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WHY MR. REED COMPLAINS.

It is very evident from the letter of Mr. F. C Reed, ex-fish commissioner, that his antipathy for C. W. Fulton is responsible for his protest to the Oregonian against the violation of the fishing laws this fall. His argument against the violation is very lame, and he is frank enough to admit that he really does not offer it as an excuse for his writings.

We desire to assure Mr. Reed that the utterances of The Astorian are not influenced. One of the first men to put himself on record against extension of the fishing season was the gentleman whom Mr. Reed intimates was responsible for The Astorian's expression. The Astorian at first opposed violation of the law, but when it became positively known that the season was backward this paper withdrew its ob-

From Mr. Reed's letter one might suppose the packers had robbed the fishermen-that the canners were the sole beneficiaries. Any fisherman will tell Mr. Reed, if he should take the trouble to ask, that the past season has been one of the very best for gillnetters in the history of the salmon industry. Can Mr. Reed recall the year when the minimum price 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. In this, as in nearly all of his other statements, he is of reducing the price was brought up at a meeting of age. of the packers. Some of them positively declined to maintenance of the price.

The Astorian has all along contended that laws affairs? lish. It may lead to further violations, during seasons when conditions are not the same as those existing this year.

Mr. Reed fails to clear himself of the charge that he is lacking in home pride-in fact, rather pleasantly acknowledges it. He seems elated at the opportunity presented to do some knocking, and cheerfully admits that he hunted up the best method available of extending the scope of his antagonistic spirit. The length of time of the residence in this city of the editor of The Astorian is scarcely a point at issue, although for Mr. Reed's benefit it might be stated he has lived here as long as he could.

The violation of the law this year will not hurt the salmon industry. Personal examination disclosed the fact 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 fish which nature intended as food for man. If the Oregon fishing laws had been rigidly observed, nature's aim would have been defeated. Mr. Reed insists that the fish should have been permitted to ascend the river, where they might have been caught by other violators of the law. Mr. Reed was once fish commissioner and perhaps may have discovered during his tenure of office that salmon retrograde as 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 consideration of these facts, it is evident to the reasonable man that salmon should be packed at Astoria.

Perhaps if Mr. Reed had not been fish commissioner in 1900 and 1901 fish would have been plentiful enough this season to have permitted of a respectable pack within the time allowed by law and the necessity for extension of the season have been done away with. The credit for the scarcity of salmon this season rightfully belongs to Mr. Reed, and it is pleasing to note that he demands it. Enforcing 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 against the fish warden and his bondsmen for permitting the violation of the law, and if it would not be proper 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 Mr. Reed would take in all the violators and have the czar has left.

guilty fishermen punished as well. Frankly, we will say we know of no reason why the attorney-general should not do as Mr. Reed suggests. We would advise Mr. Reed to file complaints against all of the packers and fishermen, and as well against the fish warden and his bondsmen. He says he is familiar with the situation, and undoubtedly would be able to furnish the attorney-general with the necessary evidence. We believe the attorney-general would gladly prosecute the case. Should he fail to do so. Mr. Reed might commence impeachment proceedings against him. Mr. Reed has had the "sand" to protest publicly against violation of the fishing laws. Let us see if he has the "sand" to bring the guilty ones to the bar of justice.

THE IRISH.

It would be idle, of course, to speculate on what New York would have been without the Irish contingent in its cosmopolitan population; but what Ireland would have been, had "the brawn and the brains" of her people always clung to "the sod," nobody who knows and appreciates them can for a moment doubt. The latest report of the registrar general on the population of the island presents a melancholy picture:

In 1851 the Irish people numbered 6,552,385. Thirten years ago—in 1891—they had dwindled to 4.680,376; and now the population of the island is only 4,468,501—a loss of more than 200,000 people in a little more than a decade. Meantime, England and Wales, whose combined population was 17,927,609 in 1851, have nearly doubled the number of their people in the half century, the census of 1901 showing a combined population of 32,525,716; and Scotland, during the same period, increased her population from 2,888,742 to 4,472,000. With practically no essential difference in soil, climate and other natural resources Ireland has drifted backward while the other three divisions of the United Kingdom have achieved a notable progress. The governmental policy of Great Britain is, of course, almost wholly responsible for this. The most progressive element in the Irish population refuses to stay at home and submit to misgovernment and mal-administration.

For instance, in the decade from 1891 to 1901 nearly half a million people left Ireland permanentlyto be exact, the emigrants in that period numbered 433,526; and in the 10 years from 1881 to 1891 the mistaken. Salmon packers prevented reduction of outgoing horde aggregated 770,706. And over 91 the price. When the heavy runs came the question per cent of these Irish emigrants are under 35 years

Is it any cause for wonder that Ireland can show agree to any reduction. It was a matter for them no substantial progress in 50 years when her young to settle, and the fishermen have them to thank for men and women go away in such swarms and leave behind chiefly the aged and the infirm to handle her

should be observed. It is even willing to admit that | Thousands of Irishmen whose talents and activiit regrets the recent violation of the fishing regula- ties exercised at home would have made Ireland tions—not for the reason, as Mr. Reed erroneously blossom as the rose are contributing conspicuously contends, that the industry was liable to suffer, but to the upbuilding of America today. England can because the precedent was a dangerous one to estab-[hardly regard the picture with supreme satisfaction,

> After the war in China is over there will be considerable development in Manchuria, which is a rich agricultural country and susceptible of supporting an immense population. Should Japan become the conqueror America and England will be the gainers, because the trade will be given to them in preference to Russia. In the event of the latter being victorious Siberia will furnish the lumber used in Manchuria in the future and other supplies will come from European Russia. Commercially at least the sympathy of the United States is with Japan.

> The falling off in eastern rail shipments of lumer from Washington and Oregon during the first six months of 1904 footed up 33,435,000 feet, as compared with the same period in 1903. Competition from Montana and Idaho, under lower freight rates, backward spring weather in the East and the fact that the railroads are buying but little lumber this year are the principal causes,

> Senator Fairbanks told his neighbors in Ohio that he value of citizenship is higher now than ever before. Some one should tell the senator naturalization papers may be purchased in New York at one dollar per.

> All the president's admirers insist that he dearly oves a fight, but there are indications that the demo crats are trying to please him too well in that line.

> San Pedro is crowding San Francisco as a lumber distributing point, the receipts being within 15,000, 000 feet of the latter the first six months of 1904,

It is probable that future generations of Turks wil have a legend about the part their sultan once played in electing a president of the United States.

Possibly the sultan thinks his troubles might b lightened if Turkey were added to America's coloni al possessions.

Of course if the navy is to play a part in politics, the bigger it is the better for the administration.

The stork seems to be about the best friend th

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