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NAME THE DATE, MR. WELCH.

Mr. Dan Welch is one of those men who imagine situations and conditions to fit their arguments. He has involved himself in the discussion for an extended fishing season, and has painted for others a picture which he proceeds to criticize. This is the favorite trick of the man without thunder, and perhaps will not cause very much surprise in this particular case.

Mr. Welch makes the very great error of thinking that Samuel Elmore influences the utterances of *The Astorian*. His reference to what "Mr. Elmore publishes in his paper" is the veriest rot. Mr. Elmore receives at the hands of *The Astorian* just as much consideration as is shown any other law-abiding citizen. Occasionally Mr. Elmore is invited to express his opinion for publication, but the "publishing" authority is vested in some one else. A few days ago Mr. Elmore was asked by a representative of *The Astorian* to express his view of the proposal of the Washington fish commissioner for extension of the season. He said he was opposed to any such extension, and stated his reasons. Mr. Elmore ought to know something about the salmon business by this time, and we have an idea he is quite capable of defending his position. Certainly, *The Astorian* shall not undertake to assist him.

So far as *The Astorian* is concerned, it has expressed itself with reference to the matter. In the very article which Mr. Welch sees fit to criticize, *The Astorian* agreed that, if the quality of Columbia river fish were such as to justify extension of the season, the time for closing should be altered. It insisted then, and insists now, that there should be strict compliance with the law. If Mr. Welch can find anything in our position to attack, we would gladly afford him the opportunity of doing so. Mr. Welch says that Mr. Elmore is prompted to declare himself against extension of the season by a desire to further his own interests, but it is mystifying to us that *The Astorian* should be held accountable on this score. Mr. Elmore is a salmon packer, and probably opposes extension of the season out of a desire to advance his own interests, just as Mr. Welch favors extension because of a desire to better himself. If it can be shown that the season should be extended—and nothing which Mr. Welch has yet written would justify this belief—*The Astorian* is quite willing that the law be amended.

Mr. Welch voices the same argument that was used a few days ago by the *Daily News* in discussing the matter. "I would like to know," he says, "why Columbia river salmon are first-class on August 15 and 16, the end of the season, and then on about the 17th they suddenly turn white and very inferior?" Well, Mr. Welch, who ever made any such statement? Nothing has ever appeared in *The Astorian* that would prompt such a question, yet here we have Mr. Welch propounding it. Mr. Welch, who seems to have very positive ideas, will undoubtedly be able to tell us just when salmon become inferior, and probably will in his next letter suggest a date for closing. He is not satisfied that fishing operations should cease on August 15, but neglects to say when they should be suspended.

We would consider it a very great favor if our new salmon expert would be good enough to enumerate some of the salmon packers who were not satisfied to suspend operations August 15, 1903. Mr. Welch says the pickled fish put up last year "in August" were better in quality than much of the fish taken in April. In direct contradiction of this assertion we have the statement of packers for it that nearly all the salmon were of "off" color before August 15 of last year. If fish were of such good quality last year, why did not the canneries continue in operation? Fishermen could have been found who would run the risk of arrest. Mr. Welch's deductions do not seem to correspond with the facts.

Apart from all this, however, *The Astorian* has objected only to one proposition—that advanced by those who want to see the law ignored this year. This suggestion came from the *Daily Budget* and, finding its way to valley papers, was given much prominence. We protest that advertising of this sort is not beneficial. If the law is wrong, it should be amended; but, so long as it is in force, it should

be rigidly adhered to. And when the change is made it should prohibit fishing prior to June 1, in order that the early runs of fish may be restored.

RUSSIA'S RIGHTS IN THE PREMISES.

It is not surprising that Russia is restive under the treaty conditions that prohibit her Black sea war fleet from passing through the Dardanelles and that she may have evaded the spirit, if not the strict letter of those conditions in sending two ships of the Russian volunteer fleet—a sort of auxiliary navy—through these straits under the guise of merchantmen.

By the terms of the treaty of Paris of 1856, Russia was prohibited absolutely from maintaining a navy in the Black sea. The signatory powers to this compact, besides Russia, were Great Britain, France, Turkey and Sardinia; and, as Russia had just emerged from the Crimean war somewhat exhausted in resources, she had no alternative but to submit. Her situation was not unlike that of Japan in 1895 when, at the dictation of Russia, backed by Germany and France, the island empire was compelled to relinquish possession of Liaotung peninsula.

Russia, however, was merely biding her time. That time came when France, in 1871, lay prostrate at the feet of Prussia. Russia then notified the signatory powers to the Paris treaty that she proposed thereafter to maintain a navy in the Black sea, and the result of that announcement was a conference of the powers in London and the adoption of an amended treaty by which Russia was permitted to maintain a Black sea fleet, but with the understanding that Turkey would never allow it, or any part of it, to pass the Dardanelles.

It is this provision of the London treaty which Great Britain insists that Russia has violated in sending the St. Petersburg and the Smolensk through the Dardanelles in the capacity of merchantmen. Apart from this contention, however, the restriction thus imposed on Russia is manifestly unjust. For all practical purposes, the Black sea is a Russian lake—a part of Russian waters—and to deny the Russian Black sea fleet the right to reach the high seas is about as reasonable as it would be to propose that no Russian fleet should leave the waters of the Baltic.

Recent utterances by British and continental newspapers indicate that the policy of thus hemming in Russia's Black sea fleet is one that cannot long remain tenable.

WISCONSIN AND ROOSEVELT.

While the Spooner and the La Follette factions of the republican party in Wisconsin are still irreconcilably at loggerheads, so far as state issues are concerned, late advices indicate that the prospects for the election of a full complement of Roosevelt electors in that state have materially brightened.

Each of the republican factions has nominated an electoral ticket of its own, and as the Wisconsin election law forbids the name of any candidate from appearing more than once on the official ballot, it was feared at first that this would open the way to the election of the democratic electoral ticket. The Wisconsin courts have yet to decide which of the two factions is to be regarded as regular, but an understanding has been reached by which, no matter what this decision may be, Wisconsin republicans will vote for the La Follette electoral ticket. Two state tickets may be put into the field, but the Spooner faction, in that event, will vote for its own state nominees and for the electoral nominees of the La Follette faction. This action will probably make Wisconsin secure for Roosevelt, as that state, normally, is overwhelmingly republican.

This puts a somewhat different complexion on the outlook for Judge Parker's election. On account of the bitter republican feud in Wisconsin, democratic leaders have been counting confidently on that state's 13 electoral votes being cast for the Esopus statesman; but in view of the understanding that Wisconsin republicans have reached in regard to electors, it is evident that Judge Parker's prospects of occupying the white house have been considerably dimmed.

A discovery which is expected to prove of great interest has just been made by Hughes Le Roux, who is on a mission to Abyssinia. He has found what is said to be the original manuscript, containing in the ancient language of the country a contemporary account of the visit of the queen of Sheba to King Solomon, from the union of whom the Abyssinian monarchs claim to be descended.

The supreme court of Ohio has decided that the husband is the head of the family, but it will take more than the courts to convince some wives of that.

There will be a general surprise one of these days when the Japs and the Russians pull off the fight at some place which is named on the maps.

The only "idea" that it attracting attention out in Iowa just now is that the Republican majority in November shall be a record breaker.

Japan goes ahead with the fighting without stopping to issue statistics.

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Herman Wise

Where the Jews Are.
According to a rough census made by Professor Haman, of Switzerland, there are 19,000,000 Jews in the world. Of these it is figured that the United States has 1,000,000, Europe 10,000,000 and countries outside of Europe 8,000,000. Professor Haman gives this distribution of the Jews in Europe: Russia, 5,000,000; Austria-Hungary, 1,800,000; Germany, 588,000; Roumania, 300,000; Great Britain, 200,000; Turkey, 120,000; Holland, 97,000; France, 77,000; Italy, 50,000; Serbia, 5000; Switzerland, 12,000; Denmark, 4000; Belgium, 3000; Spain, 2500, and Portugal, only 300.

Still for Silver.
The American democracy is still the party of free silver coinage. If there are enough voters in the country who are willing to shut their eyes alike to the party's timidity and its platform and to accept Judge Parker in the questionable company in which he finds himself, there may be a fighting chance for success at the polls.—New York Commercial.

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