the sardine canneries are closed, it will seldom be found desirable to
dish them) the gates can be left open and the fish can escape as easily
as they enter.

The principal point in favor of the proposed law is, I think, found in
the fact that the small herring are very poor during the winter months,
and those canned at that time, being of inferior quality, seriously injure
the reputation of American sardines. If the Maine canners would buy
only good fish and pack them in better oil the prejudice against "her-
ring sardines" would soon wholly disappear, and the demand for them
would be greatly increased.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 30, 1883.

103.—SHAD WORK IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

By C. J. HUSKE.

[From a letter to Prof. S. F. Baird.]

In March our attention was directed to the shad station on the Edisto
River. Last season we constructed a rough frame building at the base
of a small pond fed by springs from the neighboring hills. The tin
hatching cones were fed by surface water at an elevation of 10 feet.
This season we added two glass hatching jars, thus making the ca-
pacity 2,000,000 per week.

Shad fishing begins on the Edisto River early in January and con-
tinues until the first of April. Between 35 and 40 gill-nets are employed
in a distance of 8 miles and just within tide water. They average to
catch 350 fish per net. Shad fishing is done between the night tides
and mostly after midnight. During the day the water is so very clear
as to render gill-nets unavailing.

We rarely, if ever, find ripe eggs. A large number of shad were
handled in a half-ripe condition. The eggs when forced came in clots.
A large per cent. were apparently ripe and were impregnated on com-
ing in contact with the milt. The greater number, however, had no
appearance of being ripe, were small, hard, and perfectly white. We
succeeded in obtaining a small number of eggs and planted 440,000 fry
in the Edisto. I visited the Savannah River at Augusta and the North
Fork of the Edisto River during the month of April, and found the
catch very small. The 500,000 fry which I procured from you in May
were planted in Broad River at the Atlanta and Charlotte Air Line
Railroad crossing. These were in fine condition when released, the
loss in transportation not exceeding 3,000. Active operations in this
State have been going on for so short a time that the results are as yet
comparatively small, but the enthusiasm of our citizens is widespread.

COLUMBIA, S. C., June 1, 1882.