Che Morning Astorian
established is
published ay
ASTORIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.


## Why Mr. reed complains.

It is very evident from the letter of Mr. F. .
Reed, exffish commisioner, that his antipathy for C. W. Fulton is responsible for his protest to the Or gonian against the violation of the fishing laws thi
fall. His argument against the violation is ver lame, and he is frank enough to adnit that he
Wees not offer it as an excuse for his writimg
of The Astorian are not influeneed. One of the firs men to put himself on record against extension of th fishing season was the gentleman whom Nr. Reed
intimates was responsible for The Astorian's expres sion. The Astorian at first opposed violation of the Law, bat when it became positively known that the season was hackward this paper withdrew its ob
jection. From Mr. Reed's letter one might suppose th packers had robbed the fishermen-that the canner were the sole beneeficiaries. Any fisherman will tel
Mr. Reed, if he should take the trouble to ask, tha the past season has been one of the very best for gillnetters in the history of the salmon industry
Can Mr. Reed reeall the year when the minimum pren Can Mr. Reed reeall the year when the minimum pric
of salmon was 5 cents? We think not. Mr. Reed asserts that the price would have been reduced to 3 cents but for the opposition of the fishermen. I this, as in nearly all of his other statements, he
mistaken. Salmon packers prevented reduction me price. When the heary runs came the questio of reducing the price was brought up at a meeting
of the packers. Some of them positively deecined to of the packers. Some of them positively declined to
agree to any reduction. It was a matter for then to settle, and the fishermen have them to thank fo maintenance of the price.
The Astorian
thould be oberved It isen contended that law shouid be observed. It is even willing to admit that
it regress the reeent violation of the fishing regula tions-not for the reason, as Mr. Reed erroneonsily contends, that the industry was liable to suffer, bu because the precedent was a danyerosus one to
lish. It may lead to further violations, during sea sons when conditions are not the same as those exist ing this year.
he is lacking in home pride-in fact, rather pleasant Iy acknowledges it. He seems elated at the oppor
tunity presented to do some knocking, and cheer. folly admits that he hunted up the best metho available of extending the scope of his antagonistic
spirit. The lensth of time of the residenee in thi eity of the editor of The Astorian is seareely a point at issue, although for Mr. Reed's benefit it might
stated he has lived here as long as he conld. stated he has lived here as long as he conld.
The vilation of the law this year will not hum salmon industry. Personal examination diselosed the
face that the fish this year were late-that salmon caught in August were far from maturity. The fish that came into the river late in the season were fix
which nature intended as food for man. If Oregon fishing laws had been rigidly observed. ture's aim would have been defeated. Mr. Reed gn.
sists that the fish should have been pernitted ascend the river, where they might have been caugh by other violators of the law. Mr. Reed was onee
fish commissioner and perhaps may have discoverew during his tenure of office that salmon retrograde a they ascend the Columbia. It may also have come under his observation that fish are best of quality when they first come in from the ocean. In eonsid eration of these faecs, it is evident to the reasonabl man that salmon should be packed at Astoria. Perhaps if Mr. Reed had not been fish commis sioner in 1900 and 1901 fish would have been plenti. ful enough this season to have permitted of a re spectable pack within the time allowed by law and done away with. The credit for the searcity of sal mon this season rightfully helongs to Mr. Reed, anc it is pleasing to note that he demands it. Enforeing the law and providing a supply of salmon, it is to be observed, are two different things. Concluding his letter to The Astorian, Mr. Reed asks whether or not there is any good reason why
the attorney-general should not proceed agninst the fish warden and his bondsmen for permitting th violation of the law, and if it wonld not be prope for the attorney-general to keep right on down the line until he has made every packer who violated the law pay the full penalty therefor. We suppose M Reed would take in all the violators and have the
suilty fishernen punished as well. Frankly, we will
ax we know of no reawn why the attorney would not the Mr. Mr. Reed suygests. We would avise Mr. Reed to file complaints asginst all of the varden tund his bondsmen. He says he is familiar with the situation, and undoubtedly would be able Fidence. We believe the attorney-general would
chadly prosecute the casce. Should he fail to do wo.



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