

we see rich gentlemen and societies trying to preserve the rivers for themselves to fish in for sport; I do not approve of that at all. In this country I would like to see the streams and the rivers open to all the people, so that they can go out and catch a salmon or catch a trout whenever they want to. I do not want to see the rivers locked up by a few wealthy men, and all the rest of the people prevented from catching a mess of trout, because these fresh-water fish do not come into the market. Latterly this new system of things has sprung up, so that rich men own streams, and companies are formed who own streams, and the Local Governments control them—the Dominion Government control them, or protect them at any rate, and give them the young fish to stock these rivers, while the people have got to stand aside and look on and see the rich man enjoy the sport. The masses of the people do not go there for sport; they go to get fish for food purposes, and they are prevented by this new custom that has sprung up. With regard to the protection of fisheries, I think a great deal too much effort has been put forth in that direction. I do not believe that the fisheries are going to be depleted; I do not believe it is in the power of people to exhaust the fish in the ocean. They increase so rapid that it is impossible to exhaust the herring especially, and, as I said before, the herring are the food for all the other fish in the sea. Members here talk frequently about the water becoming polluted in the Atlantic Ocean. How are you going to pollute the waters in the Atlantic Ocean? Why, the natural scavengers that are in the ocean eat up all the offal and the dead fish before they get to the bottom. There are all kinds of fish in the ocean, and they eat all sorts of food, and the offal does not go to make the water impure or to kill the fish. It is all a myth, all a sham, and all a humbug.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) I wish to call attention to the *Dream*, which has been referred to by my hon. friend. She is in the service of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and Mr. Thorne, the gentleman in whose name she is leased for the Fishery Department, I think, ought to be exonerated from personally appropriating to himself the very large and enormous profits which he derives from leasing this boat. He receives \$3,600 a year, and I have been told by a gentleman, within the last three weeks, that if she was not under charter to the hon. gentleman she would at once be sold.

Mr. TUPPER. No; we asked him if he wanted to sell it.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Mr. Thorne is a shrewd business man, and would not sell what is giving him \$3,600 a year. I want to call attention to the fact that \$3,600 a year does not, by any means, represent what that little toy costs this country. If the hon. gentleman will turn to the Auditor General's Report he will find that the total cost of the boat is \$8,240. In addition to paying \$3,600 for the charter to W. H. Thorne we pay about \$4,640 for running this little boat—say a total cost of \$8,240. I would advise the Minister to buy him out or give up the charter. It is very well to have a joke over this matter, but it is rather too serious. I have been told by some gentlemen from St. John that one year's charter is more than the value of the whole boat, and if that is so, this is, on a small scale, a small outrage. Now, I want to say one word re-

Mr. GILLMOR.

specting the remarks made by the hon. member for Prince County (Mr. Perry). He states that the extension of the time for lobster fishing, which was extended beyond the 15th of July to the first of August, has been taken advantage of by these people, and that they are actually fishing up to this moment. Now, that is unfair in the interest of these lobster packers, and it is unfair to the general public besides. The hon. gentleman spoke of a representation made by a certain number of lobster packers against these people being allowed to continue to fish beyond the proper season, on the ground that it would impair and lower the value of the fish.

Mr. TUPPER. Their telegram mentioned that.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) I do not wonder at it; I do not wonder at their protesting. I want to point out to the hon. gentleman that the fish caught at this season—and I am speaking now with reference to the Prince Edward Island shores, of which I know something from the lobster packers—the fish caught at this season of the year are of a very inferior quality. The lobster is not a fit fish in August to be caught and packed, and the result is that the quality of the fish put on the market is so much inferior to the first-class fish we catch during the proper season the value of the catch is more or less affected. I have no doubt that is one of the reasons why the packers object to that being done. I do not place as much confidence in the rules of the department with respect to the size of the fish as I do with respect to the time during which the fishing should continue. How do the larger packers fish? A gentleman has a large factory and considerable money invested in it. He employs men in his neighbourhood, from 10 to 100, who go out in their own boats and catch the lobsters and bring them in. Very often they have a few lobsters under size. But I say it is not to the interests of the large packers to catch small-sized lobsters.

Mr. TUPPER. In one case we took 300 under 4 inches at a factory just as they were being packed.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) That statement is an important one. I assert, however, that it is not their interest to do it, but they cannot help it. The men go and catch the lobsters and take some small ones; and it is prejudicial to the owners of the factories to be constantly harassed by officers going to the factories to look at the size of the fish. This would not be necessary if the lobster packers understood that the department was determined that there should be a close season, and that on a particular day the factories should close down. But the lobster packers only laugh about the matter, and they do not believe there is a close season. They are fishing to the detriment of the industry and to the destruction of the quality of our fish in the markets to which they are sent. I know of nothing calculated to impair the high reputation which Prince Edward Island fish bear in the markets of the world than to permit those men to fish at this improper time, and send improperly-canned fish abroad to compete with the splendid fish we take and can at the proper season. Lobster packers should understand that the department mean business, and that when the time is up no political influence would be allowed to prevail to extend the season up to the middle of August, as it is now. I fear very great injury will be done, and