

6 10-16th pounds, the next 6 pounds, the third  $5\frac{1}{2}$  pounds—all these by American parties.

"In 1883 the Bishop of Georgia took a  $6\frac{1}{2}$  pounder; fifty-seven rods were on the river, and the tally of "largest" showed, besides the big fish of the Apostolic Successor, one fish of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  pounds, one of 6 pounds, one of  $5\frac{3}{4}$  pounds, four of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  pounds, three of  $5\frac{1}{4}$  pounds, six of 5 pounds, and three of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  pounds.

"In 1884 the Church again beat the record—Rev. Canon Mackay having taken on August 17 forty trout in eleven hours including one of 6 pounds, and two of 4 pounds. Mr. J. G. A. Creighton and wife, of Ottawa, in fourteen days took 364 trout, including one of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  pounds, two over 6 pounds, one of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  pounds, and two of 5 pounds.

"In 1885 sixty-four rods fished the stream. This year 7-pounders were first recorded by a perfectly trustworthy Pennsylvania party of two rods. Between August 12 and 21 they took one of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  pounds and one of  $7\frac{1}{4}$  pounds. Two trout of over 6 pounds were caught by other parties, and a large number over 5 pounds.

"In 1886 a party of four rods, including Mr. W. D. Matthews, President of the Toronto Board of Trade, are reported as having taken in thirteen days 243 trout, including one of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  pounds, two of 7 pounds, one of 6 pounds, sixteen of 5 pounds, twenty-six of 4 pounds and sixty-four of 3 pounds. This dwarfs into insignificance almost all the other catches of the year, though several of over 6 pounds are recorded. Since that date there is rarely a season that trout over 7 pounds are not reported."

To resume my story: McKirdy soon fitted me out with a canoe and a couple of Indian guides, one of whom was, perhaps, the best guide on the Nepigon. I paid him two dollars a day, and the young Indian who took the bow half a dollar less. The canoe was a birch bark, three fathoms long, and my camp outfit was hired from McKirdy at a very reasonable price, and he also supplied the eatables and drinkables.

Our route passed first through Lake Helen, a very picturesque patch of water, but one which had no charms for us just then, as I was too anxious to wet a line

in the famous pools above, and the Indian is at no time impressed by the beauty of the landscape, having an essentially practical mind. After a few hours paddling against a swift current, the white, creamy waters of the rapid in front of Camp Alexander caught my eye, and we went ashore to boil the kettle, as this is a famous fishing cast. I took some trout here before we left, and they would have been good ones in any other river, as they weighed more than two pounds, but it was not until we reached Cameron's Pool that I got my first heavy fish.

Here the water tumbles over a succession of reef-like ledges, and as my little Jock Scott hovered by the edge of a snowball of spun drift, a great trout rose at it, and as I saw his broad, silvery side flash in the foam, my heart rose in my mouth, as something told me that I was about to hook the heaviest trout of my life. He took the fly with a rush, and we fought it out for ten minutes before I had any advantage. Then his strength began to wane, and a minute or two later one of the men slipped the landing net under him and lifted a magnificent fish of  $5\frac{1}{4}$  pounds into the canoe.

For a couple of days I had wonderful sport, then reluctantly gave the order to run down stream, as my time was limited. In that time, however, I had ascertained that my informant was truthful. The average weight of the Nepigon trout is over two pounds, provided the fisherman is also a sportsman and returns the little fellows which he takes by accident to the water—and when I say the little fellows, I mean all trout weighing less than sixteen ounces.

The Nepigon trout are so heavy because the river has its birth in the great Lake Nepigon, a body of icy water, ninety miles long and swarming with fish, and these do not migrate from the lake until they have reached a certain size. In Lake Nepigon, trout of all sizes are taken, from mere minnows to ten or even twelve pounders, but the very small fish do not leave the lake, hence the angler fishing the Nepigon catches few fish under a pound.

Supplementing the information contained in the foregoing story, the following