

BLOCK SIGNALS



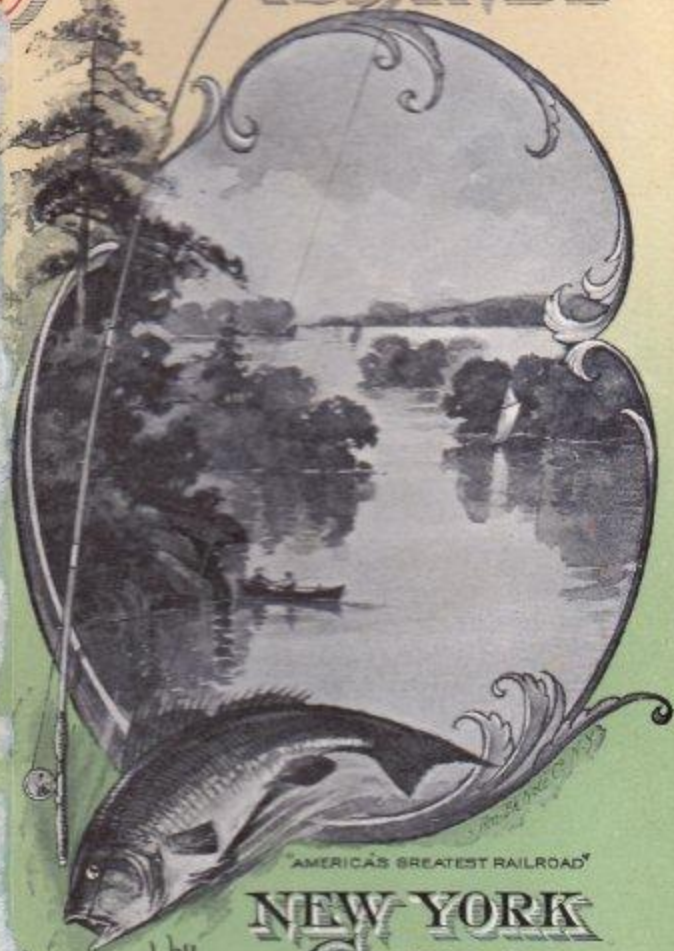
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"FOUR-TRACK SERIES."

No. 15.

FISHING *Among the* THOUSAND ISLANDS



AMERICA'S GREATEST RAILROAD

NEW YORK
CENTRAL

HUDSON RIVER

Published by
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"FOUR-TRACK SERIES"

OF THE

NEW YORK CENTRAL
& HUDSON RIVER RAILROAD.

Fishing

Among the 1000 Islands

OF THE

St. Lawrence

By JAMES CHURCHWARD, C. E.

NEW YORK:

PRINTED BY THE AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO.

1894.

FISHING AMONG THE THOUSAND ISLANDS.

Enchanted world! enchanted hour!
Hail and farewell, enchanted stream,
That hast the unimagined power
To make the real surpass the dream!

—EMMA LAZARUS.

WATER AND SCENERY.

THE St. Lawrence River presents some features which are unique; being the outflow of the great inland seas, its water is always perfectly pure. It is never subject to floods. Its attractions as a resort for angling and fishing are now efficiently protected by law, while the vast depths of Lake Ontario and the efforts of the St. Lawrence Angler's Association give assurance that the supply of game fish will not be diminished in coming years. There are two hundred square miles of legally protected waters.

The Thousand Islands may well be called "The Fisherman's Paradise." We cannot imagine a more exhilarating pleasure than to sit in a St. Lawrence skiff, which is a marvel of beauty and comfort, and handled by its owner, is as safe in the heaviest sea as a rocking chair in a drawing-room, drifting and threading our way around picturesque points, through intricate channels to beautiful bays, in which the clearness and purity of the water would shame a crystal.

As we pass dreaming through such a perfect creation of scenery, forgetful of everything in rapt admiration of our surroundings, we are awakened now and again by the lively jingle of a little bell at the end of one of the fish poles. A pickerel is telephoning that our attention is required elsewhere for a time.

Scenes of ever changing loveliness—Nature's most pleasing panorama—which no pen can adequately describe, are constantly opening out as the fisherman glides over the bosom of the blue waters.

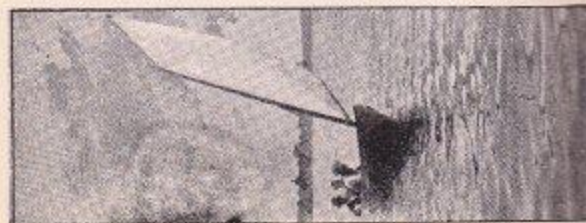
At noon another scene—an open air dinner on one of the little islands, cooked by the guide over a primitive hearth, and eaten underneath the shade of a veteran oak or the dark north pine, to music of rippling waves breaking on the pebbly shore, or farther off the roar of the strong current as it strikes some rock or head land. We enjoy a meal that cannot be surpassed at Delmonico's,



THE CATHER.



ON WAITING ORDERS.



A GOOD START.



AN ISLAND LUNCHEON.

after which we light a cigar and lazily roll in the shade, once more falling back to dreamland, which is broken by the voice of the guide announcing that "If we think of going home to-day it is almost time to make a start." We jump up, looking at the sinking sun, and then at our watch; can it be possible? the time, good gracious! where has it gone? half-past three! and we can scarcely bring ourselves to believe it is yet past noon, or that the sun is sinking in the west to disappear and for a time leave these regions to the light and care of the cold, pale moon.

We get into the boat and again wind in and out amongst the wilderness of islands, finally reaching home



FAIR SHINES THE MOON TO-NIGHT

in time for supper, there to meet our friends of the morning, and exchange experiences and compare catches. Such is life, fishing among The Thousand Islands.

CHAPTER II.

THE FISH OF THE ST. LAWRENCE.

IN the St. Lawrence are found the muskallonge, the black bass, the pickerel and almost all the other varieties of less gamey fresh water fish such as the wall-eyed pike, the perch, rock bass, cat-fish, etc., etc. The family of pikes consists of five varieties, viz.:

- Muskallonge, *Esox Nobilior*.
- Pike proper, *Esox Lucius*.
- Chain pickerel, *Esox Reticulatus*.
- Brook pickerel, *Esox Americanus*.
- Hump-back pickerel, *Esox Vermiculatus*.

Only two of these are found in the St. Lawrence—the muskallonge and pike proper—the latter is the largest of the pickerel group and stands second to the muskallonge.

THE PIKE PROPER, OR ST. LAWRENCE PICKEREL.

In general color is of a greenish brown, toning down to a white belly, and is distinguished from its smaller brethren by white or yellow elongated spots or blotches down its sides. These pickerel sometimes run to a large size twenty to twenty-five pounds. It is nothing uncommon to see three or four of fifteen pounds each brought in by the different fisherman in a day. The average catch, however, runs from three to ten pounds each.

On the whole, although not the gamiest of the St. Lawrence fishes, the pickerel receives the greatest amount of favor and attention from fishermen, probably because they are voracious feeders, and always insure a good day's sport. We have invariably managed to fill our box when fishing for them, and sometimes have had the extraordinary luck of taking over one hundred fish in a single day.

The most common mode of catching the pickerel is by trolling with a spoon, and if proper attention is paid to the weather, and the proper size and color of spoon used, there is no doubt that more can be caught by trolling than by fishing with live bait.

Trolling requires very little skill on the part of the fisherman; all he has to do is to pull the fish gently up after it strikes until alongside the boat, then reach out and grasp



it by the back of the neck and lift it into the boat. Any novice is sure to be well repaid for a day's trolling. A lady perhaps would rather get her fish into the boat with a landing net.

Pickeral are found all over the river, along every shore, on every flat and weed bed; their number is legion, and being good feeders give great sport.

Trolling for pickerel commences about the beginning of July. From that time to the first week in August the best lure to use is a pair of minnows surmounted by a pair of G. M. Skinner's spoons, copper and silver No. 6. The hooks, which are attached to the gang, should be snelled on gimp, not on twisted gut, as the latter does not stand more than two or three strikes before it gets cut into shreds. About the first week in August minnows may be abandoned and an ordinary treble-gang hook dressed with feathers behind No. 8 spoons, can be used, except on very bright days, when it will be found better to fall back on the smaller size No. 6.

When trolling, if it is found that one spoon is catching nearly all the fish, it is just as well to take off the spoon doing nothing and put on a brass one—it often results in a good many double headers, that is, a fish on each line at the same time.

The most sportsmanlike manner of catching the pickerel is certainly on rod and reel; a great deal of good fishing can be got out of it. For a time, at least, they are gamey and fight; and with light tackle, the fisherman requires to use considerable care and caution. The best bait to use is minnows; these the guide can always obtain, if he is advised the night before of the quantity and size required. Big bait as a rule get big fish; we always select the largest that can be got.

The best hooks to use are 6° or 7° crystal bass hooks, snelled on gimp. The wire of these hooks is thinner and finer tempered than that of ordinary hooks, whilst the points are all finished by hand. The perfect point and fine wire does not mutilate the bait so much, so that it remains lively a long time. Imported by Kiffe Company, 523 Broadway, New York.

To those who have only caught fish by trolling and are about to try their luck on rod and reel, we beg to offer a few suggestions:

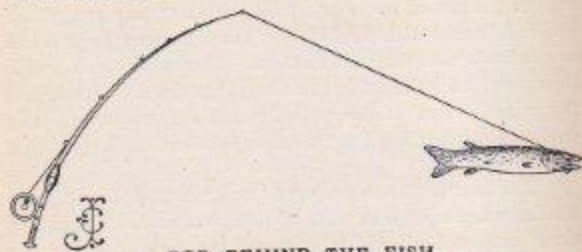
Never start with a poor rod or inferior tackle—get the best, it is cheapest in the long run—the best tackle never breaks one's heart by snapping in two at a critical moment.

Never strike a pickerel when he seizes the bait, or in any way check him; let the line run out freely, and give him time to turn and swallow the bait; be guided by the boatman's advice when to strike; it will depend on the size of the minnow.

Never attempt to strike a fish on a slack line. When sufficient time has elapsed for the fish to swallow the bait wind up the slack line cautiously until the fish is felt, then drop the point of the rod towards the fish so that the strike is directly from the reel; the boatman will take two or three sharp strokes with his oars, forcing the boat ahead; this with a sudden jerk backward with your wrist seldom fails to well hook the fish. As soon as it is certain the fish is hooked bring the point of the rod round and play the fish upon the rod.

If the fish is struck with the reel downwards turn the rod so that the reel is uppermost, and play the fish with the rod in that position; the line will be resting on the full length of the rod and thereby distributing the strain on it from tip to butt. On the other hand, if a fish is played and wound in with the line resting on the guides (below the rod) the strain comes on the tip only, which often breaks it; the rod may be in all respects perfect, only the fisherman does not know how to use it.

When playing a fish keep the rod in a horizontal position; the tip should be as low if not lower than the butt; hold the fish till he turns, unless he pulls very hard, then it will be necessary to give him line—but when he does turn, the rod must be reversed. The position of the rod should always be **BEHIND THE FISH** with the point bent towards the fish's head.



ROD BEHIND THE FISH.

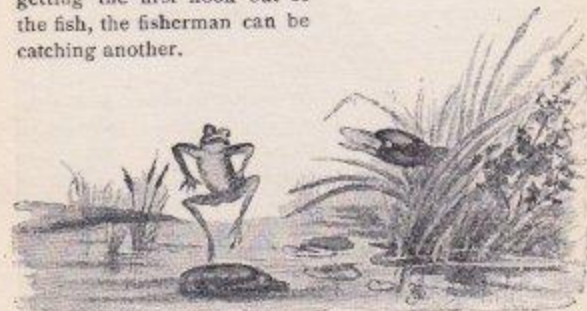
As the fish loses strength, wind him in, but don't attempt to hold him if he rushes; let him run out a few feet if he wants to, as soon as he stops running wind him back again—never under any circumstances **LIFT THE HEAD OF THE FISH OUT OF WATER**; this is done by raising the point of the rod when the fish is on a short line near the boat. More rods and lines are broken and fish lost in this way than any other.

As the fish is being drawn to the boat, the guide should have his landing net ready, and when within easy reach should pass it **OVER THE FISH'S TAIL**, getting it into the net in this manner. Under no circumstances should the guide attempt to pass the net over the head, if he does he will frighten the fish and it will dive before the net reaches

him; as a consequence, the ring of the net will strike the line, and either break it or wrench the hook out of the fish's mouth.

Should the boatman miss the fish, do not attempt to hold it, but if it is necessary, let it swim off a few feet, then reel it back again; it is the guide's place to take advantage of the fish, not the fisherman's duty to hold it for the guide.

For bait fishing, either use a hook on three feet of gimp or a leader of gimp three feet long between the line and hook. The leader or hook should have a medium-sized swivel on the end and the line a corkscrew swivel; this is for an exigency. In case the fish swallows the hook so far down that it is inconvenient to get it out unwind it at the corkscrew and put on a new one; whilst the guide is getting the first hook out of the fish, the fisherman can be catching another.



LORD! HOW YOU MADE ME JUMP!

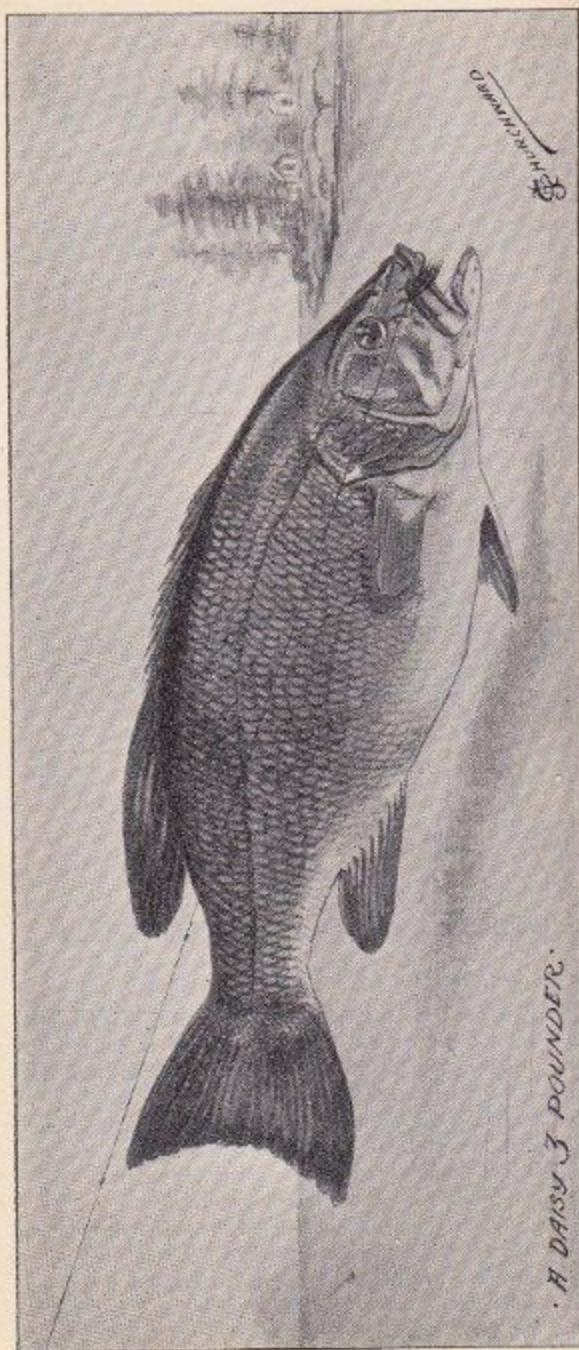
CHAPTER III.

THE BLACK BASS (MICROPTERUS DOLOMIEI).

PROBABLY the largest catches on record of this gamiest of game fishes have been made in the St. Lawrence; they appear to be more plentiful here than in any waters of America.

As all fishermen know, the bass is a very erratic and uncertain feeder. For days together he will not touch a bait of any description, at other times he scarcely allows the bait to reach the water before he seizes it.

The black bass is to be found all over the river where there is a rocky reef, or rocky sandy bottom. As these spots are in thousands, we will not attempt to enumerate them—the guides know of most of them and can always take the fisherman to good grounds.



Every bass fisherman has his own pet ideas about tackle, and as what will answer in one place, will also answer here, we will only make a few suggestions for beginners. An eight-foot five or six-ounce rod, fifty yards of Cuttyhunk bass-line No. 12 thread on any sort of reel that the fisherman may be used to, half a dozen three-foot leaders (salmon gut) with a couple dozen crystal hooks No. 4, and a few sinkers, completes the outfit. The principal bait used is brook minnow. The writer has made some good catches with the fly in the early part of the season, especially with salmon flies. Jock Scott and Silver King—frogs (small) are good. A piece of pork rind surmounted with a small spoon is an excellent bait occasionally for casting.



BASS BAIT.

These spoon-mounted hooks were given to us by Mr. Gardner M. Skinner, of Clayton.

The conditions of bass fishing vary with waters. In still waters such as lakes or ponds, we have always found that the most successful mode of catching the big ones is with very large bait and large hooks, No. 6 crystal. When the fish strikes, let him run with the bait until he stops, then as he starts on the second run strike him. As a rule it is found that they find their food in the shallows and retire to deep water to gorge it. In the St. Lawrence and other running waters, it is exactly opposite, they work around, find their prey, seize and gorge it at once; to attempt to let them run would be to allow them to discover the ruse and eject it. In the St. Lawrence, when a bass seizes a minnow, drop the point of the rod four or five feet towards it and strike, allowing a period of about five or six seconds only.

The game and fight of the black bass when on a line is only surpassed by one other fish "the muskallonge."



OUT OF THE FRYING-PAN INTO THE FIRE.

CHAPTER IV.

THE MUSKALLONGE (ESOX NOBILOR).

THE Muskallonge, the king fish of the St. Lawrence, derives its name from the Indian word "Maskinonge"—meaning "great pike" or "great long nose." It is the rival of the pike in size and vigor, but is very limited in its geographical range, occurring only in the Mississippi and its head waters, the great Lake Regions of North America, and in the St. Lawrence and tributaries. It is very like the pike, but has a somewhat proportionally larger head, and its color is materially different. In general hue it is dark grey, with silver lustre, belly white, sides dotted with round, blackish and brownish blotches, and the fins flecked with black.

They are to be found regularly only in a few spots of this great river, and for their voracity and fight may well be called the leopard of the St. Lawrence.

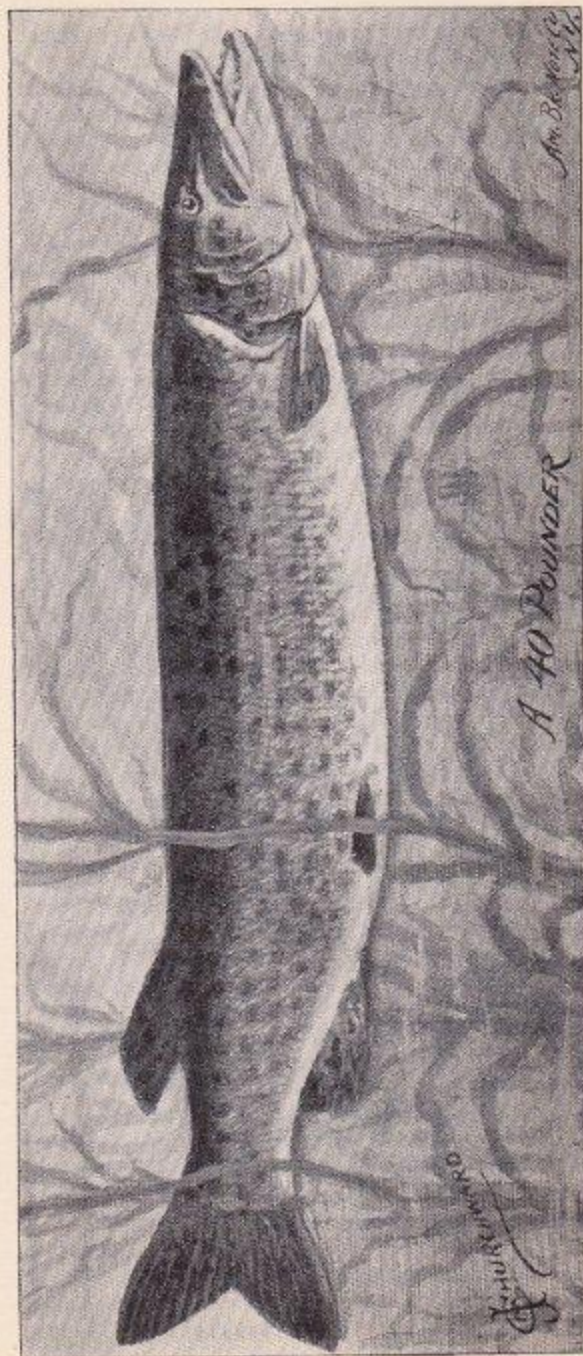
For the benefit of our readers, we have made charts of the principal grounds where they are always to be found and points and landmarks to locate the exact spots. We also give suggestions how to handle them, and what is the most suitable tackle with which to catch them.

Few indeed of the muskallonge that are hooked ever get landed, probably not more than one out of every ten. Scarcely a day passes at the islands that you do not hear the tale of woe, Oh! I lost such a big one; or he got off, or the line broke, etc., etc. Insufficient knowledge of their fighting tactics, and unsuitable tackle are the main causes.

Muskallonge invariably FEED NEAR THE SURFACE, therefore the spoons should never be more than three to eight feet under water. The eyes of a fish are so situated that he can see anything on his level or above him, but nothing underneath. If it is on the feed it will always rise to a spoon above itself. A line should be a rein to guide a fish to the boat not a cable to haul it there. As a fish is killed by first exhausting its strength, ALWAYS TIRE IT OUT ON A LONG LINE, so that when it comes alongside the boat, it is an easy matter to gaff or club it.

Avoid letting the fish get a slack line on you as you would poison. If it should run up on the line, take in as quickly as possible, and get the guide to row off at right angles; gain touch again immediately, it is imperative to success.

Always feel the fish; keep a gentle strain on it, say two or three pounds. This prevents the fish from shaking the hooks out of his mouth, and also from tearing the flesh so that there is a gaping hole behind the hooks. If the fish is pulled hard, unless the hooks are embedded around some bone, they will cut or tear a hole, so that, if it



turns or rolls the hooks may drop out of their own accord, for being drawn back in an opposite direction they may be brought to the hole where nothing holds them.

When a fish rushes, which it always does with great force, let the line run out, but be on terms with it directly it begins to slack up. Keep on a gentle strain, but DON'T FRIGHTEN IT BY PULLING HARD. Keep it ALWAYS MOVING, it is then only a question of time before it comes alongside the boat as quietly as a tame animal.

Never attempt to get a fish alongside until it is thoroughly exhausted. This can be determined when it buoys, that is, rises to the surface with its mouth wide open, and then, when alongside, be prepared to let it run two or three times if it wants to; these last runs are short and weak, rarely exceeding twenty feet, but should not be stopped, or the fish gets frightened, and with a last effort lunges across a short tight line, and invariably breaks it.

When a fish breaks water, pull strong enough to upset it, ON NO ACCOUNT LET IT SHAKE ITS HEAD OUT OF WATER; this it will do in its jump if not capsized, and very often shake the spoon out of its mouth throwing it fifteen or twenty feet away.

It is generally conceded that dark, cloudy days, with a breeze sufficient to make the water lippy, are the best. We believe it, for more fish have been caught under these conditions than any other. At the same time it must be said that it does not always hold good, for the two biggest fish we ever caught were on days when there was not a cloud in the sky, the sun scorching hot, and with not a breath of air to ruffle the water, which was like glass. The fact is, a muskallonge will take the bait when he gets good and ready and at no other time.

As a preference for time of day, the early morning is certainly the best from sunrise to 9 o'clock and again from 4 p.m. till sunset. These few hours are worth ten times as many in the middle of the day.

For the benefit of those intending to fish for the bull-dogs of the water, we will describe the catch of one last season.

It was about half-past five on a dark, drizzly morning that we made a start. By six we were well on the grounds with two spoons in the water (on set poles), a silver one on one, and a copper spoon on the other (G. M. Skinner's No. 98).

We had just got comfortably settled when John (the guide) remarked: "I'm betting on the silver spoon this morning." He had scarcely got the words out of his mouth, when there was a sudden drag on one side of the boat; as quick as lightning John responded with three or four sharp strokes of his oar on the dragging side, then half a dozen both oars together; this shot the boat ahead,

and the end of the pole went down, down, down, foot by foot, until several inches of the end was under water; it was just a dead heavy weight, like an old saw log. "Hold on," I said, "you've struck bottom this time." John calmly answered, "Not in thirty feet of water with only seventy feet of line out," and then increased the strength and quickness of his stroke. I looked around and directly saw a large dark object come slowly to the surface of the water, turn a somersault, and disappear. Now the fun commenced. His lordship began shaking up things as only a muskallonge knows how; it appeared as if he intended to rattle the side of the boat out with the end of the set pole. Taking the guy-line I tried to make connections with the main line, but found it impossible; the fish could not be drawn towards the boat with a moderate strain, so the guide stopped rowing, and backed water until about twenty feet of line was coiled in the boat; this was to meet the rush when it took place. In the meantime John had unshipped and thrown overboard the other



COME IN OUT OF THE WET.

pole, to give me all the advantage possible in playing the fish. Drawing the boat away from the floating pole, we got to a distance where it felt secure from entanglement with the discarded line. Scarcely were we in this position when I saw the line gradually but surely coming to the surface. John exclaimed: "Look out, Sir, he's going to break." I was aware of it, and tried to induce him to keep under by taking off all strain, only just enough to feel him. Sometimes, when this is tried, the fish will slowly sink again and make a rush without breaking water, but in this case Master Musko was not so obliging. The monster shot out of water like an arrow from a bow fully ten feet high, and with open mouth was about to shake his ugly old head, when I pulled him as hard as I could and upset him. This accomplished my object (to prevent his

shaking his head out of water). He fell back on his side, and then began a scene no pen can adequately describe. He lashed the water into foam for ten or twelve feet around himself, rolled, tumbled and tossed, apparently doing everything imaginable to break the tackle and free himself. By keeping a moderately tight line, giving him a yard or two one instant and retaking it the next, he was at last convinced that this was not the way to get free; so he turned head down, and with a mighty swish of his powerful tail, made one of those well known lunges or rushes peculiar to his species. He carried out every spare inch of line in the boat, and then feeling a strain turned and ran parallel with us. John kept drawing in towards the fish, to enable some spare line to be got into the boat again; line was taken in until his grand form could be seen swimming in all its magnificence, about thirty feet from the boat and two or three feet below the surface. Now began a race between fish and boat; the fish tried to head off the boat, and John, pulling like a demon, was trying to keep an equal pace with the fish. The writer had his hands full in keeping the line just taut, giving and taking all the time, in the slightly zig-zag course the boat and fish were taking. This race continued for probably a mile, when, horrors! the brute turned straight for the boat. In a second all touch was lost. John saw it and pulled for dear life. I gathered in line hand over hand. In less time than it takes to write this, we were in touch again, about twenty feet on the opposite side of the boat. Directly he felt the check, he broke water again, making a complete somersault, and continued this sort of amusement half a dozen times over, each and every time he was capsized. Then down he went to the bottom, and lay there without a movement, except now and again an ugly, savage shake of his head, like a bulldog worrying something.

"Get him out of that, Sir," called John, so a little extra pressure was put on. He came along until we could distinctly see him, and then he suddenly turned his head in the opposite direction, and without attempting to swim away commenced spinning like a spoon in full play. This manoeuvre wound the line around himself. Every now and again he would lash his tail against the line and thus try to break it. We were on to the trick, and as often as we saw that old tail swish we gave line, and he only struck a slack. (To meet this trick of theirs it does not actually need giving any line, only throw the hand eighteen inches or two feet towards the fish, or if fishing with rod and reel drop the point of the rod just so much.)

Tiring of this kind of exertion, he turned again head to the boat; drawing him a little nearer his eyes could be seen, which were marvels of brightness and savagery. There he lay for a few minutes shaking the spoon bulldog

fashion, and snapping his jaws in a most suggestive manner. For a few seconds, quietness, then John remarked: "He's a dandy fighter, isn't he? But look out, Sir! he's going to play another trick sure." So he did, for the next instant he fired half out of water balancing himself with his tail. Opening his huge mouth he commenced shaking his head in a most determined manner. John yelled "Upset him, Sir! upset him!" It was unnecessary. I was trying to pull him off his balance, and my arm was going like the piston rod of an engine with each movement of his head. He then took half a dozen little jumps on his tail and away he flew like a bird—a leap of eighteen or twenty feet, falling into the water like a rock. We then commenced to play him a little heavier; in a few minutes, good, he buoyed about twenty feet from the boat.

As John saw him lying on top of the water with mouth wide open, he called in a cheery voice: "Now's your time, Sir; bring him along before he gets his second wind."

When he was within a few feet of the boat, I found the handle of a policeman's club placed in my hand with the remark, "Be sure and let go the line when you strike." Another second and his head was within two feet of the boat (out of water). A second more and the club fell, striking him squarely across the head, just behind the eyes. A tremendous splash and all was over. "Well done, Sir," shouted John, "give me the line." And glad enough I was to do it for my fingers were quite cramped with holding the line so long.

The next thing to be seen was John's hands under the monster's gills, and the beauty coming in foot by foot over the side of the boat, quiet, without a movement or twitch of a muscle. John remarked: "He's an old soaker, anyhow."

"His weight, John?"

"About 45, Sir."

Well, gentle friends, that fish scaled just an ounce under 43 pounds. And we heartily wish our readers equal success when they go after the muskallonge.



HINTS ON TROLLING.

On moderately calm days the fish generally strike the spoon when being drawn across the current.

When the boatman is making a turn, always look out for the inside or slack line; if a fish strikes, it is invariably on this spoon.

On windy, rough days the fish generally strike as the boat comes down before the wind; such days are the best for muskallonge. Every now and again let the guide stop rowing and back water for a few strokes, then suddenly pull ahead five or six sharp strokes. This first sinks the spoons nearly to the bottom, and then raises them to the surface almost perpendicularly. Fish often strike at a rising spoon when they won't touch one running even.

Another ruse is to get the guide to row a zig-zag course first half a dozen sharp strokes on one oar, and then as many on the other. This sinks and rises each spoon in turn, also gives them an erratic course. **THE FISH WILL ALWAYS STRIKE THE RISING SPOON NOT THE SINKING ONE.**



THE KINGFISHER.

But the most successful trick we have ever found is to take in a spoon, and let it out gradually, say six to eight feet, then check it for ten seconds: then another six or eight feet and again check it until the line is all out. This may be gone over a dozen times with good effect.

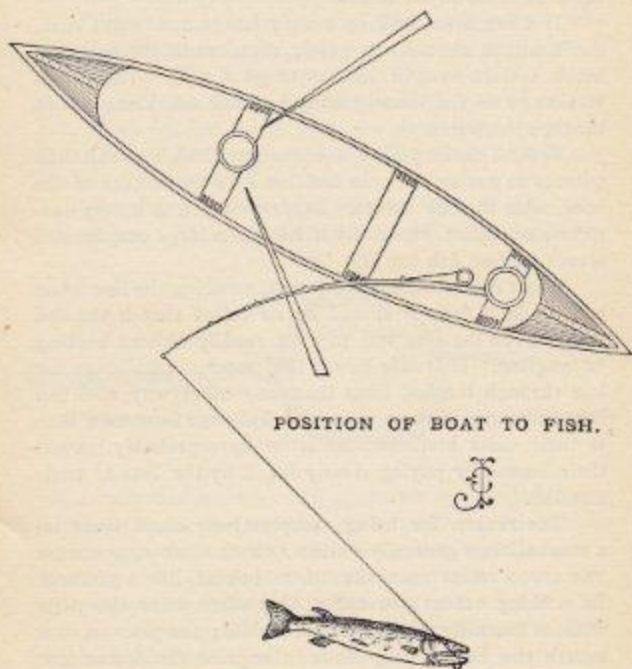
When the spoon is being checked a firm grip of the line should be had, for the fish strikes directly the spoon begins to spin—the fishermen should strike back again without giving an inch of line.

The fish is not yet his, even when hooked; it rests entirely with the fisherman whether he gets him in "out of the wet" or not. If he keeps cool, doesn't lose his nerve, and is not over anxious, the probability is he will have the honor of hoisting a white flag on his way home, an emblem or signal that one of the spotted giants lies in his boat. But let us assure our readers that they must not at any stage of the fight imagine for a moment that the fish is theirs until it is stretched dead in the boat; they are game

to the last, vigorous and strong, and fight with bulldog tenacity. They know more tricks and can discount any fish that swims, on smashing tackle. A muskallonge from eighteen to twenty-five pounds will give the fisherman more trouble, size for size, than any fish that exists.

A FEW HINTS ON TACKLE.

The only way we have ever succeeded in catching the muskallonge is by trolling with spoons. Two stiff trolling poles are supplied by the guide or boatman, he has also lines and spoons; but as their lines are seldom of the best,



POSITION OF BOAT TO FISH.

it is advisable to take new ones. The best we can recommend is the United States Net and Twine Company's cable-laid linen trolling lines, Black No. —. Get one hundred yards and cut it in two, then form a loop at one end for the swivel. BEFORE USING the guide should stretch and take all kinks out of them. There are then two lines of 150 feet each, which is more than sufficient. The best lengths to troll with around Clayton are 90 and 110 feet from the tip of the pole to the spoon, except at the back of Sir John's, where the lines should be shortened up to sixty and eighty feet respectively.

In addition to these lines be sure to take a pair of guy-lines; the boatman or guide can supply them. The guy-line should be fastened to the main line the length of the pole from the tip and then again TO THE POLE ITSELF INSIDE THE BOAT. When these lines are of this length and so fastened, the spoons will not be contracted or come together on a turn of the boat; at the same time the whole thing can be unshipped and thrown overboard at a moment's notice. The boatman, after muskallonge has been struck, should always unship and throw overboard the spare pole; then unship your pole and place it in the bottom of the boat, take the oars and bring the fish over the stern quarter of the boat and keep it in that position all the time; as the fish turns he must do the same.

If a fish after striking simply hangs and won't rush, the boatman should row gently ahead until the fish does make a start, even if he has to go a mile. The fish is weakened all the time by hanging back and being drawn through the water.

Several of the guides object to guy-lines, and ask their patrons to unship the pole and lay it in the bottom of the boat, after the fish strikes. Don't do it; it is a very dangerous operation, especially if there is a large one on, and scores of fine fish are lost by it.

Great care should be bestowed in coiling the line when pulling in a fish; it should be so coiled that if the fish makes a run the line will pay out readily without kinking or tangling. It is safe to say that more muskallonge are lost through tangled lines than any other way, and this happens more often to young muskallonge fishermen than to their older brethren; the latter have probably learned their lesson by paying dearly for it by the loss of some fine fish.

The reason for using comparatively short lines is: a muskallonge generally strikes AT THE HEAD AND ACROSS THE SPOON rather than take it from behind, like a pickerel. In striking across the spoon they often seize the plate without touching the hooks, and holding the plate in their mouth the hooks drop down alongside the lower jaw; therefore as soon as a muskallonge strikes the boatman should pull five or six sharp strokes with his oars, and force the plate through the mouth, until the hooks take effect. This spurt of the boatman can do no harm, for even supposing the hooks were taken into the mouth with the plate, it would only thoroughly bury them and make their hold certain; as a rule it is when the hooks are felt that the fish first breaks water.

We can certainly say how muskallonge take the spoon, having had the exceptional favor of seeing them do it twice. One was caught on less than eight feet of line and the other on about ten feet. In each case the spoon was

being checked to see that it was spinning all right before finally letting it go. Up rushed Master Musko ahead of the spoon to within a foot or two of the boat; he then turned, apparently measured the distance, and made an oblique rush at the spoon, taking it at the very head. In neither case did the hooks take effect on the strike, but fell down alongside the lower jaw, where they could be distinctly seen in that position. Two or three sharp tugs forced the plate from between the teeth and ran the hooks into the large muscle which is situated along the lower jaw; directly the hooks pricked, the fish broke water and appeared to be in a great hurry to attend to some pressing business on the other side of the bay. One carried out about forty and the other sixty feet of line before they could be turned.

From this it is to be inferred that a fish never breaks water, or rattles the pole, until it is pricked; until then, it simply hangs like a dead weight. The uninitiated fancy that their hooks are on the bottom, back up and let the fish, when he has discovered the deception, throw the spoon out of his mouth and go off, perhaps thinking to himself, "I'm well rid of that."

Many fine fish have been lost for want of this bit of knowledge. An incident similar to this happened to the



writer last season. Our own guide was sick, and being the height of the season no good guide could be obtained, so anything was taken that could be got in the shape of a boatman. Our luck was, of course, to strike a bouncer, which took the end of the pole a foot under water. The boatman, fearing his pole would break, instead of striking back, backed water. The fish gave a leap on the slack line, and threw the spoon ten to fifteen feet in the air. Gentle reader, believe us when we say that our language was not over saintly to that fool of a boatman. Somehow his boat made a quick wake in a bee line for home.

It can readily be seen that on a short line the boatman returns the strike quicker and more effectively than on a long one. The guide may try to tell fairy tales about fish being caught on long lines—150 and 200 feet and even more—don't listen to him. In the first place so much line would sink the spoons below their feeding region, and second, the elasticity of that length would ruin the effect of the return strike. Out of the last twelve muskallonge we have

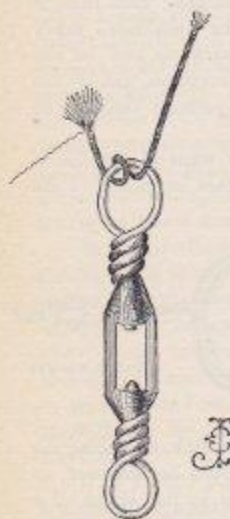
taken, eleven were struck on less than fifty feet of line, seven were struck in letting out the spoon and checking it every six or eight feet.

From the end of the line to the spoon use a strong gimp trace or leader three feet long. These leaders should be made with a brass swivel on each end, a large plain one on the line end, and a corkscrew (for easy exchange) on the spoon end.

Always solder a small brass centreboard to the corkscrew; this will prevent the line from twisting, and insure the swivels doing their work. If the swivels do not work when a fish amuses himself with spinning like a spoon, he succeeds in twisting the hook out of its hold, hence the necessity of keeping the line from twists. We have seen cases where only one plain swivel was used, and with one barb of the hook in the flesh, the fish has, by a series of spins and lunges, twisted the hook out of the flesh.

Leaders should be made of the best silver gimp. Gimp varies in quality as much as gut. To examine it, run it between the thumb and fore-finger and see that the wire is tightly and evenly wound, with no coil standing out beyond the rest, or no joints in the wire itself; then unravel an inch at the end and examine the filling, which should be of the best white floss silk only. In the poorer qualities foreign cheap matter is introduced, like cotton, etc.; these inferior qualities shrink after they have been in the water once or twice and then rot. This sort of leader is worse than nothing, breaking under comparatively small strains.

To bind the swivels on the gimp, make two turns through one of the eyes, leaving an end about one and a half inches long, draw tight and then unravel one-half inch; with linen thread well waxed with shoemaker's wax bind it together, commencing close to the swivel and finishing off at the flossy end; this makes a joint that cannot slip, and being tapered looks nice and workman-like. When finished rub down the binding with a smooth stick soaped, which makes the binding perfectly smooth. Afterwards, coat the trace with sulphur soap suds, which will turn it a dead blue. This blue washes off in the water and the trace remains black, the best possible color for a line. To finish the trace varnish the bindings with a



MODE OF BINDING
GIMP ON SWIVEL

varnish made of shellac dissolved in spirits, which dries and hardens so that water cannot affect or fishes' teeth destroy it. Traces made like this last five or six years.

The value of a trace is, it cannot be so readily seen as a linen line, nor can it be cut by the sharp edges of the fish's teeth.

During an all-around scramble and fight, it is no uncommon thing to find the line in the fish's mouth. A linen or silk line is cut at once, but not so with the gimp. We have seen scores of fish get away by biting the line in two.

We had a case once, where the fish had managed to wind THE LEADER three times around his head and neck and then through his mouth. Notwithstanding this he had to make our better acquaintance.

At the end of the trace the spoon is reached. As a general spoon G. M. Skinner's (of Clayton) Nos. 8 or 9 has no equal; only in a few waters has any other spoon a better chance. At the back of Sir John's and in the Bay of Quinte we use a third spoon—a large silver—either Star 1° or 3° or Montreal No. 5 or 7. These Montreal spoons are made by Chapman & Son of Rochester, N. Y., the Star by Lowe of Buffalo, N. Y. Under no circumstances in any water do we think of pulling our lines through the water without a pair of Skinner's 8s or 9s.

The position of the hook to the spoon is the next point to be considered. When lying in repose the end of the spoon should be within one-eighth of an inch of the points of the hooks. By thus having the spoon close down to the hooks the fisherman has a better chance with a muskallonge. Although the fish takes the spoon obliquely, he may get the hooks as well as the plate into his mouth on the strike.

The writer's ideas about muskallonge hooks stand almost alone. It is only fair to give the ideas of other fishermen equally successful, if not more so, as well as our own.

The bulk of muskallonge fishermen prefer a comparatively small, ordinary treble gang-hook lightly dressed. They claim that a fish is more likely to get it into his mouth on the strike.

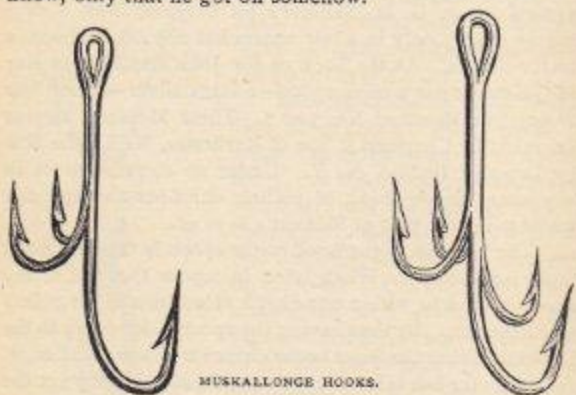
Our ideas are: The hooks should be of THICK, COARSE WIRE AND LARGE, and should have four or three barbs; if the latter, then one barb should extend fully an inch below the other two. The hooks should be HEAVILY DRESSED with quill feathers.

The advantage of thick wire is, when a fish is hooked in any of the muscles outside the jaws, in playing it these coarse wires do not work a hole in the flesh, so that during a jump or turn the hooks will not fall out of their own accord through a gaping aperture. With fine hooks we have seen a hole cut four inches long. It was only a piece of genuine good luck that ever that fish got into the boat.

The objections to the ordinary treble gang-hook are, if a fish gets one barb on the inside of his jaw, he gets a purchase on the two upper barbs, and can snap the whole lot like a hammer striking them on an anvil. We had this happen once: a couple or three quick snaps of his jaws left us with a plate and bunch of feathers—the fish, one barb of a hook and freedom.

With the hooks we have designed and now use, this does not happen; nor does it matter which barb or pair of barbs the fish take, there is no purchase to break them, with snapping or chopping.

These hooks have been used now for three seasons. It can be said in recommendation that out of nearly two hundred strikes only ONE FISH has ever got away from them. This fish struck, and immediately made a rush and cleared himself during the rush. How? We don't know, only that he got off somehow.



MUSKALLONGE HOOKS.

The two last seasons demonstrated that the three-barbed hook has an advantage over the four barbs, inasmuch as it is lighter and does not sink the spoon so much.

Heavily dressed hooks are preferable, because the feathers tend to lighten the spoon, cover the barbs better, and insures the spoon and hooks being in line when drawn through the water. It also makes a more alluring bait.

In dressing hooks use all quill feathers, as they keep their form in water. Put on three layers of the stiff quill ends and centres, and finish off with a fourth layer of the tips. Dress the hooks as follows:

For silver spoons—white, black and red, black and red predominating.

Brass or gold spoons—same as above, red and white predominating.

Copper spoons—red and white only, half and half.

In the bay of Quinte use no black at all; at Trenton Bay let red predominate over white; at Mosquito and Hay Bays, let white predominate over red.

The feathers should be bound on the hooks with linen thread, well waxed, same as the gimp binding, and finished off with shellac varnish in the same manner.

In fixing the hooks and trace to the spoon-bar the catches of the bar must be either wired down with soft copper wire (say twenty-eight gauge) or soldered, so that there is no possibility of the fish undoing either catch in its contortions to get free. Hundreds of fish are lost every season by the bar snaps being opened.

It is preferable to wire down the clasps of the spoon-bar to soldering them, as an exchange of either spoon, hook, or trace can be made at any time if necessary. Mr. G. M. Skinner gave the writer a new snap which is preferable to anything—if the hook is forced any way it only tightens the clasp; we herewith give a cut of it. We believe he has patented it, anyway it is the only perfect thing we have yet seen of its kind.



SKINNER'S NEW CLASP.

Scarcely do we ever find the point of a new hook perfect. It is always well to sharpen it by filing the two sides which makes a flattened barb and point. This point is less likely to turn or get blunt than if made like that of a needle. The edges, or swollen part of the barb, being reduced, have the advantage of making the smallest possible hole in the fish.

The boatman should have a good gaff and a policeman's club about twenty to twenty-two inches long. They also supply spoons, etc., but old muskallonge fishermen don't rely on the boatman's outfit, but prepare and take their own. Our favorite way of catching the muskallonge is on rod and reel. Take the most likely spoon for the day, being governed by the sky. Put on a copper spoon for clear sky, a brass one for floating clouds, and a silver for a dull, cloudy, overcast sky. Fix the spoon to the trace and the trace to the line, let out about fifty feet over the stern of the boat in its wake. Directly the spoon is struck, strike back again with a good sharp tug FROM THE REEL, not the rod, as there is no pole that a fisherman would care to use made stiff enough to force a spoon from between the teeth of a muskallonge. It can easily be told when the fish is really hooked, as he either breaks water, or shakes the spoon bulldog fashion. When it is certain that the fish is hooked let the guide throw over the set poles, lines and all, and draw the boat from or through them, depending on the way the fish is running. As

soon as clear water is gained, play the fish for all there is in it.

We use what is known as a Kosmic rod (nine ounces), two parts, seven and a half feet long. This rod has the advantage over all others of being reinforced at the joint, and made specially strong at that point where rods generally go back on the fisherman heavily playing a big fish.

The handle is of our own design and differs materially from ordinary bait rods.

It starts with a corrugated button, then five inches of cane winding, next an ordinary reel seat, and beyond a cork handle five inches long. The tip of this rod has a new form of ring-guide. It is without doubt better than any other—even agates. It is absolutely a perfect running guide.

It will be seen that the handle is in front of the reel seat, and at a sufficient distance between the reel seat and button to give perfect freedom to the hand and wrist when working the reel.

When a fish is hooked place the button on the hip, the corrugations will prevent its slipping with any tugging of the fish; hold the rod tight to the body with the left hand, by the cork handle, and manipulate the reel with the right. The line, as

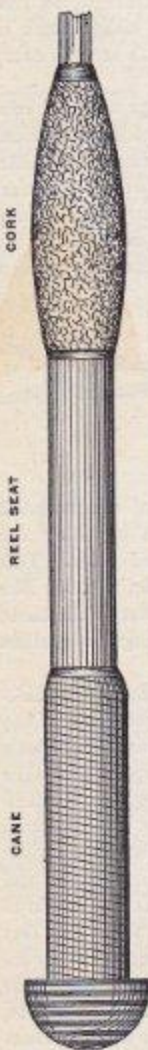
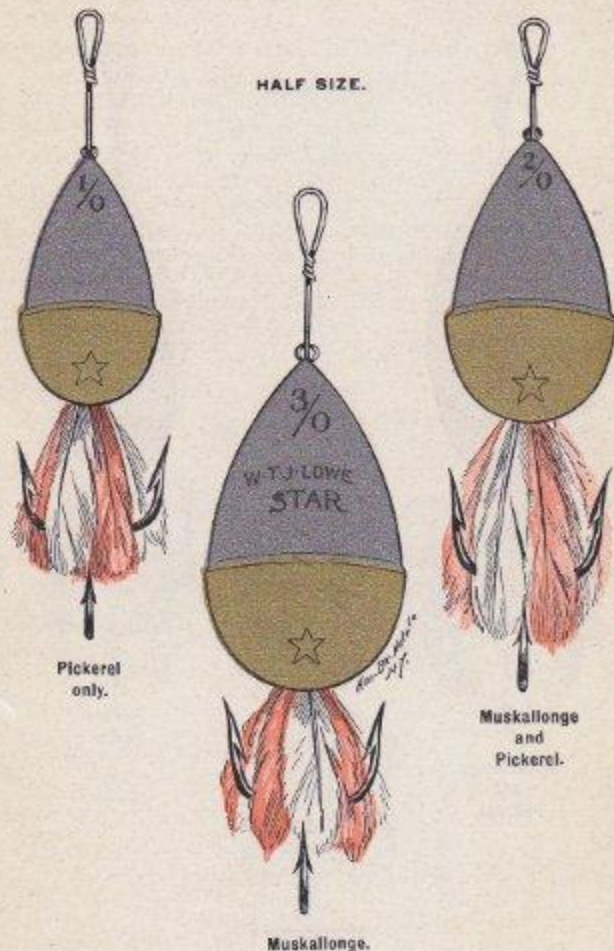


Fig. 2

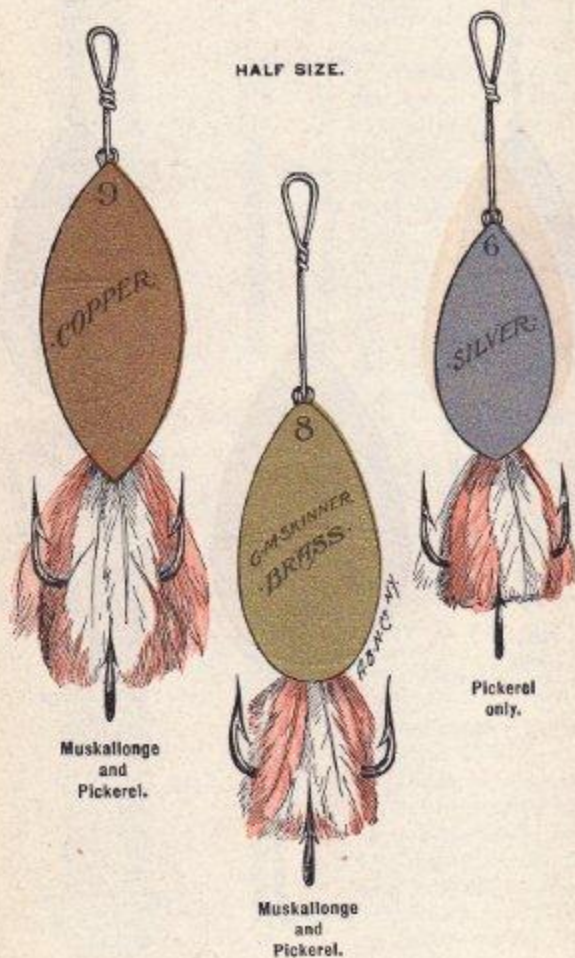


HANDLE, RE-INFORCED JOINT AND TIP OF MUSKALLONGE ROD.

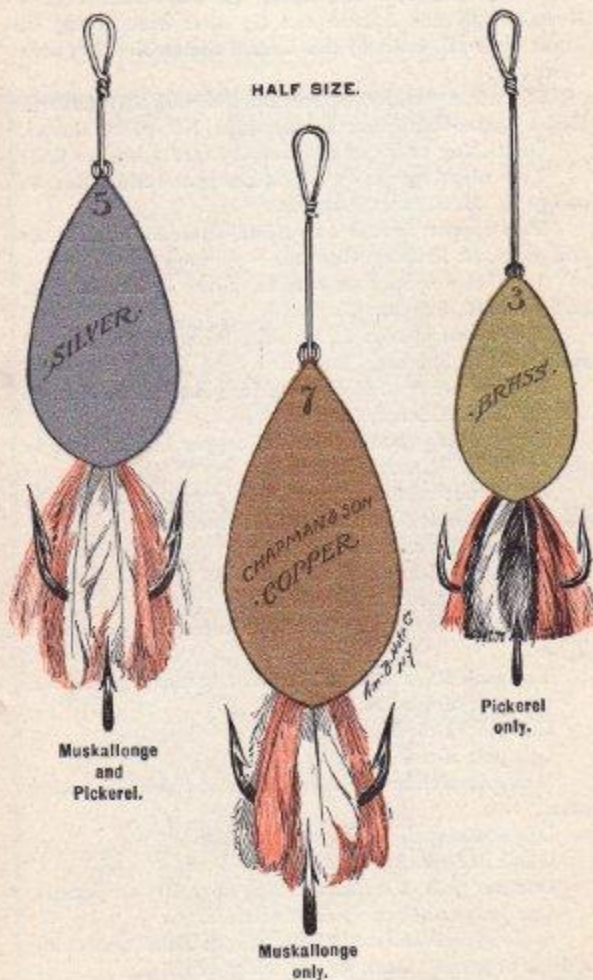
it is being wound in, can be regulated on the reel in perfect layers by the middle finger and thumb, so that no slack coil is ever made on the reel. Having plenty of room for the right hand, the fisherman has perfect control over his fish. He can give and take line with ease,



SPOONS FOR BAY OF QUINTE.



THESE ARE THE MOST PREFERABLE SPOONS FOR
THE THOUSAND ISLANDS.



SPOONS FOR BAY OF QUINTE.

can regulate the strain, and have power enough with the left hand while the button is resting on the hip to upset a jumping fish. This handle is so much superior to any other, that we have had all our bait rods altered to it. A fisherman can also cast with it just as easy as the ordinary handle. A fiveounce rod of this description is perfect for bass. We feel sure that any fisherman, especially those after muskallonge, would never use any other than a Kosmic with this handle and tip after once trying it. These rods are built by the United States Net & Twine Company.

We use a plain click salmon reel with 100 yards of Hall's Linen Cuttyhunk Tarpon Line, No. 18, 21 thread.

On looking over our muskallonge tackle box we find:

Two silver spoons on outside, copper inside, Nos. 8s and 9s, G. M. Skinner, Clayton.

Two copper spoons on outside, silver inside, Nos. 8s and 9s, G. M. Skinner, Clayton.

Two brass spoons on outside, silver inside, Nos. 8s and 9s, G. M. Skinner, Clayton.

Two silver spoons on outside, brass inside, Nos. 8s and 9s, G. M. Skinner, Clayton.

Two copper spoons on outside, gold inside, Nos. 8s and 9s, G. M. Skinner, Clayton.

Two gold spoons on outside, copper inside, Nos. 8s and 9s, G. M. Skinner, Clayton.

Brass, silver and copper Nos. 5 and 7 Montreals, painted red inside, Chapman & Son, Rochester.

Two stars, silver and gold outside, painted red inside, Nos. 1st and 3rd, Lowe of Buffalo, N. Y.

One-half dozen gimp leaders.

Spool of soft copper wire about twenty-six or twenty-eight.

Two cork floats one and one-half inches in diameter.

One pair of flat-nosed plyers.

One pair of round-nosed plyers.

One pair of cutting plyers.

A couple of chamois leathers and material for polishing metal.

One dozen spare hooks ready for use.

One-half dozen spare swivels.

One file; pair of scales weighing up to fifty-six pounds.

One Jack-knife; one pair of scissors.

Some spare feathers red (Ibis wings), white (underwing of duck or goose), black (crows' wings or tails).

One corkscrew.

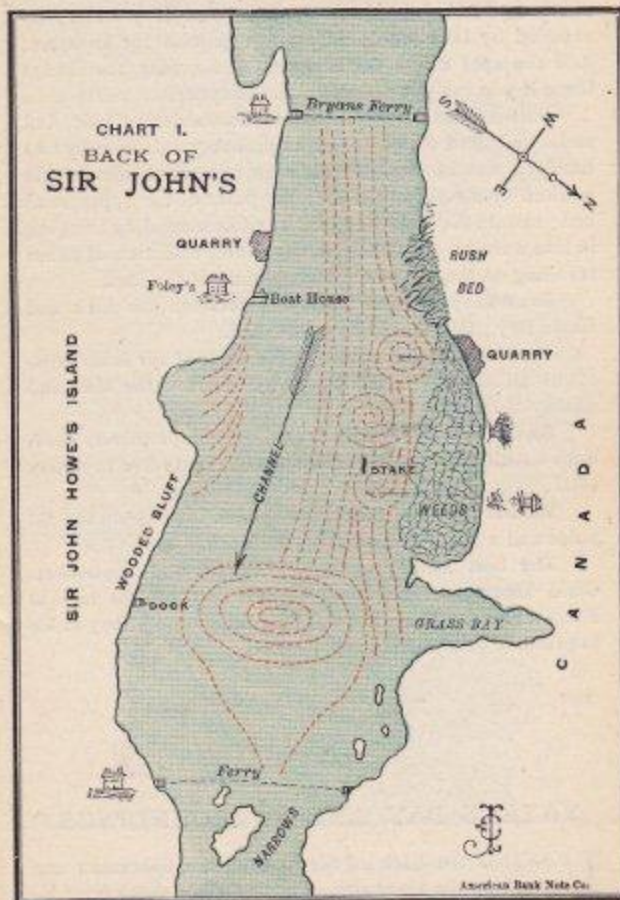
This, my friends, you nor I never need, but it comes handy to lend a friend occasionally.

With an outfit like this a fisherman can feel secure for a month away from any base of supplies, as there is everything in the box for mending or remaking he may require.

Muskallonge cannot be found everywhere in the St. Lawrence, but have favorite spots. The charts in this pamphlet will give the principal grounds and show how to locate them.

CHART I.

BACK OF SIR JOHN'S.



THIS water lies about twelve miles from Clayton. The fishing lies principally on the north side of the channel towards the Canadian mainland, and extends from Bryan's Ferry at the upper entrance, to the next ferry at the Narrows about two miles down.

Commence at Bryan's Ferry and troll down by the rushes about 500 feet from shore; when you arrive at the stone quarry draw in until within 200 feet of shore, turn down parallel with the quarry for a few boat's lengths until weeds are seen, then turn outwards to the channel and dash over the big clump of weeds which lie directly between you and the channel.

If fished properly and carefully you are sure to get a fish here. Fish it over and over again, we have never left it without getting one.

A little below the quarry is a clump of large trees; about 2000 feet from shore there is some deep water surrounded by long weeds, circle this ground for an hour; it is the spot where the biggest fish lie, they are always there if you can get them to take the spoon.

Still a little further down is another deep hole, but small and hard to locate. It is probably only fifty by two hundred feet in size, lies between two weed beds, and is marked by a stake at the extreme point of the upper weed bed; should the stake be gone, it can be located by bringing in line a clump of bushes on the shore with a small house standing on the top of the high ground at the back.

Some deep and fine water lies between the dock and Grass Bay; this should be well fished.

We consider the waters at the back of Sir John's discount all others in the St. Lawrence for the size and quality of its fish.

As the water generally is shallow comparatively short lines should be used, not more than seventy-five to ninety feet.

We use a pair of Skinner's spoons 8s or 9s on the set poles and a 5 or 7 Montreal on the Kosmic rod.

The best fishing is during August and September. Good accommodation for a night's rest can be had at Foley's Farm. There is a fair boat-house and plenty of ice to preserve your fish during your stay.

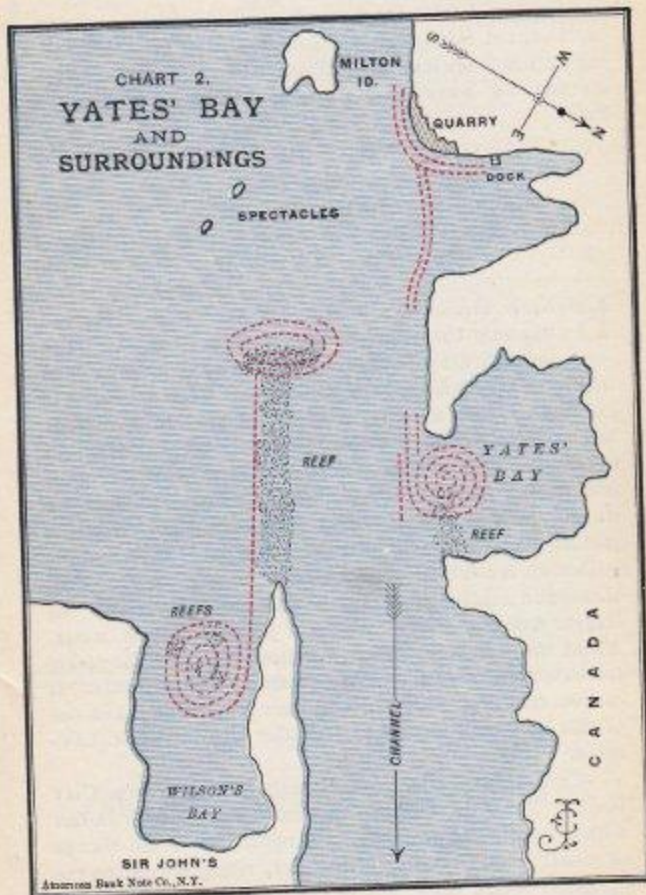
CHART II.

YATES'S BAY AND SURROUNDINGS.

LEAVING the back of Sir John's, the fisherman can troll up the river along the Canadian shore until he reaches Yates's Bay.

The fishing here is at and on the outside of the upper part of the bay. The ground is peculiar, being a series of little shoals and weed beds. The best part is near the upper end and a little on the outside. Off the point many a glorious fight has taken place between fish and fisherman.

From Yates's Bay work up shore until another little bay is reached, get well around the lower point and then make a bee line for the dock which is situated about half way down on the opposite shore. Turn and follow the shore outwards along the quarry (not more than seventy-five feet out) until the end of the quarry is reached, nearly up to Milton's Island. Many fine fish have been caught along this reach.



Leaving the quarries the next piece of ground to be taken care of is Sir John's Reef, which lies fully two miles up from the point of Sir John's Island. In shape it is in the form of the letter T, and can be located by bringing the point of Sir John's in line with the church spire on the one hand and the little valley opening out full just above Yates's Bay on the other. Some of the largest muskallonge ever caught have been taken here, but being exposed it

can very seldom be fished as the reef lies only about ten feet under water. But few guides know how to locate it. As soon as the point is well fished follow down the reef to Sir John's; on a fine, clear day it can be located all the way. At the foot of the reef a large bay lets up into the head of Sir John's; at the mouth of this bay there are a lot of little shoals—fish in and out amongst them; we have caught three or four nice fish there.

Length of lines for these grounds should be ninety to one hundred feet. Spoons, Skinner's 6s or 9s. Best fishing during August and September. Good accommodation, ice and boat-house, etc., at Long Island Park, Knapp's Point.

CHART III.

BOXON HARBOR.

BOXON HARBOR lies directly across the river and opposite the grounds described in Chart II. The grounds are all over the bay inside the main channel which runs from Knapp's to Oak Point. The fishing is in and out and over weed beds. In some places these weeds form regular fields, and rise almost to the surface. As these weed beds are the places where the fish are caught, it may be presumed that the fish lie in them and dart out on their prey as it passes by or over them. The very best part of these grounds is certainly off what is known to the guides as the dining grounds, commencing 500 feet from shore and reaching out to the channel. Invariably the largest fish are caught well out in the deepest water. About 1000 feet from shore in a direct line with the picket fence, at the end of the dining grounds, is a deep hole. It can be said that more old bouncers have been taken out of this hole than any spot of similar size in the St. Lawrence.

Further up the bay near Knapp's Point are the Clay Banks. Take the barn on the shore and bring it in line with the point and you will come across two small clumps of weeds, about twenty feet square, rising almost to the surface. Strike these and fish around them and you are sure to get a fish.

Another piece of good ground is alongside a weed bed running down from Knapp's Point; fish it on the channel side. Many good ones are annually caught here.

Boxon Harbor is one of the best muskallonge grounds in the St. Lawrence, and should never be left until some of the spotted beauties grace the fisherman's boat. Length of lines should be 100 and 120 feet. Skinner's spoons 8s or 9s. Fishing July, August and September.

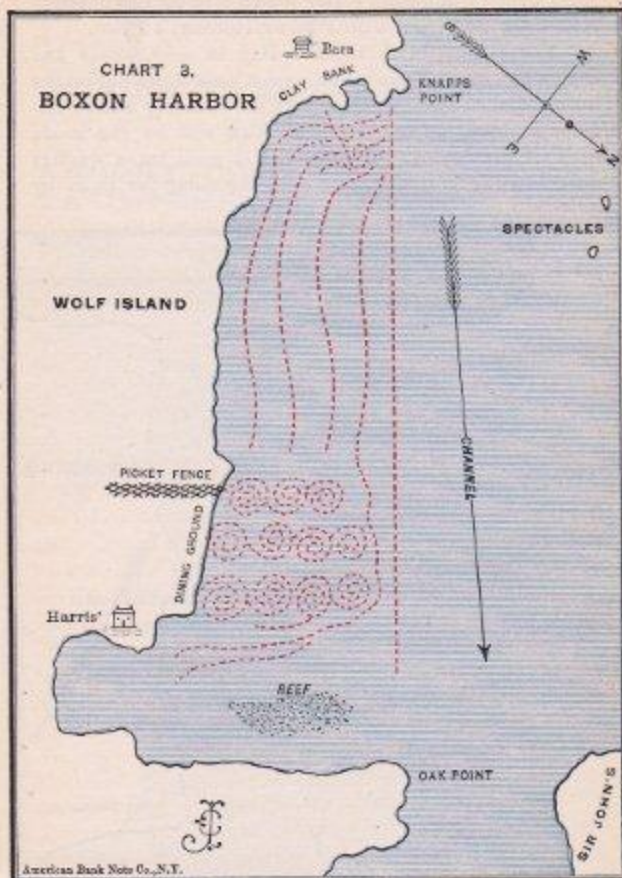


CHART IV.

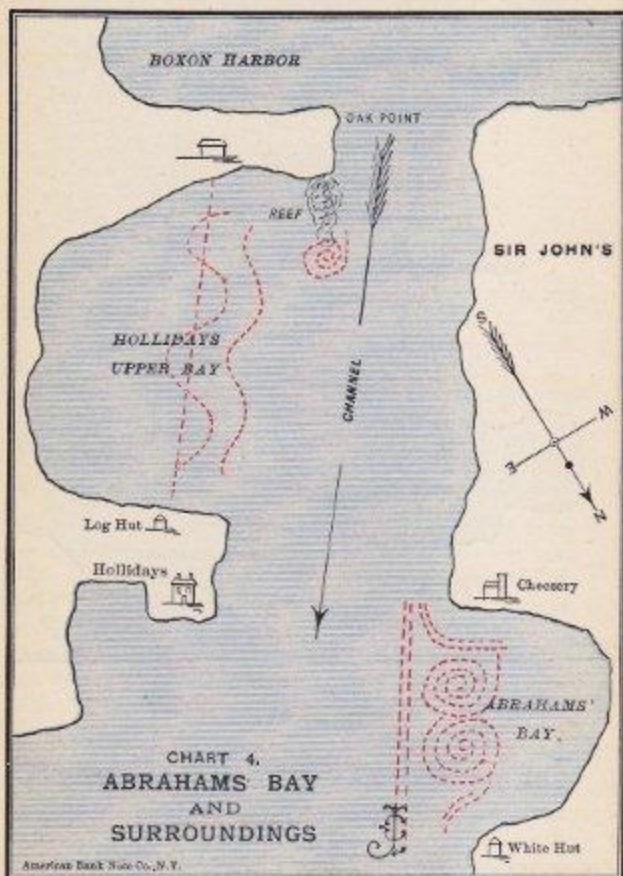
ABRAHAM'S BAY AND HOLLIDAY'S UPPER BAY.

HOLLIDAY'S Upper Bay is situated on the north side of Wolf or Long Island, and is separated from Boxon Harbor by a narrow strip of land called Oak Point.

The fisherman will start from a little log hut in the woods at the back of Holliday's house and bring in line a barn on Oak Point. This line is about the southern limit of the grounds which is one-quarter mile wide. As these grounds are always uncertain it is not advisable to spend too much time here—give it half a dozen turns and then

cross over to Abraham's Bay which lies on the opposite side of the river, and a little below Holliday's Point.

The fishing in Abraham's Bay is over weeds and alongside reefs. Take a line from a little white hut on the lower point and bring in line with the cheesery a little distance in from the upper point. This will be the inside limit of the fishing. The ground is good for a quarter mile out, the best points of all being along the shore by

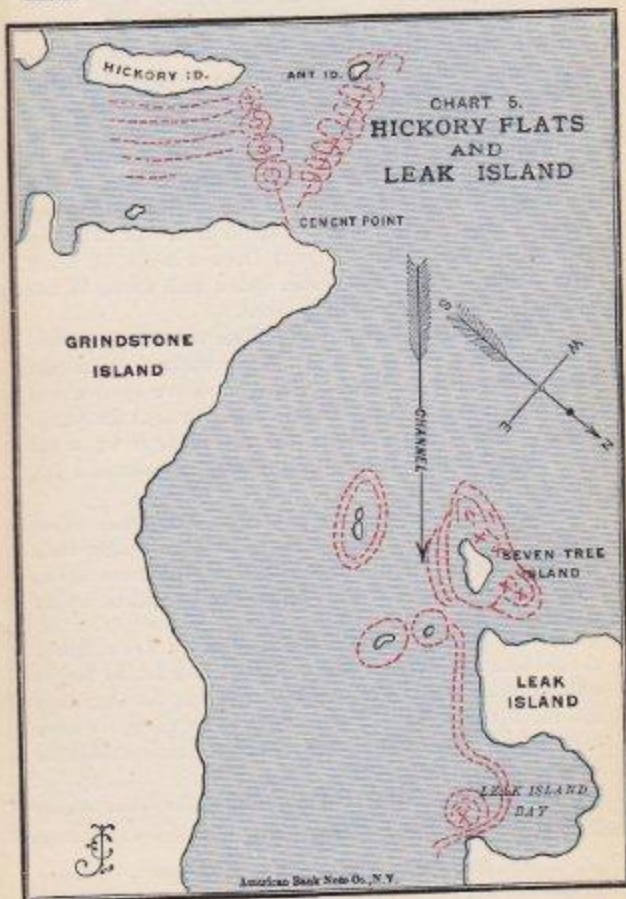


the cheesery fifty to sixty feet out where the weeds and rocks join, and a spot just about the centre of the bay and a little out beyond the line of points. Abraham's Bay should be very carefully and thoroughly fished, as it is a small bit of excellent ground. Lines 100 and 110 feet. Spoons, Skinner's 8s and 9s. Best fishing, August and September. Can get back to Clayton from here the same night.

CHART V.

HICKORY FLATS AND SEVEN TREE ISLAND.

HICKORY FLATS lie about four miles from Clayton. The fishing here is in thirty to forty feet of water, over two large weed beds separated by a rocky shoal.



Take a line from Cement Point, on Grindstone Island, to the outer end of Hickory Island, and the inside weed bed will be passed over, which is 300 to 400 feet wide. Then take a line from Cement Point to Ant Island, and you pass over the outside one; this bed runs out over a mile into the main channel.

For these two beds use 200 and 250 feet of line or two-ounce sinkers on 125 and 150 foot lines.

One part of this ground is very seldom fished. It lies a little off and alongside the Grindstone, between a point jutting out just beyond Buck Bay and a little island standing northwest; work out until the weeds can be seen; the water is about fifteen feet deep. Troll up and down here half a dozen times; more than one forty-pounder has been taken out of here the same day. Lines 100 and 110 feet are sufficient for this bit of ground.

Ant Island should not be left without being tried. Put two-ounce sinkers on your lines and make a bee line for the island; as soon as you arrive take off the sinkers and troll the lower side within 100 feet of shore, then turn down and pass around the reef on the outside, and draw in to within fifty feet of the shore; on the northwest corner there is a deep hole. Swing the spoons clean around it and then over it, and work out over the point of the upper shoal. Be on the lookout when swinging around the deep hole. It is an old stand-by spot of the writer's. As your lines will be all slack watch them carefully and strike quick and strong if one appears in any way to straighten out.

From Ant Island go down the river two miles to Seven Tree Island. The fishing is over a rocky bottom and shoals all around the island. There are two spots where you may always expect to strike a fish: one is at the northwest corner in a deep hole and the other is on a flat just past the point; both places are marked with red crosses.

Fish around Seven Tree Island a dozen times before leaving it. Scores of mighty monsters have fought their last fight here. Fish all the rocks lying off from Seven Tree Island as often a stray fellow can be picked up by them.

From Seven Tree Island follow down Leak Island shore about fifty or sixty feet out until Leak Island Bay is struck; draw in around the point and cross the bay; then fish the lower point very carefully; some monsters have been taken there. The same lines will answer here as were used for Ant Island.

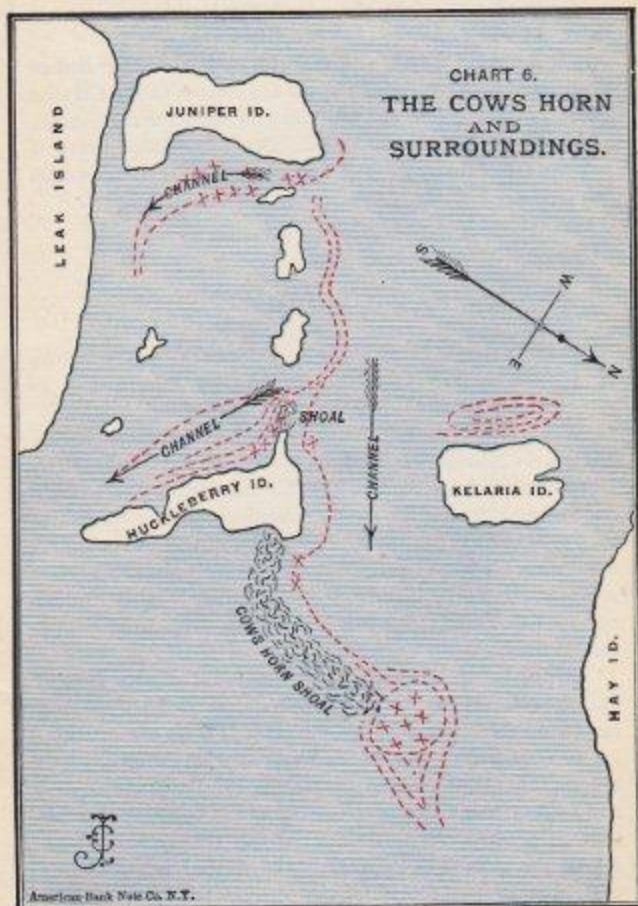
Best fishing August and September, the latter month especially.

CHART VI.

THE COW'S HORN AND SURROUNDINGS.

LEAVING Leak Island Bay the next ground to be worked will be the run or channel on the eastern side of Juniper Island. It is only a channel, but very fine ground, and a fish may be struck either alongside the shoal

on the left going down or at the mouth of the little bay. Return up through the channel and fish down on the outside of the little islands until Huckleberry Island is reached; then pass in at the head of the shoal in the steamboat channel and immediately draw in close to it. There is a very deep hole there. Skirt around it twenty to thirty feet from shore; this spot is well favored by our friends the muskallonge. After going over this ground two or three



times go down on the outside of the northern end of the island; as soon as you arrive at the foot draw in close to shore and keep along until a reef is seen, about 100 feet from the point. As soon as the reef is discovered turn sharply and follow it around. This reef is called the Cow's Horn, because it resembles somewhat that part of the anatomy of the animal. Follow the reef around until it disappears in the main channel. Circle the point half a

FISHING AMONG THE THOUSAND ISLANDS.

dozen times, this is a favorite spot. After fishing it thoroughly, cross over and fish the upper part of Kalaria; often a stray fish is stuck there. Length of lines 90 and 100 feet; spoons, Skinner's 8s or 9s.

There are dozens of other spots around Clayton where muskallonge are occasionally struck: Emery's Flats, Coleman's Flats, Maple Island Flats, Frick's Bay, Robbin's Bay, etc.; but we should place them under the category of stray fish—the possibility is they are always there but won't bite.

It is always worth while to troll around a deep reef or deep weed bed. All these spots are known to the Clayton guides. Get a guide and tell him you want a muskallonge, and he'll hitch you on to one. Don't be disappointed if you lose the first. If you don't you will be luckier than the writer.

BAY OF QUINTE.

HAVING exhausted the principal muskallonge grounds among the Thousand Islands, we take a trip to the Bay of Quinte, which lies beyond Kingston, Canada. There are regular daily steamers of the Richelieu & Ontario Navigation Company, which call at Kingston, Deseronto and Bellville. The *Veruna* leaves the islands once a week, and is the most convenient steamer for fishermen to take as she stops everywhere, and will put a fisherman with his guide and boat off at any point. Another steamer, the *Hero*, belonging to Bellville, is also a good one for fishermen. She has her regular trips from Kingston up the bay.

Muskallonge fishing in the bays out of the Bay of Quinte commences about the middle of September and lasts until the latter part of October. It is no use attempting to troll before this as the water is what is termed "in bloom," that is, the weeds are casting off slime, and flower, and rotting; the water is so thick that the eye cannot penetrate it a foot. At this time the fish simply won't bite. About the middle of September the water has sufficiently cleared to troll, and towards the 25th the fish bite well. It is only a fair catch to bring in three or four muskallonge a

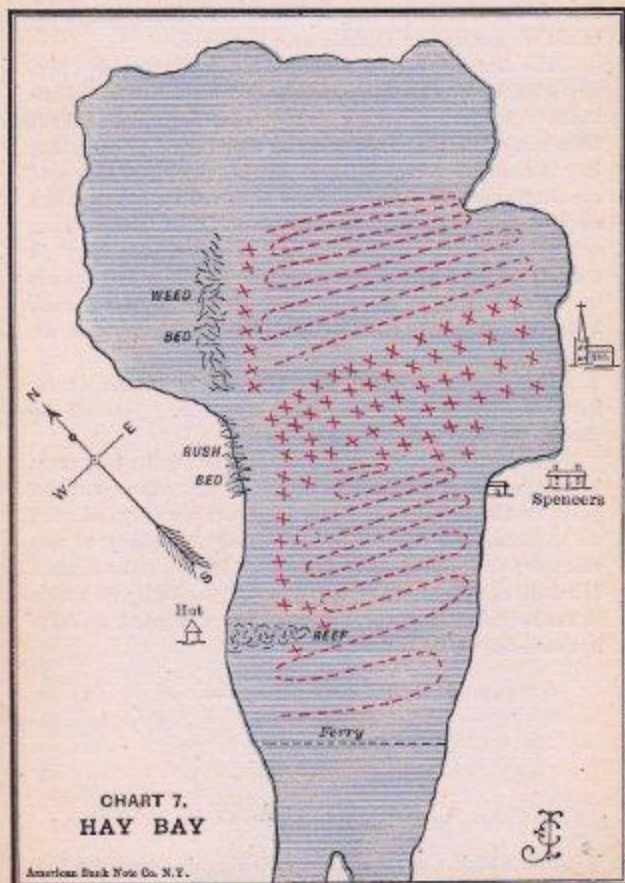


CORK WEED-HOOK.



day. As a rule they bite in these waters best between 7 and 11 a.m., and again from 4 to 6 p.m.

The tackle to use in the Bay of Quinte is very much the same as the Thousand Islands. The lines should not be over fifty to seventy-five feet. No trace can be used as it makes the line sink too much. We put a corkscrew swivel on the end of the line and put the spoons on bars



nine inches long. Weed hooks are necessary; we make an effective one out of a cork three inches long, tapered both ends, and four or five long pins stuck in the end; cut the cork half through with a knife and draw the line into it. There is sufficient hold in the cork to prevent it slipping down.

This cork should be placed on the lines about three or four feet beyond the point where they strike the water.

It is impossible to successfully troll without this addition to the line. The floating weeds lie in beds all over the place and soon run down the line and choke the spoon if not guarded against; these weed hooks catch them for a time, but the lines must be pulled in often and cleared.

The best spoons to use are Skinner's Nos. 8s and 9s on the set poles, and Montreal 7s or Lowe's Star 3° for morning and evening or dark days, and Montreal 5s and Star 1° for middle of bright days. The Stars and Montreals we use on our Kosmic over the stern.

The first muskallonge ground reached is a bay opposite Glenora or the Mountain Lake; we know very little about this piece of water except that several fish have been caught there. Following up the Bay of Quinte, Hay Bay is reached—Chart VII. It lies on the right side and cannot be seen until one is right in it. This bay contains as good grounds as any in the Bay of Quinte; the fishing commences soon after entering, just below the ferry on the left side. After passing the ferry a little hut stands on the water's edge, directly out from which runs a reef. This is particularly good ground, continuing up past the cemetery and rush bed, and is first-class.

The biggest fish are generally caught in the centre between Spencer's and the point opposite. Just off the church we have killed some old veterans.

The fisherman, as he works his way up the bay, must be careful not to get in beyond a line continuous with the point on the left, as the water shallows up very quickly; we have marked a weed bed all along the edges of this shallow; the ground is so good that it cannot be beaten. Muskallonge lie all over Hay Bay. There being no hotels in the neighborhood, the fisherman must depend on farm houses—Spencer's is the best.

CHART VIII.

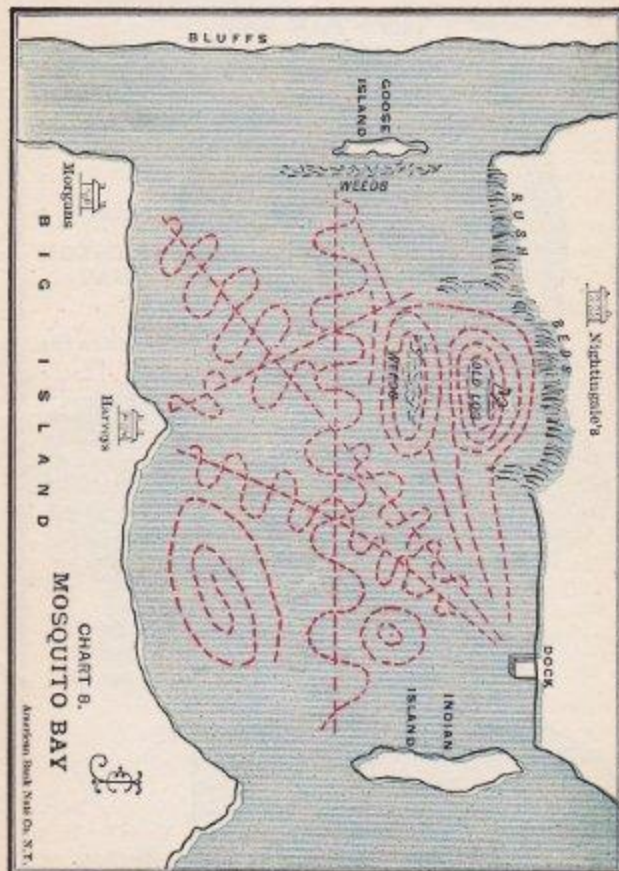
MOSQUITO BAY.

PROBABLY the Muskallonge fishing in Mosquito Bay discounts all others, but is tiresome enough to try the patience of Job, as the whole place is choked up with large weed beds. The only thing to do is to be constantly pulling in one line after the other and clearing them of weeds.

To fish the bay start from the dock on the western shore, troll along until the rushes are reached, in the centre is an old log about two feet out of water and on the outside a large weed bed; work around this old log and the weed bed for a whole morning. It is worth it as it is the choicest

spot in the whole bay. Take a line from the dock to Harvey's Farm; just in the centre is another magnificent piece of ground. Then from Morgan's Farm to the dock the centre is again the spot. Then from the point of rushes to Harvey's all is good ground; and to finish off a line from the lower end of Indian Island to the lower end of Goose Island.

After fishing this bay thoroughly for a day you will



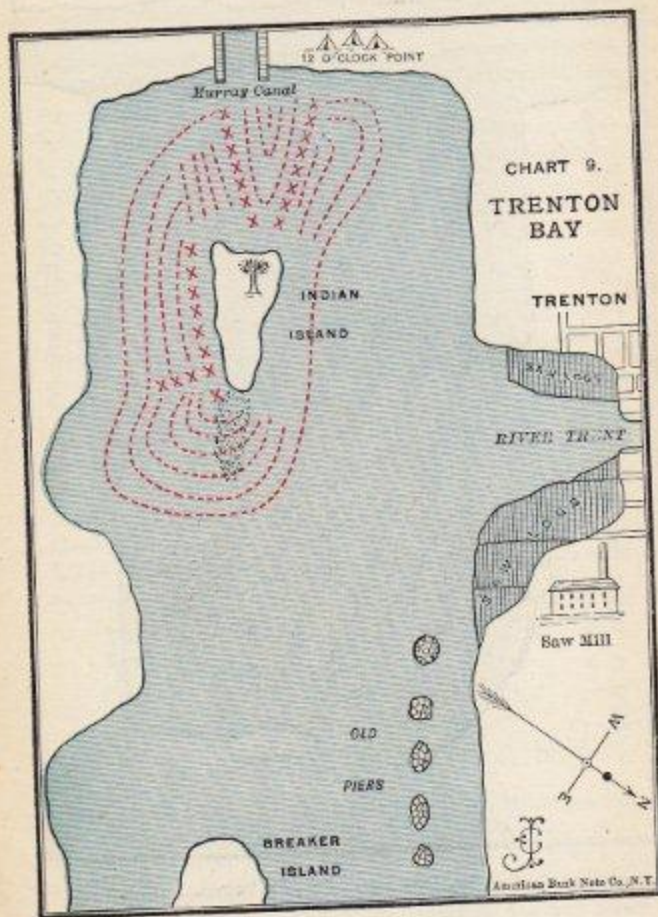
probably find yourself very tired with pulling lines, and while you are rewarded with half a dozen old fellows running from twenty to fifty pounds, you will also be aware of the fact that you have relieved the bottom of at least a ton of weeds.

The average run of fish in this bay is larger than any place we know of, and barring the nuisance of weeds is a magnificent piece of water to put a week or two in.

The summer hotel at Massaga Point is about two miles from the dock, but any of the farms will take care of you if you wish to be nearer the grounds for the early morning and late fishing.

CHART IX.

TRENTON BAY.



THE last piece of Muskallonge ground is at Trenton at the extreme end of the Bay of Quinte. Go to Trenton from Bellville by one of the daily steamboats.

The fishing in Trenton is perhaps the finest of all; the principal grounds lie around Indian Island. Take a

line from the pine tree standing on the southwest end of the island to Twelve o'Clock Point (the right hand entrance of the Murray Canal), and the boat will pass over the centre of the best ground. All the ground between the southern side and the mainland is most excellent. We once got a brace of forty-pounders here before breakfast. Some immense fish lie around the island—we should never be surprised to hear of a seventy-five-pounder being caught by some one, some day.

As a last suggestion to any one going fishing in the Bay of Quinte, we would say, be sure and take a guide from Clayton. It is impossible to either get a decent boat or a reliable guide anywhere in the Bay of Quinte. We tried them once, but shall never make the mistake again.



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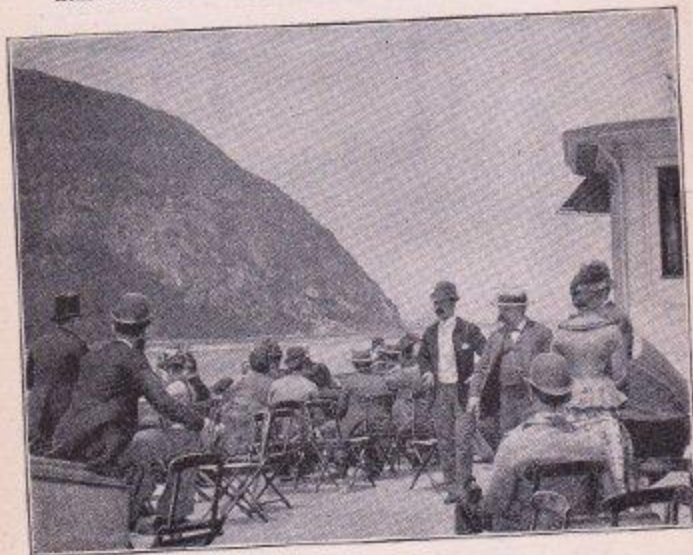
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