

mother fish. Professor Baird spoke very strongly with regard to these pounds, which projected out so freely along the shores. He said this system had destroyed the fisheries of the United States, and would destroy our fisheries. No regulation regarding trawls would be of much service, because three miles from our shores the Americans and other foreigners would still be at liberty to fish.

MR. MACKAY (Cape Breton) said the position he took was this: that, during the months of May, June and July a close season should be established, so that these said fish—and he spoke particularly in reference to cod-fish—should be enabled to spawn. If the hon. member for Yarmouth would glance at the large number of petitions from the Province of Nova Scotia upon this matter, he would see that the average catch of fish there had been reduced to one-half, and the fishermen ascribed this to the use of trawls along the coasts.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH said there was certainly a great difference of opinion as to the effect of trawls. Professor Baird, for instance, thought trawl-fishing did no injury whatever; on the western part of Nova Scotia the fishermen themselves thought it was no harm; but, on the eastern coast, they thought it was destructive. It would be useless to stop trawl fishing, or to adopt a close season, when they would be inoperative beyond the three-mile limit. He had copies of the correspondence on the subject, and would lay it on the table.

MR. MITCHELL said he agreed with the hon. the Minister of Fisheries, and believed that five-sixths of the fish taken was beyond the three-mile limit, and, consequently, beyond their jurisdiction.

*Motion agreed to.*

#### COW BAY BREAKWATER.

##### MOTION FOR RETURN.

MR. McDONALD (Cape Breton) moved for a copy of return of expenditure, in detail, of money expended on the breakwater at Cow Bay for the year 1877; giving the names of all

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persons who performed any work on that breakwater, stating the amount of wages paid each person per day; also the quantity of timber purchased, and the price paid for it, and to whom; also salary, commission, or wages of Superintendent of Work, and vouchers for payment.

*Motion agreed to.*

#### VALUATORS EMPLOYED ON INTER-COLONIAL RAILWAY.

##### MOTION FOR STATEMENT.

MR. LANGEVIN, for MR. ROY, moved for a statement shewing the names of the valutors employed on the line of the Intercolonial Railway, in the counties of Temiscouata and Rimouski, for the purchase of lands, the amount of damages assessed; the period of time during which such valutors were employed and the salary paid to each of them in the several cases.

*Motion agreed to.*

It being Six o'clock the Speaker left the Chair.

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#### After Recess.

#### STAMPS ON PROMISSORY NOTES BILL.—

[BILL No. 4.]

(*Mr. Irving.*)

##### THIRD READING.

House again *resolved* itself into Committee of the Whole on the said Bill.

(In the Committee.)

MR. BLAIN asked, how it was that a Bill of this kind, which affected the revenue of the country, was in the hands of a private member. It seemed to him that it was in violation of the 54th clause of the British North America Act, and of the Rules of the House.

MR. GUTHRIE said that it had been explained by the hon. member for Hamilton (*Mr. Irving*), who had introduced the Bill, that certain anomalies had been found in practice in regard to the Stamp Act, and this Bill was introduced for the purpose of removing certain doubts. He (*Mr.*