

# VIII.—REPORT OF OPERATIONS AT THE U. S. SALMON-BREED- ING STATION, ON THE M'CLOUD RIVER, CALIFORNIA, DURING THE SEASON OF 1884.

By LIVINGSTON STONE.

During the summer of 1883 the Central Pacific Railroad Company was engaged in building a road from Redding, Cal., northward up the line of the Sacramento River. The heavy blasting involved in the construction operations of the railroad company, near the mouth of Pitt River, had the effect of destroying or stopping nearly all the salmon which would have ascended the Pitt River, of which the McCloud River is a tributary. The consequence was that it became impossible to take the usual number of salmon eggs at the McCloud Station. Indeed, it was with great difficulty, and only by persevering efforts under great discouragements, that enough parent fish could be caught to yield the extremely small number of a million salmon eggs.

Owing to these circumstances, it was thought best to intermit operations at this station for this season. Accordingly, nothing has been done here this year except to leave things *in statu quo*, and to keep the property belonging to the Commission in safety, the only current expenses being for the salary of the janitor in charge of the property, and for some slight repairs, the whole not exceeding, I believe, \$400. No losses nor disasters of any kind have occurred during the year.

It should be mentioned, however, that the large current-wheel which furnishes the water supply for the hatching-house was completely wrecked by an accident which happened last year. In replacing it, it will probably be necessary to build two new flat-boats to support it, the cost of all of which is estimated at \$800. Various plans for raising an adequate water supply to the hatching-house have been suggested, but none of them seem to be practicable, and it will undoubtedly be necessary to build a new current-wheel before operations can be satisfactorily renewed at this station. With the exception just mentioned, the station and all its equipments at the time of making this report (October, 1884) are in good condition.

CHARLESTOWN, N. H., October 30, 1884.