

When the papers come down I think my hon. friend will find that Col. Fletcher has been treated as well as it was possible to treat him under the existing law. I have no doubt, if it were possible later to make a change in the law which would allow the different Brigade Majors and Deputy Adjutants-General, upon retiring after a certain number of years' service to receive a pension than when it was submitted to Parliament, knowing how Parliament always shows its liberality on votes required for militia purposes, the measure would meet with the approval of this House.

Mr. SCRIVER. I am very glad that the hon. member for Maskinongé (Mr. Houde) has called the attention of the House and the Government to this case of what I consider peculiar hardship. I have not a word to say in criticism of the action of the Government with regard to it. I do not doubt, as the hon. Minister has said, that the Government has dealt with the case under the law, as it now stands, perhaps as liberally as it was possible for them to do; but as the law stands the case is certainly one of great hardship. Col. Fletcher has been for many years, first as Brigade Major and then as Deputy Adjutant-General, in charge of the district where I reside. I have had an opportunity of observing the manner in which that officer discharged his duty, and without having any desire to institute a comparison between him and other officers holding similar positions, I must express the opinion that there has not been an officer attached to the militia service of this country who has more thoroughly and more actively discharged the duties entrusted to his care than has Col. Fletcher. He has never been satisfied with the mere perfunctory discharge of those duties, but he has shown an energy and ability quite unusual in men holding such a position which he filled. To Col. Fletcher, more than to any other officer, is due the success which has attended rifle associations, especially in the frontier counties of the Province of Quebec. He was very active in organizing those rifle associations; he was always present at the meetings, and gave those in charge of the association the benefit of his great experience; and even since Colonel Fletcher has been retired from active service he has continued to manifest the interest which he formerly displayed in those associations, and he also attended, last summer, as I have reason to know, all the meetings which took place on the frontier. As the hon. member for Maskinongé has stated, the retiring allowance, which though it seems somewhat large, would furnish, if funded, only the beggarly income of \$200 a year. He is now a comparatively old man, having a pretty large family dependent on him, and is too old to engage in any other occupation. I trust it will be possible in some way to take measures for his relief.

Mr. STRANGE. I know nothing whatever of the circumstances of Deputy Adjutant-General Fletcher's retirement; but, as the hon. the Minister of Militia has called him a civil servant, I think superannuation should be made available to Deputy Adjutants-General and officers in similar positions. Whatever may be said respecting Col. Fletcher, I think, if he is to be called a civil servant, the proper course would be to qualify himself in order to avail himself of the superannuation fund of this Dominion.

Mr. HUNTINGTON. I do not want to occupy the attention of the House, or prolong the discussion, but I desire to add, to what has been said by hon. members in regard to Col. Fletcher, my testimony as to his efficiency as a public officer. I know the difficulties which the hon. the Minister of Militia will find in meeting the views of those who would like to superannuate Col. Fletcher handsomely; but perhaps this extraordinary case may call the attention of the Government to the embarrassing position which officers occupy, and, at all events, if they could see their way to deal with this case in a more liberal spirit than the hon. the Minister has been able to do, I am sure, from personal knowledge,

though I am not a military man, that no men would be more pleased that something has been done than would be the volunteers with whom he has served, and who have come to regard him, not only as a good officer, but look upon him with the affection of a friend.

Motion agreed to.

#### WINDSOR AND ANNAPOLIS RAILWAY.

Mr. KILLAM, in moving for a statement showing separately the gross earnings on local and on through traffic on the lines of railway worked by the Windsor and Annapolis Railway Company, between Annapolis and Windsor and Halifax respectively, and the mode of division of receipts from through traffic between the said railways by which the sum of \$21,216, stated in the report of the hon. Minister of Railways, as the one-third earnings of the Windsor Branch Railway payable to the Government, is arrived at, said: It appears in the Public Accounts that, last year, the receipts from the road did not exceed \$60,000; my remembrance of the matter is that, under a previous management, they were about \$90,000 per annum. I desire to obtain information on this point, and I am prepared to change the wording of the resolution if it is not acceptable.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I think the motion will cover the case, and I see no objection to bringing down the information.

Motion agreed to.

#### REGULATION OF FISHERIES.

Mr. WELDON moved for a copy of all Orders in Council issued, relating to the regulation of fisheries since first of January, A.D., 1879, and of all circulars and instructions issued since that date to the Fishery Inspectors and Wardens in the Provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick; also, of all licenses to fish for salmon in the rivers or portions of rivers in New Brunswick, granted by the Department of Marine and Fisheries, the Inspector of Fisheries, and the Fishery Wardens, under the Order in Council, dated the eleventh day of June, A. D., 1879; also all applications for such licenses which were not complied with, and the names of the several applicants. He said: In making a few remarks upon the motion, I do not wish to refer to the streams, as the question of whether the exclusive right of fishing existed is now before the Courts, but as to streams which are private and non-navigable, upon which there is no doubt the riparian proprietors make the exclusive right to fish. By an Order in Council, dated June 14th, 1879, fly-fishing for salmon was prohibited without the lease or license of the Department, and then the Department practically claimed the right of property in the fisheries. Parties who had the exclusive right in those waters have been refused a license, though they expressed their willingness to conform to the rules and regulations of the Department, while other parties were granted licenses. Owners of land, fishing thereon, have had their rods and fishing gear seized, and they have been treated in an arbitrary manner, brought up before justices and treated as ordinary criminals. While I do not deny the right of the Department to prohibit fishing in a river to enable the fisheries to be recuperated, I protest against this exercise of refusing or granting licenses, either for the purposes of revenue, or, at the pleasure of the Department, permitting one owner to fish and prohibiting the other. Such authority is not either within the British North America Act nor the Act relating to fisheries, and certainly was never intended to be granted to the Dominion Government by the power given to regulate sea coast and inland fisheries.

Mr. McLELLAN. The hon. gentleman is no doubt aware that the main portion of this question is now before