

## X.—SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING THE NORWEGIAN FISHERIES.\*

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[From "Bergensposten"—a daily paper published at Bergen, Norway, Tuesday, March 4, 1879.]

**SPECIAL NOTICE.**—In view of the fact that our fisheries need further development in nearly every direction, the undersigned have agreed to form a society for the purpose of promoting the Norwegian fisheries. These fisheries, which form one of the most important sources of income of our country, have at different times attracted the attention of the government, and not without exercising some beneficial influence. But since the fisheries in other countries have progressed, and the utilization of their products has been more and more developed, it has become apparent that our country has remained behindhand with regard to its fisheries and all the various industries connected therewith.

If it is true that Norway is one of the greatest fishing-countries in the world, her citizens should consider this as a strong incentive to develop and utilize this vast source of income to its greatest extent; with regard to this matter our country should not be excelled by any other.

With the example of other countries and with their experience to guide us, this society will endeavor to aid and develop our fisheries by hatching and raising fish, by improving the methods of fishing and the fishing-apparatus, and by utilizing to their fullest extent all the products of the fisheries; it will in fact be the object of this society to aid every endeavor to further the fishing-interests.

We therefore invite our fellow-citizens in town and country to become members of this society. The annual contribution of each member will probably be 5 crowns (\$1.34), but we hope that there will be many public-spirited citizens who have both the desire and the means to pay more.

JOHAN AMELN,  
and sixteen others.

BERGEN, *February 27, 1879.*

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**EDITORIAL.**—As will be seen from a notice in our issue of to-day, a number of the most prominent and intelligent citizens of Bergen have started a society whose object it is to promote the fishing-interests.

It will be said of this movement, as of so many others started at the right time and by the right men, that it should have been begun long

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\* *Selskabet for de Norske Fiskeriers Fremme.* Bergensposten, Tirsdag d. 4 de Marts 1879. Translated by Herman Jacobson.

ago, and that it is astonishing that no one has thought of it sooner. We will not discuss this question; suffice it to say that such societies could not be started at a better time and with better prospect of success. There is a general depression of all trades and industries, and every attempt to aid a great industry will awaken sympathy with the great mass of the people, because all feel that they have an interest in the matter. And there is no industry which will appeal so strongly to the sympathy of our people as the fisheries; a society which undertakes to develop the fisheries will meet a very general demand not only in our city but in every fishing-station from Cape Lindesnaes to the North Cape. We can say without exaggeration that never has a society been started in our country with a more timely, practical, and patriotic object.

The notice which has been published starts with a well-known and deplorable fact, namely, that our country is far behind other countries with regard to the fisheries. And the society makes it its object to place our country where it belongs in this respect. Every thinking person must have found out long ago that as regards our fisheries our country has not kept step with other countries; for nearly every journal has year after year informed us how many important improvements have been made in other countries, whilst we have done little or nothing. Our fisheries have certainly not gone down, for the value of their productions has been constantly on the increase; but the fisheries of other countries have increased more rapidly and have made important progress, which has thrown us in the shade. This is a serious matter for Norway and more especially for the city of Bergen. If we are outstripped in the competition with other countries in that industry which on our entire coast from Christianssund to Vardø is the chief source of income of the whole population, the future will look dark in many other respects and the general development of the country will be hindered or retarded.

The signers of this notice, who are fully agreed as to the great importance of this matter, are not saying too much when they maintain "that our fisheries need further development in nearly every direction." And as this deplorable fact is the cause of publishing this notice, every one should consider it a strong incentive to join the society and thus aid a good cause. There cannot possibly be any doubt on this point. But the question which will arise first is, How shall our fisheries be aided? where shall we begin? and what shall be done first?

We anticipate that this society will gain many members in town and country, and that both the state and city authorities will subsidize this important undertaking. We also hope that the society will possess as much common sense and scientific ability, as is represented by the signers of the notice. And with such anticipations we ask the important question, "What shall be done?"

The signers of the notice mention "the hatching and raising of fish", "improving the methods of fishing and the fishing-apparatus" and "utilizing to their fullest extent all the products of the fisheries", in

short the aiding of "every endeavor to further the fishing-interests." Such a programme means the establishment of an institution to work in each of these directions, and the organization of special societies or committees for the better carrying-out of all these objects. It will therefore be of great importance that this society should be joined by men of all classes throughout the country, so that no special interest or no special knowledge be excluded.

The whole question therefore becomes one of great importance to the entire country; and it is quite natural that the programme has not entered into any details as regards the carrying-out of the many different objects of the society. The society will probably organize very soon, and when it has once become an accomplished fact, we have no doubt that the plans for work will be laid out with that efficiency which may be expected from the signers of the notice and the classes of society which they represent. The work will then progress with that energy and caution which the great and national importance of the question demands.

In pointing once more to this notice and its important object, we consider any further recommendation superfluous, and would merely say in conclusion, that this question concerns a matter of the most vital interest to our whole country.

