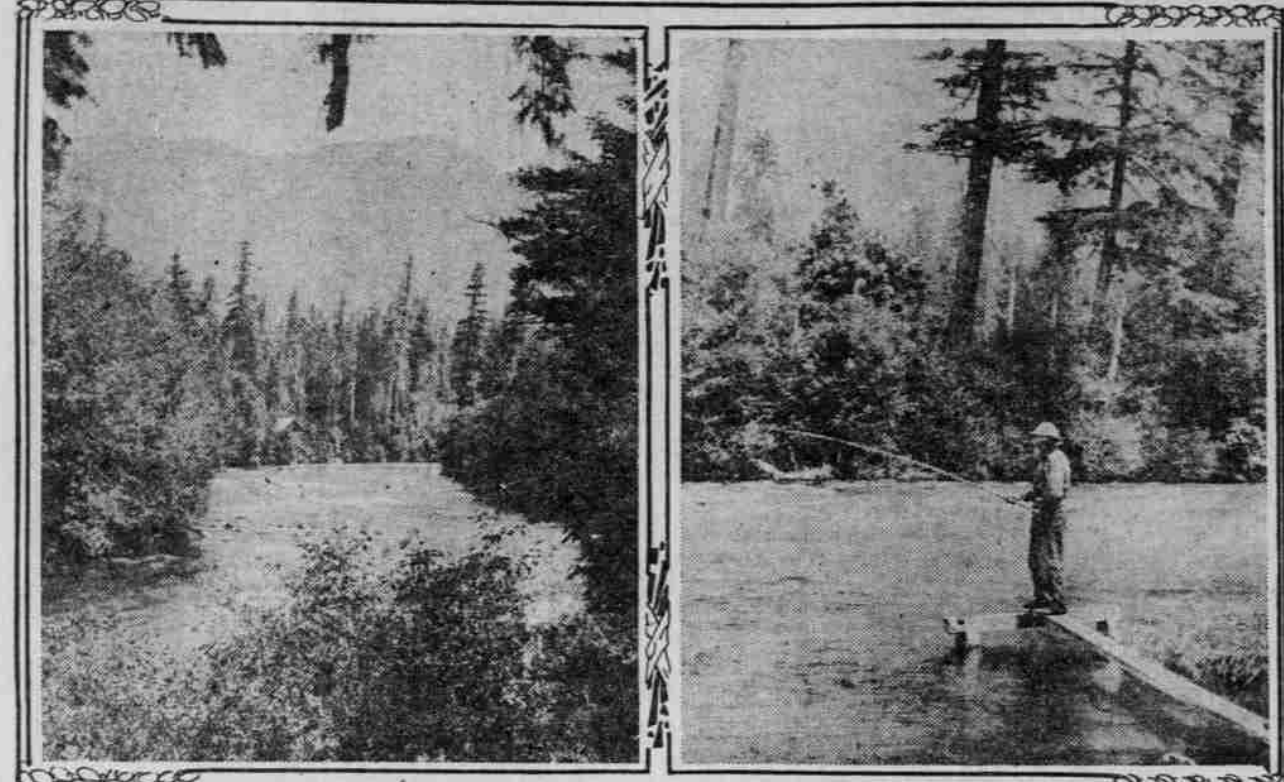


## EXPERT ANGLERS OF M'KENZIE RIVER TELL OF STRANGE ADVENTURES

Great Fish Which Steal Rod and Glide Swiftly Away From Fisherman; Catches of Surprising Size When All Signs Fail and Other Stories Collected From Those Who Frequent Trout Haunts.



The River At McKenzie Bridge

"Uncle George" Frisell fishing for a Dolly



Uncle George And A Dolly Varden trout

ANGLERS cannot always be aniling even on Oregon's justly famous trout stream, the McKenzie River. Sometimes, on hot summer days, the river is white with water from glacier slides on the Three Sisters and the fish won't bite. Sometimes, according to old settlers, the fish are "feeding in the light of the moon." Sometimes the elusive finny folk seem to be on a most abstemious diet, and at times, actually fasting and not to be tempted by grasshopper, "grampus, spinners or fly. Or, maybe, the wind is wrong:

When the wind is in the north,  
It blows the bait in the fish's mouth,  
And when the wind is in the west,  
Then it is the very best.

And anyway, whether the trout bite or not, there are times when a fisherman must stop fishing and tell fish stories. This truth was borne in upon me this last summer while staying at the Log Cabin Hotel at McKenzie Bridge. There were all kinds of fishermen there, from two members of the San Francisco Fly-Casting Club with willows, Leonard rods, imported reels, tapered English lines, almost invisible nine-foot leaders, and infinitesimal half-dozen flies to "Uncle George" Frisell, the Isaac Walton of the McKenzie, who inclines to bait as Isaac himself did—and uses a cane pole, a fixed line, a sinker and a number four Limerick hook.

And occasionally everybody sat on the porch and told fish stories, and all the stories were about the wily fish of the McKenzie.

**Fish Steals Rod and Escapes.**  
Sometimes the talk was of lost tackle, and these were the tales I heard:

A certain Portland capitalist who always carried large catches with a cane pole and "hoppers, borrowed a pole and went fishing on Horse Creek, one of the main tributaries of the river. After a while he returned with a string of trout but no tackle.

"Well," he said to the lender, "your pole's gone."

"Lost it?"

"No, a fish took it out of my hand."

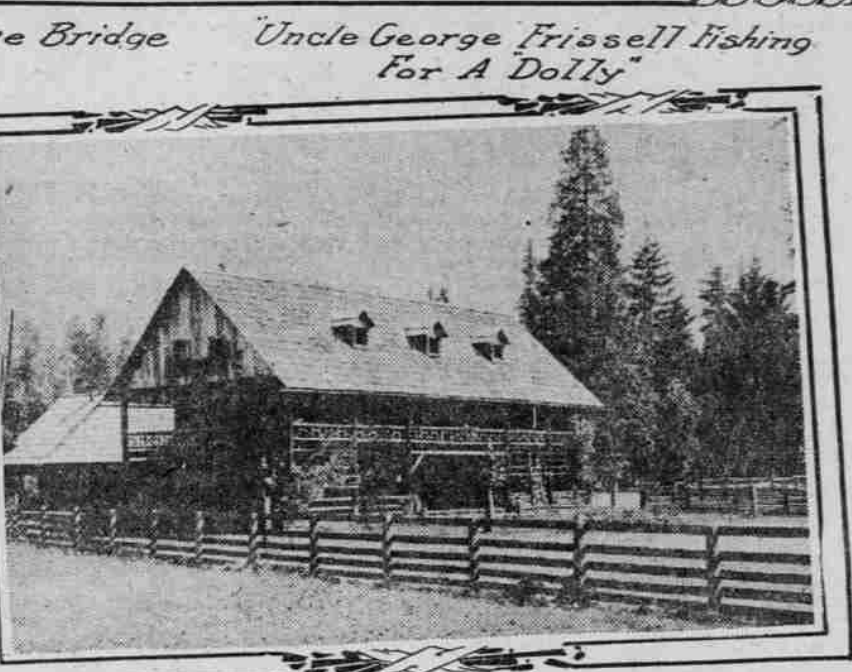
And so it had happened. The capitalist's companion, returning later, affirmed that he had seen the pole slip from the fisherman's grasp and go floating off on the surface of the stream in the wake of a big redside.

Another angler, fishing from a boat farther down the river, had better luck. He hooked a salmon on a cane pole with a fixed line, and, knowing that he could not hold the fish on such light and clumsy tackle, he let go. There was a long stretch of smooth water and down it the fish went swimming, trailing the pole, and after him went the fisherman frantically rowing the boat. For some time the race went merrily on. Then the salmon grew tired, the angler picked up the pole again and triumphantly landed the Chinook. It weighed 28 pounds.

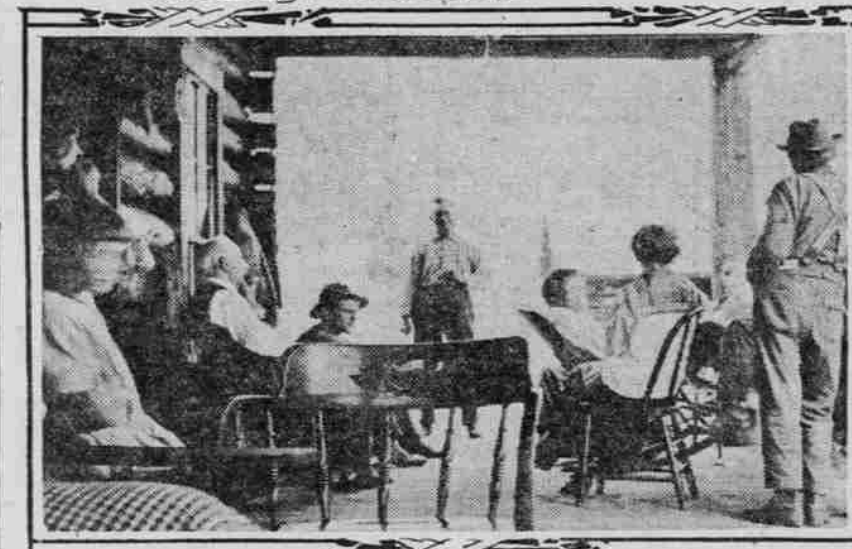
**Ads Fail to Return Tackle.**  
Another man with a more expensive outfit fared worse. He, too, was fishing on Horse Creek, and he had a \$15 reel and a \$5 line attached with a new return tackle to it.

But it was quite useless, the tackle was gone forever.

Sometimes the talk was all of Dolly Vardens, the big-headed, pink-spotted trout that live in deep pools and grow to an enormous size. They never "jump water" when hooked, as a redside does, but they fight far down near the bottom, and the man who lands an



The Log Cabin Hotel



Telling Fish Stories At McKenzie Bridge

eight-pound one has reason to be proud of his achievement.

"Uncle George" Frisell is a most successful catcher of Dollys. A great pool lies at the foot of his garden behind the hotel and he keeps a long stout cane pole with a big spoon hook on it in constant readiness on the bank and there every few days he "snakes out a big one." He does it in self-defense, he says, for in the winter when the river is high "the Dollys come into the garden to eat the cabbages, and root on the limbs of the apple trees, by jolly and break 'em with their weight."

**Trout Taken From Dolly.**  
When the Dolly talks at its height a certain Portlander would tell of his experience fishing on the South Fork. He hooked an eight-inch speckled trout and saw it for a minute quite plainly near the surface, but when he tried to land it, it would not come. He tugged and tugged.

"Pulls mighty hard for a small fish," he said to his companion.

"Mine be caught away a snag in the bottom," his companion replied.

Eventually, the trout came up, less than half of its size and half of its skin. And toward the surface after it came a big Dolly Varden that had played the wile to the small trout's Jonah.

The Portlander always regretted his haste. He felt that if he had only waited until the Dolly ate the small "speck," hook and all, he would have captured the big cannibal trout.

**Giant Dolly Swims to Death.**  
But the story that interested me most was the one of the pet Dolly Varden that Johnny O'Leary kept in a pond in his dooryard.

It was a very big Dolly and visitors at the hotel used to go to gaze on it and feed it. Occasionally the O'Leary family forgot its meals and it ate one of the two-pound redsides with which it shared the pond. It grew to weigh 30 pounds and met a tragic death.

Johnny O'Leary went off on a week's trail trip in the mountains and he left orders to his numerous progeny to confine the fish in some calm pool in the river and clean out the pond. The boys obeyed his command somewhat hastily. They were interested just then in a series of cock fights, prolonged by painting the Leghorn rooster a different color, pink or blue or green, every day, so that every day he seemed a new fowl to his barnyard familiars.

When Johnny O'Leary returned he found the Dolly Varden, so long accustomed to placid waters, occupying a hencoop in the swiftest current of the river and swimming desperately every minute for its very life. "His fins and tail was all wore off and the ole fish was so lean and peaked he died."

**Fish Takes Two Hooks.**  
Sometimes the talk of the fishermen drifted back to the old days when salmon-egg fishing was legal on the McKenzie. And then the New Yorker

sternly: "Young woman, don't try that on me. It looks all right, but I don't like it. It leaves a metallic taste in the mouth."

**Redside Jump From Boats.**  
When the stories were at their height someone was sure to tell the experience of "Ole Man" Finn, who lives farther down the river. Finn waded across the river, a feat worthy of the famous Irish giant, Finn McCool—and when he reached home and took off his boots he was amazed to see six redsides, each about two pounds, jump out of the boots and go flapping about on the hearth. A true story, no doubt, but it does seem an unsportsmanlike way to catch trout.

Sometimes, as the fishermen sat there on the porch, the talk drifted from the subject of catching fish to the equally absorbing one of cooking and eating them. This change of subject is not peculiar to the modern fisherman. Isaac Walton in his "Compleat Angler" does likewise. Indeed, in perusing that immortal book, one cannot tell where the famous angler preferred his fish, whether in the stream or on the table. Certainly one can almost hear him smack his lips over some of the recipes he gives.

Everybody at the hotel agreed that the Dolly is best stuffed and baked. Opinions differed about a big redside.

## COUNTY AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS AID GREATLY

Demonstration Farms Prove Valuable to Eastern Oregon Farmers, Too, Says Chamber of Commerce Agent.

THE Oregon development bureau of the Portland Chamber of Commerce has begun its annual investigation of farming and crop conditions of Oregon and for the past six weeks has had J. W. Brewer covering the territory east of the Cascade Mountains. Mr. Brewer will render his report in sections so that each subject pertaining to the development of the state may have special attention and the use of demonstration farms under the direction of Oregon Agricultural College. The report is as follows:

With the purpose of obtaining first-hand information from the farmers and residents of the Eastern Oregon counties relative to work done by the county agriculturist to awaken interest to secure exhibits for the Manufacturers' and Land Products Show, to check up the various commercial organizations and to ascertain wherein the Portland Chamber of Commerce can be of service in the matter of agriculture and general development, I spent six weeks in the district, visiting Baker, Union, Malheur, Harney, Grant, Wallowa, Wasco, Sherman and Crook counties.

**Crop Condition Good.**  
The general crop condition throughout this territory was good for this season and a general feeling of optimism prevailed. The counties of Union, Malheur, Harney, Wallowa, Sherman and Crook have or have had with an agriculturist or superintendent of agricultural demonstration farm. All of these counties still have an agriculturist representative with the exception of Harney and Wallowa counties. In Harney County there was some misunderstanding as to the operation and funds were exhausted in August of this year and the services of the agriculturist dispensed with.

In Wallowa County, in spite of a vigorous protest on the part of some of the more substantial farmers, the County Court, in a spirit of economy, deemed it wise to do without the services of the agriculturist. Two years ago a determined fight was made in Baker County for the county agriculturist and the more progressive element both of the business men and of the farmers were strong in their support, but there were a considerable number of stockmen and old-time farmers, both heavy taxpayers, who led a determined fight against the proposition. The County Court sided with the protesters and as a result the supporters of progressive and scientific agriculture were defeated.

The county being diversified in its sources, requires a man who is thoroughly conversant and able to give advice both with regard to the soil cultivation and to livestock raising. This condition exists not only in Baker, but in Malheur, Harney and Wallowa counties.

**Union Gives Support.**  
Many of the farmers of Baker County who were interviewed expressed the idea that strong support could be had for county agriculturist. The problems naturally arising in a county with such diversified interests, but that it would be impossible to secure anything like a strong support for a man who is able to handle both one of these big problems.

During the first year there was considerable opposition to the work and practically all of this opposition was due to the fact that the farmers did not have the opportunity to see any actual results obtained. As the agriculturist has been working in the county for a year, more of the county he has gained strong support. In fact practically none of the farmers who have received advice and assistance from the agriculturist are now opposing him or his work. On the other hand, many are calling on him for advice and help.

The sentiment here is all in favor of the agriculturist. The superintendent of the demonstration farm, Mr. Stephens, has been of great help to the farmers not only in Sherman County, but in adjoining counties where there are no agriculturists or demonstration farms.

**Good Work Accomplished.**  
Bruce Dennis, editor of the Observer says:

"I could not name a single man in Union County who is opposing the work of the county agriculturist. He is surely doing a great deal of good for this county."

H. O. Weatherproof, farmer and horticulturist, from Elgin, says:

"The county agriculturist has done wonderful work in this county. There were many problems that had to be worked out and until this was done there was some opposition, but now it is all clear."

Malheur County was rather unfortunate in starting the work there, owing to the fact that the first man who was in charge was not a farmer, but a man who had no experience in farming. He created an unfavorable impression generally. The man in charge of the work at the present time is aggressive and is doing a great deal to overcome the first bad impression. The county is so large that it is a physical impossibility for one man to make even an occasional visit to the whole of his territory. The farmers in the vicinity of the demonstration farm are strong in their support of the work now being done.

Harney County, isolated as it is from railroad transportation and not progressed along agricultural lines as have other Eastern Oregon counties. For many years the lands of Harney County, especially along the river and streams, have been devoted almost entirely to the raising of hay. Through the efforts of the county demonstration farm and the county agriculturist excellent crops of wheat and other grains have been raised on the bench

some liking him cooked the same way and others preferring him split and broiled. As for the smaller ones, the "pane size" trout, several agreed that they should be dipped in cornmeal and that the frying medium should be olive oil.

But several other epicures held that small trout tasted the very best wrapped in one layer of buttered paper and baked about 20 minutes on flat rocks that have been heated by a campfire until water will sizzle on them. A professor's wife had yet another method; she fried haddock on the hot rocks and then the trout. Everyone, however, agreed that the little trout is good to pan about as short as possible, the real trout flavor being an evanescent quality, liable to vanish any minute.

And one day when all the signs were wrong and the fishermen sat on the porch mentally catching, cooking and eating trout, the young man, the angler at the hotel went down to "the drift," which is fished every day from June to October, and caught the record redside of the season, a whole pound heavier than anybody else's big fish, and he caught it on an unlikely "pane size" trout. Just a wisp of gray deer hair tied with coarse black thread to a common hook.

As "Uncle George" says, "It's mighty hard to finger on fish."

**Much Land Is Idle.**  
With the advent of the railway, however, many thousands good acres that now are lying idle will be utilized for the growing of grain. When that time comes the county agriculturist will be of very material benefit to the farmers of the county. The demonstration farm is doing good work and is popular with the farming classes there, but as a rule the farmer will take the time to visit this farm. It is therefore necessary that education be carried to the farmer through the medium of the county agriculturist. The general sentiment is in favor of the retention of the agriculturist and there is little doubt but that his services will be secured for next year.

Wallowa County for many years devoted its attention almost entirely to the stock business, but since the advent of the railway agricultural development has progressed rapidly. Last year the county secured the services of an agriculturist, who did a great deal of good and would have been retained but for the fact that he was offered a better salary than Wallowa County was able to pay, and after he left they did not fill the place. In spite of the fact that a petition signed by nearly 200 farmers was presented to the County Court making such a request.

**Work Is Excellent.**  
Fred McCully, banker, of Joseph, says: "The county agriculturist is one of the best investments the county ever made."

Ross Leslie, farmer, says: "He was just here long enough to get a start on the job, even in his first year, he has done excellent work. We had to fight the stockmen, as most of them are opposed to the agriculturist. It has been a long time, but he is going to stay long enough to convince some of the old timers that there are possibilities in other lines."

W. E. Daggett, farmer, of Enterprise, says: "I am heartily in favor of the agriculturist. The County Court promised us they would retain the agriculturist if we would get a petition, and we got about 200 signatures and then they gave up. I am going to stay long enough to convince some of the old timers that there are possibilities in other lines."

**Demonstration Farm Helps.**  
There is no agriculturist in Sherman County, but the demonstration farm has, through its work, done much to help the increased production of the county. The superintendent of the demonstration farm, Mr. Stephens, has been of great help to the farmers not only in Sherman County, but in adjoining counties where there are no agriculturists or demonstration farms.

Farmers from Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam and other counties have been personally at the demonstration farm or have written to Mr. Stephens for advice. W. D. Wallen, banker, says: "The demonstration farm has done good work by the farm, as many of the farmers hesitate to go there for advice, but profit by the experience of their neighbors who have followed the instructions given by the farm superintendent. There has been a great improvement in the method of farming since the demonstration farm was stationed there. The clean Summerfall especially shows this."

This is the second year that Crook County has had the county agriculturist. For one year prior to this the county had no agriculturist. The demonstration farm, even in one short year, were of great material benefit to the farmers of the district. The county agriculturist is new, the farmers coming from every state in the west, were conditions were very different. A great many problems arose which either the farmer himself through his own experience must solve or secure advice from the agriculturist. The conditions, almost without exception, the farmers have been able to solve. The Chamber of Commerce should work in conjunction with the officers of the Oregon Agricultural College and with practical farmers in carrying on this system of education.

**Dry Rot Found In Potatoes.**  
While in Eastern Oregon my attention was called to the condition of the potatoes in that district. After making a thorough investigation of the potatoes in Malheur, Baker, Grant, Union and Wallowa Counties, I found them badly affected with fusarium wilt, or dry rot, more commonly called. So far

## FUNGI IN TOADSTOOLS INTERESTING AS STUDY

Peculiar Formation and Not Unusual Brilliant Coloring Make Distinction as to Food Values One Only Expert Can Solve.



Fig. 1. Button And Early Stage of Tube Fungus, Boletus

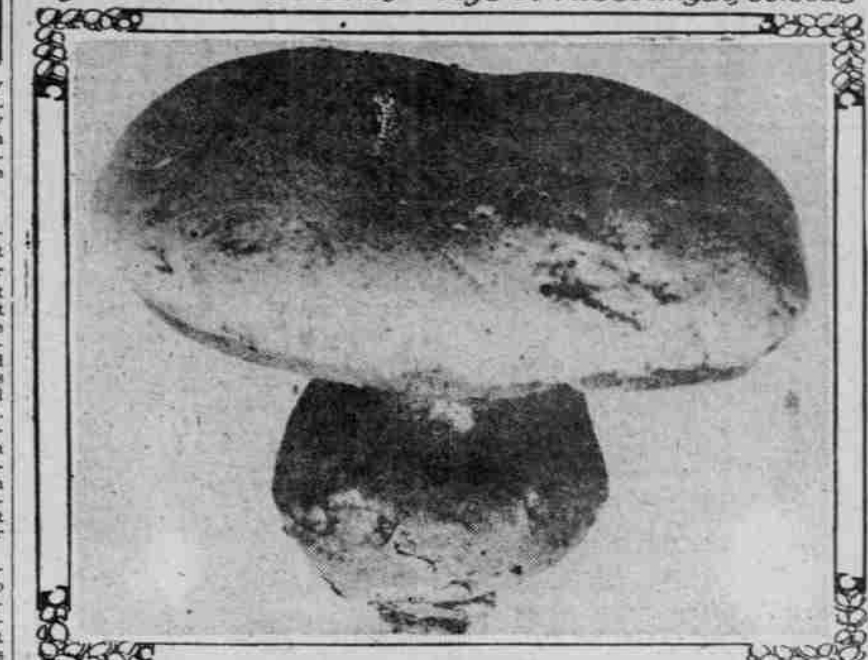


Fig. 2. A Mature Fungus or Boletus

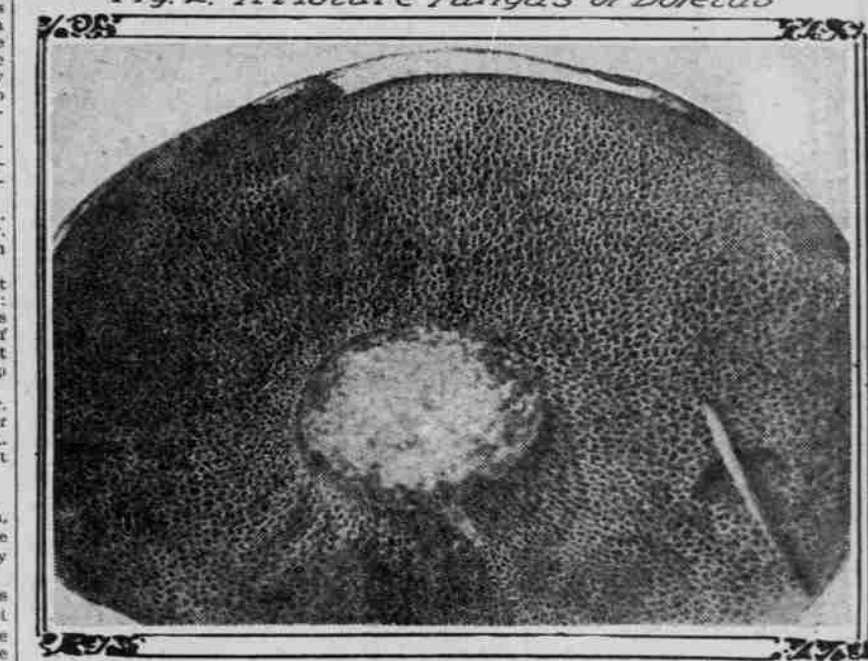


Fig. 3. Under Side Showing The Mouths of The Tubes

BY ALBERT RADDIN SWEETSER,  
Professor of botany in the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oct. 23.—(Special.)—The illustrations used in this and the previous series of articles are photographs made directly from nature in the botanical laboratory of the university. The fungi forming this group of toadstools are interesting not so much from a gastronomic point of view, but because of their peculiar structure and some of their brilliant colorings. There are some of them edible, but they should be left to an expert to pick out. Figure 1 illustrates a button and an early stage of one of these tube fungi, and figure 2 the mature plant. There is nothing in these to suggest any difficulty in eating them, but the most common toadstool, if, however, we examine the under side of the cap it will appear as in figure 3. In place of the gills, which are so common to the toadstool and bearing the microscopic spores, as described in the article in The Sunday Oregonian of October 2, we find a sort of honeycomb structure, the ends and openings of hundreds of little tubes extending up into the cap.

The location of these fungi and the fact that they produce spores can be clearly demonstrated by cutting off the stem and placing a cap, tube side down, on a piece of paper, covering with a cup or dish to prevent draughts, and leaving until morning. A spore print will be produced, having the same arrangement as the mouths of the tubes, which shows that the spores have come from within the tubes. If it were possible to examine portions of this plant under the microscope, we should find that the walls of the tubes are made up of closely packed threads with spores on their enlarged tips. This arrangement may be performed by the teacher of nature study or biology and is sure to enlist the attention of the pupil.

There is a wide range of colors, shapes and texture in this group. Some are pure white, others are brilliantly colored. Some show a change of color when wounded. Some are fleshy and soon decay, others are tough or woody. Good illustrations of the latter are the bracket fungi growing on trees and old stumps. These are sometimes called "shelf" fungi and are decorated with drawings traced on the under side with a sharp instrument. A number of these fungi growing on trees cause the decay and death of the trees.

In some cases the tubes are so fine that it requires a magnifying glass to make them out, while in others they are readily apparent to the naked eye, but they all are included in this group of the tube fungi, or Polyporaceae.

As known there is no way to counteract this disease. It is estimated that it will take from three to five years to eradicate the disease from the soil when once planted. A disease of similar character has affected the potatoes in the well-known Greeley, Colorado, district. The result that all farmers of that territory have entered into an agreement not to plant a potato for a period of eight years, as it is estimated that it will take nearly that long to get the ground entirely clear from the bacteria in the soil.

This is assuming such proportions in the eastern part of the state that it should demand the immediate attention of the authorities and every means possible should be used to eradicate the disease.

**New Seed and New Land Advised.**  
By the selection of entirely new and clean seed and planting on new ground, there is still a chance to remedy this condition, but in order to do this it must mean the united effort of all farmers in the district under the supervision of someone with absolute authority.

Another disease that is affecting the potato is known as "late blight" or "late blight." This is a disease that does not affect the tuber, but causes a rot in the potato vine just below the surface of the ground. By the use of formaldehyde or some such solution the germs of this disease can be killed. Even though such precautions are used potatoes should not be planted on ground formerly used for this purpose, and a new seed and new land should be appointed to investigate it after thoroughly and take it to the proper authorities.

The most common potato at a recent Syracuse (N. Y.) fair was a gigantic cheese, there still a chance to remedy this disease. The huge cake weighed 755 pounds.