Pike-Perch Season Opens in New York State Next Friday; Cod, Cunners and Blackfish in Outside Waters

FLOUNDERS BITING IN LOCAL WATERS

Jamaica, Sheepshead, Flatlands and Great South Bays Good Places to Go To.

HOW TO LURE FLAT FISH

By LOUIS F. LEWIS.

The warm weather of the last few weeks has brought the flounders out of the mud, where they have been hibernating throughout the winter. From now on they will bite well into the early part of June.

These fish are abundant in the waters around Long Island. As near as New Rochelle, when the fish are in season an angler can always rely on a good mess of these fine pan fish.

For flounder fishing the boat should be anchored with as little rope as possible, half way between the middle of the channels and the edges. This will prevent the boat from drifting around on the slack rope. The boat must lie steady. The fisherman must "feel" his line constantly, as the flounders take the bait lightly, usually only sucking it into their mouths.

Flounders must be struck at once or ten to one they will steal your bait and get away. The flat often are small in the bays, rarely weighing above one and three-quarter pounds, but in the outside waters they are not caught in such large quantities, but they average two and one-quarter pounds in weight and have been caught weighing as high as four pounds.

Flounders Bottom Feeders.

Many anglers are in doubt as to the gameness of this little fish, but if they wish to enjoy considerable sport let them go down to one of the famous flounder spots and fish, and I am positive that the least doubt will be erased from their minds.

The fish are exclusively bottom feeders, rarely swimming six inches above the mud in which they feed. The best spots are in the soft black mud in water from four to fifteen feet in depth at high tide.

Anglers should examine the mud on the bottom. To do this lift the anchor and if the mud brought up with the anchor has white specks in it and has a velvety touch you will find that you will have no difficulty in locating the flounders, as they feed in this kind of mud. Do not fish in places where the mud is slimy, as the flounders are a clean little fish and despise a dirty bottom.

One of the best ways to rig for flounders is to see first that the hooks are tied so that the first will rest on the bottom; the second two inches above the first and the third two inches above the second hook.

Most anglers prefer to use a wire spreader, which allows the use of three hooks and keeps them on the bottom without tangling.

The hooks should have strong snells. Avoid the use of leaders. The best hook for bay fishing is the No. 11 Chestertown and the No. 9 Kirby.

For outside fishing, where the fish average two and a half pounds, use either a No. 8 Chestertown or No. 7 Kirby, as in flounder fishing small hooks get better results than large hooks, the flounder having an exceedingly small mouth.

I have caught large numbers of flounders on bloodworms, which I cut up into small baits, putting on just enough to cover the hook.

Although flounders prefer this bait to all others, sandworms and soft clams are next in value, and I have caught flounders in the XXX "Hole" in Sheepshead Bay on the common garden worm, but when other baits can be procured do not use garden worms.

The fish do not seek the bait, and therefore must be hunted. If they are not biting in one place, it is advisable to move the boat fifty feet or more and anchor again.

When fishing in shallow water, about five to eight feet deep, I would suggest that the angler stir up the bottom with an oar, as the fish will come from a distance when they see the swirl of mud and water, because they are attracted by the worms that come out with the mud.

Where to Go.

The best places which offer fine flounder fishing and which are the most convenient to reach are Flatlands Bay and the sand flats in Jamaica Bay, reached either from Canarsie or Bergen Beach; for Freeport, take the Long Island Railroad to Freeport and the trolley to the shore. Goose Creek, in Jamaica Bay, can be reached by either the Long Island Railroad or the Brooklyn Rapid Transit. Get off at station on trestle.

For City Island, take the New York subway and trolley. To get the best results, fish in shallow water from four to ten feet at high tide.

To reach Three X Hole, Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn Rapid Transit direct to the bay from Brooklyn Bridge. Best fishing two hours before high tide.

Hempstead Bay, on south shore of Great South Bay. Go by way of Long Island Railroad direct.

Little Neck Bay is reached by Long Island Railroad to Whitestone.

The Raunt, Jamaica Bay, Brooklyn Rapid Transit or Long Island Railroad.

Port Washington, Port Jefferson, Oyster Bay, Roslyn, Woodmere and Willets Point, L. I.; Pelham Bay, New Rochelle, Stepping Stone Lighthouse and Throgs Neck, N. Y., afford some excellent flounder fishing.

The prospects of good flounder fishing this spring look very bright, as the catches so far have been very large at all the places mentioned.

COD, BLACKS AND CUNNERS.

Three Species Bite in Outside Waters; Also Flounders.

Cod, blackfish and cunners are in the outside waters at the deep sea fishing grounds. Storms and ground swells of late have interfered with angling.

The fine weather of the past several days, however, has resulted in catches not only of cunners in large numbers but cod and blackfish. In the outside waters not far from shore are sea flounders, big fish that fill the pan when cooked in that way.

Clubs fishing to-day follow: Perry in George Lehman from Freeport, Seaweed in the Edith from the Battery; Rod and Reel in Joe Leppert for Ulmer Park and Wampus in Capt. Tallowitz's boat from Canarsie.

CASTING TOURNEY TO-DAY.

Long Island Fishing Club to Hold Events at Grant City.

At Midland Park, Grant City, Staten Island, to-day, the second annual casting tournament of the Long Island Casting Club will be held from 9 A. M. to 6 P. M.

At the conclusion of the tournament a dinner will be served in the hotel directly across from the field and contestants, friends and anglers are invited by the casting committee. The charge is $1.25 and the distribution of prizes will take place at the dinner.

CHEERFULNESS AN AID TO CASTING

Calmness Coordinates Nervous System; Both Essential for Long Distance Work.

IMPORTANCE OF STANCE

By DR. CARLETON SIMON.

Casting is not a trick. It is an art. It is best attained by practice and adherence to rules that eventually become fastened in the mind through long practice. The best caster is the one that attains with a minimum of effort the greatest distance.

Every unnecessary move made in casting is futile and is so much energy expended. To attain distance the beginner should not endeavor to develop a tremendous "punch" or try to double himself into a knot and then unfold his body, as does the modern baseball pitcher with his contortions and gyrations, who does this partly to camouflage the kind of a ball is going to be thrown, but the caster should assume a proper balance on his feet.

This is attained by placing the left foot forward in the direction he wishes to cast, the right being placed well behind him, giving him a pose that will enable him to look behind and yet with ease allow him to turn and look forward.

Some men crouch quite low. This is an error of stance into which every one at times falls, but it should be carefully avoided, for it restricts and prevents that far reaching swing, that final effort that adds twenty or thirty feet to the cast. Again by standing more erect a greater arc of the rod is attaind.

The muscles should be flexed with the exception of the left arm, which should grasp the end of the butt lightly. The lead dipsey is then brought to the front to enable the caster to measure with his eye the exact amount of line he wishes to drop from the tip.

With this accomplished the rod is lifted in a swinging motion around the body to as great a distance as possible to the rear, without crouching, however, the lead being allowed to rest for a moment upon the ground before the cast is started forward.

The first part of the swinging arc is accomplished with the right arm and back muscles and the last portion with a downward pressure of the left hand on the bottom of the butt.

Swing Matter of Selection.

Some casters use a motion in the first smash of the rod not unlike the use of a baseball bat, with about the same swing, starting low and striking upward. Others again swing with more of a side swipe, and a few handle the rod with the same motion employed in swinging an ax—directly over the shoulder.

The selection of swing should be governed as to which motion is easiest and most natural to the individual. Some men attain their greatest distance with a side and others again with an overhand motion. The general direction of the cast toward the finish of the stroke should be upward.

The trajectory of the lead is, however, of the greatest importance. The cast should be directed at an angle of 45 degrees, for this seems the proper angle that must be followed to attain great distance.

To cast over 45 degrees creates too much of a circle, which brings the lead in its descent so much closer to the starting point. A cast under 45 degrees must be necessarily swifter, so that the apex or highest point the lead attains be as far out as possible before the pull of gravity has its full power to overcome the initial impulse.

Now to accomplish this 45 degrees angle the lead must be directed upward. This is done by a final thrust of the right hand, which imparts the direction and which thrust is really a motion of the wrist.

Last Shove Most Important.

The last shove of a cast is the most important part and is usually accomplished subconsciously, similarly as is the thumbing of the reel, or rather the release of the reel at the last moment. It is performed so rapidly as to elude the eye.

The coordination of the left hand in the downward pull must be smooth. If not the cast is jerky and poor results are attained. A perfect cast is always found to be smooth in its execution. Any sudden thrust speeds up the spool beyond its usual rapidity and the subjective mind following its past experience is not ready for the change, with th result that the line overruns the spool of the reel and a snarl occurs.

This is partly the reason that in tournaments the sudden and supreme effort results so disastrously. Simply because the reel runs suddenly faster than the mind is accustomed to control it.

A trick that is hard to learn and which all the best casters unconsciously develop is the habit of "following through" a stroke. In a sense this is similar to golf and the rod is pressed forward in the direction of the flying lead. Its value lies purely in the fact that by so "following up" the cast is not finished at the moment the lead leaves on its journey, but an increased pressure is conveyed.

The end of a stroke is always weak, but immediately before the end the pressure is greatest. In short this "following up" stroke enables the caster to impart his pressure longer and stronger than if he neglected to do so, for it really lengthens the stroke.

Accuracy Attained by Practice.

Accuracy is attained chiefly by practice. It depends solely upon the position of the left foot and that the rod be pointed at and "followed through" in the direction of the object. It is also essential that the caster keep his wrist quite rigid.

Speaking of wrists brings to my mind the importance of the wrist motion. A strong and supple wrist is a factor that should be taken into account, and it should be cultivated. I know quite a number of easy and graceful long distance casters who owe to their flexible wrists much of their dexterity.

Muscular tenseness should be avoided, for it retards a cast. Especially is this true in tournament casting, where the nervous system is keyed up because of the competition and jerky and sudden thrusts and change of methods are frequently the rule. I have seen good casters fall down simply because of their mental attitude.

A calm and cheerful manner does much to coordinate the nervous system, and this is most essential for long distance casting.

Squid as a Food Fish.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 4.—The Bureau of Fisheries is experimenting with the squid to determine its food value for human consumption. Squid has been eaten in Japan for years.

Maskalonge Opening Month Off.

Maskalonge 24 inches in length may be taken in State waters beginning June 16.

Recreation After the Battle

AN OFFICER and A DOG WITH THE BRITISH FORCES in ITALY, after HARD FIGHTING, SPEND their OFF HOURS FISHING in an ALPINE LAKE.

BRITISH OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH FROM UNDERWOOD & UNDERWOOD

ATTEMPT TO BRING BOBWHITE BACK

Game Protectors to Be Armed With Rifles to Kill Quail's Enemies.

Two years additional immunity for the quail in this State has been provided in a bill just signed by Gov. Whitman. The quail, or bobwhite, as it is more familiarly known in certain parts of the State, some years ago became so markedly reduced in numbers that in 1913 a five year close season was provided for this bird.

That period has now elapsed, but according to reports received by the Conservation Commission from observers in all parts of the State quail have failed to make much headway in regaining their former numbers.

The new law has therefore been passed in order that the birds may have another opportunity to reestablish themselves. It is expected that they will be further assisted by a decrease in their natural enemies as a result of the rifles with which all game protectors are hereafter to be provided.

Long Island is an exception to the new law, where quail are fortunately sufficiently numerous to warrant their being taken from November 1 to December 31.

In other parts of the State farmers as well as sportsmen are said to be longing for the return of the quail, which is well known to be a great devourer of weed seeds and injurious insects. According to the Conservation Commission the quail is one of the few birds known to make a practice of eating potato bugs.

Commissioner George D. Pratt states that every effort will be made to bring back once more to the farms the cheery call of the bobwhite, a sound so commonly heard in years gone by.

BRITISHER VOUCHES FOR TAME EEL YARN

Owned Fish That Ate Bread From Nurse's Hand.

SHERE, England, May 4.—An affidavit goes with this tame eel story if it is necessary, but E. O. Bray, respected and honored citizen of this town, needs nothing more to vouch for what he says than his mere word.

Mr. Bray says: "I can claim to have had what I think few have had—a tame eel. At my old home, Bury Hill, Dorking, there is an artificial lake of about eighteen acres. I and my sisters had an old nurse who had been in the Barclay family for over forty years, and who had a wonderful power with all animals.

"We were allowed to keep in our nursery almost every animal—hedgehogs, dormice, squirrels. We daily fed the ducks, swans and geese on the lake at a shallow place, and they came at our call and ate out of our hands.

"One morning, to our intense surprise, a black eel put its head out and began to eat the bread we had thrown in the water. Old Rich, the nurse, immediately began to feed it, and it ate out of her hand without any fear, and used to come daily to be fed with the ducks.

"One day an uncle (whom I fear we never forgave) caught our eel and doubtless ate it, as was often done with eels in the lake. If any one can give another instance of a tame eel it would be most interesting."

FLOUNDERS AND COD GIVEN TO NEEDY

U. S. Station at Woods Hole, Mass., Distributes Fish.

WOODS HOLE, Mass., May 4.—The United States fish cultural station here recently conducted an investigation in the township of Falmouth with a view to supplying needy persons with brood fish that had spawned. Ten families, with sixty children, were found which were desirous of receiving this kind of aid, and for a month truckloads of spawned out cod were taken twice a week through Woods Hole, Falmouth, West Falmouth, North Falmouth and from Falmouth to Waquoit, and ample supplies of fish were left along the route.

About 15,000 pounds of cod were thus distributed, some of which was used fresh and some was salted. The Naval Reserve Force at Woods Hole was given some 800 pounds of fresh cod.

At the fishing grounds in Waquoit Bay, where the bureau was collecting brood flounders upward of 2,500 pounds of these fish not needed in the fish cultural work were given away to deserving local people at a time when such fish were selling at 20 cents a pound in the wholesale markets.

WOMEN TO WORK IN FISH HATCHERIES

To Take Place of Men in Rearing and Feeding Young Species.

ALBANY, May 4.—Women to work in the twelve State fish hatcheries in place of men gone to war are sought by the Conservation Commission, according to a letter sent yesterday to all hatchery foremen by State Fish Culturist Titcomb.

The Conservation Commission is feeling the pinch of labor shortage and, as in all present day industry, is anxious to substitute women for such tasks as they are fitted for.

There is very little strictly fish cultural work which women cannot do, says the letter. Picking out the dead fish eggs from among the millions in the hatchery trays and jars, a task which now occupies many months of the year, is cited as an example of work which women could probably perform even more satisfactorily than men.

Preparing the food and feeding the young fish in the rearing troughs and pools could also be easily done by women. Tasks of this kind would release men for such work as handling the cans and tubs in which the fish are transported, for the heavier outdoor work and for general repairs and maintenance.

Year round employment is promised by Fish Culturist Titcomb. Women who would like to become hatchery workers would do well to communicate with the Conservation Commission at Albany.

JERSEY OUTDOOR MOVEMENT FOR ALL

Organization Not for Rich or Poor, City or Country.

NEWARK, N. J., May 4.—"If New Jersey's sportsmen line up vigorously in the organization which is in process of formation in this State they also will wield a tremendous power," says a statement issued to-day by Kenneth F. Lockwood, active in the movement to organize the sportsmen and fish and game clubs and outdoor organizations in a Statewide league.

"A great many of them," continues the statement, "appreciate the fact and proffers of support have not been slow in reaching the get together committee.

"The first move, as was explained at the dinner last week, is to form an organization committee of two men from each county who will decide on the method of organization and elect officers for the first year.

"Whether organization will be by clubs or by individual sportsmen or whether there will be classes of membership covering both will be left to that committee.

"So far several suggestions as to representatives on the organization committee have reached the president of the Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club, to whom it was requested at the dinner that names be sent. They came from north Jersey counties.

"It is the plan of the set together committee to meet about May 10. Meantime it intends to go over the field to get a line on live men for possible places on the organization committee, inasmuch as such a great deal depends upon the first year of the association's existence.

"Then, if any counties are not represented in the list of names we are looking for it will be possible for us to pick men without delay.

"There should not be any backwardness on the part of clubs or individuals in sending us suggestions and we want to impress upon the sportsmen that this is neither a rich man's nor a poor man's movement, neither a city man's nor a country man's, but one for all."

WAR ZONE PASSES.

Every One Must Have One to Fish in Local Waters.

The Collector and Surveyor of the Port say that there are no exceptions to the regulations concerning war zone passes for anglers in the local salt waters. Every one, not an alien enemy, to whom passes are not issued, must secure a pass to fish in the Third naval district.

Passes may be obtained at room 138 in the Custom House, Bowling Green.

New Food Fish Makes Hit Here.

BOSTON, May 4.—Gray sole, called "the new Massachusetts food fish," is not much eaten here, but has made a hit with New York. The fish are caught in Boston Bay in from forty to seventy fathoms, and nobody knows how far the sole grounds extend to sea.

HIGH WATER FOR LOCAL ANGLERS FROM MAY 5 TO MAY 12.

	Sandy Hook (The Horseshoe)		Princess Bay		Jamaica Bay (Canarsie)		Governors Island		Willets Point		New London	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
May 5	3:24	4:10	3:29	4:15	4:09	4:55	3:30	4:30	6:43	7:22	5:15	5:48
May 6	4:30	5:10	4:35	5:15	5:13	5:55	4:48	5:36	7:51	8:27	6:14	6:42
May 7	5:30	6:04	5:35	6:09	6:15	6:49	5:58	6:35	9:03	9:29	7:09	7:34
May 8	6:27	6:57	6:31	7:02	7:12	7:42	6:58	7:28	10:00	10:24	8:04	8:25
May 9	7:22	7:49	7:27	7:54	8:07	8:34	7:55	8:20	11:02	11:17	8:57	9:15
May 10	8:14	8:38	8:19	8:44	8:59	9:24	8:49	9:10	11:55	12:03	9:40	10:07
May 11	9:06	9:28	9:11	9:33	9:51	10:13	9:40	9:59	12:47	12:48	10:41	10:56
May 12	9:56	10:17	10:01	10:22	10:41	11:02	10:31	10:48	—	1:38	11:32	11:48

ABANDONED CANALS FOR POND CULTURE

State Appropriates $10,000 to Raise Bass, Croppie, Perch, Bream and Catfish.

HOPE FOR PIKE-PERCH

ALBANY, May 4.—Transformation of abandoned sections of the old Erie and Champlain canals into ponds where large numbers of food and game fishes may be reared has been started by the Conservation Commission, according to a statement just issued by Commissioner George D. Pratt.

Frank M. Williams, State Engineer, and Gen. W. W. Wotherspoon, Superintendent of Public Works, have cooperated with the Conservation Commission in selecting two sections which, according to the statement, are ideally situated for the purposes of fish culture.

Work this spring will be confined to these two sections, which alone will provide more than six times the area for pond cultural operations now available at all the State fish hatcheries.

Abandoned Canals to Be Used.

One of the sections is part of the old Champlain canal at Schuylerville, running south from the village for a distance of about three miles. The section, which is now abandoned and empty, can readily be dammed and then filled by gravity with Hudson River water through an old canal feeder. Facilities for draining the section can also be easily made.

The other section is a portion of the Erie Canal near Amsterdam. By building dams where old locks twenty-eight and twenty-nine now stand a stretch of the canal over a mile and a half long can be filled from the Schoharie creek by means of the old Erie Canal feeder. The feeder itself, which is three-quarters of a mile long, can also be used as an additional pond.

Bass to Be Propagated.

Although the water in the canal ponds will be too warm for the rearing of trout, they will be admirably adapted for many other kinds of fish. Black bass particularly, both the large mouth and small mouth varieties, can be propagated in the canals, according to the commissioner's statement, on a scale never before dreamed of anywhere in this country.

All the ponds at the New York State hatcheries have so far been devoted to small mouth bass, but their combined production has been entirely inadequate to meet the demands of applicants for these fish.

Calico bass, crappie, bream and catfish are other warm water fishes that may readily be reared in the canals. Yellow perch can be hatched by the million in the hatcheries and grown to fingerlings in the canal ponds.

As the work progresses other species, as, for example, the pike perch, may possibly be reared. Attempts to rear this species to fingerling size have hitherto been unsuccessful, because in the very limited space at the hatcheries it is very cannibalistic.

$10,000 Given for Pond Culture.

Expense has been the obstacle in the way of constructing more ponds at the hatchery stations, but by the use of the old canals, which are already the property of the State, unlimited ponds can be constructed, with no cost for excavation and only nominal expense for adapting them to fish culture.

The last Legislature appropriated $10,000 for the purpose, and the State Engineer and Superintendent of Public Works are cooperating with the Conservation Commission in making the appropriation go as far as possible.

Preparation of the selected sections, after completion of the dams, will consist merely in making the canal bottom smooth enough for the operation of a seine. Not over six feet of water will be required in any of the ponds, and in most instances they will be filled only from spring until fall.

The sections will be divided at given points by screens in order to separate the several kinds of fish. In the autumn the product of the canal ponds will be removed and distributed as fingerlings to stock suitable waters.

FOX SKINS TO PAY FOR LIBERTY BONDS

Natives of Pribilof Islands Subscribe for $2,350 of Loan.

PRIBILOFF ISLANDS, Alaska, May 4.—The natives of St. George Island have subscribed for thirty $50 bonds of the third Liberty Loan.

Of this total $300 is to come from funds of the natives on deposit under the trusteeship of the United States Commissioner of Fisheries, while the balance of $1,200 is to be taken from money due the natives in payment for services in taking fox skins.

Acting Agent Hanna has telegraphed that the natives of St. Paul likewise desire to help the Government as much as possible, and accordingly request the purchase of bonds in the sum of $850, payment to be made from funds held in trust by the Commissioner.

81 POUND ALBACORE CAUGHT.

Line Hummed Like Harp Strings—Reel as if Tied to Submarine.

AVALON, Cal., May 4.—Elijah Pringle of Tuxedo Park, N. Y., recently hooked an albacore that took out 450 feet of line. The fish took the line so rapidly that Capt. John Kasser, from whose boat Mr. Pringle fished, thought a blue fin tuna was at the other end. The reel acted as if it was tied to a submarine.

It was twenty minutes before the men got a look at the fish. Unfortunately Mr. Pringle was not using light tackle or he might have landed the world's record albacore of this or any other season. The albacore weighed eighty-one pounds and is being mounted by a taxidermist.

Mr. Pringle fished with J. Weygant of Central Valley, N. Y., and they brought to gaff six fish, each one of which weighed thirty-eight pounds or over. Once they both got strikes at the same time and the lines hummed like harp strings.

July 1 Pennsylvania Opening.

Under the new fish code, July 1 is the opening day for game fish in Pennsylvania waters, with the exception of brook, brown and rainbow trout, where the season began April 15.

Alaska Aids Salmon.

SITKA, Alaska, May 4.—Considerable work has been done recently in improving a number of streams in southeastern Alaska so that salmon may ascend to spawning grounds.

Pike and Pickerel in Jersey.

Fishing for pike and pickerel begins in New Jersey streams on May 20, except in the Delaware River.

Piscatorial Persiflage.

The Humble Angleworm.

To gentle ways I am inclined;
I have no wish to kill.
To creatures dumb I would be kind;
I like them all, but still
Right now I think I'd like to be
Beside some rippling brook,
And grab a worm I'd brought with me
And slip him on a hook.

I'd like to put my hand once more
Into a rusty can
And turn those squirmy creatures o'er
Like nuggets in a pan;
And for a big one, once again,
With eager eyes I'd look,
As did a boy I knew, and then
Impale it on a hook.

I've had my share of fishing joy,
I've fished with patent bait,
With club and minnow, but the boy
Is lord of sport's estate.
And no such pleasure comes to man
So rare as when he took
A worm from a tomato can
And slipped it on a hook.

I'd like to gaze with glowing eyes
Upon that precious bait,
To view each fat worm as a prize
To be accounted great.
And tho' I've passed from boyhood's term
And opened age's book,
I still would like to put a worm
That wriggled on a hook.
—From "A Heap o' Livin'," by Edgar A. Guest.

The Moss on the Tree.

Many times through the wildwood we've rambled,
My dear old daddy and I,
Through brush, through brier and bramble
Where rarely one seeth the sky,
With the branches so thickly above us
And so dense covered with leaves were they
That the gloom of the night seemed around us
Instead of the bright, sunny day.

Wading through swampy waters,
My dear old daddy and I,
Hunting for woodcock, partridge or quail
Or something upon which we could try
Our guns, which were loaded and ready,
For a squirrel to run up a tree,
A 'possum or rabbit, for our good dog to grab it
And to quickly bring it to me.

My daddy was quite a philosopher,
A naturalist too was he.
In nature's book he would often look
For some odd thing he might see—
An oddly marked snake or a turtle
Or whatever strange it might be—
Something impelling me to begin yelling,
While he danced around with glee.

Though then but a boy, I remember
One thing he impressed upon me—
That no matter how large was the timber
The moss grew on the back of the tree.
As the back is the north you can easily
Make a compass of the tree, said he,
And find your way home, wherever you may roam,
For the moss on the tree will guide thee.

The moss on the tree is your conscience.
Never let it vanish from sight.
For by losing your way you may go astray
And never know the wrong from the right.

IRA W. MOORE.

Nature's Persian Carpet.

The maple's tan and live oak green,
The burnished gold of plum and sheen
Of nature's Persian carpet seen
Where memories of mine abide.

I close my tired eyes and dream
Of ever slipping, placid stream,
Of fish and deer and lime rocks' gleam
Upon the mountainside.

No whirl of struggling town can crush,
Or din of traffic noises hush,
That ever glad and virgin blush
Of early morn expectancy.

On skyline trailing things appear,
Old voices of the hills we hear,
And memories of those most dear
Bring peace and joy and rest to me.
J. AUBURN WIBORN.

PIKE-PERCH OPENING FRIDAY.

Fish Must Be 12 Inches Except in Boundary Lakes.

Fishing for the pike-perch, called also walleyed pike, commonly known also as pike and yellow pike, opens next Friday in the waters of New York State.

There are two exceptions—the Lake George season does not begin until June 16 and the blue pike-perch and saugers of Lakes Erie and Ontario and in the Niagara River may be taken at any time.

Any sized fish is permitted to be taken in the two lakes and the Niagara River, but in other waters the legal length limit is twelve inches.

Who's Who in Casting
Fred Fletcher
Sketch No. 10

BY JAMES ROBERT O'NEILL.

Fred Fletcher—known by many names. Good caster. Can cast any day 300 feet or less. Has cast 800 feet with an ordinary cotton thread. Ask Col. Simmons. Then tell it to Sweeney.

Fished the sands of New Jersey for three years. Never caught a striped bass. Had a bite, but the bait was too large. Tell it to Scotty.

Wears sporty clothes. Wonderful shoes. Has marvellous travelling bags. Magnificent cigarette case. Natty. Spick and thin. Full of ginger. Never breaks a line or a lead. Has not the courage. Is a clean sport. A good fellow. Also a hero worshipper.

Has ambition to become whiskey expert. Cannot. Ask Al Oliches. Loves Hawaiian music. Cost him $40 to learn how. Sleeps on the sand. Walks with speed. Uses a straight razor. Very liberal disposition. Matches coins as to who shall pay the fare. Great eater. Ambitious to become fat. Eats at the delicatessen parlor at Asbury. Fond of pickles and dogs.

Would love to get a big shark on his new reel. Antique expert. Never uses a fish hook twice. Is a good skate. Catches many. Casts every Sunday. Unless weather interferes. Impulsive. Talks a lot, but means no harm. Bachelor. Has hosts of friends. Belongs to all the fishing clubs. Loves songs that are full of sweet sentiment.

Night fishing is his delight. Rooms at Deal Lake in summer. Keeps his bait at the flume. Uses a can. Believes in squid bait. Changes his bait every day. A great fellow is Freddie de Fletcher.

TROUT NEAR NEWARK, N. J.

Commissioners Seek to Bring Fish to Anglers' Door.

NEWARK, N. J., May 4.—The Board of Fish and Game Commissioners, in seeking to bring trout as close to the large cities as possible, has stocked the following streams within twenty-five miles of this city:

South Mountain Reservation brook near Millburn; brooks between Morristown and Mendham; Notch brook, Upper Montclair, and Brookdale, Bloomfield.

National Parks' Opening Days.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 4.—National parks now open include: Yosemite and Rocky Mountain. On May 15, Sequoia and General Grant open. June 1 is the opening for Mesa Verde and Mount Rainier. Glacier opens June 15; Yellowstone, June 25, and Crater Lake, July 1, to the travelling public.

ROD AND GUN.

SEASON OPENS TO-DAY, MAY 5.
Iron Steamboat Co
DEEP SEA FISHING. Str. "TAURUS"
Daily at 8 A. M. from Pier 1, N. R., ONLY. Bar, Restaurant, Bait, Tackle, etc., on board. FARE, Weekdays, $1.50; Sundays, $1.75, INCLUDING WAR TAX.
No Trip Mondays Until Further Notice.

MERIT PLAN BEST FOR GAME WARDENS

System Weeds Out Those Appointed on Purely Political Grounds.

LIVING WAGE ESSENTIAL

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 4.—What is the best method of enforcing the game laws has been a question that has puzzled many States and those in charge of fish and game.

W. F. Bancroft of the United States Biological Survey, who has made a study of the systems employed in forty-five States, believes that the most successful warden service of to-day seems to be that based on a regular, living wage salary under a civil service merit system.

"There is perhaps no department of local government," says Mr. Bancroft, "which is in more need of active, efficient men than the game warden service, and none which in popular estimation requires so few special qualifications. An experience of several years in some of the States above mentioned has shown:

Good Work From Merit System.

"That the merit system furnishes a means of weeding out those who apply for appointment solely on political grounds.

"That it tends to eliminate the less capable and less intelligent applicants.

"That it tends to dignify the service and make it more attractive.

"That in this way it attracts a better class of candidates.

"During the last decade in connection with the agitation for a living wage the warden service has been placed under civil service in Wisconsin, Illinois, New Jersey and New York, and very satisfactory results have been observed from the operation of the merit system.

"The warden service throughout the various States consists of so many different combinations—single officers, commissions, salaried, unsalaried and ex officio members, short term and long term—that it is exceedingly difficult to present a comparable statement in regard to the salaries paid.

"In at least fourteen States, including Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Kentucky, Nebraska, Montana, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota and Wyoming, the commissions proper receive no salary, but the executive agent, secretary or chief warden, as the case may be, is a salaried officer.

Salaries Paid by Various States.

"These salaries in the States where the compensation is fixed by law range from $1,500 a year in Nebraska and North Dakota (two chief wardens) and South Dakota to $2,500 in Kentucky and $3,000 in Pennsylvania. In Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Ohio and Oregon the compensation is fixed by the commissions, and, as I understand, it is $1,200 in Arkansas, $2,500 in Connecticut and Oregon, and about $4,000 in California. The salary of the chief warden in Ohio is unknown. Elsewhere, according to the best information we have, the salaries of the chief State officers are as follows:

"Alabama, $2,500; Arizona, $1,800; Colorado, $2,000; Delaware, three members of board at $150 each and chief warden $600; Georgia, $2,000; Idaho, $2,000; Illinois, president, $4,000, two members at $3,000 each; Indiana, $3,000; Iowa, $2,200; Kansas, $2,000; Louisiana, $3,600; Maine, chairman, $2,000; Maryland, $1,200; Massachusetts, chairman, $3,000, two members at $5 a day; Michigan, $3,000; Minnesota, $2,500; Missouri, $2,500; New Hampshire, $1,000; New Mexico, $2,000; New York, $8,000; North Carolina (fixed by Audubon Society); Oklahoma, $1,800; South Carolina, $1,900; South Dakota, $2,400; Tennessee, $2,500; Texas, $2,500; Utah, $2,400; Vermont, $1,500; Virginia (Commissioner of Fisheries made ex officio commissioner of game and inland fisheries, is allowed $600 a year from the game protection fund over and above his salary as Commissioner of Fisheries); Washington, $2,000; West Virginia, $1,800, and in Wisconsin the three members of the Conservation Commission each receive $3,500 a year."

WILD DUCKS FLOCK TO JERSEY TO NEST

Tour of Wardens Shows Big Increase in Migratory Birds.

BARNEGAT, N. J., May 4.—A great increase in the numbers of wild water fowl nesting in New Jersey is reported by State fish and game wardens who have been studying the spring conditions along the shore and in the wooded interior of the State.

The increase is especially noticeable among black duck, mallard and wood duck, and is believed to be due entirely to the elimination of spring shooting under the Federal Law.

On a tour late in April through the counties of Ocean and Burlington the wardens found thousands of wood ducks and black ducks along the waterways. Only a few years ago the wood duck was considered practically exterminated, but since it has been protected the species had rapidly reestablished itself.

Owing to the cutting away of many forests the natural nesting places of the wood duck, in hollow trees, are becoming restricted.

To offset this condition the Federal Government has been experimenting with boxes and kegs nailed in trees near streams and ponds, and has discovered that the birds readily take to these artificial nests.

The commission is erecting hundreds of artificial nests of this type, and is urging sportsmen's associations and bird lovers to work along the same lines to promote the increase of this beautiful and useful fowl.

The department is making a study of methods for increasing nesting places for black ducks and mallards.

Delaware River Fishing June 15.

June 15 is the opening day for black, calico, rock and white bass, crappie, pike-perch, pickerel, pike, white and yellow perch and trout in Delaware River and bay, and also their tributaries where the tide ebbs and flows.

Portable and Permanent
Garages, Bungalows
Factories, Extensions
Or Buildings for Any Purpose

WHY PAY RENT
We are the largest builder of Portable and Sectional Buildings
Send for Catalogue A
U. S. PORTABLE BLDG. CORP.
116 Broadway, N. Y.
Phone 9018—Receiver.
1896 B'way—63rd St. 907 Col.

PROTEST KILLING OF GRIZZLY CUBS

Big Game Sufficiently Numerous in Cassair to Give Young Bears Protection.

LARGE KILLS THE RULE

TELEGRAPH CREEK, KLONDIKE TRAIL, Alaska, May 4.—It is beginning to be felt by sportsmen from Canada and the United States that the unlimited killing of bears in the Cassair district ought to be restrained.

The season of 1916 and 1917 saw six grizzly cubs killed each season in addition to fifteen full grown grizzlies in 1916 and seventeen in 1917. In 1915 thirteen hunters killed seven grizzlies. The kills therefore may have more than doubled. There is no excuse, say men who are familiar with this newly opened district, where moose, caribou, goat and sheep abound, to kill off the young grizzly bears.

The grizzly bear is not dangerous to human life if the animal is left alone. The grizzly is a pacifist, but when molested or under the impression that its life is in danger the grizzly, like the bull moose, will prove that cowardice is not in its vocabulary.

Say Protect Grizzly Cubs.

The sentiment of sportsmen who have been in the district in recent years is that one full grown grizzly ought to satisfy sportsmanship, and the provincial authorities ought to place a limit on the kill and protect at all times the cubs.

Conditions are such that only a limited numbers of hunters can be cared for annually, and the Government keeps a record of the men and women who hunt, also of their trophies. During the 1915 season thirteen hunters killed 18 moose, 29 caribou, 31 goats, 25 sheep and 20 black bears. The game bag for 1916 included for eleven hunters 16 moose, 27 caribou, 34 goats, 24 sheep and 11 black bears. Last year's kill of fourteen hunters totalled 18 moose, 27 caribou, 22 goats, 23 sheep and 4 black bears.

No Honor Killing Cubs.

These animals were taken at Klappan, Iskoot Summit, Sheslay, Muddy River, Nakina and Jennings and the head of Stikine.

Going over the records of the dozen or more annual hunters it is seen from the Government reports that almost every individual kills one or two moose, two or three caribou, two or three goats and one or two sheep all having horns of worth while spread or length.

Sportsmen argue that when a man can take a moose with a spread of from fifty to sixty inches, caribou with spreads of from forty to fifty inches, goats with horns nine and ten inches long and sheep with spreads from twenty to twenty-five inches there is no credit of having placed alongside their names under black bear or grizzly bear "three small blacks" or "three small grizzlies" as the case may be. "Small" in each case is the polite way of saying "cubs."

NO PAY TO HUNT JACKRABBITS.

Gov. Ferguson of Texas Does Not Believe in Allowing Bounty.

AUSTIN, Tex., May 4.—The Legislature wants to put a bounty of 5 cents on jackrabbits. Gov. Ferguson has vetoed the bill, which also carried a bounty provision for wolves and wildcats, and in his memorandum says:

"I cannot give my official approval to anybody being paid to hunt jackrabbits. It is too much fun, and, besides, if prices of meat continue to go up we may need the jackrabbits to live on. I think an appropriation of $200,000 as provided would mean only $1,000 for wolves and wildcats and $199,000 for jackrabbits. This is more rabbit meat than I think the State ought to buy at this time."

Black Bass Season Opens June 16.

The New York State black bass season opens on June 16, except in Lake George, where fishing begins August 1.

Grind Your Valves
AND GET MORE POWER
Can You Do It?
Whether it's the valves, the car