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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Fish pond visit is interesting

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THE TROUT fishing season seems far away but I had a look recently at the fish rearing ponds at Cardigan where the Island angler's best sport fish is reared each year.

With me was Jim Cudmore, manager of the Guardian-Patriot's Montague bureau, and we were shown around by Stan Freeman, manager of the establishment.

More than a million trout and salmon are reared there each year – 1,200,000 were distributed last year – for distribution to the province's ponds and streams.

The young fish were hatched last year at Southport but the hatchery there closed this year and next year's supply will have to come from some other source.

Tall Fish Stories In The Making

THE FISH fry or baby trout, and the young salmon, are fed to the fingerling stage and are released when they are about five inches in length. How many of them survive is a matter of argument, but many of them live to stock the streams for the people who get some of their fun with rod and reel.

I watched Mr. Freeman feed about five pounds of ground liver to about 19,000 young Salmon in one of the ponds, and thought of how many fish stories would be told in future about catching some of the fish when they grew up. A fish does not have to be big to get a reputation for size when some of the master craftsmen of the fish-story game go into action.

DISTRIBUTION to ponds and streams is made after consultation with the county fish and game associations. Mr. Cudmore is prominent in the Kings County association.

This is the first year that the Cardigan establishment is carrying on a winter program. A new home has been constructed for the man who is in charge.

Wild Geese Raising Has Problems

YESTERDAY I talked with Lorne Jenkins who usually raises a few wild geese which he sells at premium prices. The Cross Roads Man has been doing that now for many years but this year he had none to sell. The goose laid her usual settings of eggs after mating with the wild gander. But the goslings never appeared. "I broke the eggs open and they were rotten", said Mr. Jenkins who cannot account for the failure to hatch a single gosling.

He trapped his original pair of geese many years ago and started raising the wild geese from them. He has kept it up ever since. He kept one pair of breeders for twenty years.

SOME UNUSUAL experiences were recalled yesterday. One of them concerned the time a bunch of neighbours shot a half dozen or more of his wild geese without knowing they belonged to him.

Lorne keeps the geese from flying away by keeping one wing clipped. But this time the little flock flew and hedge-hopped their way to a field about a mile away. A group of neighbours saw the wild geese feeding in a grain field, went home for their guns and blasted away.

The gunmen got all of the geese, save one gosling whose wings were good enough to lift her out of trouble and back home. It was when the gunners started to pick up the geese that they realized their mistake. The clipped wings indicated they belonged to Mr. Jenkins whom they called immediately with their unusual tale of woe.

Flour Mill Links Past, Present

WE FOUND a link, last week between the province's past and present. It was the Leards' flour mill at Coleman, one of the two mills left in the province that grind flour from wheat. And it's good flour too. The mill is operated by brothers Waldron and Albert Leard. The other mill is at Bedeque and it is operated by Albert's son, Heath Leard. So the Leard family controls this link with the past.

The brothers were unable to tell me how many grists of Island wheat are brought to their mill. But, apparently, there are enough to keep their mill busy through several months of the year. Grist even come from New Brunswick at times.

The mill runs in the fall and winter season, closes down during the summer months until the next autumn's crop is due. Older readers will recall that a miller took his pay in "toll" or a certain amount of the grist. That system was discarded back in the Forties, I was told.

MOST OF the machinery was interesting but a "Carter disc separator" fascinated me. A series of parallel, "Vertical, rotating discs do the separating. There's not a sign of a screen or even an imitation of one. But the discs take out the barley and oat seeds. The weed seeds come out in another slot.

Grab a handful of barley or other foreign seeds and hurl them into the mix and they are separated again as if by magic. The machine is useful as well as interesting.

To Heat House By Electricity

A DIESEL engine provides the power that was furnished previously by a water wheel. But Albert Leard is fixing up the water wheel to furnish him with power for a dynamo that will provide electricity until a power line is run to his part of the province.

Mr. Laird has a large dynamo and he is going to use the electricity to heat his house as well as light it, he said.