

THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST.

No 7.

MONTREAL, JULY 15th, 1881.

VOL. I.

TO ANGLERS.

We will publish the salmon scores of gentlemen fishing Canadian rivers this season, provided they are thoroughly vouched by one of the parties. We would be pleased to have scores already concluded sent to us in time for our August issue.

SALMON FLY CASTING.

Gentlemen fond of surface fishing, and who have had experience in the art of casting the fly, have, generally speaking, a fair knowledge of the sporting value of Canadian rivers. A rough estimate of the product of a river can be given by any one who for a few seasons has handled the rod on its pools. Those who have studied the salmon run of a river, can give a rough calculation of the number of fish entering it. Independent of the annual score of a good surface fished river, the average amount of salmon passing the pools to the spawning grounds can be ascertained. Ask any one of the proficient fishermen of the Department at Ottawa, the cause of the late scarcity of salmon in Canadian waters, and he will give you as much information on the subject as astronomers do regarding the late comets. There are several maritime rivers which should be a source of revenue to the Dominion, and they are evidently neglected by the Fishery Department. Not that alone, but it seems as if ignorance prevailed in regard to what constitutes a salmon river. We have an instance of this in the Trinity River near Pointe des Monts, which is delightfully situated, and on which a guardian has been placed for years past. The Trinity could not be leased for surface fishing, although a Government official made annual repeated attempts to fish it with the rod. It was abandoned. It is known to us that the Trinity River could be leased for years past, indepen-

dent of an expert fisherman's report that the river was worthless for surface fishing. The truth is that he could not hook a fish because he did not understand the proper mode to fish the Trinity, and the river was therefore thrown off the list of salmon rivers for years past. Residents on the coast know that it was good, or at least that Salmon entered it, therefore one of them made a proposition to the Fishery Department, offering to make a trial of the river if the Government would pay for his time in company with two Indians. The offer was accepted, and he proved that the Trinity was a fair salmon river, he having hooked fish with the fly on the first trial, while the expert sent from Ottawa could not get a rise. The way in which this is accounted for is simply that the casting of the fly cannot be the same on all rivers. We have been informed that this is a well-known fact to parties who have fished various rivers. For instance, the casting of a salmon fly on the Mingan is different from the mode of casting it on the Trinity, and since the parties who now lease the latter river, have discovered the style they sometimes procure as good sport as on other rivers on the same coast. Now, after deriving this knowledge, it occurs to us that there may be several rivers on both sides of the Lower St. Lawrence within the ken of the Fishery Department in which salmon enter that are rejected, because they were never properly fished. We have penned the above for the simple reason that we are aware that the maritime rivers are not properly looked after by the Fishery Department, and besides we consider that too much money is being expended on lake fish breeding, to the detriment of the salmon rivers, which should receive more attention. Take the Godbout for example; look at the improvements made on it by the present owner, who has profited by the outlay, by pleasure and comfort.