

Mr. McLELAN. It is a very difficult matter in a multitude of applications that come in for lights, buoys and fog whistles, to make a selection and keep within the sum that you have reasonably asked Parliament to grant in any one year. This paper is in the hands of the printer, but it has not yet been completed. I will bring it down on Wednesday, and full discussion can take place on Concurrence.

Mr. BAKER. I can fully understand the difficulty experienced in discriminating between the various claims made. I would, however, be failing in my duty if I failed to bring before the Minister the fact that in the opinion of the whole Maritime population of British Columbia a lighthouse is required on the eastern point of Saturnia Island. I trust when the Minister arranges for the distribution of the \$40,000 he will give this matter every consideration.

Mr. DAVIES. Does this amount cover land expropriated for lighthouses?

Mr. McLELAN. Yes.

Mr. DAVIES. I desire to draw the Minister's attention to a case of hardship which occurred in Prince Edward Island. A piece of land having a frontage of 11½ chains was taken from the farm of Rodger Campbell for lighthouse purposes, he being induced to give it for a nominal sum on the representation being made to him that he was eligible for recommendation to the appointment of lighthouse keeper. When his name was forwarded to Ottawa, it was found that he was beyond the age, and the Minister had no option but to refuse his request. Then Campbell sought to have his offer withdrawn, or to be paid the real value of his land. He has made a number of applications, simply asking to have the value of the site assessed by any respectable man whom the Minister chooses to appoint. Campbell is a most respectable man.

155. Construction of Lighthouse at Colchester Reef, Lake Erie.....	\$5,000 00
156. Signal Stations.....	\$7,600 00

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. How many signal stations are in operation, and how is the service conducted?

Mr. McLELAN. The signal service has been used during the past season: first, for reporting the condition of the ice in spring, which information is telegraphed to points of call and is cabled to Liverpool; and second, to report vessels inward and outward as they pass the Gulf.

Mr. McNEILL. No doubt the signal service has been a great benefit to the country. It is most important that we should have a signal station established at Manitowaning, the gateway between Georgian Bay and Lake Huron.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Perhaps the Minister would state the number of stations.

Mr. McLELAN. I cannot give the exact number, but almost all the lighthouse keepers along the gulf and coast are engaged in this work and receive an allowance yearly. Then there is a superintendent at Quebec who receives these reports, and sends them to the points where they are desired. There must be about one hundred officers engaged in this service.

#### FISHERIES.

##### SALARIES AND DISBURSEMENTS OF FISHERY OVERSEERS AND WARDENS.

Ontario.....	\$13,500 00
Quebec.....	16,000 00
Nova Scotia.....	16,500 00
New Brunswick.....	13,000 00
Prince Edward Island.....	3,500 00
British Columbia.....	4,000 00
157. Manitoba, Keewatin and North-West Territories.....	2,000 00
Fish-breeding and building of Fishways.....	33,000 00
To provide for legal and incidental expenses connected with the Fisheries, advertising, &c.....	2,000 00

Mr. BAKER (Victoria.)

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I notice that there is a considerable increase in connection with the fish hatcheries, and perhaps the hon. gentleman would state what he finds, generally, is the result of this very considerable expenditure. I know that there was some doubt on the part of those who profess to be experienced in these matters whether the expenditure of this large sum was productive of much good, and whether more good would not be got in the way of developing our fisheries, in seeing that fish were not destroyed during the spawning season, and that the close season was generally observed, than by the sum devoted to fish-breeding. Perhaps the hon. gentleman will state his opinion on the subject.

Mr. McLELAN. My own opinion is that fish breeding is capable of being made a great success. I have been giving attention to the returns of salmon fishing, from the lower Provinces more particularly, and I find this result: That in all the rivers in which we have been placing young fry the supply of fish has either been maintained or increased, whilst in the rivers in which we have placed no fry, and more particularly on the northern coasts of the St. Lawrence there has been a great decrease in the catch of salmon. The increase last year in the Restigouche, where we had placed these fry, was particularly marked. Hon gentlemen will bear in mind that with the increase in population, and with the increase of appliances for destroying fish, it is very difficult in any river or lake to keep it supplied with fish, and that considering all the destructive appliances that are used, if we are able to maintain the supply we are doing a good deal, because we find where the fishermen are left to themselves they soon clear out a river or lake.

Mr. HACKETT. The question of the preservation of the fisheries for the people of Canada is one of great importance. I would say that I have no objection to the remarks of the Minister so far as the inland rivers and lake fisheries are concerned; but I think the coast fisheries are being rapidly depleted by the use of the apparatus or machine called a trap, which is set round the coast for the purpose of capturing fish. On the coast of Prince Edward Island we have had small experience in that regard. But we have had some of these traps, and the experience thus far has shown that if continued they will ultimately result in the destruction of these fisheries. I think some steps should be taken to prevent those traps being used, unless on headlands or outside the spawning grounds of the fish. Gentlemen who are acquainted with the habits of the fish know that they come around capes, and bays, and estuaries, of the coast, and deposit their eggs, and that these traps are set on those spawning grounds, and the result will be that in a few years they will be destroyed, and the fishermen will not be able to follow the occupation which they have had for many years. I hope the hon. gentleman will take steps to prevent the use of these traps, because I believe the result of their general use will be as I have stated. We find that in the United States, where they have had larger experience than they have in Canada, the result has been that the coast fisheries have almost been totally destroyed, and the people of the United States have been at great expense for the purpose of restoring those fisheries. So far, the means resorted to have been found inadequate to restore the coast fisheries of the United States. With regard to Prince Edward Island, it will result detrimentally to the interests of the people of the Island if these fish traps, which are the worst kind of apparatus for capturing fish, are to be continued, and I hope some steps will be taken by which this mode of fishing will not be increased but curtailed in the future.

Mr. McISAAC. I quite agree with the hon. member who has spoken, that the proper protection of rivers, and the removal of obstructions, such as dams, are the best means for preserving and propagating our fisheries. Very