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SALMON PRESERVES.

The new morning paper sapiently observes that the question for us is "how to draw into the pockets of all classes of British Columbians the largest possible share of the surplus cash of the wandering gunner and fisher." In order to accomplish this object, it takes up the parable of Mr. Commissioner Wilmot, "himself a keen angler," who "pressed a witness from the Skeena as to the likeness of the spring salmon to the salmon of the Restigouche (E. Canada), and having satisfied himself that there was no natural difference between the two fish, the chairman asked whether any one had ever made any serious attempt to catch the spring salmon of the Skeena with a fly. The answer was in the negative." Our contemporary continues: "Commenting on this, Mr. Wilmot said, 'I ask these questions because I am aware that fishing (fly fishing), on the Restigouche is let for an annual rental of

\$10,000, \$20,000 or \$30,000, and I cannot help considering that if your salmon should be found to take a fly, you would have no difficulty in letting your rivers at similarly high rentals. It is not so very many years ago that the Restigouche was first known as a fly fishing river.'"

Were this idea of the "keen" Mr. Wilmot carried out, say, for instance, on the Skeena, where would be the important salmon industry upon that river; how much, we ask, of the surplus cash of the wandering gunner and fisher would find its way into the pockets of all classes of British Columbians, particularly of those canners and their employees, together with the merchants of Victoria who are so largely interested in this industry? In England, Scotland and elsewhere at the east, the national policy is to reclaim and to turn to industrial advantage the wastes "over which the game have been accustomed to roam, and at the same time to shorten the scope of those obnoxious game laws which would be the almost inevitable attendants of carrying out the views of keen sportsmen and "keen anglers" of the Wilmot class. By his attempt to shape the course of the inquiry into this particular way, it is manifest that Mr. Wilmot has no idea of the magnitude and importance of the salmon trade of this province. When its day is over, then will be Mr. Wilmot's opportunity to inaugurate the policy of preserving what is yet left for anglers who are as keen as he is and are anxious to become the embodiments of Dr. Johnson's caustic description of what a fisherman really is. It will be remembered that he spoke of something with a hook and bait at one end and a fool at the other.

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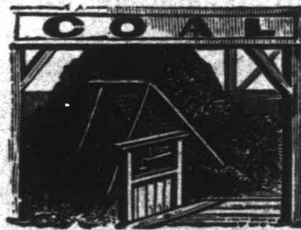


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