

DRAUGHTS.

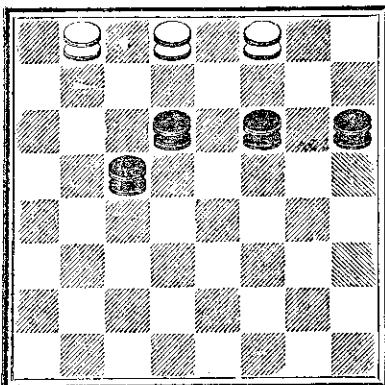
(Conducted by F. Hutchins).

Let science give release
To minds o'erwrought by care and
thought;
Let the checker board be brought—the
battlefield of peace.

Those who wish to maintain interest
in the kingly game of draughts are in-
vited to send along games, problems or
items of interest to the readers of this
column. Address, Draughts Editor,
"Digger," 28 Biggar street, Invercargill.

Something novel in the way of draughts
playing comes through the "Western
Mail." At a carnival in aid of a
memorial hall for soldiers at Footscray,
games of "Living Draughts" were played
between Messrs H. Egan and J. Hornsley,
the living pieces being represented by
ladies of the Defence Department clothing
factory. The pageant was produced by
Mr George Byer (formerly of J. C.
Williamson) and the contending parties
were:—"Army": Misses Barnard, Dod-
son, Fleming, Honey, Hanger, King,
Lewis, McKinnon, McIvor, Smith, and
Watson. "Navy": Misses Anderson,
Darnell, Hall, Harris, Howard, Meurillon,
Payne, Reid, Richardson, Scott, Swan-
son, and Watson. The "Navy" scored at
the afternoon session with the white side
of the "Single Corner," but matters
were evened up at night when—the
"Army" developed a spectacular shot with
the black side of the "Dundee" and
scored a pretty win. Some of these
games are published in the "Western
Mail."

PROBLEM 42.



Black: Kings 19, 23, 22 and 21.
White: Kings 30, 31 and 32.
Either to play. Black to win.

This is a very useful problem. Three
kings to four will prolong a game a
greater number of moves than any other
combination of pieces, often so with ex-
perienced players. The pieces must first
be forced into the position here given,
placing the kings on 21 and 22 being of
the first importance. The solution will
be given next week.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM 41.

By S. E. Cousins, Northampton.
(From "Hobbies").

Black 2, 4, 14, Kings 13, 19.
White 11, 12, 21, Kings 3, 22.
White to play and draw.
11.7 11.16 12.8 13.9
2.11 7.11 19.23 22.17
3.7 16.20 8.3 10.15
Drawn.

The following is an interesting game
played in the Thirteenth Scottish Tourna-
ment, our present New Zealand champion
playing the White. It is taken from the
"Draughts World."

(D. Calderwood, Dreghorn, v. J. Wilson,
Brosburn).

GAME 70.—AYRSHIRE LASSIE.

Black—Wilson.	White—Calderwood.
11.15	26.23
24.20	15.19
8.11	24.15
28.24	10.26
3.8	17.10
A, 23.19	6.15
9.14	30.23
B, 22.17	F, 12.16
C, 11.16	23.18
20.11	15.22
7.23	25.18
D, 27.11	5.9
8.15	18.15
	2.11

A.—22.17 is an interesting deviation.
B.—26.23, 5.9, 22.17, 11.16, etc.—Drawn.
C.—5.9 is another good line.
D.—Taking the piece 26.19 is quite safe,
and there are many fine variations
accruing from it.
E.—Keeps the game open.
F.—15.19, 23.16, 12.19, 25.22, 4.8, 22.18,
8.11, etc.—Drawn.
G.—To the finish the game has been even-
ly contested.

ANGLING NOTES.

(By "Creel.")

Scene: Banks of a river encircling a
lunatic asylum.

Angler sitting patiently in the rain
waiting for a "bite." Lunny on top of
wall observes him and the following con-
versation ensues:—

Lunny: What you doin', fishin'?

Angler: Yes.

Lunny: Caught anything.

Angler: No.

Lunny: Been fishin' long.

Angler: All day.

Lunny: Come on inside.

—With apologies to Phil May.

Conditions last week-end were so-so,
Old Sol being very prominent, and as the
rivers are all fairly low, fish were able
to discern one's cast or trace rather
easily; consequently the best results were
obtained in the evening, when some nice
fish are reported to have been on the
"move."

Messrs R. Kidd and G. Brenton visited
Lady Barkly, last Saturday, and landed
some seventeen fish between them on the
fly. The weather was very bright and
several fish from two to five pounds were
observed lying the shallow water. Hardy's
Favourite, March Brown and dark red
Spinner were the popular flies.

Mr Geo. Byars (Wallacetown), landed
a splendid Makarewa trout 9½lbs weight
on the natural bully. The trout was in
very fine condition and I understand "he
did eat well." Trout from this river
are very palatable, the only fish to equal
them in the writer's opinion being fish
caught in the Otaria (Otago district).

Mr R. Kidd, during the course of the
holidays visited the Mimihaui, and creel-
ed thirteen nice fish, the heaviest weighing
three pounds. Dark red Spinner, Jessie
No. 4, and March Brown were the killing
flies.

Messrs J. Elder and C. Provan fished
the Oreti at Lochiel and landed 18 and 16
fish respectively. They averaged about
½lbs weight, and Peveril of the Peak was
the most prominent fly.

Mr Connelly creel-ten nice fish on the
fly at Oporo. They averaged 1½lb weight.

On Wednesday, the 12th ultimo, the
initial match in connection with the Oreti
River Angling Competition, between
Lumsden, Dipton, Winton and South-
land Clubs was held at Lumsden. South-
land were represented by Messrs W.
Steele and A. Macdonald (fly), and J. Nis-
bet and Alf Evans (minnow). A full re-
port of the function will appear in next
week's issue.

The following article is taken from an
English paper. The work eulogised by
the writer is carried on in New Zealand
by the various acclimatisation societies
and I am sure all anglers will give them
due credit and assistance in their under-
takings. I understand they intend to
make strenuous efforts to have the net-
ting of trout totally abolished, and may
want the assistance, political and other-
wise of all anglers. The prevention of
strong virile fish from running up the vari-
ous rivers must have a detrimental effect
on the species of trout that inhabit our
various streams:—

REARING TROUT FOR THE ROD.

Owing to the great demand in all parts
of the country for good fishing, vast im-
provements have been made in the art
of pisciculture; more especially in rear-
ing trout for the rod. The number of
anglers who avail themselves of the op-
portunities afforded by the many beauti-
ful trout streams in picturesque sur-
roundings is yearly being augmented.
Angling is a form of amusement which
not only combines health with recreation,
but takes its followers into the beneficial
atmosphere of rural ways. All that is
pleasant, all that is romantic, await the
trout-fisher as he wanders beside some
wild and remote burn, with no compan-
ions save the white-bibbed dipper or the
blue-green jewel of a kingfisher, that
hurtles upstream in a long line of glitter-
ing blue. No wonder the demand for
trout-fishing exceeds the supply.

—Thriving Hatcheries.—

When Izaak Walton first eulogised the
popular sport of angling in his most
charming book (the first edition published
as long ago as 1653) he little dreamed of
the latter-day methods of scientific fish
culture that would spring up, solely for
the purpose of providing quarry for "hon-
est anglers." Times have vastly changed
since Walton and Cotton roamed the de-
lightful paths of Troutland, and those
worthy fishermen would doubtless be sur-
prised at the large number of ardent dis-
ciples following in their footsteps. To-
day every city and town in the Kingdom
can claim its angling clubs, with hun-
dreds of enthusiastic members. To a great
extent this rapid increase in the ranks of
the Waltonian army and the growing
popularity of the fine sport of angling
have been responsible for the laying down
of hatcheries, whereby good strains of
trout (and other fish) can be procured
for restocking rivers, lakes, and ponds.
Clubs, fishery owners, and others have
long ago realised that the only way to
keep up a good stock of fish in our de-
pleted waters is by continual restocking;
and to-day fish breeding is a commercial
enterprise, which is lucrative when car-
ried out on a large scale.

Up to a few years ago the number of
establishments rearing trout for restock-
ing purposes could be counted on the
fingers of one hand, now there are up-
wards of thirty hatcheries with all up-to-
date improvements, where fish breeding
is carried out on a large scale.

It is said that the first attempt at
artificial fish breeding was undertaken in
the fifteenth century by one Dom Pin-
chon, a monk of France. His experi-
ments, however, did not call for much
serious notice, and it remained for an-
other countryman, several centuries later,
to conclusively prove that fish breeding
could be done, and not only so, but be
made a profitable commercial enterprise.
This man, by name Remy, was a poor
fisherman who, for a living, fished the
numerous streams of La Bresse in the
Vosges. Struck by the enormous waste
of eggs brought about by the natural
process of spawning and breeding, he col-
lected the naturally spawned ova from
the reeds, and conducted experiments by
hatching the same in small, round per-
forated zinc boxes. These boxes were
sunk in the bed of the river, and the
action of the water flowing through in-
cubated the eggs. He was able, by this
means, to replenish depleted streams.

—Delicate Work.—

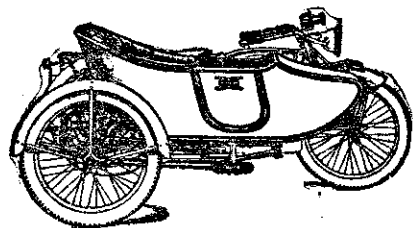
Profiting by this man's experiments
others carried on, and now we have an
almost perfect system. In the present
day methods of hatching and breeding
trout, the parent fish at the proper sea-
son are spawned by hand, the eggs being
collected in earthenware receptacles and
fertilised by the milk of the male fish.
When the fecundation is completed the
eggs are taken into the hatching house,
a building fitted up with long troughs,
through which a constant stream of fresh
pure water is running. Here the eggs are
incubated on glass grills in the hatching
troughs, and when the incubation (which
process varies from 50 to 70 days and
over) is successfully accomplished, the
young fry—as the newly-hatched trout
are termed—are kept in tanks until old
enough to be turned into feeding ponds
in the open. In these ponds they remain
until sold, either as six-months-old, year-
lings, or two-years-old, though many
thousands of fry are also sold. These
later are usually forwarded some time
before the complete absorption of the
yolk sac, when they are first beginning
to take food. As may be expected, the
successful propagating of fish by artificial
process calls for delicate work, and much
care and experience.

By far the cheapest method of restock-
ing or stocking a water with trout is by
means of eyed ova—eggs which have been
incubated but not hatched out. This ova
must be laid down in the streams in arti-
ficial hatching beds, holding from 10,000
to 30,000 eggs. Local conditions must
be favourable, and, of course, time must
be no object. Where quick results are
wanted mature fish should be introduced
to the water. Ova, unincubated, is very
useful for restocking small upland streams
that will not repay for the outlay in
stocking with yearlings or older fish. Fry
are well adapted for putting into rivers
where are numerous shallow stretches or
tributary burns. Yearlings and two-
year-olds are suitable for either lakes,
rivers, or ponds, as they are quite able to
fend for themselves, and readily adapt
themselves to a change of surroundings.

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THE END OF A PERFECT DAY.



The Christmas and New Year holiday
traffic on the railways for 1920-21 consti-
tuted a record, stated the Prime Minister.
The number of passengers carried on the
North Island lines was 482,000 and on
the South Island and Westland sections
407,000, giving a total of 889,000 passen-
gers. Long distance traffic had been a
feature of the business and it was pleas-
ing to report that all demands made on
the Department were satisfactorily met.
Generally speaking the trains maintained
punctuality and the only accident record-
ed occurred to a passenger who attempt-
ed to board a moving train at Bluff with
fatal results. The heaviest passenger traf-
fic was in the Wellington district, Auck-
land coming next and the Christchurch
and Dunedin districts following.

In many districts of New Zealand the
character of the trees planted denotes the
viewpoint of settlers and from what part
of the world they came, remarked the
president (Mr R. Nairn, of Christchurch)
at the Nurserymen's Conference, states
our Wellington correspondent. Englishmen
from the old world were not satisfied unless
they set out oak, elm, ash, sycamore,
hornbeam, beech, hawthorn and similar
trees, whereas the squatters of the South
Island, who mostly came from Australia,
brought with them seeds of eucalyptus
and sowed them freely around their home-
steads. This explains why the old station
homesteads of the South Island have such
large specimens of gums in such localities.
Some of the mountains of the moon
measure 35,000ft in height.