

many the fish is called *Bachforelle* (brook trout). Dr. Day, in 'British and Irish Salmonidae,' persistently writes it down brook trout; but as we have a brook trout of our own we cannot adopt the translation of the German name which Day seems to prefer. In England the fish is generally called the common trout, although it is sometimes called by other names. This is particularly true in Scotland. The name German trout became attached to the European trout from the fact that the first eggs of this species sent to the country for a public hatching station were presented to the United States Fish Commission by Dr. von Behr, President of the German Fisheries Association, and were taken from German waters, although a private fish breeder in Massachusetts had previously imported brown trout eggs from England. The United States Fish Commission, out of courtesy to Dr. von Behr, named the fish von Behr trout, but in New York State the Fisheries, Game and Forest Commission adhere to the English name brown trout, and under this name it is hatched and distributed in some of the public waters of the state.

Lastly, there is the method, too commonly adopted, of conferring a great variety of names upon one fish, instead of adhering to a single, generally accepted name. There may be an element of appropriateness in each of the names as in the term 'smelt' which is applied on many lakes in New York State to a lesser whitefish, whose specific distinctiveness was first noticed by that able and gifted fishery expert, Dr. H.M. Smith. Dr. Smith called it *Coregonus osmeriformis*, (now called *Argyrosomus osmeriformis*) the specific name having reference to the smelt-like character of its external appearance. Both the smelt and this lesser whitefish belong to the same family (*Salmonidae*), and the misnaming is certainly not so outrageous as calling the whitefish a bass, a practice on some waters in New York State: the term 'Otsego Bass' being most unjustifiably applied to the lake whitefish. The name smelt is also given to *Notropis hudsonius*, a widely distributed minnow, ranging from Lake Superior to South Carolina. So also the name 'Mullet,' which really belongs to a family having most of the characters of the perch, viz., the *Mugilidae* (applied likewise to the Surmulletts or *Mullidae*) has been conferred in many localities to members of the carp family, from which they wholly differ. The mullets are marine fishes, though some of them come into brackish water. The chub-sucker (*Erimyzon sucetta*) is called mullet in North Carolina, while in Ontario the *Moxostoma*, or large scaled suckers, are called mullets, e.g. white mullet, *M. pupillosum*; blue mullet, *M. coregonus*; jumping mullet, *M. cervinum*, carp mullet, *M. carpio*, or simply mullet, *M. aureolum*. There is probably no case, however, which for variety of popular names can excel that fresh-water Gadoid, *Lota maculosa*, which rejoices in at least fifteen distinct names. It is called the burbot, the fresh-water ling, (to distinguish it from the sea ling), the losh or loche in Quebec and Alaska, the eel pout in Eastern Canada and some Eastern States, the dog fish in Lake Erie, the 'chub eel' in Mohawk River, New York State; the 'fresh-water cusk' in St. John River, N.B.; 'the ling and lawyer' in Lakes Ontario and Michigan; the 'lake cusk,' and 'fresh-water cod,' of Lake Winnipigoegee; the 'maria' in Lake Winnipeg; the 'methy,' by the Cree Indians, and 'eel pout' in many districts, and the 'mathemeg' in some western areas. It is also called 'spotted burbot,' but, as Professor Ramsay Wright some years ago suggested, the name American burbot is at once most distinctive and appropriate and should supplant all other names. Only one species is recognized by experts, though a small species was at one time named and distinguished as *Lota compressa*, the lesser eel-pout. Amongst the French Canadians the same lack of uniformity exists for *M. Mo. tpetit* points out that 'Les Canadiens Français de Montreal appellent improprement ce poisson la loche; à Québec on lui donne tantôt le nom de queue d'anguille, tantôt celui de bar-bue.'

If great variations obtain regarding the naming or misnaming of this fish, a corresponding diversity of opinion exists regarding its edible qualities. At a remote Hudson Bay post, in the Canadian North-west, I found that the flesh was regarded as poisonous, indeed, cases of poisoning after Indians and employees of the post had eaten the fish were mentioned, and it was pointed out that even the dogs would not eat it. The dogs are usually fed on the excellent whitefish and decline being put off with inferior fare, and it is a fact pointed out by various explorers that the dogs of the North-west, used in the dog-trains, refuse to eat the burbot. I found, however, at another Hudson