

THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST.

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WILLIAM COUPER, Editor.

OUR NEW TITLE-PAGE.

Our readers will, no doubt, be pleased with the improvement which we have made in our Title-page. The design is by Mr. A. F. Dunlop, Architect, and the engraving by Mr. J. L. Wiseman, both of this city. The work reflects credit on the skill of the artists.

KILLING FISH BY DYNAMITE.

The residents of Indiana have been making use of the above explosive to kill fish. The shock destroys hundreds of marketable fishes, but at the same time there are thousands of young fish killed and allowed to decay in the water. The destructiveness of this method is so great that popular indignation should arise against it. We have been informed that the unmarketable fishes thus destroyed by dynamite in the White-water River, Ill., were seen floating in the river and its tributaries fully forty miles from the scene of the explosion. We have some knowledge of a similar experiment to kill fish in Canadian waters. The party who tried it, made the first attempt at Quebec. Americans to-day would call such a man "crank," and although we have frequently remarked "daft" moments in his dealings, he was determined and had energy as a fishmonger. The material had to be obtained to supply his customers, and as he could not procure sufficient by net process he thought of trying the dynamite one. On a beautiful summer's morning, he arose from his bed in Blanchard's Hotel, and taking a handsome trout rod in hand, proceeded to the Custom-house wharf, alongside of which lay a small trading schooner. The dynamite fish-killer tripped lightly on board the vessel, and having quietly adjusted the explosive to a line braced to the fishing rod, the experiment began; but the Skipper, who was in his berth, hearing light

footsteps on board his craft—came forth from his cabin just at the instant of the explosion to find the schooner and himself thrown partially on the wharf. Of course the Skipper asked him "what you do there," but he coolly answered that "he was fishing," that a large fish took hold of his bait, and the line and a great portion of his twelve dollar rod were gone. The turmoil being over and the experimenter having quickly disappeared from the scene, the matter ended, but it must be remembered that he had an object in view and that was to discover if he could procure fish in large quantities by a cheap and easy process. This was his first trial with the dangerous article, and we cannot say that he tried dynamite again, but the intentions of this fish-monger were to dynamite the Trout Lakes of our Laurentide mountains, in order to procure large quantities of fish to supply the demand of the American market. He failed, however, as every man will, who uses unnatural or unlawful modes to catch his game. We have had accounts of large quantities of small fishes belonging to several species having been seen dead on the waters of Lake Ontario, and even in the Lower St. Lawrence, but no one has given a proper cause for the mortality. We are told that some years ago, the Norway Haddock (*Sebastes Norvegicus*) appeared in thousands opposite Metis, but they were all dead. Millions of Sticklebacks have been seen on the surface of the salt water in the Lower St. Lawrence, but what killed them is a mystery. Some attribute it to aqueous earthquakes producing sulphureous gases. Water may be poisoned in many ways; we know that lime when cast into the upper portion or source of a trout stream, will, in a short time, kill every fish in it. Fresh cut pine saw-dust when thrown into a river, becomes disagreeable to fish; but this dust produces greater harm after it accumulates, for saw-