

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The first part of the item would read \$29,000, and the second \$47,500, the total being the same, \$76,500.

To pay E. St. O. Chapleau in full of all claims in connection with his patented poll-book, in use since 1891..... \$1,000

Mr. FOSTER. I have not had the pleasure of a return from the Minister of Agriculture.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). I must apologize.

Mr. FOSTER. I want to have that wonderful book so that I might make some edifying remarks upon this vote. Now I have been balked in my desire in that direction. You may absolve me, but how shall we absolve the Minister of Agriculture?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I shall cry peccavi.

Mr. FOSTER. In addition to peccavi, will the hon. gentleman bring this down this afternoon?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I will bring it down.

To provide for the payments to collectors of customs for services in connection with the issuing of fishing licenses to United States vessels during 1896..... \$479 32

Mr. CASEY. I am sorry to occupy the time of the House, but this is the only opportunity I shall have of asking certain explanations from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies). It appears that he has seen fit to reduce the price of licenses for pound-net fishing, in Essex, to \$25. My constituents, as well as those of other members along the Lake Erie coast have urged that the same reduction should be extended to those localities. I have conversed with the Minister of Marine and Fisheries on that subject, and I wish to give him this opportunity of stating publicly why he has been unable to extend the reduction, which he has made in Essex, to other localities along the shore of Lake Erie. I am compelled to do this, in justice to my constituents.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I may say that this matter hardly comes up on the item before us, but I will have no objection of giving the hon. gentleman (Mr. Casey) an answer. He is not exactly correct in saying that this reduction has been made in the county of Essex, if by that he means to imply that it embraces the whole county. There was a small locality where I was informed there had been great difficulty in recovering the fees from the fishermen. My adviser, Mr. Prince, brought to me the information that last year they were not recovered at all, and the consequence was that I had to dismiss

Mr. FOSTER.

the officer there. He pleaded that he had done all he could but the fishermen were so poverty-stricken in the locality that they could not pay. I could not accept that as payment, or as an explanation, although it was, to some extent, an excuse. I had an investigation made by Commissioner Prince into the matter and he recommended to me that, under the peculiar circumstances of these few men, we should make a reduction in the amount of the fees. The moment we made it, as I had anticipated, the same thing was demanded all along the line, but I have declined because the circumstances in this case were of a special character.

Mr. CASEY. To what locality did it apply?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It covered a small locality between Pelee Island and the mouth of the Detroit River.

Mr. KAULBACH. I desire to draw the attention of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to a matter—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. We are not on the subject of fisheries generally. I will be happy to answer any question the hon. gentleman (Mr. Kaulbach) desires to put, but I beg him not to go into the whole question of fisheries.

Mr. KAULBACH. I am not going to make any lengthened remarks at present. I had intended doing so, but I have not been able to carry out my intention, because I had not the necessary information I was expecting. I propose to ask the attention of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to the subject of the industry of fishing more particularly in regard to the introduction of artificial fish culture by the establishment of hatcheries and incubators in the maritime provinces, more particularly in Lunenburg, which is a fish centre. I hope that the Minister, or his commissioner, will give this his careful attention, during the recess, so that he may give us valuable information upon it when Parliament meets again.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Does the hon. gentleman refer to any particular species of fish?

Mr. KAULBACH. I refer to lobsters and codfish. The introduction of artificial fish culture would be obviously in the interest of these fisheries, and I think it would be the best investment that the Government could apply money to. It gives a big return, and adds greatly to the commerce and trade of the country. I did intend to go into the matter very carefully, but I have not had an opportunity of doing so.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I will promise the hon. gentleman (Mr. Kaulbach) to consider this matter very carefully. So far I have not been able to bring my own views into unison with