

HUNTING AND FISHING, HERE AND ELSEWHERE

FISHING RESORTS HANDY TO VICTORIA

IV.—Shawnigan

(By Richard L. Pocock.)
For a good many years now Shawnigan has been the regular resort of a small army of fishermen every season and in spite of it all, the attraction of the place never seems to grow less. It is par excellence the resort of the family man who likes to give his folks a fresh air outing of a week-end and incidentally to catch a basket of fish to take back to the city, as it is within easy reach of town by rail and there are two good hotels right by the side of the railroad and a stone's throw or less from the water's edge.

Old-timers, who fished the waters of the lake in the earlier days are apt to cry Ichabod and declare that the glory of Shawnigan is departed for fishermen, but for all that the fact remains that many a regular habitué still resorts there regularly every week and usually returns with something to show for his trouble.

No doubt when the waters were less fished the baskets were heavier and the fish were bigger but there are still big fish to be caught in Shawnigan Lake for those who can catch them.

Unfortunately some misguided party introduced cat fish and to this is attributed in great measure the falling off in quality of the trout fishing in the lake. Still last Sunday the writer saw a fisherman returning therefrom with a large basket, in which he claimed to have forty-five fish, caught "on the fly," and, judging from the smile on his countenance, he had greatly enjoyed himself in catching them, which after all is the chief desideratum.

Lately the Government has listened to the representations of Shawnigan anglers and blasted steps in the rocky falls near the outlet of the stream running out of Shawnigan lake with the object of giving the sea trout, and steelheads a chance to ascend into the lake and the experiment has been watched with great interest and bids fair to be a success.

Near the beginning of this season some good fish were caught in the lower pools of the stream obviously sea-run and there seems to be no doubt that many a good trout succeeded in making its way into the lake while several grilse were reported to the writer as caught in the lake, though he did not have the opportunity of personally inspecting them.

The work of blasting out the steps up the falls has been done in good shape and there seems now to be a very good chance of Shawnigan Lake once more becoming as fine a fishing resort as in the days of yore. In the meanwhile, though the fly-fishing there is not what it used to be, as was said above, many an angler makes it his regular resort and usually ends the day with a smiling face and a more or less numerous catch.

Shawnigan Lake is about twenty-five miles from Victoria reached by road or rail, special facilities being given by the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Company in the summer months.

PRIMITIVE FISHING AND FISH HOOKS

It is well known that our own stone age ancestors in Europe were great fish eaters, and large mounds of broken shells along the northern coasts bear witness to their tastes. But, of course, little is known of their tackle, all of which, such as it was, must have perished during the many centuries which separate our day from theirs, centuries which only their stone implements have survived. For this reason it is interesting to glance at the piscatorial methods of those primitive tribes, who at the time of their discovery were living under much the same general conditions, namely, in a stone age, in absolute ignorance of metals. The inhabitants of Oceania, living as they did upon small islands dotted about in the Pacific, afford an excellent example of the stone-age fisherman, and it is from them that most of the exhibits are obtained. The great majority of these consist of various patterns of fish hooks; but nets of various sizes and patterns were practically universal, and traps of basket works and spears nearly as common. Of especial interest are a small trawl net with wooden frame, used by the New Zealanders to collect mussels, and a small basket trap from New Guinea. The latter is made with a number of small branches fastened together to form a small hollow cone; each branch is furnished with sharp thorns, all of which are directed towards the small closed end of the trap, where the bait is placed. Once a fish has placed his head in the trap the thorns prevent his escape. This trap looks very inefficient, but no one who has been induced to introduce his hand into it has been known to require any further proof on the subject.

The hooks are extremely varied in shape, size, and material, but fall, roughly, into two classes, those for use with bait and those for use without. The former are made of wood or turtle shell, and are either cut from a single piece or composed of a shank with the point lashed on; they may be divided into two types, those which secure the fish by penetrating some part of the mouth or gullet, and those which act as gorges. The latter usually have the point curving round almost to meet the shank, and it is beneath this curve that the bait is tied, so that the fish cannot get it without taking the hook also. These hooks vary in size from the large types, as used in New Guinea and Micronesia for the capture of sharks, and the minute turtle-shell hooks, like a No. 12 round bend, with which the Solomon Islanders take mullet.

The Polynesian hooks are often barbed, and in one specimen from New Zealand, where the point is made of a portion of a dog's jaw, the tooth has been left in situ and filed, to serve as a barb. In this country, hooks pointed with

human bone were considered particularly efficacious, and it will be remembered that Maui, the great culture hero of the Maori, drew up the North Island out of the sea when fishing with a hook made from the jawbone of his grandfather; hence their name for their country, te ika a Maui (the fish of Maui). In the class of baited hooks (though they are not strictly hooks at all)—may be included two interesting gorges from Melanesia and Micronesia respectively; the bait is fastened on a small and nearly straight slip of turtle shell, which is bored with a hole at the centre for the attachment of the line and sharply pointed at each end; when the fish seizes the bait this pulls athwart the gullet, and the fish can be dragged in. In the Melanesian specimen the float consists of a piece of wood, weighted at one end with a pebble; in the Micronesian specimen it is a young coconut. They are

shank of the hook consists of a broad piece of shell, often cut from the hinge of the valve, so that the ribbed structure imparts a spin to the hook, and the point is another piece of shell or of bone; sometimes a piece of shell, often shaped like a small fish, is neatly lashed to the back of the shank of a turtle-shell hook. But the most elaborate patterns come from New Zealand and Tonga. In the first instance the shank is of wood, neatly shaped in a curve, the front of which is inlaid with a single strip of haliotis shell, and the barbed point is cut from bone. The Tongan hook is larger, and the shank is of whale's bone, inlaid along the back with a gleaming slab of pearl shell; the point, also barbed, is of turtle shell, and to the end of the shank is fastened a frayed piece of white bark, which flutters as the hook is drawn through the water. Marvelous neatness and accuracy is shown in the

pot, there was no sense in risking the loss of dinner as well as a hook which had cost many days' labor.

One metal fish hook from Le Tene, in Switzerland, is exhibited; this is of bronze, and dates from the bronze age, and it is interesting to note how little the earliest type of metal hook known in Europe differs from the latest productions of the present day.—The Field.

THE WHITE GRIZZLY CUB

The mountain people located west of Fraser River, between Bridge River and Big Creek, were agog over the appearance of a pure white cub following a dark-haired grizzly. The report that Barnum & Bailey or John Robinson would pay an almost fabulous sum for such a feral freak inspired some very strenuous work

and the bears sought refuge in the thickets where the berry crop provided a feast no less welcome to the accommodating appetite.

An especial delight is the Husham berry, its tart freshness never failing to make the busy traveler, be he biped or quadruped, loiter by the roadside. Now the bushes were bending low under the weight of the thickly clustered little berry, and Mother Meerhique, with her big, loose foreclaws, swept the fruit en masse into the open mouth, and the red juice, which produces native beer, made the fat pile high, layer on layer, on the bear's croup. The white cub soon became an adept pupil in this sort of browsing.

The hunters were loath to desert the river, where the fishing bear must of necessity occasionally expose himself to snap shots from across the water, and take their chances in the thickets where they could punch meerkie in the ribs with their rifles easier than they could see him. Mother bear took particular care that no projectiles should spoil her heavy pelage, and fed noiselessly, mostly in the dark of the moon, always moving against the wind and sniffing the air for the presence of danger; and so kept the white cub silent and close by her side. The long and faithful search was in vain, and many hunters returned home disappointed. Many bears were slain, but the white cub had mysteriously disappeared and no human eye ever afterward beheld it. Since then many bears have come and gone in "Get 'em Easy Land," but there has never been seen but one white cub.

It has been suggested that, in its natural development, the white cub's eccentric pelage changed to a normal color and the owner became indistinguishable from its kind; hence its sudden and unaccountable disappearance. There remains nothing but the fading tradition, a version of which Bert Williams or Grant White will probably relate to you, if love of adventure ever takes you up Bridge River in British Columbia.—Brent Altschuler, in Field and Stream.

HABITS OF THE SALMON

As I have previously stated, salmon do not take a fly for food, though possibly they would swallow it if the leader were not attached. It is my opinion, however, that it would be disgorged in nine cases out of ten, even if it were a live fly, for I think they rise for sport and because of their habit when in salt water of snapping up anything eatable that comes their way. It seems to me that when large salmon rise and then, without apparent reason, fall to take the fly, it is because upon close inspection with their keen sight and instinct, they discover the frail leader attached and "smell a rat." At any rate, the greater portion of them do this way, or at least that has been my experience. However I long since came to the conclusion that it is never wise to make positive statements concerning the habits of animals, birds or fish, for only too often they will be truthfully contradicted by some other close observer. Even the lower animals seem to have individuality.

A naturalist can, of course, speak with authority in a general way and give facts so far as that is possible for fallible man.

A great many writers claim that all species of the king salmon of the Pacific die after reproduction in fresh water. As I have never had the opportunity to study them, I cannot contradict the statement, but if it is true, I would like to have some authority on Pacific Coast salmon explain the great variation in the size and weights of salmon running various rivers each year.

The quinnat salmon in the Columbia river has an average weight of twenty-two pounds, but those weighing seventy-five pounds or even one hundred are occasionally taken. It seems impossible to me that these great fish are of the same age as those weighing from ten pounds up.

It seems more probable that they are fish that have spawned nearer the salt water than others, and so have avoided the awful life-giving struggle of ascending to the headwaters of the stream hundreds of miles inland. I should also be pleased to know if the Pacific Coast salmon, were they caught near the mouth of the river and stripped of their eggs, would live and return to sea. It seems to me that some of the salmon must fail to spawn some years or else that some of them do survive the spawning period, and I shall cling to the latter theory until convinced by stronger proof than I have yet been able to secure.—D. J. Hart in Outdoor Life.

THE DECAY OF DINING

Many of us lunch not, neither do we dine. At a recent cookery exhibition held in Paris much space was devoted to uninviting biscuits, tablets, and powders, which posed as substitutes for nearly every kind of food and combined unpleasantly the kitchen and the chemist's shop.—London Graphic.

ROOSEVELT-TAFT

An English correspondent has discovered that the rifle which stood in the corner of the office of the President of the United States all through the administration of Theodore Roosevelt, has disappeared and in its place is a bookcase filled with law books. In a few words, that seems to be a very good summary of the difference in the characters of the two men. President Taft is no "mollycoddle," but he prefers a golf club and a law book to a rifle and a "big stick" when he goes out after "malcontents of great wealth."

ROSES

In the Garden

This is the time of year when the amateur gardener feels that he is entitled to swing in the hammock under the vine or fig tree and enjoy the fruits of his more or less laborious exertions during the spring and early summer months. He is, however, however, listen to the voice of indolence. If he wants to realize the full benefit and all the enjoyments of a suburban life—he must keep at it. Not, perhaps, with the same vigor and enthusiasm as he has been doing, but there are weeds to keep down, the surface of the soil requires to be kept in a loose condition to prevent capillary action from drying out the earth around the roots of the plants. He must also exercise eternal vigilance in combating the insect life which feeds on the overripe leaves and strews bloom, foliage and fruit of the home garden.

Nothing is more distressing than to have a choice rose bush covered with a beautiful bloom suddenly wither, and upon examination to find that the tender young shoots are infested with insect pests; or to discover that the bush is being ruined by mildew. One may also discover that the bountiful crop of currants he has been contemplating converting into jelly are beginning to prematurely ripen and drop from the bushes from the ravages of the currant worm.

These things are very annoying, and cannot always be altogether prevented, but, by exercising a little care and discretion, one can to a very large extent remedy existing evils. There are numerous insecticides and other devices which make it an easy matter for followers of the simple life to overcome many of the obstacles encountered in managing a small garden. Also during the summer months we often have one or more dry spells when it seems as if vegetation would scorch. Then we do our best with hose and water-can, but it is laborious work at best.

A little tonic at this time will do the plants a world of good. Get a good complete plant food or plain nitrate of soda. A teaspoonful or tablespoonful of these put into a gallon of water will act like magic on the poor wilted growth.

If you have window boxes this food should be given once a month all summer long. The boxes hold so little earth that the plants very soon use all the food there is and must then live on what they get from air and water. Hanging baskets require the same care.

Manure water is as good as any of the fertilizers and may be made by suspending a bag of manure in a barrel of water. This, of course, is unpleasant to use, whereas the fertilizers do not have any.

When watering your plants soak them every two or three days rather than wetting them a little each day. By just wetting the surface you merely make the roots come up for the water, where the sun of the following day will burn them; if you give much water, these roots will go down after it. A good soaking can be given with perfect safety in the hottest sunlight, but a sprinkling in sunlight will burn the foliage because the evaporation is so rapid.

If you cannot soak your plants, it may be just as well to wash the leaves down at evening, especially if they are covered with dust. A plant breathes through its leaves and does not thrive if they are dust-coated.

It is better to apply the foods directly to the roots of the plants, and for this purpose the rose spray can be unscrewed from the watering can. As a rule, the foods do not hurt the foliage, but it is just as wise not to run any risks.

The Use of the Hoe

It's easy, very easy, to save doctor's bills, green grocers' bills, and achieve success at one and the same time by simple and very inexpensive means.

Our forefathers' garden plot standard, the hoe, will serve them admirably. This one handled implement of simple form will do wonders to human nature as well as for plant growth, and it is a simple matter with it daily for even ten days will be most convincing of its great value.

Outdoor life is a pleasure, a requisite for human health and, therefore, for happiness. The hoe brings back, chest and arm muscles into play, and hence invigorates and strengthens the very portions of human anatomy which the average business man seldom uses, though he needs them virtually to keep in good condition. It furthermore induces circulation, strengthens the heart and opens the pores.

For plant life the hoe is a wonderful exhilarator and benefactor. It need not be plunged deep into the soil, but should be drawn just below the surface. This requires but trifling strength or energy and accomplishes much.

The crust on the earth is thus broken and air, light and water penetrate, greater and convey to the roots what the plant needs. Hoisting thus slightly done checks the loss of moisture from the earth by breaking up the channels of its escape; and because of the open condition, the soil absorbs and holds not only rainfall, but dew as well.

Five Months of Bloom for Roses

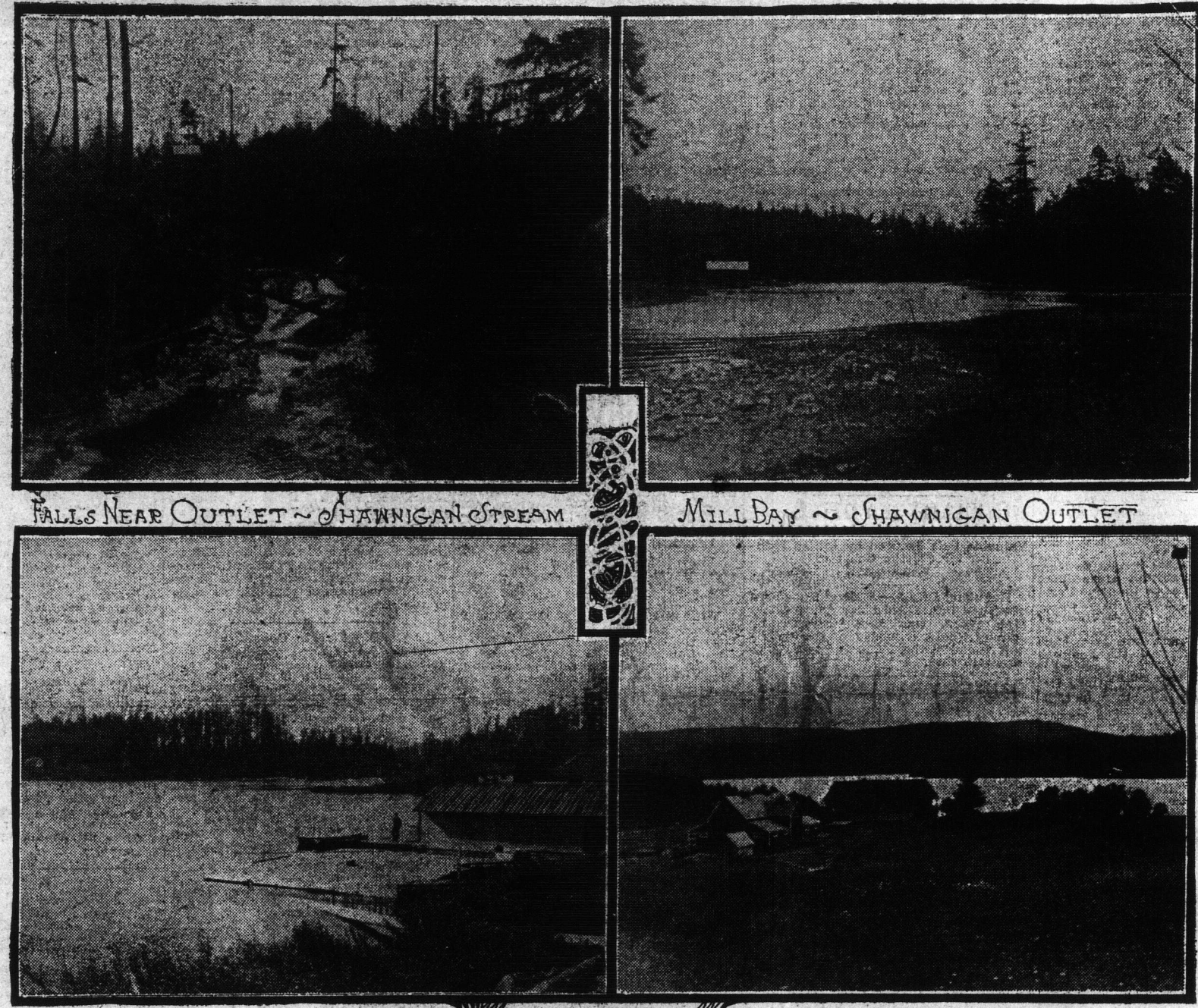
Among the host of roses there are a score or so that rank amongst the choicest and most popular of summer flowering climbers, yet somehow the word "roses" does not conjure up these vines. Among them we get wide range of bright colors with pleasing fragrance, and with the fact that they are roses. There is a subtle charm in that alone, and when the ease of cultivation is considered, it is some wonder that they are not more commonly esteemed.

In recent years the introduction of many hybrid climbing roses has served to direct attention to the possibilities of this class of plants for pillars, and especially for the porch. These newer kinds have special merit, but the older ones are by no means to be forgotten. They now have climbing roses in flower continuously from June to October, inclusive.

There are three distinctly marked groups of climbing roses.

1. Multiflora, flowering in June.
2. Setigera, flowering in June.
3. Wichuriana, flowering from July to September.

The last named group has become available only since 1880, and some of its more recent hybrids promise to extend the season of bloom right up to frost. The hybrid has been very active in blending varieties of these three groups so that the lines of dis-



used to catch flying fish. Of special interest as compared with these are some gorges of exactly similar shape, used locally in Essex to catch flat fish; these consist of thorns cut from a blackthorn, to which a piece of string is attached.

The best made, and by far most beautiful, hooks are meant to be used without bait, after the fashion of spoon baits. The part which attracts the fish is cut from the pearl shell, or iridescent haliotis; in the former case the entire hook is sometimes cut from a solid piece of this material. More often, however, the

fitting of the various parts of the composite hooks and the bindings by which these parts are held together, and when it is reflected that every piece has been cut from the solid and bored without the aid of any metal instrument, it will be realized that the manufacture of a single hook demanded not only great skill, but the expenditure of a vast amount of time and labor. The lines are evenly plaited of vegetable fibre, usually cocoon; but it is evident that, though primitive man fished far off, he certainly did not fish fine. However, they are very strong, and, as all fishing was for the

on the part of the native hunters. Prospectors threw aside the quartz hammer, the miners deserted the shaft, and the Indian bucks abandoned the chase of the "mowich" to engage in the pursuit. The salmon run was on and the big fish were making the long journey from the sea to their mountain Mecca, where they were to lay their eggs and give up life after four years' existence. The dead fish floated ashore and made a piteous banquet for "meerkie," as the siwash called the bear, but the watch for the white cub by the water side was so vigilant that the rivers were deserted

Imperial Press May Result in Wireless News Service

In view of the Imperial Press Conference it is interesting to summarize the actual accomplishments of some of the more important wireless telegraph services in respect of the distribution of news, and as regards the total amount of the daily despatches at a busy station. For a proof of the importance which wireless telegraphy has now attained in journalism we have the statement of the chairman of Reuters Telegram Co., that "the greatest journalistic coup of the year was the news received at Melbourne by wireless telegraph from Suva (Fiji) of the progress of the American battle-ships when 1,200 miles away from Fiji." From small beginnings a few years ago the distribution of Press news by radio-telegraph has rapidly increased, until, by the Marconi system alone, the average is over 2,000 words a day. About two-thirds of this total consists of ordinary Press telegrams transmitted to The Times and other European journals by their American correspondents, and to two American journals by their correspondents in Europe. As it is well-known, The Times was the first journal to take advantage of the new means of Transatlantic communication, and when the Marconi company has obtained the direct private connections between New York and London, and the terminal stations of the long wireless section which are promised in the future, a further development will, no doubt, take place. About 100 words of Press news daily transmitted by the Marconi company belong to that special preserve of wireless in which no cable or other form of telegraph has power to compete—i. e., the transmission of news to ships at sea. The Cunard Daily Bul-

letin is now a journal of some years' standing, and is remarkable in that it is published simultaneously at a greater number of publishing offices than any other morning journal, and that these offices are frequently as much as 3,000 miles apart. Its contemporary the Marconi Atlantic Daily News, has commenced a career on board vessels of other lines, and will shortly have even a larger number of local editions than the older journal. A similar daily service of from 400 to 500 words of news is sent out by the German station at Norddeich to six or seven passenger vessels, and to the ships of the German navy.

As regards actual telegraphic work done, these ship news services cannot be measured merely by the words transmitted, nor even directly by the words received, and this latter sum may be an indefinitely large multiple of the former. It is naturally not implied by this that the message increases in length as it travels outward, but simply that it may be received simultaneously at each of an indefinitely large number of independent receiving stations, for the wireless transmitter has the power, not possessed by any other long-distance telegraph, of transmitting as easily to a thousand stations as to one. Thus, though 400 words of European news only are sent out from the Marconi station at Clifden during an hour each night, while a similar amount of American news is distributed from their station at Cape Cod during a later hour, the matter is received independently on fifteen or twenty vessels, the total number of words thus recorded amounting to about 10,000 per night.

This is a new type of electric telegraphy for which no descriptive name as yet exists. It is not multiplex in the ordinary sense, for the term usually means the simultaneous transmission of several different messages over the same line, while this is the transmission of the same message simultaneously over an unlimited number of lines. Both systems are obviously more economical in time and cost than single transmission. Since a large amount of general news, market prices of commodities and stocks, and Parliamentary information is now published in almost every morning journal, it is clear that the wireless distribution of news is quite as feasible on land as on sea. In the outlying parts of the Empire, not as yet covered by the intricate network of wires to be found in the mother country, "wireless" will provide a simpler and far more direct means of news distribution and intercommunication. It is proof against floods, snowstorms, and forest fires, which play such havoc with wire lines in unfrequented districts; thus even in such a climate as Alaska the wireless section of the telegraphic line of communications has proved, by several years of uninterrupted work, its superiority to every other form of communication.

The actual speed of transmission, or number of words sent per minute, which in the early experimental stations was naturally low, is now as high as is usual on land lines. Even at so large a station as Glace Bay, where the current to be dealt with at each make or break has an energy of several hundred horse power, despatches have been sent across the

Atlantic at a rate of over 25 words per minute. Over shorter distances much higher speeds have been attained. Thus speeds of 70 and even 80 words per minute have been reached in transmission between the post office stations of Hunstanton and Skegness. Even higher speeds than this are said to have been obtained by the Poulson apparatus, in private trials, by the use of a photographic recorder of special type.

The bulk of matter dealt with daily by a shore station near an important trade route has now reached very considerable dimensions, and often calls for the work does not come steadily, but in a rush while each passing vessel is within range. The figures for the Marconi station at Crookhaven, near Cape Clear—a typical one of its kind—on two occasions during last month amounted to nearly 1,800 words per day, the exact figures being 1,785 on April 11 and 1,759 on the 17th. This is equivalent in amount to about 150 sixpenny inland telegrams per day, and when it is remembered that these were dealt with in batches with blank intervals between, the capabilities of a modern wireless station will be more fully realized.

Across virgin forests, snowfield, and desert wireless telegraphy now provides a means of communication unequalled in trustworthiness. It is less costly both in capital expenditure and upkeep, than wire or cable, and possesses the immense advantage over these that each station is self-contained, so that nothing can interrupt communication except the destruction of the station itself.