

Fishing On Vancouver Island

ALTHOUGH I had always looked upon British Columbia as one of the very best trout fishing countries in the world, it was not until I came to Vancouver Island that I fully realized how superlatively good it is.

Spots which would be considered excellent in the best district of Eastern Canada, may be had at any time in dozens of streams and lakes on the island, and that, too, without it being incumbent on the fisherman to travel more than half a dozen miles from the railroad, which, by the way, is now a branch of the Canadian Pacific system, although still retaining its original title of the Equimait and Nanaimo Railway. At anyone of a dozen points on this line, the sportsman who is not ambitious to catch some of the really big fellows, can find excellent hotel accommodation within walking distance of water, which, for the reasonably skilful fisherman may be relied upon to yield daily baskets of from three to six dozen speckled beauties, running all the way from $\frac{1}{2}$ of a pound to two pounds in weight, and without fail of light and as game fish as can be found anywhere in the world.

There are many camping inns where the best of accommodation can be secured, and the ardent fisherman who is looking for sport can make no mistake if he starts out from Victoria by train and drops off at any station at which he spies a hotel.

Should he desire a somewhat more elaborate outing with an even greater diversity of sport, let him take an automobile and strike out boldly. The simplest of camp equipment will suffice for such a trip during the summer time, and no difficulty will be experienced in obtaining frequent and ample supplies of gasoline. This equipped our sportsman may easily penetrate to lakes and streams which are veritably an angler's paradise. He will, however, find that on some of the most of the lakes, fishing with a fly will be practically barren of results. Here he will need to bring a small spinner or an artificial minnow into play, and he will be rewarded with fish running as high in weight as three or even four pounds.

Should he be fishing with light tackle, will tax his skill and resource to the utmost, or he is able to slip the net under them.

From this it is but a step to the best and crowding stage of trout fishing on the island. This consists in the following up of some few of the mountain streams, rivers would really be a better word to use, which empty on the west coast of the island and which are comparatively difficult of access, but in which exist the patriarchs of the trout family. Such fish which have been known to run as high as 14 pounds in weight and which are none the less as full of fight and sporting qualities as the very gamiest of their smaller brethren.

Here may the true fisherman take the sweetest of all earthly joys, that of landing a really big fish after a battle royal of perhaps a couple of hours duration, in the swirling, key stream of a rapid and difficult stream.

This experience is not, however, for the many, unless one can cast a long line, light as a feather, and with unerring accuracy, never a rise will one secure from the big ones.

Let us suppose that our sportsman makes Victoria his starting point. Leaving the capital he will soon come to some famous grise water where large baskets are caught almost every day in the proper season. The



(1) Cowichan River, Vancouver Island, B.C.
(2) Sanich Inlet.
(3) A morning catch at Nanaimo Lake.

view of this water, known as the Sanich Arm, which is here shown taken from the roadway, several hundred feet above the water level, is really a land-locked arm of the sea, and provides splendid sport for hundreds of fishermen from Victoria. Just a little further along one reaches another fine stretch of salmon and grise water known as Tyd Inlet, and here also excellent sport is to be had for the asking. Leaving the inlet behind and travelling some half a dozen miles further up the line, one comes to the Shawigan Lake station, from whence it is but a short ride to the lake itself. Here while domiciled in comfort at either one of the two excellent hotels to be found on the lake shore, the very best of sport with lake trout which sometimes run as large as five and even six pounds in weight, may be had, and that too in the midst of scenery which will appeal to anyone with even the most rudimentary love of the beauties of nature.

Eight miles further up the line Cowichan is reached, and here will be found one of the most famous trout streams on the island. This may be most conveniently fished from the town of Duncan, where the hotel accommodation is of the best. From this centre also a run of an hours duration will take the angler to Cowichan Lake, where he is certain to find ample opportunity for testing his skill to the uttermost. Excellent fishing may also be had in numerous small streams in this neighborhood, still making Duncan one's headquarters. The next jump

will be one of rather greater magnitude, to Nanaimo, in fact, just over thirty miles, though the angler who has chosen to make the trip by car, will find plenty of small streams occurring in the intervening section which will well repay his attention. Having arrived at Nanaimo, the Nanaimo Lakes will first claim notice. They are not exactly "easy of access, lying as they do some eight miles from the town, but there is a good road leading to them, though not as yet in a fit state for motoring. As will be seen from the accompanying view of a morning's catch on this lake, there is no lack of fish, and that, too, of goodly size. While at the Nanaimo Lakes a tramp through the woods of an hours duration will bring one to Echo Lake, a sheet of water which is also well stocked with magnificent fish, which will amply reward the angler for his pains in arriving thereat.

Returning to Nanaimo itself, the Millstream, which runs right through the town, holds many a fine trout, steelhead having frequently been caught here running up to 8 and 9 pounds in weight. The bay surrounding the coal city also provides splendid sport in the shape of strolling for salmon for those who like this branch of the anglers art, and, indeed, he who will indulge in a bit of sea fishing, will find himself well suited here, for the variety of fish to be taken is endless. Excellent fishing is also to be obtained in the lakes and streams of the upper and northern end of the island. Spent Spinner."

Sphagnum Moss as a Dressing



Ladies of McGill University Women's Union making surgical dressings of Sphagnum Moss.
(Reading from Left to Right)—Mrs. W. Grant Stewart, Miss V. Hamell, Mrs. E. Maxwell, Mrs. E. W. Lee, Mrs. A. E. Gerrow, Mrs. A. D. Blackader, Mrs. C. W. Colby, Mrs. F. D. Adams, Miss Mitchell.



(Reading from Left to Right)—Mrs. J. Harkness, Mrs. E. E. Howard, Miss E. King, (Standing) Mrs. W. H. Butters, Mrs. F. H. Pitcher, Mrs. J. B. Porter, Miss Neilson, Mrs. Peck, Mrs. J. C. Kennedy, Mrs. C. E. Moyle.

SPHAGNUM Moss, to which attention has been drawn by the fatal accident to Mr. Harry James Smith, the American Sphagnum Moss expert, is one of Canada's natural resources, one great value of which has been brought to light by the war. The use of mosses in surgical dressings dates at least as far back as the Napoleonic wars, but the demand for and extensive use of Sphagnum Moss did not materialize until 1915, and even in the Spring of 1916 its use was in the experimental stage. So great has become the demand that Great Britain is no longer able to fill it, and Canada and the United States are now being actively prospected for this highly absorbent dressing.

The first effective work on this side of the Atlantic was initiated by Prof. Porter of McGill University, who secured samples of various qualities of moss from the British authorities early in 1916 and then explored the bogs of Eastern Nova Scotia until he was able to locate supplies of material which the same authorities accepted as "perfect." The first sphagnum dressings sent overseas were made up from this moss in the autumn of 1916 by the Junior Red Cross of Guysboro, Nova Scotia.

Since then the industry has developed steadily. The McGill University Women's Union established a sphagnum department in a large laboratory very generously placed at their disposal by the University Medical School in the autumn of 1916, and from that day until this has been preparing moss and shipping dressings. Another important function of this organization has been to make up experimental sphagnum dressings of many sorts to try out the different grades of Canadian material under varying conditions. During the winter of 1917 another work room was started at Dalhousie University, Halifax, and the Canadian Red Cross definitely adopted sphagnum for hospital dressings and prepared to open working centres on a large scale. Unfortunately the changes in the Atlantic shipping situation which resulted from unrestricted submarine warfare necessitated a temporary check; but the work of exploration and development was continued. The late Mr. Harry James Smith of New York became interested in the possibilities of sphagnum last spring and after spending some time with

Dr. Porter to familiarize himself with the technology of the subject, established a sphagnum organization at his own expense at Arichat, Cape Breton, and collected and prepared a large amount of moss. Success in the use of this material led to the adoption of sphagnum by the American Red Cross and to the formation of a department which was placed under the control of Mr. Smith as organizer and Dr. J. A. Hartwell of New York as technical advisor.

During the last two or three months developments have been very rapid. The demand for dressings has increased to such an extent that the Canadian Red Cross has decided to start production on a large scale, and the Americans are organizing for an immense output for the use of their own, and the French hospitals.

No moss can of course be procured in the east until the snow melts, and the bogs thaw out; but excellent sphagnum is also found on the Pacific coast. Mr. Smith, with the help of the Canadian Sphagnum Committee, procured a car of Vancouver Island moss early in the winter, and this carload (which Mr. Smith paid for out of his own pocket) proved so satisfactory that he went to Seattle early in March to organize the industry in the northwestern States, and incidentally to look into the situation in British Columbia for Professor Porter, who was unable to go west at the time. As a matter of fact Mr. Smith met his death while searching for moss for the Canadian Red Cross, and thus set the seal to a life of exceptional generosity and nobility.

Sphagnum grows in moist and boggy places, and can be found in almost all parts of the country; but the moss to be useful must have exceptionally full and soft foliage, and the stems while tough and elastic must be flexible, as otherwise the dressing would be liable to cause irritation. First class material has been found coast, and equally good moss grows plentifully on the west coast of Vancouver Island—but little or no first class surgical material has been found far from the sea, although there are immense areas of Sphagnum bog in the interior both of Canada and the United States. The best qualities of moss are likely to be found close to the margins of the ponds, and sometimes considerable areas of clean high grade material fill what was once a

small pond. Before any attempt is made to collect moss in quantities all of the bogs in the district should be examined with a view to locating the largest supplies of good material, and this preliminary examination should be made by persons who have had previous experience in collecting Sphagnum.

Owing to the great variations in usefulness of different kinds of Sphagnum, and the fact that different species grow very much intermingled, the material has to be collected by people who have been trained to know good moss from bad, and even an experienced collector will often have difficulty in deciding just what to take and what to leave when he first visits a new locality.

The accompanying photographs show the work of the McGill Women's Union. No. 1 illustrates the preparation and drying of sphagnum and the manufacture of dressings. No. 2 the general soldiers' comforts work. The Union was organized during the first weeks of the war from among the families of the Governors and staff of the University. Its original purpose was to help provide "soldiers' comforts" for McGill graduates and students on active service, and as these now number over 2,200, the possibilities of its work may be imagined. During the three and a half years of its existence the Union has expended nearly \$3,000 on the purchase of high grade materials, which have been made up by its members into socks, caps, mufflers, pyjamas, shirts, etc., to a total of about 3,000 articles of clothing alone, to say nothing of an immense number of sphagnum dressings, etc.

The organizer and first president of the Union was Mrs. H. Walter; since then the chair has been filled successively by Mrs. E. E. Howard, Mrs. J. B. Porter and Mrs. J. W. Ross, the present President. The Sphagnum Committee of the Union was organized in 1916 under the chairmanship of Lady Gordon, and its present Chairman is Mrs. Porter. The Treasurer of the Union is Mrs. A. McGoun and the Secretary Mrs. A. Willey. Any correspondence regarding the work of the Union should be addressed to the latter; but questions relating to the technology of Sphagnum and Sphagnum dressings should be addressed to Miss S. M. Balbridge, Hon. Sec. Committee on Sphagnum Dressings, Canadian Red Cross Society, care McGill University, Montreal.

NOW

You will be replacing your worn-out Springs and Mattresses with New. Before you do so don't fail to inspect our complete line of **Springs and Mattresses**.

**Dining Room Sets---
---Bedroom Sets**

We will be pleased to show you our large assortment of the above.

FURNITURE AT MODERATE PRICES
Agent for the celebrated
WHITE SEWING MACHINE

--IVAN W. HOLMES--
Furniture and Undertaking

Go to
A. RODGERS
—FOR—
Repairing & New Handmade
Boots and Shoes.

A. RODGERS,
JARVIS, ONT.
Agent for
Consumers Wallpaper Co
See Our Samples.

THE
Three Prime Virtues
—IN A PHOTOGRAPH—
Artistic Quality, Permanency,
and Likeness

—OURS HAVE ALL THREE—

MOORE'S STUDIO
MAKERS OF QUALITY PHOTOGRAPHS
PHONE 183
Narfolk St. Simcoe.

**Winnipeg Travellers
Get Chance to Study
Winnipeg**

New Ontario's Immigrant Support
and Settlement Department
Colonization Scheme of
Great Interest

The traveller nowadays wants something more than a formal seat space, and the well-extended service of the Canadian Northern to Western Canada affords ample opportunity for thought. The immense stands of merchantable timber, the untold wealth in water power, and the great commercial and agricultural possibilities of Northern Ontario should be matters of common knowledge to Canadians. Modern trains of standard and tourist sleeping cars and coaches leave Toronto Union Station at 10.00 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, connecting at Winnipeg for all points in Western Canada.

For information, literature, tickets and reservations, apply to GEO. L. MILLER, Insurance Agent, Jarvis, Ont., or write to General Passenger Dept., 68 King Street West, Toronto.

CANADIAN NORTHERN

ESTABLISHED 1872

BANK OF HAMILTON

THE Dominion Government is doing everything possible to stimulate greater production of both agricultural and manufactured products. It is the only way in which an adverse trade balance may be avoided. The Bank of Hamilton as a purely Canadian Institution will further the aim of the Government by its favorable treatment of productive enterprises.

JARVIS BRANCH
R. R. Telford

Save Money! Enter the
ELLIOTT Business College
Young and Charles Sts., Toronto.

before the Tuition Rates are increased. Great demand for our graduates. Write for our Catalogue and learn how our former are succeeding.

W. J. ELLIOTT, Principal.

Shop in Simcoe
At OUR Expense

We Refund Car Fare from Jarvis on a purchase of \$6.00 and over, Hagersville \$10.00 and over, and from Nelles Corners on \$10.00 and over.

Murdocks
Simcoe's Favorite Shopping Place

Nothing is gained by delay—Enroll now with
Simcoe Business College

An Ambitious School for Ambitious Students. Call, write, or phone for information.
J. E. BOWDEN.

When in need of printing of any kind remember the Record Job Department is at Your Service

When in the Record In

(1) A Gro
(2) Socie

THERE
for loy
Americ
strength
Success
through
winnere
saw the
infigon
adef in
signature
tion of
Inde
country
W
back and
the loyal
Hampste
hants and
having cou
ing was
They wa
British-Am
Sharon To
of Quebec
Mush of
west thro
some ser
Many of
fames, and
brought m
with them.
ped with
governing
Canada to