

*Turn out the people
that sell Oregon game fish for Europe & home
Oregon. substitute
7 head game stream with Camchal, fish*

The native trout in Oregon streams might well be compared with the people living in any farming community. The existence of both depends upon the food supply in the area.

If a thousand Asiatics or Europeans were suddenly landed in a farming community and had to hustle for a living, the Americans would suffer or be driven out.

The scientific facts, which few people recognize, are that each good trout stream has a natural supply of insect food which is limited in amount. It is precisely the same as a meadow in the mountains. Its carrying capacity, according to the forage, may be a hundred head of sheep. Turn a thousand loose in this area, and they are soon starved out. There is a chance of the sheep surviving by spreading to other pastures, but the livestock business is not run on gamble and chance.

For years, the efforts of the Game Commission have turned toward producing about 15,000,000 to 20,000,000 game fish fingerlings and planting them in streams, trusting to luck that the crop will mature. Many sportsmen have expressed the opinion that the fish supply is not increasing but diminishing and that out of the millions planted very few survive. The opinion is expressed that when 50,000 or 100,000 fingerling trout are planted in a stream in order to improve angling, the Game Commission should supply some proof that fishing conditions on the stream have improved, so anglers may know that their license funds are not wasted.

The preliminary survey of the food of Oregon trout, published by the Oregon State Agricultural College, strongly ad-

vises a scientific survey of streams where trout fry are planted. Large numbers of fish should not be liberated in any one area but rather in different locations along the course of a waterway. Hatchery-reared fish should be planted only where a survey shows that fish-food organisms are abundant. Since the food supply in a stream varies the same as the forage does in a meadow, the survey should also determine the time of the year that fingerlings should be released.

In the light of the facts discovered, liberations of young trout should not be made in tidewater or even where the water is fresh above tidewater because very few aquatic insects are found in or near salt water. Observations showed that fish liberated in such places drifted down stream and no food was found in their stomachs. Many of these little fish were gobbled up by predatory species.

A careful survey may show that a
great system of hatcheries in a creek
— study by at out of —
What are the results. - M. C. ...

LOCH LEVEN TROUT ARE CANNIBALS

The Loch Leven trout is claimed to be peculiar to the Scotch lake of the same name. It is similar to the brown trout of Europe.

During the past year, the State Game Commission has planted nearly a million of these foreign trout in Clackamas, Deschutes, Douglas, Hood River, Lane, Lynn, Marion, Polk, Multnomah, Washington and Yamhill Counties.

The United States Bureau of Fisheries is using this trout to stock eastern streams where they claim that no other trout can live. It is fully recognized that these foreign trout are detrimental to our native species because they are spawn-eaters. Experts of the Bureau say that they are predatory and are a menace in many places to native fish.

The rainbow and cutthroat trout native to Oregon streams are unsurpassed by any other trout in the world. Experts claim that the money should be spent to increase these species rather than a foreign species that is predatory. The Dolly Varden trout is a native of Oregon streams, but its propagation is prohibited by a law passed by the Oregon legislature.

In the last annual report of the Game Commission is the following statement: "The department has no intention of introducing any foreign fish to take the place of our native trout. However, there is much water in the state which is not suitable for the native trout and in which they will not stay."

Loch Leven trout have been planted in a number of streams like the Umpqua. During migration, the steelheads ascend this stream where the alien trout have been planted, and the fingerling steelheads descend through the same area. Once established

in these waters, there is nothing to prevent the cannibals from spreading to other parts of streams to take the place of rainbows or cutthroats.

The planting of bass, Loch Leven and other species means the gradual elimination of our native fish. It is trading the most valuable angling asset of our Oregon streams for a mess of pottage. Unless sportsmen are satisfied with anything that wears fins, now is the time to protest.