

fighters, and the same is true of the tuna. Certain male fishes, during the breeding or spawning season, are weak and can be caught by women; indeed, a boy has been known to catch such a fish which weighed over 150 pounds, and I have seen a boy not over 12 years of age land a 6-foot tarpon in ten minutes, but these fishes were not normal. A tuna weighing 125 pounds in its best condition, will fight successfully from three to five hours, towing a heavy boat from 10 to 20 miles, and this certainly cannot be said of any tarpon of similar size; and after long experience with both I consider that one tuna of 125 or 130 pounds, if harnessed to two tarpons of like weight, would drown them or tow them both. There is no surrender to the tuna; he fights to the last and often comes in as dead as a door nail, dying of heart failure.

It is not my intention to disparage the splendid tarpon that has no peer in its peculiar field, but physically, it is no match for the tuna, pound for pound, the latter occupying a field quite as peculiar and distinct. In a recent book on tarpon fishing, published by an English sportsman, he claims that no skill is necessary in taking these fishes. I venture the statement that this gentleman has yet to meet a tarpon at its best, as such a fish can easily demoralize a tyro. It is difficult to tell what the Florida average of rod catches is, but Aransas Pass alone claims 178 tarpon, taken during the season of 1902. I have not the figures, but I doubt if any angler has taken over 17 tunas at Avallone in any one season or that 100 fish over 100 pounds' weight have been taken in any one season. Hundreds of tunas are hooked, and they are there by thousands, but almost every novice loses 10 or 12 to every one hooked, and the surface strike and fierce rush, throwing water high in air, I have seen demoralize an angler so thoroughly that he hooked but one in twenty—more or less. In taking a number of tarpon, which were over 5 feet in length, none towed my boat—a very light one—200 feet. On the other hand, I never hooked but one tuna that did not tow me from two to ten miles; but there "are others," and doubtless they have had quite different experiences with this splendid game. LOWHOOK.

Massachusetts Fishing.

BOSTON, May 23.—*Editor Forest and Stream:* The Executive Committee of the Massachusetts Central Committee for Protection of Fish and Game held a meeting on Thursday, May 21, those in attendance being H. A. Estabrook, chairman; A. B. F. Kinney, of Worcester; Counsel Herman S. Fay, of Marlboro; James R. Reed, A. C. Sylvester, of North Attleboro; and William B. Phinney, of Lynn, the clerk of the Legislative Committee on Fish and Game. Mr. Phinney has been president of the Lynn Fish and Game Association several years, and a member of the Executive Committee ever since the formation of the Central Committee three years ago. The cause of protection has received loyal support from him as a legislator, and much credit is due him for the work accomplished the past winter. Chairman Estabrook is not only a sportsman of wide experience, but has labored earnestly for many years in promoting the interests of the devotees of rod and gun. The work of the committee under his leadership this year reflects great credit upon him and upon the Fitchburg Club of which he has been president. He was instrumental in securing the co-operation of several clubs in the vicinity of his city which sent witnesses to the State House at the time of the hearing on the anti-sale bill, of which the FOREST AND STREAM gave a full report. All the other members of the committee have been zealous and efficient in the discharge of their duties, and the result is well known.

On Thursday evening the meeting of the State Association was well attended and the president occupied the chair. The proprietor of The Nottingham, Mr. Amos Whipple, a member of the Association, was one of the diners. The chairman of the Metropolitan Park Commission, William B. de las Casas, Esq., spoke about game in the parks, and Mr. Kinney on the protective work of the Association. Several members spoke of recent fishing trips. Several candidates were elected members and a number of new names were proposed. In the hill sections of the State the brooks are now very low, but should we have rain before long there will be better fishing.

Another State Reservation.

From Pittsfield comes news that leading citizens of Berkshire county are moving to have "Constitution Hill" in Lanesboro set apart by the State. The hill is near the old homestead of Josh Billings, and about ten miles from Greylock. The more such reservations the better for the game.

The "Sandwich Woods" would be an admirable tract to be set aside in the same way. Here there probably has never been a time since the landing of the Pilgrims when there were not quite a good many deer. If placed in the care of the State they could be better protected from fires and the game could be perpetuated. There are other tracts scattered over the State that could be purchased at small expense and rendered more useful in this way than in any other.

From New Hampshire Commissioner Wentworth reports as follows: "They have had the best stream and lake fishing in this State this spring we have had for years." I. P. Ransom, a well-known guide, casting a fly for trout, hooked and landed a 10½-pound salmon in Sutapee Lake. The fly was a Parmachene-belle. Salmon seldom take the fly there, the commissioner declaring he has not known of more than half a dozen being caught on a fly the past ten years. Judge Edgar Aldrich had a singular experience with a salmon on Connecticut Lake. The fish went to the bottom and sulked—started again and went straight for the shore (which was not far away), made a leap and landed high and dry seven feet from the water, where it was captured by the guide. This may sound like a "fish story," but it is vouched for by young Judge Shurtleff, of Lancaster.

The open season on Diamond Pond and Dublin Lake commenced May 20. Bass fishing all over the State begins June 1.

Mr. A. F. Cate is reported as having taken a salmon

weighing 10 pounds at Newfound Lake, and many others have been caught from four to eight pounds.

Mr. C. F. Danforth, of Boston, writes me that five golden trout (*Aurcoilus*) were taken from Dan Hole Pond, New Hampshire, the first part of this month. These are familiarly known as Sunapee saibling, and are said to be the first which have been taken from this pond for three years. This fish is indigenous to Dan Hole, and, I am informed, to only three other bodies of water in the United States. Mr. W. F. Robinson, of Boston, caught one of these fish weighing five pounds. A young lad, son of Mr. Joseph Gridley, of Boston, took a salmon there weighing 6½ pounds recently. Mr. A. T. Sisson, of the J. B. Hunter Company, Summer street, took a six-pound lake trout on a fly at Newfound Lake, which is a rare thing, as lakers seldom rise to a fly.

From the Rangeleys and Moosehead reports of great fishing continue to pour in. If we can credit all the fine reports, there has not for many seasons been a month of May like this for angling in the big lakes of New England. Details must be deferred to my next letter.

CENTRAL.

The Devilfish and Some Other Fishes in North Carolina.

FOREST AND STREAM for April 18 came to hand while I had by my side "Brickell's Natural History of North Carolina," published in 1737. The reference to Elliott's "Sports of the Carolinas," under the caption, "A New Jersey Devil Fish" (p. 310), caused me to turn to the older account of the fish given by Brickell in the early part of the preceding century. In this the record was first published (p. 224) that "the devilfish, so-called, is of a monstrous large size and strength, for it hath been known to weigh a sloop's anchor, and run away with the vessel for a league or two, and to bring her back again almost to the same place against the tide."

The proper scientific name of the devilfish appears to be *Manta birostris*, and Mr. Fowler was under a misapprehension when he declared otherwise. I think he would admit now that such was the case.

But my main purpose in writing is to elicit information respecting several other names current in North Carolina in the early part of the eighteenth century and recorded by Brickell. Such are:

"Sea-Tench" (p. 234), evidently applied to the blackfish or tautog.

"Welch-men" (sing. Welchman), described (p. 239) as "the largest sort of perches," and as "a very firm, white and sweet fish." This is evidently the black bass.

"Irish-men" (sing. Irishman), mentioned (p. 239) as "the fourth sort" of perch, "a more flat fish than any of the former, and much resembling a *breem*, being all over speckled or mottled with black and blue spots." This is undoubtedly the crappie or calico bass.

I cannot recall mention of the name Irishman (for the crappie) in any other work, but Tench and Welchman have been repeatedly recorded. Can any of your readers give instances of the use of any of those names now and specify the exact localities in which they are used? I am sure others besides myself would be much obliged for the information. THEO. GILL.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

A Sucker in a Cypress.

A STORY comes from Jeanerette, La., where about thirty pounds of fish were recently sawed out of the heart of a cypress log. The other day when the larger end of an immense cypress log was being passed under the saw of the mill of the Jeanerette Cypress Lumber Company, one of the millmen made the discovery that in a hollow of the log was some substance that was evidently extraordinary. His examination acquainted him with the fact that a large fish had been sawed up with the log. The log was one that had been cut about the usual distance from the ground, but which had a hollow one side above where it had been cut. The hollow space opened out in a hole of a few inches in diameter on the side of the tree. The hollow space itself, however, was of ample dimensions. Occupying a great proportion of the space were the sawed remains of a large sucker, probably a "choupique," estimated to have weighed at least thirty pounds. The explanation that has been offered for the lodgment of the fish in so unexpected a place was that in high water when the hole in the side of the tree was below the surface of the water, a small fish got through the hole into the hollow. The fish failed to swim out of the hole before the water fell. Enough water remained in the hole at all times to permit the fish to live, and it "waxed fat" in its peculiar abode, and at least remained fresh, if not alive, when the log was being rafted and when it was run into the mill.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Rhode Island Angling Notes.

PROVIDENCE, May 20.—*Editor Forest and Stream:* Salt water fishing has superseded the fresh water sport and large catches of tautog are reported all along the bay. It is not an unusual occurrence for a party of men—some women, too, enjoy the sport—to bring home fifty pounds each of the toothsome fish. Mussels are the popular bait in the spring.

The black bass fishing of this State seems to be traveling backward for some unknown reason. It is three years since any large catches of large bass were made. The law is on all fresh water bass waters until July 1, except Lake Mosuansicut and Sneachs Pond.

Some fine brook trout have been caught in a small pond within the city limits this spring. The brooks which form this reservoir are known to contain trout, but to catch them with a hand line and by a boy twelve years old who was fishing for "sunnies," is something unusual. I had always supposed that trout were in the brooks at this season of the year. Is it possible the brooks have been limed and the fish driven into the pond by it? The pond I refer to is Upper Canada Pond.

The Providence Journal announced last week the capture of a brook trout in a seine set for salt water fish in Narragansett Bay, and many fishermen are wondering at

it. If they had read FOREST AND STREAM a few months past they would know from the very best authority that brook trout are not killed by salt water, and that they will live in it.

Assistant Superintendent Costello got after two fishermen last week who were fishing in R. W. Park. They left, taking some pickerel "as long as your arm," as James says. They abandoned their box of shrimp and Mr. Costello threw a handful in the lake, and white perch as large as shad grabbed them up eagerly. There will be great sport there July 1.

I should like to say to J. L. K. about the trout caught in a fyke net in salt water which he mentioned in FOREST AND STREAM of May 23, that I reckon that trout came from some brook which connects with the salt water, even if said brook was ten miles away.

Let J. P. T. try some salt water shrimp for that perch of his. No perch ever refused to bite at shrimp. I have found nineteen shrimp in the stomach of one perch. SELDOM.

The Sea Trout Discussion.

Editor Forest and Stream:

The only men who are really qualified to decide the sea trout "question" are those native anglers for fifty years along the waters where the sea trout live, and who have watched and studied their haunts and habits at all seasons of the year.

There are hundreds of such anglers in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Cape Breton, and Prince Edward Island, and other North Atlantic Coast points.

Even those students and anglers who have made occasional visits to sea trout waters, and have returned to the States and written books and articles for many years, are not experts to decide or further write about this "question." Already they are in the following situation:

We cannot settle this matter; therefore we must discuss it forever.

Forty years ago the discussion annoyed me. It has been continued from time to time. It is about time the wranglers showed a disposition to practically dispose of it. They express a great desire for truth. Then let them file their briefs before men who really know, and accept the decision of a commission of anglers who alone are really competent to decide. If they want the truth which they cannot find themselves, let them raise the other four hundred and fifty dollars, while I, not interested in the "question," but desiring relief from the discussion, contribute fifty. And until some practical step is taken to really solve the "problem," perhaps the three per cent. of your readers who are still interested in it will allow a respite to the other ninety-seven per cent. who are satiated with the long discussion. L. F. BROWN.

Yachting.

Yachting Fixtures for 1903.

Members of race committee will confer a favor by sending notice of errors or omissions in the following list, and also changes which may be made in the future.

MAY.

- 30. Royal Canadian, club, Toronto.
- 30. Seawanhaka Corinthian, club, Oyster Bay.
- 30. Harlem, Y. R. A. of L. I. Sound, annual, City Island.
- 30. Indian Harbor, Y. R. A. of L. I. Sound, special, Greenwich.
- 30. Bridgeport, Y. R. A. of L. I. S., special, Bridgeport.
- 30. Southern, annual, New Orleans.
- 30. Keystone, club, Woodmere, L. I.
- 30. South Boston, Y. R. A., open, City Point.
- 30. Columbia, open, Chicago, Lake Michigan.
- 30. Chicago, cruise to Indian Harbor.
- 30. Williamsburg, open, spring regatta.
- 30. Atlantic, club, Sea Gate.
- 30. Riverton, club, Delaware River.
- 30. Toledo Y. A., Monroe Piers.

JUNE.

- 1. Atlantic, ocean race; Sea Gate around Fire Island and North-east End Lightships back to Sea Gate.
- 6. Seawanhaka Corinthian, club, Oyster Bay.
- 6. Columbia, eleventh annual Michigan City race.
- 6. Chicago, handicap race, Lake Michigan.
- 6. Royal Canadian, club, Toronto.
- 6. Marine and Field, Y. R. A. of G. B.
- 6. Knickerbocker, Y. R. A. of L. I. Sound, annual.
- 8. Pavia, open, Bayonne.
- 8-12. New York special races, 90-footers, Sandy Hook.
- 9. Atlantic, annual, Sea Gate.
- 10. Atlantic, 90-footers, Sandy Hook.
- 10. South Boston, club, City Point.
- 10-12-13-15-16. Manchester, trial races for selection of challenger for Seawanhaka cup, Manchester Harbor.
- 11. New York, fifty-seventh annual, all classes, off Sandy Hook.
- 13. Chicago, special, Lake Michigan.
- 13. Boston, club, South Boston.
- 13. Royal Canadian, club, Toronto.
- 13. Seawanhaka Corinthian, club, Oyster Bay.
- 13. Larchmont, spring regatta, Larchmont.
- 13. Beverly, club, Monument Beach.
- 14. Jamaica Bay, club, Jamaica Bay.
- 15. New York, Glen Cove cups, Glen Cove.
- 17. Beverly, open sweepstake, Monument Beach.
- 17. Larchmont, races for 90-footers, Larchmont.
- 17. Boston, Y. R. A., off Point Allerton, open.
- 17. Dorchester, open, Dorchester Bay.
- 18-19. New Rochelle, club, New Rochelle.
- 19. Eastern, special, open, Marblehead.
- 19. Indian Harbor, 90-footers, Greenwich.
- 20. Southern, Baldwin and Walker cups, New Orleans.
- 20. Beverly, club, Monument Beach.
- 20. Keystone, club, Woodmere, L. I.
- 20. Brooklyn, Y. R. A. of Gravesend Bay.
- 20. Corinthian, first championship, Marblehead.
- 20. Seawanhaka Corinthian, 90-footers, Oyster Bay.
- 20. Atlantic, club, Sea Gate.
- 20. Columbia, motor boat race, Am. P. B. A., Hudson River.
- 20. New Rochelle, Y. R. A. of L. I. Sound, annual.
- 20. Chicago, handicap, Lake Michigan.
- 20. Royal Canadian, club, Toronto.
- 21. Old Mill, club, Jamaica Bay.
- 21. Gloucester, N. J., annual, Delaware River.
- 25-26-27. Seawanhaka Corinthian, Y. R. A. of L. I. Sound, annual and specials.
- 27. South Boston, club, City Point.
- 27. New York, special race for 90-footers, Newport.
- 27. Boston, club, Marblehead.
- 27. Beverly, club, Monument Beach.
- 27. St. Paul, cruise, rendezvous St. Paul, Minn.
- 27. Chicago, special, Lake Michigan.
- 27. Royal Canadian, club, Toronto.
- 27. New York C. C., Y. R. A. of Gravesend Bay.
- 30. New York, special race for 90-footers, Newport.
- 30. Royal Canadian, L. S. S. A. regatta, Oakville.
- 29-July 2. Manhasset Bay cup races, L. I. Sound.

JULY.

- 1. Royal Canadian, Queen's cup race, Toronto and L. S. S. A. regatta, Oakville.