

pound. I trust the Government will be able to give me the information asked for by this motion, and that, in addition, they will pay some little attention to the manner in which the fishery statistics are collected, so that they may be more reliable in the future than they have proved to be in the past.

Mr. MILLS. I think this subject is deserving of the serious consideration of the Government. I dare say that we have all read the communications in relation to these statistics which have appeared from time to time from Professor Hind since the award of the arbitrators was made, calling attention to the unreliable character of the statistics collected by the Department of Marine and Fisheries. No one who has taken the trouble of looking into these statistics since these communications have appeared, can fail to see that they are wholly valueless, and that no reliance can be placed upon them, either as to the quantity of fish caught or the value which is placed upon those consumed at home or sent abroad. At the present time this matter is a very serious one. We all know that the period of time for which, according to the award made by the Commissioners at Halifax, the Treaty of Washington has to run will soon have expired. The whole subject will come up again for consideration unless otherwise disposed of between the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of the United States, and it is of the last importance that when we are called upon to go into the discussion of this subject again with the authorities of the United States, the information which would be available should be wholly reliable. This is not the case at present, and when the papers now asked for are brought down it is to be hoped that the Government will be prepared to communicate to the House the steps they have taken, or propose to take for the purpose of correcting the errors which have hitherto existed in regard to the matter.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Of course, when the papers are brought down, the Government, with those papers before them, will be prepared to discuss the whole subject, on motion, after due notice of what the subject is, and the ground of attack. I am not at all prepared to say that the returns which are made to the department are incorrect, because Professor Hinde has said so, and I think, when the hon. gentleman sees the papers, he will agree with me. If he had, he would see, from that statement itself, that the information we have before us contained in these statistics, is reliable information.

Motion agreed to.

MAJOR-GENERAL LUARD.

Mr. DESJARDINS, in moving for a copy of the correspondence with the Imperial Government in relation to the appointment of Major-General Luard as Commanding Officer of the Militia of Canada, said: Before moving the motion I desire to make a few remarks in order to explain its particular object. It is simply this: That in 1875, when the position of Deputy Adjutant-General was replaced by that of Commanding Officer, it was not well explained at the time what was to be the character and extent of the duties of this officer. In fact, the law itself does not make it plain whether section 28, which says that "an officer holding the rank of colonel, or superior rank thereto, in Her Majesty's regular army, shall be charged, under the orders of Her Majesty, with military command, &c." is to prevail over section 29, and whether this officer is to be considered as being under the immediate orders of Her Majesty, that is to say, receiving his instructions from British headquarters, or whether he is merely an officer dependent on our Department of Militia, as section 29 would seem to imply:

"The Governor in Council shall, from time to time, make such orders as may be necessary respecting the duties to be performed by the officer commanding the militia and others."

Mr. ROBERTSON (Shelburne).

This uncertainty exists in the public mind, and I am not sure but that it exists in the minds of those who are from time to time called upon to perform this duty. I would not be surprised if they were under the impression that they came here rather as military governors, having no connection with anybody but Her Majesty or her representative, and with the power of treating our Ministers somewhat as subalterns; do these high personages understand that they are salaried officers under the orders of the Minister of Militia? I believe that if this question could be settled, if explanations could be given so as to satisfy public opinion upon this point, a certain uneasiness which now exists would disappear, and it would be so much the better for our military organization. I remember that when this measure was brought up objection was taken to the first clause that I have alluded to, because it was thought that the exclusion of all but officers holding a superior rank in the British army would virtually shut off, from this very enviable position for a military man, our most competent officers, who, by their sacrifices, their special studies, had, perhaps, a right to expect more encouragement from the Government. Objection was also made that the choice of an officer unacquainted with our institutions and with the particular character of our diverse bodies of volunteers, over which he would have to exercise some control, might bring about unpleasantness, perhaps for himself, but more particularly for the volunteers. Now I am inclined to believe that the experience of the last five years has shown that these objections were pretty well taken; that these officers, after having, perhaps, served in the colonies of Africa and Asia, were apt to consider those whom they had the right to command here, as natives of these colonies. They were also apt to ignore the special rights that some classes of our population may possess. Thus, for instance, the newspapers of our Province reported lately—and I have seen no contradiction of the statement—that the present commanding officer, on receiving from a French Canadian officer, a letter written in French, had seen fit to send it cavalierly back, writing in a corner: "Please translate in English," implying thereby that in the communications between our volunteers and the Department of Militia or the commanding officer, the English language was alone allowed, and that in one of our departments we must submit to seeing our language put in the back ground. I deem it necessary to draw the attention of the Government to this incident, if already it has not been done, for it is important to know what treatment our French Canadian fellow countrymen, who offer their services to the country, are to expect from superior officers brought here from England to command our militia. Under these circumstances, in order to dispel all doubt, and in order to know exactly whether we have to deal with an Imperial officer directly dependent on the British army, or with an officer who is to receive his orders and the explanation of his duties from one of the departments of the Federal Government, I thought it my duty to move for these papers.

Mr. CARON. I am exceedingly happy to give my hon. friend all the information he asks for by this motion. I can state, in the first place, that the commanding Major-General is a Colonial officer, chosen among the Imperial officers, but receiving his instructions from the Government of Canada. In making his motion, my hon. friend has drawn the attention of the House to the fact that the choice of a British officer, of an Imperial officer, to command the forces here, would have the result of excluding Canadian officers from the high position that the British officers occupy in Canada. Well, Mr. Speaker, if we take into consideration the circumstances that brought about the appointment of the first General who came here to replace the former Adjutant-Generals that we had in the country, it will be readily admitted that in changing our system, as we were then doing, we could not do better than to ask for an Imperial officer to come and train up officers amongst us. The new