

# HUNTING AND FISHING, HERE AND ELSEWHERE

## FISHING RESORTS HANDY TO VICTORIA

### III.—Prospect Lake

The last two articles of this series dealt with places reached only by a train journey from town, so that it seems fitting to describe a place nearer home this time.

Prospect Lake is about eight miles distant from Victoria by road and there is a choice of three roads leading to it, but it is as well to mention right now that it is a good plan for a stranger taking this little trip to arm himself before starting with a good road map, which he may purchase in town as, although once there were signboards erected by the Tourist Association plainly pointing the way, the hoodlums have been at their work of destruction and used them in places for shotgun targets, with the result that they are mutilated or missing altogether just in the places where they are most needed.

The trout of Prospect Lake are celebrated for their qualities both as sport providers and as table delicacies, and the usual catch averages well in size, although the lake is not more than half-a-mile in extreme width. Tradition even tells of mighty four-pound monsters, though from half-a-pound to a pound and a half is more like the usual size caught. In spite of having been hard fished for years, the stock of trout in this lake holds its own well as is proved by the good catches which to my knowledge have been made there this season not only by bait fishermen but also by the devotees of the fly rod.

As in all fishing there are good days and bad days in all waters; the uncertainty of the game is one of its chief charms, but, speaking generally, the fly-fisherman can enjoy good sport at Prospect Lake as soon as the warm weather begins and the natural insects begin to be hatched out. There is an abundance of this kind of food here and the fish rise well in the evenings and mornings in the bays and at the edges of the water-lily patches, one of the best places for the use of the fly being on the bar which runs out into the centre of the lake opposite the little island.

The most usual and popular way of fishing here is by trolling with a spoon bait, the exact method being to use a large salmon spoon (the larger the better apparently) with a worm-baited hook a foot or more behind it; by slowly rowing, the big spoon is made to attract the fish from the unknown and mysterious depths of the lake, and, doubtless first attracted by nothing but curiosity, the fish, on rising to inspect the reflector, catches sight of the worm behind it, and is thus lured to its doom. It is a strange way of catching trout and one that I never saw practised before visiting this place, but it certainly catches the fish, so that if that is the chief desideratum this is possibly the best means to that end in the middle of the day when the fish are not rising to the surface naturally.

The fly-fisherman need not, however, jump to the conclusion that this is a bait-fisherman's haunt pure and simple. The observation of residents at the lake side would go to prove that the most natural food of the fish in the summer time is the insect life which is on the surface in myriads of a summer evening. A small fly on a light cast will bring results which will be surprising to the uninitiated.

There are plenty of good suitable boats for hire on the lake at a reasonable rate, and, except on very special days, such as the first of the season, or Good Friday, the visiting angler need have no fear of not being able to get a boat. Fishing from the bank is practically out of the question.

The drive or ride from Victoria is as picturesque as are all such on Vancouver Island. Though in places some of the roads might be better, they are never bad enough to discourage the angling bicyclist. Apart from its attractions as an angling resort the trip to Prospect Lake will afford a delightful picnic for the whole family.

## VANCOUVER ISLAND HUNTING AND FISHING

To the sportsman, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, offers one of the most prolific of all countries for sport. As there is practically no winter on the island, the hunter or fisher need not prepare himself specially for his favorite sport. Neither need he lack the excitement of pursuing the more dangerous beasts of prey, as bear and panther are common in the island. Further to the north elk are found in considerable numbers, and deer shooting is unsurpassed by any section in the country. The blue grouse and native pheasants abound together with mountain quail. Wild duck and goose shooting, both in salt water and the numerous fresh water lakes, is excellent.

Black brant are also shot in great numbers, and altogether the sportsman on Vancouver Island has an almost inexhaustible field to choose from. Some of the finest trout streams in the world are on the island, and the salmon fishing, when that fish are "running," is a favorite sport. It is no uncommon thing during these "runs" for two men, in a canoe, to catch a dozen or so magnificent fish, while business men in the various cities often go out for an early morning row and bring in two or three fine salmon before breakfast.

Black bass and cod are caught in great numbers, the former fish being particularly plentiful in Esquimalt harbor. Dozens of beautiful lakes and streams can be reached either by bicycle, automobile, or horse and vehicle, while a couple of hours over the railways brings the sportsman right into the heart of the game district. Stamp river, Mar-

ble creek, Oyster river, and Campbell and Cowichan rivers are among the most noted streams for brook trout, while in the fall, sea trout, gamy and lusty, test the angler's tackle to the utmost.

There are many stretches of rough water in these rivers, and the picturesque, wildness and grandeur of the scenery constitutes one of the keenest enjoyments of a trip through these regions. Among the many lakes in close proximity to Victoria, the capital city of British Columbia, is Shawigan Lake. Hundreds of black-tailed deer are shot here every season, some of the hunters using a solid ball in double-barreled shotguns, for better execution in the thick cover where the deer are jumped. Salmon fishing on the rivers is a sport which can scarcely be described for its excitement and interest, as the fish are monsters in size and fight as only a salmon can. A favorite method of angling for salmon is by trolling, and this is sometimes done by a hand-line, or with a spoon and rod and reel.

One of the pleasant features of fishing and shooting in Vancouver Island is the comparative ease with which the territory is reached, the comfort and convenience of the various stopping places, the mildness of the weather, and the average ease with which the sport can be pursued.

Of course, when a man goes out for elk and bear he must have guides and naturally expect to contend with more or less hardship

for its possibilities to the lover of shooting and angling.—Ernest McCaffrey.

## WHY NOT BE INDEPENDENT?

It seems to me that many people miss the true savor of outdoors by depending too much on the assistance of others. One finds on all sides tales of how men go into the wilds and give themselves over to the enjoyment of nature but somehow many of these stories show plainly that it was not the sportsman who did things. Too often the sophisticated reader and outdoor man detects the fact that it was the guide's skill which brought the game in range of the rifle. The guide did the tracking, or he called the moose, or he pointed out the game for the hunter to see. Somehow most trips into the wilds are not declarations of independence. They are, in fact, plain statements of dependence upon another's skill, another's knowledge and another's strength. After the guide has driven the deer to one's stand—"To make a long story short, half an hour passed before George, the guide, who had come up, finally found the deer dead." Then when wet leaves gave good still-hunting—"The guide and I still-hunted," and it was the guide who got the shots.

I do not decry the value of guides, though I never hired but one. If one is really incapable of getting through the woods alone, then stick to the guide like a burr. If one wants packers,

Go to the hunting grounds alone. Make your own camp by spring, stream or lake. Seek your game alone. Range the hills and woods without companions. Depend on your own observation and compass to get back to camp. You may not grow fat on your own cooking at first. You may not see so many heads of game. You may even fail to see any game. But when you have camped alone for a night or a week or a month you will have made the acquaintance of a phase of nature which does not appear to men who travel in mobs.

If I am camping with a party of hunters, it suits me best to let all the others pick their own way of hunting and places of hunting, and when they have chosen theirs I go the other way. I seek some distant ridge if my companions hunt close to camp. If they go far from camp then I circle around near home. Alone and unassisted, I hunt my deer, I shoot it if I can, and if my own aim is good, it is my meat, my hide and my horns. The game is a trophy to my unassisted skill. I tramp and camp alone. To get the true savor of the winter forests, I lived for ten weeks in an empty loggers' camp, miles from the nearest house. I am prouder of the rabbits—great northern hares—that I killed still-hunting with a rifle, than I could possibly be of any game in whose death another shared.

To prove that it was good to go alone, I tramped a thousand miles out of Central New York across Pennsylvania to the head of the

during expiration. The number of spouts delivered during each appearance at the surface depends upon the depth at which the whale happens to be feeding—the greater the depth, the greater the number of spouts, the maximum being usually six or seven.

In the case of both humpbacks and finners, big dives or soundings, when the whales descend to considerable depths, alternate with shallow intermediate dives. The positions assumed during these two actions being quite distinct and characteristic. In commencing a sound, after the completion of the spout, the humpback depresses its head and begins to revolve, after which the body is much arched and the back-fin shown, when much of the body is above the surface; as the revolution continues, the tail or flukes is drawn smoothly out of the water, and the whale assumes a vertical position till the tail disappears. The idea that humpbacks descend obliquely when sounding is thus shown to be incorrect.

On the other hand, after one of these deep soundings, the whale indulges in a variable number of shallow or surface dives, when the back, in most cases at any rate, is but slightly arched, and there is little sign of the revolving movement. In starting on one of these dives the flukes are not shown.

When sounding, humpbacks may remain below the surface from five to twenty minutes, the distance travelled during this period depending apparently to a great extent on the amount of food to be obtained. When food is abundant the whale will frequently rise close to where it disappeared; but when there is a scarcity of provender, the animal will often swim at a great pace and reappear a mile or more away from the spot where it sounded. From this latter circumstance, in the opinion of Dr. Racovitz and the author, has arisen the idea prevalent among whalers that the big cetaceans can remain under water for many consecutive hours without coming up to breathe. A whale suddenly makes its appearance at the surface where no whales have been seen in the neighborhood for hours, and it is forthwith assumed that the creature has been sounding all this time. If, however, it be admitted that the humpback or a finner will swim for twenty minutes below as fast as it does at the surface, it may perfectly well have descended at least a mile away from the place of its reappearance.

One more point of interest may be noted. A smooth circular patch of water invariably marks the spot where a humpback or a finner has sounded, and it has been attempted to account for this circle of mirror-like water by the hypothesis that oily matter emanates from the whale in its descent. Mr. Andrews considers, however, that the smooth appearance of the water is a purely physical phenomenon produced by interrupted wave-action and suction as the monster descends, and analogous to the disturbance produced by the sudden descent of any large body into the water.—The Field.

## CHURCHES LINE THE THAMES

The Thames ought to have a vast number of good people dwelling on its banks, for it is said to be better churched than any other river of its size, says the London Graphic. That is to say, it has a greater number of churches standing immediately on its banks than any stream of similar extent. If you are well acquainted with the country, its flows through, and attempt to reckon up the number of these edifices you can see from a boat, you will be perfectly astounded at the result of your calculations. I know well nigh all these buildings, from delightful Somerset Keynes, in Wiltshire, where is the very first of the series, to the somewhat bleak and sad church of Cooling—the scene of the early part of "Great Expectations"—which is well nigh the last. But, when I come to think of it, St. James, in the Isle of Grain, must be really the very last of these riparian churches. The three I have mentioned are all very interesting, but little known, as they are somewhat out of the popular track.

## PIPPIN IS ROYALTY'S APPLE

In 1842, when Andrew Stevenson, a citizen of Albemarle county, Va., represented the United States at the English court, he caused several barrels of Albermarle pippins to be presented to Queen Victoria, according to Virginia Country Names.

From that time until her death the pippin was the apple eaten at the Court of St. James, and it may be that King Edward keeps up the custom of his mother. At any rate, the pippin has a wonderful popularity in England now. C. E. Sydnor, the Richmond fruit expert, received, in the summer of 1907, an order from a wholesale fruit merchant of England for 20,000 barrels of pippins. Sydnor also received an order from Copenhagen, Denmark, for 5,000 barrels of pippins.

## RIVAL TO THE COD

It appears that there is in the field a rival to that great American fish, the cod which has for so long enjoyed a noble supremacy, says the Troy Times.

Argentine fishermen have discovered in the waters off their country a fish to which has been given the name of salloito, which has many of the qualities of the cod and it is thought, may supplant the latter. So the government is going to look the matter up and extend aid if the industry of catching and selling the salloito promises to be successful. However, the wholesome and appetizing cod has had a good start, and there is no great probability that the American food fish, will be supplanted.



PROSPECT LAKE

A Popular Fishing Resort in the Immediate Vicinity of Victoria

and even danger. Elk inhabit the northern part of the island, and with one other exception, according to my best information, elk are not found elsewhere in Canada. Some of the picturesque features of the shooting and fishing in the northern part of the island, particularly along the coast, will be the opportunities of the hunter or fisher to see the unique features of life and interest not observable in other parts of the world. He may have an opportunity to see the whale fishers cruising after the leviathans of the deep should he be on the west coast, or on the east coast he may have a chance to see the herring fishers bringing in their nets filled with overflowing and glistening with the shining scales of the herring.

He will see in his travels some of the most magnificent timber the world can show today. He will come across the camps of prospectors seeking for gold and copper among the mountains, and he will pass coal and iron mines in operation. In the remote fastnesses he will meet Indian and white trappers and hunters, and he will find to his amazement and delight parts of the country which are as new to the white man, perhaps even newer, than the heart of Africa itself.

Dozens of unexplored regions of the rivers, as yet untrampled by the cast of the fly, dash down to the sea, are still to be found on Vancouver Island. Wilderness where bear, elk and panther make their home, are waiting for the moccasin of the Indian guide, followed by his white companion.

Of the hunters coming to Vancouver Island for a trip it is necessary to say, bring a light rod with you and either a light rifle or a .22 target pistol for small game shooting, as you will find that an excellent means of providing yourarder with toothsome material for the frying pan. To the angler, the advice will be, in addition to a full set of light and heavy rods and tackle, bring a light rifle to give variety to the camp cookery and a change from the sport so beloved by Izaak Walton.

Motoring enthusiasts, who at the same time are fond of gun and rod, have no other place in the country in which they can "double up" on the sports mentioned. The automobile roads from Victoria north extend 200 miles, and are unsurpassed in their solidity and in the opportunity afforded the traveler for viewing magnificent scenery. These roads pass through the cities of Nanaimo, Ladysmith and Cumberland, as well as near all the hunting and fishing resorts within reach. New roads are also being constructed in every direction, so that the automobile owner and driver who enjoys sport with gun and rod, has in Vancouver Island the greatest of all places to follow his favorite sports. Guides can be procured readily for big game shooting, while the fishing is accessible from all the cities and points along the railroad, and particularly by automobile or other vehicles.

Sportsmen from the States and Canada come in every year to a certain extent, but territory has not been as yet hardly touched

cooks and other servants, well and good. But when it comes to the actual hunting, why not strike out alone and shoot game without the assistance of another's eyes, another's ears, and another's rifle, which happens frequently when a guide with a gun is alongside at every stride.

How many men who hunt with guides at their side really kill the moose, caribou, bear and mountain sheep whose heads they so proudly display? Search the hides and it will sometimes be found that the sportsman's smokeless-powder-driven, steel-jacketed bullets were materially assisted in their work by the plugging of a bullet or two from the guide's old black powder gun. Of what avail to tell a fellow sportsman that "I killed this moose!" when in the heart rings the challenge, "You hit him in the hind leg—George hit him in the neck?"

There are comforts which no man can despise in camp or elsewhere—a good bed, a warm place to sleep and a varied diet. But the instant one adds that which requires another's skill to make the hunt successful, by so much the sportsman loses. It is better, far better, to seek one's game alone and kill it than to have an avalanche of success through the assistance of others. If one's skill is no better than ability to shoot red squirrels on a hemlock knoll, then refrain from hunting deer at the heels of a guide until such time as it is possible to shoot deer with your own rifle without assistance. If it is unsportsmanlike to hunt deer with dogs, it is equally unsportsmanlike to hunt them with guides.

Let me applaud the man who camps and tramps and hunts alone. If a man is so unfamiliar with the woods that he cannot trudge through them without getting lost, let him pitch his little tent in a picnic ground, in sight of the public highway. If one is not skilled enough to still-hunt deer, let him hunt woodchucks, for a mounted woodchuck still-hunted and shot by one's own efforts is surer token of skill and independence than the lordliest royal elk head that ever came out of Montana—if a man claims that elk as his own, when a guide found it and a guide's shot caused death or even stopped the wounded game.