

MR. MITCHELL said foreign schooners came in there and took away oysters indiscriminately, without any authority or permit to do so.

MR. SPEAKER said he believed, on the contrary, that the people in the neighbourhood sold them at a cheap rate to the schooners.

MR. COSTIGAN said it would be a great boon if a fish-pass was erected in the river St. John. It might be urged that the Grand Falls might prove a serious obstacle, but to this he would reply that a channel had been already blasted out there for another purpose, and that by an expenditure of from \$1,000 to \$2,000 a perfect fish-pass could be obtained. Another matter to which he would refer, was a claim made by a man named Violet, who, about four years ago, was shot by an official in the employ of the Government, for an alleged trespass. This poor man had been obliged to sell land, home and furniture, to pay doctors' bills, and the fact that the Government still retained the person, who committed the act, in their employment, was a sufficient reason why the claim should be preferred against them. When the matter was formerly before the House the justice of the claim was admitted by members on both sides; he would like to know whether the hon. Minister had made up his mind on the subject.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH said the Government saw no reason to alter their decision. The case might be a very hard one, but he wondered that the officer had not been charged with a criminal offence if he was culpable.

MR. COSTIGAN said that if the case was such that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries recommended criminal proceedings against this officer, the Government certainly ought not to retain him in their employment.

MR. MITCHELL wished to know on whose recommendation changes in the fishery regulations had been made in his county.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH said the changes had been made in compliance with a numerous signed petition, which he had no objection to submit to the hon. gentleman.

Vote agreed to.

MR. SPEAKER.

XVI. SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS.

133. Observatory Quebec.....\$2,400

MR. MITCHELL said it was very extraordinary that in this Department the superannuation tax should be paid by the Government instead of the officers.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH: It is always paid, I understand.

MR. MITCHELL: It was not paid in my time.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH: I believe it is deducted from the officers' salary, but I will make enquiries.

Vote agreed to.

134. Observatory, Toronto..... \$4,800

MR. MITCHELL: There is the same objection in this item. If it is found that this superannuation tax is paid out of the Public Treasury, I think the officers in other Departments should be placed on the same footing.

Vote agreed to.

135. Observatory, Kingston.....	\$500
136. do Montreal.....	500
137. do New Brunswick	850
138. Grant for Meteorological Observatories, including instruments and cost of telegraphing weather-warnings	37,000

MR. LANGEVIN said that he considered this was \$37,000 for a very small thing, and he should like to know the practical benefit to the country.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH said the service had been of great public service in giving indications of coming storms; and, as to the cost, it was certainly a large sum, but he was pressed constantly for more money for this service.

MR. LANGEVIN said he was glad that the hon. Minister had not conceded a larger amount this year, and would suggest that an attempt be made at reduction.

MR. MITCHELL said he believed the service, when in proper working order and properly conducted, would be of great benefit to this country. He believed that to the maritime interests, to say nothing of the farming interest, it would be of great service. The United States service, on which this had been modelled, required a vote of something