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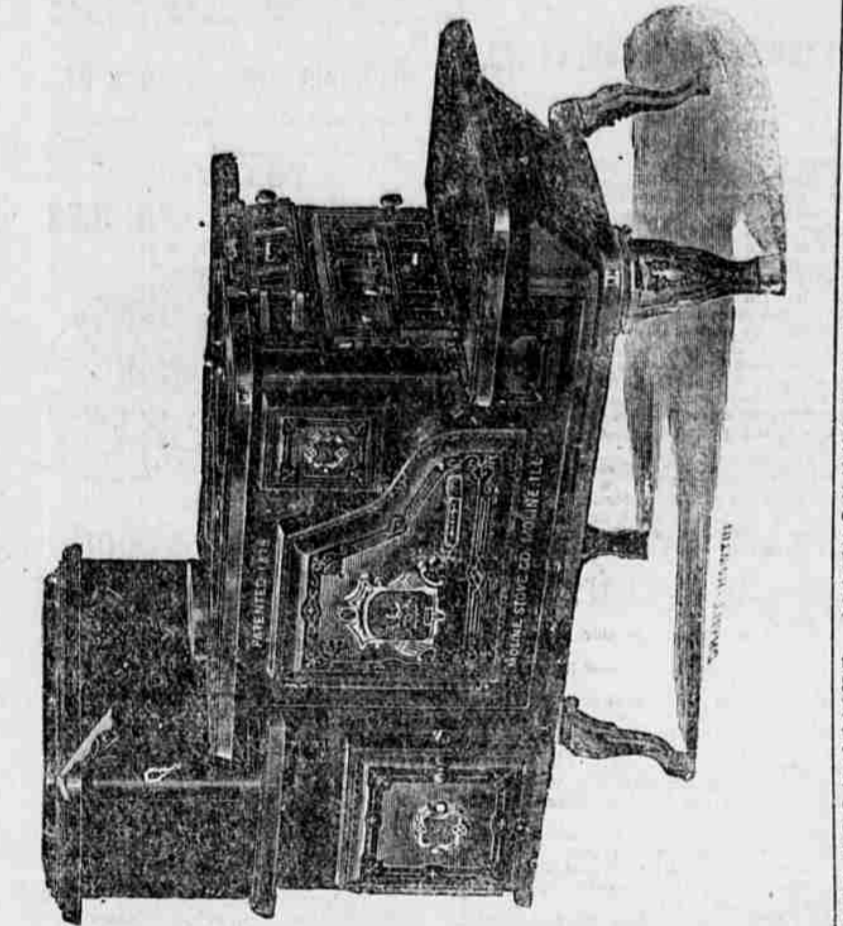
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CALIFORNIA FISHERIES.

How Salmon are Caught and Canned

Within the last few years the exportation of canned salmon has become generally recognized as one of the leading industries of the Pacific Coast. This fish has from very ancient times been everywhere esteemed as an article of food, and it was formerly widely distributed throughout the whole of northern Europe, Great Britain, Germany, France, Russia, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Holland, and was found extensively in the waters of Canada, Newfoundland and New England.

The bulk of fishermen in this state is composed of Italians and Greeks, the Italians being probably in the majority. There are employed in the salmon fisheries between San Francisco and Sacramento, about 800 boats. Each boat is manned by two fishermen; there are, therefore, 1,600 men employed in catching salmon between the two points named, or in a distance of only 120 miles.

2,000 FRESH SALMON DAILY, to say nothing of the Sacramento, Stockton, Oakland and San Jose markets, and the sales made throughout the smaller towns of the interior. The cost of a fishing outfit ranges from \$450 to \$800. A suitable boat can be purchased for an average price of \$200. The nets in use up the river are comparatively small, and cost about \$200; those used in the straits will average at least \$300 apiece—they are of much greater depth and contain a great deal more material. The thread for their construction costs \$1 per pound, and some few nets contain as high as 300 pounds of netting. The ropes, lines and corks for each net cost about \$50. The construction of a good net is worth \$180; but fishermen generally save this amount by making their own nets. If hired done fishermen pay 20 cents a fathom for the work. The fishermen pursue their vocation at all points on the river and bay during the season. The fish, after remaining a short time in the brackish water below straits, begin to ascend. The first catch will be made in the straits; the following day the fish will have reached Collinville, and the next day they may be found at Rio Vista. In this manner they ascend, gradually lessening their speed the further up they go. The winter run commences in January, and consists of a variety of salmon much longer and thinner than those caught in the fall. In February the number of fish to be found are but limited. The spring run, which commences in March, is composed of a variety much thicker than the fish of the preceding run. They ascend in limited quantities only.

THE FALL RUN In the largest, and commences in August. These salmon, known as the hook or hawk-nosed salmon, are the very largest variety. The run continues for six weeks, the principal body going up in September. The average catch varies according to the season. Last season the salmon ascended in such numerous quantities that the fishermen could have caught each day per boat, for a period of several weeks, over 100 fish. But the markets were glutted, and it was impossible to dispose of that number, they contented themselves with catching merely enough to supply the demand. This season the average daily catch per boat does not exceed 20 fish, and the supply is not sufficient to keep the canneries running at their full capacities. The supply, of course, varies according to the supply and demand. The canneries started at Martinez and Benicia by creating a more extensive demand, and thousands of fish were sent to some extent. Last year the average price per fish was but 35 cents. This year the price has been as high as 65 cents, owing to the scarcity of salmon and the competition of the canneries; but a compromise, resulting in an equal distribution of fish to the several canneries, has reduced the price to 40 cents. The principal buyers are Bradford & Co., Booth & Co., Colville, Johnson & Co., Lusk & Co., the Fisherman's Cannery (at Benicia), Black, Kendall & Shields, A. Lusk, and Pardini & Co. Suisun Flats and the Straits of Carquinez are the PRINCIPAL FISHING GROUNDS.

A number of boats fish at Sonoma Flats, below Mare Island, but the fishing there is difficult, owing to the roughness of the water. Within the last two years a place above Vallejo, on Napa river, commencing at what is known as Slaughter House Point, has become quite a favorite fishing ground. The grounds up the Sacramento river are also extensive, and thousands of salmon are caught there daily during the season. The fishermen are, as a class, brave men, to whom an almost constant open-air life, and the fresh breeze of the sea, has imparted a ruddy countenance and a good circulation. The peculiar nature of their occupation brings out the muscles of their arms, expands their chests, and

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