

FIRST AIDS TO 1912 NATURERS

By J. W. Muller, 33rd Degree Naturer

HOW TO CATCH FRESH FISH

FISHING is the leading American sport next to the pianola. It is carried on almost entirely in sporting papers, but can be done also in streams and lakes.

This latter form of fishing is known as the empirical or experimental method.

Fishes are divided by science into two families, edible and non-edible. Edible fishes are those that are landed.

Fishes weigh from one to three ounces. Larger fishes than this live in literature and do not take the bait.

To go fishing successfully, it is necessary to have an outfit consisting of a day off, a hook and a piece of string.

There are innumerable varieties of bait, such as worms, grasshoppers, bugs, miniature feather dusters known as flies, and toy torpedo boats known as

casting baits. Casting is done by hurling the torpedo boat violently into the water and hauling it back again till the fisher faints.

There are also other baits, such as lobster pots and dynamite.

Every fish carries his own scales. They are rarely, if ever, efficiently inspected. This fact is said to account for the enormous weights recorded by quite small fishes.

The most disastrous fault in fishing is patience. If a fish does not bite instantly, the fisher should try another place at once.

After trying three places without success, the fisher generally will do best, if the lake or stream is of ordinary size, by bailing it dry with a bucket.

The best bait for general fishing is the worm. The worm is a longitudinally elongated tubular insect of the genus *wrigglerii* subterranii. It is enormously plentiful over the entire habitable globe except when it is wanted for bait. Worms then cost one cent per worm.

The worm is made into bait by being impaled on the hook. This is not painful to the worm. He is prevented only by lack of speech from expressing his delight.

The worm should be lowered into the water cautiously, but without betraying nervousness. A fish will snap it up immediately. This fish may be either a muskallunge, salmon, Spanish mackerel, bullhead or Finner fish. The fisher should, however, be prepared to find that it is only a tin can.

As soon as the fish bites he must be played. Playing a fish is the technical term for yanking him in before he can get away. If the fisher is using a pole, he should lay it down and play the fish in hand over hand.

Some fishes are known as game fishes. This is not on account of their flavor, but because they jump into the air when hooked. Many naturers refuse haughtily to fish for any except game fishes. Experts play a game fish till he jumps and then stun him with a club.

The leading game fish of this continent is the Speckled Beauty, a trout. The Speckled Beauty is speckled with vermilion, indigo, green, purple, blue, crimson and lilac dots over a brown moire with watered silk effect. It ranges in size from two inches to monsters of three and four, and lives entirely in babbling brooks not less than one inch deep. It is fished for with artificial flies, and caught with worms.

Bullheads are more easily caught than trout, and therefore have a finer flavor. The bullhead can be identified by grabbing his head firmly. If it is a bullhead, the fisher will find the fish nicely nailed to his hand by handsome spines. The bullhead has the openest smile of any fish except the sperm whale.

The sperm whale is not a true mackerel, bullhead or Finner fish. He is an independent oil producer who moved into the sea when John D. Rockefeller was exulted.

The eel is easy to catch, but difficult to uncatch. A ten-inch eel swallows the hook and sixty feet of line in the moment of impact. The fisher must jerk violently as soon as an eel bites. He will then discover the eel looped gracefully around his neck and tied with a sailor's half-hitch.

The salmon is caught with a pole which has been sawed into three or more pieces, and put together again at an expense of three hundred dollars. He lives in preserves where only members are allowed to fish. These members form a pool, and it is in these pools that the salmon is caught. The salmon fisher bins at dawn to cast a fly with his pieced pole, and continues casting till sunset. A guide then wades into the pool and gets the salmon with a gaff-hook.

There is also salt-water fishing. Salt-water fishing is not fishing for salt mackerel, as many unscientific thinkers believe. Salt water fishers catch bluefish, blackfish, whitefish, sawfish, swordfish, pollacks and other nationalities.

The equipment for a salt water fisher is a strong pole, one mile of fish twine, a meat-hook and a sidewheel steamer. The sidewheel steamer is to get seasick on. A small sidewheeler is not always roomy enough for some men to do this satisfactorily.

The best way to fish is by trolling. It is the favorite method of fat men who fish for exercise. Trolling is done by sitting in a easy chair in a boat, and being rowed around by a friend. Some-

members of the Government, with a characteristic trait of each in turn, and the refrain to each verse was—

And yet he is a most popular man—
Nobody wants to turn him out.

Imagine the emotions of Lord Salisbury and Mr. Brookfield, if such a libretto were submitted to their judgment!

PRECEPT AND PRACTICE.

"Do you wish to go to church this evening?" Father is going to preach, you know, the minister's fair daughter asked. The young man considered. "Um. The last time I went he rather fell on some of my small failings. Do you know what his text will be to-night?" "Yes, 'Love One Another.'"

He regarded the round pink cheek approvingly. "Suppose," he suggested softly, "that we let the old gentleman go preach while we sit on the porch and practice."

A COAL STRIKE SOLUTION.

[New York Press.]

Sir William Ramsay, one of England's foremost thinkers, dreams of doing away with coal miners, and strikes by turning the coal into gas right in the inside of the earth. Sir William suggests the sinking of enough oxygen to burn the coal under the ground without air. If a light is struck on it the coal burns like tinder in a draught.

CHINESE FARMERS HOLD THE RECORD FOR POOR SOIL FARMING.

They Raise Enough Food To Keep Alive Many Millions On Soil That Has Been Impoverished By Centuries of Cultivation.



[By Harry G. Farmer.]

Pekin, April 5.—The Chinese farmer is the champion of the world in getting something out of nothing. With a soil impoverished by centuries of cultivation he manages to raise enough food, normally, to keep alive the most congested population on the globe. He does this with crude but efficient tools. Hoed, rakes, shovels, sickles—these are the implements of the Chinese farmer. He uses little machinery other than a crude plow.



"THE MOST DISASTROUS FAULT IN FISHING IS PATIENCE."

times the troller holds a pole and a line. At the end of this line is a small machine of polished metal that revolves swiftly if the rower is kept up to the mark by the troller. The revolving machine has from ten to two hundred hooks attached, and also has a bouquet of colored feathers. Very often the rower will have rowed barely fifty miles before a fish is hooked and immediately chopped up by the machine. Enthusiastic trollers often keep a supply of fresh friends on hand during the season.

Fly-fishing is the art of throwing a feathered hook on the water and buzzing loudly to imitate a fly as it strikes. Countless fishes instantly dart from all points of the horizon to look at it. Fly-fishermen count these fishes and report the number minutely to the sporting editor. Sometimes a fish catches himself on the hook. This does not count. Copyright, 1912, by J. W. Muller.

Next week Mr. Muller will tell all true 1912 Naturers "How to Know the Trees Personally."

A Railway That Goes to Sea

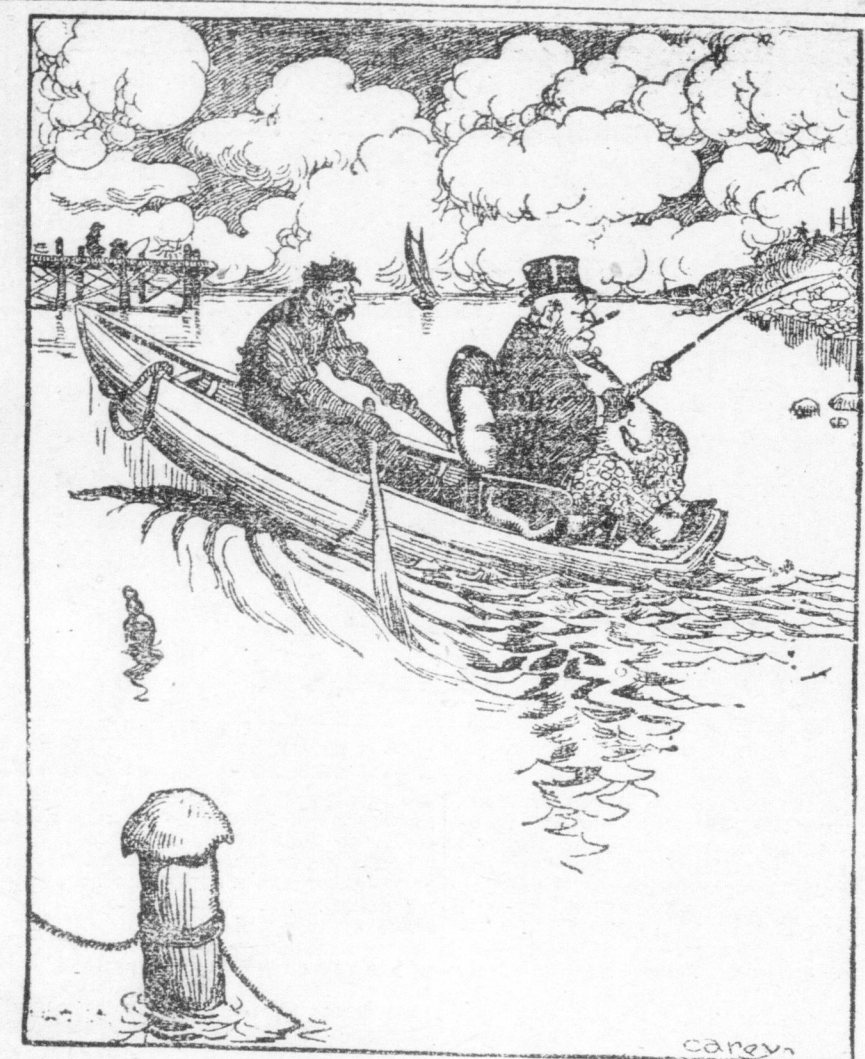
[From "The Outlook."]

Under this title nearly five years ago we described the beginning of one of the most remarkable engineering undertakings of modern times—the extension of a railway along the many keys or small islands lying at the southern end of Florida. Now this wonderful piece of railway construction has been completed, and recently the road was formally opened. The Oversea Railway is due to the broad vision and the financial courage of a single man—Mr. Henry M. Flagler, who now, at the age of 82, keeps the gigantic plan which he conceived brought to a successful end. The course of this line already an important manufacturing place, but given over almost solely to the one industry of cigar-making, and is the southernmost point on the Atlantic coast, is made physically as well as politically a part of the United States. There is good reason to expect that the result may be the same way.

ASK MONK.

[Ottawa Journal.]

The surplus of \$33,000,000 brought to light by the British budget is to be appropriated as a British navy nest egg. Let's see; how much of Canada's surplus of \$39,000,000 is going to be the same way?



TROLLING IS THE FAVORITE METHOD OF FAT MEN WHO FISH FOR EXERCISE.

SOME BRITISH STATESMEN OF THE LATE SIXTIES

[By Right Hon. G. W. E. Russell.]

Some years ago I had the pleasure of seeing my favorite actress, Mrs. John Wood, play the congenial part of Mrs. Malaprop. Through all the rollicking fun of the performer, and all the dignified absurdity of the character, I kept watching for the beloved and familiar phrases. One by one they came, each charged with that immortal fun which is the joy of life, but one was missing, and when the curtain came down, I missed it still. A few days afterwards I had an opportunity of telling Mrs. Wood how much I had enjoyed the play; "but why," I asked, "did you cut out the most characteristic of all malapropisms—the one which belongs as peculiarly to her as 'To be or not to be' to Hamlet?" "I cut nothing," replied the great actress. "I spoke the lines exactly as they were written. But I know what you are thinking of. 'Comparisons are Odorous.'"

"Yes, I am." "Well, let me tell you that it isn't a malapropism at all. It is so like Mrs. Malaprop that generations of players have introduced it into the part. But it rightly belongs to Dogberry." Well, a phrase written by Shakespeare and attributed to Sheridan has a double sanction, and exactly fits my present task. Some twenty years ago I published, in a series of the Queen's Prime Ministers, a short "Life of Mr. Gladstone." This book has lately fallen into the hands of one of my unknown friends near Manchester, and he seems to have found food for reflection in the words in which I tried to describe the condition of Liberalism at the beginning of 1869, when Gladstone had just become prime minister for the first time. Here they are: "Those were golden days for the Liberal party. They were united, enthusiastic, victorious; full of energy, confidence and hope. Great works of necessary reform, too long delayed, lay before them, and they were led by a hand stronger than a churchman than as a lawyer, and by his munificence and

It may be well in passing to recall the names of Gladstone's first cabinet. At the head was the towering figure of the prime minister, who, though he only grasped the supreme prize of public life when he entered his sixtieth year, was at the very height of his physical and mental powers, and, besides all this, was the most indefatigable worker of his time. With him were associated Lord Ripon, Lord De Grey (afterwards Lord Hartington), Lord Granville, Lord Hartington, the Duke of Argyll, John Bright, Robert Lowe, Henry Bruce, Edward Cardwell, Hugh Childers, George Goschen, and Chichester Portescue. Such was Gladstone's first cabinet, and people, noting the elements of which it was composed, went back for a nickname to the beginning of the century, and labelled it "All the Talents."

But now comes my friend, "When," he says, "I read these words I naturally thought of the position of affairs at the present time, and I wondered whether, taking the ministry of 1869 either as a whole or man for man (but excluding Gladstone himself), they were really equal in ability to the present ministry."

Thus my new friend Verges, to whom, playing the part of Dogberry, I reply, "Comparisons are odorous, brother Verges; but, as you seem bent on comparing two sets of eminent and excellent men, I will try to aid your task. I will set forth what I remember of the earlier set, and will leave you to draw the comparison."

Verges rightly excludes the central figure of that great administration, realizing, no doubt, that such gifts as Gladstone's were not easily matched.

Let me take the rest of the cabinet one by one, and note the faculties and qualities of each. We begin as usual with the Lord Chancellor—Lord Hartington—of whom it may be said without offence that he was stronger as a churchman than as a lawyer, and by his munificence and

plety won for himself the title of Lord Bishop of Wesminster long before he was Lord Chancellor of England. due to the fact that he was whimsical, when Lord Russell Palmer was unwilling to disestablish the Irish church. When that act of justice had been accomplished, Lord Hartington served his turn, and was cast aside in favor of Lord Selborne, who was said to possess in the highest perfection "the Chancery mind"; and this, to the uninitiated seems to mean an infinite capacity for splitting straws. Lord De Grey we all remember as Lord Ripon. He was the first man of wealth and rank to throw his name in with the Christian Socialists, and his countrymen should always hold his name in reverence for the skill and firmness which he displayed in persuading "Albion" to accept arbitration in the "Alabama" claims. Lord Kimberly was a man whom rank and wealth certainly pushed forward in public life, but who would have been notable and successful in any class or career. His mind was both rapid and vigorous, and his memory tenacious. He was perfectly independent in opinion, forming his own clear judgment on every problem and resolute in sticking to it. He was perhaps the most fluent speaker in England, and his fluency in French and German equalled his fluency in English. He served the state in a vast variety of offices, and was equally at home in all. As the "General Utility man" of politics, he has never been surpassed. Lord Clarendon (who died in 1870) is now only a name, and barely that; but the present generation will soon learn all about him, for his Memoirs, rather late in the day, to be published. He was a genial and accomplished man of the world, and an eminent instance of the ornamental Whiggery which used to contribute so largely to Liberal cabinets. An even more conspicuous instance of the same kind was Lord Granville, whose strength lay in tact, geniality and common sense. He kept England out of war at a period when all the nations of Europe were straining to get at each other's throats, and he led the Liberal party in the House of Lords for more than thirty years, without once losing his temper. There were no ordinary achievements. That Lord Hartington owed a great deal of his political power to the fact that he was bound to be Duke of Devonshire

FIVE LITTLE AUTOCRATS ALL IN A ROW.



The five children of the Czar and Czarina of Russia—a new photograph just received from St. Petersburg. The boy on the right will be the next Czar, barring bombs.