

YOUR FLY LINE MUST MATCH ROD

If you're just starting out as a fly fisherman, borrow someone else's equipment until you find out what type of outfit you need.

That way, if you break something, you've only lost a friend, not hard cash.

Actually, breaking the equipment might be hazardous to your health, because that friend is probably not going to loan his equipment again.

But at least you'll have a teacher along to show you what to do and you'll discover what type of rod you need.

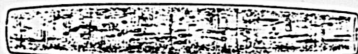
Choosing an outfit depends on so many variables that no hard-and-fast statement can be made. But choices narrow once the rod is picked because the line is matched to the characteristics of the rod.

The length, ranging from about eight to nine feet (roughly from 2.5 to three metres), depends on what the fisherman can handle.

If the angler is new to fly fishing, that won't be known. That's why we suggest borrowing equipment at first.

Most fishing in the Prince George region is lake fishing, therefore the following information is based upon

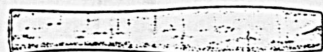
Cork fly-rod grips.



CIGAR



DOUBLE WELLS



HALF WELLS

fly-fishing on lakes. Casting concerns will be addressed because those who troll can let any type of line out with equal ease.

The action of a fly-rod is graduated from extremely flexible at the tip to having the least flex near the handle. The better built a fly-rod is, the better this flex will be distributed.

Don't get confused about the variety of materials used. Fishermen are as gadget-happy as anyone and more suckers are caught in the store than in the lakes. Start with a standard fibreglass rod.

We suggest a light-action rod, capable of handling #7 line, but able to cast #6 line as well.

The reason is that the fish's strike and the ensuing fight can be appreciated more. The light action will absorb more of the struggle, losing fewer fish because they don't have as much to pull against as they would with a heavy-action outfit.

Obviously, if the angler pulls on the line as if this was a tug-o-war, instead of letting the line slip and playing the fish, the best outfit in the world isn't going to help.

Some argument can be made about needing a heavy-action rod if distance is needed, or if the line has to be cast into the wind, but by the time an angler is good enough to worry about punching a line into the wind for a great distance, he or she won't need to read how to do it, or what equipment is needed.

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