

THE ACADIAN.

WOLFVILLE, N. S., MAY 10, 1912.

Decline of the Shad Fishery.

There was a time when the shad fishery of the Maritime Provinces was a most important industry. Thirty years ago a fleet of boats from this port engaged in this business during the summer months and numerous weirs along the shores of Minas Bay in made good catches. During recent years this industry has dwindled away to very small proportions. Some idea of this falling off may be had when it is stated that the quantity caught in these provinces has declined from 10,036 barrels in 1903 to 5,242 barrels in 1910. In this vicinity the decrease in the number of fish taken is very much in excess of this proportion. The fishery is confined to the Bay of Fundy and its tributary waters. Different causes have been assigned for the decline, chief among which are the catching of the fish when they go up the rivers in the spring to spawn and the lack of fish-ways in dams on streams flowing into the Bay—a circumstance which also held by some that the amount of sawdust which has been allowed to go into the rivers in past years from the various sawmills has driven away the fish. The catching of the spawning shad is the more indefensible because when the fish are ready for spawning their fish is foul and unfit for human food. In the year 1908 the Dominion government appointed a commission to inquire into the cause of this decline in the shad fishing. This commission met at various points, including Wolfville, and made an investigation, examining numerous witnesses, and recommended steps to be taken to rehabilitate the fishing. So far as we know, however, nothing of any account has been done in that direction. The matter is a most important one and deserves immediate attention. The opinion as to the cause of the decrease from men who may be engaged in the fishery or who are interested in it can be worth but little after all. The opinion of the best experts obtainable should be secured and their advice acted upon. We shall be very glad to publish correspondence regarding this important question.

An Excellent Remedy.

Baby's Own Tablets are an excellent remedy for little ones. They never fail to relieve baby of stomach and bowel complaints of the many other little pills that worry him. Besides this they are absolutely safe, being guaranteed by a government analyst to contain no opiates or other harmful drugs. Concerning them Mrs. Sam. Legros, Ste. Cecile, Que., writes: "I have found Baby's Own Tablets an excellent remedy for my little one and would not be without them." The Tablets are sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

The May Rod and Gun.

Every sportsman interested in the welfare of Canada's fish and game resources should read the May number of Rod and Gun in Canada published by W. J. Taylor, Limited, Woodstock, Ont., which contains the first chapter of the Final Report of Mr. Kelly Evans of the Ontario Game and Fisheries Commission. Mr. Evans has spent two years in the preparation of this report and the information contained therein and the recommendations which Mr. Evans makes as to a broader policy of administration should be read by every sportsman. "An Ideal Canadian Holiday" will appeal to those who already have visions of a summer outing. Trap-shooters will find their interests particularly well looked after in this month's issue which contains in addition to the usual department news and scores a specially illustrated article on "Cannock" on the Easter Inter-Club Shoots, between Montreal and St. Hubert clubs.

In the Canadian Magazine, for April 11, Col. C. F. Winter's Recollections of Tel-el-Kebir are extremely interesting. They relate the experience of a Canadian in that famous encounter. F. M. Wightman gives the first of a series of articles on the contrasts in customs, names, expressions, etc., that prevail in the Maritime Provinces. Mary Adelaide Sneider contributes a stirring account of how the British in 1912 avenged the destruction of the good ship "Nancy" Garry Love describes a fascinating fishing trip along the Bow River near Calgary. H. Montrose Lamb has a splendidly illustrated article on "Photography as a means of artist expression," and Katherine Hale has a comprehensive review of the "Music of the season." There are short stories, sketches and poems by Anne Warner, Miss Inland, Corroll C. Allen, Miss Augusta Henrietta Mowbray, Lloyd Roberts, E. Hyllon, Jane Graham, Ada Macleod, Clara Griffin and L. J. Boston.

The bill to amend the Nova Scotia Temperance Act, so as to make it apply to the city of Halifax, which was before the Legislature during the last session of the late session, was defeated by a vote of 21 to 12. Kings county is a representative north vote against the measure. Those who believe that law is a good thing, the Kings county should continue to support it.

The Boys Scouts' Entertainment.

Wolfville is to be congratulated upon the magnificent way it patronized the Boy Scouts' first entertainment on Monday evening. The Opera House was comfortably full, the audience being thoroughly representative and very appreciative. The first Wolfville Troop, which, up to about a month ago, consisted of only the Wolf Patrol, now has four patrols—the additions being the 'Otters,' the 'Cackoons' the 'Beavers.' All but two of the 'Beavers' being members of the newly organized Wolfville Band, which was also making its debut on the same occasion, only the other three patrols were able to participate in the proceedings. Dr. Archibald, chairman of the Executive Council, presided, being supported by his worship the mayor (Mr. J. D. Chambers) and vice-presidents the Reverends R. F. Dixon and E. D. Webber, B. A. and others.

As the Band boldly struck up its maiden effort, the curtain went up and revealed a bustling scene, in which six 'Cackoons' were competing with six 'Wolves' in the building of a wigwam. The fresh spruce brush, which was being brought in by the 'Wolves' with the colors of the woodland scenery recently fitted up by Mr. Wetmore. Strains of lively music helped the lads to forget that they were the cynosure of all eyes, so that they completed their task in rather less than ten minutes. Their handiwork was thoroughly inspected by Scoutmaster, Rev. G. R. Martell, of Windsor, whose portrait, in Scoutmaster's uniform is on view at Graham's studio on Main street. His verdict was given in favor of the 'Cackoons,' but he was unostentatious in his praise of both patrols. Then followed Mr. Martell's address on 'Scouting for Boys.' He gave a graphic description of his own experience with his own troop, which numbered 56 strong (out of a possible 80) for the opening outing of the season last Saturday morning at 8:30. He strongly advised the ministers to have a day in the woods with the boys now and again as in no other way could they so effectively get at the young and impressionable hearts of the boys, who would then regard them as their friends rather than as their ministers. He quite as strongly urged the parents to get their boys into this movement, which was world-wide and was destined to accomplish a vast amount of good. He held his audience spell-bound for thirty minutes.

The next scene was a morning in camp. Bugler Leander, Thurber sounded the 'Reveille,' Patrol 1 after Stanley Morrison hoisted the flag and the troop stood by the salute. White Scout's Francis Archibald and Max Brown, with drums, played 'God save the King'—altogether, quite an impressive number. So also was the flag signalled. The Scoutmaster's salute was adopted by Patrol leader Martin Tamplin (who wore the King Scout and other badges) seconded by Patrol leader Harold B. Birdy. Then the enquiry: "What is the matter at the lake?" To which Scout Harold Tamplin, seconded by Scout Robert H. derkin, replied, "By nearly drowned, send help." "O'er patrol to the rescue," instantly shouted Scoutmaster Brown from the unknown. Two Scouts doffed their coats, put their staves through the sleeves, which had been pulled inside out, and with this quickly improvised stretcher hurried off to the scene of the accident in quick time.

Meanwhile, the Morse Code was displayed by Scout Max Brown (seconded by Patrol leader, Stanley Morrison) signalling—Canada expects every Scout to do his duty. To which Scout Donald Grant (seconded by Scout Francis Archibald) signalled the answer—Every Wolf will do his part! (Applause.)

The rescuing party now arrived with Scout Hobbie Pingo, seemingly unconscious, on the stretcher. While King-Scout Tamplin skilfully attended to the resuscitation operations, Scouts Arthur Tingley, Harold Shaw and Fred Eagles saw to the hot water bottle, taking off the boots, and holding the head, respectively. The reviving was very naturally done, and, as the patient was carefully re-wrapped and replaced on the stretcher and taken away, the audience cheered heartily when the curtain dropped.

The Rev. E. D. Webber, B. A., then came to the front, and briefly reported the results of the evening of the Rev. Mr. Dixon and himself as adjudicators of the evening. "Why I am a Scout," eight compositions had been received and the task of awarding the prize had proved a not very easy one, owing to the excellence of them all. In their best combined 'Baptismal and Episcopal' judgments, however, No. 25 was the best and deserved the prize. But they regretted having only one prize to offer, as Nos. 9 and 22 were also deserving of one and their prizes would offer something. On No. 25 being called Scout Harold Tamplin stepped forward read his composition, received his prize and prettily related as he withdrew again, amidst a great applause.

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did emphasize and then came the rousing chorus—Canada, dear Canada, men of the North are we, after which the Scout Laws were repeated and the chorus 'Smile whenever you can' was sung after Law VIII, while at sunset on the stage. Their standing, they sang, with due reverence, the Campers' evening hymn, to the time 'Say, Breathe an Evening Blessing.' The effectiveness of this scene was greatly enhanced by the efficient manipulation of the lights by Mr. Black, the proprietor of the Opera House.

District Commissioner, the Rev. Geo. T. Bryant, of Barwick, briefly but lucidly, explained the organization of the Baden Powell By Scouts, tracing the whole chain, link by link, from H. M. the King to the individual member of any patrol. When the curtain went up again, the band struck up marching music and the Patrols marched on to the stage in review order, and after a short drill, very well done, were inspected by the District Commissioner, who expressed himself as well satisfied and urged the troop, under all circumstances, to 'be Scouts.' The troop responded by singing 'The Maple Leaf Forever' and after 'God save the King' had been sung, the Rev. Mr. Dixon moved the heartiest vote of thanks to the man who, alone, was responsible for the existence of the 'Boy Scouts' in Wolfville and to whose labors was due the successful event of that evening—Mr. Percy Brown, with whom he would associate the name of the Hon. Sec.—(M. Tamplin) Dr. Archibald seconded and the motion was enthusiastically carried.

Mr. Brown, with his characteristic modesty, acknowledged the compliment.

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