FISHING WITH BIRDS

CURIOUS AND ANCIENT INDUSTRY CARRIED ON IN JAPAN.

How Cormorants Are Harnessed and Managed by the Skillful and Dexterous Anglers, Working at Night by the Light of Blazing Pine,

The origin of cormorant fishing in Japan is lost in a very remote antiquity. At least a thousand years ago it is known to have flourished, and there is a tradition of its existence upward of 2,000 years ago. Much romance and history are connected with the fishery in the early days, and the names of some of Japan's greatest warriors and statesmen are associated with it. While a commercial enterprise, it does not, however, give employment to many people and is not conducted in many places. It is confined to rivers, and the most extensive, interesting and famous fishery is that in the Nagara river, and the most noted of the cormorant fishing villages is in the outskirts of the large city of Gifu.

At the time of my visit the chief cormorant fisherman, whose ancestors for many generations had engaged in this fishery in the same locality, attired himself in the peculiar dress of the profession for the purpose of exhibiting his birds and the methods of hanfishermen on the river went to a rendezvous and gave a practical demonstration of cormorant fishing.

The cormorants are controlled by means of a slender cord which passes the middle of the back. The cord is Oregon. made of woody fibers of the cryptomeria tree, with the exception of a short section next to the bird, which consists of whalebone. There is a supplemental cord tied around the neck at the lower end of the gullet for the purpose of preventing the fish from passing so far that they cannot be recovered. The tying of this cord is a delicate operation, for if too tight it may injure the bird, and if too loose it will allow the fish to be swallowed. The fishery is conducted from boats

which are of a special type, being long. narrow dugouts, propelled primarily by paddles, but when en route to the fishing grounds often provided with a sail. Each boat has a crew of four men and a complement of sixteen cormorents. Late in the afternoon the boats start for a place in the river where fishing will begin, the cormorants being stowed away in pairs in bamboo baskets. The fishing grounds cover many miles, and operations are confined to successive sections of the river nightly, in accordance with law. Stretches several thousand yards in length are set aside as imperial preserves, on which no fishing is permit-

As soon as darkness prevails a blazing fire of pine wood is kindled in the fron basket overhanging the bow of the boat, and the boats drift downstream metimes in a line extending across the river, each guided and propelled by two men. The captain, standing near the bow, manages twelve cormorants and his assistant four, the cords being held between the fingers and frequently shifted as the birds move about. With the cormorants diving and darting in all directions, those of different boats often mingling, it is a wonder that they do not soon become inextricably tangled, but so skillfully are they managed that the lines rarely become fouled. In a short time the cormorants' gullets begin to bulge with ayu, When they are well filled the birds are pulled up to the gunwales one by one, and their catch is gently squeezed into baskets. This continues for several hours, and each cormorant may fill its gullet fifteen to twenty times.

Spectators usually go to the fishing grounds in a kind of barge, illuminated by lanterns, and eat their dinner on board while waiting at a convenient During the evening when I witnessed dent. the fishery the seven boats in whose operations I was particularly interested averaged 700 to 800 fish apiece, and the aggregate catch was worth \$150, a very respectable sum to Japanese fish-

The fishery is prosecuted with enthuand creaking of the paddles, the hissing of the embers as they fall into the water, the weird lights and shadows combine to make a performance which a westerner is not likely soon to forget.-National Geographic Magazine.

Criminal Broncho Justing.

There are several ways of breaking a broncho to the saddle, of which the most rational and least used is to begin with the young colt and accustom him by slow degrees to halter, blanket, bridle and saddle. The usual practice of the Indian is to choke the pony into temporary submission and then ride and beat him until his spirit is broken. Starving the pony into good behavior is an even more brutal method of subjugation, which, although occasionally employed with especially "mean" subjects, is deservedly unpopular, and a cowboy could adopt it at the cost of his reputation among his fellows. In this process the pony is tied to a stake and starved until from sheer weakness he accepts food without lashing out with his heels. While yet feeble from starvation he is gradually trained with a sack to bear burdens and familiarized with saddle and bridle until when his strength returns he forgets that he has never been regularly broken.-Country Life In America.

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dling them. Later he and all the other WANTED-ENERGETIC, TRUSTWORthy man or woman to work in Oregon, representing large manufacturing company. Salary \$40 to \$90 per month, paid weekly; expenses advanced. Adaround the bird's breast and is tied in dress with stamp J. H. Moore, Astoria

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STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE Stockholders of the Astoria Real Estate association will be held at the Occident Hotel on Friday November 10th point for the fishing boats to arrive. at 2 o'clock p. m. C. S. Wright, Presi-

CALL FOR WARRANTS.

Notice is hereby given to all parties holding Clatsop County warrants, endorsed prior to September 12th, 1904. slasm by both men and cormorants, and warrants number 8916, 8917, 8918, and the shouts of the fishermen, the 8919, 8920, 8921, 8922, 8923, 8924, 8925. hourse croaking of the birds, the rush 8026, 8927, 8928, 8929, 8930, 8931, 8932, of the mountain stream, the splashing 8933, 8934, and 9054, to present the same to the County Treasurer at his office, 590-592 Commercial street, for payment. Interest ceases after this date.

Dated at Astoria, Oregon, this 26th day of October, 1905.

CHAS, A. HEILBORN (Signed.)

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County Treasurer.

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