fish are not seined, it is harder to show just what increase in fish has been brought about because of the hatcheries and the distribution of fish by the commissioners. Streams in central, eastern and southern Nebraska are thoroughly stocked with carp and catfish. Brook and rainbow trout are taken from practically all the streams in Antelope, Knox, Boyd,

teresting exhibit is seen at the Nebraska nessed of the rapid increase of this fish, State fair than that of the state fisheries. It seems as though more people are interested in this exhibit than in any other one

Crapple the Most Prolific.

For the lakes and streams which go to make up the waterways of Nebraska no fish has shown more gratifying results than the crapple. Its propagation has been most successful. Wherever plants of this fish have been made the results have been most encouraging and they seem to be especially successful in the waters of along its borders. Crapple spawn largely on the clustering fibrous roots of the bullrushes and willows and for this reason carp and other spawn-eating fishes. They seem to thrive equally as well in muddy or in clear water, and every effort should be made to increase the production of this fish. Because of its nature it is the most is a fish easily caught by the fisherman ter results than any trout ever introduced and 150,000 have been bought for this year cover and greedily devour.

tions of the state. Other states are more eries. Of the \$600 which the hatcheries creased to such an extent that more than fortunate than Nebraska in that they con- have secured from the sale of fish during 1,700 adult fish were taken at a single haul vert the money received from fines and the last two years most has come from of the net last July and numerous other licenses into the fish and game fund and the sale of ornamental fish. No more in- instances of the same kind have been wit-

Great Demand for Black Bass.

As is the case in all states, the demand for black bass for stocking purposes far exceeds the supply. Bass are rapidly increasing in the sand hill lakes, especially in Brown and Cherry counties, but except in Cut Off lake and Crystal lake in Dakota county, there is a marked decrease in eastern Nebraska, and they are liable to become extinct, according to Commissioner O'Brien. This is accounted for by the excause of the sewage and refuse which is ness is the superior of all. western part of the state.

Rainbow and Brook Trout.

the Elkhorn river and the lakes and sloughs dumped into the streams, so the bass will The fish commission is much encouraged not remain. The water in these smaller from the good reports which continue to lakes is rolled to such an extent the eggs come in as to the success of the plants of are buried by settling sediment, and this, brook trout which have been made in the coupled with the capacity of the spawn- tributaries of the Niobrara river and other catching carp, is rapidly destroying the spring streams in the northwestern part of will be made to get in a new supply of adult bass. These conditions do not exist in the the state. The stock of brook trout in the hatchery ponds has never recovered from decimation by disease, which began among them in 1894, and it has been found neces-



TRAY OF TROUT EGGS.

cess wash from the tilled lands and be- this fish, which in point of color and game- low, cutting down the number planted that year in comparison with former years,

> Striped Perch and Rock Bass. Little has been done with the striped perch for the last two years and the number planted has been disappointing to those who delight in that class of fish. An effort perch at the hatcheries this spring. The perch is decreasing rapidly in the waters of Nebraska, which are infested with carp, They spawn their eggs in a ribbon-shaped gelatinous mass which the carp easily dis-

The commissioner has deemed it advisatable fish. The crappie is caught in large thrived in many spring streams where it This has been found necessary to properly ble to stop the propagation of rock bass. The table of distribution shows none of fishing for this variety is increasing every gain a foothold. The fisheries now have on In 1965 the hatcheries of Nebraska were these little fish have been sent out for the year. Crapples were only introduced into hand the best supply of rainbow trout ever allotted 15,000,000 green eggs of wall-eyed last two years, and none have been planted Nebraska twelve years ago and are widely collected in this section of country, and pike, collected at the spawning grounds on at all. This decision was reached because

> which have been planted. During the two years just past 24,085 catfish were collected from the Platte river and distributed over the waters of the state. The catfish were in splendid condition and as they are highly esteemed and recognized as one of the best native fish, their distribution has met with favor everywhere. Good results have been produced by the distribution of this class of fish.

Gold fish are grown at the state fisheries. and during the last two years over 4,000 were disposed of and a large supply is still on hand. These fish are sold in lots of one to 100, all for ornamental purposes. About two-thirds of the moneys realized from fish sales comes from this class of fish. They more than pay for their cost of production. The sun fish which the table shows the fish commissioner planted were secured in the sloughs near Cut Off lake and the remainder from Gibson lake, near Nebraska City, This fish is also a dainty table morsel, equal, in the opinion of many, to the bass or crappie. They thrive in waters

Bullheads and German Carp.

where the bass are decreasing.

During the last two years more bullheads have been propagated and distributed than during the previous ten years of the existence of the hatchery. A demand for this fish is increasing in many sections of the state where the waters are no longer adapted to the better class of game fish. They thrive under all conditions and, while some may take an axe to kill them, they are still a very good fish and many which are caught around Omaha are put to good use. Deputy Commissioner Pierson often catches a sackful and distributes to the hospitals of Omaha. It is the opinion of many that their propagation could be profitably increased.

While the German carp was propagated and distrubted during the first years of the existence of the hatcheries, it has been deemed advisable to discontinue the praccarp were planted became so overstocked to such an extent that the culture of carp was discontinued in 1896. They are the Charles H. Hoyt, New England's great worst fish in these waters for destroying lakes and, at the present high price which In it they have a room he is said to have is being paid for fish, considerable revenue

could be derived from this source, Summary of distribution, 1906-06; Hlask Bass (6 months old)

Black Bass (1-year-old)

Perch (fry)

Perch (8 months old)

Crapple (6 months old)

Crapple (1-year-old)

Channel Catfish (1-year-old)

Sunfish (1-year-old)

Gorman Carp (6 months old)

Gold Fish (6 to 12 months old)

Perch (1-year-old)

15,320,758 This shows that 15,125,500 were planted in the fry stage and 195,253 were distributed

In Cut-off Lake.

Omaha fishermen are beginning to awaken to the advantages right at their door, namely, at Cutoff lake, and the organization of the Omaha Rod and Gun club has been a great stimulus to the sport, and also served to protect the lake from illegal seiners. Since the new law went into effect in 1901 there have been planted in Cutoff lake by the fish commissioner:

Cutoff lake by the fish commissioner:

May 2, 1901, 5,000,000 pike fry, estimated.

November 14, 1901, 1,000 black bass, 1,006
rock bass, 1,000 crapple, 1,000 striped perch,
1,000 channel catfish, all about 6 months old,
June 6, 1906, 50,000 bass fry, estimated;
200 bass 1 year old.

January 6, 1906, 3,000 bass, 5,000 sunfish,
2,000 crapples, 200 perch, seined from overflow water and transferred to Cutoff lake,
May 16, 1906, 50,000 pike fry, estimated.
October 16, 1906, 2,000 bass, 3,000 crapple, 6
months old.

November 21, 1996, 2,000 crapple, 2,000 sun-

November 21, 1966, 3,000 crappie, 2,000 sun-



MAIN BUILDING OF STATE FISH HATCHERY.



WHERE THE TROUT LIVE AND BREED.

Selections from the Story Teller's Collection

number. One day a man who had buen pure foods." especially persistent in demanding to see the president was at last shown into the office of Mr. Lincoln's private secretary.

threatening tone in his voice. The secre-"I am the son of God,"

The eggs are hatched on wire trays Hxl8 adding as the visitor started to leave, "and

Geronimo as Soldiers Saw Him. are from 4 to 5 weeks old, and the trout military custody at Fort Sill. Indian Terare distributed in the streams of north, ritory. Mr. Hugh C. Weir, in Human Life western Nebraska when they are from 8 for February, recalls General Miles' description of this famous old Indian as "one In the clear water of the hatcheries of the most remarkable men, white or red,

would have found him in that man!"

Although the hatcheries have a capacity Dr. H. C. Wiley, the government food ex- not hoggish, either. I'd give it for ten different would have been the conduct of for hatching about 20,000,000 eggs each year, pert, has all his life been a stickler for years only." In telling the story Mr. Mc- many lawyers! Some would have striven they are worked to about half their ca. purity in estables. When he was state Clure said: "Now, I don't think Carnegie to lead the judge into technical errors. pacity. The state owns fifty-three acres at chemist of Indiana a friend "put up a job" is afraid to die. He simply clings to life. with a view to an appeal to a higher court.

by the late Secretary Hay at a fairly taste the rich, pure cream in it." dinner at the White House. As "That's one on you," said his friend. "You the private secretary of President Lincoln, it fell to Mr. Hay's lot calmly as he replied; "Ah, that just goes out some of the good qualities of the man to receive the cranks who daily called at to show that since the most expert of us who is made so conspicuous by the Interthe White House to see the President, and can be so easily deceived there's all the state Commerce commission investigation, even at that time they were not few in more need of the strictest laws against im- remarked: "He has given thousands of

Mr. Bryce Incog.

"The last time Mr. Bryce visited this Mr. Hay merely looked up from his desk country," relates the Boston Herald, "was and explained that the President was very two years ago last summer, when he landed much engaged and usked what the visitor's in Boston. He is a very modest gentleman and he prefers to travel incog, when he can "Do you know who I am?" said the vis- conveniently do so. So it happened that and catfish June 1 to 15, and goldfish April ltor with a set look in his eye and a on his last voyage hither neither his name nor that of Mrs. Bryce, who came with tary was compelled to admit that he did him, appeared on the passenger list, and his fellow voyagers did not suspect his identity until after several days out. Meanwhile pike and trout and the rest are hatched "The president will be delighted to re- Mr. Bryce had the pleasure of asking his under the ponds in practically natural con- ceive you when you come again," said Mr. table companions all about this country Hay, rising quickly and extending his hand, and its institutions. And they glibly answered his naive questions, never suspectinches in size placed in running water. The perhaps you will bring a letter of introduc- ing that they were talking with the author of 'The American Commonwealth.' Fancy their chagrin later on when they discov-Geronimo, the once bloodthirsty chief of ered by accident that they had been unenough woven to keep them from falling the Apaches, now a wrinkled sage of so, is dertaking to enlighten an inquisitive for-The fish are first fed when they awaiting the end of his troublesome life in eigner who knew far more about their in-

Clinging to Life. Colonel Alexander K. McClure, the veteran editor, at a club dinner in Philadelphia a few days ago, delivered a' short speech in which he urged his hearers not to fear the approach of old age. "Old age has nothing to fear," he said with a kindly smile. "When death calls me I shall not be afraid." - Later in the evening Colonel McClure recalled an admission that Andrew Carnegie had made to him some time ago. He and the steel utilionaire had the hatcheries and the twenty-nine pends on him. The doctor was invited to diffner There's a difference in the two attitudes. Others would have become

dollars for irrigation purposes, has voluntarily reduced passenger and freight rates in far western states, where the laws allow high charges. In the San Francisco disaster Harriman did probably more than any one person for the relief of the city. Besides throwing the road open and going to San Francisco personally, he gave \$100,000 in cash. This alone popularized him in California. He numbers among his friends now many of the most radical thinking men in public life in this country. His only son, a boy of 11, spoke up bravely. He has expended money liberally to check the damage being caused by the Salton did it." sea, and he has given the free use of his steamships to carry Red Cross food supplies to famishing China,"

Lincoln's Honesty.

Lincoln was appointed to defend a man my life's dearest wish to rear up my son charged with murder, relates Justice to my own profession, but now-alas-Brewer in the Atlantic Monthly, The alas" -- New York Press. crime was a brutal one; the evidence entirely circumstantial; the accused stranger. Feeling was high against the drew from the witnesses full statements of what they saw and knew. There was no effort to confuse, no attempt to place be- telegraphed to Philadelphia for an expert. fore the jury the facts other than they were. In the argument, after calling attention to the fact that there was no direct with a key, could not be opened. After a testimony. Lincoln reviewed the circum- hasty examination the expert, taking a terrupted by a butcher, the proprietor of a closed by saying that he had reflected in the twinkling of an eye. The business butcher's mocking remarks and yelled: much on the case, and while it seemed man wore a sickly smile as he asked probable that defendant was guilty, he was meekly: been talking of life and death one evening not sure, and, looking the jury straight in after dinner. Mr. Carnegie said he would the face, said, "Are you?" The defendant give \$200,000,000 to have a lease on life. "Two was acquitted and afterward the real hundred millions, Alec," he said, "that's criminal was detected and punished. How

straightforward way of Lincoln, backed by Times. the confidence of the jury, won.

Crushes Fond Father's Hopes. "Times are changed," said Mark Twain,

integrity would be able to get on. "A rich lawyer, after dinner the other through, night, went into his den for a smoke. He took down from his pipe rack a superb occupied at times. meerschaum, a Christmas present from his pipe, it came apart in his hands. The after all the members of the company had bowl had been broken in two and then been assigned rooms. carelessly stuck together.

know who had broken his new meerschaum. knowing who he was, " 'Father,' he said, 'I cannot tell a He. I

tonian veracity, but that night on his pillow he groaned and went on terribly about the incident.

my life's dearest wish to rear up my son ald.

The Price of Silence.

friendless defendant. On the trial Lincoln far from Cincinnati discovered one morn- good thing. ing recently, on entering his office, that his safe was out of order. He immediately "only when they are extremely apt, the safe, an old-fashioned affair locked quotation is a political speech.

"Twenty dollars." "Do any of your firm's patrons here know of your visit?"

'Not a soul but yourself." "Then," added the business man, "here's forty deliars. I'll take it to be a great platform, with a smile: favor if you'll hustle out by the first train.

HIS anecdote of Lincoln's adminis- "How do you like the butter?" asked the think that you would be bunked at the of positive testimony and the marvelous for me, I'd never do another dollar's worth tice. Carp is disliked by the lovers of the tration was told several years ago host. "Excellent," was the reply. "I can price." virtue of a reasonable doubt. The simple, of business in the whole state,"-New York game fish. The streams and lakes where

Knew Who Used It.

playwright, once visited a small town in the eggs of game fish, and many wish they speaking of Washington. "I doubt if now- Pennsylvania, where there is a hotel they had never been planted. The opinion seems adays a man of Washington's unswerving say George Washington, the father of his to prevail that a law should be passed country, used to stop at when he passed permitting the carp to be netted from the

Hoyt came through there once with one wife; but, alse, as he started to fill the of his attractions. He arrived at the hotel

One of the company was given the Wash-"With loud growls of rage the lawyer ington room, and lioyt received a poor rushed from his den and demanded to room on the top floor, the proprietor not

When he came downstairs later, the gentleman who had got the good room said: "Mr. Hoyt, they have given me the room "The lawyer praised the lad's Washing- that they used to give George Washington

when he came here." "Well," said Hoyt, "the one they have given me must be the one they gave Bene-"'Heaven help me,' he said, 'it had been dict Arnold when he came."-Boston Her-

Makes Apt Quotation. Edgar Saltus, the brilliant novelist, was asked by a young lady at a ten if he when from 6 to 12 months old. A well-known business man in a town not thought that the use of quotations was a

"Quotations are good," said Mr. Saltus, "There was once a witty Irishman, James When the latter arrived he found that E. Fitzgerald, who made excellent use of a

"During his speech he was repeatedly in-

stances, and after conceding that this and piece of wire, dug out from the key a mass large sausage making plant. An adherent that seemed to point to defendant's guilt, of dust and lint. He then opened the safe of Fitzgerald's finally took offense at the "Hey, you, leave politics alone and go back to your sausage machine!"

"The butcher glared at the man and retorted: "If I had this speaker in one of my sausage machines I'd soon make mincemeat

"Then Mr. Fitzgerald quoted from the " Is thy servant a dog that thou shouldst any one in this town knew that I had do this thing!" "-New York Times.

fish. 200 bass, ranging from 6 months to 5 years old, seined from Gibson lake, near Nebraska City, and transferred to Cutoff.