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a great deal of revenue that could be profitably secured if interest were only aroused. Whether or not is it possible to arouse sufficient interest in them is a question, but if they are to be allowed to die out something should be done to arouse the existing commercial orchardists to the possibilities of their position and to encourage new ones to enter the industry. We have previously urged the adoption of some progressive policy for the fruit industry, and we still feel it to be the need of the hour.

Nature's Diary.

BY A. BROOKER KLUGH, M. A.
PIKE AND PICKEREL.

The Pike and two species of Pickerel are common fishes in many of our waters. The fishes of this family (Esocidae) the Pike, Maskinonge and Pickerels are frequently confused, and the names are often misapplied. They may be separated by the following characters:

- A. No scales on lower half of gill-cover.
- B. Cheek, as well as lower half of gill-cover without scales—Maskinonge.
- BB. Cheek entirely scaled—Pike.
- AA. Gill-cover and cheek both entirely scaled.
- C. Rays of dorsal fin 14, of anal fin 13—Eastern Pickerel.
- CC. Rays of dorsal fin 11 or 12, of anal fin 11 or 12—Little Pickerel.

The Pike, *Esox lucius*, has a very wide range, as it is found in Europe, Asia and America. In Canada it occurs from Labrador to the Yukon, but not in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, and ranges north of the Arctic circle and south to the Great Lakes.

The young Pike is often termed a "jack," the mature fish is sometimes called "Jack-fish," or "Jack-pike," while in some parts of the country this species is the "Grass-pike."

While the color of the Pike may vary considerably in some details of shade or markings it is usually greenish-gray with yellow reflections, and with many white or yellow spots arranged in rows, the dorsal and caudal (tail) fins bearing round or oblong black spots. The young are more or less cross-banded.

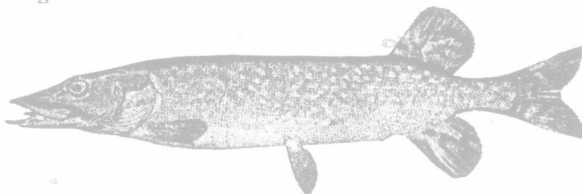
In European waters the Pike sometimes attains an immense size, and one is recorded from Scotland which was seven feet in length and weighed seventy-two pounds. The largest Pike taken in Canada weighed forty-nine pounds, and the average weight is from four to twelve pounds.

In spring and summer the Pike is found in shallow inlets with weedy bottoms and shores overgrown with reeds and rushes. Towards autumn it moves to pre-

cipitous, stony shores. As winter comes on the smaller Pike return to their summer haunts, but the larger individuals go out to deeper water, where they feed on other fishes which frequent deep water at that season.

The Pike is undoubtedly the most voracious of all the fresh-water fishes. It devours indiscriminately other fishes, young water-fowl and frogs, crayfish, reptiles and small mammals. From the dense bed of water-plants or rushes, where it usually spends the day in stationary watch, it darts with the speed of an arrow on its unsuspecting victim. It nearly always seizes its prey crosswise and maintains its hold until the latter is dead or so exhausted as to cease struggling. Then the Pike turns the prey in its jaws till the head points down its throat and commences its meal. This operation is a protracted one if the victim is large, for the end first received into the stomach must digest to make room for the remainder. A case is recorded in which a Pike seized a Salmon as large as itself, which struggled violently for two hours, when the Pike began to swallow it. The meal lasted for three days before the whole body had disappeared, and for several days the Pike had a very swollen appearance.

In the spring, before there is open water in the lakes, the Pike begin to approach the shores, and a little later when the low-lying marshy meadows are under water they begin to spawn. The eggs are about an eighth of an inch in diameter, and the number deposited depends on the age and size of the fish, ranging from 80,000 to 600,000. The young fry hatch out in about fourteen days, and at first lie close to the surface of the water beside water-plants and floating straws, or else at the bottom in water less than an inch deep. In about ten days the yolk-sac is absorbed, the head elongated and the mouth large. Soon they begin to



The Pike.

swim about, and to watch for prey, darting out and seizing small fish and other aquatic animals of considerable size as compared with themselves. At two months old the young Pike is about an inch long, and the subsequent rate of growth depends upon the abundance of food. Usually at a year old it is from 8 to 12 inches long, at two years from 14 to 19 inches, at three years from 20 to 25 inches, at six years about 40 inches, and at twelve years about 4½ feet long. The Pike lives to a great age, perhaps considerably over a hundred years, but just how long is not definitely known.

The Pike is a game-fish of considerable fighting ability, and its flesh is excellent, being white, firm, well-flavored and comparatively free from bones.

The Eastern Pickerel, which occurs in Canada, in some of the waters of New Brunswick and in the St. Lawrence, has a green and golden hue and black or brown reticulated markings on the sides. It usually weighs two or three pounds, though specimens of eight pounds have been taken.

The Little Pickerel, which occurs in the streams flowing into the Great Lakes, never attains a length of over a foot.

Both species of Pickerel resemble the Pike quite closely in their habits, being predacious, but on account of their smaller size they naturally prey on smaller species than their large cousin.

In Search of Happiness.

BY ALLAN MCDIARMID.

A short time ago, in delivering an address at one of our big American Universities, Sir Auckland Geddes made a rather peculiar and striking statement. He said that there was an idea taking hold of the minds of millions of people at the present time which, if expressed, would be something like this: "what are we living in this world for, anyway? By hard work we can prevent ourselves from dying of starvation, only to meet death, finally in some other form. And what have we accomplished? Nothing more than the bringing into the world of children who must go through the same treadmill existence and come to the same end."

Sir Auckland went on to prescribe the remedy for this condition of mind, which was the cultivation of an ideal of beauty, purity and truth, which same sounds rather vague, I think, to the average mind.

There is one object which almost every human being is in search of, and that is Happiness. This is the real reason that lies back of all action, it is safe to say. Even when our work is what is called unselfish, sacrificing personal interests for the sake of others, perhaps our families, perhaps humanity in general, the real spring of our action is the fact that it gives us happiness. A differently made person would expect to get happiness by looking after his own wants, first, last and perhaps, all the time. But, look where you like, you will find that the hope of happiness is what keeps the individual going from day to day, and the race from generation to generation.

A pretty large percentage of humanity is engaged in chasing the dollar. They either want money for the pleasure of having it, or for the pleasure they can buy with it, or possibly the pleasure of giving it away. One man gives up his work in the city and buys a farm because he thinks he will be happier on the land. Another man sells his farm and moves to town for the pleasure

of its advantages and the comparative leisure he will enjoy. It is the search for happiness that makes one man move heaven and earth to get into our halls of Parliament, while the same idea is in the mind of the tired politician who resigns his seat to go back to his work in the office. Why do people choose different trades and professions? It's because they like one line of work better than another. Why does one individual get married and another remain single? It's the working out of this search for happiness. (Provided, of course, that the parties have free choice in the matter.)

This tendency of man to cater to his own whims and tastes is the remnant of some old instinct that has come down to him from his animal ancestors, probably. With the development of reason he should be beginning to see that it isn't absolutely necessary to be very happy in order to be successful. Some of our greatest men have had a "hard row to hoe" all the way from the cradle to the grave. Pain and sickness do not tend to make a person happy, but these things have been life-long companions of any number of great and useful men and women.

It's quite possible that the average person will do better work when he is feeling well and happy. But "feeling good" is only one of several helps to the accomplishment of a successful career.

But in spite of all the philosophy and reason we may bring to bear on this point it still remains true, and will continue to be true, that mankind will strive for happiness as long as there is a single individual left in this "vale of tears." So the only practical thing to do is to write out a prescription for it.

This might not seem like a very easy task, but almost any kind of a doctor will prescribe for a patient provided he is not asked to first take some of the medicine himself. Or that he is not compelled to see that the other party takes it. It's one thing to tell a man what to do but it's another kind of a proposition to make him do it.

But the cure for the misery and discontent that has been the daily companion, and nightly bed-fellow, of man from his earliest history to the twentieth year of this twentieth century, is simply—unselfishness. One word takes it all in.

If we want proof of this statement it isn't likely that any of us will have to travel very far to find it. I recall one case that shows what thinking only for self will do for a person.

A young man whom I knew first as a farmer, came to the conclusion that it would be easier to sell his property and live on the interest of his money than to continue to milk cows and to hoe corn. He carried out the idea and went to town, where he found a house that suited him as to rent, and settled down to live by himself—and for himself. One of his relatives who knew him well said about him: "there are only three things that Jim takes any interest in and they are self, self, self."

And the result that the student of human nature would have expected wasn't long in following. First the money went, through bad investments, mostly. The next thing our friend lost was his self-respect. If he had any decent clothes he felt too uncomfortable in them to ever wear them. And, finally, he lost his health. Trying to keep everything that came his way resulted in his losing all that he had at first been endowed with. He saw life from the wrong standpoint and it left him with nothing. He was a good picture of misery, the last glimpse I had of him several years ago.

Probably our point won't be considered proved unless we bring positive evidence to bear, as well as negative.

I was talking to a mechanic in town, a couple of weeks ago. He told me something of what it was costing him to live and keep his family. "Every day," he said, "it costs me nearly a dollar for meat. We use two pounds of sugar every day, and six loaves of bread. A pound of cheese only lasts one meal. There's half-a-dozen other things used in the same proportion. And when I go to buy shoes for the children I just take a flour sack with me."

"However," he went on, "I'm not worrying any. My wages aren't any bigger than they ought to be, but none of us have ever had to go very hungry to bed, up to the present. I tell you I wouldn't be without my family of eight boys and girls even if it meant working half the night for them, as well as all day. When a fellow's happy he don't mind a little extra work."

Practically nine tenths of what this man made went to keep others in food and clothing. He hadn't time to think of himself at all. And he was happy. He probably couldn't have told how it came about. He was just thinking and working for others and the result was satisfactory.

I don't know that I can explain this working of one of Nature's laws myself, but perhaps it isn't necessary. If our unhappy, dissatisfied world could just be got to experiment with it a little they'd soon have on hand all the proof of its value they needed.

The Hessian fly has been working havoc in the winter wheat fields of Western Ontario. Farmers should acquaint themselves with the proper cultural methods to combat this scourge, and all should follow the best policy to a man. There is need of co-operation among neighbors in this line, for one man can undo, by improper methods, much that the neighborhood has accomplished in the way of eradication.

Take a little time and cut the suckers from around the base of the tree-trunks in the orchard. They do no good and harbor many insects and disease, besides giving the orchard an unsightly appearance.