

TUPPER AND WILMOT.

Sir C. H. Tupper and his cheeky—not to say impertinent—letters are being roughly handled by the newspapers as well as by some of the salmon cannery themselves. In fact the latter are showing them up in pretty lively style. We do not wonder that the Minister and his deputy have no special desire to come this way and meet such men as Messrs. D. J. Munn and Thomas E. Ladner. The former very pertinently shows in regard to the disposal of the salmon offal that it is only just to expect the Government to devote at least a portion of the big surplus, over and above expenses, of the revenue derived from the fisheries of this Province, to the establishment of guano works. As is shown, each cannery cannot erect a factory to dispose of its own refuse, and what more natural than that, the Government should undertake the work? Mr. Munn shows that except in British Columbia and Ontario the fisheries department expends in the different provinces more money by a very large sum upon the fisheries than it receives from that source. Last year, as is shown by the departmental report, the revenue from this Province was \$40,264 and the expenditure \$5,490, leaving a surplus of \$34,774. Where does that \$34,774 go? Have the people who contribute it no right to have a fair share of it expended among them, particularly when Mr. Wilmot, for he is apparently the great toad in the departmental puddle, says that the offal must not be dumped either into the salt water of the gulf or the fresh water of the river. Possibly, however, in view of the possibility of it being determined—as is more than probable—that the Dominion Government has no constitutional right to collect and appropriate the fees paid for fishing licenses in the various provinces, Sir Oliver Mowatt having brought the point to an issue before the Courts, it is the desire in the meantime to hang on to all possible receipts from this source. Then, in regard to the issue of licenses, Mr. Munn very forcibly exposes the wilfully false statements of Mr. Wilmot, and caps the climax by saying: "Furthermore, I suggest that if it will facilitate a settlement of differences between the fishing interests and the department, if it grieves them very much to think of the \$8,000 concession that Mr. Wilmot asserts was made over to the canneries this year, and which the canneries thrust down deep into their pockets, let me state that as far as I am concerned, if the department will adopt common sense as their guide in other matters affecting the industry, I shall be quite willing that no licenses be granted to canneries hereafter."

He adds, however, that if this be done, there are many deserving men who will be thrown out of work not having the means to equip and run fishing boats of their own. In the course of his letter, Mr. Thomas E. Ladner takes up another point of contention between the canners and the department, and after severely criticising what the department proposes to do and has really done, says:

"If Sir Charles were to set about building more hatcheries and thus maintain our salmon supply, I for one would have greater confidence in his good intentions. The fishing license was originally levied for the support of hatcheries, and this year some two thousand licenses were issued, which, at \$10 each, means \$20,000. Out of this \$20,000, the department supports 'one hatchery at an annual cost of less than twenty-six hundred dollars,' and I hardly suppose that the difference between these two amounts (\$17,400) goes for the maintenance of our fishery inspector and the few subordinates under him. Why cannot more hatcheries be supported out of this direct taxation on the fisheries? or, failing that, why should not part of it be utilized in bonusing guano works, and thus settle the vexed offal question?"

Young Tupper and his man, Wilmot, are manifestly hit hard by both gentlemen, who very properly observe that it is the very height of presumption for Sir Charles Tupper or anyone else to sit in an office at Ottawa and profess to understand all about the fishery question without ever having visited the spot.

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