

FISH TALKS.

BY GEORGE KENNAN

Secretary of the Victoria Fisheries Protective Association
IV.RESULTS ACCOMPLISHED BY AN ENERGETIC BODY OF
PROTECTIVE WORKERS.

In the inland waters of both Canada and the United States, between the years 1890 and 1914, large trout and salmon steadily decreased in number, for the simple reason that they were not adequately protected. Most of the adult fish were netted or speared before they could reach their spawning grounds, and the number that escaped was not great enough to keep up the stock. This was mainly due to the fact that we—the people—paid little or no attention to the care of them. In the first place, we either allowed them to be destroyed by wasteful methods, or permitted them to be poisoned by decaying sawdust, sewage, and the waste products of manufacturing, which were discharged into the rivers merely because that was the easiest way to get rid of them. In the second place, when our governments, by enacting laws and appointing fishery guardians, tried to save us from the consequences of our own neglect, we—the people—did not disregard the laws, but acquiesced in permitting fishery guardians to promote the interests of our political parties, instead of using them, as they were intended to be used, for the protection of the trout and salmon in our streams. For this, no doubt, our governments were partly to blame; but we ourselves must bear a large part of the responsibility, because we are supposed to control our governments, through the representatives whom we elect.

As a sequence to our neglect, far more guardians were appointed than were necessary, and instances could be cited where in proportion to area there were more than ten times as many employed. As for instance in Maine, where the people of that State, realizing the immense value of fish and game protection, insisted upon their guardians doing the work for which they are paid. So that instead of a few men being adequately remunerated for their services, the money was dissipated amongst the many, the guardians devoted their time to other and more lucrative pursuits, and the duties for which mere pittance were paid, neglected.

As a result of all these causes, trout and salmon were not adequately protected, and netting and spearing were common in all parts of the Island. At first, illegal fishing was practiced by a comparatively small number of people; but as year after year passed, it became more general. Some took fish to salt down for winter use; others to sell in the developing markets of the Island; and all resorted to netting and spearing as the easiest and quickest methods of taking large fish in large quantities. Four years ago, there was hardly a river in Cape Breton where trout and salmon were not illegally taken by spear or net every year, and in many streams the fishing had been almost completely destroyed.

In 1914, the Victoria Fisheries Protective Association was organized in Baddeck, and in the fall of that year, its officers made an exhaustive report of twelve thousand words to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries on the state of the rivers in Cape Breton Island, and the urgent need for reorganization and reform of the Fishery Service. In this report, which was accompanied by abundant proof in the shape of six or eight voluminous exhibits, the Association pointed out the evils of political control; asked for twelve special guardians with increased salaries; suggested that the number of fishery officers in Cape Breton be greatly reduced by the dropping of political workers from the rolls, and recommended that in future all guardians be appointed for merit only. The Department in Ottawa granted the request for special guardians with increased salaries, and informed the Association that the whole matter of reform was receiving careful consideration.

How far the Department was influenced by the representations of the Victoria Association it is impossible to say; but in 1918, almost every one of the latter's recommendations was adopted. The force of guardians in Cape Breton was reduced from 200 to 50; salaries were largely increased; the appointment of all subordinate fishery officers was entrusted to the Civil Service Commission in Ottawa. Guardians, hereafter, will be selected for merit only; they will do no political work, and they will devote all of their time to an effective patrol of the streams. Thus, for the first time in more than a generation, the Fishery Service of Cape Breton Island has been put on a business basis.

RECENT ORDER
DOES NOT AFFECT
VOLUNTEERS

Ottawa, Aug. 20.—Although it has been decided by the Militia Department that young men of the 20 to 22 class under the M. S. A., who were really only 19 years of age at the time the proclamation calling them out was issued, are not liable for service, and should be released, this decision does not affect volunteers.

Men between 19 and 20 may still volunteer for service, and those who have volunteered in the past will be expected to fulfill the terms of their engagement by serving as long as they are required.

Some unfortunate misunderstandings have been caused by the publication in the press of a notice dealing with the recent order providing for the release of the 19-year-old men filled in the 20-year class, a number of people thinking that the order applied equally to volunteers.

GRAY HAIR

Dr. Tremain's Natural Hair Restorative, used as directed, is guaranteed to restore gray hair to its natural color, or money refunded. Positively not a dye and non-injurious. Price \$1.00. On sale in Fredericton at The Central Pharmacy, Queen and Carleton Sts.

Marriage is neither all comedy nor all tragedy; it's just an old-fashioned melodrama, full of both and nearly always sure to turn out happily if you see it through to the end.

In these stirring times memory reverts to the noble heroes who in the early days of the war lighted the fires on Mount Currie and carried the fiery cross from Fanning Settlement to the city hall steps.

NOT SO STRONG
NOW ON HEROES
AND VILLAINS

The Fifty-Fifty Method is Now
in Vogue and Stories are
Long Drawn Out

"No sir, not at all," said the man who was learning literature, turning to the man who knew all about it, "we don't go in for heroes and villains in our books and plays and scenarios as strong as we used to once."

"Yes," replied the man who knew all about it, "we do, only things have changed somewhat. In the olden times each book had a hero and a villain, and the hero was the hero and the villain was the villain all through the book. Then some fellow, seeing that the gentle reader had had about all he could stand of that, hit upon a lucky inspiration, something which would infuse variety into the thing."

"This man originated what is known as the fifty-fifty method. The villain held out as such until the middle of the book and then suddenly turned hero. This worked fine for quite a while as most of the people had grown sick of the hero anyway. He was so darned nice that they were glad to have him turn out wicked, and they loved the villain dearly because he was so human. He reminded people of themselves and their neighbors and their relations and friends, whereas no one had ever seen any one as nice as the hero and didn't want to because they knew they wouldn't enjoy the meeting."

"This had other advantages which appealed to book writers and playwrights. It gave them a chance to write longer stuff and the length of a book, play or scenario is always the determining factor in its merit. The longer it is the more worthy and the more important."

"By this method the books and the scenarios became longer and longer, and then another inspired person hit on a still better plan, that of alternating the roles. The villain in one chapter could be the hero in the next. This was great stuff and no one could tell how it would end. It also had the advantage of prolonging the book or scenario indefinitely. By the fifty-fifty method as soon as the villain had had his share of the book the book had to stop. If the villain had been hero for twenty-three chapters, then the hero was entitled to twenty-three chapters of villainy and not a line more, and so the book had to stop when time was up. But with the fellows taking turns it was not necessary to end the book at all. In fact, ending a book on the alternating plan was almost impossible and whoever happened to be in the heroic role when the book did end got the girl and all her money, and this was not satisfactory because people were sure to remember some of the winners' bad stunts in other chapters, and remembering they were sure to feel sore at the author for not handling the prunes to the right character."

"The worst thing a writer can do is to get his gentle readers sore at him. A gentle reader like that is apt to go to the person from whom he borrowed the book and demand to know why he was lent such abominable stuff."

Cross of War

"Do you know that that bulldog of yours killed my wife's little harmless affectionate poodle?"

"Well, what are you going to do about it?"

"Would you be offended if I was to present him with a nice brass collar?"

THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE

Pure blood is the body's first line of defense against disease. Strong, healthy blood neutralizes the poisons of invading germs, or destroy the germs themselves. That is why many people exposed to disease do not contract it. Those whose blood is weak and watery and therefore lacking in defensive powers are most liable to infection. Everybody may observe that healthy, red-blooded people are less liable to colds and the grippe, than pale, bloodless people. It is the bloodless people who tire easily, who are short of breath at slight exertion, who have poor appetites, and who wake up in the morning as tired as when they went to bed. While women and girls chiefly suffer from bloodlessness the trouble also affects both boys and men. It simply affects girls and women to a greater extent because there is a greater demand upon their blood supply.

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