

50 feet, and the weekly close time for nets and weirs considerably extended also, the increase in a short time hence in the upper districts must be prodigious—as an old Shannon fisherman observed to me a few days ago: 'There won't be wather enough in the river to hould 'em all shortly.'"

The Editor of the London *Daily News* of the 15th April, 1865, writes, "It is seldom that legislation founded upon correct principles is attended with success so immediate and marked as the Salmon Protection Act of 1861. We have now before us the Fourth Annual Report of the Inspectors who were appointed under it, and their statements are conclusive as to the great increase of Salmon which it has already been the means of causing in our rivers and estuaries † Where it was not at once brought into operation the increase appears in the shape of a larger size of the Salmon caught last year, proving that it had saved for another year's growth a proportion that would otherwise have been destroyed; but where it was at once adopted its influence now appears in an immense augmentation of the number of Grilse and Salmon caught, proving that those which it saved the first year have already repaid the care taken of them by yielding produce which is already fit for market. In proof of this it is sufficient to quote some of the prices which, as Mr. Eden justly observes, are the best index of the supply. He tells us that at Sydney, in the lower Severn, the rate was at one time last year so low as 4d. per pound, and that at Shrewsbury, on the same river, it was lower than it had been known for years. At Carlisle the fall we learn was considerable; at Lancaster the price was greatly lower than usual and for some time continued at 8d. At Chepstow and at Carmarthen it was as low as 6d. and 7d. per pound. These are encouraging facts, and tell us that the interference with the rights of property which was necessary to save property from destruction, has in this instance at least been justified by success.

"It is natural, however, that the working of the act should have brought to light some defects in its provisions. These are chiefly of the same character as those which the Act was intended to remedy, and therefore involve no new principle for their amendment. They arise from the fact that the Salmon is a constantly migrating fish, always either ascending or descending the rivers; that it can only spawn in fresh water, but only grow and fatten in the sea; and that hence whosoever impedes its progress not only robs his upper or lower neighbours of the opportunity of catching it, but as effectually destroys it or its progeny as if he had killed it on the spot." The *Times* of the same date contains a similar account of the enormous progress of the British Salmon Fisheries under the provisions of the same Act.

The principle clause in this Act of 1861, which has promoted this great increase of Salmon in English waters, was also the principal clause inserted

\* The *Field*, 18th March, 1865.

† See fourth Report of English Inspectors, Messrs. Ffennel and Eden.