

2. The *Oulachan*, or *Eulachon*, is a small delicate-looking fish, about the size of a smelt, and not unlike it, semipellucid, and with fine scales. On or about the 24th of March,—at nearly the same time each year,—it enters the northern rivers, and the southern ones a little later. It was once abundant in the Columbia, but that stream being now disturbed by the traffic of steamers, it is only now in exceptional years that they are caught there in any quantity. In Fraser River, and in most of the rivers on the coast of British Columbia, they are still found at that season (March) in greater or smaller quantities; but it is in the Naas River, falling into the Pacific, in lat. $54^{\circ} 40' N.$, that the *Eulachon* is found in the greatest quantities, and it is to its capture in that stream that these notes chiefly relate. The fish comes up from the sea into the fresh water for the purpose of spawning, but, unlike most of its allies,—the salmon proper,—on that coast, returns to the sea again, and is not seen until the following year. During that season they swarm in inconceivable shoals, and I can well believe that the Indians indulge in no hyperbole when I have heard them say that their canoes have been lifted in the water by the countless swarms of fishes. Their arrival is at once heralded by flocks of *Laridæ* and other marine birds swooping down to seize upon them, and during the whole of the fishing season the screams of the gulls vie with the shouts of the Indian fishers.

3. By long custom made and provided for, certain northern tribes have a vested right of fishing the *Eulachon* on the banks of the Naas, and certain other equally numerous and powerful tribes are prohibited from enjoying this privilege, and are compelled to buy their oil from their more fortunate neighbours. Accordingly, some days before the expected advent of the fish in the river, the Indians assemble from far and near to the number of several thousands, in order that they may take up their proper camping-grounds on the banks. Men, women, and children come,—it is the herring-fishing of the Indians, and all can be employed. A general holiday prevails, and tribes vie with tribes, families with families, in dress and feasting, and show their joyousness in a thousand different ways. Families who have not met for twelve months now meet, and the *Eulachon* or *Yghuh* (almost unspellable, and certainly unpronounceable) fishing is looked forward to from one year's end to the other as a time of gossiping, courting, and general merry-making. In a few days, however, the fish begin to make their appearance, and now all are on the alert and all idling is at an end. The first shoal, as I have said, come into the river, from the 24th to the 27th of March, and stays three days. These are so exceedingly fat that they cannot be cooked in a pan, for they will "blaze up" like a mass of oil. Out of these the best portion of the oil is made. In about three days these begin to disappear, and are succeeded by a second shoal, not so large or so fat, and these again in a day or two by the third and last shoal, which is poorer, and are dried for winter use, being sufficiently free from oil to permit of this. So fat are these last even, that if lighted during the dry state they will burn like a candle, and are often used as such by the natives, hence they are sometimes called the "candle-fish." The river during the time of fishing presents a busy scene, covered with canoes sweeping the fish in, while others filled are landing and being unloaded by the women and children, again wildly to rush back to share in the harvest. Ashore the scene is not less vivid. Fires are blazing and pots boiling, and boxes being filled with the oil, while in and around and all over, prevails an amount of unctuousness indescribable,—a greasiness of which it is impossible to conjure up the faintest idea! The fish are chiefly taken by nets (in the Naas) but myriads get washed ashore and are caught by the old women and children and kept as their perquisite. In Fraser River they are principally captured by means of a flattened cedar pole, the edges of which for a couple of feet or so near the end being set with sharp teeth or nails, which act like so many spear-points. The Indian,

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