

THE FISHERMEN'S SIDE.

Hearing a vague report that a strike was the order of affairs upon the Columbia over the price of fish, I broke camp a little sooner than anticipated, changed routes, and started through the timber in as direct line as possible via Elk trails, for Brookfield, a town situated on the Washington side of the Columbia, about fifteen miles above Astoria, and at which point the canning establishment of Messrs J. G. Metzger & Co. is located. I had been trapping during the winter months near the upper waters of Grange river, meeting with indifferent success, which, coupled with the low price placed on furs, made the season upon a whole an unprofitable one, a thing not very surprising, considering we are now residing in an era wherein there is scarcely a living for anyone, unless the fortunate possessor of a few blocks of stock in some "Trust," or a manipulator of a Presidential nomination. Reaching Brookfield, I found things quite orderly, small knots of men were gathered about the canning wharf, apparently discussing the reveries of some recent occasion, for they smiled and joked, and seemed to bubble over with merriment. But underneath it all, a close observer could discover a stultish, defiant air, that spoke volumes and meant much for the fellow who would be so short-sighted as to "wet his net" for four cents. Singling out a few acquaintances, your correspondent managed to secure a scrap or two of the particulars bearing upon the situation, and a slight knowledge of the relationship existing between both parties. After a short stay at Brookfield, I boarded a fishing boat, and sailed for Pillow Rock, where I found matters about the same, also receiving sufficient information to warrant my viewing the news furnished at the former place as authentic. In the first place let me say the fishermen are not upon a strike. It is the cannery men. The fishermen set his price upon the fish, and the cannery man places the value upon the articles used by the fishermen. During the season of '94 the fishermen's Union fixed the price upon fish (Chinook) at five cents per lb. which was conceded by the cannery man. Last year visions of a strike, or a refusal upon the part of the cannery men to pay the price was visible in the distant horizon, but nothing came of it, the fishermen's Union proving too formidable. The cannery men feared it. Evidently the time was not ripe for such a move. Thus the phantoms in the sky vanished, and all was serene upon our picturesque Columbia. This year, though an exceedingly bad time for the cannery men to inaugurate such a movement, owing to the very large amount of capital they have invested in the fishermen's "gear," which return depends upon the seasons catch of the fishermen. They have never-the-less organized between themselves, a "combine," through the agitation of the "middleman," advancing as a plea, "as everything has come down in price, why don't fish! Now, the manufacturer places the price upon twine, (so is claimed by the cannery man) using the cannery man as his agents. An article upon which the fishermen cannot secure a reduction under any circumstances, and for which he pays just double the price paid for the same brand and quality in England. It being manufactured in Ireland. Only the brand referred to is used upon the Columbia, is manufactured at the New Jersey branch from the raw material imported from Ireland. Furthermore the cannerymen arrange the prices fixed for the rental of boats, their equipment, the mess house board, groceries and the usual paraphernalia necessary to a fisherman's outfit. As he, the canneryman, has not made a move or shown a disposition to "practice what he preaches" in way of a reduction in a matter that foots up a snug sum any where from one hundred and fifty to five hundred dollars to a man during a season of four (4) months work, it is natural to infer that the fishermen, therefore views the "everything has come down" as a thing not applied to him, but in a light that "it is a poor rule that does not work both ways." Then again I have my doubts whether the fishermen, under existing circumstances, would agree to a reduction of fish. But how had you lived while all this has been going on. You had no money? You had an account with the cannery man's store. His charges are pretty stiff, but you must live you say, and you do with a vengeance. Nothing being too good for your palate. So you back in the Canneryman's store, or in that of a friend until the mess house opens up in the spring, and you will board there at twenty-five cents a meal or five dollars by the week and occupy a bunk in Bimmers Hall. And how much will that be? Oh, eighty dollars for the season, which means, not counting your grocery bill, rubber boots, oil skins, underwear, etc., you are indebted to the canneryman to the amount of four or five hundred dollars, but that is nothing. I forgot you expect a good season, and though you give your boat puller one-third of your seasons catch, you will pay your bill to the canneryman at the end of the season on settling up day. But suppose your catch is not sufficient to meet the obligation? I see, you pay him what you can and as your net is new, you will need a new one for the next season unless the fish run small. You can conveniently settle the balance then. But what is this; the season has opened and the cannery man ro

uses to pay the price for your fish. Of course you refuse to let him have it for less. Right you are. And the canneryman, what of him? Goes upon a strike, foolish man. You have the means of securing the fish, and the greater part of his capital within your grasp, for which he has nothing but "jaw bone" for security. But your net is hanging up in the cannery where he can hold onto it if he wishes and have your labor in the bargain as security for his bill. All very true, my man, but are all those nets there? Was it compulsory that yours should be? Did you not say you took it there because you had room to hang it up. I also believe you said it was safer there is a little bit of insurance against fire which you do not take any stock in, but he does, and I think you said you would shift the risk. Go to the cannery and attempt to remove your net, and see if he will prevent you. If he does, he will do different than he did to your mate, yesterday. And he has an account at the store. Let me see. You go to the store for a sack of flour, a ham, or anything you wish since the strike, your credit still seems to hold good. How do you account for that. Ah, my friend, you are well into his pocket, and he fears to stop the purchasing of a few groceries, for though you are too honest a man to defraud him, and intend to pay your bill like an upright man, he is no fool, this cannery man and realizes what you could do if you wished it, and so he dances to your fiddle and a sorry figure he makes of it. Mr. Fisherman, I most reverently take my hat off to you. You are a revelation to me; something apart from the ordinary. Your like I have never seen or heard of before. You have taught a valuable and needful lesson to your brother laboring man. But have a care. Heaven help you if this man or yourselves break that Union that has twice saved your neck.

It is the canneryman's turn now to see visionary objects, and seemingly as they collect together in mysterious formation, he thinks he discerns a few apart, shaping themselves into a gigantic "G" which causes insomnia and an interpretation that its meanings are foreshadowing of coming evil. That, if he holds out against five cents much longer there exists a possibility he may be obliged to pay for the balance of the season, as both a warning in the future and a recompense to the fisherman for the time he has lost.

Do all fishermen run such bills? I enquired of an old fisherman of fifteen years standing, who was quietly sucking upon a pipe stuffed with "Rough, Tough and Ready" a sample of which almost disoriented me. "No, not all. Some have saved their money and buy their stuff, excepting the twine, where they can obtain it cheaper. The majority order about six papers of twine, and some even more than ten. You see, ten papers will make a new net entire, and that would last you two seasons. Generally a man orders enough to make a new piece, say about one half of his net would be new and the other old. The next season he replaces the old with another new half, and so on.

And how about the grocery store and the mess house, I asked. "Well, you ain't obliged to go there, but say mate what be you going to do when yer busted." To sum the whole matter up in a few lines, I believe the cannerymen will be running on full time within 10 or 15 days from the date of this letter. Five cents per lb will be paid for Salmon. The Columbia will soon be dotted with sails. The cannery man will "hedge" and the consumer will pay the bill by an advancement upon can Salmon. Happy consumer, wise cannery man, cunning fisherman.

Thousands of cases of consumption, asthma, coughs, colds and croup are cured every day by Shiloh's Cure For sale by the Delta Drug Store.

Pure blood means good health. DeWitt's Sarsaparilla purifies the blood, cures eruptions, eczema, scrofula and all diseases arising from impure blood. W. E. Brock, druggist.

DOING AND NOT DOING. "Sir," said a lad coming down to one of the wharves in Boston, and addressing a well-known merchant, "have you any berth on your ship? I want to earn something." "What can you do?" asked the gentleman. "I can try my best to do whatever I am put to," answered the boy. "What have you done," "I have saved and split all mother's wood for nigh on two years." "What have you not done?" asked the gentleman, who was a sort of questioner. "Well, sir," answered the boy, "after a moment's pause, 'I have not whispered in school once for a whole year.' " "That's enough," said the gentleman; "you may ship aboard this vessel, and I hope to see you the master of her some day. A boy who can master a woodpile and bridle his tongue must be made out of good stuff."—Our Sunday Afternoon.

I was nervous, tired, irritable and cross. Karl's Clover Root Tea has made me well and happy. Mrs. E. B. Worlen, for sale by the Delta Drug Store.

It's all the same, a slight cold, congested lungs or severe cough. One Minute Cough Cure banishes them. W. E. Brock, druggist.

Consumption can be cured by the use of Shiloh's Cure. This great Cough Cure is the only known remedy for that terrible disease. For sale by the Delta Drug Store.

Take a dose of DeWitt's Little Early Risers just for the good it will do you. These little pills are good for digestion, good for headache, good for liver complaint, good for constipation. They are good. W. E. Brock, druggist.

THE DEMOCRACY AND FINANCE. The boasts and threats of the Democratic silver leaders in 1896 are merely a repetition of those uttered by the same element in 1892, and they are a feeble echo of those of the rag money section of the same party in 1868 and 1876. In 1868 the Democratic platform set forth that "where the obligations of the Government do not expressly state upon their face, or the law under which they were issued does not provide that they shall be paid in coin, they ought, in right and in justice, to be paid in the lawful money of the United States," meaning, is this connection, greenbacks.

This declaration of 1868, which was a concession to the "Ohio Idea" of George H. Pendleton and the soft money section of the Democracy, was the nearest approach which that party ever made to an endorsement of financial liberty in its national platform. In 1872 the Democrats did not frame a platform or nominate a ticket of their own, but accepted those of the Liberal Republicans. The Democrats of 1876 "denounced" the "financial imbecility and immorality" of the Republican party which, it said, "made no advance towards resumption," but, instead, had "abstracted resumption." And then, with amazing inconsistency and obliquity, it "denounced" the "resumption clause of the act of 1875," and demanded "its repeal." In its platform of 1892 the Democracy demanded the repeal of the 10 per cent tax on "State bank issues."

Of course the expressions of 1868 and 1892 were very dangerous doctrines, and the utterance of 1876 was hypocritical and absurd, yet in none of those deliverances did the party go as far in the direction of financial folly as the noisy and numerous band of extremists desired. Not one of those pronouncements was as destructive to the country's credit and as disastrous to its business stability and honest as a reformal endorsement of free silver would be if there were the slightest chance for the party to win. But there is no good reason to believe that the Democracy will be stamped to silver. The example of the St. Louis Convention will brace up the sound money end of the party which assemblies at Chicago. The Democrats who are declaring that they will vote for nobody except a free coinage bill, if they keep this promise, have to support the Populist ticket.

CASTORIA for Infants and Children. THIRTY years' observation of Castoria with the patronage of millions of persons, permit us to speak of it without boasting. It is unquestionably the best remedy for Infants and Children the world has ever known. It is harmless. Children like it. It gives them health. It will save their lives. In it Mothers have something which is absolutely safe and practically perfect as a child's medicine.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria. The modern standard Family Medicine: Cures the common every-day ills of humanity. ONE GIVES RELIEF.

SCHOOL REPORT. Following is the report of School Dist. No. 6, for the first month of the school term which began March 23, 1895: No. of pupils enrolled, 27; No. of girls enrolled, 14; boys, 13; No. days taught 29; No. days attendance, 303; days absence, 32; No. times tardy, 2; Average No. belonging, 16; Daily attendance, 15; No. visitors, 14; Roll of Honor: Martha Batchelder, Mae Hillion, Letitia Jackson, Etta Jackson, Jimmie Meacham, Bertha Meacham. EVA A. MILLER, Teacher.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF HILLSBORO. Transacts a General Banking Business. J. W. SHUTE, President; BENJ. SCHOLFIELD, Vice-President; J. D. MERRYMAN, Cashier.

PLANTING! Ferry's Seed Annual will begin to put down. Do not get it until you have seen it. It is the best of its kind. It contains more practical information for farmers and gardeners than many high-priced text books. Mailed free. H. E. FERRY & CO., DENVER, COLO.

EAGLE MARBLE WORKS. T. G. HARKINS. MANUFACTURER OF MONUMENTS, HEADSTONES and all kinds of Marble Work in ITALIAN AND AMERICAN MARBLE. Importer and dealer in a Mexican and Scotch Granite Monuments.

HILLSBORO HOUSE. J. NORTHROP, Proprietor. Corner Second and Washington Streets. NEWLY FURNISHED. RENOVATED. A FIRST CLASS ABLE, and all accommodations for the convenience of guests. Charges Reasonable.

A Fortune in Prizes! \$6,141.75 GIVEN AWAY IN 55 Separate Prizes. ONE PRIZE OF \$1,000. The NEW WEEKLY ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Denver, Colo.

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Blackwell's Durham Tobacco Company. Dear Sir: You are entitled to receive FREE from your wholesale dealer, WHITE STAR SOAP with all the Blackwell's Genuine Durham Smoking Tobacco you buy. One bar of soap free with each pound, whether 10 oz., 5 oz., 4 oz., or 2 oz. packages.

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