

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 30, 1879.
Dear Doctor Dawson,

A work on the fishes of North America is still a desideratum, although I hope we may be in a condition to furnish it before long. I have in press a very excellent synopsis of North American fishes by Prof. Jordan, which will embrace both the marine & fresh-water species. About 100 pages of this are in type, but the work is stopped during Prof. Jordan's absence in Europe. I think it probable it will be completed about the first of January. If you will renew your request about that time I shall be happy to send out to you some to the Governor General.

When I met Mr. Whitcher, the Minister of Marine & Fisheries in Halifax two years ago, there was some talk of a joint-publication of a work on the food fishes common to the two countries.

I am having a most-magnificent series of drawings made, already embracing nearly 200 species. My proposition was that Canada should bear the expense of engraving these drawings, & that I would then have the work published, & furnish to Canada as many copies at absolute cost of production as might be desired.

The engravings would probably cost about \$250
apiece, & I suppose 250 plates would cover the
series.

I have written to Mr. Whitcher on ^{the} ^{same} ^{topic} ^{on} this
subject, but have had no reply. I hope I
shall in time publish the work myself.

I am happy to say that the revising
of the water birds of North America is nearly
completed & that the text will be ready to go to
press in a few months.

Yours very truly
Spencer W Baird

Dr. J. W. Dawson
Little Metis.
Province of Quebec.
Canada.

Baird
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