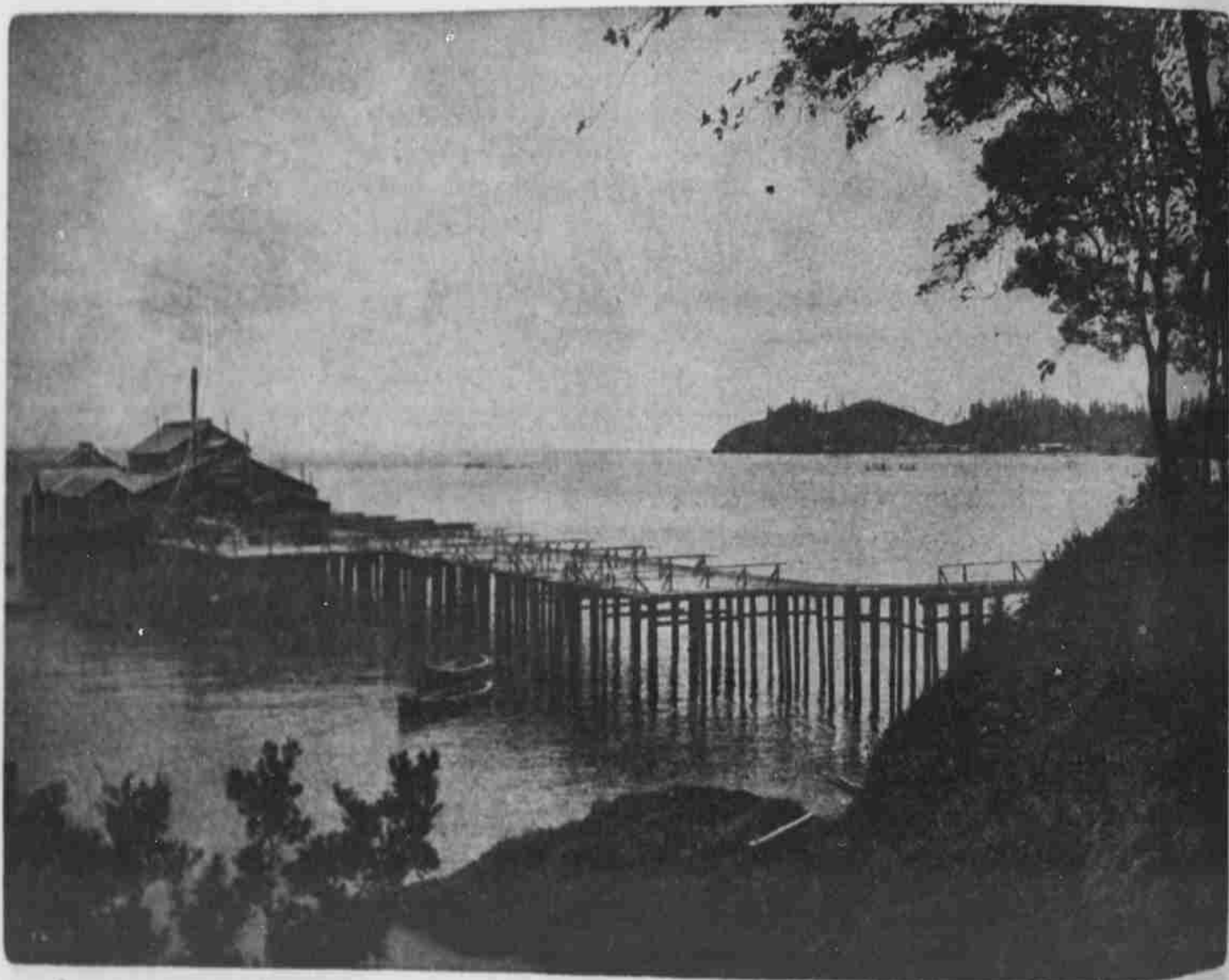


payed out into the water so as not to foul it, and then is permitted to float some distance with the tide or current, when it is again hauled into the boat and the fish removed. It seems almost impossible for fish to successfully run this gauntlet of nets, aggregating five hundred and forty-five miles in length, and costing not less than \$300,000.00 a year, as they have to be renewed each season, yet that they do is proved by the great numbers that finally reach the spawning grounds. Some fishermen own their own boats and nets, worth about \$400.00, and others operate boats belonging to the canneries, the former re-

527), constitute the next most important method of fishing near the mouth of the river, the location of a majority of these being Baker's bay (see engraving on this page) lying north of the channel and bar. A trap is constructed by driving a row of piles from the shore or shoals toward the deep water where the fish are running, at the outer end the piles forming a rectangular enclosure or pound. On the piles is laid a netting of wire or twine, with a two-inch mesh, in such a manner as to prevent the passage of the fish and lead them into the pound, from which they can not escape and can be easily removed. Between the



BAKER'S BAY, SHOWING CANNERY AND DRYING RACKS FOR NETS.—SEE PAGE 531.

ceiving about one dollar each for their fish, and the latter sixty cents. Prices vary in different seasons, but this is the average. Skill and bravery are both required by the bar fishermen, and annually half a hundred of them lose their lives among the breakers. In their rivalry to get the first chance at the fish as they enter the river, they crowd down upon the very verge of the bar, and every few days a boat is swamped in the breakers. Occasionally the luckless men are rescued by the crew of the life boat at Cape Hancock, but the majority pay for their temerity with their lives.

Fish traps, or pound nets (see engraving on page

owners of the pound nets and the gill net fishermen there is constant friction, the latter deeming the pounds an infringement upon their rights to catch fish. Another method of fishing is shown in the engraving on page 528, and consists of operating the old-fashioned seine from the shore or sand bars. A seine is about eight or nine hundred feet in length, with two and one-half and three-inch meshes, and is used near the head of the estuary, above the fishing grounds of the gill nets and traps. Seine fishing presents a peculiar aspect to one passing by in a steamer. Men, horses and boats are seen moving about in the shallow water, either placing the