

## THE TACKLE REQUIRED



FISHING FOR MASKINONGE (OR MUSKALLONGE) ON THE FRENCH RIVER, ONTARIO.

still pools fed by springs, and it is around these springs that trout congregate when the weather gets hot and the river water warm. Many a poor day on the rapid parts of a river has been atoned for by the use of dry fly on the "deadwaters."

NOW let us turn to the muskallonge. In appearance this fish is as forbidding as his name, for, to look at, he resembles an immense pike. His appearance is the only thing against him, for, from a culinary standpoint, there are few better fish, and as fighters they are regular bulldogs. In the States this fish is known as the muscalunge, and the Yankee, not wishing to waste time or breath in pronouncing his name, generally refers to the fish as the "lunge." When hooked they are full of tricks, and no two fish ever adopt quite the same tactics, but each will try a variety of ways of getting rid of the hook. The first specimen the writer had the luck to land was gaffed two miles from where the strike took place, after fifty minutes' hard fighting. He weighed 42 lb.

POSSIBLY the drawback to "lunge" fishing lies in the fact that in most places trolling is the only way to be successful. Few people revel in trolling, but in this case a little monotony is well repaid when the strike comes and the fight is on. "Lunge" are also taken by bait casting, but this art—and it is an art—takes time to master, and outside of America few people have as yet taken to this fascinating "bait fly fishing." It should have been mentioned previously that bait casting at the edge of, and among, water-lily pads is also a most deadly method of taking bass.

THE outfit for "lunge" is an eight-foot rod (I know nothing better than those known as the Bristol steel rods), fitted with a reel capable of carrying 300 ft. of line, which should be of undressed silk. The leader consists of four feet of piano wire. As for the lure, the writer has tried several, and found the following the best:—Next to the leader should be two two-inch spoons, tied tandem fashion, and beyond the tail spoon, on three gangs of triangles, a quarter-pound perch or other fish should be hooked. It needs considerable faith at first to try this fearsome-looking combination, but it catches the big fish.

THE places where "lunge" can be caught are not over many. Perhaps the best all-round Canadian waters are those of the French River, especially at the lower end, near the Georgian Bay, and an advantage in choosing this locality is that it also affords some of the best bass fishing in the Dominion.

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