

ANGLING NOTES.

(By "Creel").

GOOD FISHING GREETINGS.

The festive season cycle is round once more.

Old friends now dwell on many a foreign shore.

Still memory sweet to many fondly clings,

We wish each one all joy the season brings.

To anglers scattered round both far and near,

We wish 'em all full creels this coming year,

And may their fishing days all pleasant be.

I'm sure they wish the same to you and me.

—"Creel."

Conditions atmospherically last week-end were very changeable, with hot and sultry weather and thundery looking skies. Under these conditions the water is generally unsatisfactory, as it wears a glassy appearance and fish are very hard to move. The mirror-like surface of the water tends to magnify one's tackle and I think it is the cause of anglers "rising" fish that do not "take." The Makarewa river when visited by "Creel" recently presented these conditions, and no good results were obtained until towards evening. Even then two nice heavy fish were lost through that blessing (to the fish) American "duck weed." At the present time it is very bad, being apparently at the full growth and consequently very strong. To the fly exponent it is therefore a blue duck fishing this river at the present time, although the runs between the weed-banks must be a veritable paradise for the angler with the natural bait, such as cockabully and smelt. The Oreti and Aparima are wearing a very nice appearance for "fine" fishing, both streams being fairly low and clear, consequently light casts and traces are essential for satisfactory results. Should the present weather hold throughout the holidays I have no doubt some fine bags will be obtained, and many pleasant hours be spent by numerous anglers on our Southland rivers.

Messrs R. Kidd (Railway), and G. Brenton, visited the Oreti at Lady Barclay, last Saturday and despite the hurricane "northerly" experienced, creeled twenty fish, the heaviest 1½ lbs. Female Marlin Brown, Red Spinner and Owaka were the popular flies.

Three local rods at Benmore landed 76 fish on the fly. The heaviest fish weighed about 2½ lbs. Flies with red dressing seemed to be the most effective killers.

Messrs Welham and Findlay fishing the Oreti at Winton, at back of racecourse, creeled some 50 fish in good condition. Mr Welham landed a beautiful specimen 7½ lbs (cleaned weight), on the Peveril of the Peak fly. Mr Findlay also landed a fine fish 5½ lbs on Hardy's Favourite fly. Last Thursday week on the Makarewa below Underwood, Mr Welham creeled six fine fish on the fly. The heaviest fish weighed 6½ lbs. Small pattern flies were the most effective killers.

Messrs Hoffman and Baldwin for the week and caught 28 fish on the natural smolt bait on the Oreti. (Their donation of fish to "The Digger" staff was greatly appreciated. The "orfs boy" has put his share of trout in pickle and vows he will have a five course Xmas dinner).—"Creel."

Messrs Olsen, Aitken and Sparkes, fishing the Waiau for the week-end landed some 30 fish. The heaviest fish weighed 15½ lbs and was on exhibition in A. and W. McCarthy's window, and made a striking contrast to another exhibit referred to further down these columns.

On the "Paloona," amongst the passengers landed were some Australian anglers, who purpose fishing our Southland rivers, and "Creel" wishes them the best of luck amongst the "speckled beauties."

Owing to not receiving any information, I am unable to publish the result of the recent competition held by the Lumsden Angling Club.

EXPENSIVE TROUT.

In Messrs A. and W. McCarthy's window, the ranger made an exhibit of trout illegally netted in the Estuary. They made a shocking show as the bulk of the 200 fish could not measure 9in in length. They ranged from 4½ins to 18ins and were a striking example of the methods adopted by some folk to deprive the legitimate angler of "good" fish. As one spectator

remarked. "If they had the chance to grow, they would attain the dimensions of the 15-pounder."

The following is an extract from the various resolutions passed at the recent conference of Acclimatisation Societies' representatives. Mr A. H. Stock, attended the conference on behalf of the Southland Society:—

FISHERIES ACT (PART II.).

(Recommendations to be sent to the Hon. the Minister of Marine.

1.—That Section 82 of the Act be amended to provide a maximum penalty of £20 and a minimum one of £10.

2.—That penalties for dynamiting, liming, and any other means of wholesale destruction of Trout and Perch, should be increased, the minimum to be not less than £20, and the maximum not more than £50.

3.—That, for the reasons already urged, and as the fishing for Quinnat Salmon for the last three seasons has proved a failure, the Government be requested to withdraw the regulations declaring the Waitaki and the Rangitata "Salmon Rivers," and be asked to legalise the taking of Quinnat Salmon under the same license and conditions.

4.—That the penalties for taking fish out of season or at any time in sanctuary be increased; the minimum to be not less than £10 for the offence and £1 additional for each fish so taken.

5.—That the Government be requested to prohibit all netting at the mouths of rivers.

6.—That the Minister of Marine be urged to abolish licensed netting for trout in river estuaries.

7.—That the Government be asked to instruct the police to take a more active part in the suppression of breaches of the Animals Protection and Fisheries Acts, and further that rabbit and county inspectors be appointed Rangers under both the above Acts.

9.—That amendments be made to the Fisheries Act 1908 and the Animals Protection Act 1908:—

1.—Granting Justices full power to issue Search Warrants in all cases where there is reasonable ground for suspecting that a breach of either Act has been committed.

2.—Making it an offence for any person when charged by a Ranger with having committed a breach of either Act refusing on demand to give such Ranger his correct name and address.

(To be Continued in Next Issue).

ISSUE OF MEDALS.

WORK BEING PUSHED ON.

The issue of medals and Illuminated Certificates of Service for the N.Z.E.F. is being pushed on with all possible speed by the Defence Department, and to date practically all 1914-15 Stars have gone out, while 25,000 certificates have been issued. Where there have been delays the soldiers themselves are said to be wholly responsible by reason of the fact that they have failed to notify their change of address or have not returned to the Department the B.R. 388 (draft of service particulars) sent to them. These forms, showing the medals earned, the period of service, and theatres of operations, are addressed to soldiers in the following terms:—

"As it is hoped that it may shortly be possible to issue the British War Medal and Illuminated Certificate of Service, it is desired to give you an opportunity of agreeing with the information held by this office concerning yourself, and which will be contained on the medal and certificate or other documents yet to be issued, as medals and documents once issued can only be altered at the recipient's expense. Will you please, therefore, check the particulars on the back hereof and return this form complete to me as early as possible after appending your signature in the space provided at the foot? Do not omit to advise this office of any change of address."

Addressed and stamped envelopes are enclosed with the forms, but despite this, forms posted to soldiers early in August have not been replied to, and as a consequence no medals or certificates have been issued in these cases. On the other hand, many ex-members of the N.Z.E.F. have expressed appreciation of the opportunity offered them by the Department to check their service records, and have rendered all the assistance necessary by promptly returning the forms. There are more than 200,000 medals and 80,000 certificates to issue, and the success of such an undertaking demands strict adherence to the system employed, therefore Diggers are assured of early attention if the above request is complied with, and only lengthy delay in issues and additional cost to the

Department, in leaving it "until to-morrow."

In his own interests each soldier should bear in mind that the form signed by himself becomes the Department's authority to make the issues and that medals and certificates to which he is entitled cannot possibly go out until this authority has reached the Officer-in-Charge War Accounts and Records, Wellington, to whom changes of address should also be notified.

In connection with the issue of medals the Defence Department also states that it is posting the Illuminated Certificates of Service in strong postal tubes, the cost of which has been a heavy item, but the expense is justified, as the certificates

should reach the soldiers undamaged. That many Diggers have shown great carelessness in attempting to extract the certificates is evidenced by the fact that a large number of forms have been returned to the Department slashed with knives, and in some cases the tubes have been cut in half, the certificates, of course, suffering a similar fate. The certificate can be easily removed by withdrawing it from one end of the tube with the fingers.

One gallon of petrol contains enough power to move 15 tons of freight one mile.

When the war broke out, the number of automobiles in use in Canada was 67,415, but to-day the number is 400,000.

Pat Kelly came home one night a little to the bad from whisky and went to bed with a somewhat hazy idea of things. In the night he was aroused by the cry of "fire," and in his anxiety to make a hasty toilet and not wholly recovered from the effects of his indiscretion earlier in the evening, he donned his trousers kind side before. As he started down the stairs, he slipped and fell, rolling to the bottom of the flight. A friend rushed to his assistance and exclaimed, "are you hurt, Pat?" Kelly got on his feet slowly, and after an intent and analysing examination of his trousers said, "no, but I got a h-l of a twist."—Col. Brown.

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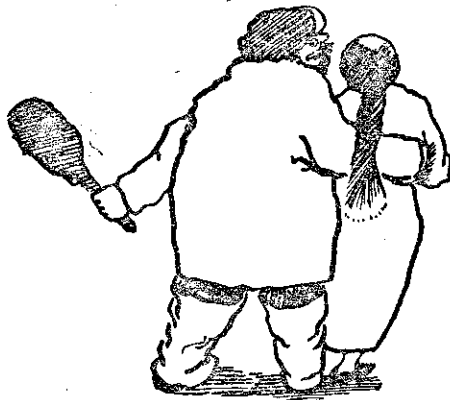
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