

opportunity for making a halt before asking Parliament for a sum sufficient to enable me to put that place in order.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.). The hon. gentleman said he did not intend to apply for more money because fish hatcheries were very expensive, and the distribution of fry could be made from other fish hatcheries.

Mr. TUPPER. And the results were not very satisfactory.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.). Is the hon. gentleman prepared to say that one hatchery would supply all the wants of the Island?

Mr. TUPPER. It is claimed now that our hatcheries are not large enough, and are not as large as those hatcheries built in the United States.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.). Still you are going to supply all the Dominion with fry.

Mr. TUPPER. We are going to supply all we can.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.). Then I understand we are going to suffer.

Mr. KIRK. Does the hon. gentleman find from the reports of his overseers that fish, such as salmon, are more abundant in the streams in consequence of the artificial propagation of fish?

Mr. TUPPER. There has no doubt been a decrease in the capture of salmon in late years. There are many causes to account for this; but the argument of those who speak with authority on the subject is that the decline would have been tenfold, or a thousandfold greater except for the valuable aid given by the fish hatcheries.

Mr. ELLIS. There was a statement published in a Miramichi newspaper that a few days after the deposit of a large quantity of fry in that vicinity there were large quantities in the water dead.

Mr. TUPPER. That occurs everywhere; some of the fry never reach any size or maturity. That even occurs with ordinary spawn.

Mr. KIRK. We ought soon to be able to tell whether this large expenditure on fish hatcheries is of any advantage or not. I have always supported the expenditure, and I am not opposing it now. The Minister of Justice has undertaken to propagate fish in a stream in his county, where, in a few years, the question will be thoroughly tested. If the fish can be propagated in that stream, where the Minister of Justice has built a fish-way, it will be evidence of the value of the work; but if there is a failure there, and I am watching it very closely, there will be failure anywhere.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.). In regard to the item of \$100,000 for fishery protection steamers and vessels, I desire to ask whether the Minister thinks it necessary, now that we are again to have this year the *modus vivendi* to keep all these war steamers in commission?

Mr. TUPPER. We had the *modus vivendi*, in operation last year.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.). You had the cruisers.

Mr. TUPPER. We have not settled on the number of cruisers required this year, and I may say that none of them were chartered for more than one season. We are asking the same sum from Parliament, but it is a matter of precaution. We may not expend the whole of it.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.). Is it the intention to charter as many vessels?

Mr. TUPPER. I think we can do with a smaller number of sailing craft, if the present intention of the Government in connection with the utilisation of the *Stanley* is carried out.

Mr. TUPPER.

Mr. JONES (Halifax). There is a cruiser called the *Charles Tupper*. I suppose she will be retained?

Mr. TUPPER. No; I am sorry to say she has gone to the Pacific Ocean.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.). I think we might dispense with half the number of cruisers.

Mr. PLATT. What proportion of this amount goes for the protection of the fisheries in inland waters?

Mr. TUPPER. This amount of \$100,000 is appropriated for those vessels which have been used in the protection of the fisheries, and we have at present a cruiser on the inland waters which is charged against this sum. It is for the protection of the very valuable fisheries in the great lakes and against poaching of every kind.

Mr. ROBERTSON. The hon. Minister has brought down a return, in response to a motion made by my colleague, with respect to fishing bounties paid on the Island. It was stated that some fishermen in Little Sands, whose names I gave to the Minister at that time, were refused their fishing bounties on account of having done lobster fishing, and that, therefore, they could not have been engaged in the deep sea fishing. I wish to state that all those gentlemen have sent me a statement in return denying positively that they fished for lobsters during 1886, and they are prepared to testify that on oath if the hon. Minister wishes it. They have sent me this memorial which I wish now to hand over to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. They point out that two parties who did fish for lobsters were paid their bounty while they who did not fish were not paid. I would ask the hon. the Minister to get his commissioner, Mr. Duvar, to go down to this section of the Island and hold an enquiry into this matter.

Mr. TUPPER. I will ascertain the best means to enquire thoroughly into this matter.

Mr. LISTER. I take this opportunity of bringing before the members of the Government a matter very deeply affecting that large and important class of people in this country, the fishermen, and a matter in which they are at the present moment very much interested indeed. It is not necessary for me to say that the fishermen of this country form a very large portion of the population, and constitute a great part of the wealth-producing population of the country. To prove the correctness of that statement I would refer hon. members to the returns in the census of 1881, the last official figures that I have been able to get. I find that, in 1881, there were taken in Canada, 1,130,720 quintals of cod; of haddock, hake and pollock 192,539 quintals, and 574,503 barrels of herring. I find that, according to the last Trade and Navigation Returns, we exported from Canada last year \$7,793,183 worth of fish. I find also according to these returns that the total of vessels engaged in the fishing industry in 1881, was 1,131; that there were men employed on those vessels to the number of 8,401; that there were fishing boats to the number of 30,427; men engaged on those fishing boats 51,603, and that there were 2,150,259 fathoms of net used. Hon. gentlemen will see from the statement I now make that there is an enormous sum of money invested in the business of fishing, and that there are many thousands of men engaged in that occupation, producing a very great amount of wealth and contributing a very large portion of the export trade of this country. Now, Sir, what I am particularly interested in is the exportation of the fresh fish of Canada, and more particularly so far as it relates to the fishermen of the Province of Ontario. From every Province in this Dominion, there is every year a large exportation of fresh fish to the United States. According to the Trade and Navigation Returns we imported from the United States last year only 1,914,138 pounds and we exported to the United States during that same time,