

The Daily Astorian.
 ASTORIA, OREGON:
 THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1897
 HOME RULE INDEED.

The "eastern question," the Congo commercial possibility, the manufacturing depression, everything in England appears subservient and pushed aside that the parliament, which meets to-day, may again discuss the burning question of "Home Rule."

Great Britain can now as wisely as any time, take up a home rule proposition that will solve the present vexatious problem, that will heal as far as possible, internecine warfare, and add strength to her standing.

We in this country may be prejudiced in favor of our institutions, and having been used to deal with them, they may seem to us more simple than they appear to foreigners. But it does seem extraordinary that no one in Great Britain perceives that the adoption of the federal system is the easiest and most practical solution of the problem.

Split up Great Britain and Ireland into states—a dozen of them, if necessary; let Ulster be a state by herself, if she wants; let Canada, Australasia, British India, Ceylon and other colonies, likewise become members of the British union; give them all complete self government, so far as their local affairs are concerned; and let all send members to Westminster to transact the national business of the empire.

This plan would involve a written constitution, tracing the dividing line between state and imperial sovereignty, and the establishment of a court like our supreme court, with power to decide what acts, either of the national parliament or of the state legislatures, contravened the organic instrument. There is no difficulty in this—nothing which need shock the prejudices of the British people, or endanger the prosperity of the empire.

There is no reason why such a system would not work as well in Great Britain as it does in this country. Indeed, if the English took warning by our mistakes and our experience, they might frame a better constitution than ours, and avoid several errors which our fathers committed, and which are now almost irremediable.

Events will sooner or later compel the adoption of some such plan as this, whether the minister in power likes it or not. On the occasion of the first war which breaks out the relations between Great Britain and her colonies will become strained. The latter may find that they are bearing the brunt of a war in which they have no interest and which they did nothing to cause.

The exact limit of imperial control over colonial legislation is undefined. Nominally, Canada and the Australian colonies are sovereign. But the British parliament may, when it pleases, take away that sovereignty and annul the acts of their legislatures. This is a slipshod way of regulating a matter which may become important. As to Ireland, the establishment of a state legislature with full control over land tenures, police, crimes, religion and taxation for local purposes, would give the Irish all they want, and they would still continue to form part of a powerful empire by reason of their representation at Westminster. No sensible Irishman wants to become a citizen of a little power with 5,000,000 people, like Belgium or Portugal; but all Irishmen object, and very properly, to have their road laws and their poor laws and their police regulations made by an assembly less than one-sixth of which is Irish.

As to the English themselves, they will realize, when their attention is fully drawn to the subject, that efficiency in legislation would be promoted by relieving parliament of a mass of local subjects which now engross its attention, and leaving it free to deal with imperial concerns exclusively;

while, on the other hand, the wants of particular localities would be better served by local legislatures than they can be in a national parliament full of members who are indifferent to and ignorant of those wants. The interests of the southern counties are constantly differing from those of the northern counties; Scotland wants laws that are not suitable to Wales; Birmingham and Manchester need legislation which would be out of place in Yorkshire. It is only by bearing with a mass of abuses, which would not be tolerated for a month in this country, that the various sections of the kingdom have got along as they have under the present cumbersome system. If the English can only be got to think, and to realize for one little instant that their institutions are not perfect, and that they may possibly have yet something to learn in the science of government, they can hardly fail to become as ardent champions of home rule as Mr. Parnell himself.

SALMON HATCHING.
 How the Future Supply of the State is Provided For.

The outfit provided by the state to keep up the supply of salmon consists of a large building, a number of flumes about two feet wide, one foot in depth and running the entire length of the building; a large number of square box seines or propagating baskets with bottoms of wire crossed so as to leave holes about one fourth of an inch square. Through these flumes the water is allowed to run, in a small, steady stream. The salmon are caught in traps or nets when on their way to spawn, and the eggs stripped from them. These are fertilized, the mass placed in the seines and a steady stream of water allowed to run over them. The water of Hat creek has a temperature of 36 degrees, and in this it requires about 100 days for the eggs to hatch. From fifty to fifty-five is the best temperature, and with such they can be hatched in six weeks. After the growth of the egg has begun the mass separates and each one becomes about as large as a big pea. Soon a little black spot is seen on each side. Those are the head and tail of the minnow, and soon the little fish bursts the shell, coming out on the top, and has the appearance of a small tadpole with a terribly distended stomach, but instead of discarding the old abode it is attached firmly to the minnow, and becomes its supply of food for ten days or more, when it is able to rustle. As soon as hatched the minnow wriggles around until it falls through one of the holes in the bottom of the box, when it is carried along the bottom of the trough until a cross-piece or riffle is reached. Here they gather, a gallon or more in a place, and keep up an eternal darning and diving until the period of their imprisonment has expired. So long as the food sack lasts they will not eat, but with the exhaustion of this natural supply an appetite is developed, which, properly satisfied, transforms the little inch-long samlet into the ten and twenty-pound beauties, with sides of silver, that gladden the hearts of the fishermen and tickle the palate of the epicurean. When about ten days or two weeks old they are turned into the stream, and soon find their way to the shallow spots where they feed and grow until large enough to venture into deeper water.

Mr. Shebley states that while in the open stream not more than one egg in a thousand will grow to be a fish of any size, in the hatchery 75 per cent. can be turned out, and even 90 per cent. under favorable circumstances. This year only about one and a half million of eggs were taken, but next year, with the experience gained they hope to do better. And this is how salmon hatching looks to one who has never been there before.
 —Fall River, Cal., Mail.

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