

So we have Mr. Whitchee catching at what takes place in this Chamber and also in the Departments, putting himself on a level with Ministers and members, and saying that, because these things are tolerated there, he is, therefore, to be at liberty to employ the Dominion Police in the protection of his private interests, as the possessor of certain sporting privileges on this river. In conclusion, I have to say that this matter has been made the subject of a good deal of newspaper criticism and correspondence. There has been some party feeling about it, and I have no doubt an effort has been made in this House to canvass the question with members and to raise, if possible, a prejudice against this motion, which, however, is made entirely for the reasons I have given. I have nothing, whatever, to say, for or against Mr. Whitchee personally. I know very little about him, and I do in this case as I would in every other, where I see a man stepping forward and assuming to take upon himself a power and privilege which will give him a special advantage and exclude everybody else from the same. Where such is done and is not backed up by the authority of law, I will be always one to protest against it. I beg now, Mr. Speaker, to submit this motion for the papers.

MR. WRIGHT: I have much pleasure in seconding the motion of the hon. member for West Northumberland. During the past autumn, my attention had been called, through the public press, to the condition of things which existed in the county of Ottawa, in connection with this matter. On the 19th of November, 1879, an article appeared in the *Aylmer Times*, a paper published in the county of Ottawa, in which the following statement was made:

"Some three or four of our people left, some days ago, to pass a few days fishing and shooting in the township of Lochaber, some thirty miles north-west of this village. After spending a few days tranquilly, they were visited, on Thursday last, by a fishing detective from Ottawa; but, fortunately for them, he found nothing in their possession to incriminate them. They confiscated two or three old nets, the property of a settler on the lake. Now is this? Any number of gentlemen from Ottawa, many of them connected with the Fishery Department, can go where they please, and no attention is paid to them; but let a resident of the county go out into the northern wilds and he is dogged by a Govern-

ment detective. Along the front of this township (Buckingham), is also a Government reserve, both for fish and fowl. About a month ago, some of our sportsmen went down to the bays that extend along the whole breadth of this township, when they were met by a Dominion policeman, and informed that they would not be allowed to shoot, as the whole of the bay was under the Government. Nevertheless, week after week, parties from Ottawa come down and shoot without let or hindrance, under the eyes of one of the heads of the Department of Fishery and Fowls. This thing has gone far enough. It is the duty of our member, Mr. Alonzo Wright, to see that equal justice will be meted out to us, and that his own constituents, at least, have an equal right with others; and that when a license is applied for to fish in our lakes, and the law complied with, that the same may be granted, on the payment of the legal fee, and no favour shown."

It must be evident that such an appeal from my constituents could not be made in vain. Accordingly, I made the most careful enquiry into the truth of the statements made in the letter, and I am satisfied of its substantial correctness. Representations have been also made to me by many of my constituents, which convinced me that they have been illegally, unjustly and unfairly dealt with. Capt. Archibald McNaughton, an old friend of my own, and a gentleman whose respectability and veracity cannot be questioned, corroborates all these statements. I have in my possession a letter written by Mr. Joseph Riopelle, in which he states that he thought he had some rights as a Canadian, but is now satisfied that a Canadian has no rights which a fishery officer is bound to respect. He states that he was driven from these grounds by a Dominion policeman, in a most insolent and offensive manner. Now, Sir, I agree with the gentleman who wrote to the *Aylmer Times*, that this has gone far enough, and that such illegal interference with the rights and privileges of my constituents can no longer be tolerated, and that the insolence of these officials shall be promptly rebuked by their superiors. We all thought that the functions of the Department were accurately defined by the name Marine and Fisheries, but it appears that they claim dominion, not only over the waters and the fish therein, but likewise the fowls of the air, and the *feræ naturæ*, the animals of the forest. Their motto should be: "*Per mare per terram.*" This is not the first time I have had to complain of the insolence and arrogance