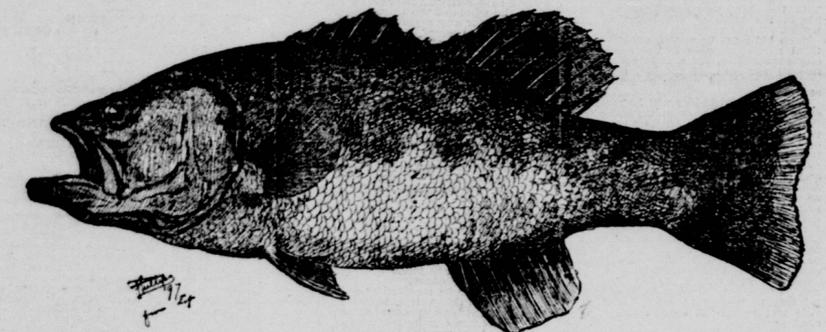




WHEN the summer sun filters through the water in long pencils of yellow light, and the gentle northern breeze dips the blue of the sky into a thousand scintillating mirrors, Micropterus salmoides, the warrior, clad in mail of bronze, sallies forth ready for battle. When the great bass balances on his fins among the great patches, or in the shadow of log or lily pad, it is a bold fish or foolish one that swims within reach, for his eye is keen and his stomach ever hungry, especially for C. uranidea, the bluehead, and for the young and grubby C. carex, the mullet.

The tip almost touches the water, and how the "saw" of the line cuts the air in the first startled rush! He finds he can't let go of the bullhead, can't rid himself of the drag of the line, and then he goes to fighting in earnest. Straight for a snag, a tule patch, a few straggling spatterdocks, or a mass of moss, a rock, anything to tangle up with goes the king fish against the drag of your reel, and good bye if he ever reaches anything! Keep a tight line, so he will be on a strain at all times, and by the strain swing him back for open water, where he will first "sound" for bottom likely, and then turn for the top.

Right now is the critical moment, and if you let him have half an inch of slack you will lose him, for as soon as the strain loosens on this downward rush—hook in mind this one point—your fish is rushing for the surface, and the first thing you know he will be "standing on his tail" with almost his entire body out of water, and shaking his head like a bulldog to get rid of the hook, and he will do it, too, if you don't handle him just about right, for his mouth is made of a lot of loose bones held together with a thin skin, and to enjoy being caught as well as the people enjoy catching them.



BLACK BASS—MICROPTERUS SALMOIDES.

hook, or just plain bass; no matter which you prefer, the fish is the same, a game, a fighter every inch, and with an appetite that leads to his destruction. If you wish a day's sport with this stranger on the Coast, you have but to outfit and go out there—the fly will furnish the rest.

Your rod should be a bait-casting rod, lancewood and of fairly good weight, for it will bow to the strain of a 4-pounder, perhaps, before the day is over. Your line should be a braided silk of good weight and strong, the leader a three-foot double gut and a long shank Limerick hook, corresponding to No. 4 Kirby in size, and lashed to a good double gut-snell. Add a good reel that will take in line quickly, and you are ready. Use no sinker.

your hook has probably torn a hole as big as the end of your thumb by this time. Some anglers say you should lower the tip of the rod as the bass breaks water, but I have far better success by always keeping a tight line, just as tight as I think the strain of weight against the strain of strength in fish and tackle will stand; this being a matter of judgment from previous catches.

Do not get an idea that a crayfish, frog, or "shiner" minnow is a better bait, for bass are peculiar in some ways, and this is one of them. A frog lake is a lake where they take a frog best, and a "minnow lake" is where they want minnows, Lake Union being one of the latter, and the bass will rise to no other lure except a spoon in season. You will find the bullhead bait far excellence in this water first, last and always, and I might add that the fish are too well fed to rise to a fly at all, as they do in the East, where the lakes have been depopulated of food fishes for them.

Two or three of these heavy fish are all you can expect for an afternoon, not because they are not plentiful, for the lake is full of them, but for the simple reason that they have so much feed in the lake, and it is so easy for them to get, that they

the same up, grinning the while, for your inspection, calls the chub and the sucker both indiscriminately, "Tacoma trout." The reason why is a mystery that no man has fathomed, unless it be because he finds a fancied or real resemblance between these sluggish fishes and a nameless town up the Sound. At any rate, he does it and grins at the "tank fisherman" who thinks he goes fishing when he has a keg or a case of beer along. He doesn't know what the sport of angling means—and it is just as well.

When your bait strikes the water in such a place let it settle half way to the bottom if you don't get a strike instantly, for the bass are so well fed and so fat they are sometimes in no hurry to bite. If a small one, of a pound to a pound and a half, happens to be there when the bait strikes the water, the chances are he will strike it as it hits the surface and start for deep water with a rush that will make your reel sing. He needs no strike, he hooks himself and you have only to

are all very fat, and lazy about biting—but full of fight when they do. They rank with the best trout for gameness, and have the advantage of weight and surface in fighting, so that the angler need be proud of his skill who lands the heavy ones fairly and squarely, and is just as sportsmanlike to cast bait for bass as it is to cast a fly for trout, and one has the advantage of clean, open fishing and no climbing over logs and worming through tangled bushes thickets. Don't overlook Micropterus salmoides for a moment if you are looking for legitimate sport—he's full of it.

Ite. I have caught several tons of bass, I suppose, in fishing in a dozen states, so, but I want to say right here that in all my fishing I never found a body of condition, or where they fought so long or as strong for their inches as they do in Lake Union, owing, perhaps, to the climatic conditions and food, for they are all very fat and plump all times.



THE BASS BAIT—C. URANIDEA, AND HOW TO USE HIM.

fight him until he comes to the landing net. But a "whopper" of two to five pounds weight—well, that's quite another matter. Your bait settles slowly and you see a sheen of bronze in the shallow water, then your line begins slowly and steadily moving, sometimes one way, sometimes another. Don't get excited and "perk" but let him go, ten feet, twenty feet, then a quick pull, not a jerk, but a sharp, steady pull that will get your hook through flesh and bone—then clear off action, for your bass is awake and going.

The small boy who knows and loves the humble angle worm for his ability to suffer, being impaled on a hook, has his own particular "place" and his own kind of fish in Perca flavescens, the yellow perch, in Lake Union, along with A. pulchellus (?) who is a substitute, the "bullhead" catfish of boy lore, and horned pout of the East. These two varieties were both planted in

the lake along with the bass and crappie, and the lake fairly swarms with them now, particularly the perch, and fifty to a hundred to the line in a couple of hours is a common catch of the fish. They are from five to eight inches long, and are a fine hot weather fish, being at their best in the summer. They are very easy to catch—all one has to do is to anchor at the pier and end of the lake, bait a small hook with a worm or piece of fish, and he can get them almost as fast as he can "throw in and out"—on a favorable day, and this means almost every day. They are the fish for fishing parties, small boys, women and children, because they seem

"Can't thou minister to a mind diseased," asks Macbeth. Certainly, my friend, the condition of the mind depends largely, if not solely, on the condition of the stomach, liver and bowels, for all of which complaints Ayer's Pills are "the sovereign thing on earth."



THE TROUT STREAMS.

THE TIME WHEN THE LOVER OF ANGLING LONGS TO CAST A FLY.

The Finny Beauties Are in Fine Shape—From the Mountains Come Tales of Success That Disgust the Fisherman With Business—Some Good Advice for Amateurs—Read What an Expert Says as to Outfit and Methods of Preparation That Are Necessary.

These are the days when the person who loves the sensation of a nibble at the end of the line, looks longingly at the fly rod that hangs on the wall, and wishes that the dust-covered basket is furnished up and wonders if it is not possible to get a vacation of a few days anyway. It is the trout season, the blessed period when the angler who has ever caught a trout feels the thrill that comes to him when pursuing his favorite sport every time he thinks of it.

When, oh, reader, you reach that point where all attainment seems a heavy mockery, when life's endless toil and endeavor weigh heavily upon you; when perhaps the search for wealth has led you on and on until you are surrounded by a mass of the quagmire of discontent and the foul emanations of greed, envy and greed that make the head reel, then it is indeed time to possess yourself of a light rod and angling outfit and head to the mountain brook, where the gamiest and warriest of fish kind will call forth all your cunning to catch him. Now vigor will invade your frame and your laughter will resound through the woods as after a gamey fight you land a speckled beauty.

Today the split bamboo stands at the head of all rods. This is claimed as an American invention, and at first was laughed at by our English friends on account of its limberness. The last ten years has seen it distance all rivals, and a man wishes to see up to date, he must use a split bamboo. They are made of six and also of eight strips. In price they may be had from \$1.25 up to \$50 and more. The novice will do well to begin with a medium priced rod, not necessarily the very cheapest, but one that will not cost more than three or four dollars. Dowelled ferrules are no longer considered desirable on account of the expense of making repairs. The simple ferrule is preferred.

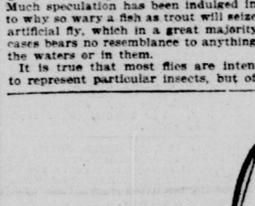
Most of the rods are in three joints, and these are by all means the best. In selecting the rod, the angler should have an even curve from butt to tip. Care should be taken that there are no imperfections in the cane. The cheaper rods are made from inferior material, the manufacturer assorting his bamboo according to the grade of rod he wishes to produce. An expensive rod should be selected that has no even curve from butt to tip, and that has no imperfections in the cane. The steel rods put upon the market some years ago seem to have little satisfaction, and are not used as much as when they were first introduced. This fact the steel rod has greater possibilities before it than any wood rod, and is likely to become the rod of the future.

There have been rumors of netting going on in the lake, but they are more than likely the imagination of some one than fact. Everything considered, it seems unlikely that netting is done for these reasons: First, the lake is full of logs, snags and vegetable growth that would make a drag net useless, and even if the bass be surrounded by a seine he could not be captured in this way, for he will jump over the cork line nearly always. A sill net would be useless, for the bass will not run into it, but back away from the contact with the mesh.

A hoop net would catch them provided it was set in a narrow place, where there was a current, and where the bass were running, but there is no such place in the lake, and lake bass do not run to speak of, so the whole thing looks "fishy" to say the least.

However, the best condition for protection, outside of the natural advantages of the lake and the habits of the fish, is the sentiment of the people, which is very strong against netting, and the residents around the lake threaten dire vengeance on net fishermen, so he who nets in the lake is very liable to run against trouble good and strong if he is caught at his underhand methods.

TEST OF A FIRST CLASS ROD



those most clumsily made will do as much execution as the most delicate. A certain school of anglers contends that a study of insect life is necessary to successfully lure the fish and that only by imitating the insects that are habitual on the streams can success be attained. The practical angler, however, does not do much studying as to the minutiae of natural flies. He knows that certain forms and colors will take fish in these waters and other forms and colors make good catches in those, and with this knowledge he is content. The tackle manufacturers list several hundred kinds of flies, probably fifty yards is a long line and for most fishing twenty-five yards may be made to suffice. The Sproat and O'Shaughnessy are the standard fly hooks, but of late the hooks made after the pattern of H. C. Pennell are coming much into use.

As a general rule he who passes the most time upon the trout streams knows about the habits of trout, yet no man may arrogate to himself that he knows all about them. The fish are as capricious as women and quite as difficult to understand. As a rule the large fish will be found in the deep pools behind large rocks and in the quiet heavy swirls. The smaller fish are found in the shallower waters. At times the fish of all sizes take to the surface of the water, and a rule have a fixed habit, and although they will rise up and down the stream they will invariably return to their favorite pools. During the warm months the fish seek the cooler waters of the head of the stream, as trout cannot live in water that is warmer than 70 degrees. They do not run into the sea as do salmon, yet wherever it is possible to do so, they take an occasional excursion to the brine.

These trout streams that run into the sea are not as easily depleted as are the inland brooks, and the trout as a rule attain greater size. Trout feed upon the larvae of bugs and butterflies that are deposited in the stream for incubation; they also prey upon the young of their own kind and are especially fond of trout and salmon eggs. It is a well-recorded fact that immense numbers of trout follow the salmon in their migrations to the spawning grounds and devour the eggs as soon as they fall from the female. The favorite food of the trout, however, are the flies, beetles and grasshoppers that fall on the surface of the water. It is this habit of seizing its food upon the surface of the water that affords such sport to the angler, for when fish are on the feed they seize the artificial lure with the same avidity as they do the natural flies.

Generally the mornings and evenings are the best times to fish, although this varies with the season. Early and late in the season the middle of the day may be found best. Sometimes trout will be seen rising in all directions, striking at minute midges that float over the top of the water. At such times it is almost impossible to make them notice any lure. Keep as much out of sight as the nature of the ground will permit and fish with the finest tackle that will hold your fish. The finer the tackle, the more skill is required in handling the game. In casting, do so from the wrist and forearm, keeping the arm quite close to the side. Do not use a longer line than you can cast neatly. The fly should drop directly over the spot where you think the fish lies and should strike the water first and as lightly as possible. Only persistent trials can make a skillful fly-caster.

In retrieving the line it should be done with quick rather jerky motion, but in sending it forward again care should be taken that the flies are not snapped off. Should a fish rise to the fly a slight turn of the wrist will fasten the hook in his mouth. Should he be a small one he may be "yanked" out at once, but the larger fellow must be handled carefully.

Let him have all the line he wants, steering him clear of weeds or rocks as much as possible. Keep a light drag on him and as soon as you think advisable commence reeling in. Should he make any other spurts let him have the line again, repeating this until he turns over on his side. Don't play a fish too long, and large fish should be landed with a net. To do this bring the fish as close to you as you can and quietly put the net under him. Don't flaunt your net as if you were leading a charge in battle.

In playing your fish be sure you always keep a taut line on him or he will surely disengage himself. It should be the angler's endeavor to always keep his rod in position that he may strike. If the rod is held too near the perpendicular the power to strike is almost wholly lost and there is danger of breaking the rod, should a large fish hook himself. If bait is used, grasshoppers, worms, and the white grubs that are found beneath the bark of decayed spruce and pine trees are good, but for big fish there is nothing like minnows. In using bait a plain hook should be used. It is now conceded that to fish down stream is by far the best plan.

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