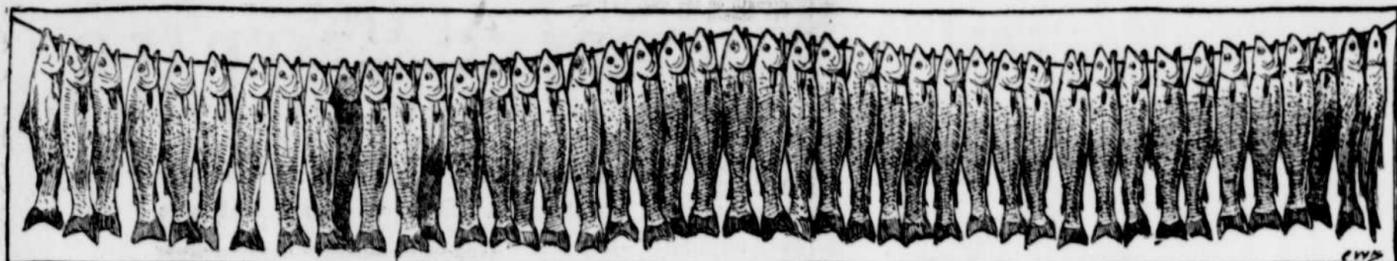


'T will Soon Be Time to Cast the Line for Wary Speckled Trout.



How Would You Like to Make Such a Catch as This?

The first real fishing to be had in the Northern states is for brook trout; then in turn come the lake trout, bass and salmon. Promptly upon the departure of the snow and ice, the trout, ever greedy, are ready to be caught, and the laws in most states wisely make the open season begin in April.

At this time the streams are high and often overflowed, the melting snow making the water cold and roily, and the fish are scattered, difficult to catch, and somewhat shy when caught. Yet the season is none too early. The fish, having been protected for seven months, are usually in fine condition. As the open season for trout does not close until Aug. 31st, time enough is given to hit the vacation of almost everyone.

Both fortunate and unfortunate is it that very few open waters containing trout, now remain within easy reach of the cities—fortunate for those who have leased and preserved waters, unfortunate for those who have not. Yet it is certain that if so much water were not under protection, trout and trout fishing would long since have become things of the past, except in remote parts of the wilderness. A few years ago far-seeing fishermen began to note that the trout were rapidly disappearing; that to ensure future fishing, streams must be stocked and protected. Clubs were formed, good waters were leased, thousands of fry secured and placed in them early, and constables hired to prevent poaching with the result that to-day the members can secure satisfying sport at all times.

The brooks are usually leased from the farmers, the lease providing, of course, that they must guard against poachers. Throughout New York and the New England states, the very early spring fishing must be done with bait, as the fry is rarely successful at this time.

The water has not become sufficiently clear for that lure to be seen by the fish, nor do I believe it to be tempting thus early. Then, too, the great majority of trout streams and brooks are narrow, winding through meadows and woods, more or less overhung with grass, bushes, or underbrush, presenting few places sufficiently clear for either casting or drifting a fly. The greatest measure of success is obtained with the angle worm. A good bait pole of eight or nine ounces weight and at least 10 feet long, is the most convenient rod. If much of the fishing is through woods or underbrush, a steel bait rod with line running through the center is beyond question just the thing. It prevents the constant catching of the line, and the possibility of breaking that or the hooks, and what is more, it preserves the fisherman's temper and equanimity, both of which must remain intact to secure success and particularly enjoyment.

A long pole is absolutely necessary, as will appear. Snell hooks from No. 5 to No. 8, according to the size of fish to be taken and an "E" silk line, with a good click or automatic reel, comprise the proper tackle. Fish basket, bait box, and high rubber boots must not be overlooked.

The trout are wily, never found in shallow or open water, but in deep pools under overhanging banks, or under bushes or logs lodged across the stream, and the angler must know how and where to drop the bait successfully to tempt and capture the fish. Here is where patience, skill and experience come into play. Were a novice to fish the brook, he would quickly claim there was no fish in it, and yet he would have passed many, hidden from view, frequently frightened by his shadow, dashing up or down the stream with lightning rapidity.

Unless started the trout moves but little during the day, but lies hidden, watching for food or floating with the current. The brighter the day, the more quiet and shy the fish. It is for this reason that cloudy or rainy days afford the most successful fishing. And yet immediately after a heavy rain is absolutely the wrong time to expect success, because of the temporary rise of the stream. Always let two or three days elapse, and then the conditions will be perfect.

The secret of brook fishing for trout lies in just two rules; fish slowly, and avoid in every way frightening the fish. The latter rule means that one's shadow must not be cast upon the water, nor any movement made in near view of the stream. Approach the stream stooping if there is a brush to form a screen; in the open creep up. Herein lies the advantage of a long rod. It obviates the necessity of approaching too closely, and it brings all the parts of the stream within reach. Great care must be exercised in moving the rod over the water; a quick motion means a quick moving shadow, which must be avoided.

Every little obstruction in the stream under which the current has washed out the sand and gravel, may harbor a trout. It is by faithfully fishing every possible nook, instead of trying only the obvious pools, that every one finds that one wins success. Drift the bait along under a bank overhung with grass, even if the water is shallow; do not neglect any place that looks at all likely. Do not expect the fish always to bite at once; as a rule they do, but sometimes they do not.

The average trout brook has a good stiff current, therefore the best plan is to weight the line. Three small split shot securely fastened to the snell is the best method. Then, when the bait

is dropped carefully in the water and allowed to sink just ahead of an obstruction, the current carries it under to the lair of the fish. If the trout is there he will, in most cases, take it quickly and vigorously; you must then avoid a common fault; you must not jerk your line with sufficient strength to throw the hook into the surrounding trees. It is difficult to gather a fish from overhanging branches,—if indeed the force use does not tear the hook from its mouth. If you have missed, the hook is caught in a tree or perhaps in a log under water. In the latter event, if a strong steady pull will not release it, pull harder and break it. Any attempt to free it by jerks or jabs with the pole will scare every fish for rods around. Always go prepared with plenty of hooks for such contingencies. Wait a moment and try again, and you will probably get the game.

The secret of striking a fish, especially a trout which bites quickly, whether in brook, river or lake, is to give a sharp upturn of the wrist. This will move the rod or bait only two or three inches, and will not jerk it from the water. If you miss, the fish will follow the few inches, not being frightened, and in the majority of cases will be hooked at once. The quick jerking of the bait from the water almost invariably scares a trout—result, a dark streak disappearing down the stream.

The possibility of always catching trout in preserved streams depends upon several points, all of equal importance. First, additional stocking must be done every year, and with great care. Do not purchase small fry from the hatchery, but secure young fish, yearlings or larger. Few of the small fry ever attain maturity, as they form dainty morsels for their larger brethren, but a very large percentage of the yearlings live to grow to a

catchable size. If fry only can be secured, they should be planted at the very sources of the brook; in the little rills they are comparatively safe. Even larger fish should be placed in very shallow waters. Ten thousand or 20,000 fish, or even more, should be planted every season.

The very best method of preserving young trout fry, and one I can recommend from the success attending its use in several private preserves, I will describe. Select a low spot near the stream where it has a few rods of rapid descent. Here excavate a shallow pond, perhaps 10 or 12 feet across and about two feet deep. Dig a small channel to connect this with the stream above, and a second one from the pond to the stream below as an outlet. Screens must be used to prevent large trout from entering or the fry from escaping. Late in the fall or early in the following spring they can be released into the stream, being nearly large enough to be caught. Another lot of fry can then be reared. This method ensures the safety of the entire stock, and will make an ideal preserve of a stream that had been barren of fish.

The other points to keep in view are, first, prevent poaching by day and night, and, secondly, throw back all fish under the legal length—six inches. Do not question the expense of providing necessary guardians for a preserve, as poaching is the worst enemy to combat. Poachers usually live near the stream where they can fish constantly day and night. Being on hand when the fish are biting best, they fairly strip the water of the trout. The only thing that will prevent this trouble, as to taking fish under legal length, fishing club members are sportsmen, so that a mention of this point is all that is necessary.

EUGENE MCARTHRY.

is on a firm footing in the land of the West, where the college youth is said to more nearly resemble the ancient athlete in form and character than was ever the case in Europe after the remains of classical civilization.

It is of interest to know that the discussion will be all the more welcome because there are no other novelties of a kindred nature above the horizon. This was demonstrated impressively at the recent Sportsman's exhibition in New York. All sports and pastimes were represented, but singularly little was absolutely new; whatever differed from the exhibit of 1896, differed merely in detail. Golfing requisites, wheels, saddlery, fishing tackle, and many other articles of the sportsman's equipment, were mostly the same as at the preceding shows plus a few minor improvements in detail; but of course this means much, for who so scrupulously attentive to detail as the sportsman? A trifle too little wood here, or a shade

too much metal there, and he has perchance to endure the sting of defeat, in place of being hailed a victor. It was quite evident that the new small-bore rifle is with us for good and aye, and the entire time of the visiting riflemen was taken up examining and commenting upon the various weapons submitted for their approval. The new straight-pull gun, adopted by the United States naval authorities, is probably as good an action as has yet been introduced, but it is very generally admitted that the caliber, .236 inch, is too small for practical purposes, though it may be amply powerful for a deer. In the other hand nothing larger than .315 caliber seems necessary, for even the heaviest carnivora. As far as has been ascertained by experiment on living and dead subjects, the .315 is considerably more powerful than the old .45-70. In theory it may be the superior of a very much lighter rifle: has double the range, and gives half the recoil. As all manufacturers are making rifles on similar lines, there is little to choose between them and a selection would be invidious; but the riflemen of to-day who sport with black powder is surely behind the times.

We live in a high pressure age, and yet men are lazy for all that. This is why the steam launch is so much in demand. Rowing is healthier and sailing is more exciting, but for all that the motor launch owners are rapidly increasing. Although the first cost of a gas or vapor launch is considerable, the running expenses are very light—from 5 to 10 cents an hour; a skilled engineer not being indispensable though usually advisable. Some of the boats shown at the recent exhibition were models of perfection as far superior to the launches of a dozen years ago as a modern Transatlantic liner is to Hendrick Hudson's Half Moon. Launches are now built in many models, ranging from a tiny canoe to a yacht-like creation with owners' cabin gorgeous in velvet draperies and birds' eye maple panels.

The 21 foot class so popular a year or two ago seems to have been supplanted by the little "knockabout," the present idol of the Corinthian sailor. This craft originated on the northern shores of Massachusetts Bay, but is now being imported from Bar Harbor to Bar Harbor and is likely to spread to landlocked waters this summer. It is always rigged with jib and mainsail, all in board; is somewhat sharpie-like in build, and carries a center-board. As a motor launch, it is a "captain, bosun, and midshipman" of the "knockabout" type; there are not likely to be any mutinies on board any of these midgets. They are undoubtedly the best boats a young yachtsman can own at the outset of his nautical career.

It should interest all patriotic Americans to learn that the larger Moose head (the moose is identical with the European elk) in the world was secured recently in Alaska and is now in New York city. Its span is 79 1/2 inches, and it bears a striking resemblance to the superb heads of the extinct Irish elk. There is said to be a still larger Moose head owned in Seattle, but until its measurement has been made by competent authority the one now in New York must be considered as the record head of the world. Many a sportsman would walk with unbowed head in his boots from New York to Chicago if by so doing he could obtain a shot at a twin brother of the moose that carried those stupendous antlers.

Although the sportsman's show that has just closed, was certainly no improvement on that of 1896, considered as a whole still there was one or two capital features. With a most praiseworthy ingenuity a long shallow tank had been built over the boxes on the south side of Madison Square Garden, and those fishermen who desired the bubble reputation were induced to part with a few dollars in entrance fees and to compete for sundry medals. Some did well and some did badly, whereas the latter looked uncomfortable and certain uncharitable persons laughed at their discomfort, but as the bars had been removed from the hooks even when the antlers got a little angled up to compete for sundry medals. Of course there is a good deal more to fishing than mere fly casting, but the general public does not suspect it, so that any manager who gets up a fly casting tournament is certain to have lots of entries, and is likely to be well supported by the curiously inclined.

CHARLES A. BRAMBLE.

When the "Trent Affair" Threatened Rupture Between the Two Nations She Interfered for Moderation.

To Americans Queen Victoria's approaching jubilee cannot fail to be of especial interest because of the very marked friendship and good will which throughout the three score years of her unparalleled reign she has manifested towards the United States. A granddaughter of that King George III, who showed himself so relentless a foe of this country, and reared amidst influences that were most hostile to the great American republic, Queen Victoria nevertheless set to work from the very outset of her occupancy of the throne to demonstrate to the world that the apostrophe of "Great and Good Friend" with which she is wont to address the president of the United States in all her official communications, is no mere figure of speech, or meaningless phraseology, which she has manifested throughout Europe, against the United States was very strong indeed. In Great Britain, Americans were still regarded as rebels and traitors, while on the continent of Europe the United States was considered as the home of anarchy and as a perfect hot bed of all revolutionary and socialistic doctrines.

The best proof of the estimation in which America was held by the old world in the early part of the century is the fact that the monarchical powers of Europe, in the "Holy Alliance," for the particular purpose of combating all those radical and revolutionary doctrines which were not only preached but also practiced in America. Queen Victoria deserves, therefore, particular credit for having shown herself a warm and loyal friend of the United States at a time when people imbued with sentiments of good will towards America were few and far between in the old world.

Mission after mission did she dispatch to Washington for the purpose of improving the relations of Great Britain with the United States, and as soon as her eldest son, the Prince of Wales, grew up to manhood, she expected that the first country that he should visit in making the customary round of calls upon the various great powers should be North America, for the purpose, to use the queen's own words, "of showing the high sense which I entertained of the importance of strengthening by every means the relations of friendship and regard

which bind my country to the United States." And when the Prince of Wales returned to England at the close of his memorable visit she wrote to President Buchanan a remarkably cordial letter, in the course of which she declared that "while as a mother I am most grateful for the kindness shown him in America, I feel impelled to express at the same time how very deeply I have been touched by the many demonstrations of affection towards myself personally which his presence has called forth. I fully reciprocate towards your nation the feelings thus made apparent and look upon them as forming an important link to connect two nations of kindred origin and character, whose mutual esteem and friendship must always have so material an influence upon their respective development and prosperity. The interesting and touching scene at the grave of General Washington (President Buchanan had described in a letter to her majesty the tribute of homage and respect paid by the prince at the tomb of the father of the republic) may be truly taken as a type of our present feeling, and of our future relations."

Again at the time of what is known as the "Trent" controversy, which came so near embroiling the United States and England in a sanguinary conflict, the queen left the bedside of her dying husband in order to receive the dispatch of the full-fledged ultimatum drawn up by Prime Minister Lord John Russell and Foreign Secretary Lord Palmerston; and by means of a phrase changed here, and modified there, she toned down the entire document from an aggressive and peremptory demand, to such a moderate and reasonable one that the American nation could not have permitted their government to accede thereto into a most courteous appeal to the sense of justice of the American government. The wisdom of the queen's action in the matter was made apparent by the result. The terms of the Washington government to the request contained in the dispatch, and that inasmuch as England would undoubtedly have gone to war had satisfaction been withheld, the avoidance of a bloody struggle between the two great kindred nations was entirely attributable to her policy.

When President Lincoln, and years afterwards President Garfield, were struck down by the hand of notorious crazed assassins, no messages of condolence from abroad were couched in more sympathetic and feeling terms than those of Queen Victoria. Uncle Sam's diplomatic representatives at the court of St. James' have always been treated with exceptional graciousness and consideration by her majesty, and the recent conclusion of the treaty of arbitration between the two great English speaking powers of the world may be regarded as constituting a fitting climax to a reign that has been characterized by invariable and constant cordiality and affectionate regard for the United States. EX-ATTACHE.

A Mirage of a Man.

From the Cincinnati Enquirer.

"Well, if that isn't just like a man!" she exclaimed.

However, the distance and a wrinkle in the glass had deceived her. On his approaching closer she saw it was Chollie Kwasanthum and many points of dissimilarity became noticeable.

FOR AMERICAN ATHLETES.

DISCUS THROWING IS SURE TO BE VERY POPULAR ON THIS SIDE OF THE WATER THIS YEAR.

Last spring a team of American athletes from Princeton and Boston visited Athens and participated in the revival of the Olympic games held in the ancient stadium, famous in story and in song. The athletes returned covered with glory and crowned with—but I am digressing: what I would say is they learnt while in Greece to throw the discus, and became so fascinated that they have infected all their college mates with the contagion.

As a consequence, say purveyors of athletic goods, a great demand for the discus has manifested itself this season, and they are hard at work catering to the demand. They think the discus has come to stay, especially as athletes believe it will furnish capital exercise for those not quite heavy enough to win at hammer throwing.

Most of us endeavor to forget whatever fragments of learning were knocked into us at school as quickly as possible after leaving it, but among the odds and ends that will stick in spite of all efforts are those magnificent fables that men call the classics. Any lad with a taste for physical exercise cannot readily forget how the beautiful but unfortunate Hyacinthus was mortally wounded by the discus of Apollo, nor how Ulysses, without even removing his ulster, easily outthrew all his rivals, making the universe fairly hum by the impetuosity of his throw. Had he lived now he would have been taken in hand by an enterprising manager and billed as a "damp," and the price of admission would be from \$5 for box seats, to 50 cents for the bleachers.

The accompanying drawing, adapted from the famous "Discobolus" by Myron, shows better than any verbal description could how the discus is thrown. The player of classic times stood on a slight elevation; he raised the discus at arm's length to the level of his right shoulder, and then with a swing of the arm, and a following motion of the body, hurled it with all his force. The distance a discus might be thrown became in time a measure of length, just as in later days men spoke of a cable's length, or the flight of a cloth-yard shaft.

What thoroughly sportsmanlike fellows those ancient Greeks were! Instead of scratching around for gate money, gold watches, percentages of purses, and medals of solid silver, and such like baubles, they strove for the mere honor of the thing and the winner took as his reward the instrument with which he had downed his competitors. Cannot this grand old spirit be introduced into modern sport? so, the initiative must come from college athletes themselves, and they might make a beginning as soon as discus matches become frequent. "All competitors to throw with the same discus, and the winner to be presented with it, suitably engraved." I think such an idea will spread if given a chance, and some day we may see the winner of a big fight content to take the gloves with which he delivered the knockout blow as his reward.

In the long ago the discobolus was content to prove his strength alone, but mere brute force is at a discount now, although a little of it comes in



DISCUS THROWER IN CLASSIC ATTITUDE.