

FISH LOGIC IN CLATSOP.

The Astoria News is at least amusing, though it fails to be instructive. With the ingenuousness of childhood, charmingly associated with its infantile prattle it, through its editorials, as Cordelia's character:

"Like crystal most doth show  
The thing it most would hide."

asserts that Astoria is the center of the fishing industry and, therefore, should dictate the laws concerning the catching of salmon. It says: "The Dalles has not more than 5 per cent interest in the industry. That 5 per cent industry is in wheels which are located near the spawning grounds, and catch the fish before they are able to reach the propagating waters. This makes them a menace to the industry, and they should be abolished."

There's logic that would jar the candy out of a Christmas sock. The Dalles catches 5 per cent before they reach propagating waters. Astoria catches 95 per cent before they get up this far, and indeed a considerable per cent before they get fairly into the river, and certainly all before they reach the propagating waters above The Dalles, though it has been shown time and time again that the fish spawn, according to conditions, from the mouth of the river to the source. With what charming frankness the News asserts that the catching of 5 per cent of the total pack is a menace to the industry, and how cheerfully it assumes that the catching of 95 per cent doesn't threaten the business at all. There are twelve hundred miles of the Columbia, and twelve thousand miles of its tributaries outside of Clatsop county, and all of these waters the News would have set apart for Clatsop county's sole use and benefit. Clatsop's desire is not to protect the fish but to "hog" the whole business.

Let us go back a little and see how Astoria has tried to protect the salmon. Several years ago the open season was from April 10th to August 1st, and it was unlawful to catch fish between the hours of 6 p. m. Saturday and 6 p. m. Sunday. This gave the salmon a chance to get by the thousand or more miles of nets and seines of Clatsop county. Practically one seventh of the fish had a chance to escape. This was too much for Clatsop to lose, and at its dictation the Sunday law was abolished. It discovered also that about August 1st there was quite a run of Chinooks that continued to about the 10th. To protect this run, Clatsop again came to the front and had the time extended to August 10th. Now it is claimed that this run comes later, and in order to "protect the fish" Clatsop desires the season extended until the 20th of August. That is the way Clatsop has practiced, and still desires to protect the salmon.

Clatsop county has about fifty miles of river front, out of (counting both shores) about 2500, and it gets 95 per cent of the salmon catch. Verily the Astoria boat is full grown, but belonging to the razor-back breed it refuses to get fat, and squeals lustily for more, though it has all four feet in the trough and is getting away with 95 per cent of the provender.

BASIC PRINCIPLE OF THE GOLD STANDARD.

The house committee on banking and currency Saturday voted six to one in favor of reporting the Overstreet bill, maintaining at all times the parity with gold the standard silver dollars of the United States, and to that end authorizing and requiring the secretary of the treasury, at the demand of the holder, to exchange gold coin for standard silver dollars when presented to the treas-

ury of the United States in sums not less than \$50.

The present fifty-sixth congress has acted wisely and courageously in the enactment of the most important financial legislation ever written in our statutes. This congress went as far as it felt sure of the approval of the people, and the people in the November election expressed full and enthusiastic approval. Both houses of congress are now overwhelmingly republican. The republican party is committed to the gold standard, and the president, in his last message, presents the subject of establishing this standard, so that it shall be impervious to the assaults of those who would misinterpret the present law or break it down, as a duty resting upon congress.

The one thing now needed to make "every dollar of our metallic currency equal to every other dollar, and equal to the best dollar in the world," which was the promise and slogan of the last national campaign, is to make this currency exchangeable at the United States treasury at the will of the holder. This is a basic principle for standard and is, in the opinion of our best financiers, sufficient to cover all immediate demands for parity maintenance. Congress will act wisely and the people will applaud its action if before adjournment it enacts some such measure as the Overstreet bill into law.

"Perhaps it is due to Mr. Mitchell to say that his abilities stand out resplendent in comparison with those of certain others in and out of office who need not be named."—Oregonian. After wiping the editorial spectacles and reading the above paragraph over and over in order to make sure that our eyes are not deceiving us, we are forced to the conclusion that the millennium is sure enough here at last.

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