

SEIN FISHING WITH HORSES.

AMONG the many curious sights the traveler on the Lower Columbia witnesses as the steamer rushes through the green waters of that mighty river, is men on horseback wading about in what appears at a distance to be a most aimless manner. Inquiry develops the information that they are fishing for salmon with huge seines. These seines are often many hundred feet in length, and the task of setting them and drawing them in is no child's play. Carefully coiled up in the stern of a large boat the sein, with one end secured

the channel of the river open. It is not always possible to fish in this manner, as the water is sometimes too high, and work has to be suspended until it subsides. It is a question for scientists to answer whether a horse that leads an amphibious life of this character will not in time become web-footed, or at least transmit such tendencies to a physical pedal change to its descendants. Such an alteration in the extremities of the pioneers of Oregon is asserted to have taken place, but that was a comparatively trivial change to that necessary to split the hoof of a horse and expand it with membranes. The form of evolution the sein-fishing horse will prob-



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to the shore, is gradually payed out, the lower side being caused to sink by means of weights and the upper being supported on the surface by wooden floats. The boat carries the outer end around in a curve and as soon as it reaches water sufficiently shallow, horses are attached to it in various places and the heavy sein is drawn to land, often with a mass of struggling salmon caught in its meshes, and often, also, with a haul no greater than is recorded of the fishermen of old who cast their nets on the wrong side of the boat. This method is rendered possible by the large sand bars and islands that have been formed in the coves indenting the shore beyond the reach of the current which keeps

ably take will be the conversion of its hairy tail to the usual fish's caudal, and the development of fins from the legs, a return, to a certain extent, to the marine monsters our scientists reconstruct from the bones of prehistoric animals. When this time comes Oregon will have a horse to compete with the "wooly horse" of Utah with which Barnum gulled the public years ago. Unless the run of salmon increases again the business of seining for them with horses will not be a very profitable one in the future. Happily the hatcheries will remedy this difficulty in a few years, and again the Columbia will be filled with the "Royal Chinook."