

ALL ABOUT FISH.

Cannermen Haul Over the Coals Willmot of the Fishery Department.

Conference With Minister Tupper and Presentation of Their Grievances.

Sir Charles Tupper met the cannermen in conference at the board of trade rooms this morning. There was a large number present. The cannermen were represented at the meeting. Mr. Rithet was moved to the chair.

Sir Charles Tupper suggested that instead of discussing the general points in debate between the cannermen as representing the fishery interests from a commercial standpoint and the officers of his department from a scientific standpoint, that they should make suggestions to him. One of the first reasons for the department exercising such interest in the salmon industry was the solicitation sent from British Columbia and the letters from the board of trade. No person could have read the resolution from the board of trade without seeing there was cause for alarm concerning overfishing, etc.

The object of the cannermen was to make as much money in as little time as possible—in that way they did not differ from other cannermen in other parts of the world. The department at Ottawa was engaged in the preservation of fisheries. When in London he had engaged the services of Professor Prince, a graduate of St. Andrew's university, and well versed in marine biology. His name and reputation were well known in piscatorial circles.

Mr. Rithet said the fish seemed to be coming into the rivers later year by year. He was not prepared to ask to have the period made a permanent one. Sir Charles said that he would like other expressions of opinion, as it was a very delicate point.

Mr. Rithet said that Sir Charles could control the run of salmon the cannermen would soon tell him. The runs of 1888 and 1894 were both late. Perhaps the fish were being kept away from the hatcheries, and therefore did not return in proper time. He thought it was wrong that during the winter no salmon could be caught when in the United States they were allowed to fish and British Columbia people had to get their fish from the United States.

Sir Charles said that it was purely an oversight of the department, for which he pleaded guilty.

Mr. Rithet, speaking of the offtal question, said that the guano and fish oil factory was loaded up and the company could not dispose of the oil at a profit in the eastern market. It would be desirable for the department to call for tenders to take the offtal from the cannermen, and that a sum should be given to the oil factory for a certain number of years.

Sir Charles asked would there be any objection to the government encouraging the scheme that a party from Vancouver had in view who had written to Ottawa and asked for government land free of rent.

Mr. Rithet said if propositions were called for it would be better. If the offtal were dumped into the river it became food for fish. There were no complaints.

Sir Charles said that the offtal was fouling the nets of fishermen at the mouth of the river. Complaints had been sent to Ottawa.

Mr. Rithet asked should the cannermen be stopped using pound nets when they were allowed at Point Roberts?

Sir Charles answered that the fish of the Fraser were only affected by pound nets at Point Roberts from one point, and they could enter from other points. Mr. Rithet replied that Point Roberts was a sort of camping ground for salmon prior to entering the Fraser river. They stayed there for days.

Sir Charles said that communications had passed between Washington and Ottawa regarding Point Roberts, and in reply it had been said that the Washington authorities would take the matter into consideration when the joint fish commission of the United States and Canada arrived in British Columbia. They would be in the province next year. They were making a thorough investigation. Did they want another commission?

Mr. Rithet thought persons would have to be appointed to watch the fish and see if they returned after spawning. Sir Charles replied it was an easy matter to get men to watch the fish. Mr. Rithet said that some of the inspectors required that the blood, the slime and the offtal would have to be taken from the fish. Sir Charles said that straining the regulations and could not be justified.

Mr. Rithet said the time of coho fishing should begin September 15th instead of September 23rd. The open season should be till November 1st. Mr. Ewen said eight months in the year fishing for spring salmon should be open. Mr. Rithet thought all the year round with large mesh nets.

year that did not follow necessarily. When the winter pack of 500,000 cases \$2 was the first charge. On several occasions the fish had cost altogether \$4.50 a case and sold only at \$4. Chinese labor could not be dispensed with. There was no other class of labor available for the period required. None of the cannermen would employ Chinese labor in the canneries if they could obtain white labor, but they could not do that.

Alexander Ewen said the United States canneries employed Chinese labor. Mr. Rithet said the United States canneries had fewer obstructions placed in their way than those of British Columbia. They were using pound nets in Oregon and were allowed to ignore close seasons and everything else. The government should not put greater obstructions than were put by the United States government upon the American fisheries.

The great difference of opinion between the cannermen and the department regarding fish was as to whether fish after spawning returned to salt water. He had never met any one who thought that the fish returned to salt water; the majority of them died in the rivers. He read from Pennell's British salmon authority. This extract showed a difference in the habits of the fish in British Columbia and in Scotland. It showed how difficult it was for a man to disabuse his mind of what he has learned under such tuition. If he ever knows the reason why they thought the department paid them so little attention when they left the matter to the preconceived ideas of departmental officers. He thought that the evidence presented by Mr. Willmot should be put into the fire. (Cheers.) Sir Charles would soon be fighting for the cannermen if he himself took up the question. If the minister would take up the question the cannermen were willing to be bygone and come to his aid and harmonize the differences between the department and the cannermen. The cannermen thought it was a great mistake that the open season had not been extended.

Sir Charles said that last year it was extended and the department got into trouble. This year it was not extended, and still the department was blamed. Mr. Rithet said that the close season should be fixed according to the run of salmon.

Sir Charles asked if there should be a fixed and unalterable season, or whether it was to be according to the run of each season.

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Thomas E. Ladner thought that the government should either offer a premium for the disposal of offtal or allow it to be deposited in the rivers. Sir Charles said he had made a note of it.

Alexander Ewen said it was better to put the offtal in the streams than at the mouth of the river. There had been a complaint on the ground of health. Sir Charles said the department did not wish to interfere with the lines of health. This was for the local governments; but if the offtal was injurious to public health, then it followed that it was injurious to salmon.

Alexander Ewen thought that a competent man should be appointed to examine the habits of salmon. Mr. Rithet said the time for sockeye should be from June 15th to August 15th. No injury would be done in alert boat. Lower inlet fish after northern points by fishing with seine.

Sir Charles said that the commander of the Quadra had reported that the fish in the northern waters were being slaughtered by the seine nets. Mr. Rithet replied that the commander of the Quadra was a good navigator, but knew nothing of salmon.

Sir Charles said that when an expert gave his opinion the cannermen objected, saying he was only an expert, and he was an ordinary man gave his opinion then he was not an expert.

Mr. Rithet asked that the length of net be 200 fathoms instead of 150 fathoms in northern waters. Robert Ward said that the primary object of the canner was not to catch the fish but to preserve them. A want of practical knowledge at the department was the trouble in connection with the fisheries. Sir Charles had to rely upon the opinions of Mr. Willmot, who came to British Columbia with a biased mind. Mr. Willmot's opinions were obtained in the old country, and as Alexander Ewen was an old fisherman of Scotland, had said, there were great differences in the habits of the fish in British Columbia and Scotland. He hoped that a man of great experience would be sent out to British Columbia to examine into the habits of the fish in British Columbia and Scotland. The date of commencement of the sockeye run should begin from the appearance of fish in the river. This should be considered before fixing on any definite close season. It would be impossible to catch the fish in the river without the use of seines. The pack of the Columbia river fisheries was consumed in the United States, but with regard to Alaska it was different. Fish were caught in unlimited quantities; last year there were 700,000 cases of salmon packed. Alaska was a strong competitor against British Columbia. Under the circumstances, if there was any error it should be on the side of the fishing industry.

Mr. Hall said that in the north, the Skeena, Naas and Fraser none of the spawning salmon returned to the sea except the steelhead, which was commercially valuable. In some of the northern rivers the Indians completely blocked the river with weirs, which only permitted the fry to pass.

Sir Charles read from the report of Inspector Murray, of the United States fishery department, that there being no regulations in Alaska the rivers would soon be fished out.

Thomas Cunningham wanted the old weekly close season to commence on Sunday at midnight. Mr. Toad said the offtal was sweet; there was nothing offensive.

Mr. Dalby said the cannermen of the north were fined four times during the year. They thought their fines should be remitted.

Sir Charles said the matter should be presented to him in a succinct manner and he had power to rectify any wrong. He asked at present why they should be remitted.

Mr. Cunningham said that Inspector Roxbury had granted exemption from the regulations and then fined them for not observing them.

Sir Charles asked that they formulate charges if such a state of affairs existed.

Mr. Dalby read a petition from the cannermen and fishermen of the northern rivers asking to have the net 200 fathoms and the old weekly close season resumed.

The conference adjourned at 1.45. Sir Charles Tupper is having a conference with the sealers this afternoon. He advised them that the local agents accept the \$425,000 in payment of all claims up to August, 1893. The Times will print a full report to-morrow.

The Pains of Rheumatism. According to the best authorities, originate in a morbid condition of the blood. Lactic acid, caused by the decomposition of the globulins and albuminous tissues, circulates with the blood and attacks the fibrous tissues, particularly in the joints, and thus causes the local manifestations of the disease. The back and shoulders are the parts usually affected by rheumatism, and the joints at the knees, ankles, hips and wrists are also sometimes attacked. Thousands of people have found in Hood's Sarsaparilla a positive and permanent cure for rheumatism. It has had remarkable success in curing the most severe cases. The secret of its success lies in the fact that it attacks at once the cause of the disease by neutralizing the lactic acid and purifying the blood, as well as strengthening every function of the body.

CITY VOTERS' LIST. A Gain of Nearly One Thousand Shown in the Registration.

The Voters' Lists for the election of aldermen, to be held in January next, are open for inspection at the City Clerk's office. The lists are by far the largest in the city's history, and show much careful labor in their preparation. A comparison given below shows a gain of nearly 1000 voters:

Table with 2 columns: Year and Number of Voters. 1894: 1885. North Ward: 1,450. 1,390. South Ward: 874. 1,160. Central Ward: 768. 916.

Total Gain: 3,073. 4,028. 953.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U.S. Govt report. Royal Baking Powder. ABSOLUTELY PURE.

BRIEF LOCALS

Cleanings of City and Provincial News in Condensed Form.

From Wednesday's Daily. A Royal Black Preceptory of the Orange lodge has been instituted by Grand Secretary Connolly of Manitoba.

The Charmer last night brought over the last installment of the present consignment of armament for the new fortifications.

The Odd Fellows of Duncan's will dedicate a new hall on Friday. A number of Victoria brethren will attend. A hall will be given.

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awarded. The damage done to the Kingston amounted to about \$750.

From Thursday's Daily. There was a pleasant entertainment at Centennial Methodist church last evening. "Mother Goose and Her Goslings" with Miss Grant as the former and the Sunday school children as the latter was given in very pleasing style. Some of the dialogues were very bright. Rev. Joseph Hall presided during the evening.

The Diocesan Literary and Scientific society holds its regular meeting at Temperance hall, Pandora street, this evening, when a men's social, or smoking concert, and debate will take place. The subject of debate, "Protection v. Free Trade," is one which is bound to draw a large number of participants and a lively time is expected. Membership tickets can be secured at the door.

The first preceptory of the Royal Black Knights of Ireland in British Columbia was organized in A. O. U. W. hall on Monday evening by William Connolly, of Winnipeg, deputy grand lecturer of Canada. Thirty members were initiated and the following committee was elected: J. Wallace, J. Kirk, E. J. Young, J. Brothour, William Clark, H. Moore and J. J. Campbell.

A meeting of the single tax club was held last night, when the following executive committee were elected by the "proportional representation" method: Messrs. Berridge, Cohen, Sinton, Mallet and Howell. At the next meeting of the society a debate will be held on "Socialism vs. Single Tax." The society is arranging a novel and interesting programme for the current season.

Yon Fook and Ah Quong, who obstructed the efforts of Chief of Police Sheppard to raid some gambling houses in Chinatown on Tuesday night, were in police court this morning. The former pleaded guilty and was fined \$40, but the latter said he was not guilty and argued the point. He was convicted and fined \$50. Both were solemnly warned not to appear again on a similar charge.

Thieves paid a visit to the chicken coops in the rear of the Steitz restaurant last evening and made a partially successful attempt to rob the place. They were heard by some of the help and chased away. One of the thieves is believed to have got away with two chickens, but the other was forced to drop what he was carrying and run for his liberty. There is no clue to the identity of the men.

Lam Kee and Quong On Kee, whose defective chimney caused the fire department to be called out on Monday, were convicted in the police court to-day of an infraction of the fire prevention by-law and fined \$13.50 apiece. In the same court Sin Kee, Yee Chong and Wing Chong were up for an infraction of the revenue by-law. The first and last paid costs and their cases were withdrawn, but Yee Chong did not appear at first and then had to be tried. He was fined \$5 and \$2.50 costs.

Several days ago the store of Russell and McDonald was burglarized and a lot of goods stolen. Chief Sheppard located a part of the booty in an old building near the store of the firm who were robbed and set a watch on the place. Last evening Lung Do, an old Chinese offender, came to the place to carry some of the goods away and was promptly arrested. He claims that he was not alone in the robbery, and to investigate a clue he gave the police as to his fellow thieves, the case was remanded until to-morrow.

The hearing of the Japanese who assaulted Fred Wollaston was on in the police court yesterday afternoon, but was adjourned. Frank Higgins appeared for the prosecution and S. Perry Mills for the defence. Only the evidence of Mr. Wollaston was taken. He swore that they stopped at the Japanese house for a drink. He tapped on the window with his cane and broke it. There was some exchange of words, but he and his friends passed on. Half way across the bridge one of the Japanese stabbed him. He did not know he was being followed by the Japs.

Court Vancouver, No. 5755, A. O. P., gave its annual dance last evening in A. O. U. W. hall, and it proved one of the most enjoyable affairs ever given here. The hall was prettily decorated with flags, ferns and Chinese lanterns. The music furnished by Richardson's orchestra was very good and the refreshments were enjoyed by all. Past Chief Ranger H. W. Hall was presented with a gold ring inscribed: "Presented by the members of Court Vancouver, No. 5755, A. O. P." The presentation was made by Past Chief Ranger Henry Waller. The entire affair was under the charge of the following committee, which did excellent work: J. Colliester, W. Hall, P. Watson, E. Partridge, H. Maynard, J. J. Randolph, E. E. Johnson, A. Johnson, J. Cessford, J. Speed and H. Waller.

London, Dec. 13.—When the Earl of Jersey was asked if he had anything further to say about the result of the intercolonial conference, he remarked: "That matter is now in the hands of the government. My work is done. Of course I have my opinions, but I cannot express them beyond what I have said in my report."

Finally the Earl of Jersey was asked if he had seen the telegraphic report saying how favorably his report had been received in Canada and that Canada favored him as the successor of the Earl of Aberdeen as governor-general. To this he replied: "It is very nice, very nice, but what can I say?"

Awarded Highest Honors—World's Fair. DR. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER. MOST PERFECT MADE. A pure Grape Cream of Tartar Powder. Free from Ammonia, Alum or any other adulterant. 40 YEARS THE STANDARD.

W. VOL. 10-N. WHOLE NO. 10. ROYALIS. Smouldering Republic. M. M. S. H. Honolulu. San Francisco Honolulu says: again detained missioner, who insecurity to fish subjects in rection. Capt. postponed his request of H. Hawes. On the home fresh inst out that he wa fifth to the So Islands. Major in the most arg upon him to re the commission his countrymen dence of the re the attempting. S ing that the here so as to security. It is ministrations ha months without erican warship known to be an American va probability of an against the gov newly said that That they are and working fo is no doubt. more of their since the resca all the powers ble that any h restore the que If they are to do it for themse ber of white n English, and a who feel very their lot cau heavily sympathi fished into fight would in any ca form for the fire volunteer. The royalists about three hun of ammunition. form of proper nected by Sir J. His policy has personal motives but has been ad ered it the best. DEBS' Arranging for a Chicago, Dec. cers and director way Union had attorney, Claren ter's office yester best way of pro have been sent jail. Darrow s was any d right of appeal. He had seen the telegraphic report saying how favorably his report had been received in Canada and that Canada favored him as the successor of the Earl of Aberdeen as governor-general. To this he replied: "It is very nice, very nice, but what can I say?"