

FISHING

Fishing in Victoria County

By E. G. MACASKILL.

When a pleasure trip is being planned by anyone, many things have to be considered, such as "Where shall I go? Where is the best scenery? Where will I have quiet combined with out of door pleasures, boating, driving, shooting and fishing?" To all these queries Baddeck, Cape Breton Island, is a sufficient answer.

A great deal has been written about trout fishing on our many rivers, but little or none has appeared about our surf fishing.

From the middle of May to the first of August the trout fishing along the shores of the Bras d'Or Lakes in the vicinity of Baddeck offer excellent sport. You can leave your hotel any morning during this period and fish off the docks or along shore and in a few hours return with a good fare of sea trout.

From the wharves codfish can be hooked and if the fisher is ambitious to go further and like Micawber wait for "something to turn up" a short sail or row will bring him to the "deep hole" from which many large catches have been taken, and the trip across the lake is well worth taking even

Some two miles from the mouth of the Baddeck is the entrance of Wagamatcook (Micmac for Clear Water) or better known as Middle River. For 15 miles up this stream as it flows through the fertile meadows which stretch on both sides of it, the very best trout fishing opportunity is afforded and an occasional salmon rises also to the fly in some of the particularly large and clear pools of which there are many along its course.

Large numbers of tourists visit this stream every year and those not pressed for time desiring to take advantage of the fishing for longer than one day can get the very best attention and accommodation at the "Riverside Inn" which under the efficient management of Miss Macdonald has acquired a well merited reputation for the excellency of its cuisine.

From the head of this river and extending through to the Margaree valley are a chain of lakes called the Harvard Lakes locally known as Lake O'Law. These lakes nestle in a gorge between high mountains whose grandeur is reflected in their tranquil waters. The drive

daniel's Brook, and Seal pools offer better prospects.

The average Salmon taken in this river is much larger than from any other in the Province. Here too as well as at Middle River one can be provided with excellent accommodation at any of its three hosteries—Mrs. Ross's and the James Ross hotel at the North East and the Chessington House at the Forks. If salmon are not rising to the fly a drive of 10 miles will bring the angler to Lake Ainslie whose waters seem to have an inexhaustible supply of trout. At Trout Brook on the shore of this magnificent sheet of water one finds it difficult to conform with the law which limits the number of fish to be taken in one day. There the home comforts of Mrs. McLean's who for years has kept her house open, has been much enjoyed and appreciated by the travelling public. Along this route a few miles more will bring the traveller to the lovely cosy town of Whycomagh where exceptional good hotel accommodation can be had. If tired of driving one can take the comfortable steamer Marion every other day and a delightful sail of 2 1-2 hours through the Bras d'Or lakes brings us back to Baddeck. So much may be said for the West and South of Baddeck but what of the East and North?

In this section also the sportsman is greeted by excellent water on which to wet the tempting fly.

A short drive of 8 miles and the St. Anns Bay on the Atlantic opens to view. Of late years this has seen the development of a sport nowhere else enjoyed on the Eastern side of the American continent. The name of Mr. J. K. L. Ross and tuna fishing are so closely associated as to be almost synonymous he being the first in Canada to introduce this most exciting sport, and having succeeded in landing after a struggle of 12 hours a record fish weighing 680 pounds. At certain seasons the waters of the bay fairly teem with these denizens of the deep. The difficulty lies not in the scarcity of the fish nor in getting one hooked but in the playing and landing of such a game fighter.

But if one were disposed to suppress the ambition to become eligible for membership in a California Tuna Fishing Club and discard regulation gear many of these fish could be taken.

Entering this bay is North River a trout and salmon stream of great merit both its tidal reaches and pools being the home of large numbers of these game fish so much sought after by the fly fisher. Smith's pool is one of the finest the writer ever fished. In this pool few years ago two well known sportsmen, Mr. Kennan and Mr. Howell had the unique experience one hooking a salmon the other a 4 1-2 sea trout at the same time.

TUNA FISHING



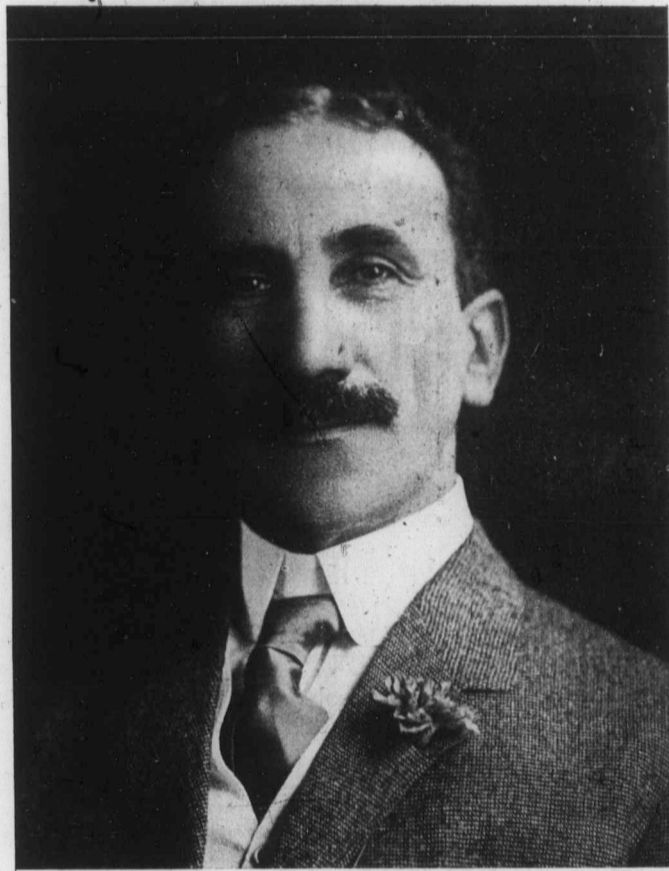
Monster Tuna weighing 680 lbs. landed by J. K. L. Ross at St. Ann's.

Notwithstanding the crossing and tangling of lines and other difficulties known to anglers both fish were landed.

Four miles north is the Barrachois where good catches are taken every year. Two miles more and we are at the Indian Brook which enters the Atlantic. This is famous for its magnificent sea trout and in its tidal pool 4 or 5 pound trout are not the exception. This stream is most interesting as it affords a change from its calm to rapid swirling foaming pools where the fly cannot always be watched and the sudden

more effective than in the past. The government has appointed five special officers, one each for Baddeck, Middle, Margaree, Mira and Clyburn Rivers and it is confidently expected this will materially lessen the number of fish illegally taken and that in consequence the supply for true sport be greatly increased.

True sportsmen do not fish entirely for the killing alone. While not denying the thrill of pleasure in having a salmon take the fly, its runs and leaps and the safe landing, yet great as these are they are not to be compared with other



FRANK J. D. BARNJUM

of Boston, who owns more timberlands than any other man east of the Mississippi River, and who is greatly interested in and highly optimistic of the future development of Victoria County

splash and quick strain on the line alone gives notice that a speckled beauty has fallen a victim to the lure of the fly and the angler's skill. From this river north to Cape Smokey there are many opportunities for surf fishing, the conditions for this being ideal at Briton Cove. Passing over Smokey the Clyburn Brook at Ingonish, the rivers of Cape North district and several streams entering Bay St. Lawrence are of great importance.

The above is a brief resume of the various streams and lakes in the vicinity of Baddeck where a fisherman can exercise his skill. From the nature of this article and the space allotted to it the information must necessarily be limited and the descriptions mere sketchy outlines.

The writer has hesitated to give any personal experiences recounting the many large catches and particularly the "big fellows" which nearly always got away. In order to show that some of the above streams are unusually fertile of results it might not be amiss to briefly state that in reference to trout fishing in Baddeck, Middle and North River that during my experience of 30 years few are the trips that did not result in a fair catch and have never known of an entirely bad season. But for large catches and ideal sport water conditions must be reckoned with. I have fished the Margaree for salmon for sixteen consecutive seasons remaining three or four days each year and have taken from 3 to 10 fish each season, ranging in weight from 7 to 35 lbs., and on one occasion landed 85 lbs., in one morning.

Thanks to the untiring efforts of Mr. Kennan, Secretary of the Victoria Fishery Protective Association, the regulations governing the taking of fish in these waters by any other means than by hook and line in the future will be made

pleasures and emotions of competition searches the innermost heart, appeals to all that is best, and in their own silent language speak good will.

There may be other places where the natural conditions for good fishing are equal to those in the localities which are the subject of this article, but there are few where the roads make the traveling to and from the fishing grounds such a pleasure as they do here.

We have much to thank our local government and the progressive road policy of Premier Murray. Not only are the roads to our principal streams such as make traveling by carriage easy and comfortable but are excellent for automobiles as well, so that those owning machines need not hesitate to bring them, as there are no oppressive local regulations. Their use will tend to add to the enjoyment of the fishing and other advantages offered.

The question might have been asked at the beginning "Why do you say Baddeck is the ideal tourist resort?" At least so far as fishing is concerned no argument can be advanced against the proposition. Nor can it in any other respect. Surrounded on all sides by such sporting opportunities, its lakes and bays on which to boat or sail, its splendid scenery, its central location, its pleasant drives, its good hotels and general quiet citizenship all unite to proclaim it first and above all others the ideal tourist's resort.

Already many prominent men have discovered this beautiful spot and appreciative of its charm have built summer homes here. But were it possible for those seeking a place in which to spend a delightful holiday to know this haven of quiet enjoyment this colony would be increased many fold, and numbers would benefit by the advantages which as yet confer few enjoy,

SALMON FISHING



A common sight on the far-famed Margaree

though no fish were secured, which is seldom the case.

Across the lake, which can be reached in half an hour's sail, is Washabuck River a small but good sea trout stream. This river is not so frequently fished as some of our other rivers but few if any who have tried it, have returned with an empty creel.

Leaving Baddeck and driving over shaded excellent roads for about 3 1-2 miles one arrives at Baddeck River. The scene suddenly changes and a beautiful panorama opens to view—the Baddeck river and valley. About the centre of this valley is situated the McKay's pool which for many years has been famous for its trout. It extends for about 200 yards. On one side is a large brush and stone breakwater which affords a good hiding place for fish and on the other a gently sloping beach. The pool is clear of all obstructions and ought to delight the heart of any fly fisherman. Above are many exceptionally good pools. The North Branch and Gillis's brook have yielded the best result of any one day's fishing on this attractive stream. Below, Harris's brook pool and Bentic's tidal pool are the best for early spring and summer. The average trout taken on this river is larger than on any other of our many streams.

along these lakes (5 in number) and the view obtained has been favorably compared with the renowned lake scenery of Switzerland. Nor is it for their beauty alone are they so attractive to travellers. Their waters contain large number of trout and reports come in yearly of the large catches taken. Leaving the last of these lakes the scenery changes rapidly, high precipitous mountains give place to a flat country, closely wooded slopes to barren land and all at once this passes and the Margaree is spread out before one in a misty haze.

Stretching as far as the eye can see, on either side extends the beautiful Margaree valley. Mile upon mile of rolling meadow dotted with graceful elms and hedges with prosperous well kept farm houses situated at the base of the mountains. While through this valley flows the Margaree, a salmon stream famous through the whole breadth of the American Continent. It would be difficult indeed to direct the angler to any particular pool in this river. If water conditions are right for a distance of 15 or 20 miles is one succession of pools in which a sportsman is likely to take a fish. During low water the pools of the lower reaches, Ethridges, Forks, Long, Mac-