

methods of the sea fisheries. A plan for the systematic investigation which seemed yearly more necessary in view of the dissensions between the Governments of the United States and Great Britain. In 1879 a combination was formed with the Superintendent of the Tenth Census, by which the Commissioner was enabled to carry more rapidly forward this branch of the work. Specialists were dispatched to all parts of the country to study the biological, statistical, and practical aspects of the fisheries. In 1878 the breeding of cod and haddock was accomplished at Gloucester. In 1879 the propagation of the oyster was accomplished by co-operation with the Maryland Commission, under the direction of Major Ferguson, and the distribution of the carp throughout the country was begun.

1880.

The summer station is at Newport, R. I. The Fish Hawk, a steamer of 484 tons, constructed expressly for the work of the commission, lies at the wharf, now equipped for scientific research, later to be employed in the propagation of the sea fish, such as the cod and the mackerel. Over fifty investigations are in the field in the service of the commission. The season was opened by the participation of the commission in the International Exhibition at Berlin. The first-honor prize, the gift of the Emperor of Germany, was awarded to Professor Baird, not alone as an acknowledgement that the display of the United States was the most perfect and most imposing, but as a personal tribute to one who, in the words of the president of the Deutscher Fischerie Verein, is regarded in Europe as the first fish-culturist in the world.

SCARCITY OF BLACKFISH IN THE SOUTH.

By CHARLES C. LESLIE.

[NOTE.—In view of the immense and unusual abundance of the sea bass or blackfish, *Serranus atrarius*, on the coast of Southern New England, the following note from Mr. C. C. Leslie to G. Brown Goode possesses much interest :]

We have noticed for the past four or five years the scarcity of blackfish in the summer, and especially this summer. The smacks here have not made their expenses for the past two months. I have just seen Capt. S. M. Corker, one of our most expert blackfish fishermen, who has been in the business for thirty years. He states that he has never seen them so scarce as they are, and that in former years they could catch enough to pay expenses during the summer. Captain Corker told me also, about the first of June, a vessel came into this port; her captain reported that he sailed through acres of codfishes floating belly up between Hatteras and Cape Henry. The fishes were not dead, but very weak.

CHARLESTON, S. C., June 29, 1882.