

SHOW-WINDOW TROUT.

THE opening of the trout season in Massachusetts was not a favorable one. The day followed a snowstorm on Sunday, with even a foot of the white mantle of winter in some of the northern towns of the State. Some of the noted sportsmen of Boston and other cities were intending to be about the first at the noted trout streams of the South Shore, but the day began with a heavy rain, which continued till night, and hence the dreams of trout were not realized. Still the sight of trout rods and flies handsomely displayed in the windows of the tackle stores has left its mark, and pleasant weather will send the fishermen to the pools; with what results we wait to see. Until of late the season has been very early, and many of the streams are free from snow water much earlier than usual. Thursday, the 4th, is Fast Day, and a legal holiday in this State, and, though the Governor does not enjoin it upon the people in his message, yet some of the sportsmen will improve the day with rod and reel. The indications at present are that the trout season will open earlier in Maine than usual—that is, that the ice will be out of the trout lakes earlier. The winter has been a very mild one, and some of the rivers in that State, that are sometimes ice-bound till the middle of April, have been clear for a couple of weeks already. It is expected that the appearance of salmon in the Penobscot, at Bangor, will be unusually early. Already more salmon have been taken than usual at the mouths of the rivers.

If one thinks for a moment that sport with rod and line is on the wane he need only to have watched the crowd on Washington street in front of Appleton's window on Monday. The occasion was one of the finest displays of live trout there has ever been made at that noted tackle resort. In spite of the rain the window was thronged all day, and it was a rare sight to see the pile of umbrella tops, one against the other. The display included about seventy trout in the tank and window pool. Among the fish was a landlocked salmon or blackspot that measured almost 24in. in length, and is really the largest fish ever attempted in a window display in this city. The specimen was from the hatcheries of Fish Commissioner Hodge, of New Hampshire. At first there was a good deal of doubt as to whether so large a fish could be brought to Boston alive, but by constant dipping of the water, whereby aeration of the water was kept up, the feat was accomplished. The nose of the fish was somewhat bruised by contact with the can, however. The display also contains a large number of brook trout of good size, and one or two specimens of rainbow trout. Some very fine specimens of hybrids, crosses of our native trout with English trout, attracted the attention of sportsmen, though it was the general verdict that the beauties of the brook trout are lost in the hybrid. These trout are from the Gilbert hatcheries at Plymouth, Mass. In the markets the display of dead trout was much smaller than usual, probably owing to the storm of the day before. SPECIAL.

A LITTLE RANK HERESY.

Editor Forest and Stream:

If I were to meet the demand made on me it must be in counterfeit coin, for I have but a very slight acquaintance with *S. fontinalis*, and in praise of him could only appropriate the words of those who have been and are his intimates.

I never caught more than three dozen trout in my life, and those such little fellows that it was a shame to a grown man to catch them. They were so small that all the gaminess they could show availed them nothing, nor gave their captor any sense of triumph. The sport seemed to me about on a par with that of catching minnows for bait, and the fish caught of about the same value as so many shiners, dace or chubs.

I would rather catch one 3lb. bass than a big basketful of such fry, and I believe that the charm of such fishing lies more in the beauty of the scenes and the close association with wild nature, to which its enthusiastic votaries are led, than in the sport itself.

Though what I have written applies only to the depleted streams of which alone I have knowledge, my opinions will be deemed heretical, and no doubt I shall suffer excommunication by bell, book and candle, but I will not deny them. AWAHSOOSE.

WHITE MOUNTAIN TROUT.

THE following notes are based upon two weeks' experience in the Franconian regions, and upon information gathered from others who had frequented the same locality:

There are plenty of trout in all the tributaries of the Pemigewasset. Near North Woodstock it requires some knowledge of places and skill in angling to get much, but these qualifications will always produce some results. Between the Flume House and the Profile the Pemigewasset will generally furnish fifteen to forty fish in a half day. All the branches coming in from the west have still better fishing than the main river. The streams on the east are very steep and not so good.

The fish in all the region are small except in the lakes, where they are hard to catch. From 6 to 8in. is the average length, though an occasional fish will reach a foot. Some streams have a great many small fish in them, while others have them fewer in number and of larger size.

The upper branches of the Mad River, near Waterville, furnish good fishing, but the best part of the region is the primeval wilderness lying along the tributaries of the East Branch of the Pemigewasset. To reach this one must take at least two whole days and camp out. It can be approached either from Waterville or North Woodstock. Eight miles of good trail from Waterville brings one to the forks of the Hancock, from which point the two forks and the main stream can be fished. There are also other tributaries within reach. Large catches are sometimes made here. In going in from North Woodstock five miles takes one to the Hancock Branch, up which are fine camping and fishing grounds. Four miles further up the East Branch and the Franconia Branch is reached. Above this branch the streams fork in all directions and are full of fish. Professional fishermen can catch from 15 to 25lbs. a day. To reach these waters takes hard and laborious tramping.

The bait usually used is the worm, but a narrow strip of fish an inch long is equally taking with large fish. In

the shallower and smaller streams the trout take the fly greedily, and no better place can be found for learning the art of fly-fishing. One can miss two fish out of three and yet make a fair catch. Small plain-colored flies are the best, those with gray bodies and light wings being preferred to all others.

No one should venture alone far into this wilderness, and some light and nutritious raw provision, with salt and some matches should be carried by every member of a party where they separate at all. None but strong and experienced woodmen should go in without a guide. The tramping and fishing are very tiresome work, and do not leave energy enough to do the cooking and the extensive wood cutting which the cold might require. Camping in the White Mountains and camping by a lake or river are very different things.

Guides can probably be procured through S. B. Elliott at Waterville, and certainly at Pollard's, North Woodstock. Charles Huckins of North Woodstock will be found to be a faithful "guide, philosopher and friend."

Keep the body dry with a rubber or oiled coat, the latter is the better, but let the legs from the knees down take care of themselves. They can be dried by the evening fire whenever necessary.

Carry a Nessmuk knapsack, and have a compass and a map of the country. Take "Woodcraft" in the pocket or in the head.

Take plenty of time. Do not let a day's rain rob the whole trip of its fruit. Make ample allowance for mischances. PENN.

TASMANIAN SALMON AND TROUT.—Salmon and trout have been introduced in Tasmania. The first trout was hatched May 4, 1864, and the first salmon, May 5, 1864. The first salmon was caught Dec. 4, 1873. Salmon and trout fishing, with rod and line only, ends April 30. The net fishing for salmon begins Sept. 2 and ends Feb. 28. Licenses to fish with rod and line for salmon and trout cost 10 shillings each for the season, 5 shillings for one month, and 2 shillings 6 pence for one week.—*Walch's Tasmanian Almanac, 1889.*

DAYTON, Ohio, April 2.—Rod fishermen are having early sport catching goggle eyes and rock bass. Channel catfish are biting freely at minnows, and hundreds are taken on trout lines set in the rivers at night. Phil Wenz caught 120 Saturday and Sunday nights. The Sevens Club will bivouac on the Miami River Thursday and Friday of this week, and have invited a party to the first fish fry of the season.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., March 30.—*Editor Forest and Stream:* Trout fishing in this vicinity has been so poor for the past few years that I have scarcely taken my rod out of its case, but the announcement of a "trout supplement" next week has set my fingers tingling, and as the past winter has been very favorable, I shall ere long with renewed hope spit on my bait and "try, try again."—SHADOW.

THE MENHADEN INDUSTRY.—A communication on the menhaden industry by Mr. Maddox, which was crowded out of this week's issue by the pressure of articles previously received, will be published next week.

S. ALLCOCK & Co., of Standard Works, Redditch, have been awarded a first-class order of merit for fishing tackle at the Melbourne Centennial Exhibition, this being the only first-class order of merit granted for fishing tackle.

SEINES, NETS of every description. American Net & Twine Co., Mrs., 84 Commercial st., Boston, or 199 Fulton st., N. Y.—*Adv.*

Fishculture.

RAINBOW TROUT IN FRANCE.

IN the Sacramento and the McCloud River the spawning season of the rainbow trout extends over a large part of the year, from January to the middle of May. In the eastern United States it occurs ordinarily from March to May, sometimes in June. At the Jardin d'Acclimatation in Paris, eggs have been obtained April 24; at Andecy, Feb. 18. The South Side Club, on Long Island, have taken the eggs as early as Dec. 22, [and Mr. F. N. Clark has secured them, if we remember right, about as early as this. At Allentown, Pa., Supt. Creveling obtained eggs Dec. 1.] At Andecy the rainbow furnishes mature eggs in its second year; at the age of 18 months the eggs are developed, and sterile females at this age are rare exceptions. Very few at that time reach the weight of 1½ pounds even among the spawning fish. Hence the rainbow spawns earlier in life than most of the other salmonoids.

A remarkable fact, very favorable to restocking, which we are astonished to have seen recorded anywhere, is that the rainbow produces double the number of eggs indicated as the average for the other species. It is generally admitted that a trout yields 1,000 eggs for each pound of its weight; but, having had the curiosity to count the eggs of a two-year-old rainbow, weighing just a pound, we found exactly 2,000 eggs. [In the United States the average number of eggs to the pound of the fish is under 1,000 in all the records examined.]

It is above all in the vigor which they show in their infancy that the fry of the rainbow merit attention. In the first place, the egg is less easily affected by sediment, and this makes it practicable to hatch them in water containing some impurities, as the Americans have already observed. The absorption of the yolk sac, whether rapid or slow, is accomplished without accident; and when it reaches the age for feeding, the young fish accepts its food without hesitation, while so many others belonging to less hardy species perish with hunger. During its first summer it grows and prospers in waters which exceeds 68deg. Fahrenheit, as observed this summer at the Jardin d'Acclimatation, while a temperature of 50 to 53.6deg. is necessary for the fry of our indigenous trout at this period. Finally, the maladies ordinarily so common at this age are unknown to the rainbow. In short, it is only when speaking of the alevins of this species that we will voluntarily believe a fishculturist who pretends to have suffered no loss in rearing trout.

It appears to us that if the rainbow trout is anadromous, it should vegetate in confinement instead of developing quickly as it does. At no period have we observed among ours a sickly condition, nor even a mere agitation which would seem to indicate a need of migrating to the ocean, and, on the contrary, we have always seen them at Andecy, thriving wonderfully alongside of our salmon which vegetate miserably.—*A. d'Arcyville, in Bulletin de Pisciculture Pratique, Jan. 1 and 15, 1883.*

NEW FISH COMMISSION STATIONS.

THE United States is now building at Put-in-Bay, Lake Erie, the largest fishcultural establishment in the world. This location was selected after an examination of all the available sites, the land to be occupied was given to the Government by Mr. Valentine Doller. The object of this station will be to collect, clean up and develop whitefish eggs to the period at which they can be distributed to other stations. The State and Government hatcheries on the Great Lakes will receive their supplies from this establishment and a reserve will be kept for waters adjacent to the station. The full capacity of the hatchery will be 4,000 jars, capable of holding 5,000,000 whitefish eggs; it will be equipped at the start with 2,000 jars.

At Neosho, Missouri, work is in progress on the new hatchery for rainbow trout and such valuable native fishes as may be accessible in the Ozark Mountain region. Rainbow trout have flourished at Verona, in Montgomery county, where they were planted by the U. S. Fish Commission several years ago.

On the McCloud River, California, a building is in process of construction for permanent quarters for the rainbow trout breeding establishment.

In Maine the new station for salmonidae at Craig's Brook is going forward, and also the auxiliary station at Ellsworth, which will be devoted to rearing salmon in ponds. Mr. C. G. Atkins now has in charge 120,000 salmon fry to hold until they reach the size of fingerlings before they are liberated.

MAINE'S NEW SEINING LAW.

ON March 13, 1889, chapter 281 of the Public Laws of Maine of the year 1888, relating to migratory fish, was amended so as to read as follows: "Section 4. The taking of mackerel, herring, shad, porgies or menhaden, and the fishing therefor, by the use of purse and drag seines is prohibited in all small bays, inlets, harbors or rivers where any entrance to the same or the distance from opposite shores of the same, at any point, is not more than three nautical miles in width, under a penalty upon the master or person in charge of such seines or upon the owners of any vessel or seines employed in such unlawful fishing, of not less than \$300 nor more than \$500 to be recovered by indictment or action of debt, one-fourth of the penalty to the complainant or prosecutor, and three-fourths to the county in which the proceedings are commenced, and there shall be a lien upon the vessels, steamers, boats and apparatus used in such unlawful pursuit, until said penalty with costs of prosecution is paid, but a net for meshing mackerel or porgies of not more than 100 meshes in depth and a net for meshing herring, of not more than 170 meshes in depth, and a net for meshing shad of not more than 75 meshes in depth, shall not be deemed a seine."

HATCHING EGGS OF SHEEPSHEAD.

CAPT. ROBERT PLATT, commanding the U. S. Fish Commission steamer Fish Hawk, succeeded, March 21, in hatching 3,400,000 eggs of the sheepshead in Charlotte Harbor, Florida. This is the first successful attempt to develop the eggs of this important fish. On March 22 another lot of 3,900,000 eggs was collected and placed in the jars. The eggs are buoyant and measure one thirty-second of an inch in diameter. The time of hatching is about two days. The time of spawning of the sheepshead was not clearly known to the officers of the Fish Hawk, and it was only by the accidental capture of a lot of ripe fish in the seine that the opportunity to develop the eggs occurred. Capt. Platt was very prompt in utilizing the circumstance to the advantage of fishculture.

CHAUTAQUA LAKE FISH HATCHERY.—A State fish hatchery is about to be established on Chautauqua Lake, about four miles from Jamestown, N. Y. Commissioner R. U. Sherman selected Green and Brown's tract, on the east shore of the lake, as a site for the building. The hatching operations will be under the charge of John Mason. Owners of property surrounding the lake subscribed \$500 toward the expense of the undertaking. It is expected that 2,000,000 fry of the muskellunge will be hatched this season for the lake, and in future various bodies of water throughout the State will be supplied from this station. The fry are to be kept until they are a fortnight old and measure three-quarters of an inch in length. The females after being stripped will be returned to the lake.

Answers to Correspondents.

☞ No Notice Taken of Anonymous Correspondents.

E. S. Y., Baltimore, Md.—See our angling department for answer to your query.

WEXONA, N. H.—There is no standard. Write to Mr. J. W. Newman, 6 Hamilton place, Boston, Mass.

A. E. E. Lodi, O.—The New York season for black bass is from June 1 to Dec. 31, inclusive, with exceptions for special locations; for ducks, Sept. 1 to May 1; for squirrels, Aug. 1 to Feb. 1.

C. M. W., Providence, R. I.—Choose a 12-bore, one barrel modified choke, the other cylinder. The gun you name will shoot both styles of cartridges. Write to F. H. F. Mercer, Ottawa, Canada.

C. W., Flatbush, N. Y.—We have no record of the dogs you mention. Write to Mr. Ethan Allin, Ponfret Centre, Conn. A blue belton is a white dog with black ticked markings. Well bred setters are of various colors, and a black, white and tan is not, so far as color goes, better bred than those of other colors.

A. C. K., New York.—Will you kindly tell me if it is possible to get ruffed grouse eggs and where they can be purchased? Also, if they can be shipped to England. I have a friend who is very desirous of starting them on his place at Stampshire, Ans. We think it exceedingly doubtful that you could get the eggs, and even if you did there would not be much hope of raising the young.

SAM LOVEL'S CAMPS.—What George W. Cable has done and is doing for the Louisiana Acadians, Rowland E. Robinson is doing for the New England Yankee. In the present volume and its predecessor, "Uncle Lisha's Shop," he describes with genial humor and, in places, touching pathos, the life of the inhabitants of a little Vermont town 40 years ago. Their days of hard but honest toil, their evenings spent in story-telling and "courting" and, now and then, their indulgence in a hunting or fishing trip, are depicted realistically in the best sense of the word. It is principally of these times of recreation, their excursions into the forest or to the lake shore, that "Sam Lovel's Camps" treats. Two of these camps there were, one "on the Slang," where Antoine, Pelatiah, and Sam trapped for muskrat, and one "on the lake," where the same trio, re-enforced by Solon and Jo Hill, hunted and fished and had many startling and comical adventures. The story is interesting throughout, and as it closes with the marriage of Sam and Huldah, the reader cannot forbear a sigh and a wish that it may not be long before Mr. Robinson issues another book equally delightful and worthy of praise.—*Concord (N. H.) Independent Statesman.*

"Sam Lovel's Camps" is full of quaint character drawing.—*Cambridge Tribune.*