

125.—PROPOSITION TO PREPARE KINGFISH BY SMOKING.**By Capt. J. W. COLLINS.**

While at Key West I noticed that such of the kingfish as could not be sold fresh were salted. The greater part of this salted fish is dried in an unsystematic manner, and so prepared makes rather an indifferent article of food. It occurs to me that perhaps a very excellent article of food may be obtained by smoking the kingfish, which I believe may be found well adapted to this method of curing; if so, then an important result will have been obtained. The fish are abundant, can be bought for about 1 cent per pound, and consequently could be put on the market at a very reasonable figure, while, if found practicable, such a method of curing would in a large measure relieve the Key West fishermen from too great a dependence on the Cuban markets, would probably tend to enhance somewhat the price of fish, and would ultimately result in a very important addition to the fleet and men engaged in catching kingfish. The best methods of utilizing the wealth of the seas around these southern coasts seem to me a matter that deserves some attention.

As a means of making a practical test of the kingfish, I suggest that 100 pounds be procured at Key West when the ship arrives there, and brought to Washington, whence it could be sent somewhere to be smoked. The opinion of a few practical men—fish dealers, catchers, &c.—would then settle the question.

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If Mulhall's statistics are reliable, there are not far short of 150,000 vessels engaged in Europe and North America in fishing. Between 600,000 and 700,000 men are employed in this industry, and the total annual product of fish is not far short of 1,500,000 tons. Few people realize the full meaning of these latter figures. A ton of fish is equal in weight to about 28 sheep, and hence, if Mulhall's estimate is approximately correct, a year's fish supply for ten European countries, included in this estimate, and the United States and Canada, might be represented by 42,000,000 sheep. Of this amount the United Kingdom, Canada, Russia, and the United States, alone, aggregate 1,000,000 tons, equivalent to 28,000,000 sheep.

It has been truly said that we talk in a metaphor of the "harvest of the sea," but we have only lately been able to realize all that the metaphor means. The Fisheries Exhibition in London in 1883 did a great deal to encourage the study of marine biology, and it is with no small