

BASS FISHING

By Samson Agonistes

"Of all fool things," said Sammy Kelsey, "command me to a porcupine. That fellow there," pointing to a dark object half way up the rocks, "has been lying beside that log all day, and hasn't moved a foot since we came by here early this morning. One time I was—"

But Sammy's stories are apt to be long, especially after a few nips of Seagram.

"Can a fish climb a tree, Sammy?" I said, just to turn the current of his thoughts.

"He can try," said Sammy. "Over there on the East Side, by the Onion Bed—"

Here was another story coming. We had been all over the west shore of Charleston Lake on a lovely, golden October day, starting out from Cedar Park in a dense fog, which gradually lifted as the morning wore on. How Sammy knew his way through all those islands was a mystery. But he did; past old Israel Slack's and the Cairn, and up to the Crack in the Rock, where we picked up a salmon or two. Down Donaldson's Bay, with varying fortunes—here and there a lusty black bass and here and there a salmon, with many a sneaking pike, which was no welcome visitor. We had drawn our boat on shore at the carry, and while Sammy was making the fire I strolled over and had a look at the Furness waters. A small salmon was fried and a chicken broiled, for Sammy is a prince of cooks; we had thrown the bones into the river, and topped off the feast with a bottle of Bowie's Bass, put water on the fire, smoked a digestive pipe, and were on our way homeward. The point coming out of Donaldson's Bay had been rounded, Sammy had pointed out the house where little Caroline Larose lived, and the Blue Mountain, in the distance, over which she had wandered for three days with her baby sister, and we were drifting leisurely northward, close beside the towering rocks. Sammy was growing reminiscent. I had heard his stories before, and had asked the question apropos of nothing.

Just then a tug at the end of the hundred feet or so of line dragging behind, and a second or two after, a big commotion at the edge of the water, as if some one had thrown in a boulder.

"That's your fish," said Sammy, "and

he was trying to climb up to catch that porcupine. Anyway, they always pull for the shore, like the sallow in the song, when they get hooked."

Another jump, about ten feet from shore, then another, and a fight for ten minutes, as the net result of which a big Oswego bass, six pounds if an ounce, lay in the bottom of the boat.

Off again, and soon another strong tug. No bass this time, and no jumping, but another kind of a critter that went down 50 or 60 feet, and seemed determined to stay, for no persuasion or pressure could budge him till he got ready to move.

"Big fellow that, Sammy!"

"Mebbe; a salmon, anyway."

By and by he began to fight again, and finally was landed. Not so big after all—six or seven pounds—but a beautiful fish.

Just then Lev. Southworth came along, by himself, as he always was, and cursing his luck. "Trolled all day and not a salmon; could have filled a boat with bass."

"There's another tree-climber," said Sammy, as there was a big splash in the shallow water. Another splash further out, then another, just beside our boat. It was Lev's fish this time, and we could have netted it as it passed us.

"Another d—d bass," said Lev, "a mate for yours. I am going home," and he pulled off for the hotel, where we found him after awhile and swapped fish and deer stories around the big stove. Sammy finished his short yarns, and sang his favorite ditty:

Back and side go bare, go bare,
Both feet and hands go cold;
But belly, God send thee ale enough,
Let it be new or old.

If you don't believe this yarn, you can see the two bass, mounted by Currie and Crozier, on the wall, in my office.

A Monster Bass.

Fish Commissioner Cohen, of Chicago, recently discovered a black bass of extraordinary size in a shipment to one of the local commission companies from Portsmouth, Va. The fish, it is said, weighed nine and one-half pounds, and when first taken out of the water must have weighed ten pounds or more. The dimensions are 25 1-2 inches from mouth to tip of tail, 19 inches in girth, 6 1-2 inches in diameter, 5 1-2 inches high when resting on its belly. The open mouth measures 6 inches between the lips. The gлян "bronze-backer" is now in the hands of a taxidermist.

and when mounted will be sent to the Smithsonian Institution at Washington.

A bill will soon be brought before Congress providing for a commission to treat with the Chippewa Indians for the privilege of including their old reservation in the proposed Northern Minnesota National Park. The territory lies at the head-waters of the Mississippi River and comprises 611,529 acres of land and 218,470 acres of water—the Cass Lake, Chippewa, Leech Lake and Lake Winnebago reservations.

From the city whose location is liable to confuse the foreigner, Kansas City, which is not in Kansas but in Missouri, comes the complete catalogues of the J. F. Schmelzer & Sons' Arms Co., replete with lists of guns and ammunition, athletic and sporting goods and fishing tackle for sale. This firm has been long in the business, and issues many catalogues. Those received are numbers 699B and 774.

Raw Fur Sales, London, Eng.

Private cables contain the following information regarding the course of the market up to date, compared with last March:

Alaska otter, 20 per cent. higher; southwestern otter, same as last March; Labrador otter, 20 per cent. lower; fox, 75 per cent. higher; silver fox, 100 per cent. higher; cross fox, 50 per cent. higher; blue fox, 20 per cent. higher; white fox, 40 per cent. higher; wolverine, 15 per cent. higher; badger, same as last March; wild cat, 125 per cent. higher; house cat, no change; mink and marten, no change; lynx, 100 per cent. higher; dark beaver, same as last June; American beaver, 20 per cent. higher than last June; wombat and wallaby, 20 per cent. higher than last October.

Later cables report black bear same as last March; northern and western raccoon, same as last March; southwestern raccoon, 10 per cent. higher; lynx, 100 per cent. up; marten and Halifax and eastern mink, unchanged; northern mink, 15 per cent. up; western and south-western mink, 25 per cent. up; Russian sable, unchanged; ermine, 50 per cent. up; skunk, 20 per cent. up; civit cat, 10 per cent. up.

It must be remembered that in many cases the advances mentioned have been fully anticipated by the June and October sales, upon which local prices are already based, so that it does not mean that prices now being paid will be greatly altered.—Trade Review.