

who were bitter opponents coming to a different conclusion, principally from seeing, as there is no ledgerdemon in the process, and going so far as to say, "Why we want all the produce of our own hatchery, whatever benefits are in it we want them and, if necessary, will pay the expenses of it to retain its stock at home." It really does not seem as if it has ruined the Restigouche, as predicted a few years ago. In fact, there is quite sufficient stock for its natural propagation.

"THE WHY" SALMON TALKS NOT PROBLEMS.

I enter this portion of my letter with a good deal of trepidation, conscious that I know but little, although amongst salmon a fair life time. Unless it is some hard-headed Scot whom you can't convince, it is now generally conceded that salmon, on entering fresh water from sea, abstain from food until after the spawning period. The constriction of the gullet or throat, the cleanness of the intestines, the absence of anything like gastric juice in the stomach of fresh run fish will show this. I have taken two fish thirty miles up-river with partly undigested caplin in their stomachs, but those caplin were taken by the fish 30 miles below the head of tide, as caplin will not enter brackish water, and salmon will not touch smelt. The river was in flood at the time, and I have an idea those fish were not more than twelve hours running up this 60 miles. I can only judge this from what I have seen of the stomachs of salmon caught on the coast and full of food. The immediate entry of the salmon in question into fresh water may have paralyzed the digestive powers.

You ask why do they take the fly if not for food? It may be for sport, or the fish may be in a combative mood and, getting angry at the continual persistence of the Jock Scots or Rangers, or some of the other flies, which it would be no sin to fall down and worship, concludes at last to wipe it out by mouth, body or tail. If taken for food, where would the pleasure of angling be? Where would be the waiting, the expectation, the fears, the hopes, when a big looking head shows short of the fly? Another cast, he don't show; now which one will we try him with? All this would be gone. A lucious grasshopper, or a nice mouse or minnow would be the bait on a codfish hook attached to a codline. Suppose we have him and he is a 30 pounder; Can you tell his age, when he was in the river last, or whether he was ever in before? The theory of a year old for every 4 lbs. he may weigh is untenable. Take a St. John, a Nepisiguit or a Miramichi 10 lb. fish—the average weight of those rivers. Are they only 2½ years old? Why do they not grow heavier? A 4 oz. smolt is 20 months from the time the parent fish laid the egg, until it seeks the salt water. This we do know, and if