

tamed and even appears susceptible of some degree of attachment. It can climb with the greatest skill in the manner of a bear—ascending or descending a pole with the utmost freedom. With much caprice there is no little cunning in the character of the raccoon, mixed with malice and a fondness for destruction.

FOR FIELD AND CAMPING GROUND.—We call the attention of our readers to *Lyman's Concentrated Extract of Coffee*. We have tasted this delicious coffee and heartily recommend it. Read the advertisement.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST :

DEAR SIR,—In your issue of June 15th there is an article on the cultivation of wild rice, in which it is implied that the plant will grow in lat. 46.60 or south of that. We have in this Province, between 45 and 46, on the St. John River, hundreds of acres of swampy ponds, in which the wild duck oat will grow freely, and in which sportsmen have frequently talked of planting the wild rice, but have dropped the idea for want of information. The article in your interesting little journal has revived the interest in the subject, and we would like to procure information on the following points:—

1st. Will it grow in dead water ponds as well as in ponds in which there is more or less current?

2nd. How is it to be planted and at what season, and what average summer depth of water is best adapted to its growth?

3rd. How and to whom should application be made for seed, and what is the price per bushel?

Although we are north of 54 here, our climate on the lower St. John is not nearly so severe as in the Province of Quebec—as a rule—the influence of the fog, &c., from the Bay of Fundy having an effect to produce a warmer temperature. Any information you can furnish either in the columns of the SPORTSMAN or by letter to the undersigned, will be thankfully received by the Sportsmen of this Province.

I remain, Sir, yours very truly,

CHAS. W. BECKWITH.

NOTE.—The swampy ponds referred to by our correspondent, are just the localities where wild rice will grow, and it makes little difference whether it is placed in dead water, or where there is an easy current. The fact that wild oat occurs in ponds in the St. John River, is proof sufficient that the rice plant will grow there; and moreover the oat will ultimately succumb, as the rice is more prolific, and the strongest aquatic cereal. We would suggest September as a good season to cast the seed into the water; but prior to that it should be mixed with marsh mud for two days. In Ontario, it grows from a depth of eight feet. Wild rice seed is sometimes advertised in *Forest and Stream*, but we are not prepared to say what it costs per bushel. It is abundant in Rice Lake and Lake Skugog, Ont. Perhaps a subscriber residing near one of these lakes will answer Mr. Beckwith's third question.—ED.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST:—

DEAR SIR,—A strong feeling is aroused here in the maritime provinces, against the system pursued by the Dominion Government, in leasing out Salmon rivers to single individuals and clubs, thus closing them to the great mass of sportsmen. This partakes too much of the old feudal times, when a few favored ones were allowed privileges that were forbidden fruits to the general public. In these provinces both parties Liberal and Conservative, are working together to bring an overwhelming pressure to bear on our representatives in Ottawa to do away with this despotic law. Make those rivers open waters, then charge say \$1.00 each rod used a day, and the Government would receive a revenue fifty times in amount to that it now derives from this source. Several thousand sportsmen would visit us each year from other countries, and when we consider that these sportsmen while here would spend from \$50 to \$200 each, we can readily see the benefits that this country would receive, and at the same time resident sportsmen who are found among our best citizens, would be able to enjoy the pleasure of Salmon fishing, which is now denied them. Until the New York Club bought the Restigouche River, near Matepedia; Camp