

A MONSTER JACK.

Graphic Account of His Capture in a North Carolina Stream.

Near Murphy, in Cherokee Co., N. C., and the Tenn. line, is a very deep hole in the Hiwassee river which the Indians named "Clau-noosa," meaning the big hole. The Indians thought this hole had no bottom, and that it contained a mammoth turtle which would eat them up, and they never would go a swimming in that hole. One beautiful day in May Col. Davidson, of Asheville, concluded to go a fishing in "Clau-noosa." He went to a branch and caught a very large club minnow, walked to the lower part of "Clau-noosa" and waded in near where the big hole went off in to a shoal. He threw his minnow away off into deep water and stood lazily watching it bob his cork up and down in its frantic efforts to escape. After a while he chanced to look down at his feet, which were naked, and around which minnows were playing. About two yards from his feet he saw something that made his heart jump right up into his throat. He beheld two enormous eyes, and these eyes were looking, right at his toes, with a hungry look, making him think that the owner of the eyes might perhaps want to devour said toes, which looked, no doubt, very tempting to an omnivorous jack-salmon. The moment the enormous fish caught the Colonel's eye it turned like a great ship, apparently without moving a fin, and sailed off toward deep water. The Colonel commenced reeling in his line, which pulled his minnow in the direction to meet the departing muscalonge. Presently the Col. felt an electric thrill run from the hair on his head to his big toes down in the water. His muscalonge, or pike-perch, as he calls him, started for the unfathomable depths of "Clau-noosa" with the velocity of a schooner. The Colonel became alarmed and put his right thumb on his large new silk line as it paid out from the reel. In doing this he burnt his thumb, for the line kept going. He ran along the edge of the hole until he was pulled into the water up to his neck, when he resorted to heroic treatment; he gave him a butt! The pole, a long, splendid bamboo, curved gracefully until it formed a rainbow, and then a half moon. This checked the terrible impetus of that first mighty rush of the jack, who rushed hither and thither like a mad bull. Occasionally he would come near enough to be seen, and it was a sight. He was over four feet long and as beautiful as a rainbow. After resorting to the tactics, the science of which he had learned from his prognathan ancestors and by innumerable contests with the hair lines and bone hooks of Indians of many decades past, he began to sulk. The Col. was afraid to let him rest long, so he threw rocks at him, and pulled at him, but to no purpose for some time but at last he started down stream, and pulled the Col. after him, stumbling over boulders, and sweating at every pore above the water line. Finding he was getting into shallow water, the fish started up the stream again for the deep hole, the Col. following reluctantly, puffing and blowing like a narrow gauge engine. It looked like a steam tug pulling a schooner. Over the shoals they go, and into another hole, the Col. jumping from rock to rock and swimming occasionally. On they go until another shoal is reached, when the great fish turned around and started down. Reaching a deep swirl below a huge rock that lifted its head above the surface, the fish settled himself down for another sulk. The swift current washed his line against the rock, and it became hitched. Here was a dilemma! If the fish quit sulking and start down, and make a pull against the solid surface of the rock, with the aid of the current, the line could not possibly stand the strain. The only way in which the line could be loosened was by the Col. crossing the rapid current above. This was a hazardous undertaking, but what cares an old sportsman for danger when such a grand prize is in danger of escape? He made a long jump, and landed on a big round rock, on the other side of which the water rushed with a grand sweep. Across this dangerous current he had to make a ten-foot jump, which he succeeded in doing, but his feet slipped and he fell sprawling on the rock, his arms embracing it as he fell. He

held on thus for a minute, and after much struggling he got on it, and was soon in wading water. To his infinite relief the fish had not moved, but he soon had him stirring again, and down he started. He made for the bottomless hole, but the Col. gave him the butt and soon had the satisfaction of knowing that he was surrendering. He sailed around and around, and finally the Col. led him into a shallow place and ran in and caught him by the gills, and dragged him upon the beach. The Col. contemplated the noble fish as he lay there a moment, then he gave a yell that might have startled the neighboring town. The Col. put a big stick in the gills of the fish, and threw the latter across his back, the tail dragging the ground. The Col. had an old broad-cloth coat and the fish slithered it all over and mired it, but what cared he for that? His wife scolded him, but he cared neither for the coat or scold or occasion. The jack weighed twenty-seven pounds. There is said to be one of this species in a pond in France known to be 400 years old.—Asheville correspondence Nashville American.

GAS IN BROOKLYN.

The Work of a Syndicate in That City—Extending Its Power to Other Cities.

A special dispatch to The Sun last night from Brooklyn, N. Y., says: "The stockholders of the Citizens' Gaslight Company of Brooklyn today decided to increase the capital stock from 60,000 shares, at a par value of \$20 each, to 75,000 shares at the same par value. A syndicate headed by Charles G. Franklyn, which now controls the Citizens' Gaslight Company, controls 30,100 shares. All it needed was 10,000 shares more. By heroic exertions and by personal appeals to the stockholders they managed to have the increase voted. All the gas made in Brooklyn is manufactured by the Fulton Municipal Company, which is owned by the Standard Oil magnates. The Fulton, in order to avoid rate wars, parcels out the city in three districts and sells the gas thus made to other companies. It is, of course, at a rate much less per thousand than the afflicted householder has to pay, and of sufficient profit for the Standard Oil people to peddle their product to the 'middle men,' so to speak. Any company that refused to come in under the plan was attacked in the usual Standard Oil fashion and crushed if possible. The contract of the Citizens' Company with the Fulton Municipal expires in a month.

"The syndicate has an option on the Meese system of making water gas for Brooklyn, under which they may obtain the right to use it for \$500,000, or will be allowed to use the gas by paying a royalty of 12 cents for every thousand feet supplied. Whether they will undertake to adopt it and fight the Standard Oil people is as yet an undecided question. The directors of the Standard Oil Company will meet tomorrow afternoon to discuss this matter. How they will decide may be foreshadowed by the remark which one of them made this morning. 'If Franklyn thinks,' he said, 'that we are going to lose the profit on between 170,000,000 and 190,000,000 feet of gas which we have been supplying the Citizens' Company with each year, and that we are going to submit quietly, he is much mistaken.'

"One of the strong arguments for cheaper gas in Brooklyn has been the existence of the present system, by which one company has been able to make all the gas and sell it to the other companies at such low prices that it did not pay them to manufacture themselves. But the consumers never got any benefit by reduction until rate wars pulled down the figures for the brief period that such changes usually last. There is talk of a syndicate taking in the principal cities of the country."

Dipping fish in scalding water will cause the scales to come off very easily, but if the fish are to be salted down they must on no account be scalded. You may pour over them vinegar with the same result. Salt fish will soak fresh much quicker in sour milk than in water.

Do not delay, but send in your subscription to the Champion Paper of the South, The Times-Democrat of New Orleans—Daily and Weekly. It has the largest circulation.

FOR THE FARMER.

Springtime Hints.

Letture will grow in the open air at this season if sheltered by a fence on the north and the plot faces the south.

Cut out all the old wood from currants and gooseberries and put a good shovelful of manure around the roots of each bush.

Cut back the rose bushes. The roses are borne on the new wood. Give plenty of manure, and make the soil around the bushes rich.

Success in gardening depends on the seeds. It is a waste of time and labor to use inferior seed. Be cautious and procure seed from the most reliable sources only.

Sow the first crop of peas early if you want them before the medium varieties come in. The dwarfs are the earliest. The standard runners, which require sticking, are the highest flavored.

A sandy soil becomes warm sooner than a heavy soil. While the seeds may germinate and appear earlier on a sandy soil, yet there should not be too much haste in planting for fear of late frosts.

Stiff clay soils are benefitted by the application of lime and potash every year. Such land should be turned over late in the fall or early in the spring, so as to allow the frost to pulverize it. Thorough drainage is also beneficial.

Dr. Collier, of the New York Experiment Station, is authority for the statement that a saving of one cent a day upon the dairy cows of New York is over \$8,000,000 a year. This shows the importance of economy in feeding. The waste on farms is the heaviest loss in agriculture.

In a series of experiments conducted by Professor Collier he found that for every dollar expended in food there was left in the solid and liquid manure 73 cents, which is just as valuable to the farmer as the original food procured, as it can be converted into saleable products the next year.

Some varieties of peaches will not thrive on sandy soil, while others do not thrive well on heavy soil. The early varieties do not seem to be as reliable as the later kinds. One of the hardest and best varieties is Stump the World, which has been tested in New Jersey with satisfactory results.

Weeds will come up sooner than the crop. The damage from weeds is done early in the season, as they crowd out the young plants and appropriate the plant food. Much labor can be saved by working the plowed land over with a cultivator and harrow before planting if the weeds have made a start.

Millet is an important crop, and should be grown more extensively. As soon as the warm days come on is the time for seeding. The ground may be plowed early in the season and well manured, as millet thrives best on rich soil. It grows very rapidly, and yields a large crop of hay in a short time.

The rapid growth of an animal when it is young will be an advantage to it later on in life. The greatest proportionate gain with animals is during the first year. If the young stock is kept in thrifty, growing condition the first two years the greater proportion of work required to secure a profit will have been performed.

Various tests show that the cost of the production of milk differs greatly in cows, some cows producing milk at a cost of one-third that produced from others. The importance of using only the best cows is plainly shown by the differences in the cost. The yield of milk does not always give the true value of the animal. The only mode of determining the profit is to keep a record of the receipts and expenses of each cow.

Whenever a fertilizer is applied the benefits therefrom extend into the second, and, perhaps, third and fourth years. There are always some portions of the fertilizer that are insoluble, but which become available after the lapse of a year or more. As certain plants require particular plant foods, the second crop may be more benefitted by the fertilizer than the first, much depending on the composition of the fertilizer.

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