

lake and are not seen again until the next September. The lake is very deep, I was assured by Captain Short, that 75 fathoms of line fails to sound it in many places. At the outlet of this lake is Okanagan River, a swift, gravelly stream, suitable spawning ground for the large quinnat salmon of the Columbia River. Following this south we find Lake Osoyoos, close to the 49th parallel, it is about a mile wide and three or four miles long, and supplies the few settlers here with all the fish they require. About three miles below Osoyoos the Similkamen empties into the Okanagan, there is a fall about half a mile from its mouth which prevents salmon from going up to spawn, but it is one of the best trout streams in the Province. Kettle River, a tributary of the Columbia, is also a fine trout stream and has splendid fishing.

The contention of some of the fishermen that the spring salmon or quinnat that pass up the Fraser in March and April spawn during the summer months is fallacious. The quinnat salmon whether going up river late or early do not spawn until the latter part of September, while some go up stream early in the season and lay in the lakes and deep pools till the spawning season commences other protract their journey until the eggs are about ready to drop from them.

In reference to the mode and cost of travel and living in this country I may say the usual way of travelling is by stage, but as I had to stop and examine the different streams and lakes in the country I was unable to avail myself of this usual mode of conveyance and had to travel on horseback. The population is scattered and board cannot be had for less than \$2.00 per day; a meal or a bed will cost fifty cents to seventy-five cents, and they think they confer a favor by accommodating one at any price.

I would like to draw your attention to the Indian traps in the different streams. On my way down the Okanagan River I came across one of these traps made out of willows and completely damming the river so that not even a trout could get up. I saw the Indian chief about it and told him how wrong it was to catch all the fish and not allow any to get past to spawn. He told me that the American Indians had a trap across the river below the boundary line and that they prevented the fish from coming up, and that they could not get any. I investigated this when down there and found this correct. This trap is in the river the whole year round and the only time the fish get up is when the high water flows over it or it breaks away, then there is some salmon caught above.

I found our Indians very observant as far as they know about the laws and as soon as they understood what was wanted of them. When on my return trip from Osoyoos I found that the trap in the Okanagan River had been removed; they also promised to remove their red fish traps two days in the week so as to allow the red fish to go up to spawn.

Another matter I would like to draw your attention to, and that is the mode of irrigating. There is immense quantities of water used in some of these ditches and the trout going up to spawn find their way into these ditches and are destroyed in thousands. I would recommend that a wire screen be placed across the mouth of these ditches so as to prevent the fish from going into them. It could be done by causing very little trouble and expense to the parties using the water.

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#### SKEENA AND NAAS RIVERS.

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(By JOHN McNAB, FISHERY GUARDIAN.)

It affords me much pleasure to report, that in the district under my jurisdiction the fishing season of 1888 was a very prosperous one, and notwithstanding some disturbing causes, satisfactory to all concerned.