

Below Nelson it would be difficult for a stranger to know where to commence fishing, as every creek seems so promising. Four miles down is the railway bridge spanning the river, and nearby is a small hotel where one can put up and procure a boat. The river is always good for a full creel from the bridge to Bormington Falls, a place of surpassing natural beauty, and one can fish anywhere, as there is a succession of rapids, pools, and eddies. At Bormington Falls is the power station of the Kootenay Electric Supply Co., which furnishes power and light to Rossland, Nelson and adjacent mines.

Two miles below Bormington is Ward's Ferry, an angler's paradise. This far-famed pool is about a mile and a half in length and half a mile across at its head, and the water comes tumbling down over rocks and forms a rapid of about two hundred yards, on each side of which the eddies come and go. It is by no means uncommon for one who can cast a fly to be rewarded with a basket of forty or fifty pounds in an afternoon, and the writer has, with the help of another, creeled seventy-six pounds in half a day, only one fishing at a time, while the other handled the boat. The fish of the Kootenay River are trout, charr, ling, a species of grayling, and a fish locally known as the squaw fish, while its tributary creeks and streams abound with brook trout. To the sportsman by far the greatest attraction is the rainbow trout (*Salmo irideus*), which is to be seen at his best in the Kootenay River. Balfour is a favorite haunt for charr at any time about mid-summer, and large baskets of this fine fish are taken, the *modus operandi* generally being trolling with spoon, artificial or live minnow. Ten and twelve pound charr are not at all uncommon.

The C. P. R. have a comfortable and well furnished house boat, which a party of fishermen can charter for any length of time, and which can be towed up and down the river by the regular steamers. With a good Chinese cook, a party of congenial spirits can hardly find a more pleasureable form of outing. One cannot use the house boat below Nelson on account of the rapids and falls, but compensation is found in the magnificent scenery and the exceptionable fishing.

Here is a point, say, where the river is a quarter of a mile wide, evening is falling, the water is calm and glassy as a mill pond; all about are three-pounders sucking down their evening meal or rolling about with dorsal fins out of water, gorging their full of the innumerable salmon flies. This is the time for dry flies, when with fine tackle, greased line and a floating fly you may fill your basket with two and three pounders in a couple of hours. Or again, here are rapids with white tumbling water, full of rushing, swirls and eddies; on the edge of the rough water lie the fish waiting for the food that the river almost sweeps into their mouths. It is harder work than in the still water, but you will get abundant recompense.

A word to anglers who propose to try their luck on the glorious waters of the Kootenay River: Do not depend on your own superior knowledge or great experience. There are many good fishermen in Nelson, Rossland and the parts about who are also very good fellows and who are only too glad to help a visitor to enjoy himself with profit, and as they know the river and the best pools at different seasons and conditions of the water, and the flies which are most suitable, it will repay the stranger if he will seek their very ready assistance.

Both in Nelson and in Rossland there are Fish and Game Associations, and the visitor who looks them up will always find some one qualified and willing to give all the help to them it is possible.

With regard to flies, the following may be of use to one coming to the Kootenay for the first time. It is quite unnecessary to overload oneself with a large assortment of tackle for the different seasons; those that are appended will amply suffice from March 15th to May 15th.

1st—Claret body, claret hackle and Indian crow-tail, gold or silver twist, and bronze mallard wing.

2nd—Yellow and red body, red hackle, Indian crow-tail and teal wing.

3d—March brown.

From May 15th until the end of the season, in addition to No. 2, the following:

4th—Apple green, floss body, honey dun hackle, Indian crow-tail and summer duck wing.

5th—Green seal's fur body, Indian crow-tail, honey dun hackle and Egyptian