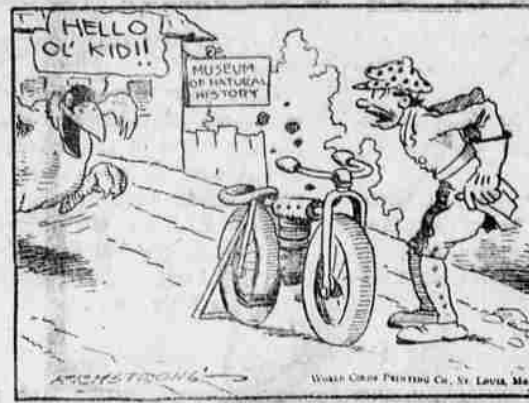




YEP!! SLIM IS STILL LEADING THE FORCE A MERRY CHASE



LOCAL HISTORY IS RECALLED

Wiping Out of Blueback From Wallowa River Set Forth in Editorial.

Under the heading "The Wallowa River Salmon Run," the Oregonian gives a bit of history of the blueback salmon that has become a rarity now because his course to the sea was blocked. The Oregonian's editorial says:

One of the lesser tragedies of Oregon streams, yet large alike in sentimental and economic significance was the destruction of the Wallowa river run of blueback salmon. We did not in the least overlook against this most excellent food fish and game fisher, but making steadily with agricultural development, we signed his death warrant. The blueback salmon became a rarity in the Wallowa river, and in the great Columbia. He perished because we blocked his course to the sea. Sportsmen and fisher folk may well feel a

mutual interest in the plans of Master Fish Warden Shoemaker, who purposes to restore the salmon to their ancient heritage.

Unlike his larger cousin, the Chinook salmon, the blueback sought a lake for his spawning grounds. Even so long ago he fixed upon the beautiful Wallowa river, in the superlative picturesque Wallowa lake, as his nursery. There was but one run of blueback salmon in the Columbia river country, and that one swept up from the sea to follow the strong current in the waters of the Snake it caught the key flavor of the Grande Ronde and Wallowa river itself. There was no deceiving the blueback. He knew his destination and his destiny. But when irrigation projects screened the outlet of the lake and diverted the young Wallowa to ditches through the thirsty alfalfa, the last of the blueback salmon perished without having fulfilled their mission. They died, as do all anadromous salmon, far from salt water, and in Wallowa lake there sprang up a race of dwarfish trout-like fish, the land-locked progeny of the salmon.

Now is approached the revelation. The "yanks" of Wallowa lake are steadily growing in size and ambition. A few years ago the average length was eight or ten inches; now it is eleven or thirteen. One may logically reason that the omaniche was once a small fish, but the "yank," when fate forbade his return buoyant Wallowa had lost its chief distinction. It is through the establishment of breeding ponds at the head of the river, and below the lower lake. They, too, may be destined to become such gamey heroes as the missionaries hope to re-establish the omaniche, through gradual evolution, imparting eggs from Alaskan run, imparting eggs from their own waters. That the project will be crowned with success seems scarcely to be doubted. It is in no sense an experimental one, for similar attempts elsewhere have been uniformly successful. To return to the derided "yanks," plentiful and prolific within the lake, there are indications that nature has her own designs respecting them.

In the lakes of northern Maine there resides a famous family of fighting fish—the omaniche. They are land-locked salmon, huge and vigorous, and their capture with light tackle seems somewhere near a parity with the taking of an Oregon steelhead on a fly rod. That they are the lineal descendants of Atlantic migratory salmon has been conclusively proved by the structural similarities and parallels. There are differences, of course, but none that cannot logically be accounted for on the hypothesis of a transfer from life in the ocean wave to a home in the placid depths of an inland lake. The omaniche is a famous fellow. He has had poems written to him, and he has been written about him, wherein there is a distinctive difference. He is an asset to Maine.

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