

"Letter No. 2 states that this answer does not convey the information desired, and puts an entirely different question relative to a place which is assumed to be, but is *not* within the limits, and is known to be private property; and also asks if any person 'shooting snipe' thereon will be turned off by a policeman or other official of the Department.

"Answered, apologising if the reply failed to convey the information desired, and adding that the places to which his notes referred are not within the limits described. Also explaining at length the necessity for excluding the general public from places used in connection with fish-breeding.

"Letter No. 3 puts the same questions in a different shape, applying the enquiry as to persons shooting snipe 'on any of the marshes or bays on the Ottawa river,' being subject to interference by a Government policeman or other official under orders of the Department.

"Answered, that the rule adopted at all the fish-breeding places in the Dominion prevented strangers from using the premises without authority. Manifestly no answer was needed as affects any other of the places named, as it had been already stated in my first letter that they were private property, and could be used only by consent of the owners, with whom public officers (as such) had no connection. Besides, the shooting was not anywhere controlled by this Department.

"Letter No. 4 pronounces this civil and sufficient answer impertinent, and styles my previous replies officious evasions. They were written during your absence and in your name; this being the ordinary mode of conducting the office correspondence under official sanction. No answer was necessary. Meanwhile the two gentlemen whose 'case' Mr. Cockburn had in view made their statement and received explanations. One of them was satisfied; the other said he had consulted Mr. Cockburn and threatened a law-suit. The instance referred to proved to have been an entirely private affair, which occurred some four miles away from where the Government guardian is located, and outside of any reservation, as Mr. Cockburn admits. Knowing of the threatened law-suit by Mr. Cockburn's client, I was the more cautious in answering his enquiries; and it now seems to me that it is not because, as he pretends, the proper information was withheld, but because he did not elicit such replies as would commit either the Department, a policeman or myself, and afford some foundation for the intended suit."

MR. COCKBURN (West Northumberland): What is the hon. gentleman reading?

MR. PATTERSON (Essex) stated that he desired to justify the conduct of the official whose conduct had been under discussion. He read extracts from the official correspondence between Mr. Whitcher and the head of the Department and others upon the subject.

MR. COCKBURN asked if the hon.

MR. PATTERSON.

gentleman was reading from a printed paper.

MR. PATTERSON: Yes.

MR. COCKBURN (West Northumberland): Does the hon. gentleman, to whom the letter which is now being read was addressed, know that this official correspondence has been printed by Mr. Whitcher for the use of his friends outside of the Department? I think this is a very irregular course, and one which should at once be condemned by this House. The hon. gentleman is reading from a printed paper, which is a copy of the one addressed to the Minister. That paper has been printed by Mr. Whitcher for private use in this House, before the motion has been granted and before the papers have been ordered by this House to be made public.

MR. MACKENZIE: This cannot go any further. If the hon. gentleman is reading from papers belonging to the Fishery Department, and which have not been laid before this House, it is quite irregular. We are all as much entitled to these papers as he is. I ask the right hon. the First Minister to interfere.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: The interruption of the hon. member for West Northumberland (Mr. Cockburn) is quite irregular. The hon. gentleman who has the floor was reading some papers; when he is through we can judge. We can judge whether the Department of Marine and Fisheries has given documents out improperly, or for improper publication. The hon. gentleman can read any paper he likes. We can judge what it is when he gets through.

MR. COCKBURN: He has stated what he is reading.

MR. MACKENZIE: I understood him to say so.

MR. PATTERSON: I did not obtain it from the Department of Marine and Fisheries.

MR. COCKBURN: I have asked the hon. gentleman if he was reading a paper containing the remarks addressed by Mr. Whitcher to the hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries; and he has admitted that he was reading a copy of an official document, which is one of the papers I have asked this House to order to be laid on the Table. It has been printed, as I am informed, for the use of the members without the knowledge of his