

the statements which my hon. friend made are not only confirmed by observations which I have made myself, but they are even worse.

Mr. TUPPER. I do not think the hon. member for Prince (Mr. Perry) is well informed; but in order to meet the chief point which he made, that there was favouritism, I can assure him that if he will give me the information he mentioned, when he said that people had violated the laws, I will see that everybody is prosecuted, and that will test the question whether there is favouritism, or that it is done, as he intimates, with the sanction of the Fisheries Department. I undertake that if he will supply me with specific information, which he says he has, of violations of the lobster regulations in Prince County or anywhere else, I will place it in the department and proceedings will be taken.

Mr. PERRY. It is not my business to give information to the department, but it is the duty of the department to find it out.

Mr. TUPPER. The hon. gentleman said he had important information, and he should let the department have it.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) I suppose that, when a member representing the county states that he has information that a number of packers are fishing illegally, the Minister will telegraph the inspector that such representations have been made in the House and insist on the inspector taking means to stop it.

Mr. McMULLEN. It is worth while spending a little time discussing this item under consideration, and to offer that criticism it deserves. It appears that the steamer *Dream* is rented at an amount yearly that represents almost her entire cost, \$3,600. When we note the fact that we spent last year \$8,240 in keeping Mr. Thorne dancing round with a little boat professedly protecting the fisheries, it is the duty of the Opposition to closely criticize the item and ferret out the reason why that man is favoured—for it must be a favour—in this way.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the amount?

Mr. McMULLEN. \$8,240 was the entire expense of the boat. It is so stated in C-127 of the Auditor General's Report.

Mr. TUPPER. That covers more than twelve months. The exact amount for the year is \$787.88.

Mr. McMULLEN. We will call it \$8,000.

Mr. FOSTER. We will not say that \$8,000 were paid to Mr. Thorne, because it would not be true.

Mr. McMULLEN. We will call it that amount as expense for operating the boat.

Mr. FOSTER. \$8,000 were not paid to Mr. Thorne to keep him dancing round for fisheries protection.

Mr. McMULLEN. It is true he got his rent, and all that was necessary in connection with running the boat down to the wages from the Dominion treasury. In that way there was, between rent and expenses, the sum of \$8,000 expended last year.

Mr. FOSTER. He does not touch a cent of it.

Mr. McMULLEN. Am I to believe the Auditor General's Report or the Minister? I prefer taking

the Auditor General's Report, for my experience is that I am more likely thereby to reach the truth than by taking the statement of any hon. gentleman across the House.

Mr. FOSTER. You would not like to censure any one?

Mr. McMULLEN. I do not consider I am censuring anyone, and I am only stating what I, in my experience, believe to be the truth. It is quite clear that that money has been spent on that boat. It has been stated by my hon. friend, and no doubt correctly, that the value of the boat is, perhaps, \$3,600, or a year's rent. What position does this favoured individual occupy in St. John? I have heard it stated that he is president of the Conservative Association of that city. Perhaps that explains the whole matter. If that is the position, and if, in order to keep that association in a flourishing condition, it is desirable to spend on a boat of that kind the sum of money we annually expend on it, that fact may explain the whole thing. The owner, certainly, was not dreaming when he rented the *Dream* for a certain amount; he was wide awake. The Government must have been dreaming when they allowed themselves to accept a contract for running a small boat for \$3,600 a year, professedly for the protection of the fisheries, and furnishing everything for the purpose of running it. Items of this kind should be dispensed with; we should agree to cut off such expenditures. There is no necessity for them, and whenever we strike a matter of this kind it is usual to find in it some political reason. It is done for a political purpose, for the purpose of keeping some person in a condition so that he can render very valuable services to hon. gentlemen opposite. I say if there is a reason of that kind the country has no right to pay for a little boat carrying 25 or 30 tons, \$3,600 a year and paying a lot of money outside. It cannot be a very large vessel, for I see an anchor was rented for it at \$4 a year. It must be a small institution when an anchor of that kind was quite sufficient to keep her in her place. It is quite clear in the face of the statements that have been made, that there is something wrong about this thing, and the Minister should not be deluded by a dream of this kind into spending so much money.

Mr. FOSTER. I would be sorry to see a statement of that kind go on *Hansard* and be a matter of record, in the shape in which it was placed before the House. My hon. friend (Mr. McMullen) says that he prefers taking the Auditor General's Report to the word of the Minister. That is a mere matter of taste; but I should imagine other gentlemen on the other side of the House would be somewhat anxious to keep within the lines of what was really true and in accordance with the facts. It is a fact that the *Dream* is rented, and that the rent which is paid to the owners—not the owner, but the owners—of the boat is \$300 per month, and if my hon. friend had stated that he would have stated the truth.

Mr. TUPPER. That includes repairs.

Mr. FOSTER. Yes, that rental includes repairs. It is to be borne in mind by the Committee, that when a sum of \$300 per month is paid for that vessel, it means that the owners keep her in perfect repair year in and year out. That is true, but when my hon. friend, for whatever purpose,