

CORRESPONDENCE.

EXTENSIVE FISH PLANTING.

Permit me to respectfully submit for the information of the general public the following report of the distribution of black bass from Utah Lake, as provided by chapter 25, session laws of 1897.

In pursuance of said act, distribution and plantings of the Oswego or large mouth bass in the waters of Utah have been made as follows: On the 4th and 5th of May, 1897, a very large car load of live bass was taken to the northern part of the State and planted in Bear Lake and Bear river in Rich. Cache and Boxelder counties; the number of fish in the several plantings aggregating about 2,500 in all. Of this number there were about 450 spawners that would average nearly two and one-half pounds in weight each, and estimated to spawn from fifteen to twenty thousand eggs to each two fish this season. These bass being planted just before spawning time it may be reasonably expected that the waters into which they were put will receive a large stock of young bass this season; and in the two years and six months that they are protected by special act from being taken in any manner, those should be well stocked with this excellent food and game fish.

On the 30th day of October I took a shipment of bass to Richfield as a stocking plant for the waters of the upper Sevier valley. This plant consisted of 1,230 fish, 130 of which were spawners ranging from one to five pounds each.

The 12th day of November another shipment of 2,000 bass was made to the waters of the lower Sevier river and distributed from Chicken Creek lake in Juab county to Swan and Clear lakes in Millard county. Of this shipment two large barrels containing 23 large spawners each were taken out at Juab station and sent to Scipio lake in charge of Hon. Orvil L. Thompson of Scipio; and in passing Chicken Creek lake, one barrel of spawners was taken out and planted there. Four hundred yearling fry were taken out and planted in the Sevier river at the dam site of the Bonneville Reservoir company; after which the bulk of the shipment was taken to Deseret and planted by County Warden S. H. Nichols of Millard county in the waters of the lower Sevier river and lakes with which the river connects.

Two barrels containing 45 spawners were taken to Clear lake and planted there.

These several plantings of the Oswego bass from Utah lake which have been made during the present season give a wide distribution throughout the State to this very good game and food fish, and much benefit will result therefrom in a few years if the law in regard to their protection be observed and complied with by the people. Too much emphasis cannot be placed on the importance of compliance with the provisions of the law protecting these fish; but I fear that there are those who have very little voluntary respect for it, and I have reason to think and believe that some of the early season's planting have been already taken since they were planted. As an instance tending strongly to this belief, I will state that, a few days ago in company with S. F. Thompson, the warden of Boxelder county, while returning from the mouth of Bear river, where I had been investigating for some evidence of the bass planted in that locality in the early part of the season, we saw two men with a boat hauling a seine on the opposite side of

the river from us. As it is unlawful to use seines anywhere only in Utah, Bear and Sevier lakes and in the Green and Grand rivers at specified seasons, Mr. Thompson called the men to our side of the river with their boat and seine, and upon their arrival promptly placed them under arrest. Upon examination of their catch nothing was found but suckers, but I am satisfied that if these men and other violators like them should chance to get a bass or two in their nets, that they would fail to distinguish the difference; or forget to put the bass back again into the water.

These men whom we caught in the very act of violating the law told us that it was a common occurrence for other parties to come down from Brigham City and use seines in the river, and which they stated had been going on all summer. Whether this statement is true or only made with a hope of mitigating their own folly and transgression, I cannot say; but I fear that it is too true, and if true, it is very much to be regretted, as it will be impossible to stock the waters of our State if vandals take out the parent stock as fast as it is put in; and the hard work of years, and the expenditure of the people's money in trying to stock our streams and lakes with good food and game fishes will be thrown away unless this vandalism ceases.

As the fish and game law permits the taking of bass with hook and line, some persons may get the erroneous impression that these bass recently planted may be taken lawfully in that way, but it is not so. A special act of the Legislature of 1897 appropriating \$500 for the purpose of stocking Bear lake and the Bear and Sevier rivers with black bass from Utah lake was passed, and in section 2 provides that, "It shall be unlawful for any person to take, in any manner whatever, from any of the waters mentioned in the preceding section, any black bass, planted in pursuance of this act, for two and one-half years from the approval of this act, and any person convicted of a violation of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor." See chapter xxv, session laws of 1897. All citizens who are interested in the material advancement and development of the State should not hesitate to give information to the proper officers when any violation of this law comes under their notice.

In the distribution of these bass throughout the State I have been enabled to make more liberal plantings than would have been otherwise possible with the appropriation, through the generosity of Vice President and General Manager W. H. Bancroft of the Oregon Short Line Railway company, and General Superintendent A. E. Welby of the Rio Grande Western Railway company in furnishing free transportation for the fish. Both companies have been very magnanimous in the matter, but from the geographical distribution of the waters required to be stocked, the larger share of the task fell to the Short Line company. For the shipment to the northern part of the State made in the early part of the season, the Short Line furnished a large special car well adapted for our purpose, and hauled it with its large load of live fish from Provo to Bear lake (and return empty) on the regular express train, and instructed the employees along the line to give us all the assistance we might need in supplying the fish with fresh water on the way.

In a similar manner Mr. Bancroft again furnished another special car for the shipment recently made to the lower Sevier river. This car was hauled over the road a distance of three or four hundred miles back and forth, and kept at the disposal of the fish and game department for three days.

In the shipment made to Richfield on the 30th of October last, the R. G. W. Ry. Co. very generously gave up the use of one half of the baggage car on its regular passenger train for the accommodation of the fish; and it has liberally granted favors on other occasions to the fish and game department of the State.

The liberality of Gen. Supt. Welby and General Manager Bancroft in so generously furnishing free transportation for the distribution of these bass throughout the State is highly commendable, and deserving of much credit from the State and the general public; and in behalf of the State fish and game department of Utah they have my most hearty thanks.

I have also to thank County Warden Myron C. Newell of Provo and Mart Garn of Salt Lake, and also Deputy State Warden Frank H. Rudey for their efficient and untiring aid in the handling and planting of the fish. Especial credit is due to Mr. Garn for the expert, able and persistent manner in which he wielded the air pump on the occasion of the large consignment to Bear lake.

JOHN SHARP,
State Fish and Game Warden.

THAT CANAL PROJECT.

Oneida, Ida., Republican: President Parkinson returned Friday from the north where he had been attending a meeting called for the purpose of looking into the advisability of the construction of a canal which, while touching other localities, would furnish water for the irrigation of the west side of Cache valley.

As announced in last week's Republican, representatives from all sections interested had been requested to meet with the president on Bear river Wednesday and fourteen delegates were present, all settlements interested, with the exception of Weston, being represented, representative men being sent from each ward.

The day was very stormy, and after looking over the ground at a point on Bear river, just below Soda Point, where the natural formation would allow the easy construction of a dam fifty feet high, the party repaired to the house of Wm. Davis, where a meeting was held. After an interesting discussion, which lasted several hours, it was decided that the plan of constructing the proposed canal was feasible, and could be carried out if all would unite. The meeting then adjourned to meet at Weston Wednesday, Dec. 3rd, at 10 a.m.

In the meantime it is expected that the plans discussed will be presented at mass meetings in the several communities and submitted to a vote. Should the proposition of the committee be ratified steps will be taken immediately to organize a company and the engineering work commenced at once.

The plans as suggested by the committee are to dam Bear river at the point mentioned, taking the water north to Bancroft Flat, thence into the Portneuf river, taking the water again from the Portneuf, carrying it down the east side of Marsh valley, and from there down the west side of Cache valley, two laterals being run, one across Bear river to the northern part of Gentile valley and another into Round valley.