

PUBLIC OPINION

Schenectady, N. Y.

Dec. 1, 1933

Ticonderoga Sentinel,

Dear Editor:

In these days of reconstruction let us not forget the very pressing necessity of keeping up and increasing the supply of game and fish in the fields, forests and waters of this part of our state. I hope that all associations of sportsmen in this section will be in favor of a plan for a movement in this direction coming from interested men in Crown Point, Ticonderoga and Port Henry to have a detail of the C. C. C. boys engaged as soon as possible in the erection of dams and restoration of others which formerly held up the waters of many of our smaller ponds and lakes which were formerly literally swarming with edible fish like the northern pike, pickerel, perch, rock bass, large and small mouth bass, sun fish and horned pouts.

There are two of these waters lying in the southeast part of this county, in Ticonderoga and Crown Point, that have long been in need of such work. I refer to Eagle Lake and Penfield Pond, the last being in Ironville, formerly called Penfields.

Eagle Lake, formerly one of the most favorite resorts of our anglers, is at present largely depleted of its pike and perch. The shortage of the former being attributed to the fact that the pike spawn in the time of spring high water which is not kept up by the former inflow from Goose-neck Pond through Sucker Brook at Side Mill Bay, owing to the use of its feeder for the Ticonderoga water supply, with the result that the lack of a dam at the outlet of Eagle Lake allows the high waters in spring to be very suddenly lowered, leaving the pike eggs attached to grasses and bushes, to be left high and dry, and causes them to die from the sun's hot rays. As a result there is almost a dearth of small pike in this once famous fishing waters, and the examinations of the Conservation Commission, I am informed, finds only large pike as a result of their seining operations. These seed fish, ravenous with hunger, have been recently caught in considerable numbers in winter through the ice in shallow bays where they came in search of minnows. This, of course, is cutting down little by little the supply of parent fish of this noble species and unless prompt action is taken no more pike can be taken in Eagle Lake. In fact trolling with minnow and spoon baits has ceased to yield any results whatever at the present time.

The yellow perch, formerly taken in great numbers through the ice by means of ice auger holes, have been very scarce for several seasons and ice fishing for them has practically ceased where scores of men were once fishing for them all winter. The commission, however, has been putting young perch into this water for the last two years in considerable numbers with the result that this season some very fine fish of this species have been taken, and an unusually large number of fingerling perch observed by anglers for this favorite pan fish.

Now, Penfield Pond, which with Crane, Puts, Pyramid and other ponds in that vicinity, have been examined by these interested sportsmen, was once a great artificial lake at the time when the Hammond mines were in full blast and char-

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Now, Penfield Pond, which with Crane, Puts, Pyramid and other ponds in that vicinity, have been examined by these interested sportsmen, was once a great artificial lake at the time when the Hammond mines were in full blast and charcoal pig iron was being made in quantities at the village of that name, now Ironville. It was teeming with pike, pickerel and bullheads and formed an abundant food supply for scores of families in various sections remote from the waters of Lake Champlain. It was the home of many fur bearing animals and mink, foxes and raccoons were abundant along its reed shores. A short dam made of rock was pulled out many years ago just as the Eagle Lake dam was once treated at a later date and now only needs to be restored as that of the latter lake, to return these clear mountain waters to the sportsman's realm where they yielded a golden harvest to any painstaking angler.

Those interested in this subject have had several meetings and the one held at Crown Point resulted in a plan to bring the matter to the attention of the Conservation authorities at Albany with the suggestion that a part of the young men in the Conservation Camps in this vicinity lend their valuable service to construct suitable dams at the outlets of these and other similar waters, not only to increase the supply of pond and lake fish, but to keep up by such impounding of their waters as will keep the trout brooks flowing from them in proper condition to preserve the supply of the beautiful denizens of these flowing "little rivers."

Peter Flint,
Port Henry, N.Y.

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