

The first kind liberated was called the American Brook trout, a dark fish, and like the eucaly mottled rainbow.

I remember

I call to remembrance that after the district was what one might say, well established, that is every one, working to the fullest capacity on their various farms. Stock breeding of various kinds according to the farmers choice, Sheep, cattle, horses &c. Year in year out the general round of seasonal work. Homesteads showing general home like appearance with trees, garden &c. There was one thing that appears to add general charm to the place, & that was invariably the large flocks of pigeons of various colours, on most places. These were of course all tame and used to their lofts. Their flying and wheeling in the sunshine, showed off their loveliness. But, after the introduction of the sparrow and the resultant necessity to use poisoned grain for their destruction on account of their destructiveness on newly sown crops. The pigeon also found where there was food to be obtained, & equally fell a victim with the sparrow, & very soon there were very few left. It was no uncommon thing to see the birds come home about sunrise or little after, settle on the shelf of their loft or on the top of any shed and roll down dead. I daresay that the poison was also

Pigeons

using that as bait to bring the fish out. It might be interesting to know how it was that the trout got distributed through the district away from the creeks ~~and~~ but along all the ditches. Report said that, in the distribution of the ~~fish~~ young fry, it was necessary to keep the water fresh in which they were carried. There was not the quick transport that there was in later times, and a conveyment going forwards towards the river further South towards Asburton & perhaps further, ~~but~~ at any rate those in charge, stayed for the evening on their journey south, at what was the property of Mr Wm Bay of the Drains, the containers of the fish were placed in the creek, <sup>or ditches</sup> in close proximity to the homestead. During the night report said that one of the workmen tipped one of these over, at any rate there were fish in all the ditches on the Kilinchy side, and through Brookside right down to Lake Ellersmere, in a couple of years and as the ditches were easily of access too & not very deep, it was not hard matter to tickle or 'fuddle' the trout as I think that was what the process was called. It was not a pastime that was indulged in by many to use the rod & line, but I never heard that it was illegal to tickle in the ditches, at any rate there was no possibility of "casting the line" in such narrow quarters.