

addition, the Overseer for New Brunswick had the spawning grounds, the gurry grounds, and numerous other duties to attend to, involving a great deal of travel, trouble and labour. The average salaries of Fishery Officers for the different Provinces were: 115 officers in Quebec, averaging yearly, \$246; 87 in Ontario, \$216; 285 in Nova Scotia, \$72; 115 in New Brunswick, \$104; 38 in Prince Edward Island, \$33. He (Mr. Gillmor) was unacquainted with the duties of these officers in Ontario, and there might exist reasons for this difference, but he was sure no such difference existed in Quebec, and he wanted the hon. Minister to explain the reason why it existed, and if no good reason existed, to have justice done. If the officers in the Maritime Provinces were fairly paid, which he did not believe, then Quebec and Ontario officers were largely over-paid.

SIR SAMUEL L. TILLEY said that the hon. member from Charlotte (Mr. Gillmor) in 1874 had removed an officer in his county and put several others in, thereby increasing the expense.

MR. GILLMOR said the hon. the Finance Minister had made an unfortunate reference for his Government. In 1872 he was a candidate for a seat in this Parliament. At that election a Fishery Officer, B. Cunningham, had supported him. He was defeated, and Cunningham was removed, for political reasons only, as no charge was ever preferred against him. He had at that time a salary not exceeding \$50 per annum. Mr. Andrews was appointed to fill his place at a salary of \$200 a year, with travelling expenses, which, he thought, amounted to \$50 more. In 1874 he (Mr. Gillmor) was the successful candidate and advised that Mr. Andrews should be removed and Cunningham reinstated, which was done, but he did not receive the salary which Mr. Andrews got, but went in at his old salary, since raised somewhat. The removal of Mr. Andrews was not a pleasant duty, but justice to Cunningham demanded it.

MR. MCKAY said he wished before the item for Fish breeding, Fishways and Oyster Beds was carried to refer to the lease of an oyster bed in his county. It was leased in 1867 under certain conditions, and the terms of that lease were

never carried out. Ever since this lease had been granted, the farmers had been deprived of the use of the mussle mud which they used to get there, and which was very valuable and much sought after, being carried many miles inland whenever it could be got. The person holding the lease had never expended any money on the cultivation of oysters; and this mud was thought of so much importance by the people of Prince Edward Island, that application was made for reduced railway rates to carry this mud inland. Yet, the people of his county were deprived of the use of it, simply because the holder of the lease, like the dog in the manger, will not use it himself nor allow any person else to use it. The people of his county thought it a great injustice that the lease should be continued.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: For what term is the lease?

MR. MCKAY: It is for eighteen years. There is no reason why it should be continued. The papers were laid on the Table three years ago, but nothing has been done. An examination of these papers will show that the lease should be cancelled.

MR. POPE (Queen's, P. E. I.) said the lease on the property referred to was granted by the Local Government, and therefore he could not see how the Dominion Government or the Department of Marine and Fisheries could deprive the lessee of such a lease.

MR. MCKAY said it was leased before Confederation by the Local Government, but, after Confederation, it was found the lease was valueless, and required the sanction of the Federal Government, and so the necessary form was gone through to make it a lease from this Government.

MR. POPE (Queen's, P.E.I.) said he would make enquiries.

MR. BORDEN said four officers in the Fisheries had been dispensed with in King's County, without a word of explanation as to why they were dismissed.

MR. POPE (Queen's, P.E.I.) said they were discharged because they were reported as thoroughly useless, and would not attend to their duties.

MR. ANGLIN: They voted on the wrong side, perhaps.

MR. BORDEN: On whose report were they discharged?

MR. POPE (Queen's, P.E.I.) said if