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THE CLOSED FISHING SEASON.

Throughout the state the sentiment is general that the fishing laws should be made to conform to the habits of the salmon. The Salem Statesman, discussing this year's belated season, voices the general sentiment as follows:

For some reason the annual runs of salmon into the mouth of the Columbia river are gradually growing later in the year until it appears necessary that the date for the closing of the season should be extended at least two weeks.

The habits of the salmon, if they may be called habits, have changed within the past five years until what has heretofore been known as the "July run" rarely begins until some time during the first half of August. This may be, no doubt is, the result of propagating salmon artificially, which, for some reasons that seem reasonable and for others that we may not understand, has gradually thrown the main annual run into a later part of the season.

At any rate, the fact confronts the fisherman, and since salmon are propagated for the sole purpose of catching them, the open season should be made to conform to the habits of the fish themselves. This complaint has been repeated annually now for five years, at least, and should be answered by some legislative action that will meet the changed conditions which have appeared since the enactment of the present law.

After all the investigations and persistent study of the characteristics of the salmon, there is a great deal relating to their habits that is yet in the realm of guess-work. It is thought that the young salmon, as a rule, put to sea when about six months old, and do not return to fresh water until they are four years old, but when they remain during those years, what they live on, whether they remain in schools, how they come to an understanding as to when to return, and how those belonging to the Columbia river become separated from those going to the Sacramento, or whether they ever get together in the first place, and why the two year olds do not come in when they see the four year olds make a break for the old spawning ground—all these conundrums, and others, are altogether unanswerable.

But it is certain that artificial propagation is a great success, and is doing wonders in restoring the salmon output of the Columbia river, which, in the aggregate, has during 30 years amounted in export value to a sum not far from \$100,000,000. It is one of our greatest industries and worthy the fostering care of the state authorities.

TRADE WITH CANADA.

In the summary of exports and imports of this country for the fiscal year of 1904, recently published by the department of commerce and labor, is to be found what is probably a complete explanation of the fact that the project for new reciprocal trade arrangements between the United States and Canada has met with so little popular response in this country outside of the New England states, says the New York Commercial.

That document tells again the familiar story of increased exports from the United States to the Dominion. In 1904 we sold to that country goods to the value of \$131,275,000—an increase of more than \$8,000,000 over our sales in 1903 and of nearly \$24,000,000 over those of 1902, the latter a year of great trade activity.

The present summary does not give in detail the value of the different classes of our exports that went to the Dominion of Canada as distinguished from the value of those which went to British North America in its entirety; but the figures that are presented are sufficient to indicate that during last year there was an increase in our exports to Canada, as compared with 1903, pretty much along the whole line.

Thus, our exports of coal—anthracite and bituminous—to British North America increased \$5,200,000 in value; our exports of steel and iron and the manufactures thereof increased over \$1,600,000; those of electrical machinery increased \$150,000; those of boots and shoes \$200,000; those of paper and the manufactures thereof over \$250,000; those of hides and skins other than furs \$450,000; those of lumber and the manufactures thereof \$1,250,000;

those of locomotives \$530,000; while there was more or less of an increase in the value of a variety of other articles that we exported to British North America.

There was some falling off in our exports of agricultural implements and of raw cotton and cotton goods, but the decline was so trifling as to be devoid of any special significance. The total of each of these classes of exports still remained comparatively large.

While our exports to Canada increased \$8,000,000 in 1904 as contrasted with 1903, our imports from the Dominion fell off nearly \$3,400,000. The latter for 1904 amounted to only \$51,400,000, leaving a balance of trade in our favor of practically \$80,000,000. This is the heaviest balance in our favor in the entire history of our trade with the Dominion, the nearest approach thereto being that of 1903, when it amounted to \$68,500,000.

In the light of the foregoing figures, it is likely to be exceedingly difficult to get the mass of American voters greatly excited over the question of reciprocity with Canada.

AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY.

A very important factor that political managers appear to overlook in figuring on the result of the present national campaign is the number of new voters who will go to the polls next fall—native-born persons who, since 1900, have reached the voting age, or foreign-born persons who have taken out naturalization papers.

It is extremely significant that in 1900 the total number of votes that was cast for the republican and democratic candidate for president of the United States fell about 175,000 short of the number that was cast in 1896. As a rule, there is an enormous gain in the popular vote every four years. Thus, from 1880 to 1884 there was a gain of nearly 1,500,000 in the total republican and democratic votes; from 1884 to 1888, a gain of 1,220,000; from 1888 to 1892—including the populist vote of over a million for Weaver—a gain of practically 800,000; and from 1892 to 1896—including the vote for Palmer—a gain of 1,970,000.

It is noteworthy, too, that the popular vote of the prohibition and other minor political parties made no particular gain in 1900, as compared with 1896. All told, this vote did not reach 400,000, although there were six minor electoral tickets in the field in 1900.

It is very clear from these facts and figures that a vast army of voters must have remained away from the polls in 1900; and, taking into consideration the normal increase in the voting population every four years, these voters must have numbered between two and three millions, while since 1900 their number must have increased to at least an equal extent.

Unquestionably one reason for the falling off in the popular vote in 1900 is the disfranchisement of colored voters at the south. That, however, will not account for the whole matter, for the entire colored population of the United States, young and old, male and female, is only about 9,000,000. Plainly, the last national campaign was notable for a great array of white "stay-at-home" voters.

This new-voter element is pretty certain to manifest itself at the polls next November, and campaign forecasters would do well to take it into account.

England has for many years given prizes for the destruction of venomous serpents and dangerous wild beasts in India, but it does not seem to diminish the annual number of their victims. In 1903 over 23,000 persons were killed by snake bites, over a thousand by tigers and almost a thousand by bears, leopards and panthers, together a total of over 25,000 victims. Of domestic animals the loss from all these sources foots up over 80,000. Quite a large army of hunters, numbering more than 30,000, have battled with their enemies, but their returns for the year are rather small, only about one wild beast for every two hunters, the snake record not being given. In the warfare, which is unending, the animals have, as the figures show, very decidedly the better of it, with no prospect in sight after years of trial of a change for the better.

There is in Paris a new school of psychology to investigate such questions as mind reading, mental suggestion at a distance, clairvoyance, presentiments, automatic writing, double personality, etc. This school, unlike most associations studying these subjects, has for its members medical men almost entirely, whose professional duties bring them in close contact with these often curious phenomena. The members are followers of Charcot. They claim that most of these societies of psychical research, especially in England, have produced no results, due to too much speculation and mysterious interpretations, which have led people into error, which is more difficult to uproot than it is to propagate the truth.

Telegrams announce that the Kansas floods have receded and the crops are not seriously damaged. The democrats have accordingly abandoned all hope of carrying Kansas this year.

"If the truth about democracy were known," says Dave Hill. That's the trouble. The people have learned the truth about it.

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A New Torpedo Boat.

In a torpedo boat recently constructed in England a striking innovation has been made in combining steam turbines with an ordinary reciprocating engine, the object being to secure economy at low speeds and high efficiency when the maximum speed is demanded. In the vessel, which is of the ordinary design otherwise, there are three shafts, to each of which one propeller is fitted. The reciprocating engine, which has an indicated horse-power of 250, drives the center shaft at a speed of about 450 revolutions per minute a rate sufficient to obtain a speed of about 10 knots per hour. The two side shafts are driven by the turbines, which consume about 1750 horsepower, and make about 1200 revolutions per minute, so that a speed of 25 knots per hour is obtained. The arrangement is considered to represent the most efficient method of using the steam turbine on a torpedo boat designed for high speed, but it is thought to be an open question whether the superiority of the turbine over the usual machinery in such vessels has been demonstrated. Further tests of the arrangement are expected on the trial of a new French torpedo boat, with engines somewhat similar, and, by comparison with those where turbines alone, and reciprocating engines, have been used, should show just what kind of engines are most useful for this important class of war vessel.—Harper's Weekly.

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