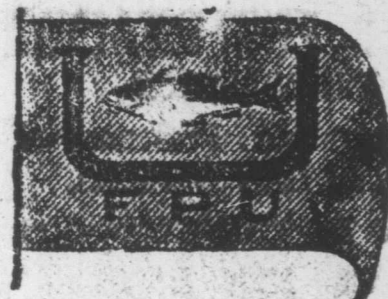


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The Mail and Advocate

Issued every day from the office of publication, 187 Water Street, St. John's, Newfoundland, Union Publishing Co. Ltd., Proprietors.

ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., JULY 29, 1915.

OUR POINT OF VIEW

Forestry Laws

ELSEWHERE we publish today regulations respecting the rinding of trees. This brings to mind the painful fact that our forestry laws are very inadequate and considering the growing importance and ever increasing value of pine forests it is more than surprising that more up-to-date and intelligent interest is not being taken in the preservation of our remaining forests.

We have no forestry laws, worth speaking of, and no department of the Government to look after our forest areas, as an enlightened people ought to look after such an important public asset.

The conservation of our forests comes under the care of the Department of Agriculture and Mines, but that department takes no special interest in the matter, beyond letting our areas to a few special and more or less favored ones.

There is a regular tribe of timber hawks in this community and they manage to be on the spot every time when there is a chance to make a grab. They forever haunt the perches of the Crown Lands Office peering and prying, watching like hawks everything that transpires that might furnish them with a clue to the whereabouts of an available timber area that they might pounce upon.

These fellows are regular spongers upon the commonwealth. They neither reap nor sow, but they somehow manage to keep up the show and they are fed, but it is not the Heavenly Father, who feeds them, as the sparrows are fed.

No indeed, but it is the country that they rob, that also is compelled to feed them, and drink them, and cigar them, automobile, sport and clothe them, and keep them in a state of adolescence, but they never seem to get beyond the stage of the milk sop, they never attain to manhood.

The strange part of it is they never seem to realize that they are living as parasites, preying upon the life blood of the community.

They never seem to realize that they have no right to possess themselves of lands and timber and mining properties, these natural assets are the property of the people, and not of any private individual or coterie, clique or bunch of speculators.

But our foolish laws permit them, and here is where our complaint comes in. We protest against this drifting and shift-

lessness. We must apply business methods to our public affairs, and we must get it firmly fixed as settled conviction in our minds that public business is public business, conducted for the good of the whole, and not for the especial benefit of the few.

That Crown Lands Department need a thorough renovating. We want an up-to-date forestry, and at once. Though this business of monkeying and speculating with public property has gone on for a long time, too long indeed, and may be it is almost akin to "locking the stable door after the steed has been stolen" to begin any reforms now, but that should not deter us from beginning to apply some little sense and business methods to our administration of such an important public department.

All lands held by idle speculators should revert at once to the Crown, and no further privileges should be extended, as in the past. A thorough survey of all our timber areas should be made, so that we may know just where we stand, and what assets we possess in that line.

We should also undertake a study of our forests with a view to conservation, and the possibility of helping nature to restore the wealth that our stupidity has allowed to be destroyed.

From time to time some tyro suggests some alteration in the law, and perhaps succeeds in having the suggested change brought about. Perhaps the change may be for the better, perhaps not, nobody can tell; we have no ground other than an idea that it may be good, to work upon. We go it blindly, as it were and take the risk; we are not in the matter acting intelligently, there is too much of blind, stupid hazard.

In the matter of this rinding of trees for instance, who knows whether we are doing right by permitting it or not, somebody may argue that it does no harm; well may be not, but there again we have no data upon which to form an intelligent verdict.

To our mind it seems a cruel waste, and very unnecessary.

NOTES ON THE HABITS AND LIFE HISTORY OF CANADIAN SALMON

By Professor E. E. Prince, Dominion Commissioner of Fisheries, Ottawa.

OF all the finny dwellers in our waters the true salmon (salmo salar, L.) is perhaps the best known and most highly esteemed. In symmetry of form, in brilliancy of silvery armour, in dash and vigour of movement, in strength and quality of "fight," and above all in the supreme esculent qualities of his richly tinted flesh, the true salmon has no peer.

According to old English law the salmon along with the whale and sturgeon ranked as Royal "fish," and by common consent the salmon's title to that pre-eminence remains undisputed. The indomitable perseverance exhibited in his arduous migrations, the choice, which the salmon unfailingly makes of the purest and noblest rivers, and, again, the value from an economic point of view of the salmon as a food product add to his claim to be regarded as the "King of Fishes."

The Dominion, traversed as it is by some of the coldest, clearest and most majestic rivers in the world, is par excellence the chosen home of the salmon. It may be doubted whether there are any salmon rivers in the world to compare in most respects with the Restigouche, the Miramichi, the St. John and a score of others, famous in the annals of sport.

So much has been written about the salmon and allied Salmonidae that the treatises if collected together would form an extensive library. Yet a condensed and ac-

MOSDELL'S BOOMERANGS

Newfoundland Toilers awaited a champion, an organizer and a leader. Men there were a-plenty to pose as champions of the cause of the Fishermen, but it generally transpired that they were politicians at heart and not true friends of the Fishermen. Numerous leaders appeared at one time and another but they accomplished nothing either because of their half-hearted attempts or because they lacked the saving grace of organization. They were men who did not possess or engender in the Toilers that absolute confidence that is essential to the success of any general and champion of the cause of labor.—Mosdell, in The Fishermen's Advocate, Dec. 20, 1913.

Men looked for the saviour and the deliverer to come from legislative halls or from so-called upper classes. They had decided that he must be one learned in law or politics; prominent in business or some other department of public life. How else, said they, can he successfully organize and lead the Toilers and do battle on their behalf. But they were mistaken in their anticipations and once again was proven the old adage that it is usually the weak of the earth that is used to confound the mighty. The organizer and leader appeared in W. F. COAKER, who possessed none of the qualifications generally deemed essential to success.—Mosdell, in The Advocate, Dec. 20, '13.

curate account of the true salmon, and of valuable allied forms is not generally available, and the following notes aim to supply the want and to embody all the most recent knowledge respecting the salmon and the Salmonidae generally.

The family Salmonidae embraces fresh water and salt water species some occurring at great depths of sea like Bathylagus and brought up from 2,000 fathoms depth by H.M.S. "Challenger," others confined to comparatively shallow fresh water areas like the white-fish (Coregonus clupeiformis) of the great lakes, or seeking some depth in inland waters like the great lake trout (Salvelinus namaycush). The grayling, at any rate one species, Back's grayling (Thymallus signifer) prefers the rippling streams of the Arctic and peri-Arctic regions, while others are equally at home in fresh or salt water like the true salmon, the smelt, the candle fish or Oolachan of the Pacific and the sea-run brook trout. The smelt-like capelin prefers to linger within the limits of brackish water and of pure sea-water.

The old disputes as to the nature of the twelve-barred pearl the view that grise or salmon pearl are really a small but distinct species of salmon and the like, are settled for ever; but authorities still wage hot controversy upon vital points in the salmon's life history and indisputably show that the interest attached to the habits of this fish from the early infant stage onward is perennial.

The questions still discussed include such as the following:—"Do salmon feed in fresh water? Are salmon indifferent as to which rivers they ascend for spawning, or are they true to their own streams? Do salmon resort to the depths of the sea or do they merely remain in inshore waters? Many of these questions, though still debated by anglers and sportsmen generally, have been decided definitely by scientific authorities, and in the succeeding pages the main facts in the wonderful life-history of the salmon and of allied forms, often confounded with the true salmon, will be briefly set forth so far as they have been established by exact investigation.

Notwithstanding the exalted position commonly accorded to the salmon principally on account of its fine qualities as a game fish and a food fish, there are some points in its structure and anatomy which are of a marked primitive and lowly character. In the lowest fishes the skull and much of the skeleton consists of gristle or cartilage, but as we rise in the scale of fish life we find that by deposits of lime in the soft cartilaginous material the skeleton becomes changed into dense white bone. Thus the skull and shoulder bones of a cod become changed into hard bone; but in the salmon this change is only partially accomplished and much of the

skull, the shoulder elements, &c., remain as soft as cartilage.

The position of the paired fins is primitive and while in many fishes the hind pair or ventral fins are placed far forward, as in the case with the haddock, the mackerel and the bass, in the salmon they retain their early position half way along the body. Other lowly features might be instanced, but the most remarkable and, to the naturalist, the most perplexing is the absence of oviducts in the female salmon. In the more highly organized fishes the eggs after being formed in the egg-glands or ovaries pass backward along a pair of tubes called oviducts and so find an outlet. In the lowest fishes there are no such tubes, but the eggs drop from the ovaries when ripe and roll along the abdominal chamber till they find exit. The salmon is exactly like the lamprey in this primitive, or as some think, this degraded feature.

Regarding the distribution of salmon it may be said that of the rivers pouring directly into the waters of the Atlantic every one in Canada is a true salmon river. In a few cases it might be appropriate to speak of them as salmon rivers in the past tense, yet some waters like the tributaries of Lake Ontario, which are no longer resorted to by salmon in numbers or with regularity are still found to yield an occasional salmon.

The Superintendent of Fisheries for Upper Canada described in his report for 1859 the capture of an extraordinary number of salmon at certain points along the lake. At Port Credit he said there were taken 470,000 fish in 1856, two-thirds of them being salmon. It is difficult to understand such a haul of salmon, for the mention of salmon trout (the great lake trout) in the same reports shows that the two were not confused as they frequently are in some parts of Ontario. In deed even at that date salmon had seriously declined.

Many of the streams running into Lake Ontario (he says) were once the resort of myriads of salmon (the salmon proper from the ocean). "I have seen them from 1812 to 1815, swarming the rivers so thickly, that they were thrown out with a shovel, and even with the hand. Now it is rare to see them back to their favourite haunts? One cannot but feel deeply at the loss—the calamity I may say—which we have sustained in the destruction of these noble fish. After all the reckless and destructive agencies which have been used, the great numbers which are still found in some parts of the lakes show their vitality, and gives us the best guarantee that no very expensive means need be used for their preservation."

Just as the lobster has its northern limit so the salmon appear to cease as the rivers of the Arctic circle are approached. There is a common opinion even amongst

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fur-hunters and traders that salmon inhabit some of the rivers pouring into Hudson Bay, but long conversations with residents from Fort Churchill, Chesterfield Inlet, &c., who have lived upon the various rivers in question, have shown rather that the large salmon-like fish captured for food have been erroneous sea-trout, or species of Salvelinus allied to the great lake trout.

I have had the opportunity of examining specimens of these large salmonoids from the northern Labrador coast, and any example of so-called salmon submitted to me proved to be recognized species of northern trout and not the true salmon. The true salmon appears to cease north of Hamilton Inlet, and is probably not found in the rivers of the district of Ungava.

(To be continued)

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Getting Hoarded Gold

Between the beginning of the year and the end of January, the Bank of France added \$18,000,000 to its gold reserve. In exactly the same interval the Bank of Germany increased its gold \$199,800,000. Since the second week of May, after the Bank of France had completed its \$40,000,000 gold shipment to London, that bank's gold holdings have increased \$14,000,000, whereas the gold holdings of the Bank of Germany have in the same period increased only \$4,000,000.

It was in response to an urgent Government appeal that the German people, in the closing months of 1914, turned gold into the Bank of Germany in exchange for notes. In the four months from September 1 to the close of December alone, the Reichsbank's gold holdings increased \$136,000,000. While \$60,000,000 of this came from the Spandau "war chest," and possibly some of it from the Bank of Austria-Hungary, the gold-holding public was undoubtedly the chief contributor. The increase, up to the end of 1914, averaged \$9,000,000 weekly, the smallest weekly gain being \$4,000,000, and the largest \$33,500,000. Recent German bank statements have suggested that the public's supply of gold is now nearly exhausted.

In precisely the same manner that the German Government last year applied to its people for gold, the French Government has appealed this month. Last Thursday the French Bank's weekly statement shows an increase of \$8,300,000 gold, much the largest increase reported in any single week since the war began, and comparing with average gains of \$1,000,000 in seven weeks past.

Will the French people now duplicate the German people's contributions on an equal scale? It is an interesting economic experiment. The French people are known to have been hoarding gold ever since 1911, and especially since the Balkan war; at times, the process caused an actual scarcity of gold in general circulation. Nobody knows how much is thus held now, but the total must certainly run high up into the hundreds of millions of dollars, and at the present moment there is without any question vastly more gold in the French people's hands than the German people hold.

Will they give it up? The instinct which led to the hoarding, on this occasion as in 1870, was a desire to subscribe to the national loan on the return of peace. Perhaps the real question is, whether the French Government can persuade the people, as the German Government seems to have persuaded its people, that bank-notes are as available for the purpose as gold.

For Youth to Remember

Sad will be the old age of the youth who forgets his father's struggles, his father's merit, his father's God; and lets the morrow take care of itself. The world owes no man a living; but every youth owes the world a life.

PUBLIC NOTICE

RESPECTING THE RINDING OF TREES

Notice is hereby given that under authority of "An Act respecting the operation of Saw Mills" His Excellency the Governor in Council has by Proclamation in The Royal Gazette prohibited the rinding of trees in the following sections, viz:

- 1. All that piece and parcel of land being the neck between Indian Arm and Loon Bay, in the district of Twillingate, and extending from Comfort Cove on the north side to the road from the bottom of Indian Arm to the bottom of Loon Bay on the south.
2. The Island, known as Thwart Island, Exploits.
3. The Island, known as Chapel Island in the District of Twillingate.

SYDNEY D. BLANDFORD, Min. Agriculture & Mines, Dept. Agriculture & Mines, St. John's, Nfld., July 10, 1915.

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