

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

EVERYTHING. "Sardines in olive oil" sell readily as disguised Eastport herring in cottonseed oil. "Ocean trout" and "Alaska mackerel" are considered far superior to the common menhaden from which they spring. "Pickled whitefish" are much more satisfactory to the imagination than the weakfish which represent them in the market. "Cod steaks" sound promising even when cut from the savage wolfish. "Kennebec salmon" are always in demand whether from Maine or in the guise of redfish and steelhead from Oregon. It is, therefore, with little surprise that we hear just at this time of the wonderful dinners provided by a celebrated restaurateur in Washington with "young halibut" from Norfolk as the chief attraction transformed and idealized from the homely and humble winter flatfish, which has approached our shores, not to thrill epicures, but to deposit its eggs peacefully.

We are reminded of a circumstance in a noted coffee house in Melbourne a few years ago which created a great deal of excitement. The proprietor introduced a fish of surpassing sweetness and delicacy of flavor, under the name of "Sweet William." His patrons eagerly devoured "Sweet William" and the fish had a tremendous run. It was tender, juicy, and entirely free from bones. All went swimmingly for a time. Inquiries failed to reveal the name of the new favorite until one luckless day somebody saw a barrelful of young sharks go into the establishment, to be translated into "Sweet William." Then the volume of business suddenly shrunk and the air was black with threats of suits for damages by enraged customers. And so—what's in a name?

## THE MENHADEN QUESTION AGAIN.

Editor Forest and Stream:

It was a surprise to me to see one or two well known anglers upholding the policy of the "menhaden pirates," as we call them down East. I am satisfied that they had not investigated the question fully or their opinions would have been changed. A few years ago the menhaden men skinned our noble river, and fishing it to the bottom with their purse seines, destroyed all food fishes that came into them. They did the same again this year, on our coast, within a hundred yards of the shore, in open defiance of the law, but we are going for them and they'll probably pay the penalty. The great Mr. Maddox, I learn, is going to have the law repealed so that the pirates can gobble up all the fish in our rivers, as well as on the coast, and grind them into porgie chum. But, I rather guess not.

BATH, MAINE.

G. E. N.

Editor Forest and Stream:

At a meeting of the Menhaden Association last week it protested against the closing of Raritan Bay to their nets as a discrimination in favor of sportsmen. To again open the bay to menhaden fishers would be a discrimination in favor of the oil men. Do these men want the earth with a shawl strap around it? Is there to be no bit of water closed to their devastating work, where the fishes can find a place to breed and rest from the pursuing steamers? It is evident that the menhaden men will be satisfied with nothing but the right to pursue their prey in every nook and corner where they may go. They are bold and aggressive, and it is time that they should learn that the people have some rights in the matter of food fishes, and that the manufacture of an oil which the world can get along very well without, in order to enrich a few who have money invested in the business, is not the first thing to be considered in legislating for our fisheries. The closing of Raritan Bay to menhaden fishermen is one of the best pieces of fishery legislation we have had. Let us guard against any movement to change this law.

RARITAN.

NEW YORK, JAN. 15.

## SAIBLING IN STERLING LAKE.

ON Dec. 28, 1888, Mr. E. G. Blackford, with that penetration for which he is famous, discovered in a "mackerel trout" given him by Mr. A. S. Hewitt, Jr., a species unlike the natives of his acquaintance, but as he supposed, similar to a trout which we had together examined in the National Museum. This specimen, therefore, was sent to Washington, and it proved to be the first return of the imported saibling, as far as we know. It was caught with a worm by Mr. Hewitt in Sterling Lake, Orange county, New York. Mr. Blackford, quoting from Mr. Hewitt, says: "They come up only about spawning time in November. The biggest run was about the 15th. The water in the lake is from 500 to 700ft. deep. The bottom is mostly rocky. Mr. Barlow owns part of the lake and set a net to catch some of these fish, but was not successful. Mr. Seth Green tried to catch some of them with bait, but was unsuccessful and caught only two trout." Mr. Blackford says that the workmen who were repairing the dams when the water had been drained rather low claim to have seen these saibling all the way up to 30lbs. each, but Mr. Hewitt discredits this. The trout struck at a spoon, but Mr. H. could not hook them.

The length of the specimen is nearly 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. It is a male with the spermaries moderately well developed. In its stomach, besides traces of the bait, were remains apparently of some kind of shellfish, and there were two trout eggs of a pale amber color, the largest one about  $\frac{1}{16}$ in. in diameter. The oil globule of the eggs had broken into about ten or more secondary spheres. The appendages at the pyloric end of the stomach are very short and thick and thirty-six in number.

There are teeth on the root of the tongue, and five pairs on the free portion. The teeth of the lower jaw and the front part of the upper jaw are somewhat enlarged. The lower jaw projects very slightly, and has an incipient knob which can be received into a faint emargination of the snout. The breast fin is long, and the belly fin which laid back reaches within about  $\frac{1}{2}$ in. of the vent. The tail is deeply forked.

There are eleven part marks on the sides, with six or seven intermediate dark bands on the back extending only slightly below the top of the part marks. The belly and sides up to the middle line, and back almost to the tail fin, are rosy. The sides have numerous small vermilion spots, showing very faintly. The large back fin and the tail fin are dusky without mottling; the latter

has a broad pink tinge on its lower lobe and around its hind margin. The fins of the breast, belly and behind the vent are vermilion, the two latter with milky white margins in front. The eye is silvery with brassy reflections. The scales are very small, in about 200 rows from the head to the tail fin.

It is somewhat significant that this saibling is similar to the Sunapee trout in its habits, making its appearance in November only about spawning time. We shall await with much interest further information about the history of this really beautiful trout. Before leaving it, however, we may state that it looks very different from Sunapee trout of nearly equal size, and does not closely resemble the blueback.

## "MORE ABOUT THE BLACK BASS."

IN this supplementary book\* Dr. Henshall has added much new material, and many new facts, to his original work, which he has thought best to let stand as it is, and, instead of a new edition with additional matter, has given us the volume now under consideration. It is a valuable addition, containing as many chapters as the first book, and covering all that is to-day known of this fish, and of the methods of angling for it.

Many writers have tried their hands at defining the qualities that entitle a fish to rank as game. Dr. Henshall gives his ideas on this elastic subject as follows: "But what are the qualities of a game fish? As I understand it, they are: its aptitude to rise to the artificial fly, its readiness to take a natural bait, and its exhibition of strength and cunning, persistence and activity, in its efforts to break away after being hooked." In going over the disputed merits of the two species, in the matter of gameness, the author takes the position which we have long held, that the big-mouth is underrated as to its game qualities mainly because of traditional prejudice handed down from some of the early writers, and cites several well-known angling authorities in support of this position. The Doctor valiantly defends the black bass, and he properly includes both species in this name, against the charge of being unduly destructive to other fishes, but does not approve of placing them in waters where trout live.

Under the heading of "Material for Rods," after giving all the proper proportions of calibre and length for bait, trolling, and fly-rods, when made of different woods, we again agree with him that "ash and lancewood, greenheart, bethabara, and some other woods, when carefully selected, make excellent rods, but the best are inferior to a good split-bamboo rod. On the other hand, a first-class bethabara, or ash and lancewood fly rod is better than many split-bamboo rods as now made." In the matter of doveled ferrules Dr. Henshall still retains his dislike of them, and here we find ourselves again in line with him; in fact, we are so all through the book, unless in some small matters, such as his broad statement that all predaceous fishes feed almost entirely at night.

There is a marked absence of nonsense about the coloration of leaders, and a plain way of stating what the author believes to be facts, that make the book not only of value to the young angler, but to the veteran also, whether he agrees with the writer on all points, as he is sure not to do, or holds different opinions. It is only within the past dozen years that the black basses have been prominently brought before our anglers as wonderfully game fish, and to no one are we more indebted for bringing their claims to be ranked next to the salmon and trout, in the list of our angling game, than to the learned and genial writer, whose portrait the publishers have placed in the front of this interesting little book.

\*"More About the Black Bass," being a supplement to the "Book of the Black Bass," by James A. Henshall, M. D.; fully illustrated: Robert Clarke & Co., Cincinnati, 1889.

MARTIN VAN BUREN AS AN ANGLER.—Marietta, Ga.—Editor Forest and Stream: In an article, apparently editorial, in FOREST AND STREAM of Jan. 10, it is suggested that Martin Van Buren could not have been an angler. It so happens that I can furnish evidence to the contrary. About 1845 I fished at Ottawa, Ill., in the Fox River, for black bass and pike, in company with the champion angler of that time, named Delano, hotel keeper and sportsman. We had fine sport in the stream, bringing home 400 black bass in three days, 300 of which were taken by Delano. He was an earnest Democrat, and was fond of telling that he never was outfished by any man except Martin Van Buren, who did it on that river, as I understood him to say. I never was an admirer of Mr. Van Buren, either as politician or President, and I voted for Harrison in 1840, but I am willing to give the former the credit of being a member of the brotherhood of anglers.—S. C. C.

BILLINGSGATE MARKET.—From the second annual report of the Inspector of Sea Fisheries (England and Wales) for 1887, we learn that the weight of fish delivered at Billingsgate Market, London, during the year was 308,182,000lbs., of which 1,810,000lbs. were seized and condemned. This amount includes shellfish. Nearly two-thirds of the total was carried by land; 8,000lbs. of American lobsters, sent in boracic acid as an experiment, were bad on arrival; 24,000lbs. of skates, sent in July from West of England, were out of season and could not be sold. Herrings and whittings, however, outnumbered all the other species in the percentage of condemned products.

BUCK-EYE MACKEREL AND SALT MENHADEN IN WASHINGTON.—We are informed that "thimble-eye" or "chub" mackerel (*Scomber cobias*) are common as a salt fish in the markets and stores of Washington, D. C. By some of the dealers they are called "back-eye" mackerel. The demand for these fish is constant and the quality usually very good. Salt menhaden, which were packed extensively last summer and imposed upon the uninitiated and unsuspecting under various names, such as "Alaska mackerel" and "chub mackerel," found little favor with Washington merchants, and still less with consumers.

FLEXIBLE FERRULES.—Editor Forest and Stream: I notice the claim, in your paper, by Mr. Kirker, of the invention of the flexible metal ferrule for rods. I have no doubt that it was new to him, but I invented and made such a ferrule three years ago, but never patented it.—W. HOLBERTON.

PASSAIC RIVER.—Commenting on Mr. Geo. Shephard Page's report in our last issue of stocking the Passaic River, N. J., with bass and carp the Newark *Call* says: "Since Mr. Page put the thirty-five bass in the river it has been replenished every year by hundreds of thousands of fish from Greenwood Lake, Hopatcong and all the chain of ponds on the Rockaway, Whippany and Pompton rivers. And large accessions of carp have recently been added by the breaking away of several carp ponds in Morris county. The trout he put in have probably been relished by the bass."

THOS. H. CHUBB sends us his catalogue of angling goods, rods, reels, hooks, flies, and all the rest of the paraphernalia which make up the necessities and the luxuries of the modern fisherman. There are subjects in these pages for many hours of cogitation and study, and if one cares to go into the rod making business for himself Mr. Chubb will supply all the component parts of a rod. Mr. Chubb claims the title of "The Fishing Rod Manufacturer," and his address is Post Mills, Vt.

## Fishculture.

## NOTES ON FISH FUNGUS.

WE learn from a note on the cause of death of fishes in the National Park Dam, New South Wales, by J. D. Ogilby, that specimens of black bream, a fish resembling our scup, were picked up dead or dying above the weir in the National Park, at Sydney, from the attacks of a species of *Saprolegnia*, the well-known salmon fungus, whose ravages in the fresh waters of the British Isles and the United States are only too familiar to fish culturists. While examining into the cause of the mortality a large eel was found trying to climb up the face of a sloping rock, evidently with the purpose of ridding itself of the fungus by exposing it to the air, in which it cannot long survive. The head, and especially the soft parts about the eyes and lips, was covered in many places to the depth of an eighth of an inch with the fungus. The gills were nearly destroyed, and the remnants were thickly covered with a fungoid growth. White patches showed here and there on the body and tail, and the breast fins had in a great part disappeared.

The prevalence of this disease is ascribed to a drought of several months, during which the water was almost stagnant. The remedy advised was to let the water escape, and as far as possible dry up the bed of the river and run off the spores of the fungi, while at the same time the surviving fish would escape to the saline estuary, in which the *Saprolegnia* would quickly die.

In the report of the Inspectors of Fisheries (England and Wales) for 1888, it is stated that "The disease caused by fungus still prevails, but with less severity, in most rivers of Great Britain in the months between autumn and spring. It is not due to pollution or overstocking, for it occurs in pure waters and where fish are scarce. Low water is not the cause, since it is often most destructive in a wet season. Sea water appears to kill the fungus, and yet diseased fish have been occasionally taken in brackish water, and even in tideways. Sometimes, but not always, a small freshet in May is followed by the temporary disappearance of the fungus from fresh waters. The disease prevails also in European Russia and in Asiatic and American rivers which flow into the Pacific."

## WHITEFISH FOR ENGLAND.

THE Midland Counties Fishculture Establishment, at Malvern Wells, has gone actively into the work of hatching out eggs free of charge for public bodies. Perch, tench, carp and roach have been artificially reared, and so successfully that Mr. Burgess, the proprietor, will enlarge his establishment to increase its efficiency. Last season's work resulted in the distribution of large quantities of fish into various lakes and other waters in England. The acclimatization of the American whitefish will be attempted with the co-operation of the U. S. Fish Commission. Special reservoirs of great size and depth will be provided for the experiment. Judging from the success with whitefish in ponds in Michigan, there should be no great difficulty in rearing them in England, provided the eggs are not injured in transportation.

INTRODUCTION OF A SUPPOSED CARP SUCKER INTO NEW SOUTH WALES.—At the meeting of the Linnean Society of New South Wales at Sydney, Oct. 31, 1888, Mr. Macleay exhibited four specimens of a species of carp sucker, which had been taken from a nearly dry water-hole close to the Wingecarribee River at Elvo, Burradoo, a few days before. Several hundred of these fishes were removed from the holes and placed in the river in the immediate vicinity. Mr. Macleay finds the sucker to belong to the genus *Carpoides*, which includes several species, all of them presumably limited to fresh waters of the United States, and concludes by saying that "it would be interesting to know how and when the fish was introduced into this country, where its acclimatization, as far as Wingecarribee is concerned, seems to have been so perfectly successful." If the carp sucker has gone to New South Wales from the United States, it may have been carried unintentionally along with carp or bass, associated species in some Eastern waters of our country. We hope, however, that this inferior fish, which has nothing to recommend it but its pleasing form and colors, may not eventually be charged against us. We have failed to find any record of a shipment of carp from the U. S. Government ponds to Australia.

On a recent trip Gov. Rutt gave me permission to tell a fish story, which, he says, Gen. Grant enjoyed exceedingly. In the early days of Leadville's boom a group of miners and good fellows were gathered around the tavern stove spinning yarns. One had caught a 10-pound trout, another had harpooned a whale in the Arctic seas, and so on, when up spoke the little Governor: "Well, boys, all that's nothing to my luck; I once caught a pickerel that weighed 180 pounds." "Oh, Governor! a pickerel weighing 180 pounds!" resounded from all sides. No one would believe the tale, but Rutt persisted, and, after vainly trying to shake their incredulity, explained: "Pickrel is my wife's name." He says he never spent a cent for cigars or other luxuries during the rest of his visit. One of the heaters gave him a share in the mine that started him on the high road to great wealth.—*Chicago America*.

TUSCALOOSA, Ala., Sept. 15, 1888.—United States Cartridge Co., Lowell, Mass.: Gentlemen—The two hundred Climax shells sent me have been tried with Schultz and Black powder. I am very much pleased with same. Could not get good results with Schultz in any other shell. Will use no other shell so long as you keep this at its present standard. You are at liberty to use this or any other recommendation I can give you. Most respectfully, (Signed) W. C. Cross.—Ad.