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CALIFORNIAN SALMON AND OUR SALMON RIVERS.

The introduction of foreign SALMONIDÆ into Canadian waters inhabited by *Salmo salar*, is, in our opinion, unnatural. There is no necessity for introducing Californian Salmon into our northern rivers; *S. salar* has too many enemies already without adding to them. We know sufficient of the Natural History of the latter fish to say that it will never agree with another species inhabiting the same river—the weaker must succumb to the stronger—the Californian fish where it is planted with success, will ultimately cause *salar* to abandon our rivers. The men who are anxious to carry out these changes, would possibly prefer the Californian to the European form of salmon, but we think it would be more satisfactory to retain the latter; our sportsmen understand its habits, knowing it to be the most gamy fish that enters our rivers. A charge is made against an overseer for casting young Californian Salmon into ice holes on the St. John, (N.B.) river in the month of March. We think the man did perfectly right in getting rid of them in this way. It is a waste of money to endeavour to restock a river with salmon when the tributaries are interfered with. The woodlands surrounding the mountain springs should be allowed to remain in their primitive state. We care not how magnificent a river may appear to the eye of man, salmon, as a rule, will not enter it when its immediate woodlands and flowing mountain springs are destroyed. All the best salmon rivers in this Dominion are generally wide, swift-running, with falls and pools a few miles from the sea, but let us follow any of them for some distance inland, and they will be seen to diverge into a number of

small tributaries, arising from cold mountain springs, many feet above the sea level. Then, we say, if salmon are to be increased in future, these springs must be retained in their old state. How is it that we cannot procure discriptions of the inland sources of several rivers in the Province of Quebec? Simply because officers of the Fisheries Department never took the trouble to explore them, and it is only at this late day when many of the rivers have passed from their control that they begin to think there is something in the upper waters in connection with continual existence of salmon;—that in fact the inland streams are becoming caloric, and salmon will not remain there—therefore no matter how beautiful the river and its pools may appear, so long as the head sources of a river is unfit for the hatching of salmon *ova* and the propagation of young fish, it will be useless to endeavour to restock it, the parent fish will leave it forever.

There is not sufficient trouble taken to obtain a knowledge of our rivers—we mean the upper portions—the natural hatcheries. It is always gratifying to one interested in a river, to see numbers of fish passing up, but it would be greater satisfaction to ascertain how far they go inland; the temperature of the water, and the locality selected by them for their future progeny. A short time ago, Mr. Gilmour, wishing to obtain this information regarding the Godbout, sent intelligent men many miles up to explore the land. They returned with a satisfactory report; passing through a rugged region, with many lakes and rivulets falling into the main river. The lakes contain plenty of fish food peculiar to inland waters; in fact, abundance for salmon during their stay in the inland waters of the Godbout sources. Through the care of natives for Mr. Gilmour's woodlands along the river,