

# ROD & REEL IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

How and Where  
to Fish



By A. BRYAN WILLIAMS  
EX-PROVINCIAL GAME WARDEN

161









Rod & Creel in British Columbia

-BY-

A. BRYAN WILLIAMS

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PROGRESS PUBLISHING COMPANY, LTD.  
LONDON BUILDING  
VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

157336

## PREFACE

**A**LTHOUGH it is written especially for the fisherman in the Province of British Columbia, and gives him information he needs and cannot readily obtain elsewhere, this book is of real live interest to all sporting fishermen everywhere.

There have been many books on "fishing," but few have the charm of direct personal knowledge presented in a clear and entertaining manner, which characterizes the writing of Mr. Bryan Williams.

As Provincial Game Warden for many years, Mr. Williams travelled, and fished, every part of British Columbia, and was the "source of information" for hundreds of tourists visiting the province, often from parts far distant as England, New Zealand, and Eastern United States.

The publishers have spared no pains to make the book useful and interesting to the fisherman, and it is hoped that it will be found acceptable by those who follow the gentle art of Isaac Walton.



# ROD & CREEL

in British Columbia

By A. BRYAN WILLIAMS

Ex-Provincial Game Warden

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"ROD AND CREEL IN BRITISH COLUMBIA"



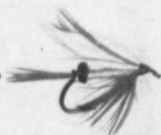
Jock Scott



Silver Doctor



Blue Doctor



Parmachene Belle



Teal & Red



Teal & Silver



Teal & Green



Professor



Montreal



Grouse & Claret



Cowichan Coachman



Royal Coachman



Cock-y-bonddu



Brown Hackle



Red Hackle



Black Zulu



March Brown



Black Gnat



Stone Fly



Cow Dung

TWENTY USEFUL FLIES FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

NOTE.—For the purpose of a good illustration, showing the colours and make-up, the flies for above plate were all tied on No. 6 hook. The correct sizes are given in the description of each fly separately.

# Rod & Creel in British Columbia

## CHAPTER I.

### Introductory

"Of recreation there is none  
So free as fishing is alone,  
All other pastimes do no less  
Than mind and body both possess!  
My hand alone my work can do  
So I can fish and study, too."

THE above lines are taken from the "Compleat Angler," the most famous book on fishing ever written or likely to be written, by Isaac Walton, than whom no greater fisherman ever lived. Isaac Walton was born at Stafford in England in the year 1593, but it was not until the year 1653 that the first edition of his book was published. How many editions have since been published cannot be exactly stated, but there were five alone in the thirty years he lived after the book was written (he was just 90 when he died) and over a hundred editions since. The book itself, of course, is now of little value as a treatise, but as Lamb said, "It would sweeten a man's temper at any time to read it," and it seems to show what a gentle, kindly, sincere spirit the ideal angler should be.

"Of all sports and recreations there is nothing like fishing, in which a person is so entirely dependent upon the skill of his own hand, combined with a well-developed store of patience and perseverance.

"Of all sports there is nothing like fishing, which will develop the above traits and tend to make a man of kindly, upright disposition and keep him both physically and morally healthy.

"Of all sports there is nothing like fishing, which will keep a youngster out of mischief and mould his character along the right lines."

The famous Dr. Samuel Johnson, though he was a great admirer of Walton's book, once described fishing as "a rod and line with a worm at one end and a fool at the other." There have been more jokes made about fishermen than any other class of sportsmen. Everybody knows the old "chestnut," that came out in "Punch" many years ago, of the lunatic looking over the asylum wall at a man fishing in the river just outside and advising him to come inside because he had been sitting out there fishing steadily for five hours and had not

even had a bite! And yet how far a fisherman really is from being either a fool or a lunatic. It is the other way about, the man who stays in town when he could be out in the country fishing, at peace with himself and the world, and getting fresh air and exercise, who goes instead to moving picture shows, or plays cards in stuffy rooms. This is the man who is the lunatic; he is not only wasting his time, but ruining his health; whereas the fisherman is improved both morally and physically by his outing, even if he returns with an empty basket and nothing but long yarns of the wonderful fish he "just missed catching through bad luck," stories which nobody believes, but which do no harm and the teller derives great pleasure in the telling.

British Columbia has long been famous for its variety of sport. As for fishing, even if it can be equalled, it certainly cannot be beaten in any other part of the world and yet, with the exception of a few streams and lakes that are easy of access, most of its waters have been almost untouched by disciples of Isaac Walton. Our Province has an area some 700 miles long by 400 miles wide, and the whole of this area is divided by a network of rivers, streams and lakes in which are sporting fish of some kind, either salmon, trout or grayling, and in addition, pike in some of the northern lakes, bass in a few places in the south. In many of the more isolated waters the fish are so numerous and uneducated that they will rise at anything thrown at them and there is little sport in catching them. But in any waters that are easy of access they have become so educated that the man or woman who wishes to return with a well-filled creel must not only go out properly equipped, but must be more or less expert in the 'gentle art.'

If one goes on a holiday to a stream anywhere near a town you will see fishermen, and women too, by the score, and if you make it your business to watch them, whereby you will derive much pleasure, a great deal of amusement and sometimes some knowledge, you will discover that only about one out of ten has sufficient knowledge and is properly equipped to catch anything except small trout with worms or salmon eggs, sometimes even with a small spinner. One spring day I watched twenty-two men at the same time trying to fish the famous "Davidson's pool" in the Lillooet. Steelheads had been running well a short time previously, but that day the water had fallen so low as to be almost hopeless, so low you could see the bottom except in the very deepest part of the pool. And yet these twenty-two stayed there steadily fishing, some with minnows, others with prawns and baits of every conceivable sort. They were so crowded they could hardly cast on a pool just a nice size for two men to fish. You could, by standing upon the high bank, see most of the baits in the water, and you could also see that any fish that might have been there had long since been driven

away. And yet these men fished on and on, their chances of even a bite were absolutely nil. Still, they were breathing fresh air, getting exercise and learning patience and self-restraint, the latter especially when their lines fouled one another, which frequently happened. . . .

Now, not only must you have the requisite skill and a suitable outfit, but you must have the water in proper condition, no matter whether you are fishing in this Province or any other part of the world. You cannot hope to catch fish when the water is running the colour of pea-soup after a heavy freshet, and it is almost as hopeless when the streams have run so dry that there is not water enough for the fish to move from one pool to another. Still even under such conditions there is always the joy of being out with your rod. If you are a lover of nature you are sure to find something of interest and you can always spend an enjoyable hour or two practising casting a fly or spinning a minnow.

Considering the possibilities the country offers it is a wonder that more people do not take advantage of their opportunities. It is a sport in which men, women and children can indulge during every month in the year on the coast, and one can obtain better sport here free, than could be had at considerable expenditure in Europe.

If you ask people "why they do not go fishing," you will get many excuses: the business man is too busy, the society lady has too many social functions, others are too poor, or have not got the patience, or do not know where to go. No matter what your business is you should make time. A day or two's fishing will clear the brain and put you in better condition to tackle business problems and you will be better off in the end. If you have not the patience, you should develop it; a little bit of luck will soon turn you into an enthusiast. It is a sport for men and women and one is never too old to learn; so whatever the excuse, do not let it hinder you. If you have never experienced the thrill of hearing the "scream" of a reel when you have hooked a 2-lb. rainbow on a fly in some such stream as the Cowichan or Thompson, or a fresh run 15-lb. steelhead in the Vedder or Cheakamus, or a 50-lb. Tyee salmon at Campbell River or Alberni Canal, you have missed one of the greatest joys of life. So make up your mind to become a fisherman or fisherwoman. If you do not know where to go, or how to fish or what rods and tackle to get, this book will give you an indication; but remember that from a book alone you can only learn the general rules. When it comes to the actual fishing itself, "Your hands alone the work can do." It is only practice combined with perseverance that will enable you to return home with a well-filled creel.

## CHAPTER II.

## THE SPORTING FISH OF B. C.

**S**ALMON. From time to time one hears discussions amongst anglers about the different species of salmon on the Pacific Coast, and the statement is frequently made that it has been decided by Ichthyologists that our salmon are not real salmon. While a lengthy chapter on this subject would be out of place in a book of this kind, a few words on the subject, presumably, will be of interest to many who read this book.

First of all it may be stated that it is incorrect to say that our salmon are anything but salmon. It has, however, been decided that our salmon, while identical in general characters with the "Salmo" family of the Atlantic Coast, differ anatomically in a number of ways and also differ in their reproductive instincts. In consequence our fish, instead of being grouped with the genus "Salmo," have a genus of their own called "Oncorhynchus."

**Spring Salmon** (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*).—Sometimes called "Tyee," "King," "Silver Spring." These fish attain the greatest weight of all our salmon and they probably live a year or two longer. They vary considerably in size and colour, so much so that many people think they are of different varieties. No difference in anatomical structure has been discovered and the difference is probably due to the various "runs" of fish changing their appearance and size according to the water and amount of feed available in it. For example, take the ordinary "Spring." This fish is caught all along the coast, more or less all the year round and inhabits shallow water and is of bright color in consequence. Then take the so-called "Tyee;" this fish only puts in an appearance when spawning time approaches; the rest of the time it probably scatters in deep water, where competition for food is not so great, the result being it attains greater size, and the depth of the water it lives in gives it a deeper colour.

The flesh of these fish also varies in colour considerably, some being quite white, others with just a pink tinge, and others quite pink. The reason for this change has not yet been discovered. The fact that white-fleshed fish become more common towards fall might tend to the theory that the spawning season had something to do with it, except for the fact that the "Tyees" of Campbell River are invariably a deep pink. Water

conditions are more likely to have some bearing, as fish in some waters run much more to one colour than another.

The weight of the spring varies enormously, and mature fish, that is fish five or six years old, run from 2 lbs. up. The largest fish of which I have any record went 105 lbs., the second largest 96 lbs., while fish up to 80 lbs. have been fairly numerous. As far as fair rod-and-line fishing is concerned, the record stands at 72 lbs. This fish was caught at Campbell River many years ago by Sir Richard Musgrave. There is no doubt that this record could be beaten by anybody who made up his mind to do so, as several enormous fish, one reported as 83 lbs., were taken by professional fishermen last summer when trolling with hand lines.

To identify the "spring" is generally a simple matter, the size alone usually being sufficient. Sometimes, however, in the fall it is a very difficult matter for the ordinary fisherman, who has neither the knowledge nor inclination to count the developed rays on the anal fin, or the scales between the lateral line and dorsal fin, to say nothing of the gill-rakers on the anterior gill-arch and the branchiostegals, etc., etc., to tell the difference between a small spring and a big coho. The simplest way is to look at the tail. If it has black spots more or less all over it and there is not an opal-coloured, narrow, iridescent streak about one-half inch wide and one and one-half inches long, running from the centre of the root of the tail, it is a "spring." It it has this coloured iridescent streak it is a coho.

**The Coho** (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*).—This fish runs anywhere from 3 lbs. up to as high as 15 lbs. It is a beautiful silvery fish with a greenish back usually having some black spots on the back and occasionally on the tail also. Its flesh is a deep red and, while by no means the equal of the "spring" for the table, the larger ones are extremely good. The first run of cohoes is usually in May, when they seldom weigh more than 2 or 3 lbs., and are sold on the market as "bluebacks." As the season advances they increase in weight at an enormous rate, so that by fall when they ascend the river to spawn they have attained their full size.

The coho is an excellent sporting fish, he will take the fly fairly well both in the sea and fresh water whenever conditions are favourable, though more are taken by trolling and spinning than this method. As a fighter he is by no means to be despised, as, though he will not make the long runs that the spring salmon will, he jumps much more frequently and dashes about in such a wild way that considerable skill is required to play him.

**The Sockeye, Dog and Humpback.**—These species can hardly be considered sporting fish, though the last two men-



tioned are not infrequently, and the first named very occasionally, taken on the rod.

**The Habits of the Salmon.**—All salmon deposit their spawn in the fall or early winter and they almost invariably pair while ascending the rivers for the purpose. When they reach their spawning place, the male fish, with tail and nose, excavates a broad, shallow bed, sometimes in the silty bed of a lake of little depth but more frequently in a gravelly bottom of a stream, in rapid water at a depth of one to five feet. The eggs are then deposited and covered with silt or gravel and the fish themselves float down stream, and in the course of a few days die.

Whether they recover after spawning and return to the sea is very problematical. Possibly a few springs and cohoes do so, but so far no Pacific Coast salmon has yet been discovered that has spawned a second time.

The young fish hatch out in from 120 to 180 days in cold streams, the period lessening with higher temperature and, as a rule, descend to the ocean in their first year, some remaining a year longer. They grow very slowly at first, but in their last year do so very rapidly. The age of a salmon is ascertained by microscopic examination of the scales, which exhibit distinct ring marks for each year. The number of years a salmon has spawned is ascertained in the same manner. Spring salmon, as a rule, spawn in their fourth and fifth years, some in their sixth. Cohoes normally spawn in their third year though sometimes in the fourth and even fifth years.

One of the problems about salmon that has never yet been solved is why they can be taken with baits in fresh water, seeing that when once they leave the sea the stomach contracts and they cease to feed. In the salt water almost any "spring" you catch will be found to have its stomach half full of smelts, young herring or small sea perch, and yet nobody has ever yet found even the remains of food in any salmon caught in fresh water. It is sometimes argued that they do not mean to swallow it but only bite at it because it annoys them. This can hardly be the case, as there are times when you can put baits of all sorts right under their noses and they will hardly notice it, while at other times they will come with a rush from as far as they can see it.

**Trout.**—The identity of the trout of this Province has been the source of a vast amount of argument, and while a certain amount of scientific examination has been made, so far as I am aware, no authoritative description of the trout of this Province alone has ever been written. As far, however, as can be ascertained, apart from a slight difference between coast and interior types, no anatomical difference has been discovered between the

so-called rainbow and the steelhead, any more than between the bright silver-spring salmon of medium weight and the enormous bronze-coloured type. Not only that, but the difference between the so-called rainbow and steelhead and the cut-throat is very small.

As far, however, as the angler is concerned, these matters, while probably interesting, are not of vital importance so long as the fish are game and he knows where to catch them. For the purpose of this book therefore, the steelhead, rainbow, cut-throat, dolly varden and great lake trout (the two last mentioned are not true trout but char, and do not belong to the "Salmo" family) will be recognized. In addition to the above we have the eastern brook trout (also a char) acclimatised in one stream in West Kootenay, where it is sufficiently numerous to afford good sport. In other streams where it has been tried it has not yet been reported a success.

**The Steelhead** (*Salmo gairdnerii*).—This fish, while much resembling a salmon to the casual observer, is a true trout. It attains a weight of 20 lbs., and even over, 10 to 15 lb. fish being quite common. When perfectly fresh-run, it is a most beautiful silvery fish; but as the spawning season approaches, it first has a faint crimson glow on the sides which adds to its beauty, afterwards changing gradually to a dull brick-red, with dark blotches here and there, by which time it is thin, quite out of condition and not fit for consumption.

When in condition the flesh of the steelhead is a delicate pink, and as a table delicacy is superior, in many people's estimation, to the finest of spring salmon.

The Coast steelhead is essentially a large sea-trout, only ascending the rivers a short time before spawning. Unlike the Pacific salmon, it recovers after spawning and returns to the ocean to recuperate. The steelhead can easily be distinguished from the salmon by its greater length, small head and regular trout tail. In addition it sometimes has black spots below the lateral line, which the salmon never has.

The spawning time on this coast varies somewhat according to the stream, some fish not ascending the streams until the first freshets in May, but the greater majority of fish ascend the streams in January and February, some even in December, and spawn in March and April.

As a sporting fish the steelhead has no equal. He can be taken on the fly, or by spinning with a minnow or prawn, as well as with bait. As a fighter there is nothing to beat him, he will jump perhaps four or five times in succession and make long runs or flying dashes upstream or downstream and in every direction, so that a cool head and skilful hands are needed to bring him to the gaff.

**The Interior Steelhead** (*Salmo gairdnerii kamloops*).—This fish, which is locally called salmon, is a landlocked variety of the coast fish. It is found in the larger lakes which take the place of the sea, the fish running up the streams to spawn as a rule about June. Unlike the coast fish, however, when once they ascend the stream they are so nearly ready to spawn they will not take bait and they are therefore caught in the lakes.

If anything, the lake fish grow to a larger size than the coast fish, but not having a strong current to assist them when hooked, do not afford as much sport.

**The Rainbow** (*Salmo iridienis*) and **Cut-throat** (*Salmo mykiss*).—These two fish are very similar in size, appearance and habits. As a general thing the rainbow is of a brighter, more silvery colour, with a more pronounced crimson glow on the side. The cut-throat is much more heavily spotted and can easily be distinguished by the red mark, whereby it attains its name, on each side under the lower jaw.

Both these fish may be taken up to 5 or 6 lbs. weight, according to the size of the stream or lake they are found in. They will both take the fly freely and are hard fighters, the rainbow probably doing the most jumping.

As a rule they are excellent table fish except when caught in some of the shallow lakes, when they are apt to be of a somewhat muddy flavour.

**Dolly Varden** (*Salvelinus malma*).—The "dolly," as this fish is commonly called, is not a true trout and does not belong to the genus "*Salmo*." Both this fish and the eastern brook trout are chars. It is of a rather dull greenish-grey colour on the back and white underneath, with a number of large pink or yellowish pink spots. It is extremely broad across the back and weighs a good deal more than one would expect from a casual glance. The size varies according to the stream or lake it is caught in. In most large coast streams they will go up to 8 or 10 lbs., the average being 3 or 4 lbs. In lakes it grows considerably bigger, possibly reaching a weight of 25 lbs.

The larger specimens will seldom take a fly alone, but I have caught them on a fly with a small spinner above it. Small fish of one-half to three-quarter pounds will often take the fly freely.

The usual method of fishing for "dollys" is by spinning, and in some of the larger streams where there is a swift current very good sport can sometimes be had, as, while they seldom do more in the way of jumping than makes a few splashes, they are very strong fish and frequently rattle out quite a lot of line.

**The Great Lake Trout** (*Cristivomer namaycush*).—This fish is also a char and very similar in appearance to the "dolly,"



Sproat Lake, Vancouver  
Island. (See page 73).



CAMERON LAKE  
(See page 71)

though not its equal in beauty, being of a duller colour, poorer shape and with yellow instead of pink spots.

Its habitat is the large lakes, more particularly those in the north, where it sometimes grows to enormous size; it is said to have been taken over 60 lbs. in weight, though the average would not be more than 15 lbs.

It is caught in very deep water by trolling with a long line, and heavy lead and big spoon. When hooked it plays but little better than a cod. It is an excellent table fish but that is about its only recommendation.

**Habits of Trout.**—All our trout are migratory, those on the coast descending to the sea if they can, those in the lakes either ascending or descending the various streams to spawn.

The spawning time varies tremendously according to local conditions, and to such an extent do conditions vary that there is hardly a month in the year when you could not find trout spawning somewhere or other. The main spawning seasons are the winter months on the coast and May and June in the interior.

**The Grayling** (*Thymallus signifer*).—The grayling somewhat resembles a small salmon in shape but does not belong to the genus "Salmo." In this country it seldom exceeds 2 lbs. in weight. It is of a somewhat dullish hue, with a number of bluish black spots on the forward part of the belly. It has an enormous dorsal fin, altogether out of proportion to the rest of the fish. On the other hand its mouth is small and delicate, from which a hook is easily torn. As a table fish it is even superior to the trout and in addition is an excellent sporting fish. It takes the fly freely and, while not the equal of the trout as a fighter, puts up quite a good fight, though rather after the style of the "dolly."

This fish is only found in our northern waters. The one commonly called the grayling in the south, is the River White fish, something altogether different and not to be compared to the true grayling.

**Bass.**—These fish are not native to the Province but have been introduced. They have only been established in a few places. Langford Lake near Victoria has afforded good sport for years past, as also has Christina Lake near Grand Forks. They are also found in the Okanagan River up to the falls.

**The Pike.**—Up to the present time the existence of pike in British Columbia has been little known. There are, however, reported to be a considerable number of these fish in some of our northern lakes; whether this is a fact I am not at present prepared to aver. There are six species of this fish, which belongs to the genus *Lucius*, on this continent, the largest of which is the Muskellunge. To what species the pike we have

here belongs I have not yet been able to ascertain, or even to get a good description of the fish. They have been reported as being caught up to thirty-five pounds weight in Cunningham Lake, which is close to and runs into Stewart Lake.

The pike is a powerful fish and puts up a hard fight so that probably when these waters are easier of access pike fishing will become a regular sport there as it is to the east of the Rockies (that is, provided the pike really are here).

In the sixteenth century in England, pike fishing was practised in a great variety of ways, one of which is so novel it is worth mentioning:

A live roach, dace or gudgeon was put on what was called a "snap tackle." This had a short wire trace and a piece of line, in all not much more than four or five feet long. The end of the line was fastened to the leg of a duck or a goose, which was liberated into the water and allowed to swim about as it pleased. A pike would take the bait and start off. The duck would often be pulled right under and come up quacking loudly. There would be a hard fight but the duck always came out best in the end. With geese there was even more fun as, though the pike could not pull them under, they made much more fuss than the ducks, and always made for shore as soon as possible.

If you go up into the northern country and get tired of catching fish in the orthodox way, you can try this method!



CHAPTER III.

FLY FISHING FOR SALMON

**A** FEW years ago trolling was considered the only way to catch the Pacific Coast salmon; then spinning was discovered to be a successful method. There were, however, a few men who always used a fly and others who occasionally did, but it has never been followed up as it should, though it is a pretty well acknowledged fact that the coho salmon will take the fly freely and the spring salmon occasionally, if it is presented to them properly.

It is, of course, quite useless to go out into the sea and cast a fly where the fish are too deep to be taken except by trolling. If, however, you choose shallow water, similar to that described for spinning, or even anchor your boat out on the line of a run of cohoes when they are swimming in schools near the surface, you will hook fish if you only persevere. Sir John Rogers, who came here all the way from Egypt especially to catch tyees at Campbell River, used sometimes at half tide when the current was too swift for trolling, to anchor his boat off a point he knew the fish passed and use a fly. He killed a great many cohoes in this way and had grand sport with them in the racing torrent. His fly was a "Silver Doctor."

The best places, however, to fish for salmon in salt water are at the mouths of any small creeks up which they go to spawn. If there has been a dry spell the cohoes and some springs congregate there waiting for enough water to go up. Not only can you catch salmon but an occasional big trout can be caught. The end of September and beginning of October is the time to try such places.

As soon as there has been a good freshet most of the fish go up the streams and you can then get them in fresh water.

**The Rod.**—If you are going to fish for salmon with a fly, do not use your trout rod, as even if it stands the strain of a few fish you are bound to ruin it before long.

Use a double-handed fourteen foot rod at least; it need not be an expensive split cane, a good greenheart will do quite well.

**The Reel.**—Either a spinning or trolling reel will serve.

**The Line.**—With a good tapered silk line you will find your casting twice as easy and for fresh water fishing you should have one. Forty yards of casting line is enough, but it should have another forty yards of backing.



For salt water a plain enamelled line is quite good enough, as you seldom need to make long casts and salt water soon ruins a silk line.

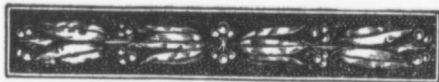
**Flies.**—Few flies are needed, the Jock Scott, Silver Doctor, Silver Wilkinson and Durham Ranger are as good as any. Most of your flies should be tied on 5/0 hooks but have one or two on smaller hooks for bright, low water.

**Casts.**—Strong salmon gut is needed, but not more than three or four feet is required.

**Fishing.**—The actual fishing itself is quite a simple matter to anybody who can make some sort of an overhead cast. In the salt water it is quite a "chuck and chance it" game. One anchors his boat at the mouth of a creek or on the line of a run and one can keep on casting in the same place all day and be just as likely to hook a fish at the end of one or two hours as at first. In fresh water it is much pleasanter work, as much better success will be obtained if the pool is fished thoroughly from one end to another. Also greater skill is needed in casting, sometimes the best water takes a long cast to reach and sometimes one has a nasty wind to contend with.

In fishing a pool for salmon it is best to start at the head of the pool and fish down. Cast across stream at an angle of 45 degrees and let it sweep round with the current slowly, giving the fly a moderate amount of movement. Get the fly down as deep as possible as a general rule. There are, however, times when a fly worked quickly on the surface will kill better, but such cases are exceptions.

If you have a rise you must not be in a hurry to strike, feel the fish first and then a slight tightening of the line is all that is needed.



## CHAPTER IV.

## TROLLING FOR SALMON

**W**HILE trolling cannot compare with fly fishing or even spinning as a sporting method of hooking fish, still after all is said it cannot be denied that the real sport with salmon begins after they are hooked, and if only suitable rods and tackle are used, trolling is a form of sport out of which a vast amount of pleasure can be obtained; moreover, a considerable amount more skill is required than is generally supposed, especially for winter salmon, when your success will depend entirely on the way you go about it.

A trolling outfit used to, and still frequently does, consist of a very heavy line about one-eighth of an inch (more or less) in diameter, one pound of lead to sink it and a plain silver spoon of enormous size. This was dragged through the water at whatever rate suited the energy of the person pulling the boat. This sort of fishing is not sport, though it has the redeeming feature of giving fresh air and exercise.

**Cohoos.**—These fish run from four or five pounds in the early part of the season, to as high as fifteen pounds in the latter part. The majority of them are excellent sporting fish, putting up a hard fight before they can be brought to the gaff.

**The Rod** should be a light spinning one, about 10½ feet long and sufficiently limber to be almost capable of throwing a fly.

**The Reel.**—Nothing will beat a good 3½-inch "Nottingham," as you can let out and take in line very rapidly.

**The Line.**—Cuttyhunk is as good as anything you can get. A hundred yards of No. 12, which has a breaking strain of twenty-four pounds, will be ample.

**Traces.**—Six feet of twisted or strong plain salmon gut is the best thing to use. On no account use ordinary wire as cohoos jump and twist so much they are almost sure to kink it and a break follows.

**Leads** are the most important parts of the tackle, as your success will depend to a great extent on the depth you fish. When the fish first come in they swim very near the surface and no lead at all is needed, unless there are many boats fishing when they are apt to swim deeper. Later in the season as the bigger fish arrive you must get a bit deeper, but it is seldom that more than one ounce of lead is needed.

**Baits.**—For cohoes there is very little choice of baits. If they are on the feed they will take anything, even a six-inch Stewart. Probably the best you can use are a 2½ or 3-inch brass Stewart of the Levere make, and a 1¾-inch Victoria spoon.

**Fishing for Cohoes.**—These fish seldom stay long in one place but seem to be of a restless disposition and continually on the move. In the various bays and inlets they come and go with the tides, and your time of fishing will depend upon them. The fish have distinct lines of run, sometimes quite close to shore and others half a mile out. Generally they keep to fairly swift water, a rocky point with a good tide sweeping by is often one of the best places to fish. In rowing your boat you want to go a fair pace unless you are using a Victoria spoon, which revolves very fast and is useless in swift water.

**Spring Salmon.**—Trolling for spring salmon requires much more skill than for cohoes, as they are often fastidious about baits and in addition the winter fish feed in certain waters at certain times, one day close in to shore, at others away out at much greater depths. In some water the time of your fishing must be governed entirely by the tide, in others nothing but early morning and late evening, quite regardless of tides, are very good.

If you cannot find anybody to give you advice, you are more likely to hit it right by morning and evening fishing, especially with an ebb tide.

**Tyee salmon** are simply a very big variety of springs that run in July, August and September, and these fish require a special outfit.

**The Rod.**—This is a very important part of your outfit, as, though an expensive rod is not necessary, it should be suitable for the class of work you are going to do. Eleven feet or eleven and a half feet is the ideal length and, of course, a split cane steel centre spinning rod of about twenty-two ounces cannot be beaten. A good greenheart is quite all that is really needed, but it must be good and be able to play a fish right down to the butt. On no account let anybody persuade you into buying a stiff rod with a short, thick top, you might just as well get a long-handled broom and put some rings on it. On the other hand do not go and buy an eighteen-foot fly rod. Remember, there is a happy medium, and get a rod with which you can, when necessary, take a good lift on your fish and yet is supple enough to bend from tip to butt in a perfect arc when there is a heavy strain on it.

**Reels.**—A really first class metal reel with a very big drum and absolutely simple mechanism cannot be beaten. It must be large enough to hold 200 yards of heavy line easily and two

of the bars should have stiff pieces of leather fastened to them to use as brakes. Anything but the very best of metal reels should be avoided as they will not stand the strain. The safest reel of any for the man who cannot afford to pay a big price for a metal reel is a six-inch Nottingham with brass lining. If the line is taken off immediately after using and dried and the reel carefully wiped, they will last a long time. Avoid multiplying reels or anything that is not perfectly simple.

**Lines.**—Nothing will beat cuttyhunk. You should have 200 yards and certainly not less than 150 yards of No. 21. This can be obtained "braided" and it kinks much less than the twisted. The last fifty yards should be well waxed, it will not only reduce kinking but help to keep it drier.

**Traces.**—Four feet of piano wire with three swivels is all that is needed.

**Baits.**—This is really the most important part of your whole outfit as unless your bait works perfectly you are not likely to catch tyees though you may an occasional coho.

At the present time there has been nothing devised which will beat what used to be called a "Stewart." These baits are now made in various patterns by different firms, but they all work on the same principle. A year or so ago not one out of ten would stand up well, that is, work on their edge and not on the flat. Lately, however, one or two local firms have been turning out some very good patterns, their chief fault being they are made for motor-boat trolling and are too slow for fishing from a boat for sport. By the use of a smaller hook and a little hammering they can soon be put right.

As a general thing there is nothing to beat a six-inch brass, though sometimes the brass and silver, or all copper, and occasionally a white metal will do good work, but personally I seldom use anything but plain brass, and I care little what shape it is as long as it will work well when I am rowing very slowly.

**Split Rings.**—The ordinary split ring is nothing but a trap. **Never** use them or you will be sorry for it! Take them off and use the ring you solder on yourself, or bind both hook and swivel on with piano wire of extra strong size.

**Leads.**—Though it is absolutely necessary to success to have a perfect working bait, it is almost as necessary to use the right amount of lead, but unfortunately on this point no hard and fast rule can be laid down, except to fish deep. The amount of lead will have to depend on the depth of water and the strength of the current near the bottom which often varies considerably with that at the top, as sometimes there is an "undertow" which is very annoying. You should always have a mark, by binding the line with white cotton, at 30 yards and let this be

your usual length from the end of your rod. If the tide is slack  $2\frac{1}{2}$  or 3 ounces of lead eight feet from the bait may be sufficient if you have a quick working bait and can row very slowly. As the tide increases in strength, put on more lead up to six ounces, taking in and letting out line according to whether you are going with or against the current.

**Traces.**—Four feet of piano wire is as good as anything; it should have three or four strong swivels.

**How to Fish.**—If the fish are about in any numbers you will nearly always see them once in a while. They do not actually jump but break the water very much like a porpoise. By watching, you know whereabouts to fish.

Row the boat, or let it be rowed if you have a boat puller, as slowly as possible, the speed must, of course, be governed by the way your bait works and also by the current. In very strong current, when there are not too many other boats about to prevent you doing it, it is often advisable to row so slowly that the current carries you back, in which case you zig-zag backwards and forwards with the boat at a slight angle to the current so as to cover a stretch of water about 50 yards wide. Then when you want to come up stream get into an eddy or take up your line and hug the shore.

If you are rowing yourself, let the rod lie almost flat straight over the stern, holding the reel between your knees in such a manner that you can control the handle which must not be allowed quite free unless you have a very heavy check, otherwise the hook is liable not to be driven home over the barb when a fish strikes.

If you are being rowed sit facing the stern with your rod straight over the stern and held at a slight angle so that you can strike a fish when he takes. Never hold your rod out sideways if you can avoid it, as it is not only too much strain on the rod, but you are much less likely to hook your fish properly.

Make a point of taking up your bait frequently, as you are sure to pick up a bit of ell weed once in a while, and as long as it is on you are wasting time.

On no account ever put your rod down and let it lie loose while the bait is out, in fact, you must keep hold of it all the time or you are liable not only to lose a fish but your rod also. This is by no means an uncommon occurrence, as the following story will show. Some years ago a friend of mine was fishing at Campbell River. At that time seines had not been allowed to ruin the fishing and there were people there from almost every part of the world not only "fishing" but hooking and some of them catching fish. My friend hooked something which he at first thought was a bunch of weeds, but on reeling up found it was a line which was taken in and eventually led

to a brand new rod and reel. The line was wound up and it was discovered that there was a fish on it, which, after some fight, was landed in the boat also. As near as I can remember its weight was thirty-eight pounds.

It afterwards transpired that it had been snatched out of a man's hands who was too intent on watching somebody else playing a fish, to hold his own properly, early in the morning some five or six hours before. Dragging to recover it had been fruitless and the owner, who had only just started fishing and had no other rod with him, was packing up his things to leave.

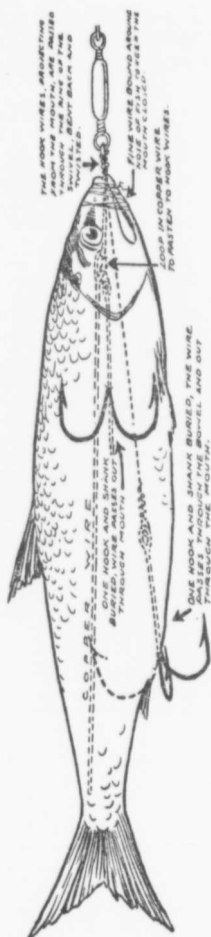
**Silver Spring Salmon.**—By these fish are meant the ordinary fish that can be caught more or less everywhere, fish that go from ten pounds to thirty pounds.

There is not a month in the year when they cannot be caught somewhere, but the fish run best and are in the finest condition both for sport and the table in the months of December, January and February.

The rod and tackle used for this fishing is just the same as for the tyees on a lighter scale, 125 yards of line being quite sufficient.

For baits a four-inch brass or copper "Stewart" used with 25 yards of line out and a 2½ or 3-ounce lead will be about right, though in some places much more lead is necessary.

When herring are running there is nothing to equal them for baits if they are made to spin properly, but a good working "Stewart" is always better than a bad spinning herring. You can always buy herring tackle, but most of it is clumsy stuff. The "Archer Spinners" are fair, but as they are generally made on rotten gimp they are not recommended. It is a very simple matter and less expensive to make your own. All you need are a few 6/0 treble hooks, some piano wire, a small spool of No. 26 plain wire, a few No. 6 swivels and a short piece of copper wire about the thickness of the lead in a pencil. Cut off two pieces of piano wire 11 inches and 17 inches long and fasten a treble hook on to the end of each. Take the one with the long wire and run it in at the vent of the herring, which should not be over eight inches long, seven inches is about right, and out at the mouth. Draw the shank of the hook well up into the fish and bury one hook in the flesh. Then take the shorter wire and run it in back of the shoulder and out at the mouth, also burying the shank and one hook in the herring. You now take a piece of the fine wire and bind up the mouth. To make it spin take a piece of your copper wire and run it in at the eye and down the flesh to the tail, taking care to keep it well buried in the flesh and not in the stomach. It is advis-



Herring Bait for Salmon Trolling.

able to cut your copper wire a little longer than necessary and bend the end over, to which attach a couple of inches of fine wire to take a twist round the fish, or you will lose it every time you hook a fish.

The two wires that run through the bait are passed through a swivel at the end of your trace, bent back and fastened by a few turns. Your bait is now ready to have the curve that makes it spin. To do this take the herring in both hands and bend the copper wire slightly. Try it in the water and give the wire more bend or less, according to whether it spins too slow or too fast. The herring does not require to spin like a minnow, the best results are obtained with one that revolves slowly.

As it takes some little time to prepare a herring, especially when you are not used to it and your hands are liable to be cold, it is a good plan to get two or three ready before you start.

Herrings, while not quite so bright, are quite good when salted. They have the advantage of being firmer in the flesh and not only will spin better, but spin longer.

The following illustration will give some idea as to the way the hooks should be placed.



## CHAPTER V.

## SPINNING FOR SALMON

**S**ALT WATER. Excellent sport can often be obtained by this method of fishing. In salt water, if you fish in a suitable place and at the right stage of the tide, you will hook more cohoes by spinning than you will by trolling and there are some places where spring salmon can be caught in the same manner. In most places the state of the tide has to be considered, and what will suit one place will be useless for another. For instance in the Narrows of Vancouver Harbour you fish on the beginning of the flood tide, outside the Narrows on the ebb, while up at Seymour Creek, five miles up the inlet, the only time worth fishing is about two hours after the tide begins to flood and then only if there has been a long run out. On the other hand, in some of the bays up the coast nothing but a high tide in the evening is any good.

For this sort of work you can use the rod and tackle described for spinning for steelheads, only as a general thing a Victoria Spoon will be better than a Devon, especially if there are any spring salmon about.

All fishing is done from a boat which is anchored usually in very shallow water. The best places are just in an eddy on the edge of pretty swift water. Sometimes it is best to go away out but this is not often necessary.

**Fresh Water.**—Cohoes run up most streams in the fall and will give quite good sport, but if you want something better you should try for the spring salmon which run in July and August.

Unfortunately there are not many streams at all easy of access where the fish run and the water is in condition to fish, and the best of them change so rapidly that many disappointments, especially in July where the fish are first come in, are bound to occur. Still it is well worth trying as the current is so strong that even a ten-pound fish will be able to put up a tremendous fight, and there is always the chance of hooking one three or four times that weight.

For this form of sport you need a very powerful rod and strong tackle or you will lose most of your fish. It should be the same as for "steelheads" only heavier all round.

**Baits.**—You need a very large stock of baits as you will lose a good many as the fish are very fond of lying in water where



there are plenty of snags. When the water is high and coloured, prawns, red minnows and  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inch Victoria spoons are best, later on when it clears use silver Devons, Sanky Minnows (a local invention, very light and good for shallow water) and  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inch copper spoons with a scarlet tassel on the hook. Use the spoons in the slowest running water.

**Fishing for Spring.**—If the weather is bright and clear, fish from daylight until nine, then from five in the evening until dark. Sometimes if it is cloudy you may get a strike at any time during the day, but morning and evening are always the best.

Salmon always lie at or near the head of a pool or reach in the slackest water and it is little use fishing right down to the tail of a reach, unless you want to catch a "Dolly," one or two of which can often be caught in water that is too swift for salmon.

Unlike fishing for "steelheads," you can go on fishing the same pool all day with some chance of success, as if fish are not there one is liable to come in any time. Moreover if they are there and not taking, once in a while one will suddenly develop an appetite. I have seen half a dozen men fishing a favourite piece of water on the "Vedder" practically all day and once in a while one of them would hook a fish, possibly having made a hundred casts in the same place. And I have seen a man fish this same piece of water for nearly two hours and give it up and another man immediately try it with just the same bait and hook a fish within ten minutes. You never can tell what they are going to do except that if there are any in the river and you have the energy to be out at daylight you are fairly certain to at any rate hook one.

The "spring" is a very savage fighter, he may not make so many jumps or such wild dashes as a "steelhead," but his runs are longer and if anything more powerful and he is very apt to go clean out of the pool and into the rapids below. If they do go out and you cannot follow them, you might as well let them pull straight on the line and break you at once, the chances are the hook or the trace will go, but if you wait until all your line is out it may break at the drum and you will lose the whole line also.



## CHAPTER VI.

## HINTS ON FLY FISHING FOR RAINBOW, CUT-THROAT AND GRAYLING.

**F**LY FISHING for trout is the most delightful of all methods of fishing, and to become a real expert in all its branches requires years of practice combined with a certain amount of study of entomology.

To make a perfect cast of a fly both hand and eye must work in absolute harmony, just the same as in shooting a gun, hitting a golf ball or making a stroke in billiards, and the man or woman who is good at one can, with practice, become equally proficient at the other. In fly fishing, however, not only is skill required, but you need to use your brains to a considerable degree to outwit your fish, unless you happen to be fishing in virgin water where the trout are of a confiding nature. The fact that you can cast a perfect fly does not by any means insure success on water that is at all fished. If trout are not feeding voraciously you must give them the right kind and right sized fly. Sometimes it is good to work it fast, at others just let the current carry it. Occasionally a fly should be well sunk, at others nothing but a floating fly is any use. You must also study the condition of the water and weather and, this is where knowledge of entomology comes in, have an idea what flies are or should be on the water.

In addition to the above requirements the perfect fisherman should be able to tie his own flies, in itself no mean accomplishment, so that if he has not a fly to match one the fish are taking, he can sit down and tie one in ten or fifteen minutes. To show how useful such a thing is an instance may be given.

Some year or two ago I was fishing in a lake in the interior with a moderate degree of success with quite a large sized March Brown. Just about 11 o'clock I saw fish start to rise on the edge of a shallow in a fair-sized bay and by the time I got there they were rising by the hundreds. Such a sight I have never seen before and probably will never see again; so fast were they feeding and the rise so frequent that in spots where the schools were thickest the water had the appearance of boiling. They were nearly all good fish too, going from one and one-half to two pounds, and were feeding on Black Gnats. As luck would have it I had not such a fly or anything I could make one out of, as I had always found before that either the Montreal, March Brown or Jock Scott were quite certain on that particular lake. The

result was that for nearly one and one-half hours I tried those fish and I got just one. A friend of mine who was fishing close by me was in the same fix; I think he got two. The hatch of flies stopped as quickly as it began and we went in to lunch. Now if I had had the materials to tie a suitable fly I could undoubtedly have hooked fish as fast as I could land them. Incidentally I may say that another man who was fishing within a half mile at the same time saw no such rise but was getting quite good sport with a Jock Scott.

There are two methods of fly fishing, the wet and the dry. The latter is an art in itself and as yet is little practised on this continent though it is rapidly coming into use.

Wet fly fishing, or "the chuck and chance it" method as it is often called by exponents of the more scientific form, does not require an enormous amount of practice for ordinary work, though to master the intricacies of the various casts such as the "loop" and "wind casts" is another matter. It is quite hopeless to attempt to learn such things even from the best of books, nothing but lessons from an expert and actual practice will be of much use. The ordinary overhead cast is a fairly simple matter and some points as to how it should be done may give the beginner an idea how to go about it. Before, however, this subject is touched on it is as well to remind you that to do good work you must have good tools and this is especially true of fly fishing. If you can afford it buy the very best that is on the market, if not go to the limit of your purse.

**The Rod.**—For this province where the fish are of all sizes and even an occasional salmon is apt to be hooked, the best all round rod is an 11 foot or 11½ foot split cane with steel centre and upright rings so that you can shoot your line when necessary or even cast a light minnow or spinner. The weight of the rod should be at least 11 ounces. In the old days two handed rods of about 14 feet were used for trout in large streams, but modern rods are so greatly improved in casting power that except for salmon and steelheads the single handed rod is all that is necessary.

The above sized rod is for a general purpose rod, but if you are only going to fish small streams or lakes where 2-pound fish are as large as you are likely to get, a shorter rod without the steel centre can be purchased. A 9¾ foot rod weighing about 9 ounces would do very well.

**Lines.**—In fly fishing the line is a most important item of your outfit, and no matter what sort of a rod or reel you have, be sure that you have the best of double tapered lines made of the very best waterproofed silk, and have it on the heavy rather than on the light side. In buying your line you must of course be guided by the rod you are going to use, as a line that would suit

a split cane  $9\frac{1}{2}$  foot rod would be far too light for an  $11\frac{1}{2}$  split cane with steel centre. Nearly all first class rod-makers have lines to suit each make of rod and your best plan is to buy the line with the rod. If you cannot do this, try several lines out on a lawn until you get one of the right weight.

The length should be 35 yards or 40 yards. If you buy from an ordinary store be sure that it is new stock. Even the best of lines get shopworn and worthless.

# KNOTS

For the benefit of the beginner a few illustrations of simple knots may be of some assistance.



Fig. A:—This is the simplest way to fasten a line to a gut cast.

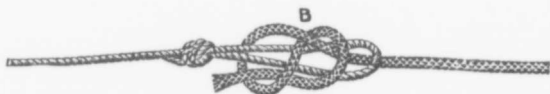


Fig. B:—This is another method of fastening a line to a cast, and has the advantage of the loose end pointing towards the fly. Also a fly is not needed at the end of the gut.

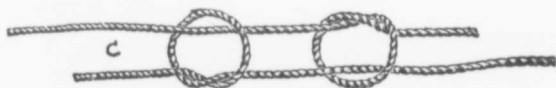


Fig C:—If you are going to make your own casts you will find this knot the simplest and best.



Fig. D:—This is another method of fastening two pieces of gut.



Fig. E:—To fasten gut to an ordinary-eyed hook. This is commonly called the "Jam Knot."



Fig. F:—This is another method, a bit more complicated. The knot is first tied as above, then slipped over the eye and drawn tight.



Fig. H:—How to attach "dropper" flies to cast: Looped above a cast.

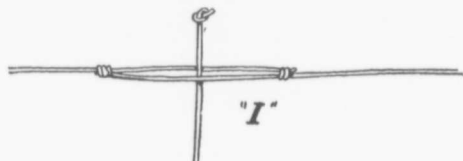


Fig. I:—For those who make their own casts: Gut passed through fisherman's knot before pulling tight. Single knot tied in end prevents pulling through.

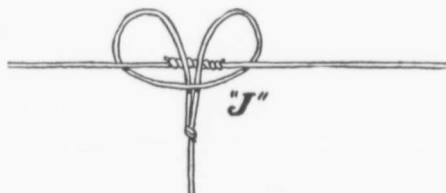
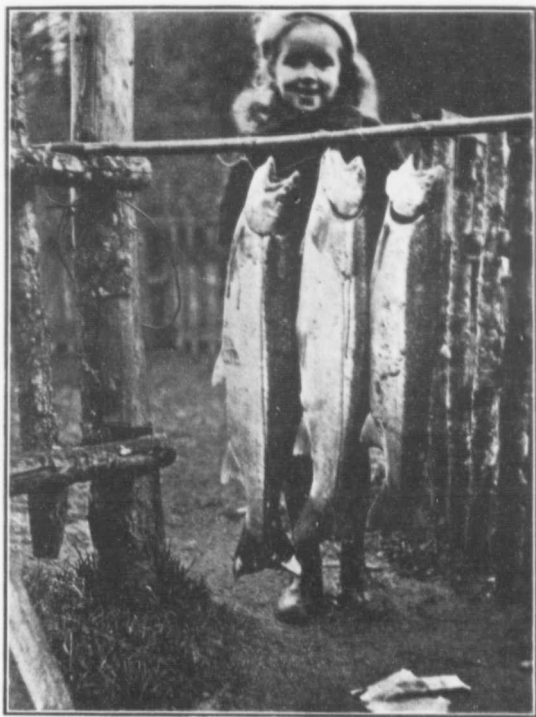
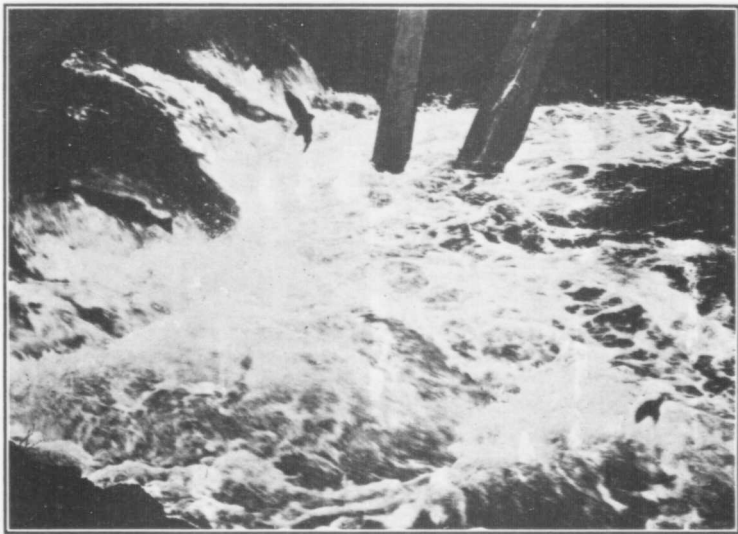


Fig. J:—Looped over a knot.



Steelhead from the Ved-  
der, caught opposite the  
Hotel. (See page 81).



Salmon leaping in a Van-  
couver Island Stream.

**Reels.**—Compared to the rod and line, reels are of minor importance, nevertheless, careful choice of a reel will assist you to do better work and frequently enable you to land a fish you would otherwise have lost. Above all things avoid these wonderful patent contrivances with numerous complications which are flooding the market. Sooner or later, generally sooner, they get out of order, most probably just as you hook your best fish of the season. Choose a narrow reel that will hold your line easily and not get overcrowded if you have to wind up fast without looking to see the line goes on evenly. It should have a large drum so that you can wind up quickly in case a fish makes a long run and then comes towards you. The mechanism should be perfectly simple except for a "check" regulator. The latter is very useful as it enables you to regulate the check so that you can strike a fish from the reel without danger of a break.

**Casts.**—For dry fly fishing tapered casts are a necessity, the thickest end should match in size the end of the line. For ordinary wet fly work the plain cast will do.

Beginners should never use a cast more than six feet in length with one fly which is the "point fly." Later on a second fly (the first dropper) can be used and even a third (the second dropper). Some men even use a fourth fly (the bob fly) but it requires a twelve foot cast and except for very wide streams is seldom advisable.

The finer your cast is the better your chances of success and it is astonishing how big a fish can be landed on a fine cast if only you are careful to see that it is well soaked before using, and above all things test each knot carefully. It is in the knots the danger lies and every one that is the least bit doubtful should be cut off and retied.

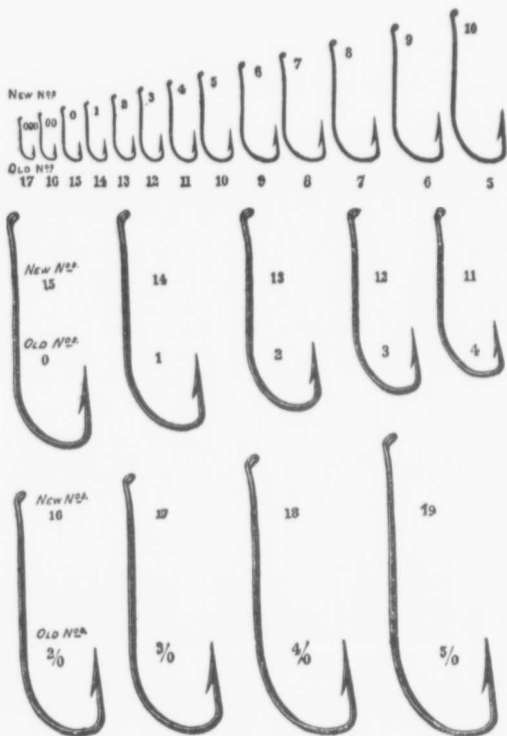
Never wear your casts round your hat or put flies tied on gut on your hat on sunny days as hot sun is most injurious to gut.

**Hooks.**—For any but your smallest flies use the Limerick pattern. For the very small ones the Snell pattern is advisable as they seldom fail to take hold but they are more apt to break if they strike a bone.

Always test your hooks by striking one or two into a board and giving it a strong pull. I once lost four good fish out of six hooked through failing to do this; they were all too soft and straightened out. As a general thing it is the other way, they are too brittle and snap just above the barb.

Always buy your flies on eyed hooks. There are several advantages that eyed hooks have. First of all the gut on which the fly is tied may not be suitable in size; secondly the weak point of a fly tied on gut is the part of the gut just above the shank of the hook. A few good fish will weaken it and so will a few bad backward casts, or putting on a new fly and not giving





## SIZE OF HOOKS

The following illustration will show the different sizes of hooks both by the old and new method. In this book, whenever the size of a hook is mentioned, the old numbers are used.

it sufficient time to soak. Any of these things will result in your having to discard the fly, or perhaps loose a good fish, whereas with an eyed hook all you have to do is cut off your fly and retie it. Moreover, with the greatest of care gut will rot in your fly hook.

Of course it is a little more trouble to tie on an eyed hook. Moreover, it must be done properly or the fly will not stand up well, but after all it is a simple matter with a little practice. The

ordinary "jam knot," as shown in the chapter on "knots" is quite easy and perfectly satisfactory for trout.

For your droppers all you have to do is tie on a piece of spare gut in the way also shown in the chapter on knots.

**Casting a Fly.**—Having secured a complete outfit at considerable cost, you will probably be told various yarns of small boys with poles for rods and string for line and chunks of meat for bait, pulling out enormous trout under the noses of perfectly equipped men who have been fishing all day without a single fish going in to their baskets. The last yarn I heard of this sort was particularly good and is as follows: The usual incident had happened. The perfectly equipped man had fished all day without success when the small boy arrived with the usual tackle and immediately landed the usual monster trout. Whereupon the man walked over to the boy and said something. The boy went home and showed the fish to his mother who remarked, "What a splendid trout." "Oh no," said the boy, "that's not a trout, that's a 'limit,' at any rate a swell I saw fishing down by the stream said it was a 'perfect limit.' "

Such yarns are very amusing and may sometimes have happened, but they are the exceptions that prove the rule that the skilled man with good tools will beat others ninety times out of a hundred. So do not be led astray, get a good outfit and learn to cast well. Perhaps the following instructions will help you.

First of all draw off from the reel an amount of line about twice the length of the rod. Then holding the end of the line (it is better to start without a cast or fly) in the left hand wave the rod gently backwards and forwards until you get enough momentum to carry the line, then release the line and let it go out well behind you, then with a forward movement drive the line straight out in front of you.

In making a second cast three distinct movements are necessary. First raise the point of the rod so that you have as much line clear of the water as possible. Second, a backward lift with a distinct pause at the end of it to allow the line to straighten. Third, the forward movement when the rod is driven forward with just enough force to carry the line out to its full length.

In making the second movement the rod should not go back to an angle of more than 45 degrees to the body and, unless you want your line to crack like a whip with loss of your flies, make the pause distinct. In addition you must incline the rod slightly to the right and not straight up in the air.

In making the forward movement the rod is at first inclined slightly to the left so as to continue the curve commenced on the backward movement, then driven down until it comes to about the horizontal, but on no account any lower. Also endeavour to have your line extended to its full limit a foot or so above the

water, as it will then sink gently on to the water without the slightest splash, which would not otherwise be the case.

While nothing but practice will enable you to make these movements properly, there are one or two frequent errors made which from a book you can learn to avoid. There is nothing more bungling or ungraceful than to see a man waving his arm at full length and bending his body almost double when attempting to cast a fly. Stand upright in a nice easy position and keep your elbow in to your side as if it were tied there, and do all the work with your forearm and wrist, a slight movement of the shoulders being all that is necessary. Endeavour your utmost to make every movement gracefully and with ease, only using as much vigor as is absolutely necessary.

A good way to practice casting is on a lawn. You can do this any evening, or better still for a few minutes before breakfast, and it will not only improve your casting but improve your muscles, which you will find a great help if you are out for a whole day's fishing, and will be good for your health also. When you can get out a straight line a fair distance, then practice accuracy by putting down a mark to cast to.

**Fishing a Stream.**—Having mastered the art of casting with some degree of accuracy and having arrived at a stream ready to fish in earnest, with your rod put together and casts well soaked, first of all take note of the wind, if there is any, and also of the sun if it is out, as it is a great advantage to have the former at your back and the sun in your face so that your shadow may not be on the water you are going to fish. Then being very careful to keep out of sight, watch to see if any fish are rising, and what flies are on the water. If you cannot see anything to help you, choose your flies according to the season and condition of the water, the clearer the water the smaller the flies being the general rule.

Now, when you start to fish, in addition to being able to put your fly lightly on the water, you must also work it properly. Before, however, going any further, it is just as well to say a few words on the number of flies to be used on a cast. If you are fishing a small stream where the fish run any size, it is best to be content with one fly: the same thing applies in water that has many snags as your chances of fouling a snag when you are playing a fish are greatly increased with more than one fly. In big streams and lakes you can use two or three flies, each three feet apart. Some men use as many as four but I do not advise it. If you are fishing a stream and have to fish down stream, either on account of the sun, the water being too swift (in very rapid water it is often best to vary the rule of fishing upstream as the line may be brought down too rapidly to keep it taut enough) or some other cause, never on any account drag your flies either across or against the current as if you do you only make an

unnatural ripple which is bound to frighten any but a most unsophisticated fish.

Always endeavour to make the flies move naturally. Let them float down stream quietly with an occasional slight wrist movement. This will open and shut the legs and wings of your flies and give them the appearance of the last dying kicks of a real fly. Another good plan is to lift your first or second dropper, if you are using more than two flies, clear of the water and let it "bob" along the surface. This represents the action of a female fly laying her eggs. It is most killing if fish are feeding on natural flies.

At first you had better fish downstream (for dry fly fishing this is impossible) as the current will help to straighten out your line if your casts are not good, which is quite sure to be the case at first. When you become proficient, always fish upstream when possible. There are several reasons for this, the main ones being that your fly will float in a natural manner, and it is much easier to hook a fish well. Fish every likely spot carefully, particularly where there is any big boulder, and the eddies at the heads of pools, but do not dwell too long in one place. If you do not get a rise, change your flies and try again or move on to other pools.

If you rise a fish and he misses, your action must depend on the character of the rise. Unless the rise was a very determined one and the miss was a bad shot on the fish's part, on no account cast over him again at once. Give him ten minutes' rest. If it was a short rise, i.e., the fish almost took it, try a much smaller fly of the same pattern or some other small fly. If the fault was that you did not strike quick enough you had better give him a longer rest.

In striking a trout quickness is necessary, unless it is a very big slow taking one, and it should be done with a slight wrist movement, with the line quite clear and not held against the rod.

**Dry Fly Fishing.**—This form of fishing is an art in itself and of such a comprehensive nature that nothing but a brief description can be given in a book of this sort, moreover nothing but practical lessons are really of much service to the beginner.

In this form of fishing, your endeavour is first of all to find a fish feeding on flies, secondly to discover what sort of fly he is taking, and thirdly to float an imitation fly of that kind over the fish in a natural manner. If you succeed in doing these things it is ninety-nine chances out of a hundred you will rise the fish and his capture then depends on your skill in striking, playing and landing him, all of which, with the extremely delicate hooks used, are no mean accomplishments.

To become proficient in dry fly fishing you must be sufficiently expert in casting, so that your rod, line, hand and eye work in such harmony that you have not to think of them but only of your fly and your fish. The fly must float as if it were the natural insect, and to do so must be dry. They are specially made for this purpose and are oiled or vaporised, but always require extra drying after each cast by making six or seven false casts in the air. Then the current has to be studied so that the fly will float in the proper direction and at the same time you must keep your line sufficiently taut to be able to strike.

The dry fly fisherman does not as a rule make a cast until he has discovered a feeding fish. There is, however, no reason why you should not do so if you want to practice or exercise.

**Grayling Fishing.**—The grayling is caught almost entirely on the fly and is fished for in exactly the same way as for trout.

They will take almost any of the ordinary trout flies, such as the Black Gnat, March Brown, etc., but they must be tied on very small hooks compared to those used for trout. A No. 14 would be quite big enough.

In playing a grayling you have to use great care not to handle them roughly as they are extremely tender mouthed and the hook is easily pulled out.



# CHAPTER VII.

## TROUT FLIES

WHILE trout live on a great variety of food, such as fresh-water shrimps, tadpoles, small fish, beetles, caterpillars, ants and other insects that fall into the water, their greatest delicacies are flies, in their various stages of development that hatch out in the water.

The subject of flies is a most engrossing one, it is a subject on which alone many books and scores of articles have been written, and are still being written; so that in a book of this sort it is quite impossible to do more than treat it briefly.

First of all it may be said that there are really two kinds of flies used for fishing, the real fly, which is an imitation of the natural insect, such as the gnats, duns, sedges, etc., and the sea trout and salmon flies nearly all of which have little or no resemblance to any natural fly and are nothing more than lures which have been invented by some angler or discovered by chance.

A few years ago the choice of a fly in our waters was not nearly so important as it is to-day, and with half-a-dozen varieties you were fairly well equipped. Such is still the case in out-of-the-way places, but when it comes to water that is regularly fished the choice of a fly is becoming more and more important and the day of the "dry fly" rapidly approaching, so that a few words on the life history of real trout flies may be of interest.

The flies on which trout feed constitute a separate order of insects known as the "Ephemera" or day flies. These insects pass through four distinct stages of various lengths, taking altogether from one to three years.

The first stage is that of the "egg" which is deposited in the water, sinks to the bottom and hatches.

The second stage is that of the "larva," or grub. In this stage the insect sometimes lives one, sometimes two and even three years. They live mostly on the bottom among the stones or in the mud; they can both crawl and swim and feed on vegetable matter.

The third stage is that of the "Nymph," when the insect resembles the adult only with wing pads instead of wings. When ready the "Nymph" floats to the surface and in a short

time issues through the skin of the thorax and the actual fly emerges.

The fourth stage is sub-divided into two. In the first part the insect is known as the "sub-imago" until it molts, it is then the fully developed fly, sexually mature and known as the "Imago."

The life of the adult "day fly" is very short, but not just a day as the name implies, and is commonly supposed to be the case, as some species have been kept alive for two or three weeks. The flies pair immediately, deposit their eggs and soon afterwards fall into the water in a dishevelled state, when they are known as spent gnats or flat-winged spinners.

Now, if you aspire to being a "dry fly" artist of the most scientific type you must not only study the adult flies but the insects themselves in the "nymph," "imago" and "spent" stages, but you should also endeavour to look at it from a trout's position, who sees it from below under the water. To such an extent have some men in Great Britain gone that they now tie their flies with heads, waists and even egg sacs.

In British Columbia, however, though it is a most interesting and engrossing study, the day has not yet arrived when such extremes are necessary, though a study of the flies on the water will most certainly often fill a basket which otherwise might remain empty.

In this Province it is almost impossible to tell what flies will be on the water during each particular month, as there is too much variation in the seasons and the temperature of the water caused either by glaciers or high altitude.

For instance, take such flies as the "black gnat," "black midge," "stone fly," which are generally June flies, you are quite likely, owing to variations in the temperature of the water through high altitude, glaciers, etc., to see a hatch of them as early as May on one water or not until July, or even August, on another. So that nothing more than a general idea of what flies to use can be given, and you must rely to a great extent on your own observation and judgment while fishing. Moreover, it does not follow that a fly will not kill because there is not a hatch of that particular species on the water.

Now with regard to the stock of flies you should have in your book. If you go into any big sporting-goods store you will be confronted with an enormous number of flies and "lures." If you bought some of all and returned in a year you would surely find a number of new ones, all of which laid claim to great merit. Also, no matter what district you visited, you would be likely to find special flies for that particular district, so that you could go on buying flies until at last you found yourself with an enormous stock, that you had forgotten the

names of most of them and had no idea where they were meant to be used.

It is quite likely that every one of the vast assortment of flies that are made will, under certain conditions, in certain waters, be of some value; a small number of them will kill fish always in certain waters under favourable conditions; while possibly one or two will kill fish in any waters at any time it is possible to catch fish if the fly is presented to the fish in a sufficiently enticing manner. So far I myself have never attained sufficient skill, or have never discovered, those one or two flies. I have, however, known quite a number of men who never used more than three or four flies and I have heard of one man, and only one amongst the vast number of fly fishermen I have known and read of, who used only one fly. This man fished in England with the "dry fly" using, I believe, a "Red Quill Gnat" regardless of what flies were on the water, and it is said that he could equal if not beat almost anybody else; that he could catch fish if they were to be caught. Such a man as this must have most extraordinary skill and be able to present the fly to the fish in such a tempting manner that they simply had to take it.

However, few men can ever hope to attain such skill, and we must, therefore, use more flies, endeavouring as far as possible, to reduce the number to its smallest limits.

In the list of flies I am giving, you can fish this Province and most likely the whole of the continent from one end to the other and catch trout if they are to be caught. Those given on the illustrated plate are the principal ones and these alone should be ample except on special occasions. Even this number can be considerably reduced especially if you are going to confine your fishing to any particular district, but there are certain of these flies you should always have, no matter where you are going to fish or during what month. These flies are the March Browns of various kinds, Black Gnat, Royal Coachman, Teal and Red, Teal and Yellow and the Joek Scott, either the Montreal or Grouse and Claret (both very much alike) and the Brown and Black Hackles.

You must also have most of the flies on different sized hooks. Those sold in the stores are nearly always too large. Much will, of course, depend on the water you are going to fish, but as a general rule use small flies, particularly so if the water is bright and clear or fish are rising short. Sometimes you will find an old moth-eaten bedraggled fly will kill when nothing else will. Of course, these are exceptions, sometimes when fish are taking well a big fly will do better execution, as the following incident will illustrate.

I was fishing a lake where there were a lot of fish rising, but what they were taking I could not discover. Some of the



fish were big ones, going from two to three pounds. With a Montreal I could catch fish of about a pound, as fast as I wanted to, but the big fellows ignored it as well as about twenty other kinds I offered them. As a last resource I put on a big Jock Scott and it happened to be the very thing they wanted and I started to kill the big fellows at once. That afternoon I could have caught more than I could carry if I had been able to use them. As it was I just put back fish after fish and never kept anything that was not badly hooked or I thought was over two pounds. My best fish was over three pounds. Another man who was fishing the same afternoon had equal success with a huge fly called the "Bumble Bee," an almost exact imitation of the natural insect. I have never used it myself or seen anybody else use it before or since.

To return, however, to the question of flies, the following list will total up to some thirty flies, the principal ones are shown on the illustrated plate and a few notes on each given. Remember, however, that no matter how good a fly may be, you cannot hope for success unless you not only cast it properly but also keep out of sight. It is quite useless to hope to catch fish with the sun casting your shadow on the water, or if you are standing up in a boat and expecting to rise fish with a short line out. You must keep out of sight (if you are in a boat make long casts), drop your fly lightly, using fine casts, and let it float naturally with the current, and you will then catch fish if they are to be caught.

There is one more hint I can give you if you find fish are shy or rising short and a change of pattern or size has not the desired effect, take a piece of white kid glove, about an eighth of an inch square will be about right, and put the hook through it. This device will often have most astonishing results.

I will now give you a few pointers on each fly separately.

**Jock Scott.**—To be tied on No. 6 hook. It is liable to do good work at any time for not only trout but salmon and steel-heads.

**Silver Doctor.**—To be tied on No. 6 and 8 hook. This is often a very killing fly, especially with a bit of colour in the water, but should be fished extra deep.

**Blue Doctor.**—To be tied on No. 6 and 8 hook. This fly is very similar to the silver doctor, only it has a blue body. I have found it the better of the two, particularly on coast streams. It should be fished very deep.

**Parmachene Belle.**—To be tied on No. 6 and 8 hook. This is one of the favourite flies and is used from one end of the Province to the other. Especially good on streams on or near the coast.

**Teal and Red.**—To be tied on No. 6, 7 and 8. This fly, which is locally called the "abbey," is one of the best all-round flies, no matter what water you are fishing.

**Teal and Silver and Teal and Green.**—To be tied on No. 6, 7 and 8. Very good flies for fishing at the estuaries of streams such as Campbell River, Pender Harbour and in any stream at all coloured.

**Professor.**—To be tied on No. 6, 7 and 8. This fly is almost similar to the Teal and Yellow. It is not often a very killing fly, though there are times when it will come in useful.

**Montreal.**—To be tied on 8 and 9. This is another very popular fly and undoubtedly a good one, particularly for lake fishing.

**Grouse and Claret.**—To be tied on No. 8 and 9. This fly is very similar to the Montreal, and can be used with success anywhere at any time. I prefer it to the Montreal. Especially good in lakes.

**Cowichan Coachman.**—No. 8, 9 and 10. Particularly good on Vancouver Island.

**Royal Coachman.**—To be tied on No. 8, 9 and 10. A good all round fly at any time, but particularly in coast streams.

**Cock-y-bonddu.**—To be tied on No. 10 and 12. Very similar in appearance to the Brown Hackle, but should have a much larger body. It is best in the early part of the season when it represents the "nymphs."

**Brown and Red Hackles.**—The hackles should be tied on a number of different-sized hooks, from as small as No. 12 for early fishing in such streams as the Salmon and Sumas, to as big as No. 6 for summer fishing when at that size they represent the big woolly caterpillars.

**Black Zulu.**—To be tied on No. 8, 10 and 12. This fly is nothing but a Black Hackle with a scarlet 'tip.' It is mostly used in the big lakes in May and June. It is often very killing all through the interior.

**March Brown.**—Of all the flies that are used in this part of the world the March Browns should take the senior place. They are one of the earliest flies to hatch out, but they can be used with success practically the whole fishing season.

There are three kinds of these flies tied, all of which you should have; they are the male, the dark coloured one, the female of light colour, and the spider or spent fly. There is also the Olive March Brown, which is a variation of the male fly. This pattern is the best late in the year. They should be tied on No. 8, 9 and 10.

**Black Gnat.**—To be tied on No. 14. This is liable to be of use any time from May to the middle of August. On some of

the coast lakes there is a hatch of flying ants in May, when the black gnat is very deadly. The same thing applies whenever there is a hatch of the natural fly.

**The Stone Fly.**—To be tied on No. 7, 8 and 9. This fly is essentially a big river fly of the interior. It hatches out anywhere from the middle of June to the end of July, according to the locality. As a general thing it only lasts for a couple or three weeks, but during that time trout will hardly look at anything else.

**Cow Dung.**—To be tied on No. 14. This is often a good fly in April and May.

**Hardy's Favourite.**—To be tied on No. 9 and 10 hook. A good all round fly both for rivers and lakes.

**Red Spinner.**—To be tied on No. 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. This fly can be used with great advantage from April all through the summer. It is much like the Cowiehan Coachman. Tied on very small hooks it is hard to beat for some of the small, slow running streams.

**Red Quill Gnat.**—To be tied on No. 12 and 14. The quill gnats, of which there are three kinds, the red, black and grey, are essentially dry flies, but they can also be used to great advantage as wet flies also. They are particularly good at any time of year, especially when fish rise short at other flies.

**Greenwell's Glory.**—To be tied on No. 10 and 12. This is a fly that can be used very early in the season and is particularly good in bright, clear water.

**The Butcher.**—This is really a salmon fly, but tied on a No. 6 hook is often very killing where the trout run to large size.

**The Red and Green Tippets.**—To be tied on No. 8. These are flies which I seldom use myself, but they are undoubtedly worth trying, especially on mainland coast streams.

**Woodcock and Hare's Ear.**—To be tied on No. 10. This is a good March fly.

**Blue Dun.**—To be tied on No. 10 hook. This fly is good for all waters in Kootenay.

**The Grasshopper.**—To be tied on No. 6. This is supposed to be an imitation of the natural insect. It is chiefly used in the fall months.

**Teal and Yellow.**—This is almost identical with the Professor and they are not both necessary.

**Red Palmer.**—This is simply a Red Hackle with a longer body. It should be tied on No. 6 hook for summer fishing where the hairy caterpillars are about.

**The White Moth.**—This fly is only of occasional use on evenings when there happens to be the natural insect about. Often killing in the Okanagan.

CHAPTER VIII.

SPINNING FOR RAINBOW AND CUT-THROATS

**T**HIS chapter refers to spinning for cut-throat and rainbow trout, quite apart from spinning for steelheads, which is a separate form of fishing requiring a special outfit.

As long as the water is in suitable condition, the majority of good fishermen will stick to the fly; but unfortunately so many of our streams on the coast are often just a bit too much coloured, so that spinning is often a necessity unless you want to stay at home.

You need not have a special rod for this work if you have a good, strong fly rod, or better still a short tip, as long casts are seldom necessary and only light little spinners used, and for such your ordinary trout reel will do quite well.

The usual method of fishing is to draw off a few yards of line from the reel, have the spinner the rod's length from the tip, swing it well back and then make a side swing forward, cast with a bit of a flip, at the same time releasing the slack line, which should shoot out.

If you are only using a very tiny spinner and have a good rod, you can cast it in the same way you would a fly.

Supposing, however, you are going to do much of this sort of work and want to be able to make long casts, you must get a regular trout spinning rod about eight or nine feet with a single-handed spinning reel of three inches, such as a small Malloch or Hardy's (Silex). Such a rod and reel would not only be suitable for spinners but for a light Devon or Sankey minnow and could be used for dolly varden fishing and lake trolling.

**Baits.**—As a general thing the smaller the spinner the more fish you will catch. You may possibly move more fish with a larger spinner but they will come short and not actually take it. There are hundreds of different makes of spinners, some single and some double, but for all work a single No. 1½ Tacoma or Indiana with a single hook set about one inch back and baited with a worm is about the best.

**Leads.**—As a rule you require little or no lead for cut-throat and rainbow fishing. It is not necessary to fish deep, a foot or a little more below the surface is plenty. If you are fishing swift water and have to use lead to keep your spinner down, use small buckshot.

## CHAPTER IX.

## TROLLING FOR RAINBOW OR CUT-THROATS

MANY lakes are much too deep for fly fishing, and the only way the big trout that live in these can be caught is by trolling. It is not a very scientific form of sport, nevertheless the person who does it properly will often fill his basket when the person who does not will never catch a fish.

For this work a light spinning rod of nine or ten feet is the best, or at a pinch a strong fly rod with a short tip. Any sort of reel will do provided it will carry fifty yards of good, strong, plain or oiled silk line.

Use a good strong gut cast from four to six feet long. The amount of lead you use will vary according to the depth of the water. As a general thing for lakes like the Saginaw, which is five miles long, three-quarter ounces of lead with twenty-five yards of line out is about right. If you have to use more lead you might as well take a hand line and have done with the sporting part of the fishing altogether.

For baits there is nothing to equal a plain silver one-inch spoon with a gut hook five or six inches behind, on which is a worm, a piece of meat or the eye of a fish.

A landing net is a necessity or you will not get one fish out of six.

Unless you are fishing a shallow lake, you row your boat slowly as close to shore as it is safe to go, paying particular attention to any points where there is a bit of shallow water, as these are a favorite place for fish on the feed.

In lake fishing you can never tell when fish will feed, often they will do so for about an hour or two, then not a strike for a long time, then without any apparent reason you begin to catch them again. Often the middle of the day in a boiling sun is the time they bite best. Early morning, unless it is warm and cloudy, is seldom any good.

These lake fish fight exactly like the land-locked steelheads. As soon as they are hooked they are out of the water, once in a while they rattle out line, but usually come right at the boat, make one or two splendid jumps (frequently shaking the hook out) and then put up a hard fight until the very last. Even when you think you have them at your mercy, the sight of the net will often result in another struggle.

## CHAPTER X.

## BAIT FISHING

COMPARED to fly fishing and spinning, bait fishing is a poor form of sport, nevertheless there are some to whom it has its charms, others who are, unfortunately, physically incapable of the more sporting methods of taking fish. Also there are times when the water is in such a condition that anything but bait is hopeless. Personally, and I have no doubt there are many others of the same opinion, I would sooner fish all day with bait for chub or other coarse fish, than not fish at all, and if a person goes out for a day's fishing and finds the water too coloured he can hardly be blamed for resorting to bait.

Now there are different methods of bait fishing, such as tying on a lump of salmon eggs to your hook, or even a piece of meat or a small piece of fish and letting it lie on the bottom. Such methods are too well known and need no further description. There is, however, one method of bait fishing which is far more sporting and requires more skill, i.e., worming for trout upstream.

For this method of fishing your ordinary fly rods will do well. You can use a single hook at the end of a 4-foot cast or a double or treble tackle with small hooks tied as in the illustrations on pages 31 and 32.

Such tackle has the great advantage of not injuring your worm to the same extent as a single hook and it also has a much more natural appearance. Lead of some kind is generally needed and the handiest is little thin strips which can be wrapped round the line and put on and off according to the depth of the water and swiftness of the current. It must, however, be remembered that you must not put on enough lead to anchor your bait, but just sufficient to sink it and yet let the current carry it along.

The worms should always be procured three days before use and placed in clean, damp moss. This will scour them and improve their colour. Be sure to keep them in a cool place with plenty of air, or they will die and become useless.

The actual method of fishing is almost identical with the way you would use a small spinner, except that you always cast up stream, allow the bait to sink and let the current carry it down to you, taking up the slack line as it comes.

With the double or treble tackle, you strike a fish as soon as he takes, but with a single hook allow a second or two for the fish to get it properly in his mouth.

## CHAPTER XI.

## FLY FISHING FOR STEELHEADS

WHENEVER the water is in proper condition and there are steelheads in the river, they can be taken on the fly and there is no fish that swims that will give better sport. Unfortunately so many of our rivers on the mainland are just a bit too coloured for a fly when these fish are running; though the Little Lillooet, Stave and sometimes the Capilano and Seymour creeks are exceptions. The Cowichan on Vancouver Island is the best of the lot, as it is always clear except after extraordinary freshets.

For this work the rod and tackle are just the same as that used for fly-fishing for salmon.

The best all-round fly is a large Grouse and Claret tied on 5/0 hooks with the Silver Doctor and Jock Scott next in order of merit.

The actual method of fishing is very similar to fly-fishing for salmon, except that when you have thoroughly covered a piece of water with one or more flies, it is seldom much use going over it again for a few hours. Also you should fish a pool or reach right down to the very end and fish the tail of the pool with twice the care you do the head. In addition, there are often spots in swift water that should be fished; wherever there is a big boulder there is liable to be a steelhead lying behind it.



## CHAPTER XII.

## TROLLING FOR STEELHEADS

**I**N many of the big lakes of the interior there are numbers of fine big trout, locally called salmon, but which are really steelheads. As a general thing they are found away out in the lake, sometimes as much as a mile or even more from shore. Up to the present time, so far as I have been able to ascertain, they have never been caught by any other method than trolling, in fact, I have never even heard of anybody trying any other way. It is, however, quite possible if a man studied the water carefully, so as to get an idea just where to fish, he might meet with some success with a fly, as the indications are that they are not lying at very great depths.

The outfit needed for this sort of fishing can be quite simple. A rod similar to that used for coho salmon will do very well. The handiest reel is a Nottingham, which is capable of holding 125 yards of good stout line such as No. 15 Cuttyhunk.

The trace should be at least four feet, of strong, single or twisted gut. Wire traces are dangerous as these fish do a lot of jumping and a kink is very liable to occur.

The bait generally used is a 3-inch silver or brass Stewart, or some similar shape, sometimes a mother-of-pearl spinner will take well. No lead is used, but 100 yards or more of line is let out. The boat should be rowed at a fair rate. These fish are seldom caught near shore, they seem to frequent certain areas of the lake which can only be learned by experience or the advice of those that know.

When a fish is hooked, he almost invariably celebrates the fact by making from three to six splendid jumps. The jumps are followed by a rush straight up to the boat, during which time you are bound to get a slack line unless you have a boatman to help you by pulling away. Sometimes a fish will come so close to the boat as to be almost within reach of a long-handled net or gaff. This is the dangerous time, as it is really the beginning of the fight, so you had better look out for another jump followed by a dive under the boat.

The majority of the fishing is done in the late fall, winter and early spring months, though in some lakes like Kootenay a good many fish are caught in summer as soon as the freshets begin to subside.



## CHAPTER XIII.

## HINTS ON SPINNING FOR STEELHEADS

**S**CIENTIFIC spinning, however much it may be despised by fly fishermen, is a most excellent form of sport, particularly so for winter or early spring steelhead fishing. To cast a minnow or prawn with accuracy requires just as much dexterity as it does to cast an ordinary wet fly. Almost anybody, with a Malloch reel can, with a little practice, get a Devon minnow out some twenty yards or so, even if he has no idea where it is going to land in the water, and then reel it in again, either fast or slow, quite regardless of the current and depth of the water. But this is not spinning, though an odd fish may be hooked once in a while and even landed by such methods, though the chances of either are very remote.

To be able to spin properly requires a vast amount of practice and as perfect an equipment as for fly fishing: the rod, reel and line must all be suitable or you will never succeed in doing really good work.

**The Rod.**—Most fishermen make the very bad mistake of using too small a rod, many even using single handed steel ones not more than five feet long. With such an implement you can neither work your minnow properly or play a fish if you hook one. It must be remembered that steelheads are very powerful even for their size, which is often up to fifteen pounds, and occasionally as high as twenty pounds, and if you hook a fresh run fish of half that weight on one of these toys with a cheap reel only holding about forty yards of line, you must expect something to smash within the first thirty seconds.

A few years ago when small rods were almost entirely used, very few steelheads were landed and some very amusing incidents used to happen, one of which is worth relating and it will at any rate give the beginner a good idea of some things he should not do.

I was watching a man fishing with just such an outfit in a piece of water where an occasional fish lay pretty close into shore. He was using an enormous "Siwash spoon" fitted with double hooks to match it in size, and as the water was quite clear and a bright sky overhead, his chances did not look good, especially as his first three attempts at casts were failures. His fourth attempt was more successful and the spoon crashed into the water some ten or fifteen yards out. The unexpected of

course happened, in spite of the enormous spoon and bright water, he had a strike almost immediately and a good one too, so much so that he almost lost his rod then and there.

The fish, which was about twelve or thirteen pounds in weight, made one jump and was off down stream. Of course the man could not hold such a rod up even if he knew enough to do so, and the fish took the line out straight from the reel. As it happened the "reach" was a short one and the fish did not go out, so he had line enough, but made another jump and then came upstream with a rush. As it was impossible to reel in fast with such a reel he had a slack line and the rod went right back behind him and the line right across his body. To grab the line, throw down the rod and haul in hand over hand was the work of a second, and as the fish was coming straight at him his work was easy. I have no doubt that at that time he had visions of that fish keeping on coming right up on to the beach at his feet; visions of his return to town in triumph; visions of the stories he would tell of the struggle and final capture; perhaps the fish would go to some taxidermists and a cast be made so that his prowess as an angler might be handed down to future generations. Alas! if he had such visions they were soon dispelled, the fish evidently had different ones. As soon as all the slack was in and the fish felt the pull it made one more jump, not ten feet from shore, just as if to give him a good chance to see what a perfect fish he was, and then shot clean out into the swift current and away down stream. The end came soon after as the line cut the man's fingers and he let go: he had no time to pick up the rod as it was going too fast so he put his foot on it and broke it in two and the line having all run out, broke off at the reel, which was all he saved from the wreck.

To that man it was a fearful disaster, a calamity of the worst nature, but in the end good resulted. He had learnt his lesson and he profited by it, for he now fishes with suitable equipment with some degree of skill and he hooks and lands steelheads and salmon too.

To return, however, to the subject. The ideal rod should be an eleven foot split cane, steel centre, very similar to the salmon spinning rod, though not so powerful, yet capable of casting one ounce of lead. It must of course have upright rings of agate or some other material. A good greenheart will do quite well and I have even seen a plain bamboo, fitted with upright rings, turned into quite a serviceable tool, though neither will compare with the split cane.

**The Reel.**—This, unless you go in for spinning from the hand in the old fashioned way, is the all important part of your outfit, and if you cannot afford the best of everything, put your money into your reel, as without one of the best your troubles will be many and your success but small.

There are a number of reels made specially for spinning of various degrees of merit, but as far as my experience goes, though I have no doubt there are others, there are only three worth considering for steelheads.

The first one is the "Malloch." It is an excellent reel to learn quickly, in fact a few minutes instruction followed by a little practice and a handy man can make some sort of a cast. It has a very big advantage of seldom getting out of order and can easily be fixed if it does.

They do, however, kink the line very badly and, unless you are very careful to push home the lever after turning the drum, have a nasty habit of turning back just when a fish makes a big run, which is sure to result in disaster. Some first-rate fishermen still use them continually and certainly do quite good work with them. If you decide to use one, get one with a three or three and one-quarter inch drum and be sure and have the drum full of line as otherwise you will not only find it harder to cast but you will kink your line more.

The second reel is the old fashioned "Nottingham." A well made reel of this type in the hands of a man who can really use it cannot be beaten. Such men are few and far between and have only acquired their efficiency through constant practice. A three and a half inch or four inch is about the best size.

The third reel is "Hardy's No. 2 Silex." I have used one of these reels for several years past and if there is anything better it will have to be pretty good. It is a reel that takes some men a long time to master, others pick it up right away, but as a general thing first attempts with it are very discouraging to those who have not had previous experience in some sort of spinning. The knack of handling it comes quickly when it does come and then you can cast further and more accurately and have less kinking than with any other reel.

A reel of this make will be suitable for both salmon and steelhead.

**Lines.**—Lines are next in importance to reels, as without a line that runs well it is quite impossible to make a decent cast. If you can afford it buy the best on the market such as Hardy's Alnwick No. 2 or even the Reliance, and dry them well and polish with cerolene or deer fat as even they will soon get sticky if not cared for.

If you cannot afford the best dressed lines, buy plain undressed silk ones and polish them with wax and graphite. You can do quite good work with them while they last, which will not be for long even with the best of care.

Your casting line should be sixty yards long with another forty yards of any sort of strong backing, No. 12 Cuttyhunk being as good as anything.

**Traces.**—Traces should not exceed three feet in length, and may be of strong gut or wire. They should have two swivels and a clip at the end so that baits may be changed easily.

**Leads.**—Leads will vary according to the kind of bait used, the depth of the water and the strength of the current. You should have them of various sizes up to one and a quarter ounces. The kind is immaterial, the plain oblong shape is as good as any. New ones should be blackened in the flame of a lamp or even with a match before using.

While there is no fixed rule with regard to leads, and only experience can teach what to use, there is one rule you can always follow and that is use enough lead to fish deep and err on the heavy side. You cannot force your bait down in swift water but you can hold it up off the bottom.

**Baits.**—For steelheads your stock of baits need not be very varied but it should be large. You must always fish as near the bottom as possible and often make very long casts into water of only moderate depth and lots of tackle is bound to be lost.

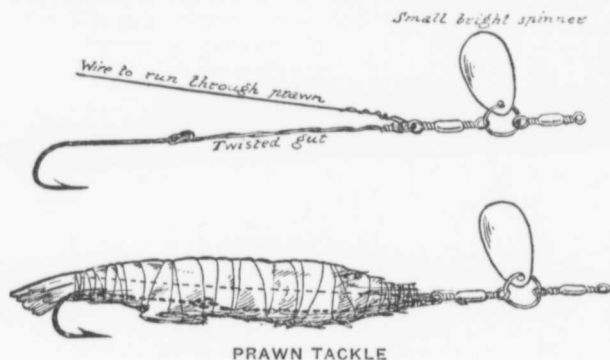
Silver and Brass Devons, two inches and two and a half inches, or Sanky Minnow of the same size and a supply of prawn tackle is all really needed, though you can also take a few different coloured phantom minnows. Personally I prefer the heavy slotless Devons (except for very shallow water, where the Sanky Minnows are excellent) as they require little or no lead and cast beautifully. If, however, you prefer those with the slots always take off the side hooks as they are of no use and a constant nuisance.

A prawn is a most killing bait, and if properly put on a single hook has a number of advantages over a minnow. In the first place fish give much better sport on a single hook, moreover you are really more likely to land your fish, as some steelheads are so hard mouthed they will often crumple up a treble hook unless it is of the very best and such are often hard to get. Another advantage a prawn has is that it has a smell which an artificial minnow has not and you seldom prick a fish hard enough to prevent him coming again, whereas, with a minnow, one strike settles the fish for the rest of the day. Finally your chances of getting foul of the bottom are small compared to baits with treble hooks.

Prawn tackle can be bought at most tackle shops, but it is nearly all made with double or treble hooks and only suitable for using prawns in deep, slow-running pools where it is used almost like bait fishing. The method I have found most successful in these waters is to bind the prawn on to a single hook in such a way that you really turn it into a minnow and cast and work it in just the same manner only, if possible, work is slower and deeper. Such tackle is very simple and anybody can make it.

All you need is some single Limerick hooks on strong twisted gut, size 5/0, No. 8 swivels, small split rings and a few pieces of No. 24 wire. The hooks must be perfectly tempered and you must be sure to test them, no matter how highly they are recommended or you may find yourself in the unenviable position I was a year or two ago when, with the river full of steelheads, I discovered that all my prawn tackle was put up on soft tempered hooks which straightened right out. I lost three good fish in succession and then had to use silver devons, which they were not taking well.

If you cannot get good hooks on gut, get eyed hooks for salmon flies without and bind them on. To make the tackle, bind a hook on to a swivel so that hook and gut are  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, then take a piece of your wire and loop it around the gut. A split ring with another swivel attached to it is then fastened on to the swivel on the gut and between the two swivels is a small fairly flat spinner. The following illustrations will give you an idea of what the tackle is like and how the prawn should look after it is on.



In putting the prawn on this sort of tackle the wire is run right through the centre from the head and the tail is down by the hook. The usual method is with head down. With a spool of scarlet silk or thread bind the tail on with two or three turns and at the joint of the tail take a half hitch, then a few more turns and another half hitch and so on right up the prawn, taking care to bind the last part very carefully.

A prawn so put on will, unless you hit it against something, last a long time. Sometimes a few extra turns of silk are needed, occasionally even after a strike this is all that is necessary.

**Casting.**—There are several ways of casting, with a right or left swing, underhand or overhead, and while it is not necessary, it is often very useful to be able to do them all, especially the first two.

No matter what kind of a cast you make it should be made with easy, graceful motions, using just sufficient force to propel the bait the required distance. The novice had better begin with the right swing, using only a lead, which should be at least one ounce weight, at first in place of a bait, which should only be three feet from the end of his rod. To make this cast there are two motions, first, the backward swing to allow the bait to swing well behind you, then the forward motion, which must be made with the body swinging well from the hips. Before making the cast you must stand in a proper position, which should be squarely facing the direction you wish your bait to go. The feet should be about a foot apart and as firmly planted as the nature of the river bed will allow. You then start the first movement by swinging from the hips round to the right, the rod going well behind you with just enough force to extend the bait to the full length of the cast. You then start the second movement, at the same time releasing the bait, by swinging body and rod back with more vigor, the rod being inclined upwards, until you are pointing in the required direction. In making the forward cast the main thing is to avoid any suspicion of a jerk and to hold the rod in such a position that the bait pulls direct on the reel with little friction on the rings.

In learning to cast use a heavy lead at first and only attempt very short distances. As in fly fishing, a lawn is a good place to practice, only keep away from windows, as first attempts generally are erratic and your lead is apt to go in a most unexpected direction.

**How to Fish.**—The best water to fish for steelheads is in the "reaches," that is, where the river broadens out below a rapid and the current is of moderate rate and the water of fair depth. Deep, still pools are not so good as though fish lie in them they are more apt to be stale fish. Sometimes, especially where there is a big rock, you will find a fish in very swift water.

In starting to fish, wade well into the water until it is above your knees and let your first cast be a very short one. Then, still standing in the same place, make a second cast five or six feet longer in exactly the same direction. The direction of your cast as a general thing should be almost straight across, inclining more down stream for a slacker current. The third and following casts should all be made from the same place and in the same direction until you are getting well across the river or have reached your limit. You then take two steps down stream and cast again the same distance as your last cast. If your cast is not

the same length or in the right direction make another, then move down two more steps, and so on until you have reached the end of the fishable water.

By following these directions you will see at a glance from the illustration that if there is a fish in the water he has seen your bait. Many men will stand and fish for an hour in the same spot,

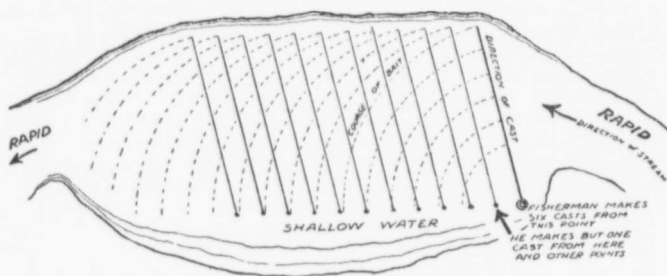


DIAGRAM TO SHOW HOW TO THOROUGHLY FISH A PIECE OF WATER

this is all right for salmon sometimes, but for steelheads it is generally a waste of time. Fish a piece of water thoroughly, fish it over again with a different bait if you think there are fish there, or leave it and try elsewhere.

**Working Your Bait.**—When your bait has reached the water, unless the depth is great or the current strong, raise the point of your rod to take up any slack that wind or current may have caused, and you have control of your bait. Then let the current, if it is strong enough, carry the bait round, raising or lowering the rod point according to the amount of pull. Sometimes you have to reel in as well, but do not do so faster than is necessary. When you are getting down to the tail of your water, fish more carefully as, unlike salmon, this is where the steelhead is apt to be found when he is inclined to take.

**Striking.**—As a general thing when a steelhead strikes he lets you know it without the shadow of a doubt, and if you have control of your bait he will hook himself and even take the rod from you if you are not watching. There are, however, times, when fishing with a prawn, that a fish will take so gently that you think you have got foul of something. It is better therefore when fishing with a prawn to strike if you only feel the bait stop and then to hold tight until you are satisfied it is not a fish.

To show to what extent a fish may fool you I will narrate an incident that happened once. I was fishing with a prawn a beautiful deep reach that I knew was quite clear of snags. The water was deep enough with sufficient current for safe spinning. I had just made a fairly long cast out into the deepest water and the bait had not travelled far before it stopped without the slightest suspicion of a pull. Warned by previous experience, I struck but nothing but a dead pull resulted. After holding tight for a few seconds I slackened off and then took a pull to try and clear what I took to be some newly arrived snag. The result was an answering pull, and the next second a beautiful fish was out of the water and then away down stream. He proved to be a perfectly fresh run fish of 11½ pounds and I can only conclude that the point of the hook was on a bone and did not prick him until the second pull drove it home.

If you have a strike and the fish misses, do not cast again at once unless you feel sure he meant business and just made a bad shot. Even so it is better to wait fifteen or twenty minutes; your fish will not go away and you give him time to steady down and are much more likely to be successful in the end.

**Playing Steelheads.**—You will play a steelhead just as you would a salmon, though you will find that a good steelhead takes more handling than a good salmon of the same size. They jump higher from the water, more frequently, and now and again make long jumps straight towards you, sometimes two or three in succession. In such cases the point of the rod should not be lowered, but raised if possible. A steelhead will also make short, rapid dashes in different directions as well as go up stream as fast as down, and it is often impossible to keep a tight line.

A steelhead will seldom go clean out of a "reach." You may think he is going to, as they will go to the very verge of a rapid and then just hang on the edge. In such a case do not smash your rod or tackle trying to pull the fish back, if he wants to go over he will do so in spite of you and all you can do is to follow if possible, if not let him break the line sooner than your rod. If the fish hangs on the edge of the rapid just hold tight and leave him alone. He may hang there for what seems ages, but sooner or later he will come up, at first perhaps only inch by inch until he makes up his mind to begin the fight again. Above all things try and keep him out of shallow water until he is thoroughly done. You can usually do this by keeping opposite to him and wading out if it is very shallow. Keep cool and do not be in a hurry to land him, and if he is well hooked and your tackle is good he will be yours.



## CHAPTER XIV.

## HINTS ON PLAYING FISH

**T**HERE is no sight more objectionable than to see a man playing a fish in a bungling manner, and this is what a great many men do, even some of those who have had considerable experience. If you look at the photos of anglers plying fish that appear in most advertising pamphlets almost invariably the man is holding his rod high in the air with his right hand and his left hand stuck out at right angles to his body holding the line. If you could see the final result of these photos you would probably see the rod thrust right back over his shoulder in an effort to drag the fish ashore, or else, presuming it is a decent fish and has another run left, you would see something break when the fish has run out the line in hand and strikes the reel. Nobody but a bungler plays a fish in this manner.

**With Single Handed Rods.**—When you have hooked your fish change your rod to the left hand, taking your grip well up on the handle so that, if it is a big fish, you can rest your wrist if it tires by letting the butt touch your elbow or body. Above all things keep your rod up and let it, and not the line, take the pull. Keep your fingers off the line entirely and play the fish from the reel. If he wants to run and you have clear water, let him go as long as you have enough line. If your check is too weak and there is danger of an over-run, the slightest touch of a finger on the drum will obviate this.

You may have heard that if a fish jumps you are to drop the point of your rod, but there are frequently exceptions to this rule. It frequently happens, especially with steelheads, that the fish will take a long jump straight at you, or partially towards you, in which case you raise the point of the rod to take up the slack line the fish himself has made. It is when the fish jumps straight up or away that the rod point must be dropped.

**Double Handed Rods.**—In playing heavy fish on double handed rods you use practically the same tactics as with a single handed rod. With a double handed rod, however, the butt is kept low down on your body all the time and the left hand well up to act as a lever. The body is thrown well back to keep your balance, with the left foot forward and the knees slightly bent, the majority of your weight being on the right leg. A good well-balanced position is a necessity, especially when you are wading in deep water with any big stones on the bottom. If you are standing

in a bad position a big steelhead is quite capable of bringing you flat on your face in the water, as actually happened to myself when fishing in the Capilano a couple of years ago. I hooked a fish on my first or second cast well up in the pool, and after making one jump, he ran out into the swift water and hung there. I knew it was only a small fish and was not as careful as I otherwise should have been. As luck would have it while the fish was lying there, a bird of some kind flew right across from the opposite bank almost hitting me in the face and so close that I ducked my head. Well, the fish seized the opportunity to make a most violent rush and jerked the rod out of my left hand. Somehow I caught the rubber butt in my right and held on, but I went flat down on my face, luckily in only about six inches of water. Of course there should have been a spectator or two to laugh at the "bungle" I had made of it, but hurried glances over my shoulder relieved my mind and, strange to say, nothing was broken and the fish still on. And it was only a nine-pound fish!

Three-quarters of the steelheads and salmon that are lost when river fishing break something because the rod is too light to play the fish, or the man handling it does not hold it up, with the result the whole force of the fish's runs go straight on to the line and hooks and this is nearly sure to be fatal. Do not be afraid to use the butt as long as you keep your hand off the line and only put enough check on the reel to prevent an over-run. If you try to check a fish by holding the line you will surely get a badly cut hand.

Always keep opposite your fish when you can do so and keep him in deep water until he is quite played out. A steelhead has a wonderful way of recovering just when you think he is done for and if he happens to be in shallow water will jump, splash and roll about to such an extent that you are very likely to lose him after all.

If you are alone, wait until the fish rolls over on his side before you attempt to gaff him; if you have not got a gaff look out for a nice shallow below you and guide him down stream on to it, keeping well out in the water yourself so that with your foot or one hand, always being careful to keep your line taut until the last, flip him ashore.

Kill your fish immediately, either with a tap on the head or by inserting the point of a knife into the vertebrae just back of the head. It is a beastly sight to see a fish left jumping about for some time after he is landed.

**Playing Fish from Boats.**—When playing a big fish from a boat, there is only one way to do it properly and that is to stand up, and the bigger the fish and more weight you can put on him, the easier it is to do without fear of losing your balance. When standing in a boat you should always stand with your feet well

apart and on each side of the boat with the knees well bent. Forget all about the boat and think only of your fish and you will be able to stand up with ease, even if there is quite a bit of sea running.

The great danger in playing a fish from a boat is when you first bring him close up. A sudden dive right under the boat is quite likely to happen, and you should always manoeuvre so as to have your rod well over one end as if your rod is out in the middle and the fish dives under the boat it is "good-bye rod."

### GAFFING FISH

There is a right and a wrong way to gaff a fish, just as there is a right and a wrong way to do everything else. There is nothing more annoying to the man playing the fish than to have some bungler make wild dashes at the fish with the gaff, missing him several times and finally breaking the cast or gaffing the fish high up in the back, thereby spoiling his beauty and perhaps a great part of the flesh.

Never be in a hurry, wait until the fish is properly tired out and watch carefully until you get an opportunity to pass your gaff over the fish and bring it up either into the belly between the head and dorsal fin or into the head itself. Personally, I always gaff a fish in the head as, though there are several objections to this method, such as danger of fouling the cast, and the gaff glancing off, the fish is not in the least spoilt. To gaff in the head necessitates playing the fish right out and bringing him up in a suitable position, which is not always easy with a lively fish in swift water, in which case it is advisable to gaff in the belly.

I heard a good story about gaffing a fish a short time ago, an incident that happened in Vancouver Harbour. It is said to be true, though I cannot vouch for its accuracy, I will repeat it, as it will show a novice what he is not to do. It is as follows:

Two men went out to fish for salmon, one was a fisherman, the other was not. The fishermen hooked, played and brought up to the boat ready for the gaff a fine salmon. The novice took the gaff, held it in the water and in a state of great excitement watched the fish, apparently being on the point of gaffing it. However, though he had all the time he wanted, he never made a move and the fish made another effort. Again he was brought to the boat, giving even more time. Still the man with the gaff never made a move, and the fish, making a final effort, shook the hook from his mouth and was gone.

This was too much for the man with the rod who, with pretty forcible language, wanted to know why he had not gaffed him. The answer he got was, "How could I gaff him! Why he never opened his mouth for me to put the hook in!"

## CARE OF FISH

If you want your fish to be at their best for the table, you must take proper care of them, even if you are going home in a short time.

First of all kill your fish by a blow on the head, as soon as possible, and wash off any blood, if there is any. Then if you are going home the same day, let the fish drain off and pack it in moss, rushes or ferns. On no account scrape off the slime until it is being prepared to be actually cooked as it helps to keep it fresh.

If you are not going home at once, it is better to clean the fish as soon as possible. When you do remove the gills as well as the inside and, above all things, scrape off carefully every particle of the black substance lying along the backbone. Do not wash the inside but wipe it carefully with a damp cloth or damp moss or grass. The only washing you should do is to get off the blood, after that use no water at all.

If the weather is hot, a little salt sprinkled along the backbone and in where the gills were, will be a big help, but the main thing is to pack the fish carefully in damp moss and keep them in a cool place. A good way to keep them cool is to sink a can that will not leak in a stream, or else put them in a box and bury them if you are not staying where they have a cool cellar.

If you have big fish which you must hang up (never do it if you can help it) always hang them by the tails, as, if hung by the head, you are likely to have the blood run into the tail and discolour them.



## CHAPTER XV.

## 'TO THE TOURIST

**I**F you want steelhead fishing in coast streams come here in February and March; you can get them in April and May, but the fishing is not so good. For salmon fishing December, January, February, March, April, May and June are the best months for ordinary spring salmon trolling. July and August for spinning for salmon in rivers.

August is the best month for the big tye salmon. Cohoes can be caught from June until well on in October.

For fly fishing for salmon the end of September and beginning of October. In July there is often good sport with a fly at Campbell River.

For fly fishing for trout May and June are the best months on Vancouver Island. On the Mainland coast July and August, though some of the streams are quite good in April and early May. For the dry belt May, June, July and September, but remember that some of the lakes differ quite a bit, according to altitude. In the Kootenays the best months are July, August and September.

For spinning for salmon and steelheads long waders are best, but for ordinary trout fishing hip waders are quite long enough.

If you have not got all the rods and tackle you need it is better to buy them here, as we have plenty of good stores and local tackle is much more likely to be suitable to local fishing than that bought elsewhere.

Be very careful in engaging a guide. We have a few good ones, but they are by no means easy to get. Try and get in touch with some local angler and get his advice, if there is a good guide in the neighbourhood he will know him. In the cities the sporting goods stores will be able to tell you whom to ask if they cannot give you the information you want.

Remember to buy your fishing license before you start. You can get one from any Government Agent or Provincial Constable.

**A FEW OF THE BEST PLACES TO GO FOR FISHING.**

(Referred to elsewhere in this book—See Index)

**Winter Salmon Fishing.**—Horseshoe Bay, Skookum Chuck (Jervis Inlet), Euclator Rapids, Campbell River, Prince Rupert,

Port Simpson, Saanich Inlet, Cowichan Bay, Cowichan Gap, Oak Bay (Victoria), James Island.

**Tyee Salmon.**—Campbell River (in August and September), West Coast Banks (July and August), Alberni Canal (September), Salmon River (August), Nimpkish (August), Smith's Inlet (July and August).

**Cohoe Salmon.**—These fish can be caught almost anywhere. For the earliest fishing up the coast is best. Campbell River or Lund are as good as any; later on Cowichan Bay. They run from the middle of June on until the end of October.

### TROUT.

**Steelheads.**—Almost every coast stream of any size has a run of these fish during winter and spring months. Many of the best of them like such streams as Copper River running into the Skeena, the Bella Coola River, are almost impossible of access. Among those easy of access are the Cowichan in January and February and early March. The Stave River, January and February; the Coquihalla and Vedder in February and March, and the Seymour and Capilano in February and again in May and early June.

**Landlocked Steelheads.**—Seaton Lake, October, February and March. Okanagan Lake, all winter (frost permitting) until April. Kootenay Lake, March and April until freshets colour the water, then again about the middle of June. Shuswap Lake, April and May.

**Rainbow, Cut-throats, etc.**—The very finest fly fishing is to be had in some of the streams and lakes in northern waters. The fish run to very large size, five-pound fish being by no means uncommon. The best places are quite inaccessible, except with a pack train or long boat row, and even then the fish are so uneducated a day or two's fishing would be all you cared about.

Some of the handiest places in the north are:

**Six Mile Lake.**—Ten miles from Prince George, weight averages  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 pounds.

**Stellaco River.**—Weight, 1 to 3 pounds.

The best months for all these places are from the middle of June until the end of September.

The best places in the southern part of the Province are the Cowichan River and Lake, Oyster River, Campbell River, Nimpkish, Salmon River, Cameron Lake, Great Central Lake. These are all on Vancouver Island and are generally at their best in May and June.

On the Mainland coast Pender Harbour Lakes in May and June. Powell Lake from June until late fall. Jervis Inlet streams

in April, May, July and August. The P. G. E. Lakes are pretty good all summer. For a camping out party the head of the Skagit is hard to beat in July and August.

In the Interior: Paul Lake in May, June and September. Pinanton Lake, June and early July and September. Fish Lake, July and September. Shuswap Lake, April and May for trolling; May and June for fly fishing. Slocan Junction, Proctor, Fry Creek near Kaslo, Goat River, St. Mary's River, all in July and August.

#### OPEN SEASON FOR FISHING.

The laws regulating the period during which fishing is allowed are made by the Dominion Government at Ottawa and are fixed by Order-in-Council. These orders are extremely complicated, some of them bearing on the whole Province, others only to certain streams or lakes, so that to be on the safe side it is advisable for any person who is not thoroughly acquainted with and up-to-date in the laws to make enquiries from some Dominion Fishery officer.

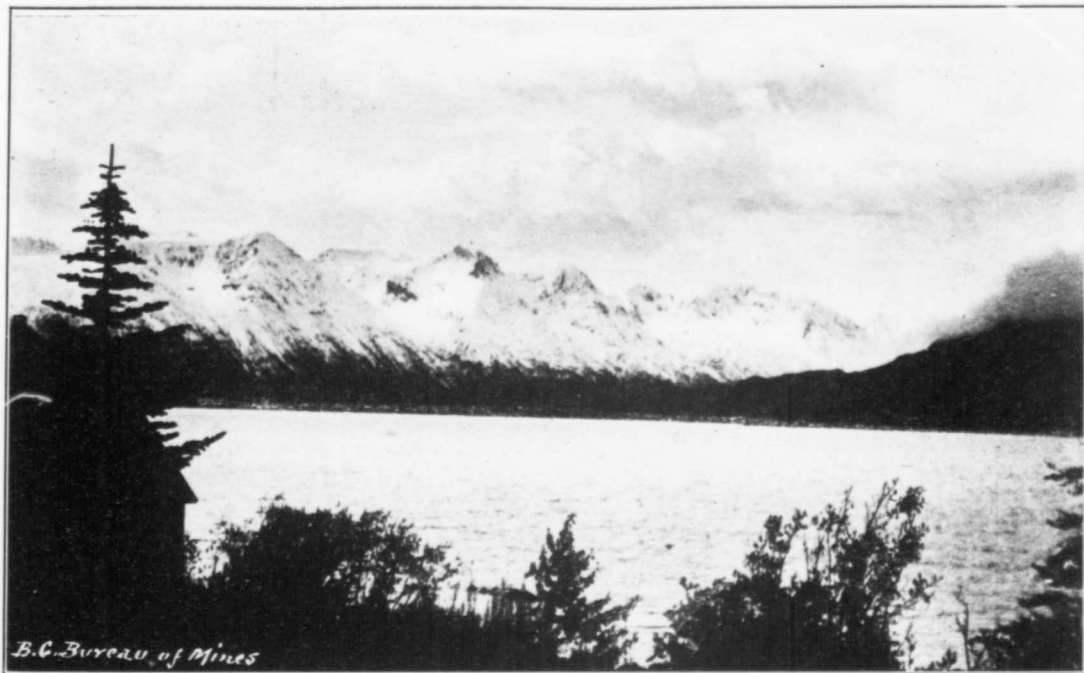
The principal laws with regard to seasons prohibit all fishing for trout from November 15th to March 26th, west of the 120th Meridian (between Ducks and Kamloops), east of that November 15th to May 1st.

Steelheads over five pounds and dolly vardens may, however, be fished for at any time in any of the big lakes of the interior. On Vancouver Island there is a special season for steelheads which closes on March 25th. On the mainland, steelheads over two pounds in weight may be caught at any time in tidal waters, and the same applies to dolly vardens.

Trout under eight inches in length must be returned to the water. The limit of trout per day is twenty. Salmon may be caught for sport at any time.

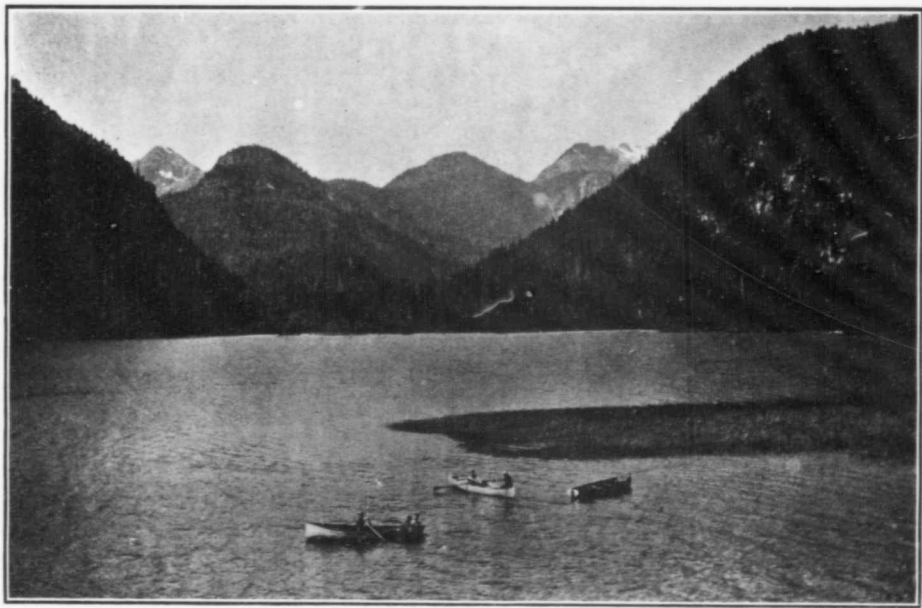
Non-residents must take out a non-resident fishing license, the fee for which is \$5.00 per season.





TAKU ARM, ATLIN The River flowing from Atlin to Taku Arm affords magnificent grayling fishing.





Head of Great Central Lake—the best part for fishing (See page 72).

## CHAPTER XVI.

## VANCOUVER ISLAND

## VICTORIA

VICTORIA, the seat of the Provincial Government, is famed for its perfect climate and charming country surrounding it. In addition to the Empress Hotel, which is one of the finest in Canada, there are numbers of others to suit the purse of any class. As a centre for fishing it is hard to beat.

In the immediate vicinity of this city you can get splendid salmon fishing both in winter, spring and fall; there is bass fishing to be had within a few miles; while excellent trout streams and lakes can be reached either by car or by taking the E. & N. Railway.

There are several sporting-goods stores where fishing tackle of all sorts can be obtained.

## OAK BAY

This is really part of Victoria, but it is two or three miles away by B. C. Electric. There is a first-class hotel situated right on the sea with golf links in the immediate vicinity. It is about the best place to fish for salmon. Spring salmon run all winter and early spring and again in May and June. One of the best pieces of water is across near Discovery Island, or by taking a launch and going up to the southeast end of James Island. Coho salmon begin to run in July and August, the best water for these being off the little rocky islands.

## SAANICH INLET

This inlet is easily reached from Victoria by B. C. Electric. There is an excellent hotel at Brentwood and another hotel at Deep Bay. From either of these places salmon can be caught the greater part of the year.

## FLORENCE LAKE

This is a small lake about seven and a half miles from Victoria. It is full of bass of large size which can be caught pretty well all summer.

## ELK AND BEAVER LAKES

These two lakes are connected by a short stream. The former is about one and a half miles long. There are quite a number of trout in them, some of which in Elk Lake go to large size, a few of over four pounds having been caught last year.

## SWAN AND LOST LAKES

These two lakes are only about four miles out of Victoria. They are both about half a mile long but have quite a fair number of medium-sized trout in them.

## LANGFORD LAKE

This lake is only about one mile long. It is eight miles from Victoria on a good road. It can be reached by taking E. & N. Railway train to Colwood. Boats can be hired on the lake.

This lake has a large number of bass in it and, apart from another small lake in close proximity which is more or less private water, is the only place where these fish can be caught anywhere on the coast.

The fish run to large size, sometimes a little over five pounds. They can be caught on any of the regular bass flies or large bright coloured sea trout flies such as the Parmachene Belle, Silver Doctor, etc. They are also caught by spinning with "bass plugs," etc. The best months are from middle of June to end of August.

## SOOKE LAKE

This is quite a good sized lake twenty-two miles from Victoria. There is no accommodation there but it can be reached by motor car over a bad road.

The lake has a lot of nice trout in it which can be caught on the fly or by trolling, all summer.

The water from this lake supplies the city of Victoria, and the Water Department has some restrictions with regard to fishing, so it is best to enquire before going there.

## SHAWNIGAN LAKE

This charming lake is situated on the E. & N. Railway about halfway between Victoria and Duncans. There are two hotels on the lake, one of which is run on first-class lines.

The lake is several miles long and contains some good sized trout which can be taken more or less all the season either by trolling or with the fly. A year or two ago the fishing was run down but has improved a great deal in the past year.

## COWICHAN BAY

This place is reached by going to Cowichan on the E. & N. Railway from Victoria. There is a very nice hotel, but in summer is often crowded, so rooms should be engaged before going there. In addition to the hotel there are one or two farmers who make a business of putting people up.

Cowichan Bay is one of the best all round fishing centres on Vancouver Island. It has a most delightful climate, charming scenery and some of the best of salmon fishing. Also the Cowichan River runs into the sea here and often there is good trout fishing right at the mouth. You can also by motor car fish the whole of the Cowichan and Kohsilah streams or even run up to Cowichan Lake itself.

As a salmon fishing centre it is about the best anywhere this side of Campbell River. Every year the fishing improves owing to an extremely wise move on the part of the fishing officials who have prohibited all commercial fishing for the past several years.

Salmon run here both winter, spring and fall, but the very best fishing is in the fall when not only cohoes come in but a run of big fish too, some of which go to quite a large size.

## THE COWICHAN RIVER

Of all the magnificent rivers of this province none have attained greater fame, and justly so, than the Cowichan. It has been fished by white men of all degree, including Royalty. It has been fished with the fly, minnow and baits of all descriptions: it has been fished by Indians with nets and weirs; it has been fished by every method, legal and illegal whereby fish can be caught, for the past thirty years, and yet to-day in spite of all, it is still a splendid river for a good fisherman.

You can fish the lower reaches from Cowichan Bay, four or five miles higher up from Duncans, or the head waters where it empties from the lake at Cowichan Lake. At all these places there is excellent accommodation, where you will also be able to get information as how to reach the best waters. At Duncans there is a cosy little Club and, if you can get an introduction, you will find a number of first-class fishermen amongst its members who will willingly afford you all the information you desire.

The above places are reached from Victoria on the E. & N. Railway, trains running twice a day. For Cowichan Bay you get off at Cowichan, where you will be driven in an auto to the hotel, which is several miles away. Trains run from Duncans to Cowichan Lake two or three times a week, on other days there is an auto stage. By taking the morning stage you can get off at

either of the two most famous pools, the Falls pool is twelve miles from Duncans, the Rips pool four miles from the lake, having plenty of time to fish and return in the evening.

The river itself is over twenty miles in length from the Lake to the sea and has numbers of splendid "reaches" and good pools. If you want to fish it thoroughly and have a most enjoyable outing, your best way is to get some of the Indians to send a canoe up to the Lake and then come down the river in it. You can make the trip in a day, but it is better to camp out and take several days and do it thoroughly while you are about it. The Indians are good canoe men and very pleasant to deal with. There are plenty of them close to Duncans and they can be best secured through the Indian Agent.

With regard to the fish to be caught. It is an excellent stream for steelheads in the winter and early spring months up to March 25th when the season closes on Vancouver Island for this species of fish. Some of the local anglers catch them entirely on the fly, generally using a fly very similar to a large Grouse and Claret. The Jock Scott and Silver Doctor are sometimes good. Spinning with a devon minnow, prawn or small spinner can also be practised. Duncans is nearest the best steelhead water.

After the first freshets in the spring the rainbow and cut-throats begin to run and afford sport to the fly-fisherman all summer (May and June being the best) except after a long drought, when the water gets too low.

An odd Dolly Varden may be taken at any time when spinning, but there are not many of them.

There is always the chance of hooking a spring salmon on the fly during April, May and June and cohoes in the fall. The best salmon water is about ten miles up stream from Duncans.

Some of the best flies are Cowichan Coachman, March Brown and Jock Scott for rainbows.

For steelheads a Grouse and Claret tied on a 6/0 hook.

### THE KOHSILAH

This stream is reached by the E. & N. Railway from Victoria and is only a few miles on the Victoria side from Duncans. There is a small hotel on the river at Kohsilah.

It is an excellent stream for fishing and is very similar to the Cowichan, only on a smaller scale, the fish, however, run much the same size, though I have never heard of any salmon being caught in it.

### COWICHAN LAKE

This is a very large lake about twenty miles long. There is quite a good hotel just at the outlet where boats and launches

can be hired. It is reached by train two or three times a week or by auto stage from Duncans on days when trains are not running. From this point the upper reaches of the Cowichan River can be fished.

In the lake itself some fine big trout can be taken by trolling and sometimes in summer, spring salmon also. The latter are chiefly taken up near the head of the lake. The best trolling for trout is off the North Arm. There is a shelf of rock there with fairly shallow water. Another good place is off the little group of Islands. A fairly big Victoria spoon with the hook set back a few inches and baited with worms takes better than anything.

### THE CHEMAINUS

This is a fair-sized stream where there is often some good fly fishing, especially in June. Unfortunately the nearest accommodation is at Chemainus on the line of the E. & N., but it is four miles from there to the stream and twelve miles over a bad road to the best fishing, which is near Mount Sicker.

### NANAIMO

Nanaimo is the centre of the coal mining industry on the coast and is situated on Vancouver Island, about forty miles across the Gulf of Georgia from Vancouver. It is reached by the E. & N. Railway from Victoria and is only a two-hour run on the C. P. R. steamer from Vancouver.

This place has quite good salmon fishing pretty nearly all the year round. In the winter months the herring come into the harbour in thousands and they are followed by a fine run of spring salmon, and at this time you can generally get a fish or two right in the harbour. The best water is just outside at Dodds Narrows. For trout fishing, both steelheads and cut-throats, you have the Nanaimo River close at hand.

### NANAIMO RIVER

This river is of good size, it runs from Nanaimo Lakes about fourteen miles away. Seven miles up stream there are falls up to which it is possible to take a boat so that the river is easily fished.

There is always a nice run of steelheads in the winter and early spring, which can be caught by spinning, trolling and possibly with the fly.

In May and June there is some nice fly fishing for rainbow and cut-throats.

## NANAIMO LAKES

There are three of these lakes, the first one being fourteen miles from Nanaimo. There is a road leading in to it over which an auto can be taken, but it is pretty rough going. There is no accommodation at the lakes, so camping out is necessary if a prolonged stay is desired.

There are several boats on the lake, but they are all privately owned though, by making enquiries in Nanaimo, probably the use of one could be arranged.

The first two lakes are each about two miles long, they are connected by a short stream up which a boat can be taken. The third lake is only a mile long.

All these lakes contain fine trout which can be caught by trolling and with the fly also. For fly fishing the best months are May, June and July.

## THE GULF ISLANDS

This is the group of islands situated between Vancouver and Victoria.

A steamer runs from Vancouver several times a week making calls at all the principal islands.

There is good salmon fishing to be had all round these islands, spring salmon all winter and spring with grilse and cohoes later on. Cowichan Gap, which has been mentioned separately, is about the best water, but Active Pass is also good, which can be fished from Mayne Island, where there is an hotel. The north end of Pender is often very good. There is no hotel, but quite comfortable accommodation can be had with some of the settlers.

## COWICHAN GAP PASS (PORTIER PASS)

This water is between Valdez and Galiano Islands. There is no accommodation there and the only way to fish it is by launch. To get there you can either go from Nanaimo, a run of about eighteen miles or straight across the gulf from Vancouver, a little over twenty miles.

This is one of the best salmon waters on the lower coast and you can be reasonably sure of getting a fish of some kind during any month of the year.

## COWICHAN GAP

Salt Spring Island is quite a nice place to stay at, as not only is there good salmon fishing all round the island, but there are three or four lakes on the island which have nice trout in them which will often take the fly from spring until fall.

There is a nice lake on the east side which is a few miles from Ganges Harbour that has some big fish in it. I have never fished it, but one September when I was shooting grouse along its shores, I saw several fish rise that must have gone four or five pounds in weight. I could not hear of anybody who had fished it, nor do I know its name but it is reached by going about five miles up the most easterly road from Ganges and then turning down a side road to your right for a short distance.

With regard to accommodation, there used to be an extremely comfortable hotel at Ganges Harbour, but it was unfortunately burnt down and so far has not been rebuilt; but there are sure to be some of the settlers who will take people in.

### CAMERON LAKE

This lake is three or four miles long. It is situated on the line of the E. & N. Railway. There is a very nice little hotel right on the lake where boats can be obtained.

There is quite good trout fishing there, pretty well from spring to fall, either by trolling or with the fly, the latter being best in June and July.

### FRENCH CREEK

Parksville, on the line of the E. & N. Railway, is the nearest point where accommodation can be had and is a mile or so from the creek.

This is a very small stream, but sometimes has some nice trout in it which can be caught on the fly. It generally gets too low after warm weather starts in earnest.

It is, however, for its fly fishing for salmon in the salt water at the mouth of the creek that it is really famed. Numbers of cohoes and some spring salmon congregate there towards the end of September and on in October until heavy rains cause a big freshet to let the fish up.

The Jock Scott and Silver Doctor are the flies generally used.

### THE LITTLE QUALICUM

This is a pretty little stream running from Cameron Lake. It often has quite nice fly fishing in May and June.

The nearest accommodation is at Qualicum Beach.

### QUALICUM BEACH

This is on the E. & N. line between Nanaimo and Comox. It has a fair sized hotel quite well run. The Little Qualicum creek can be reached from this point and there is often good trolling



for salmon and probably for the fly fishing also at the mouth of the Creek as at French Creek.

#### THE COURTENAY RIVER

This stream is of quite large size and used to be one of the finest fishing streams on Vancouver Island. Of late years it has been over fished and, while some sport may still be obtained, it is not worth a special visit.

It is on the line of the E. & N. Get off at Courtenay where there is hotel accommodation.

#### COMOX

This is a pretty little village situated on the sea close to the mouth of the Courtenay River. There is a small hotel.

The principal fishing is trolling in the mouth of the Courtenay for trout and cohoes and in the bay for salmon of all sorts. A few tyees come in there sometimes in August.

#### THE OYSTER RIVER

This is quite a nice sized creek, ideal for fly fishing. It is situated about half-way between Courtenay and Campbell River. There is no hotel accommodation but some of the settlers will put people up. With the aid of a motor car it can be fished from Courtenay.

This creek used to be grand for fly fishing, the trout run to good size and at one time a good sized basket could be filled in a short time. It has, however, sadly deteriorated and big catches are seldom made. It is, however, still good at times and well worth a visit if you are anywhere near. May and June are the best months, the water gets too low in July unless there happen to be some good rains.

#### ALBERNI

This place is situated at the head of the Alberni Canal and is the terminus of the E. & N. Railway from Victoria. There are hotels there.

It is an excellent fishing centre for trout all summer and big tyee salmon in September. Sproat Lake is only a few miles distant and Great Central Lake can be reached by motor car. There are also several good streams in the immediate vicinity.

#### GREAT CENTRAL LAKE

This lake is about twenty miles long and between two and three miles wide. It can be reached from Alberni in a little over

an hour's drive by automobile. There is a fishing lodge, called the Ark, at the foot of the lake owned by J. Drinkwater, who also has a camp at the head of the lake to which he will take you by launch.

For fishing of all kinds it is doubtful if there is any other lake on the coast that is its equal, certainly none better. Until the past couple of years the lake was hardly fished at all and even since then the number of people who have been there is so small that it is next thing to virgin water.

There are all sorts and sizes of trout in the lake which can be caught by trolling, spinning, with the fly or bait if you care to use it.

You can catch fish by trolling any time during the fishing season and you can catch them with the fly all summer but July and August are the best months.

The best part of the lake is up at the head where McBride Creek runs in. This creek itself furnishes splendid fly fishing.

From the foot of the lake you can also fish both Stamp and Ash Rivers from the Ark. For fly fishing you need a rod with lots of power and plenty of line as the fish run very large: they have been caught as high as twelve pounds on the fly.

With regard to flies the usual lake flies such as Montreal, Grouse and Claret, Teal and Red will always take well, but you should also have the March Brown and Black Gnat as well as the Jock Scott, Silver Doctor and Parmachene Belle for the river fishing.

#### THE ASH RIVER

This river is part of the river running between Great Central Lake and Alberni Canal. It is a splendid river if you want to get some real big trout, anywhere from three pounds to ten pounds, on the fly.

You can fish it either from the "Ark" on Great Central Lake or by car from Alberni.

#### SPROAT LAKE

This lake is reached by car from Alberni which is the nearest hotel.

The fishing is similar to Great Central Lake.

#### SOMAS RIVER

This river runs into the head of Alberni Canal. It is of quite large size, draining both Central and Sproat Lakes. It has excellent trout fishing, both for the fly and spinning. May, June and July are the best months.

## THE STAMP RIVER

This river drains Great Central Lake and runs into the Somas about six miles from Alberni. The best place to fish it from is the lodge on the lake.

## BARCLAY SOUND

This sound is best reached by launch from Alberni, a distance of over thirty miles. There is no hotel accommodation and a launch is a necessity.

It has the finest salmon fishing of all southern waters and is the most likely place for anybody who wants to beat the present record salmon of seventy-two pounds.

For the past two years it has been greatly exploited by professional trollers, and tons and tons of salmon have been marketed. So far little harm has been done but with the ever increasing number of professional fishermen it can only be a matter of a few years before the fishing becomes greatly depleted.

A few fish are running there from year's end to year's end, but the "springs" do not generally come into the sound in any numbers much before March. This run continues on and off right along until well on in July when the fish move out to the Banks, some twenty-five miles right out in the Pacific, and they stay there until the end of August, when they return to the sound and gradually work their way up Alberni Canal, so that by the end of the first week in September you can troll right from the hotel at Port Alberni and stand a good chance of a fifty pound fish. If, however, you want the fish in prime condition, do not wait until they get up the canal as, while some good fish will be caught, most will be just a bit off colour and not put up such a strenuous fight.

To get the finest and biggest fish the thing to do is to fish the Banks, and to do this you must have a really good boat or you will be taking your life in your hands. Fogs are very prevalent on the Banks, and the west wind has a nasty trick of getting up just when you want it least, moreover, the entrance to the sound is a mass of rocks. If you go, be sure you have a good boat with an experienced skipper.

Supposing, however, you decide to try it you are quite certain of getting big fish, even if you do not beat the record, providing you only fish with a good spinner. Last year the biggest fish that I positively know was caught was sixty-seven and a half pounds. Reports of a fish of eighty-six pounds were not verified, but certainly monster fish were hooked in numbers and all broke the tackle, which is not to be wondered at, seeing little or no attempt is made to play a fish.

So far as I know the "Banks" have never been fished for sport. The professionals fish entirely from launches, with four

or five lines out and never stop the engines to play a fish. They use enormous weights of lead as some of the fish lie deep.

When you get on to the "Banks," which you can easily tell by the numbers of seabirds feeding, you will be in water from twenty to thirty fathoms deep, and to get the biggest fish you will have to get down. This will probably necessitate letting out a very much longer line and using more lead also than you would for fishing in inland waters. The fish move about in schools. In some of the schools the fish run to heavier weights than in others, so if you come on a school and begin to get fish of thirty to forty pounds and you want only bigger fish, you had better leave that school and hunt up another. One good way to do it would be to explore with the professionals' tackle, then as soon as you find a school of really big fish, take in your heavy tackle and use your rod.

You could fish entirely from the launch if you have an engine you can run dead slow, otherwise you must take a row-boat out with you and fish from that.

You will require a specially strong gaff with at least a five or six foot handle if you are going to do your fishing from a launch.

A species of brass "Stewart" is used by all the professionals. Most of them make their own and you could always purchase some from them if your own skipper cannot make them.

Above all things avoid split "rings," use the ones you "solder" or else bind on both hooks and swivel with strong piano wire and put on fresh wire after every big fish is caught.

### CAMPBELL RIVER

Campbell River is the headquarters for the big tyee salmon and ranks with Cowichan River as world famous fishing water. A few years ago during the month of August you would find scores of fishermen there from all parts of the globe, having come especially to land some of the monster salmon that yearly come to the river to spawn. In those days it was not considered anything much to land two or three fish between forty and fifty pounds with several cohoes in addition before breakfast. Unless a fish was sixty pounds or over, it attracted very little attention. Apart from the pleasure of fishing it was well worth anybody's while to go there for a few days and meet men from all over the world and just to watch the fishing whenever there was a favourable tide.

You might, perhaps, see as many as sixty boats all fishing at the mouth of the river, with a few Indians in canoes in addition. There would be men, women, and often children, with every conceivable form of tackle, some with hand lines only, others with huge eighteen-foot salmon fly rods and many Ameri-

cans with six-foot tarpon rods, with wonderful multiplying reels. You would likely see half a dozen boats all playing "tyees" at the same time, some of them in an agony of fear that some other boat would foul them and shrieking wild, and often strong warnings to boats in their vicinity. There would be smashed tackle and broken rods and narrow escapes from falling overboard and occasionally the sight of a novice manfully playing what he believed to be a record salmon, but in reality the bottom. Then, later in the evening when fishing was over and the inner man refreshed with meat and drink (prohibition was not even thought of in those days) there would be a gathering and events of the day discussed, with the usual stories of record fish lost, etc. Those were great days: they brought the fisherman much pleasure and the Province much profit. Alas! the glory of them has departed; commercial fishermen with their traps and seines have unwisely been allowed to ruin the most famous salmon water ever known.

While full particulars as to rods and tackle are given in separate article under the heading of "Trolling for Salmon," advisability of using plenty of line is again impressed upon those thinking of going there. You might go there with only a hundred yards of line and land every fish you hooked, but the chances are every big fish would break you. With a hundred and fifty yards of line you would be reasonably safe, but once in a while an occasion occurs when fifty yards more is a good thing to have. Even if the fish never takes it out you know you have plenty and it might save you putting on just that little too much pressure which would cause the loss of rod or tackle.

The first time I ever fished at Campbell River I had an idea that in a boat a hundred yards would be sufficient. I soon found I knew nothing about it. The very first big fish I hooked ran out into a roaring tide while I was in an eddy. It felt something like what I should imagine it would be to hook a train going at sixty or seventy miles an hour. I never stopped that fish. Luckily my trace broke and I did not lose the whole of my line too.

The fish vary a great deal in their ways of fighting. Sometimes you can kill a fish of forty or fifty pounds in fifteen or twenty minutes, then again you may be over an hour. The last time I fished at Campbell River, two years ago, I landed two fish on an evening tide, I think they were both very close to forty-five pounds. The first one made some tremendous runs and jumped several times; he played himself out in less than half an hour. The second fish was a perfect demon, his runs were not so long but he never stopped, sometimes coming to the surface and churning the water up like the propeller of a stern wheel steamer. He was the best fighting fish I ever

hooked. It could not have been more than fifteen minutes before he was gaffed. Another time I was fishing in a little bit of a "dinghy" and hooked a heavy fish just near slack water time. This fish just broke water once and then started out for the middle of the straits; he went fairly fast at first but gradually slowed down until at last he was just towing me steadily along. I was quite a way from shore when I hooked him, but by the time the fish got tired of towing me I was pretty well out in the middle of the channel. At this stage in the game the fish went about a mile deep (perhaps not quite so much as that, but it seemed like it) and just stayed there, and move him I could not. Of course, two fairly large steamers and two tugs seized the opportunity to pass at short intervals and they all put up an awful wash, one of them such a bad one that I took in a lot of water and was within an ace of being swamped. For over an hour I wrestled with that fish, sometimes standing up and lifting with every ounce I dare put on the rod, sometimes sitting down and just putting my weight on the rod by leaning back. I worked him well up once but just as I thought I was getting him up so that I could see him, he made an effort and went down nearly as deep as ever. By the time he got tired the tide had turned and I was going gayly up to Seymour Narrows, but I managed at last to bring him up, and by that time he was thoroughly done and never even made a kick, but just rolled over on his side and was floated alongside, when a crack on the head made the use of the gaff perfectly safe. He only weighed 50 pounds. It must have taken one and one-half hours before he was gaffed.

While the tyee fishing is a mere nothing compared to what it used to be, a few big fish come in every year and it is still quite possible to get some fair sport, only it requires more skill and patience than formerly. In the old days nothing but big spoons were used, but now they are seldom tried, either the "Stewart" or something after the same lines being the most killing.

To be successful nowadays, the main thing is to fish at the right stage of the tide. If you can get a low tide very early in the morning or late in the evening and fish properly with a good working bait, your chances of getting a big fish are pretty bright at any time during August and the first week or ten days of September. During late June and all July there are nearly always a fair number of cohoes and small silver springs, spring salmon of twelve to twenty-five pounds, can be caught during most months of the year.

There is excellent trout fishing, both for rainbows and cut-throats, both of which can be taken on the fly.

The best months are May and June, also the first two weeks of July, during which time the best water is the last mile and

a half of the river. Sometimes the best trout are caught in the salt water itself and it is worth while to try the salt water with a good-sized Silver Doctor or Jock Scott, as you are quite likely to hook a coho once in a while.

After the middle of July the trout fishing is best some miles up the river, where most excellent sport can be obtained. Camping is then necessary.

While most of the standard flies are fairly good, the best are probably the Teal and Red, Teal and Blue, Parmachene Belle, Silver Doctor, Royal Coachman.

### SALMON RIVER

This is quite a big stream up which it is possible for an expert to take a canoe quite a number of miles. The mouth of the river is tidal and has fishing both for trout and salmon very similar to Campbell River, though the tyees are hardly as plentiful.

### ADAMS RIVER

This is a small creek about fifteen miles up the coast from Salmon River. Some good trout can be taken at the mouth in May and June.

### BEAR RIVER

About ten miles above Adams River and much the same only a bit bigger.

### THE NIMPKISH

This is a good sized river running out of Nimpkish Lake. It is situated right across from Alert Bay, where there is a hotel.

The river itself is only a few miles in length but those few miles contain a vast number of rainbow, cut-throats and Dolly Vardens, besides salmon of all sorts in the fall.

The only way to fish the river properly is to get a good Indian at Alert Bay and let him take you up in a canoe.

It is a good stream pretty nearly always until the salmon run: after they once commence little fly fishing can be done, but good fish can still be caught by spinning.

In the salt water at the mouth of the river there used to be nearly as many tyee salmon as at Campbell River. They have been pretty nearly all killed off, but an odd fish is still to be had. September is usually the best month for salmon.

### NIMPKISH LAKE

This is a fine big lake. There is no hotel nearer than Alert Bay. Camping out is necessary, unless one of the logging camps will put you up.

The lake has some very large trout, which can usually be taken by trolling, but good fly fishing can be had in summer at the mouth of any creek running into the lake.

# CHAPTER XVII.

## ALONG THE LINE OF THE B. C. ELECTRIC

### THE SERPENTINE

THIS is a small, slow-running, muddy-looking creek, affected by the tide. Nevertheless, some very good baskets of trout can be taken out of it, as well as coho salmon.

To get there, take the B. C. Electric to McLennan, which is only a few minutes walk from the stream.

In this stream trout can be caught practically all the year round, provided you fish at the proper time; the best months, however, are the latter end of August, September, October and early November.

When fishing this stream, if you want to catch fish, you must study the tides. You might fish the greater part of the day and not touch a fish, then give it up in disgust and go home, whereas if you had waited ten minutes longer you might have filled your basket. This is due to the fact that as long as the tide is on the flood, the flood gates, which have been built near the mouth, stay closed, and the water inside begins to fill up the creek. For an hour or an hour and a half of the last part of the flood and about half an hour of the first of the ebb is the time to catch fish, particularly so if you can only catch the tide at this stage in early morning or late evening. When the tide is running out strong you are seldom likely to do more than catch an odd fish.

Now, with regard to methods of fishing. You can, of course, use bait if you want to, but you will meet with much more success if you use a fly or a small spinner. If you use the latter it should be small enough to cast it like a fly, a single Tacoma, No. 1½, with a worm on the hook, will take as well as any.

Flies must also be small, about No. 9 or 10 would be about right. Try the March Brown, Coachman, Teal and Red, and Grouse and Claret.

When fishing this stream do not pay too much attention to the deep still pools but look out for water where there are "snags;" you may lose more tackle and possibly a fish or two, but you will do better in the end.

Coho salmon begin to run early in September and can be caught on small spoons, sometimes on the fly. Try them with a good big Silver Doctor.



## THE NICOMEKEL RIVER

This is almost identical with the Serpentine only a bit bigger. What has been written about the Serpentine applies to this creek also.

To get there take the B. C. Electric to Meridian. For the upper reaches go on to Anderson or Hunter.

## SALMON RIVER

This is hardly worthy of the name of a river and is really nothing more than a creek, even a small one at that. Nevertheless it sometimes furnishes some splendid cut-throats and rainbows.

To get there take the B. C. Electric and get off at Jardine or Harmsworth and fish down stream. The stream is quite small at first, but towards the mouth gets to be quite a nice size. There are nice pools practically the whole way down. Most local fishermen use bait or small spinners, but it is an excellent stream for a fly when the water is in condition.

To get this creek at its best, you should fish it a day or two after heavy rains in early spring or late fall, good freshets invariably bringing up a nice run of fish. In the summer months it is generally too low. There is hotel accommodation at Langley.

Use very small flies such as the Black Gnat and Red Quill, tied on No. 14 hooks; also the March Brown, and Royal Coachman.

## CLAYBURN CREEK

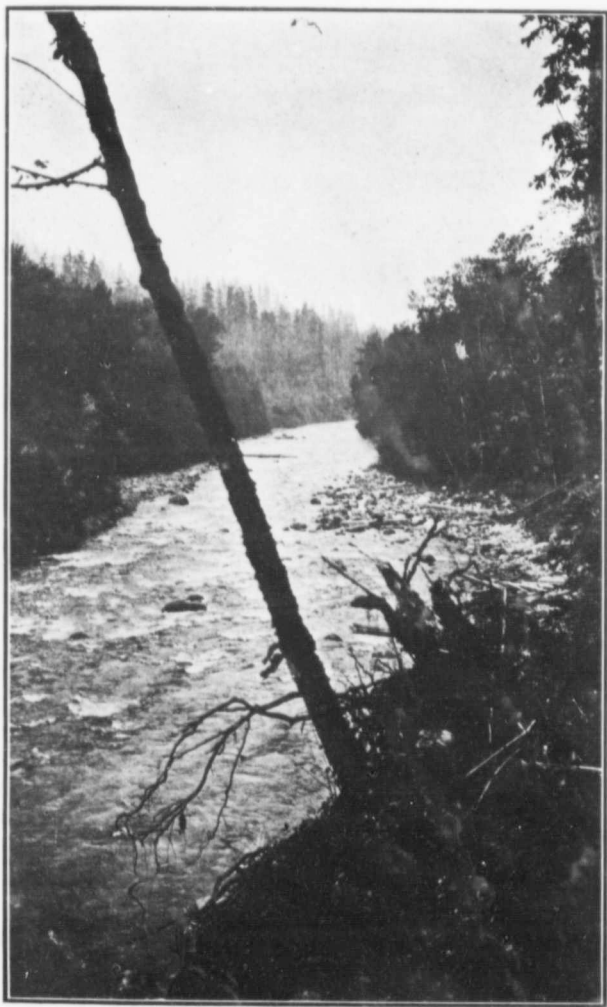
This creek is very similar in every respect to Salmon River, except that most of its water comes from Sumas Mountain and it is kept better supplied during the summer months.

Get off at Clayburn on the B. C. Electric.

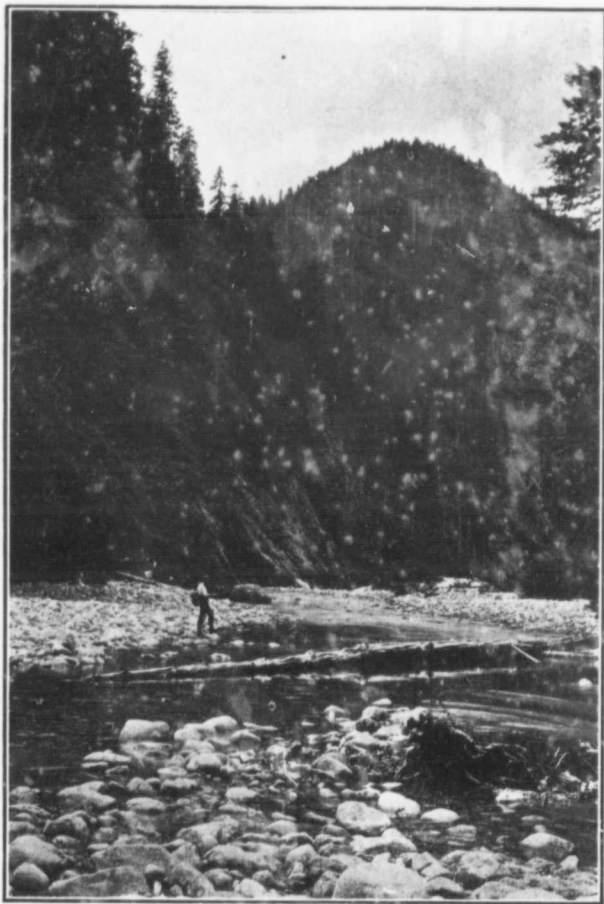
## THE BIG SUMAS

This is the river that runs from Sumas Lake into the Fraser River. It is about six miles from Abbotsford, on the B. C. Electric, where there is an hotel, and motors can be hired to take you to the river.

Most of this stream is tidal with muddy banks and generally unfishable. Close to the lake and in part of the lake itself there is often excellent fishing. In late winter and very early spring, steelheads, dolly vardens and cut-throats congregate there waiting for the first freshets to ascend the streams, and often in late January and all through February, great catches are made by spinning with minnow or prawn. All summer the lake is too full and fishing is impossible until well on in



Stamp River, Vancouver  
Island, home of big trout.  
(See page 74).



McBride Creek, Great  
Central Lake. (See page  
72).

August, when there is great fishing for cut-throats and sometimes rainbows also waiting for freshets.

### THE LITTLE SUMAS

This is a small stream running through Upper Sumas into Sumas Lake. It can be reached by the B. C. Electric which crosses its upper reaches at Whatcom Road Station. The nearest accommodation is at Abbotsford, which is six or seven miles away. Cars can be hired at Abbotsford.

This is a beautiful little stream for fly fishing. In the spring you can nearly always get a few nice fish, but as soon as the Fraser rises it backs up the river and all fishing is at an end until pretty well on in August. In September and October the best sport is to be had as not only is there a splendid run of cut-throats but you will also hook an occasional coho.

The best flies to use are the Parmachene Belle, March Brown, Blue Doctor, Silver Doctor, Butcher and a small Red Hackle.

### SOUR CREEK

Is much the same as the Little Sumas on a smaller scale. It also runs into Sumas Lake and is about a mile further on. Evan Thomas Station is within a couple of minutes' walk of it.

Use the same flies as for Little Sumas.

### THE VEDDER RIVER

The Vedder runs from Chilliwack Lake for about thirty miles to Sumas Lake. About thirty years ago what is now called the Vedder was not in existence. The old river was called the Chilliwack River which divided into two branches at Vedder Crossing, the second branch being known as the Lukahuk. Both these branches ran direct into the Fraser River through the richest part of the valley and frequently caused bad floods and much damage to farm land. The settlers then built a dam at Vedder Crossing and turned the river into one stream down its present bed, where it had probably previously run in bygone days. The building of this dam caused a great feud amongst the settlers, which even at the present time is still the cause of much trouble.

At the present time only the lower reaches are called the Vedder, the upper part still being the Chilliwack River, though for the purpose of this book it will all be referred to as the Vedder.

To get to the Vedder, which is some sixty miles or so from Vancouver, the pleasantest way is to drive in a car, as you not only have a delightful drive over a good road, but the car is handy to reach the different parts of the river.

You can also go there by B. C. Electric, which has three trains running each day, and get off at Sardis, or if you wish you can go by the Canadian Northern or Great Northern and get off at Chilliwack.

Sardis is two and a half miles from the Vedder Crossing Inn and about three hours or so from Vancouver by electric railway. Chilliwack is also about three hours' run from Vancouver by railway, but is a little over six miles from the river. Cars can be hired at both points.

The Vedder Crossing Inn, which only has accommodation for a limited number, is very well run and a delightful place to stay at. The inn is situated right on the bank of the river within a few minutes' walk of some of the best water. There is also a comfortable hotel at Chilliwack in case the Vedder Inn is crowded and, as the road is good, a few minutes' drive will take you to the river.

The Vedder, which is quite a big stream, has had more fish taken out of it than any other stream on the Mainland and is still one of the best for all-round fishing within fairly easy reach of Vancouver. In this stream there are, at certain times, runs of spring and coho salmon, steelheads, dolly vardens, rainbow and cut-throats.

For steelheads it is hard to beat. They run pretty well all winter, but the best time to fish for them is in February and March, during which months the fish are in excellent condition. They continue to run all April and part of May, but you get more and more fish out of condition.

The freshets begin in May and the water is usually out of condition until well on in June. As soon as it is fishable, there is excellent sport to be had spinning for spring salmon. Some of these fish, especially those of early run, go up to as high as thirty pounds. The salmon run all July and part of August until the water gets well down and clear, when the trout come in. The run of trout continues to improve as the season advances and lasts until the regular season closes.

Coho salmon begin to run towards the end of September and are good all through October.

Dolly vardens, with which the river used to be alive, are now more or less scarce, but an odd one will still be taken when spinning for steelheads or salmon.

While the Vedder is chiefly renowned as a spinning river for steelheads and salmon, good fly fishing can be had when the trout are running, particularly so some few miles above the Crossing. The cohoes can also be caught on the fly if properly fished for.

The best flies for trout are the Teals, Royal Coachman, March Brown, Black Gnat, Professor and Hardy's Favourite.

### CULTUS LAKE.

This lake is two and one-half miles from Vedder Crossing Inn with a good road to it. The lake is over seven miles long, and most of it is extremely deep. It has numbers of trout in it, cut-throats, rainbows and dolly vardens. There are several boats and canoes on the lake that can be hired.

The time for fly fishing is in May and early June, and the best water is where one of the creeks runs into the lake, the one at the head being the biggest. Use March Brown, Montreal or Grouse and Claret.

Very large dolly vardens can be taken by trolling, and you will also catch some other big trout as well. During the hot summer months the fish go very deep, and the only way to catch them is by using an enormous spoon with a smaller spoon a foot behind it and a single hook with a bunch of worms a few inches behind the small spoon. You must also use a heavy lead and have plenty of line out. There is little sport about this kind of fishing, but it serves to while away an hour or two if you are waiting for the morning and evening fishing in the Vedder.

In September the water cools off and the fish begin to come up again and you can then catch them with ordinary trolling tackle.

### CULTUS CREEK

This is a very small stream running out of Cultus Lake into the Vedder about half a mile above the Vedder Crossing Inn.

This creek is some two and a half miles long and has the advantage of being at its best when the Vedder River is in flood, in June and early July.

Most of the trout in it are small, but you do now and then get a nice fish of a pound or even a pound and a half, but they are by no means plentiful.

There is only one way to fish it and that is to go up to the lake and wade the creek down. The trout will take the fly well, but the stream is so bushy the ordinary overhead cast is seldom practical.

Small Black Gnats, March Brown and Royal Coachman are the best flies.

### TUMCUHAI CREEK

This creek runs into the Vedder River five miles above the Vedder Crossing Inn. There is a wagon road on the north side of the Vedder, but it takes you up on the wrong side, as the creek runs in on the south, but you can get across on the cable bridge.

At the mouth of the stream there is splendid fly fishing in August and September. Dolly vardens can also be caught with a spinner.

Flies used are the same as those given for the Vedder.

#### CHILLIWACK LAKE

This is quite a big lake and is full of all sorts of trout up to all sorts of weight. There is splendid fly fishing and enormous dolly vardens can be caught on a spinner.

The lake is very inaccessible and there is no accommodation nearer than Vedder Crossing Inn.

It is a magnificent place for a person who wants a fortnight's outing absolutely in the wilds, in magnificent scenery with fishing in waters that have hardly been touched.

There is a wagon road for ten to twelve miles, then a rough trail for another twenty miles over which pack horses could be taken by doing a good deal of chopping. There are Indians on the Sardis Reserve who would act as guides and furnish horses if a white man could not be secured in the neighborhood.

The lake is at a good altitude, and as the water keeps fairly cool, the fish will take pretty well all summer, though June or the early part of July would be the best time to go.



## CHAPTER XVIII.

### ALONG THE LINE OF THE P. G. E. RAILWAY

**T**HIS line at the present time (May, 1919) is only open for traffic from Squamish at the head of Howe Sound, as far as Clinton.

For nearly the whole of this distance the line passes within view of some stream or lake, and all these waters have trout and salmon in them. One great advantage this line has is that while some of the streams may be unfishable on account of ice in winter or freshets in summer, there is always, from year's end to year's end, some water where fish may be caught. During the whole of the winter land-locked steelheads can be caught in Seaton Lake; in early spring you have the Cheakamus for steelheads and dolly vardens, while all summer there are Daisy, Alta and four or five more lakes which are unaffected by freshets, and in which fish can be caught from the time the ice goes out until it comes again in winter.

#### THE MANQUAIN RIVER

This is quite a small stream running into Howe Sound right at the head of this Inlet. It can be fished from Squamish, where there is an hotel. It is a pretty little stream up which a man with waders can make his way easily except at high water time.

Dolly vardens run up it in the spring and there is often a nice bit of fly fishing to be had in early July.

#### THE SQUAMISH

This is quite a big river and very much affected by freshets. There is no water near the mouth that is ever worth fishing.

In early spring, before the freshets commence, some magnificent spinning can be had by going about twenty miles up. You will catch magnificent dolly vardens running from three to ten pounds, with an occasional steelhead. In the late fall there are plenty of other trout, but they will seldom take a fly, and bait or a small spinner is the only thing to use. There is no hotel, but one of the settlers makes a business of putting people up.



## THE CHEAKAMUS

This river is a tributary of the Squamish and is reached by boat from Vancouver to Squamish, then eight or nine miles by train on the P.G.E., or by auto-stage on days when trains are not running. Boats leave Vancouver from the Terminal Steamship Company's wharf every day at 9:30, taking from three to four hours to reach Squamish. Trains vary their days considerably, but as a rule run every other day. It is best to enquire at the office.

The station to get off at is called Cheeki, where there is accommodation especially for fishermen, though it is of the rough and ready style, still you will get a hearty welcome and any help you want.

The Cheakamus is essentially a spinning river, as the water nearly all comes from big glaciers, and except in early spring and late fall, is seldom clear enough for a fly. It is most unfortunate that this should be so, as it has every kind of fish running at some time or another. Dolly vardens all the year round, steelheads all winter and spring until May, then cut-throats and rainbows, and in July and August, spring salmon, some of which go to very large size, and later on cohoes.

For spinning for salmon this river cannot be beaten in July and August, if you can only get the water clear enough. During very hot weather it is hopeless, but after a day or two of cool weather it will drop quickly and clear enough for spinning, and if you only have the luck to get there then, you are almost certain to hook a fish or two if you can make any sort of a decent cast.

The best water in the Cheakamus is from where it runs into the Squamish, where you fish in that river itself for about five miles up stream, after that it is not much good until you get up some distance above to falls in the neighbourhood of Daisy Lake, where there is a settler who make a business of putting fishermen up.

On the upper waters there is sometimes good spinning for Dolly Vardens and fair fly fishing for rainbow and cut-throat trout in September, the water clearing quicker higher up. Salmon and steelheads do not get up the falls, and if wanted, must be fished for in the lower reaches.

## DAISY LAKE AND THE CLEARWATER

Daisy Lake is about a mile from the P.G.E. A settler has accommodation for a limited number.

This lake has rainbow, cut-throat and dolly varden trout, the first two afford excellent sport to the fly fisherman, as the fish run to a fair size and will take more or less from early in

May until the end of September. The dolly varden are either caught with bait or a small spinner.

Most of the fishing is done from rafts, of which there are several.

The Clearwater runs from the lake to the Cheakamus. It is nothing much more than a narrow branch of the lake with little current. It is often the better of the two.

#### ST. ALICE LAKE

This is a fair-sized lake some two or three miles back from the line of the P.G.E. It can be reached best by the trail from Cheeki, where there is some accommodation to be had.

The fish, which are mostly cut-throats, do not run to a large size, but are extremely numerous, and it is a simple matter to get all you are allowed to catch. Most of the water is too deep for fly fishing, though there are spots suitable. It is essentially a bait or trolling lake. June and July are the best months.

#### ALTA LAKE

Alta Lake (about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles long) is thirty-eight miles from Squamish on the P.G.E., and at an altitude of 2200 feet. This lake is the centre of a chain of five lakes, the others being Green, Alpha, Nita and Lost Lakes, in all of which there is excellent fishing and are within walking distance of Alta Lake.

With regard to accommodation, there is an excellent log hotel called Rainbow Lodge, on Alta Lake, whose proprietor and his wife also are experts in both fishing and shooting. The lodge is situated right on the shores of the lake and, with the magnificent scenery and high altitude, it is an excellent place to spend a week's holiday.

Trains stop right at the doors of the Lodge. With regard to the best time to go there. Fish can be caught as soon as the ice goes out, which is generally sometime in April, until it freezes up again. Mr. Philip, the proprietor of the Lodge, rather favours June for the best fly fishing, but at the same time remarks that he caught sixteen fish in September on a "Montreal" fly (which, bye the bye, he considers the best all-round fly) in a pouring rain. Other good flies are the Brown Hackle, Grey Hackle, Royal Coachman and the Black Gnat, the latter particularly in August when the black gnats are flying.

For others than fly fishermen excellent baskets can be obtained by trolling or bait fishing. For the former one of the surest ways of getting fish is to use a No. 8 Puget Sound bait or a  $3\frac{1}{2}$ -inch Victoria spoon (pear shaped) with an ordinary No. 3 hook attached, so that the hook is some inches behind the spoon. A worm or other bait is put on the hook. This method

is a most deadly one from the middle of June to October. Worms must be taken with you as none are procurable there. You can get white grubs locally, and these are good.

Alpha and Nita Lakes are much the same as Alta Lake only smaller, the fish run about the same size, from one-half pound up to one and one-half pounds, and can be caught during the same period.

#### LOST LAKE

Lost Lake is the lake of mystery. It is only a quarter of a mile long and yet when you do get a fish it is liable to be a three or four-pounder, and seldom anything under a pound. The trouble with it is that fish will not rise one day out of six. You might fish all day and not move a fish, and then suddenly start catching them as fast as you can land them. For the man of patience who wants really good sporting fish, it is the best of the lot.

#### GREEN LAKE

This is a big lake some  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles long with any number of splendid trout in it. It is the farthest away of all the lakes, being an hour's walk from Rainbow Lodge. Boats can be rented there.

The trouble with this lake is that it is fed by a big glacial stream, which turns the whole lake milky as soon as any really warm weather comes. As a general thing it is fishable until the end of June, but after that does not clear again until late in the fall.

#### TWENTY-ONE MILE CREEK

For those who prefer stream fishing this creek will afford some sport. It is only a few minutes' walk from Alta Lodge.

#### GREEN RIVER

This is a rough, rapid stream running from Green Lake into the Lillooet River. It has a few nice pieces of fishable water close to the lake that are well worth fishing, the rest of the river being far too rough. Unfortunately, like the lake, the water is only clear enough to fish for a couple of months in the year.

#### THE BIRKENHEAD

The Birkenhead is about seventy-six miles from Squamish. A salmon hatchery is situated at Birken, and there is also a store where some accommodation can be had. Below the hatchery for several miles and for a short distance above there is some very good water for the fly fisherman who wishes to get some really good fish, rainbow anywhere from one pound up

to three pounds with the chance of an occasional steelhead in the spring. This creek is also very much affected by freshets and is seldom in fishing condition from the end of June until September.

The best flies are March Brown, Royal Coachman, Jock Scott, Silver Doctor and Red Zulu.

#### ANDERSON LAKE

Anderson Lake is some sixteen miles long. This lake is eighty-six miles from Squamish. There is a very nice little lodge situated at D'Arey where you can obtain rooms or sleep in tents. You are now on the edge of the Dry Belt, in a more bracing climate, an excellent change for those wanting a change from the coast.

The fishing in the immediate vicinity almost entirely consists of trolling, fish of three and four pounds being taken by this method. From this point you can get pack and saddle horses and go in to the Little Blackwater River or Birkenhead Lake where splendid trout of all sizes can be caught either with fly or bait. Up to the present this stream has been but little fished, and whenever the water is fishable good sport is assured. The early spring and late winter months afford the best lake fishing. August and September for the Blackwater.

#### BLACKWATER LAKE

This is a splendid lake for fishing as there are trout of all sizes which can be caught by trolling or by the fly.

There is no accommodation at the lake, the nearest being at D'Arey, some seven miles away. There is a good trail to the lake for pack horses.

It makes an ideal place for a week's camping.

Use the same flies as for Alta Lake, some of which should be of larger size.

This lake is good pretty well all summer.

#### SEATON LAKE

This lake is eighteen miles long and is one hundred miles from Squamish and three and a half from Lillooet, where there are two hotels. There is also accommodation at Craig's Camp between the lake and the station.

The lake is famous for its land-locked steelheads, the fish running anywhere from ten pounds up to twenty-five pounds. They can only be caught by trolling from fall months until spring, the best time probably being from the end of February to the middle of April.

## HATCHERY CREEK

This creek runs from Seaton Lake for some three miles, where it empties into the Fraser River. The upper reaches are clear all the year round and nearly always in fishable condition (the last mile is muddy in summer, as Cayoose Creek runs in) and it used to afford magnificent sport to the fly fisherman, spinner or bait enthusiast.

Rainbow, cut-throats and dolly vardens, the latter running up to great weight, could be caught more or less all spring and summer. Unfortunately the salmon hatchery, which is situated on the stream close to the lake, thought it advisable to systematically destroy the trout, with the result that while there is occasionally fair fishing, it is at its best not very good. Possibly, however, with a few years it may improve as the hatchery, which is defunct as far as salmon goes, is now, or was, engaged in hatching trout!!

## CAYOOSE CREEK

This is quite a good-sized creek, but is very swift and has not much good water. It is full of small trout which seldom exceed a half pound in weight. They are taken entirely on the fly. After the summer freshets are over big catches are often made.

## CLINTON

This quaint old place is situated some forty-five miles north of Ashcroft on the old Caribou road. It is at the present time the terminus of the P. G. E., though probably by the time this book is in print the line will have been extended beyond it.

There is one hotel where accommodation can be obtained.

There are a number of lakes surrounding this place in which good fishing with the fly can be had more or less from May until the middle of September, July probably being the best month.

Most of the lakes are some distance away but can be reached by automobile. Some of them have settlers in their vicinity who will put people up.

The two best lakes are probably Big and Little Bar. Almost any flies will do. The fish run from one pound up to five pounds.



## CHAPTER XIX.

### VANCOUVER AND VICINITY

#### VANCOUVER

THE City of Vancouver is the terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Canadian Northern, while the Great Northern and Northern Pacific also have trains running in to it. The B. C. Electric Railway has a line running through the Fraser Valley for a distance of over sixty miles.

There are hotels of all sorts and descriptions, from the palatial Hotel Vancouver (the C. P. R. Hotel) down to the modest boarding house, where rooms and meals can be obtained at a very moderate rate.

There are numerous sporting stores where rods and tackle of almost every description can be purchased. Flies tied to order can also be obtained.

As a fishing centre there are few places the equal of Vancouver. Not only can good salmon fishing be obtained right in the harbour itself and many other places in the immediate vicinity, but there are at least nine good streams in which can be caught trout of all descriptions, which can be reached in time to get a good day's fishing and return to town the same night. Some of these streams are best reached by motor car, but they can all be got to by either train or B. C. Electric car. These streams are the Capilano, Seymour, Coquitlam, Lillooet, Kanaka, Serpentine, Nicomekel, Stave, and Salmon Rivers. They are all mentioned separately.

#### VANCOUVER HARBOUR

The harbour itself has at times fishing, which, in many parts of the world would be considered something wonderful.

Spring Salmon can be caught from the middle of November pretty well on until May, the best months being December, January and February. The best water is off Brockton Point, opposite the Woodman's Arch in the Park and off West Vancouver Pier. There is also some good water just off the first point this side of Hastings. Except off West Vancouver, the best water is on the south side of the inlet, though an occasional fish may be caught off the mouth of the Capilano and also on the north side just inside the Narrows.

In July a small run of cohoes comes in. The fish are usually of small size. They are generally caught just outside the Narrows on the Lighthouse side.

In August the main run of cohoes begins, but it is seldom many fish arrive before September.

The best water for these fish is on the north shore going well outside on the ebb and coming in as soon as the flood starts. If you want good spinning, go up with the first flood and anchor near the mouth of Seymour Creek. It is a four and half mile row, but with a strong tide to help you, does not take long. You can then fish until it again starts to ebb and have a fair tide to help you home. For coho fishing a tide with long run out is essential. The last three hours of the ebb are best for the Narrows.

For spring salmon the long run out tide is not so important, but you should always endeavour to fish the last of the ebb and not more than an hour of the flood.

### THE CAPILANO

This stream runs into the sea on the north shore just outside Vancouver Harbour. To reach it you can go by motor car on an excellent road, or you can take the B. C. Electric or the P.G.E. at North Vancouver. Also in the summer there is an auto running every hour for some miles up stream.

The P. G. E. takes you to within a few minutes walk of where it empties into the sea and the B. C. Electric about a mile higher up. If you want to fish the upper reaches you must go by auto. There is an hotel some miles up near the Canyon.

The Capilano is one of those streams which stands in a class by itself. Apart from its fishing possibilities, a few hours spent wandering in the forests along the shore of the creek, watching its turbulent waters as it rushes over a steep, rocky bed, with here and there a "Dipper" or a "Kingfisher" looking for a meal, or gazing into the clear blue water of some more placid pool with the chance of glimpsing some "speckled beauty," or climbing up to the top of the canyon and watching the blue water several hundred feet below you as it passes between the narrow, perpendicular walls, are hours indeed well spent.

Apart, however from its merits as a beauty spot, it also stands in a class by itself as a fishing stream. Owing to its close proximity to Vancouver it has been fished and fished, until you might think that fishing in it was a thing of the past. If you go there on a Saturday or Sunday any time after the winter is over, you are likely to find a man with a rod every few yards: some will be scientific fishermen casting a fly with considerable dexterity or spinning a minnow or prawn, others will be bait fishermen. Every yard of that stream that can be got at will be fished over and over and yet it is still a stream that good fishermen can be reasonably sure of catching fish, provided conditions are favourable.

For steelhead fishing there are few streams that have better runs of fish, but they have become educated and are not to be caught by everybody and even an expert must have the water in proper condition and a chance to fish without somebody else getting in his way. To demonstrate the possibilities of this stream, I may say that one man landed over sixty steelheads the season before last and more than half of them were caught in the Capilano and several other men had over twenty out of that stream.

To meet with success there is one thing you must do and that is fish when the water is right. This species of fish is nothing but a huge sea trout and he just comes into the rivers in runs. When they first enter a stream, they stay around the lower reaches for a time, gradually working up stream. As long as the water is high enough, an odd fish comes in right along, but a freshet brings in a number and the bigger the freshet the bigger the number. You will therefore see that you want to fish after a freshet. Immediately after a freshet, the lower reaches are the best; but as soon as the water gets down to its normal level, the chances are most of the fish have gone up, and then higher up, or in the Canyon, is the place you will find them.

For spinning, a prawn seems to take better than anything, though many fish are caught on brass Devons, two-inch being plenty big enough. When the water gets low and clear, a small, single Tacoma will often result in a strike when the bigger baits fail.

With regard to the time of year to fish. There is always a run of big fish following the first heavy rains after the beginning of the year. This is not the best run, though the heaviest fish are often taken. From then on every warm rain brings in a few fish but it is seldom before May, when the snow begins to melt in earnest and the water stays well up, that any continuous run of fish can be looked for. This run continues well on into June; but as soon as the snow is pretty well gone and the river goes down, the steelheads are done with for the year.

During the hot summer months, the water is generally too low, though an odd rainbow or cut-throat may occasionally be had; but most of the fish that can be caught at this time are too small to be worth keeping.

With the first rains in the fall the coho salmon start up the creek and they are usually accompanied by a good run of trout.

#### SEYMOUR CREEK

This is also within a short distance of Vancouver. It runs into the Harbour at the Second Narrows, some four miles to the east of the city, but like the Capilano, is also on the north shore.



To reach it you take the Ferry to North Vancouver and take the B. C. Electric to Lynn Valley. If you are going to fish the lower reaches, you get off at Keith Road and follow that road for two and a half miles. Below the bridge there is some excellent water. For the upper reaches you take the same car and keep on it until it reaches its terminus. From there a short walk through what is known as Scott's Ranch will take you to the river just close to the canyon to the second bridge. There is a fine piece of water right under the bridge and quite a lot more just a little higher up. Between the first and second bridges is a canyon. At the lower end of the Canyon is a splendid piece of water and there are one or two pools in the Canyon also that can be reached.

This creek is very similar in every respect to the Capilano, except that it is somewhat bigger; but cannot compare with the Capilano for beauty. It has rather more good water, but it is doubtful if it yields as many fish.

#### LYNN CREEK

This is a small creek just half way between North Vancouver and Seymour Creek. It yields a few nice fish sometimes, but it is seldom worth fishing.

#### HORSESHOE BAY

This is one of the best places for salmon within easy reach of Vancouver. It is situated just round in Howe Sound and is best reached by launch, a run of about twelve miles. You can also get there by going across on the ferry to North Vancouver and then it is three-quarters of an hour's run on the P. G. E. line to Whytecliffe Station which is less than ten minutes walk down a hill to the water. Allow twenty minutes for the walk back to the station.

There is a boat-house there, where boats can be hired at reasonable rates, and a small hotel, excellently run. The P.G.E. trains only run morning and evening in the winter, leaving North Vancouver at 9 a.m. and Whytecliffe at 6:30. (Times liable to alteration.)

The salmon in this bay run more or less all the year round though there are, of course, some months better than others. In December and January there is always a good run of small "Spring" fish, running from nine to twenty-five pounds. In March, while you may always get an odd fish, they are less plentiful, but come again in April and May, usually running a bit smaller in size. In June and July the grilse come in; they are very small, only going from one-half to a pound. Towards the latter end of June and all through July and part of August you get a run of big Springs and anybody who has not time to go to

Campbell River or Alberni Canal and wants the chance of a really big fish should try this place. Every year fish over forty pounds in weight are landed and probably much bigger ones hooked and lost as, so far, few people have gone there with suitable tackle.

The record catch was made by two anglers, Mr. Elderton and Mr. Forsythe, both of Vancouver. One day they were fishing together from the same boat and both hooked big fish at the same instant. There was great excitement for half an hour as time after time there were narrow escapes of fouling one another but eventually they both landed their fish, one weighed forty-seven pounds, the other thirty-eight pounds. That same week three springs over forty-five pounds were caught at Horseshoe Bay, one of forty-six pounds by Mr. Hamilton, of the firm who publish this book.

Mr. Forsythe, who was the first man to exploit this splendid water, has caught salmon of all weights, besides cod, whiting, etc., but not only that, he has twice had sport of a most unique kind. On two different occasions he hooked coho salmon and had them taken by seals. On one occasion the seal was not actually hooked but got the trace (which was strong piano wire) foul in its teeth and after considerable amount of play got away. On the second occasion the seal was well hooked and there was a regular battle royal for several hours. Time after time the seal would apparently give in and lie on the surface making a grunting row; but every time the boat got near him he would recover enough to make another dive. Once or twice the boat was manoeuvred almost close enough to hit him but eventually just as both Mr. Forsythe and the seal were equally exhausted the trace parted and the fight was at an end.

By the time the big salmon stop running cohoes make their appearance and when they are done the springs commence again.

Not only is this a good place for trolling, but at certain stages of the tide, it is excellent for spinning and should be for fly-fishing, too. I have only heard of the fly being tried once or twice and that was when there was a good run of cohoes. Several fish were taken.

For spinning, you want to get a high tide in the evening. The salmon then come close in to the beach, this applies to both springs and cohoes.

In this particular, bay fishing is not so much governed by the tide as in other places, as there is practically no current at any stage of the tide. During the day you may get fish at any time; but the best sport is nearly always in the evening just before dark. Early morning fishing is good but not equal to the evening.

## HOWE SOUND

Howe Sound is only a few miles from Vancouver. It is an inlet about twenty-five miles long, parts of which are very good for salmon fishing. The best water at present known is Horseshoe Bay (described), but there are other good places that we know of, and doubtless others the equal of Horseshoe Bay not yet discovered.

There is an hotel at Bowen Island and another at Gibson's Landing, from each of which some fishing can be had, but to get the best sport a launch is needed.

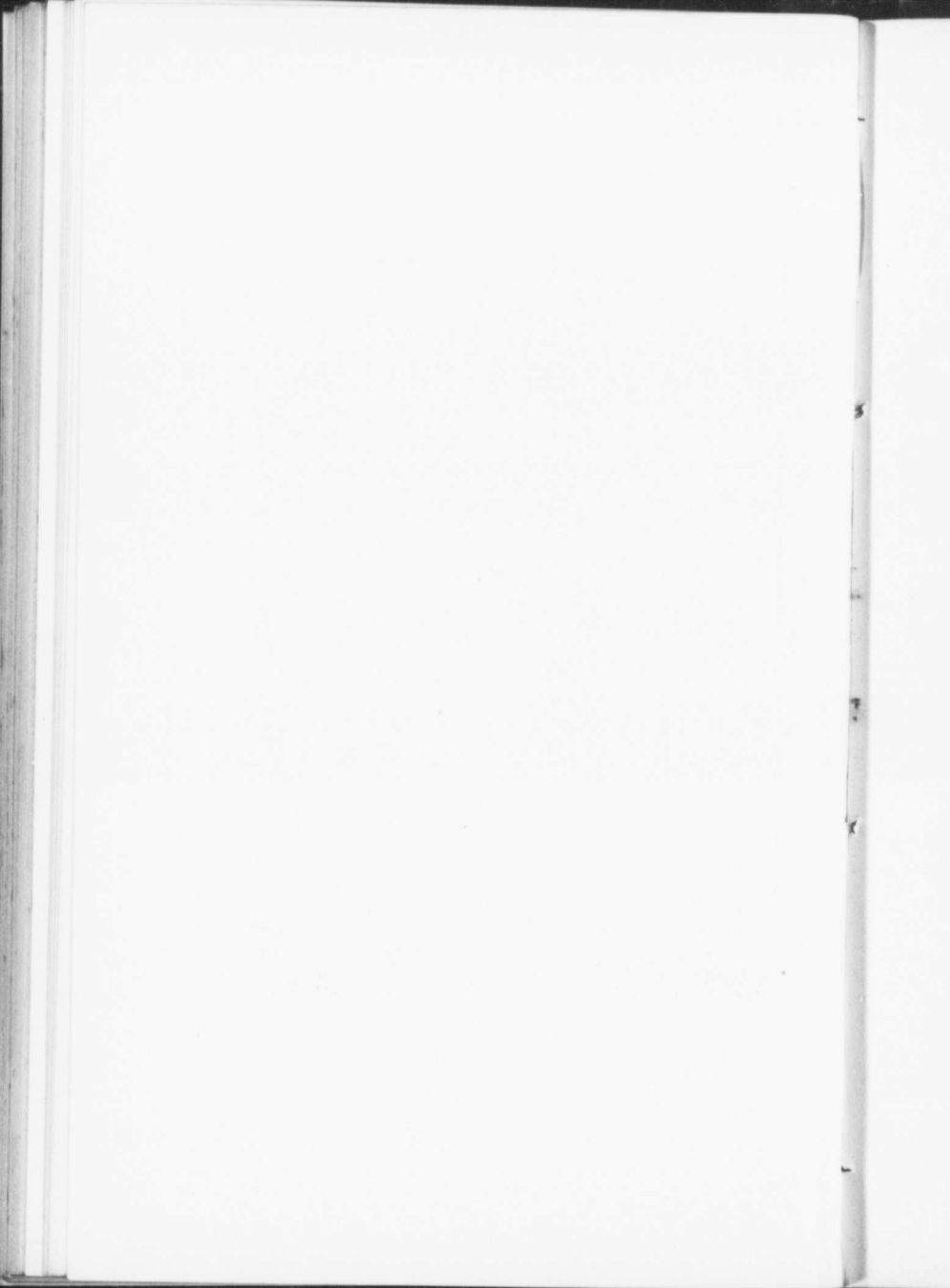
When the cohoes are running they can be caught about anywhere, though probably the best water is off the little group of islands near Keats' Island.

For spring salmon there is good water close to Gibson's Landing, the south ends of Gambier and Anvil Islands and sometimes right at the mouth of the Squamish.





Blue Grouse Landing on Cowichan Lake. (See page 68).



## CHAPTER XX.

## THE LOWER MAINLAND COAST

MOST OF THE PLACES MENTIONED IN THIS CHAPTER MAY BE REACHED BY THE SERVICE OF THE UNION STEAMSHIP CO., LTD., VANCOUVER.

## PENDER HARBOUR

PENDER HARBOUR is situated fifty-five miles up the coast. There is a hotel of the rough and ready kind. Steamers call nearly every day. The Union Steamship Company's boats call regularly every two or three days.

This is quite a good centre for all-round fishing. Salmon of some kind or the other can be caught pretty well all the year round.

For trout fishing the stream at the head of the inlet will often afford some good sport at its mouth, and even out in the salt water. This fishing is at its best in the early spring months. There are also several lakes in the vicinity, the best of which is Saginaw Lake. This lake is some five miles long and has trout in it up to five pounds in weight. Most of the fish are caught by trolling, but there are several parts of the lake where, if you watch carefully, you will see fish rise and you can then use the fly.

A good way to fish this lake is to have out your trolling rod with your fly rod ready, and troll along the lake (keeping as close to shore as you can) and try the fly here and there off any rocky point where there is a bit of a shallow, also in some of the bays where there is a clump of trees lying in the water. If you only have the luck to be there when there is a hatch of flying ants you will get great sport with a black gnat, at other times a red-bodied fly takes best, though I once saw a man fill his basket with a number of two-pound fish and one of three pounds on a Teal and Green.

If you want to fish this lake it is safest to take your own boat with you, as though there are one or two boats to be had you cannot rely on them. It is quite easy to get it into the lake from salt water, just a fifty-yard portage takes you into a little stream which runs out of the lake.

This lake is a most charming place for a few days outing, but if you want to catch fish, you must be there before the end of June, as after that time it is no good at all.

For Pender Harbour streams the best flies are *Parmachene Belle*, *Coachman*, *Montreal* and the *Teals*.

#### SECHELT

This place is some thirty-five miles from Vancouver and is reached by Union Steamship Company boats, which call there every few days.

There is quite a good-sized hotel, with very fair accommodation.

The principal fishing is for salmon. Springs run there all winter, grilse in July and cohoes in August.

There is a small stream within half-an-hour's walk of the hotel in which there are quantities of small trout which can be taken on the fly.

You can also walk half a mile across to Porpoise Bay and hire a launch to take you up to Clowholm River or Narrows Arm, both of which streams are mentioned under Jervis Inlet.

#### NELSON ISLAND

There is a fine big lake on this island, stretching almost from one side to the other. The trout, which are both rainbows and cut-throats, can be caught by trolling or with the fly.

The best months are April, May, and until the middle of June. After that it is not much good until fall.

There is no accommodation nearer than Pender Harbour.

It is almost impossible to give proper directions where to leave your boat to go up to the lake, but you can go in from either side of the island and any settler will point out the place where the trail begins.

#### SAGINAW LAKE

(See Pender Harbour.)

#### JERVIS INLET

This inlet is one of the most important waters for fishing within easy access of Vancouver. Apart, however, from the hotel at Pender Harbour, there is no accommodation to be had, and it cannot be satisfactorily fished except from a launch.

It is good for salmon fishing both winter, spring and fall. In the winter the best fishing is just at the mouth of Agamemnon Channel, later on at Skookum Chuck, where there are often some big runs of spring salmon, and in May and June, right up at the head.

Including the stream on Narrows Arm and the Clowholm on Salmon Arm, there are six streams which will furnish excellent sport for both the fly fishing and spinning.

#### AGAMEMNON CHANNEL

This is really the commencement of Jervis Inlet. It is a little over a mile from Pender Harbour Hotel. Just inside the channel is a little bay with a small stream running in. This bay will afford anchorage for two fair-sized launches. The stream is only a quarter of a mile from Saginaw Lake.

Right out in the bay all the way round to Pender Harbour is a good spring salmon water. In May the 'bluebacks' (grilse) come in, often in large numbers.

#### SKOOKUM CHUCK

This is a few miles up Sechelt Inlet. It can be reached from Sechelt Hotel by crossing over to Porpoise Bay; then by launch some fifteen miles.

Salmon can be caught there the greater part of the year, May and June being best for springs. There are very bad rapids there, the tide going through a narrow passage at over ten knots. Launches should be careful as, though the rapids are very short, there are some bad whirlpools which would prove fatal to a small boat.

#### NARROWS ARM STREAM

Narrows Arm is a branch of Sechelt Inlet about eight miles long. At its head is one of the best streams on the Inlet, as, while it is affected by freshets, it is not to the same extent the streams on the main Inlet are. It is about twenty-five miles from Sechelt Hotel. Best months for fly fishing are April, May, July and August.

Flies the same as for Pender Harbour.

#### CLOWHOLM RIVER AND LAKE

The Clowholm River runs into the head of Salmon Arm, which is a branch of Sechelt Inlet, at about sixteen miles from Sechelt. The river itself is only about a mile long to the falls where it comes out of the lake. This stream has the advantage of always being clear and can be fished at any time. The best months for fly fishing are July and August.

The lake is a big, deep lake with some very fine trout in it, which are mostly caught by trolling.



## VANCOUVER BAY STREAM

This stream is about seven miles up from where you first enter the main Jervis Inlet channel. It is affected by freshets in May and June, but by July is generally in shape for fly fishing. During that month and August it is often extremely good, the fish running to large size. After the salmon once begin to run this stream, like all others, is more or less spoilt for the fly, but big catches can then be made by spinning.

## BRITTAIN RIVER

This stream is a few miles above Vancouver Bay on the opposite side of the Inlet. It is much the same as the others. July and August are the best months.

## DESERTED BAY

This bay, which is about fourteen miles from the head of the Inlet, also has a good stream, very much like all the others.

## THE SQUAKA

This is the biggest stream of them all, it runs in at the head and is most affected by freshets, and is seldom in good condition until the middle of July.

All the streams on Jervis Inlet have runs of steelheads in winter and spring months, with numbers of dolly vardens, the latter also running well in the fall. For spinning, the Squaka is the best of them all. It is comparatively slow running and a good canoe man can pole a canoe up some miles.

## GORDON PASHA LAKES

There are three of these lakes close together. They are situated close to the mouth of Jervis Inlet. There is no accommodation at the lakes; camping out is necessary. To get there you take the Union Steamship Company's boats to Gordon Pasha, where there is a big logging camp. This camp has a railway running back to the lakes and a little civility will result in your outfit being transported in for you.

The first lake is not much good; you should fish the second and third lakes and the streams between them. The fish are principally cut-throats with some rainbows. They run to very large size, two or three-pound fish being quite common. They take the fly freely, especially in the river, and in the lakes close to it, connecting the two lakes.

For flies the usual red-bodied fly, either Montreal or Grouse and Claret is generally the best, but always give the March Brown a trial and the Black Gnat or Zulu when the winged ants are about.

These lakes are at their best in May and June up to the middle of July, but then the water gets too hot.

#### BUTTE INLET

At the head of this inlet are two rivers, the South Gate and Homalko, the last named being quite a size. They are only fishable in early spring and late fall, when excellent sport can be had by spinning.

#### TOBA INLET

This inlet has a large stream coming in at the head which, like all the others, is only fishable in spring and fall.

At Salmon Bay quite a nice little stream runs in, which is not so much affected by the freshets. Some good fish can be taken at the mouth.

About a mile up stream there are falls and below the falls is a splendid pool.

#### POWELL AND GOAT LAKES

These two lakes are joined together by a short river less than a mile in length. Powell Lake is about eighteen miles long, Goat Lake about six. The best fishing is in Goat Lake.

This is a splendid place for people in Vancouver who want a week or ten days' holiday. You can leave at night on one of the Union Steamship Company's boats and arrive at Powell River, which is the headquarters of a big pulp company and has a population of 2000 or 3000, about eight o'clock the next morning. A short walk will take you to the lake where, on a gasoline launch, you will soon arrive at Goat Lake Lodge, which is on the river half way between the two lakes. At the lodge there is accommodation for about twenty people. The lodge is owned by G. T. Ogburn, who also has two or three furnished cabins on Goat Lake, which can be rented by the day. There are ten boats and a gasoline launch for hire.

With regard to the fishing, there are rainbows and cut-throats, but, curiously for a mainland lake, no dolly vardens, but as there are plenty of the other kinds, it is just as well. On the fly they can be caught from one to four pounds, by trolling up to eight or nine pounds. You can catch fish from the time the season opens until it ends, but the best months for fly fishing are May and June; for trolling, August until the end of the season.



For flies use the usual red-bodied flies, as well as the Brown and Grey Hackles, all three Coachmen and the Professor.

#### LUND

There is quite a fair-sized hotel here, where fair accommodation may be had. From this point some good salmon fishing may be had more or less all the year round.

#### PHILLIPS ARM

This is a little, short inlet situated between Butte and Loughborough Inlets. There is no accommodation and a launch is necessary.

This is about the best place for trout on the whole coast if you only have the luck to get there when there is a run. May and June and September to October are the best months, but you are liable to get good sport there any month.

At the head of the Inlet a good-sized stream runs in, with some lovely looking pools a short distance up, which can be reached by canoe. The best fishing is, however, at low tide, some distance out on the beach where there is a high gravel bar from which you can cast.

You can catch rainbow and cut-throats with a fly, and big fish, too, and dolly vardens with a spinner. The best flies for this water are the Parmachene Belle, all the Teals, March Brown and Coachman. In the fall Joek Scott and Silver Doctor.

#### FREDERICK ARM

This is only a mile long. A launch is needed. At the mouth of the small stream, near the head, there are often nice trout to be caught on the fly.

#### EUCLATOR RAPIDS

These are very dangerous rapids for small boats or launches and on no account attempt to run them except at slack water.

It is one of the best places on the lower coast for spring salmon fishing, though the fish are generally white fleshed.

#### KNIGHTS INLET

This inlet is about forty miles in length and very narrow. There is no accommodation, and a launch is necessary. It is principally noted for the magnificent cohoes which are taken near the head in the fall. It is claimed that they are larger in size and more delicate in flavour than any other run of

cohoes. For spring salmon it is also good during winter and spring from the mouth away up to within fifteen miles of the head. During May and early June there is nearly always another good run.

Close to Pt. Harvey before you get into the inlet itself is also good water.

Fifteen miles from the head of the inlet, on the left side going up is Hunwady Creek. It is very swift at the mouth, but a quarter of a mile up is slow enough for a canoe to travel easily. In the spring months, March and April, and even part of May, there is a fine run of steelheads and dolly vardens. All summer it is affected by freshets, but in the fall is alive with trout of all kinds.

Ten miles further up on the same side is the Wah-sil-ah Creek, and at the head there are two streams, the Tsakwate and the main river, the Klene-Klene. The last named is quite a big stream, up which expert canoe men can pole a canoe some miles. All the streams are very similar to the Hunwady as far as fishing is concerned. They are also similar in being favourite bear-hunting grounds and anybody who has an aversion to meeting a grizzly had better keep away. There is a good story connected with fishing on the Klene-Klene. Some years ago a well-known English fisherman used to go to New Zealand every year for fishing. On his way home he would come by way of Canada, stop off at Vancouver and go into the Lillooet for a bear hunt. He wanted a big grizzly, and nothing else would suit him. Now it happened that he was well on in years and was not up to the rough work so essential to success in grizzly hunting (though when a young man I should judge he would have been capable of carrying a good big man and his pack, too), and he could not get that grizzly. He came here for four years in succession and finally gave it up in disgust. The fifth year he stopped off he decided just to fish, and after cruising about the coast for a time found himself one day a mile or two up the Klene-Klene fishing for trout. The captain of the launch was with him and had a shotgun. As they were walking up the trail (after four years' hunting without success for a grizzly and armed with the best rifle money could buy) he suddenly met the very animal he was looking for, with nothing but a fishing rod. The captain promptly decided that a shotgun was out of place and immediately started to beat the 100-yard record. Whereupon the grizzly came along on the run. Things looked pretty bad, as there was no handy tree to climb, so the fisherman followed the captain's example, but had not gone ten feet when he caught his toe in a root and came down with a smash. By this time you will probably have already got a picture in your mind of that fisherman coming down and the grizzly picking him up in his arms and

hugging him to death (bears do not do this sort of thing), and perhaps eating him afterwards; he told me some vision of this sort flashed through his mind. Well, nothing of the sort happened, nor was there the welcome crack of a rifle and the death of the bear at the hands of some unexpected rescuer! The story has a very tame ending instead. The bear came almost up to him, pulled up suddenly, gave a "woof" and plunged off sideways into the woods as hard as he could go.

Now, while this is a book on fish and not "bears" (I hope to talk about bears in my next book), it may ease the mind of some nervous fisherman if I say that this is the way of bears, and all the bloodcurdling stories of chases by bears have come about in much the same way. A person meets a bear and stops dead in his tracks, the bear hears him and is scared, but as he has not located him owing to poor eyesight and the person standing still and not having got his wind, he starts to run in the direction he is pointed. As soon as he gets close enough he either sees plainly or gets a scent of the human body and then turns away and goes as hard as he can.



## CHAPTER XXI.

## ALONG THE LINE OF THE C. P. R.

THE main line of the C.P.R. from the time it leaves Vancouver until after it leaves Sicamous behind, passes a succession of places where the finest fishing can be obtained, some of the waters being close to the railway, others within a short distance. In fact, there is hardly a station between the two points above mentioned where sport of some kind cannot be obtained. The C.P.R. also has a great advantage over the other line of the Province as, being an older line, there are many more places where good accommodation can be obtained.

In addition to the main line, the branch lines are almost as good. The line from Spence's Bridge to Nicola, following the Nicola River which will often yield some fine trout, passes into a country which is a mass of streams and lakes which can nearly all be reached by motor car and have the finest kind of speckled beauties waiting to be caught.

From Sicamous to Vernon, little fishing can be obtained in close proximity to the line, but it is only a short distance to Okanagan Lake, where the landlocked steelheads are caught up to fifteen pounds in weight. From Penticton, at the foot of the lake, the line again passes through a good fishing country to Nelson, from which point some of the most famous waters of the Kootenay may be reached. Along the Crow's Nest line you have the Goat River and the Elk River.

Along the Columbia Western, which runs from Golden to Cranbrook, there is a succession of fine lakes, while the St. Mary's River, which runs into the Kootenay near Fort Steele, is pretty hard to beat.

## THE COQUITLAM

This stream runs from Coquitlam Lake for seven or eight miles to where it empties into the Fraser River. It can be reached by the C. P. R., getting off at Westminster Junction, fourteen miles from Vancouver. From this point it is only a few minutes' walk to the stream. Or it can be reached by auto from Vancouver via Westminster, a drive of about fifteen miles to the first good water.

It is still quite a good stream for steelheads in the spring, when a few dolly vardens may also be taken, and for rainbow and cut-throats in the fall.

Unless there have been freshets caused by melting snow or heavy rain it is seldom much good, as the lake has been dammed up for storage purposes and only the overflow water is allowed down the stream.

#### PITT RIVER AND LAKE

Pitt River is a big tidal river, two and a half miles from Westminster Junction. It is frequently quite muddy and unfishable, but in spring and fall months it is possible to make big catches of dolly vardens either by spinning or with bait, close to where the bridge crosses. The best water is off a row of piles just below the bridge. Boats are needed and they are by no means easy to get, though there are one or two which can be hired close to the bridge.

Pitt Lake is about five miles up the river. To fish it you need a launch as there is no accommodation to be had. Most of the fish, principally dolly vardens, are taken by trolling off the rocky points.

#### THE LITTLE LILLOOET

This stream runs from the Little Lillooet Lake for ten or twelve miles and empties into Pitt River a few miles from its mouth. The lower reaches are affected by the tide, where the fishing is principally confined to trolling; some good rainbows and cut-throats can be taken in this manner, the best months being September and October, when an occasional coho will be hooked.

When you get a mile or two above the tidal water you reach a splendid stream with a number of fine pools and reaches, of which the most famous are Davidson's, Hinge's and the Mill Pool. From these pools alone numbers of splendid steelheads are taken every spring with an occasional dolly varden. In the fall months there is always a good run of rainbows and cut-throats.

To reach this stream, Haney on the C. P. R. is the best station for steelhead water. For fall fishing Hammond is probably a bit better. From both stations it is about three and a half miles' walk to the river. The best way to fish is by motor car from Vancouver, about an hour and three-quarters' run on a good road.

The Lillooet River has the great advantage of running out of a lake, and consequently the water is always clear.

For steelhead fishing you must have the river fairly high. If you go there, try and hit it off after a week's rain, allowing a day or two for the lake to empty a bit of water, but still have enough to keep the river full. Under such conditions you should be able to hook steelheads in almost every reach, at any time from the end of January to the middle of April.



For fly fishing the fall months are the best. The best flies are Teal and Silver, Dusty Miller, March Brown, Grey Hackle, Red Hackle, Royal Coachman, Queen of the Waters.

#### KANAKA CREEK

This is a small slow-running stream and is reached from Port Haney, about a mile's walk. The principal fish are medium-sized dolly vardens with a few rainbows and cut-throats. Most of the fish are caught by using a small spinner, sometimes with a worm or fly in addition.

#### THE LITTLE LILLOOET LAKE

This lake is several miles long and is connected with a smaller lake by a short river.

There is no accommodation at the lake but there are splendid camping sites and a big log cabin with a big fireplace in it which can be used.

To reach the lake you go from Haney on the C. P. R. to the Lillooet River on the wagon road, you then have about ten or twelve miles of a trail up which pack horses can be taken.

There is one boat on the lake owned by a trapper, but failing to get that, a raft would have to be built.

There are all sorts of fish in the lake, great big dolly vardens which can be taken by spinning or trolling, as well as good fly fishing for big rainbows and cut-throats.

This is a good place for a week's camping out. Horses can be procured at Haney. For flies use the red-bodied, such as Montreal, Grouse and Claret, Teal and Red; also March Brown and Black Gnat.

#### THE BIG LILLOOET

This is the river that runs through Pemberton Meadows, through Douglas Lake into Harrison Lake.

Except in early spring and late fall, it is too muddy to fish. Some good dolly vardens can be caught by spinning whenever fishing is possible.

#### THE HATZIC

This is a small, slow-running stream opening out into a small lake just above the railway. It is reached by getting off at Dewdney, or by car from Mission Junction, where there is hotel accommodation. It is about one and a half miles from the former and five miles from the latter.

The fish are almost entirely cut-throats with a few rainbows. There is a small run in the spring during April and May, but after that the water is too high until fall, when there

is a better run. Most fishing is done by bait and spinner, but they will take the fly well sometimes in the upper reaches.

### NICOMEN SLOUGH

This water is a few minutes' walk from Dewdney Station. There is no hotel nearer than Mission Junction, though some of the farmers will put people up.

It is really nothing but a branch of the Fraser, but in the early spring and late fall has excellent fishing for dolly varden and other trout for anyone who cares for spinning or trolling.

### SUICIDE CREEK

A walk of two and a half miles from Dewdney will take you to this creek. It is comparatively small, except down towards the mouth, where there are some good-sized pools.

A few steelheads may be taken in the spring in the lower pools, but the best fishing is in the canyon above the bridge in August, when some good-sized trout can be taken on the fly.

Use small flies, amongst which the best are the March Brown, Black Gnat, Coachman and Red Quill Gnat.

### THE STAVE RIVER

This river is crossed by the C. P. R. just where it runs into the Fraser. The station of Ruskin, where there is a boarding house, is right at the bridge, about one and a half hours from Vancouver. It can also be reached by motor car from Vancouver, the road being quite good.

This is quite a good-sized river. It runs from Stave Lake about twelve miles up stream.

For a mile up from the mouth the water is slightly tidal and the fishing is principally confined to trolling and bait fishing. By the latter method very good baskets are to be had, by those who care about taking them in this way, right where it joins the Fraser. By trolling in May an occasional spring salmon may be hooked.

After you get out of the tidal water, you reach one or two splendid pieces of water. Then you must walk over the canyon, through which the river passes. After that you will find more good water at intervals up to the falls, some six miles. Above the falls the fish are small until you reach the lake.

The Stave River has the great advantage of always being clear. It is one of the finest steelhead rivers in the Province for the man who has grit enough to fish in cold weather. To get the best steelheads you should fish in January and February; they run in March also, but only in limited numbers and many you catch would be out of condition.

It is a good river to fish for steelheads with a fly. Use one either a Grouse and Claret or Jock Scott.

In July and August some good fly fishing can often be had. The best flies are Tippet and Yellow, Tippet and Green, Royal Coachman, Teal and Green, Cow Dung, and Blue Doctor; sometimes also the Stone Fly.

#### STAVE LAKE

This is a big lake some ten miles long and from one to two wide. It is best reached by auto from Mission Junction, a drive of over fifteen miles on a poor road. It can also be reached from Ruskin by trail.

There is no accommodation on the lake. It is an ideal place for a week's camping. The fishing is principally confined to trolling, but there are a number of creeks emptying into the lake where big rainbows can be taken on the fly. The best of these creeks is the one that runs in near the outlet. May is the best month for this creek.

There are also several smaller lakes which can be easily reached by trail, some of them are full of trout from a half to three-quarter pounds which will take the fly readily.

The best flies are the Montreal, Grouse and Claret, March Brown and all the Teals.

#### HARRISON MILLS

A little over two hours' run from Vancouver on the C. P. R. will take you to this station, where there is a boarding house at which some sort of accommodation can be had.

The Harrison River passes close to the station and empties into the Fraser about a mile below. It is a big river with a small amount of current. Some fair fishing for trout can be had here in early spring or fall, the summer months are no good on account of the freshets.

It is an excellent place for fly fishing for salmon in October, or for trolling. All the fishing has to be done from boat or canoe, the latter being easy to get as a number of Indians live close by. The best water is about half a mile down stream off a rocky point on the west bank.

#### CHEEHALIS CREEK

This creek, which is of fair size, runs for about ten miles from Cheehalis Lake into Harrison River. It can be reached by taking an Indian with a canoe and going several miles up the Harrison or by going down the Harrison from the Harrison Lake Hotel (mentioned later on) by launch or boat. There is no accommodation at the creek, unless at some settlers. On

the lower reaches quite good fly fishing can be had in April and the early part of May, the fish running to good size, but after that the freshets spoil it until the later part of July. In the fall there is a run of trout of all kinds as well as spring salmon in July and cohoes later on. A trail follows the creek up to the lake but after the first mile or two there is not much good water that can be reached, until well up towards the lake, where once again some excellent fishing can be obtained. Spring salmon have been frequently hooked on a small spinner by men fishing for trout and some big fish could be landed if proper spinning tackle were used. I have never heard of anybody trying them with a fly, but it would be well worth while.

#### CHEEHALIS LAKE

The lake is some five or six miles long and, except by a few prospectors and timber cruisers, etc., has hardly been fished. It is said to be alive with all kinds of trout of splendid size and that rainbows of three and four pounds weight will take the fly. All fishing is done from rafts, which with the plentiful supply of cedar close to the lake, are easy to make.

It should be a splendid place for anybody who wants a week or so of camping combined with bathing, fishing and beautiful scenery.

To get there the only way is from Harrison Mills, where pack horses can be obtained and taken over to the trail on a scow. They would be sent back and again brought up to meet you when you wanted to return. The scow goes over two or three times a week. Enquire through the postmaster at Harrison Mills.

For those who care to tackle the trip with a pack on their backs the greater part of a day must be allowed to reach the lake.

#### HARRISON LAKE

Harrison Lake is over thirty miles long, varying in width from one to five or six miles. Close to the outlet is the Harrison Lake Hotel, where there are hot springs and a bath house. The hotel has accommodation for a good number, but in summer is often crowded. Launches and boats can be obtained there.

The best fishing is where a stream runs into the lake, of which there are several in close proximity to the hotel and can be reached in a row boat, others such as Silver Creek are too far away and a launch is necessary.

Some excellent fly fishing can be had more or less all summer, but the best times are April and May and then again in the fall.

To reach the lake you get off at Agassiz on the C. P. R., where the hotel always has motor cars to meet the trains. The drive is only five miles.

#### YALE

Yale is on the main line of the C. P. R. about one hundred miles from Vancouver. It is situated on the Fraser River at the head of navigation for river steamers from the coast. It is famous as being the scene of a fight between miners and Indians in the first gold excitement, and later on as a C. P. R. construction camp. Thousands of dollars' worth of gold have been taken out of the river banks here and even today gold is still being taken.

There is a small hotel.

For fishing it is only worthy of note as a place where you can catch spring salmon by spinning in July and August. There are several pieces of water where the "springs" take a rest before tackling the Yale Canyon. When this run of salmon is on you can, by using a one and one-half inch Victoria spoon or large Devon minnow, hook salmon of almost any weight, and this in spite of the fact that the water is so coloured as to appear unfishable.

What is the record weight caught is hard to say, but as few people except locals with very primitive tackle ever indulge in this sport, it is not likely to be great, as anything but a small fish would break away.

#### NORTH BEND

Situated on the C. P. R. about 120 miles from Vancouver. There is an excellent hotel here situated in beautiful gardens. It has a splendid climate, being just on the edge of the dry belt.

From this point some lakes can be reached either by horseback or on foot, but they are too far from the hotel to get much fishing and return the same day. Arrangements should be made to camp.

The fish, which are rainbows, are said to run to large size, four and five pounds in weight. So far the lakes have been little fished except by Indians; whether they will take a fly or not has not been ascertained; spinning from a raft being the usual method. June, July and August are the best months.

#### THE NICOLA RIVER

This stream runs from Nicola Lake into the Fraser at Spences Bridge. There are hotels at Nicola, Merritt and Spences Bridge.



#### ALTA LAKE

A glimpse of this beautiful lake, as seen from one of the streams which feed it. (See page 87).

Fish Lake,  
near Kamloops.  
(See page 113).



Paul Lake,  
near  
Kamloops.  
(See page  
116).



There is fair fly fishing all along this stream, most of the fish taken being of good size.

#### NICOLA LAKE

The lake is within easy reach of Nicola. It is quite a big lake and fish of various sorts and sizes can be taken by trolling, with bait and also the fly. There are both boats and launches on the lake.

#### MAMMETTE LAKE

As far as the fishing is concerned this lake is just the same as Fish Lake.

It is about twenty-five miles from Merritt on the wagon road between that place and Savonas. The only accommodation is with a settler.

#### DOUGLAS, CHAPPERON, PIKE AND FISH LAKE (NICOLA)

These lakes are all close together, about thirty miles from Nicola, where the nearest accommodation is. A good road fit for automobiles passes close to Douglas Lake. This lake is the largest of them all, being several miles in length. Chapperon Lake is the smallest, being only thirty or forty acres in extent. This lake is probably the best of them all for the fly fisherman, but it is on the property of the Douglas Lake Cattle Company and permission to fish it should be first obtained.

Fish Lake, about one and a half miles long, is quite a different lake to the one of the same name described separately near Kamloops.

The trout in these lakes run to large size, fish over six pounds having been caught on the fly.

The Silver Doctor fished very deep is often very killing in September, which is probably the best month to fish them. From June on until September use the same flies as for Fish Lake in Kamloops.

#### THE THOMPSON

The best part of this river is the twenty miles between Spences Bridge and Savonas. The Canadian Northern runs on the north side of the river and the C. P. R. on the south. Wallachene, midway between the two above mentioned places, is probably the best place to go to as there is quite a comfortable hotel and you can fish both up and down. There is also an hotel at Savonas, which is situated at lower end of Kamloops Lake, and some of the best pools can be reached from this point. The



lake is most beautiful and bathing and boating are additional attractions. Occasionally very big trout can be caught in the lake by trolling.

The Thompson is one of the best streams for a good fly fisherman who wants quality rather than quantity, as the fish run to a large size, are magnificent fighting fish, moreover they are aided by a swift current.

A good powerful eleven or twelve-foot rod, or even a fourteen-foot double handed rod should be used and the reel should have plenty of line as it is quite a big river.

The best time to fish the river is as soon as the river clears after the freshets, generally towards the end of June when the Stone Fly, March Brown, Tippet and Yellow, Tippet and Green and Hardy's Favourite will be the best flies. September is also a good month and as a general thing the pleasantest time as the heat, which is often considerable in July and August, begins to moderate. During this month try the Jock Scott, Silver Doctor and Zulu.

#### KAMLOOPS LAKE

This is a beautiful sheet of water nearly twenty miles long, with the C. P. R. running on one side and the Canadian Northern on the other. The head of the lake is about seven or eight miles below Kamloops and can be reached by car. The foot of the lake is at Savona, where there is a hotel.

There are some very large trout in the lake, which can be caught by trolling in a similar manner to that practised for steelheads (see article) and fair-sized fish may be caught by ordinary trolling.

Fly fishing is uncertain, though it is well worth trying, especially along the eddy at the head of the lake near the Tranquille Sanatorium. This is also one of the best spots for ordinary trolling.

The lake is usually unfishable during the summer freshets but generally clears about July, though the best fishing is later on.

#### FISH LAKE

This lake is twenty-two miles south of Kamloops at an altitude of about 3000 feet. It is the mecca of the fly fishermen and with the advantage of its high altitude and delightful climate is also an excellent place as a health resort. There is quite a comfortable little hotel with a very limited number of rooms necessitating some visitors sleeping in tents during busy times. Accommodation should always be arranged for beforehand, which can be done by addressing a letter or telegram to Mr. Cowan, Fish Lake, via Kamloops. In Kamloops

arrangements could be made for telegrams to be telephoned out.

To get to the lake you can engage a motor at Kamloops, sometimes Mr. Cowan can arrange to meet you and drive out with his team. The road is quite good and a motor will take you out there in one and a half hours; but if you are not pressed for time and wish to thoroughly enjoy the beauties of the road, first away up over the bunch grass hills where the cattle range and later through the jack pine forest, the home of the mule deer and blue grouse, I'd advise the trip at least one way with horses.

The fish to be caught are principally the rainbow variety, with an occasional cut-throat. Their size varies from any weight up to three and a half pounds, the record being somewhere about five pounds. As a general thing, when fish are taking well, you can put back anything that is not well over one pound and still get your limit of twenty fish in a day, i.e., if you are anything of a fisherman and take the trouble to find out what sort of fly the best fish are taking. The Montreal is the most commonly used fly and with it you can be fairly certain of fish of a certain size, but for big fish it is by no means certain. The March Brown (male) is one of the best, though the best fish I have ever seen taken out of the lake were caught on a Bumble Bee, whether it is often a good taker is doubtful. Sometimes a medium-sized Jock Scott will do good work, at others nothing but the tiniest of black gnats will tempt the heavy fish. Other flies that sometimes take well are the Blue and Silver Doctor, Teal and Red and Black Hackle.

There are two lakes connected by a short stream, the biggest in which the best fishing is, is about one and a half to two miles long. It is of moderate depth, with shallows more or less all along the edge. As a rule the best water is on the edge of a shallow, though sometimes the fish lie in the shallow water on the edge of the reeds.

For lake fish they are unequalled as sporting fish, making jump after jump and dashing wildly in different directions so that at times a slack line is unavoidable, and with numbers of other fish rising in close proximity to your boat, as often happens, you sometimes get confused as to the whereabouts of your fish.

Most years the fish are not in condition to catch until well on in June. July is the most certain month. In August the water gets too hot but by September there is generally cool weather and good fishing again the whole of that month.

In fishing these lakes the early morning and evening are seldom any good, the best fishing often is during the middle of the day. When there is a hatch of black gnats it generally starts about 11 o'clock. It is a splendid place for lazy men and not to be beaten for a novice to learn to catch fish.

## PAUL LAKE

This lake is eight or ten miles out from Kamloops with a good road for a car most of the way.

The water is very deep, nevertheless the fish rise to the fly well. They are not nearly so plentiful as in Fish Lake but they run much larger in size, three and four pound fish are commonly taken on the fly and bigger ones still by trolling.

There is a special season on this lake, the opening day being May 15th, and from then on until the end of June the fishing is at its best though it is always good again in September.

There is no accommodation nearer than Kamloops.  
Flies the same as for Fish Lake.

## PIN-AN-TAN LAKE

This is about sixteen miles from Kamloops with a good road for a car. Until lately there was no accommodation at the lake worth having, but a rancher is now making preparations to cater for fishermen.

This lake has some enormous trout in it, fish up to twelve and fourteen pounds having been taken by trolling. With a fly, fish of four or five pounds are often caught. They are steelheads pure and simple as, until a few years ago, there were no fish in it at all and it was stocked with this species.

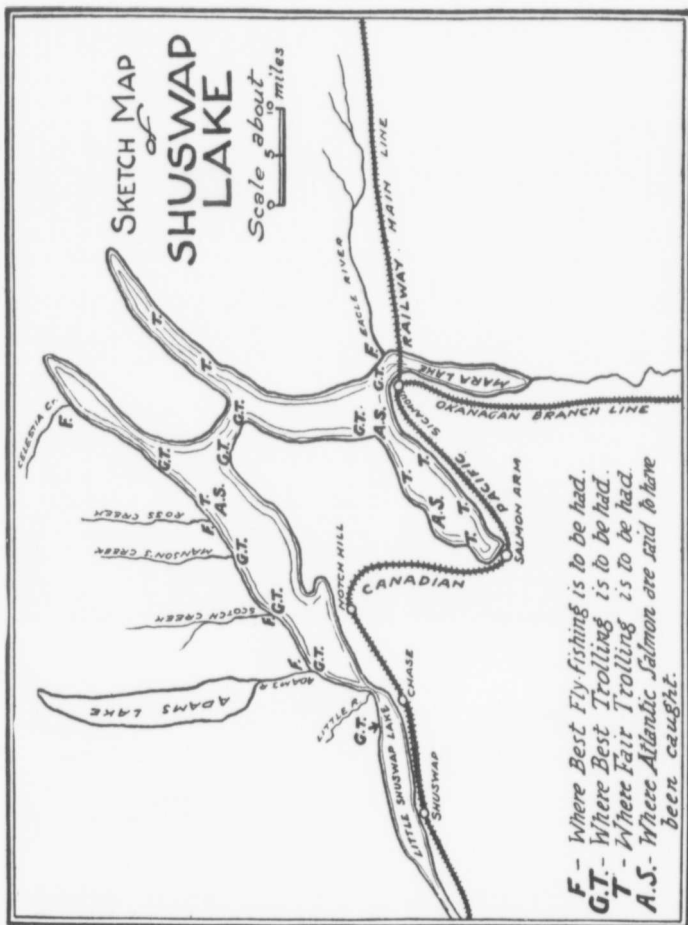
The fishing here generally commences early, about Easter being the usual time. By the beginning of July it is over until after a few cool nights in September when probably the lake is at its best.

Flies the same as for Fish Lake.

## SHUSWAP LAKE

This is one of the big lakes of the interior, or rather two lakes, each about sixty miles long, joined together by a short arm. The C. P. R. touches the lake at Notch Hill, then cuts across to Salmon Arm and from there follows the shore of the lake to Sicamous Junction. At both of these two places boats and launches can be hired.

For general all-round trout fishing there is no other lake in the interior that is so easy of access that can beat it. Trolling is best in April, May and June. In July and August the fish can still be caught but they go deep and heavy leads have to be used. By this method of fishing you can catch steelheads from five to ten pounds (one was caught last year weighing twenty-four and a half pounds). Great Lake trout of twenty pounds are common and in addition it is now claimed that Atlantic salmon, with which the lake was stocked a few years ago, are now being caught, their weight averaging about eight



pounds, the biggest caught last year being twenty-two pounds. Whether these fish have been positively identified has not yet been ascertained.

For trolling a great variety of baits are used. What will kill well one week may be no good at all another, but advice on this point can always be secured locally and if you have not got the particular kind used you can purchase it there. Among the baits recommended are Hendrick's all copper, Victoria silver and copper, the Siwash No. 4 nickel and copper, No. 4 Kewall, Stewart No. 4 Luminous and Hardy's Kidney, as well as the natural minnow or spratt put up on an Archer spinner.

Fly fishing is at its best in June and some wonderful sport is generally to be had. The average weight of the fish would be somewhere about two pounds, but fish of five or six pounds are more or less common. The present record for the fly stands at eight pounds, two fish of this weight were caught by the same man in succession.

The best fly fishing is at the mouths of the various creeks flowing into the lake, such as Adams and Eagle River, Ross, Scotch and Celestia Creeks. Eagle River is only a short row from Sicamous and is one of the best both for trolling and the fly.

Among the flies used the following may be mentioned: Royal Coachman, March Brown, Silver Doctor, Jock Scott, Zulu, Butcher, Montreal, Brown Hackle and Professor.

This lake is an ideal spot for a week or so camping out, taking a boat or launch and going from one creek to another.

#### MARA LAKE

This lake is connected with Shuswap Lake by a short river and is about a mile from Sicamous. The fishing is about the same as Shuswap.

#### SALMON ARM

This place is situated on Shuswap Lake on the C. P. R. and is an excellent centre for fishing, as the hotel accommodation is good, boats and launches can be hired and there are three small lakes in the vicinity which can be reached by auto. Gadners Lake is about six miles away and Fleming and White Lake about fifteen miles. The fish in these lakes are small, going from one-half pound to one pound, but they take the fly freely in May and June.

#### SICAMOUS JUNCTION

On the main line of the C. P. R. right on the shore of Shuswap Lake.

This is also a good centre as the hotel is first class, there are plenty of boats and launches and you are also in close proximity to some of the best fishing. Spoons and flies of all sorts can be purchased here.

### KAMLOOPS AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

The town of Kamloops is about 250 miles east of Vancouver and can be reached by either the C. P. R. or Canadian Northern. It is situated in the dry belt just where the North Thompson runs into the main Thompson and has a fine bracing climate, so that it is eminently suitable for anybody with lung troubles. It has quite a good hotel.

The fishing in the Thompson close to the town is not very good, though some big dolly vardens can be caught whenever the water is clear, just a little below the town, and an odd rainbow may also be taken.

From this point some of the most magnificent fly fishing can be reached in a short drive by motor car. The principal lakes are Paul, Pinantan and Fish Lakes, the latter is the farthest, being some twenty miles out of town. The roads are good and with the aid of a car you can get in a good day's fishing and return to town the same day. These lakes are all described separately.

### CHASE

Chase is situated on Little Shuswap Lake on the line of the C. P. R. It is thirty-five miles east of Kamloops. There is an hotel there with about thirty rooms, a boat livery, livery stables, and automobiles, also general stores.

Guides can be secured by writing to the Secretary of the Board of Trade.

From this place you can reach a number of lakes, rivers and creeks either by motor, canoe or launch or pack train.

The various fishing waters include Shuswap Lake, about half a mile away; Nishonlith Lake, four miles; Adams Lake, six miles; also the South Thompson and Little Rivers and Chase, Celista and several other small creeks.

The varieties of fish are the same as those described under Shuswap Lake.

Among the flies that are used in this neighbourhood may be mentioned the Silver Doctor, Jock Scott, Dusty Miller, Montreal, Butcher, Red Palmer, March Brown, Black Gnat, Brown Hackle, Professor and Cow Dung.



## CHAPTER XXII.

## ALONG THE KETTLE VALLEY LINE

## THE COQUEHALLA

TO get to this river you can either take the evening train on the Kettle Valley Line, or go by the Canadian Northern during the day, to Hope, where there is an hotel of the rough and ready sort. The hotel is ten to fifteen minutes' walk from the best fishing water. Hope is on the Fraser River just to the west of the Cascades, and is a charming spot, as the scenery is splendid and the climate more bracing than on the coast.

The river is a noted one for fishing; it is of quite a large size and only during the very lowest stage of water can it be crossed by wading.

During August and September the water gets to its lowest stage and about this time there is always a run of rainbows and cut-throats, some of them running to quite a good size, and nice fly fishing may then be had. Dolly vardens are in the river more or less all the year, but after the summer freshets just begin to subside, generally from the middle to end of June, there is an extra good run and nice baskets of these fish may be had by spinning with a minnow, either Devon, Phantom or the natural fish. A few cohoes run in the fall, but it is not favoured by spring salmon. It is, however, for steelheads that the river is famous, and for these fish there are few streams its equal. The run lasts quite a long time, during the greater part of the winter, away on until the freshets in May put the river out of condition. Probably March and April are the best months. To get the best steelhead fishing, you want to catch the river when it is quite high with a bit of colour in the water. When the water gets low enough to be bright and clear, some of the best reaches are not deep enough for the fish to lie in and they have then to get into the deep pools and are inclined to be fastidious. However, fish are subject to do queer things, especially so in the Coquehalla. You can fish the famous Steelhead Pool and the Rock Reach with the water in perfect condition and only catch an odd fish, and under absolutely similar conditions of water and weather you can fish it again and be playing fish all the time. Then again, when the water is too low you may get the same agreeable surprise I did once. I arrived there about 11 o'clock, and a friend, who was going to put me up, met me

with the disheartening news that the river had dropped over a foot and was as clear as crystal. Upon reaching the river it looked hopeless, so instead of fishing right off we decided to go to his house, nearly half a mile's walk up a steep hill, have lunch and begin to fish about 3 o'clock. To make matters worse, the sun came out about 12 o'clock and by the time we got back to the river a little after 3 o'clock, there was not a cloud in the sky.

We went to the Rock Reach first but it was so low you could see the bottom and I passed it up. However, a little higher there was a good looking piece of water with forty or fifty yards of it quite deep enough to hold fish, so I put my rod together. The bait I selected was a two-inch slotless brass Devon that had not been polished for some time and was quite dull. I must here remark that I was trying out a very fine plain silk line that had been specially recommended for its strength and smooth running, and it was really more with a view to testing this line that I started to fish. Well, that little minnow had not travelled six feet of the very first cast when I hooked a fish. As a fighter it was about the poorest steelhead I ever played; just one splash, not even a proper jump, a short run or two and then he sulked most of the time. I was afraid of the line, and it must have been half an hour before he was landed. It was a very broad fish, almost like a spring salmon, in good condition, of twelve and a half pounds. Of course, I never expected any more neither did my friend, who even then did not bother to put his rod together. After I had smoked a pipe, I started again a bit lower down and about the fourth cast I was into another one. This fish was the very reverse of the first one and made a succession of jumps and rushes so that he soon gave in and was gaffed inside of five minutes. Weight a trifle over nine pounds. After this I fished on until I was getting into pretty shallow water near the tail of the reach and was about to give it up when I hooked what, for a second, I thought was the bottom, but turned out to be a third fish. This one put up a hard fight, but was eventually landed. Weight, nine and a half pounds.

Up to this time I had not fished the head of the reach, as I seldom do when fishing for steelheads, but I had noticed a huge boulder close to the other side and thought I would try it, as it was a fine looking place for a fish to lie, especially a salmon. My first cast was short, but the next went right over the spot and I had barely got control of the minnow before a fish struck like a "ton of bricks." There was a flash of silver as he just broke the surface and then the reel was fairly screaming as the fish tore down stream. How I wished I had my usual heavy line! I never thought that little silk thread would ever hold out. Luckily I had over a hundred yards of line, or



it would have been all off early in the game." It seemed as if that fish would never stop and, to make matters worse, I was standing in very swift water, among a lot of big boulders and was slow in getting back out on to the beach, so that by the time I got going down the bank my fish had just reached the top of the Rock Reach and, though he had slowed up, was still going. Fifty yards further down he worked by a succession of short pulls and then stopped, made two swirls on the surface, but not enough to get an idea of his size, and then came up stream again within a few feet of the opposite shore with a whole lot of slack line trailing behind him, as I had never succeeded in getting down to anywhere near to him. Some little distance up there was a great jagged boulder about ten feet out from the opposite shore; it stood a good two feet out of the water and to my horror the fish passed inside it. Now, if I had managed to get in all my slack line, as I had been frantically trying to do, that little silk line would have cut like a piece of cotton, but there was still a lot of slack and, for some unaccountable reason, that fish was kind enough to change his mind when he had passed some fifteen feet above the boulder, as he came to the surface and again just broke water, as if to show me what he could do if he wanted to be nasty. Then instead of going on up and cutting the line he just dropped back the way he came up and the reel was soon singing again to another run down stream. By the time that run was over I knew he must be well hooked and that it was simply a question of going easily and not putting too much strain on the line, so I just kept up a slight pressure and let the fish sulk or run as fast as he pleased. To end this yarn, I landed that fish away up stream only a little lower than where I hooked him, after an hour's fight, and, of course, was disappointed in his size; he weighed sixteen and a half pounds, whereas I had made up my mind I was at last going to get one of twenty pounds. However, he was a perfect fish, absolutely clean run and as silvery as a new dollar, so I had no cause to complain. About this time my friend decided that a horse would be useful and left me to get one, and I sat down for a well-earned rest.

Probably by this time you will think the end of this "fish yarn" has come, but there is still one little bit to tell. The horse was a long time in arriving and it began to get dusk and I got tired of waiting, so I got up, went to the tail of the pool and made a few more casts and had yet another strike from what felt like another heavy fish, but the line had had enough, and at the second pull broke at the swivel and the fish was gone and my little brass Devon too.

Now this will show you how utterly impossible it is to know what fish are going to do and how foolish it is to despair even under the most hopeless condition, so if ever you go to

the Coquehalla and find the water bright and clear with the sun shining, stick to it all the same and fish every likely bit of water. Perhaps the luck I had may be waiting for you.

### KAWKAWA LAKE

This lake is two or three miles east of Hope. There is a good road to it. There are one or two boats on the lake which belong to settlers and can generally be obtained at a small cost.

The lake is deep nearly all over, except at the far end. It has hardly been fished except by the few people living close by. There are some very big dolly vardens in it. I know of one taken by trolling that weighed fourteen pounds. There are also some cut-throats. This water is worth exploitation. If it were properly fished, in May or early June, some very pleasant surprises in the way of big fish might be obtained. It is doubtful if it is any good for anything except trolling.

### SILVER CREEK

This creek is about six miles in length running from Silver Lake into the Fraser River. The road from Chilliwack to Hope crosses it close to where it joins the Fraser, about two miles to the west of Hope.

This is a very rapid stream, falling nearly 1100 feet in the six miles from the lake. It is full of huge boulders and a raging torrent the greater part of the way and quite useless for fishing. There are, however, some nice pools here and there and in them some splendid fish. Steelheads and dolly vardens in the spring and a few rainbows and cut-throats. The last two mentioned varieties run well all summer, after the spring freshets, and it is then an ideal stream for the fly fisherman, the fish going from one-half up to two and a half pounds.

The best water to fish is from the bridge down, and then again above the upper bridge. The pool right at the mouth is best in the spring, and often yields some splendid steelheads. The upper waters are best for the fly fishermen. About a mile above the second bridge there is a succession of nice pools.

The road, which goes up the creek and is in close proximity the whole way, in fact is seldom out of sight of the creek, is a part of the proposed transcontinental highway. Owing, however, to two bridges having been washed out it is now only possible for automobiles to go up about two miles. Horses can, however, be taken right up to the lake.

The creek above the lake is more or less spread out over sand bars and is little worth fishing.

## SILVER LAKE

This lake is just eight miles from Hope, the way to get to it having been already described under Silver Creek.

It is about a mile long and nearly half a mile broad. The nearest accommodation is Hope, but there is a good shed on the edge of the lake which makes a splendid camping place. There is a dug-out canoe and a fine big raft there, but they and the shed belong to the Dominion Fishery Department and permission to use them would have to be first obtained from the Fishery officer stationed at Hope.

This lake furnishes magnificent opportunities for splendid fishing, either trolling, spinning, fly fishing or for bait.

The fish comprise a large number of dolly vardens, running up to eight or ten pounds in weight, and what appear to be steelheads which have become land-locked owing to a log jam blocking the exit. Probably there are other trout too. The only time I fished it, I caught what was undoubtedly a steelhead of about ten pounds, but they get fish from two pounds up, some of which may be cut-throats.

There fish are to be caught from as soon as the ice goes out (generally about the middle of April) more or less all summer. Probably June and July are the best months for the fly fisherman, though they are often seen rising well as soon as the ice goes out. The best water is just where the stream runs into the lake and also near the exit, particularly on the edge of a shallow off some big rocks. I have never known anybody try for the big fish with a fly, but as they are constantly seen rising, I feel confident that they can be caught if proper flies were used. I should recommend the Grouse and Claret, Jock Scott tied on big hooks, possibly as large as 5/0 and would also try the Zulu and large March Browns.

For trolling try a three-inch Leviere Stewart with a fairly heavy lead, about two ounce, and let out from thirty to forty yards of line. It is, however, bad water for trolling, as the best water is full of huge trees which apparently have been brought in by big slides.

Good sport can be had by anchoring a raft near the exit, or where the stream runs in and spinning with a brass or silver Devon.

## THE SKAGIT

The Skagit River rises in the Cascade Mountains in British Columbia, but after running for about thirty miles, crosses the boundary line into the United States. The last twenty miles of the river in this province is one of the best streams in southern British Columbia for the fly fisherman, and anybody wanting

a ten-days or a fortnight's fishing trip cannot do better than pay this stream a visit any time after the first week in July.

To get there you go to Hope and engage a man with pack horses to take you in, unless you feel like doing thirty miles with a pack on your back. There is no accommodation after you leave Hope and you have to camp out.

From Hope the trail follows up Nicolum Creek to the divide at Lake House, a distance of fourteen miles. Small fish can be caught here. You then strike Sumallow Creek, which is a tributary of the Skagit, and follow it down for nine miles to where it joins the main river. You can now begin to catch fish, but they are not very big and you had better keep on going down stream until you get within four or five miles of the boundary line. Here you will catch fish on the fly of all sizes up to three or four pounds in weight, more than you know what to do with, unless you smoke them. If you care to try spinning for a change, you will get some good big dolly vardens.

There is seldom much choice of a fly but you had better take some March Browns, Royal Coachman, Black Gnat, Teal and Red and a Jock Scott or two.

#### LIGHTNING LAKES

These lakes are situated at an altitude of 3000 to 4000 feet, on the divide between the Skagit and Roche Rivers.

There are three or four of these lakes, the longest about a mile and a half, in a valley about five miles long. To get to them you would have to follow the Skagit trail (as already described) to half a mile below the Whitworth Ranch and then take the Sky trail to the east for half a day's travel up hill.

These lakes are full of fish, both rainbows and cut-throats running up to large size. Except by a few prospectors, they have hardly been fished. There used to be one or two rafts on the lakes, but if they are not to be found, there are plenty of logs to build new ones with.

Owing to the altitude these lakes are specially recommended for those wanting a camping out trip in a fine bracing climate, a complete change from the coast.

The fishing is good from the middle of May to the middle of August.

For flies, any of the red bodied flies are good.

#### COQUEHALLA LAKES

These are small lakes about three-quarters of a mile long, situated at the summit of the Cascade Range. The Kettle Valley line passes along the shore of the lakes. You get off at the Summit station. There is no accommodation.

Before the railroad construction these lakes were full of small trout from one-half to three-quarter pounds, but during construction were so heavily fished that there are not many left, but any that there are now grow to quite a size.

#### OTTER LAKE

This lake, which is about five miles long, is close to Tulameen where there is an hotel. There are not very many fish in the lake but those there are run pretty big.

#### BEAR LAKE

This lake is about ten miles from Tulameen. It is reported to be full of fish which run to large size. June and July are the best months.

#### THE SIMILKAMEEN RIVER

This river drains the extreme south-western part of the Province. It is reached by the Kettle Valley line, which touches it at Princeton, Hedley and Keremeos, at all of which places there are hotels.

From a fisherman's point of view, the river is a disappointing one as, though a good-sized stream with some lovely pools, the fish in it are all small. There are, however, plenty of them and they will take a fly well after the summer freshets are over.

#### CHAIN LAKE

This lake, which is about one mile long, is twenty-five miles northeast of Princeton on the summit between that place and Penticton. The Kettle Valley Railway follows the shore of the lake. Accommodation and boats can be had from settlers.

This lake is well stocked with trout, running from one-half to two pounds in weight. They can be caught with a spinner or fly more or less all summer. A few hours will generally be long enough to fill a fair-sized creel.

#### LINK LAKE

A lake about one-half mile long connected with Chain Lake by a small stream. Same fishing as Chain Lake.

#### OSPREY LAKE

About a mile long, connected with Link Lake. Same fishing as Chain Lake.

### TROUT CREEK

This creek is a few miles further east of Osprey Lake. It is full of small mountain trout. They seldom exceed seven or eight inches in length but are extremely game and will take the fly freely.

### THE KETTLE RIVER

This is a beautiful trout stream. The main river rises in a valley to the east of the Okanagan and flows due south to Rock Creek, which is on the Kettle Valley Line. At this point there is an hotel. From Rock Creek the river runs east to Midway, then dips south into the United States but again turns back into this Province at Grand Forks. Both Midway and Grand Forks are on the Kettle Valley Line and have hotels.

The best fishing at present is above Rock Creek, as this part of the river has not been fished, but all of the stream is worth fishing from the time the water clears in July until well on in September. A few fish can often be taken in spring, just before the freshets start. It is a fly fishing stream entirely.

Use the March Brown, Black Gnat, Royal Coachman, Hardy's Favourite, Zulu and Grouse and Claret; also the Stone Fly in late June and early July.

### BOUNDARY CREEK

This is a beautiful little creek for a fly fisherman. The creek is small but it holds good trout, some going up to two pounds in weight.

The creek runs from Long Lake, through Greenwood into the Kettle River at Midway. The best water is above Greenwood.

Greenwood has a couple of hotels and has a branch of the Kettle Valley line running into it.

Flies the same as for the Kettle River.

### LONG LAKE

This is a good big lake of great depth. It is a few miles from Greenwood. It contains very big trout, fish up to sixteen pounds have been taken by trolling. It is too deep for fly fishing.

### CHRISTINA LAKE

This lake is on the Kettle Valley line. The outlet to the lake is at Cascade, which is only a short drive for a car from Grand Forks. Boats can be obtained at Cascade.

The lake is quite a size, over ten miles long. It used to be noted for its big trout, which were taken by trolling, but of

late years it has become renowned for its "bass," these fish having found their way up from the States into the lake. This lake is little affected by freshets and the fishing is good all summer and early fall.

#### OKANAGAN LAKE

This lake, which is about seventy miles long, runs nearly due north and south from Okanagan Landing at the north, to Penticton at the south, passing through the centre of the Okanagan Valley.

This district is considered the garden of the interior and is the greatest producer of fruit in the Province.

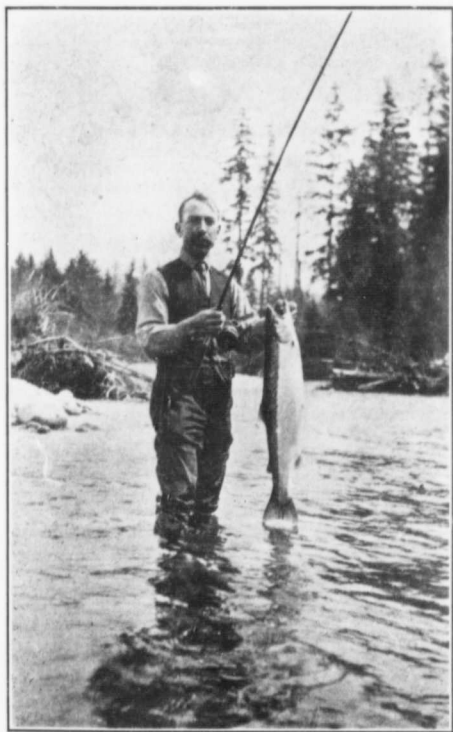
The lake is chiefly noted for its big steelheads or Kamloops trout, which used to be extremely plentiful, though of late years the number of these fish has sadly lessened, though some good fish are still to be caught. As far as size is concerned, a twenty-pound fish is about as big as you can hope to get nowadays. Some years ago a fish of that weight would not have been thought very much of, as quite a number of fish up to twenty-five pounds used to be caught. Mr. R. Leekie Ewing, of Okanagan Landing, who has lived at and fished the lakes for many years, informs me that he saw a fish weighed which went thirty-two pounds and that he caught one himself of twenty-eight pounds. Mr. Dundas, of Kelowna, also an old-timer, saw one weighed of thirty-one pounds.

The best parts of the lake for trolling for these big fish are from Cameron's Point, which is about six miles south of Okanagan Landing, to about Okanagan Centre, and from a point about two miles south of Kelowna to about a mile south of Deep Creek. The last mentioned stretch of water is easily fished from Kelowna and is the most easy of access of any, though naturally is the most fished. The water at the head of the lake can be fished from Okanagan Landing, or even from Vernon, which is about six miles from the lake. There is also some fairly good water within easy reach of Penticton.

The best month of the year for trolling is March, though you can catch them from September and all the winter months, whenever weather permits fishing. As a general thing the middle to end of May ends all trolling.

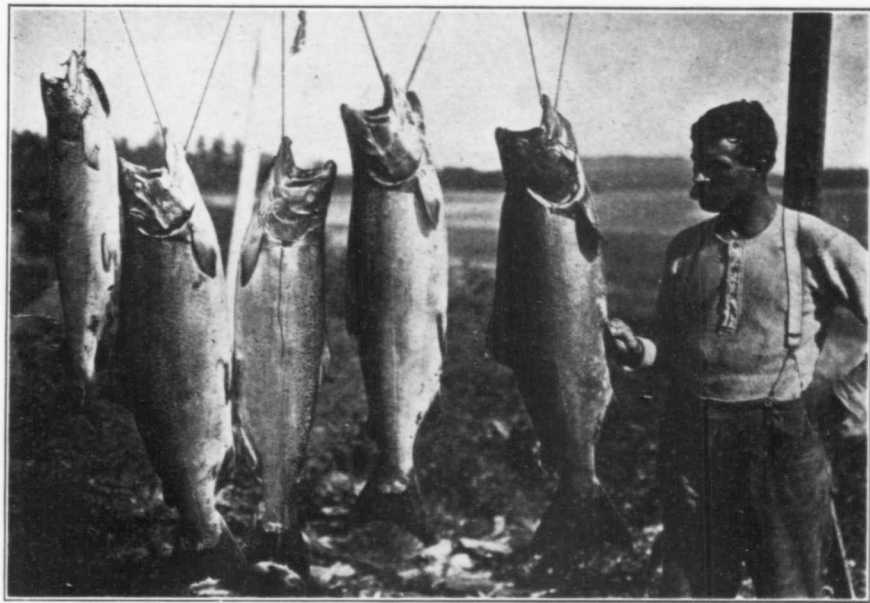
In this lake very long lines are used, the best results are obtained by having out 175 yards and no lead at all. The baits used are mostly large Otters, 5½-inch Gibbs Stewart and home-made wobblers, one of which is made with the skin of a trout and does excellent execution.

As a general thing the lake is too deep for fly fishing, but there are shallows and rocky points here and there all round the lake, where very good sport may be had in May, June, July and sometimes in September and beginning of October.



A fourteen-pound Steelhead, caught by spinning in the Capilano.





Some Campbell River Salmon, running up to sixty pounds weight. (See page 75).

The fish will go from one pound up to three or four pounds. Large flies tied on No. 6 or even No. 4 hooks are considered most taking. The varieties used include Jock Scott, Grouse and Claret, Teal and Red, Parmachene Belle, Cow Dung, Royal Coachman and Silver Doctor.

#### LONG LAKE

This lake is about six miles long and within a short distance of Vernon. The fishing is somewhat similar to Okanagan Lake, except that the fish are smaller. The fly fishing is, however, better.

#### DOG LAKE

This lake is a fine sheet of water about twelve miles long. It is a few miles south of Penticton with a good road for an automobile.

It contains some fine trout, which run up to eight or ten pounds in weight. Some of these big fish have occasionally been taken on the fly in the summer months. Probably, if they were systematically fished for with the fly, some great sport might be obtained.

#### VASEAU LAKE

This lake is south of Dog Lake and about eighteen miles from Penticton. The road passes right along the shores of the lake, which is about three miles long. The scenery here is alone worth a visit.

This lake not only contains some good trout, but also numbers of large mouthed bass, which will take a spoon readily in May and June.

I have never heard of them being fished for with the fly, though they would probably take it if it were tried.

#### OSOYOOS LAKE

This lake is the last of the Okanagan water in British Columbia as it runs right to the U. S. boundary line.

It used to contain splendid trout, but of late years it has become full of enormous German Carp which came up from the United States. It is reported that perch are also beginning to make their appearance.



## CHAPTER XXIII.

## THE COLUMBIA VALLEY

## EAST KOOTENAY

THE Columbia Valley, which is at an altitude of over 2600 feet, lies between the Rockies and the Purcell Range (part of the Selkirks) and is the headwaters of the Columbia River, which flows out of Columbia Lake, then through Windermere Lake at Athalmer to the north, passing close to Golden and then away up through Kinbasket Lake into the Big Bend country, where it turns and comes direct south, down past Revelstoke into the Arrow Lakes and from there on past Trail into the U. S. A.

The valley is also drained by the Kootenay River, which rises in a number of lakes not many miles south from Leachhoil on the main line of the C. P. R. The river flows south, separated from the Columbia by a subsidiary range of the Rockies but after passing Windermere, the river cuts through towards the Columbia and goes so close that an attempt was once made to join the two rivers by a canal.

## THE UPPER COLUMBIA RIVER

The Columbia River itself is muddy nearly all the year and has no fishing of any great merit from a sporting point of view. It is full of "Ling," which are caught with bait, principally at night. They are excellent table fish if properly prepared, but that is all that can be said for them.

Dolly Vardens of fair size can be taken by bait or spinning, when the water clears in the fall. Generally in September good catches can be made where a creek of any size runs in.

## WINDERMERE LAKE

This is one of the most beautiful places in the whole of the interior. It is in the dry belt, but seldom has heat severe enough to be unpleasant. The cold in winter is severe but seldom lasts long. There is an hotel at Windermere on the east side of the lake, one of the oldest hotels in the valley, but quite comfortable, and a modern, up-to-date hotel at Invermere on the other side of the lake, where golf can be indulged in in summer and ice boating in winter. The lake is about ten miles long.

From this point expeditions can be made by motor car and horse back to some of the smaller lakes in the vicinity, where good trout can be caught by fly fishing and trolling.

Windermere lake itself has only some very big "char" in it, which can be caught by trolling, principally in the fall months.

#### TOBA CREEK

This is a good-sized creek. It is out of condition pretty well all summer. Good-sized Dolly Vardens can be taken in the fall.

#### NO. 3 CREEK

Just the same as Toba Creek. A short distance up this creek there is Fish Lake where magnificent trout can be taken in summer, both by fly and spinning.

#### SPILLAMACHENE

This place is on the railway, about forty miles south of Golden. There is a very rough-and-ready hotel there. From this point a number of lakes can be reached by saddle horse where great fly fishing can be had in May and again later when the June freshets are over.

These lakes are the Salmon Lake, Twin Lake and McMurdo Lake. The last named is about seven miles from Spillamachene and is the best of the lot at all easy of access. There is a good trail to it, a cabin to camp in and a boat on the lake.

There are other lakes further back which, owing to their inaccessibility, are little fished, and in consequence well stocked.

#### THE UPPER KOOTENAY VALLEY LAKES

These lakes are full of beautiful trout, but are quite inaccessible except for a person who wishes to take a long holiday.

For anybody wishing a fine canoe trip a most enjoyable time can be had by sending a canoe from Golden up to Leancoil. From this point you can go up the Ottertail, until a short portage will take you over to Kootenay Lakes. Fish the lakes and any likely looking spots in the Kootenay River, which you travel down to Canal Flats. Another short portage will take you over to Columbia Lake; from there you pass through Windermere Lake into the Columbia River and down that stream to Golden. With the exception of the first twenty-five miles from Leancoil to Kootenay Lake you travel down stream the whole way. The whole length of the journey would be close on to 180 miles.

## THE ARROW LAKES

These two lakes, which are simply a widening out of the Columbia River, are together over a hundred miles long. The branch line running about twenty-four miles south from Revelstoke, touches the upper lake at Arrowhead, where steamers meet the train to take you down to West Robson, where you again take the train for Nelson, Rossland, etc.

The upper lake is affected by freshets for quite a long period, and while it has some big Dolly Varden trout and a certain amount of fly fishing at the mouths of any streams running into it, the fishing is not nearly so good as it is on the lower lake.

The lower lake is best near Deer Park, where there is often good trolling for the big steelheads and often some good fly fishing. To fish this lake properly a launch is needed as there is no accommodation anywhere near the best water except at Deer Park.

## WHATSAN LAKES

These lakes are a short distance west of the Lower Arrow Lake. You can go in to them from Edgewood or Needles at both of which places the steamers call.

From Needles it is a drive of five miles over a good road. Arrangements can be made with the storekeeper for a horse.

It is a little longer from Edgewood but there are guides there who will furnish a complete outfit for camping.

The fish in this lake run from ten to fifteen inches in length and can be caught on the fly in almost any number. The choice of the fly is not of great importance, but the red bodied ones are usually the best.

The fish will take pretty well all summer, but the best time is from the middle of June to the middle of July.

The upper lake, which is close to 15 miles long, is the better of the two.

## SLOCAN POOL

This famous pool is part of the Kootenay River, a short distance below Bonnington Falls. There is an excellent fishing chalet at Slocan Junction, which is only a few minutes' walk from the water. Guides, boats, etc., can all be secured there.

Slocan Pool is the most famous piece of water in the Kootenays and for the fly fisherman it used to be a paradise. The fish, mostly of the Rainbow variety, run to all sizes.

Of late years the pool has been very heavily fished as it is within easy reach of the town of Nelson, but it is still well worth a visit.

Fish can be caught there from the beginning of May until the freshets in June. The best time, however, is after the water goes down, usually from the middle of July on until the middle of September.

For this water you should use the March Browns, Coachmen, Red and Brown Hackles, Zulu, Black Gnat, Jack Scott, Blue Dun and Stone Fly.

#### NELSON

This town is situated on the lower Kootenay Lake. It is a mining and fruit-growing centre and is a splendid place for the headquarters of a fisherman, as not only can some fishing be had from the town itself, but it is the handiest place to start from to reach all the best waters in the district amongst which may be mentioned Sheep Creek, Slocan Junction, Deer Park, Whatsan Lakes, Proctor, and Kaslo.

#### SHEEP CREEK

This creek is notable because it is the only water in this Province where the Eastern brook trout can be caught in any number. I believe there is a small private lake near Victoria which is stocked with these fish and some were also put in the Cowichan River on Vancouver Island, but so far without any success.

To reach this stream you go by the Great Northern to Patterson, which is close to the U. S. boundary line. At this place guides, etc., can be secured.

I have never fished this stream but am told that the fishing is good pretty well all summer and that the fish are of a fair size.

#### PROCTOR

Proctor is at the outlet of Kootenay Lake, about 19 miles upstream from Nelson.

You can get there either by the C. P. R. steamer, which goes there early every morning or by launch.

There is at present one hotel which is quite comfortable. The C. P. R. have a fine hotel there, but at present it is being used as a convalescent home for soldiers.

The fishing comprises trolling for the big steelheads and dolly vardens and quite fair fly fishing for rainbows. The best time for trolling is from May 1st until the water rises in June, then again after it clears in July.

Fly fishing is best in August.

Use the same flies as those for Slocan Pool.

## KASLO

This town is situated pretty well up towards the head of Kootenay Lake. It is beautifully situated, has good hotels and is altogether a delightful place to visit.

You can get there by C. P. R. steamer from Nelson or by railway from Nakusp on the Arrow Lakes.

This place is by far the best locality for trolling for steel-heads. You can fish at the same time as at Proctor, but the water is clear longer than at that place.

Some rainbows can be caught in the lake close to town, but the best fly fishing is across the lake at French Creek.

## FRENCH CREEK

This is the most famous place on Kootenay Lake for the fly fisherman.

To get there you cross the lake some six or seven miles by rowboat or launch from Kaslo, which is the nearest place there is any accommodation.

To fish there it is best to camp out for a few days. There is a most beautiful camping site, one of the most charming places on the lake.

All the fly fishing is in the lake itself, just where the creek runs in. The creek only contains very small fish.

Use the same flies as for Slocan Pool.



## CHAPTER XXIV

## ALONG THE CROW'S NEST LINE

## GOAT RIVER

THIS river flows into the Kootenay, a short distance from Creston, which is on the Crow's Nest Line. The lower reaches of this stream are more famous for the beauty of its magnificent canyon, of which a good view can be had from the railway, than for fishing, as apart from a few Dolly Vardens, which may be caught by spinning or bait, there are few other fish. When, however, you get above the canyon, it is quite a splendid stream for fly fishing. The fish, mostly rainbows, go up to two pounds in weight and are great fighters. The fishing is generally at its best in August. Queen of the Waters is a favourite fly on this and all other East Kootenay streams.

Kitchener, on the Crow's Nest Line, is the best place to stop at.

## ST. MARY'S RIVER

This is a good big stream with splendid fly fishing. The fish go anywhere from half a pound up to three pounds. The river runs through St. Mary's Lake into the Kootenay. There is a small fishing lodge on the lake where accommodation can be had.

To get there, you can take the Columbia Western from Cranbrook, from which town it is about thirty miles, or you can go right through the Columbia Valley from Golden on the main line of the C. P. R.

August is the best month, September also good.

## PREMIER LAKE

This is a comparatively small lake which a few years ago had no fish in it at all. It has, however, been well stocked with steelheads and some very large fish can now be caught by trolling. There is hotel accommodation at Wasa on the Columbia Valley Line. The hotel is within a short distance of the lake. The water in this lake is always clear, and fish can be caught all season.



## THE ELK RIVER

This used to be one of the best streams in the country for fly fishing, but the lower parts near Fernie and Michel, both of which are coal mining centres, are pretty well fished out.

Some little distance above Michel (on the Crow's Nest Line) the fishing is still fair. The upper reaches of the river are still as good as ever, but there is no accommodation except with settlers. It is a splendid place for a camping-out trip. August and September are the best months. A few fish can always be taken in the spring before the freshets.

## THE FORDING RIVER

This river runs into the Elk River about sixteen miles above Michel. From its mouth up for a few miles to the falls it is a splendid stream for the fly with good-sized trout in it.

There is no accommodation.



CHAPTER XXV.

PRINCE RUPERT

THIS town is the terminus of the Grand Trunk Pacific and is about five hundred miles north of Vancouver. From this place salmon fishing can be obtained pretty well all the year round, but as a general thing a launch is needed to reach the best water.

The line of the Grand Trunk Pacific follows the Skeena River for some hundred and fifty miles, and here and there along the line there are splendid streams for fishing. The majority of these streams have been hardly fished, as there is no accommodation in their vicinity, but they nearly all have lots of steelheads in them in winter and early spring; they are all affected by freshets as soon as the snow begins to melt and are unfishable most of May and June and some of them in July also. Those that run out of lakes such as the Kitsumkalum and Lakelse are nearly always clear and afford fishing for a longer period.

DUNDAS ISLANDS

These islands are situated in the Pacific at Dixon's Sound, some twenty-five miles north of Prince Rupert and a few miles off from Port Simpson.

This is one of the best places for salmon in the north during the summer months. To fish this water a launch is needed. There are plenty of safe places to anchor, though about an hour's run would take you back to Port Simpson.

PORT SIMPSON

The white population of this place is next to nil. There is a store there and an hotel of the rough-and-ready sort. The place is headquarters of the Metlakatla Indians.

In the winter months there is some very good salmon fishing to be had right in the harbour, February and March being about the best months.

WORK CHANNEL

It is about the best place for salmon fishing in the north, particularly in February and March and again in May and June.

Some of the fish run to very large size and tackle suitable for the big Tyee salmon is needed.

There is no accommodation nearer than Port Simpson, from which place it is about an hour's run in a launch.

The best water is right at the mouth of the Channel.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

## ALONG THE LINE OF THE G. T. P.

THE trout fishing along this line is the best there is in this Province, or for that matter on this continent, though unfortunately at the present time there is little accommodation to be had anywhere within reach of the best water. Starting at Prince Rupert on the coast, the line follows the Skeena to Hazelton. The Skeena itself is a big, swift river, principally noted for its great commercial salmon fishing. The river itself is muddy the greater part of the year and of no value for sporting fishing.

There are, however, numerous streams running into it, which afford magnificent steelhead, rainbow and Dolly Varden fishing, amongst which may be specially mentioned the Copper River, a few miles below Kitselas, and the Lakelse a mile or so below the Little Canyon. At present the only way to fish any of these streams is by camping out. From Hazelton the line follows up the Bulkley River, passing within a few miles of Babine Lake, along the Endako, then to Fraser Lake and then along the Nechako River to Prince George. It is in the country surrounding Fort Fraser that the finest sport is to be had.

Throughout the greater part of the country along this line July, August and early September are the best months for fly fishing. Among the flies commonly used may be mentioned the March Brown, Coachman, Royal Coachman, Cowichan Coachman, Black Gnat, Grouse and Claret, Parmachene Belle and Red and Brown Hackles and Professor.

## PRINCE GEORGE

This town is situated where the Nechaco River runs into the Fraser. There are several hotels, and plenty of good stores. Autos and horses can be hired.

At certain times of the year some fair fishing can be had in the Nechaco, but it is never very good. There are, however, several lakes easily reached by auto where there is good fly fishing.

## SIX MILE LAKE

This lake is ten miles from Prince George and can be reached by auto. There are a number of boats on the lake. Rainbow trout from one to two pounds can be caught on the fly.

### BEDNESTI LAKE

This lake is thirty-two miles west of Prince George and can be reached by auto, except for the last two miles, which have to be walked. The fish run from one-half to two pounds. There is a boat and a canoe on the lake also a cabin owned by the Fishery officer.

### CLUCULZ LAKE

This lake is fifty miles west of Prince George, on the road to Vanderhoof. The principal fishing is trolling for lake trout, which have been caught up to thirty pounds in weight. There is also good fly fishing.

### STEWART LAKE

Some day when this lake becomes a little easier of access, there will be a pilgrimage of fishermen there from all over the world. We have some pretty good fishing in many parts of this Province, but probably none to equal that which can be had in Stewart, Babine and Cunningham Lakes and other smaller lakes in the vicinity and in the streams running in or out of them.

There are Great Lake trout running up to enormous weights, Dolly Vardens, Rainbow which can be caught on the fly in some of the streams up to five and six pounds in weight, cut-throats and pike are reported to be there also.

To get to Stewart Lake you get off at Vanderhoof on the G. T. P. and take the stage to Fort St. James. This place is situated on the lake at the exit of the Stewart River. There are stores, and accommodation is to be had, and Indians and canoes and boats can be hired at quite reasonable rates.

You can get some good fly fishing at the outlet, the fish running from one up to four pounds. There are also some smaller lakes in the vicinity, which can be reached by canoe and are well worth fishing.

However, if you want the very best of sport, you should prepare for a camping out trip of some duration, as you must take a boat and go to the west end of the lake. If there are any mosquitoes or flies, you can always avoid them by camping on an island.

When you get to the far end, if you care for trolling, try the North Arm as this is by far the best part of the lake. If you want fly fishing get an Indian to drive you over to Cunningham Lake, it is only five miles, and fish the Cunningham River from its outlet for a mile down. In this mile you will find some beautiful pools, and in these pools you will get rainbow that weigh up to five pounds to take the fly.

If the fish in Cunningham River are not big enough for you, go back to the lake and drive over to Babine Lake, a distance of twelve miles, and fish 15 Mile Creek. In this water the rainbows go quite a bit bigger.

You need not keep the Indian and team, just say how long you want to stay and he will come back for you.

For a trip of this kind July, August, and early September is the best time.

#### CUNNINGHAM RIVER

(See Stewart Lake.)

#### 15 MILE CREEK

(See Stewart Lake.)

#### FRANCOIS LAKE

This is a long narrow lake offering great opportunities for fishing. It is best reached from Endako on the G. T. P. by auto or team. Boats could be hired from settlers, probably also accommodation could be had with them, but the pleasantest way would be to go prepared to camp out. The best fly fishing that is at present known of is at the outlet of the lake in the Stellaco River, which runs into Fraser Lake, also where it joins the Endako River there is a lagoon which is often very good. The fish run from one to three pounds.

At the west end of Francois Lake the best trolling is to be had. Lake trout can be caught up to thirty-five pounds.

A small steamer runs on the lake.

#### NOOTKA AND TACHIE LAKES

These two lakes are situated between Fraser Lake and Stoney River.

They can be reached from Ft. Fraser by driving. The only accommodation is with settlers.

These two lakes, which are each several miles long are full of fish. The biggest fish are usually caught by trolling, but fish from one to four pounds can be caught on the fly.

There is little choice of flies. They will take almost anything, even a piece of red rag tied on a hook.

The fishing is good all summer, but June, July and August are the best months.

#### FORT FRASER

Fort Fraser is situated on the line of the G. T. P. just where the lake empties into the Nechaco River. There are

stores and accommodation to be had. There is trolling to be had in the lake and some pretty good fly fishing to be had in the Nechako River in July and August.

#### PANCHOW LAKE

This lake is fifty miles south of Prince George and about sixty miles north of the Blackwater River. There are two boats on the lake owned by the Fishing Officer. No accommodation. Reached by steamer from Prince George or Quesnel. The fish run big, anywhere from two pounds to five pounds. Best month August.

#### THE BLACKWATER

This river runs into the Fraser about sixty miles south of Prince George. It is reached by steamer from that point or Quesnel. There is no accommodation other than with settlers. August is the best month when there is good fishing with the fly for good-sized trout.

#### BEAR RIVER AND LAKES

These waters are far too inaccessible for the ordinary fisherman, but I am mentioning them because I have frequently been asked to recommend good canoe trips in the wilds where fishing can be had.

North of Barkerville there is a succession of lakes which, in conjunction with Bear River, form a big circle. By making a short portage or two a boat or a canoe can be taken the whole way round, a distance of something like one hundred miles.

From one end of the trip to the other you are in water that is full of fish of all sorts, Lake Trout, Dolly Vardens, Land Locked Steelheads, Rainbows, and some Cut-throats.

Up to the present time these lakes have been little fished, except by local settlers, who either troll or use bait.

Barkerville is reached by auto stage from Clinton.



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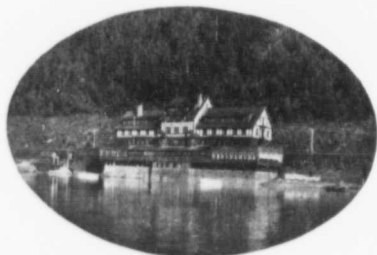
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