

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIFTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 69.

STATE OF MAINE.

The Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred the petition of Judge Nathaniel Kimball and forty-four others, praying for a law to prevent the taking of smelts in Sandy Brook, Saco, beg leave to report:

They first find that, in the course of legislation, the petition was inadvertently referred to the Committee on Fisheries, who were *floundering* about over the porgy question. The people of Boothbay, Harpswell, Ocean Point, and other outposts of civilization, had determined that "the porgy must go." The *oilfactories* of the people in the vicinity of the porgy factories had too long been drinking in the "balm of a thousand fishes," and the longshoremen were *clam-orous* for bait. Coombs of the Committee, had not long to *Wait* before *Duran's* hornpipe sounded, and Farrington of the committee became satisfied that the petition ought not to be admitted, as there was *Moore* business already before the committee than could well be attended to,

such as the protection of eels, pollywogs and horn-pouts, and so he put his *Wincapaw* on the petition of Judge Kimball.

It then came to the Senate, and was referred, very properly, to the Committee on Education. The smelts in this Brook generally run in *schools*, which the friends of "retrenchment and reform" were trying to cripple at the (fishing) poles. It was the purpose of the accomplished chairman to consider this matter in connection with the school mill tax; but just as the prayers of the petitioners were being weighed in the *scales* of justice, Mr. Pickhard (the silent member of the House from the Queen City of the East,) rose to a question of privilege, and claimed that it could not be considered in conjunction with the mill tax. He had been down into the bowels of the State House, and found a fly leaf from Hannibal Hamlin's account book, when he kept a peanut stand in the rotunda of the State House, and from that he had ascertained that there is no *mill* in that pond to be taxed, and no site for a mill or dam, and as he *smelt* a mice, he wouldn't go for the measure even if the smelts were there, by a *dam site!* The member of the Committee from Sebago, having ascertained that the smelts in the pond did not part their hair in the middle, became antagonistic to the proposition, and accordingly the petition was kicked out of the Committee room.

The much abused petition, coming now to the House, it was again referred, and this time to the Committee

SMELTS IN SANDY BROOK.

on Military Affairs. Apprehending lest the next reference should be to the Civil Service Committee, and the little smelts in that brook be whittled down to a size to conform to the present "purchasing power of a dollar," the Committee at once *grappeled* with the subject, and now beg leave to make their *of-fish-al* report:

That Gen. Leavitt, of the War Department of this State, be authorized to place the Gatling gun (now relieved from duty since the office seekers have retreated in good order), on the shores of Sandy Brook, in Saco, to be manned by the spare clerks in his office, who may be receiving enormous salaries; and that he at once "shoot on the spot," any man, woman or child who undertakes, by hook or by crook, to tempt the gay and festive smelts from the cool waters of Sandy Brook.

Who hath sky of brighter gleams?

Broader lakes, or braver streams?

Eden-like, our wide land teems

With SMELTS!

In the sea is wealth untold,

Porgy oil that brings the gold,

Pickarel will their tails unfold;

But spare the SMELTS!

Now the eagle, sweeping o'er,

Sees one spot near Saco's shore,

[OVER.]

Sees one little brook or more
Full of SMELTS !

Ours the realm of perch and " quiver,"
The glassy pond, deep flowing river,
Spare all the fish, spare them forever,
But save the SMELTS !

For the Committee.

JAMES M. ANDREWS,
Chairman.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 19, 1879.

Read, accepted, and ordered printed.

SAMUEL W. LANE, *Secretary.*