

STATEMENT OF EXPENSES—CONTINUED.

DATE.	Number.	IN WHOSE FAVOR.	ON WHAT ACCOUNT.	AMOUNT.
June	1	53 A. A. Mosher.....	Cash paid for man.....	47.00
July	1	54 Ole Byorensen.....	Employe.....	25.00
August	1	55 Ole Byorensen.....	Employe.....	25.00
October	1	56 A. A. Mosher.....	Cash paid coal, etc.....	28.00
October	1	57 W. W. Stowe.....	Hardware.....	6.56
October	1	58 Ole Byorensen.....	Employe.....	50.00
December	13	59 A. A. Mosher.....	Cash expenses.....	31.00
December	13	60 Ole Byorensen.....	Employe.....	50.00
December	13	61 A. H. Smith.....	Work with team.....	12.00
December	13	62 A. A. Mosher.....	Board, employe.....	48.00
1885				
January	1	63 Ole Byorensen.....	Employe.....	25.00
March	3	64 Ole Byorensen.....	Employe.....	50.00
March	3	65 A. A. Mosher.....	Cash expenses.....	10.45
March	3	66 Barrow & Dodge.....	Lumber.....	13.48
March	3	67 W. W. Stowe.....	Hardware, etc.....	5.49
March	3	68 A. A. Mosher.....	Cash expenses.....	31.00
April	31	69 Ole Byorensen.....	Employe.....	50.00
April	31	70 A. A. Mosher.....	Cash expenses.....	35.89
April	31	71 W. W. Stowe.....	Cans, etc.....	13.10
		Total.....		\$ 1,112.89

I hereby certify the above account is true, as shown by the vouchers on file in the Auditor's office at Des Moines.

SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA.

A. A. MOSHER, *Assistant Commissioner.*

REPORT

OF THE

JOINT COMMITTEE

OF THE
TWENTY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE
STATE OF IOWA,

APPOINTED TO VISIT THE

State Hatching Houses

LOCATED AT

ANAMOSA AND SPIRIT LAKE.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

DES MOINES:
GEO. E. ROBERTS, STATE PRINTER.
1886.

REPORT.

To the Twenty first General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Your committee appointed by Concurrent Resolution No. 9, of the Twenty-first General Assembly, to visit the State Hatching-houses at Anamosa and Spirit Lake, ask leave to submit the following report:

That in pursuance to an agreement between the committee, we met at Anamosa, Jones county, Iowa, on Wednesday, January 20, and proceeded on the day following to visit the hatching-house under the control of Fish Commissioner A. A. Aldrich, which is located about three and one half miles southwest of Anamosa.

The property owned by the State at this place, and on which the hatching-house is located, consists of about twenty-three acres of land, lying among the bluffs of Wapsiepenicon river, and seems well adapted to the uses of the Fish Commission. The water supply is abundant and of the finest quality, being furnished from a spring on the premises.

In the basement of the hatching-house are the numerous troughs through which this water passes, and in which we found a large number of young fish ready for distribution, and many more in process of hatching, which are expected to be in readiness for distribution during the coming spring and summer.

We found various kinds of fish on hand, as follows: Rainbow Trout, 11,000, weighing from a quarter to three pounds each, and of which about one half are old enough to spawn the coming season. Lake trout, of all sizes, about 1,000,000, most of which will be old enough for distribution the coming season. About 7,000 German Carp, now ready for distribution.

There were also on the trays in the hatching-house about 75,000 Brook Trout spawn, for which the correspondence in the office of the Commissioner shows a large demand from parties in the northern and northeastern portion of the State, requests for not less than 300,000

coming from one county alone. There were also on file, from parties wishing to stock private ponds, 2,500 applications for German Carp, most of which will be filled from the United States Commissioner, being distributed, however, through the State Commissioner.

We find, on careful examination of the books and accounts of Commissioner Aldrich, that the appropriations made by the Twentieth General Assembly, so far as they have passed into his hands, have been judiciously and economically expended; for a more particular report of which we refer you to his report, now on file in the office of the Secretary of State.

No indebtedness has been contracted, and a sufficient amount of the appropriation yet remains unexpended to meet the wants of the Commissioner till the close of the present fiscal year.

Your committee are of the opinion, from all the information attainable, that much of the labor expended heretofore in propagating many varieties of foreign fish and distributing them in the waters of Iowa, has proven a failure, and still as this work, both in Iowa and elsewhere, is largely experimental, we are satisfied that enough of success has been achieved to warrant the State in continuing the Commission, though perhaps on a somewhat more economical basis.

The Commissioner has had in his employ one assistant, Mr. James Cleveland, at \$45 per month without board.

After completing our investigation at the Anamosa Hatchery, your committee started for Spirit Lake, to continue its work there, but owing to the snow blockade the committee was obliged, after spending two days and nights in fruitless endeavors to reach that point to abandon the effort for the present, and return to our duties at Des Moines, *via* McGregor and Sabula.

On the 6th day of February your committee again started for the hatching house at Spirit Lake, which we found in charge of Assistant Fish Commissioner A. A. Mosher.

This branch of the State Hatching-house is beautifully located on an isthmus lying between Spirit Lake and East Okoboji Lake, in Dickinson county, and is the property of the Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Mosher, the State paying him a rental of \$300 per annum for the use of the same.

There is here a most abundant supply of clear lake water, furnished from Spirit Lake, the waters of which are about four feet higher than those of Lake Okoboji, thus giving sufficient fall for the succession of

ponds which are necessary for successfully carrying on the business of the Commission.

Your committee was somewhat disappointed at the showing made by this branch of the Fish Commission. We found on hand only about 23 Buffalo fish, about 300 Croppies, 4 Carp (breeders), and a few Wall-eyed Pike, Pickerel, etc.

Your committee feel compelled to say, in answer to the interrogatories in Concurrent Resolution No. 9, that they do not think the appropriations made by the last General Assembly, so far as they have been expended at this branch of the State Fishery, have been wisely and economically expended.

Including the salary of the Assistant Commissioner, rental of property, and other expenses, \$2,511.50 have been expended here during the past fiscal period, and we are compelled to say that there is very little of practical results to show for the money expended.

No breeding or propagating of fish for distribution has been done at this hatchery, with the exception of a few hundred Black Bass, since the winter of 1884-5.

Your committee should state, however, in fairness to the Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Mosher, that he claims that this unsatisfactory showing is largely due to a want of means to properly carry on the work, the Executive Council having refused to honor his drafts on the State treasury since April last.

The Assistant Commissioner, as seen by his report, has had in his employ for sixteen months of the fiscal period, one laborer, Ole Bjorenson, at a monthly compensation of \$25.00, and has also received for board of the same \$40.00 additional. Also, for two months, Wm. Weed, laborer, at \$20.00 per month.

As little or no propagating or distributing of fish was being done at the hatching-house; and as it is not even claimed that any considerable improvements have been made to the plant itself, your committee are at a loss to account for the necessity of employing laborers at the expense of the State.

There is no doubt in the minds of your committee that the interests of the State would be promoted by increasing the authority of the Commissioner to prevent the destruction of the native fish in our waters, by seining and other illegal devices used for their destruction; and we recommend such legislation to the attention of the legislature.

In conclusion, your committee would recommend that an appropriation of twenty-five hundred dollars be made for continuing the work of the Commission at Anamosa; and that, unless it is thought advisable for the State to purchase and own the property at Spirit Lake, the work of the Commission at that point be discontinued.

A. N. POYNEER,

On part of the Senate.

A. CUSTER,

THEO. NACHTWEY,

On part of the House.