

S H  
685  
C 48  
B 41

SECTION II., 1896.

[ 131 ]

TRANS. R. S. C.

VII.—*The Philology of the Ouananiche. A plea for the Recognition of Priority of Nomenclature.*

By E. T. D. CHAMBERS.

Author of the "Ouananiche and its Canadian Environment."

(Communicated by Dr. Geo. Stewart, F.R.G.S., and read May 19, 1895.)

The introduction, in recent years, of large numbers of English-speaking anglers to the fresh-water salmon of Lake St. John and other Labrador waters has produced variations most confusing in its nomenclature. The following are some of the many forms of spelling the name of the great game fish of northeastern Canada that have perplexed the readers of modern angling and other literature: Sananiche, ouananiche, ouinaniche, oumaniche, ouananish, winninish, winnonish, winanish, wininish, wininnish, winninish, winnoniche, winnouiche, wananish, wananishe, wananish, wannanish, wananish, awenanish, ouinnish, ouininiche, ouaniche, winanis, wannoniche, owaninich, ouenanesh and ouinenish. Memory recalls some other remarkable attempts to reduce to writing the French and Indian pronunciation of this fish's name, but I confine myself in this paper to the mention of the forms for the use of which at present writing I can furnish authorities.

Ouinaniche was employed in March, 1894, in a review of a new book in the columns of *L'Événement* newspaper of Quebec and the Rev. Duncan Anderson uses it in "A Dominion Day Idyll." It also appears in the literature of the N. Y., N. H. and Hudson River R.R., and is used incidentally, as a synonym, by Mr. J. G. Aylwin Creighton. It is one of the many forms of the name indiscriminately employed by Mr. J. M. Lemoine, F.R.S.C., who at page 263 of his *Chasse et pêche au Canada*, uses also the plural form "ouinaniches." At page 242 of the same work Mr. Lemoine writes it "ouinnaniche," for which spelling, however, I have found no other authority, and in the appendix he gives us "winnoniche," employing still another form in a later work, as will be seen as we proceed. Mr. J. Edmond Roy, F.R.S.C., in his *Voyage au pays de Tadoussac*, uses "ouamanish." "Winninish" is employed by C. M. Palmer of Minneapolis at page 71 of *Favorite Flies* by Mary Orvis Marbury: "winnonish" is the spelling found on a board nailed to a tree on the shore of Lake Tschotagama, over fifty miles up the Grand Peribonea River, and containing the record of a fishing experience there in July, 1891, by Messrs. E. J. Myers and A. W. Kœhler of New York; though in justice to Mr. Myers, it must be said that he invariably uses "ouananiche" in his interesting contributions to the literature of the fish