

55.—CARP APPEAR FEBRUARY 7, TAKE THE HOOK, AND ARE EXCELLENT EATING.**By B. D. PALMER.**

Being under the impression that, in this latitude, carp spent the entire winter in the mud in a state of torpor, I was greatly surprised by seeing one spring out of the water in my pond last Thursday, February 7, within thirty-six hours of the disappearance of the ice which had covered the pond for six weeks preceding. I tried my hook and line and caught five. Every day since, they have come to the surface for bread, although one day the mercury was as low as 38°. To-day they took the hook as freely as in summer; and I caught 30—ranging from 5 to 13 inches in length. Nearly all were scale-carp. They were particularly good, being firm and delicate; much better than those caught in the summer. This size are much better as pan-fish than the very large fish.

SANDY SPRING, MD., *February 13, 1884.***56.—COMISION DE PISCICULTURA DE LA REPUBLICA MEXICANA.****By ALFRED V. LA MOTTE,**

[Comisionado General.]

With regard to the foundation of the Mexican Fish Commission, I would state that last year the Government of Mexico opened communication with me relative to the feasibility of restocking its waters with good fish. This culminated in my going to Mexico and making an examination of the principal waters of the central portion of the republic in connection with other investigations which they wished made. On the receipt and acceptance of the reports, the Government tendered to me the honor of commissioner of fisheries for the republic, which I accepted. I proceeded to locate a national hatchery at the springs of Chimealapan, in the State of Mexico, and carp-breeding ponds in the park of Chapultepec, as I believe this latter fish will thrive well in most of the small lakes. On my return to Mexico, a Board of State Commissioners will be appointed for each State, and will proceed as rapidly as circumstances will permit toward stocking the rivers and inland waters. After completing my inspection of the rivers and lakes this year, I can form a more correct idea of my future movements, but so far as my present knowledge goes, I can see no reason why fish should not abound in the waters of Mexico.

GLEN ELLEN, CAL., *April 8, 1884.*