

M. CIMON fait motion, secondé par le Dr. ROBITAILLE, qu'il soit présenté à SON EXCELLENCE le GOUVERNEUR-GÉNÉRAL, une adresse pour

1°. Un état montrant le nombre des rivières dans les Comtés de Saguenay, Chicoutimi et Charlevoix, maintenant louées sous provisions de l'Acte des Pêcheries, le nom du locataire dans chaque cas et le prix pour laquelle chacune est ainsi louée.

2°. Un état montrant le nombre des baux de pêche maintenant en existence, accordées pour faire la pêche dans les eaux de la Rivière St. Laurent, dans les Comtés de Saguenay et Charlevoix, le loyer payé pour chaque bail, et le nom des parties auxquelles ils ont été accordées.

3°. Un état du nombre de pénalités infligées par les officiers des Pêcheries pour contravention à l'Acte des Pêcheries, dans les limites des Comtés de Chicoutimi, Charlevoix et Saguenay, depuis 1867.

M. CIMON dit qu'il se permettra d'attirer tout particulièrement l'attention de cette Chambre sur cette question, car il importe de connaître la conduite des officiers publics en cette endroit. Son unique attention est de savoir ce que le Gouvernement retire de cette source de revenu. C'est un champ très-entendu; il n'est que juste de savoir ce qu'il rapporte au Gouvernement. Dans une occasion ultérieure, il (M. CIMON) aura l'opportunité de faire d'autres remarques sur cette question.

STATISTICS.

Mr. YOUNG said he probably would not have placed the motion he was about to move on the notice paper had he known that the subject had been under the consideration of the Government. However, as the subject was before the House, he would take the opportunity very briefly, and with some degree of diffidence, to urge some reasons why he thought that some plan should be adopted for securing the early publication of as full and as accurate statistics as could be obtained. The present system of each department publishing its own statistics had probably on the whole worked tolerably well, but from the absence of any general supervision there were a number of defects which ought to be remedied. There were four points at least in which improvements might be made. In some respects our statistics ought to be fuller. We had no statistics, for instance, of our agricultural

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productions or of the produce of our forests—two of the great industries of this country. He was well aware that there was considerable difficulty in the way of achieving the desired improvement. The co-operation of the Local Legislatures was necessary, but seeing that in immigration matters the Dominion and the Local Governments acted in concert, he thought that in this important matter some arrangement could be made for the co-operation of the Federal and local authorities. In Great Britain there was published every year, by the statistical branch of the Board of Trade, a return showing the total quantity of land under grain crop, green crop and grass, the yield per acre, and a great variety of other information, valuable not only to the agricultural community, but to the whole trade of the country. It would be of great advantage to this country if some such statistics could be obtained here, and notwithstanding the difficulties in the way, an earnest effort ought to be made by the Government to accomplish that result. Again our statistics might be made much more accurate than they usually are. It would probably be invidious to particularize, but he might mention as an instance, our returns of the commerce of the country. He was glad to know that efforts had been made by the Customs Department to secure more accurate statistics of our imports and exports. It was to be feared that for a long time past the collectors at our outside ports had not been as careful by any means as they ought to be in making entries, and he had felt, in dealing with such statistics, as he had frequent occasion to do, he could not so thoroughly rely on the entries of imports and exports, particularly of grain, as he would wish to do. It would be noticed by the report of the Minister of Customs that the deputy head of that department was fully aware that objections might be urged to the correctness of these returns, and was endeavouring to introduce improvements therein. Again, there was a good deal in many of the reports of the departments which might be expunged without loss to the public, and at the saving of a considerable expense, and the space thus saved given to more valuable information. He also had objection to take to the length of time which it took to publish many of these