

ceiving the bounty, at the manner in which it has been distributed; I speak more especially of my own county. I am well aware that the bounty which was granted in 1882 was only distributed last fall, and that a large portion has not yet been distributed. I was approached by several fishermen shortly before I left home, who declared to me that they had sent in applications, and had never received any bounty whatever, and they said that several others who had made application had received their bounty. I think there is something wrong in regard to the distribution. I may state that it has not been the same even in all the counties of Prince Edward Island. Although the distribution only took place last fall, in King's County, in Prince county it took place last spring. At that time there was an election going on for the Local Legislature, and immediately before the election took place a distribution took place for that county. I think it is wrong that the fishery bounty which was to have been used for the benefit of the fishermen should have been used to make votes either one way or the other. Another point to which I direct the attention of the Minister is that when these fishermen make application for the bounty there are no forms to be had. I remember last summer and fall that the fishermen came to the sub-collector in the village where I live, and the usual reply was made that he had run out of forms. Another point is that the sub-collector in my village carries on a mercantile business; and I understand that according to the regulations of the Customs Department he should not do so. I do not bring this to the attention of the Minister from any personal feeling, but this gentleman who is in every way capable of acting as sub-collector is in the habit of selling goods, and the first thing which is kept out of the fisherman's bounty are the bills which they owe to this gentleman. I do not think that should be the case.

Mr. McLELAN. What is his name?

Mr. McINTYRE. Michael Foley.

Mr. BOWELL. That is at Souris?

Mr. McINTYRE. Yes. By Order-in-Council last fall the fishermen were directed to send in their claims before the end of 1883. The fishermen complied with that direction, as far as they possibly could; but when they applied for forms, the same objection was made as before—there were no forms; and up to this time there are dozens of fishermen in that section of the country who have not received blank forms, although the time for receiving them has expired. There ought to be a more simple method, it appears to me, of distributing this bounty than the method now pursued. It places too much power in the hands of sub-collectors. A man who has taken the proper amount of fish required, may claim the bounty, and he is to be put off on one pretext or another. I understand there are instances of some cases of men having been induced to send in claims in order to get the bounty when they had really no right to receive it, not having taken the full quantity of fish required. So far as I could learn, I know of only one case in my section of the country, of a fisherman not having taken a sufficient quantity of fish to entitle him to the bounty and who nevertheless received it. Another matter that bears very heavily on the fishermen of Prince Edward Island is the regulation in regard to the length of the boat which declares that the length must not be less than fourteen feet keel. This a very great hardship to our fishermen. There is a large section of our coast along which there is no harbor, and the fishermen are consequently obliged to haul their boats every night and every morning, so that they find the boats under fourteen feet keel the most convenient. It appears to me that the

essential ground for this bounty is the quantity of fish caught; it does not matter whether they are taken on a raft or in a basket, so long as the required quantity is taken. It would be a great misfortune to our fishermen if they were obliged to use boats so large and bulky that they could not handle them. There are not many regular fishermen on that coast; most of them till the soil as well as fish. There is another point to which I wish to direct the attention of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries—a point which affects many other counties as well as my own. Certificates have been rejected sometimes for no other reason, that I know of except some informality in filling them. I know of several instances of hardship which have resulted from errors of this kind. I know of one case in which two men were fishing in a boat which was supposed to return 25 cwt. of fish, and they put that quantity down for the boat, when it was really the quantity caught by each. I believe several cases of this kind have occurred. I think it would be an act of generosity on the part of the Minister to inquire into the cases of these people, as most of them are poor, and, if possible, to grant the bounty to those who, from ignorance or the want of some formality in filling up the forms, have forfeited it.

Mr. MACDONALD (Kings, P. E. I.) I do not altogether agree with my hon. colleague that there should be a simpler method of granting this bounty. On the contrary, I think we ought to restrict the method, because I believe instances have occurred in which people secured the bounty by going to their next neighbour, who might be a justice of the peace, and getting him to give them a certificate. I think every fisherman should be obliged to go to some sub-collector or officer under his jurisdiction, and make a proper affirmation before he gets the bounty. If that were done, it would prevent a great deal of the fraud which now takes place. It is proper that the fishermen who fish should get the bounty. But it should be seen that those who are not entitled to it should not get it. With respect to the length of boat, I agree to some extent with what the hon. gentleman has said. Our fishermen pursue their work on a coast where there are few harbours, and they have to haul their boats night and morning. Although their boats are small, they carry on deep sea-fishing. I know of several cases of hardship in which fishermen have been shut off from the bounty because their boats were only twelve or thirteen feet keel. An hon. member has referred to the sub-collector of Souris; but I venture to say that the Minister of Customs has not a more efficient or faithful officer in his service in any of the Provinces; and if the sub-collector has a small business besides, it is a legitimate one, and does not interfere with his duties as collector. I am satisfied that any returns made under him have been properly carried out, and that he has seen that men making returns for fishery bounties have made a proper affirmation. Now, I wish to impress upon the Minister the absolute necessity of more strictness in regard to the granting of these bounties. I would suggest that some person in each locality—either the Collector of Customs or some one else—should receive a small fee for seeing that the regulations are properly carried out. If that were done, it would prevent much of the fraud that takes place. I have never heard any complaints of blanks running out, and if they did, the sub-collector could easily write forms suitable for the purpose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. I must say this discussion is entirely out of order as there is no question before the Committee on which a general question can arise. I allowed the hon. gentlemen to proceed because I did not wish to draw the rule too strictly, but I cannot allow the discussion to proceed further.