

do work in the way of putting up gratings, which he considers both unnecessary and impracticable. There is great regret felt in the neighbourhood that those mills—which cost some £50,000—should be closed, as many hands will be put out of employment. It seems a great pity that the rival interests of fishery owners vs mill owners should be allowed to clash in this way.

The salmon fisheries of Ireland are no doubt of much importance, but in a county with so very few manufacturing industries it is a fatal mistake to place any obstacles in their way.

The public interest must of course be paramount, but the highest authorities are agreed that such cases if they exist at all must be rare, and it is of prime importance to remember that there are few factory pollutions which cannot be readily and inexpensively rendered innocuous. Indeed I cannot do better than quote, in a concluding sentence, from the Tenth Annual Report of the Scotch Fishery Board, which puts the matter succinctly, and urges considerations which must have weight with every fair and intelligent mind:—

‘Legislation for the prevention and cure of pollution and poisoning in all running waters is most important and urgent. The evil is yearly increasing, and it is time that a remedy was applied. And that such a remedy might be found without injury to manufacturers there seems to but little doubt; as, more than fifteen years ago, the River Pollution Commissioners wrote as follows in their fifth and last report:—“We have thus already submitted to your Majesty a description of the evils arising from the discharge into river channels of town sewage, and of the various filthy drainage waters from cotton, woollen, silk, flax and jute works, from print and dye-works, from tanneries, paper mills, and bleach works, from alkali, chemical, and soap works, from distilleries, starch and sugar works, and from paraffin oil works. The remedies for the nuisances which these refuse liquids create have been carefully examined, and, after prolonged inquiry and research, we have been able to report that in every case efficient remedies exist and are available; so that the present use of rivers and running waters for the purpose of carrying off the sewage of towns and populous places, and the refuse arising from industrial processes and manufactures, can be prevented without risk to the public health or serious injury to such processes or manufactures.”

‘It seems therefore quite evident that the secondary uses of water which the manufacturers enjoy have been too long allowed to usurp the place of the primary uses to which the public are entitled, and that it is high time that stringent measures were taken to check the progress of pollution, which has already converted so many of our streams, once pure and pellucid, into mere fetid sewers. In one way, at least, the public health and the preservation of salmon are immediately connected. The water which will destroy or repel salmon is not fit for human use; and the water fit for human use is attractive and wholesome for salmon.’

The fact cannot be ignored that almost daily such improvements are being made in the methods of treating raw products and of utilizing waste materials that some of the industries referred to in the preceding pages have in recent years undergone total change. To a large extent pollutions which have hitherto been a main source of danger are ceasing. Thus at Ottawa itself where probably over one hundred million feet of waste,* in the shape of sawdust, have for many years been poured into the fine river which flows by the Canadian Capital, a revolution may very soon be effected, and the sawdust hitherto so lightly valued turned to practical use. The utilization of waste products is a hopeful sign, and will do much to rectify the evils arising from industrial pollutions, which have so long afflicted fish and fisheries.

* It is stated that there is one foot of waste to every foot of timber cut in the mills.