

built by the very men who were dismissed from the works at Moncton, and who, in the United States, were paid as high wages as ever they received at Moncton. I believe a large amount of rolling stock was imported last year, which, if it had been ordered in this country would have afforded employment to a large number of our people. A contract was given to Mr. Fleming, who, although he can build locomotives equal to any that can be imported, was not prepared to build them, as the hon. gentleman must know, with sufficient rapidity, to meet so extraordinary a demand, and, I think, he has not yet delivered all the locomotives contracted for.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. There is no objection at all to the motion being adopted, and I will have great pleasure in bringing down as early as possible all the information asked for in this motion. I may state, however, to the hon. gentleman that if there was any departure from the National Policy it was not because it was desired on the part of the Government, but because it was a matter of necessity. Every possible effort was made to secure the construction of this rolling stock—of these locomotives—in the Dominion, and it was supposed that the amount of duty imposed upon locomotives going into the Dominion, and which was added to the tenders of the parties outside, for they were required to deliver them in the Dominion, would be quite sufficient to accomplish that object. I might say it would have been sufficient, but from the fact that the National Policy had not been in operation long enough to furnish us with equipped machine shops and places at which locomotives could be rapidly and readily constructed according to the demands of traffic. Therefore, we were obliged, reluctantly, to go outside for the purchase of some of these locomotives through not being able to get contracts filled in the Dominion. The papers will be brought down and the matter will be fully reported.

Motion agreed to.

PICKLED FISH RETURN

Mr. ROBERTSON (Shelburne), in moving for copies of the returns furnished the Department of Marine and Fisheries for the present year by the Inspector or Deputy Inspectors of Pickled Fish for the County of Shelburne, together with a statement of the fees collected by the said officers, said: The object I have in making this motion is to draw the attention of the Minister of Inland Revenue to the manner in which the Inspection Act has been carried out in the county of Shelburne. The fact is, that the law as now enforced in Nova Scotia bears very heavily upon the mackerel fishery in this way: that the brand of our inspectors is of no value whatever in the American market. I also desire to point out to that hon. gentleman that his representative in that county last year visited one of the most important fishing stations in the county, and entered into an agreement with the packers by which they were to pack their own fish, not in his presence, as required by the law, and that afterwards the brand should be affixed. I trust that, in the course of a few weeks, when petitions will be presented to the House, asking for an amendment to this law, by which it shall not be compulsory to packers to submit their fish to the inspection when intended for the American market, the Government will adopt the proposed change.

Motion agreed to.

FINES IMPOSED BY FISHERY OFFICERS.

Mr. ROBERTSON (Shelburne), in moving for a return of all fines imposed by the Fishery officer of the county of Shelburne, upon whom, for what offence, and a copy of the evidence taken, furnished the Department in each case, said: I desire also to call the attention of the Government to the manner in which fines are imposed in the county of Shelburne by the gentleman who had been appointed to the office. I may say that that gentleman resides some 40 miles

from the principal lobster packing establishments in the county, that he visited the Wood's Harbor district after the 1st of August in the present year, and inflicted a fine upon the proprietors of the first establishment he visited, for violation of the law, after having inspected their fish. He made no inspection of the second, and the third was closed. What I object to is, not the imposition of the fine, but the manner in which the inspector undertakes to perform that part of his duty. I would suggest that in future he be instructed to inflict fines with impartiality whether the violators of the law be Liberals or Conservatives, instead of making the marked difference in favor of the latter which he has been in the habit of making in the past.

Motion agreed to.

FISHERY STATISTICS.

Mr. ROBERTSON (Shelburne) moved for a copy of the instructions issued by the Department of Marine and Fisheries to their officers throughout the Dominion as a guide in the collection of statistics as to the annual production of the fisheries, with copies of the forms used by said officers, and also, copies of the returns by districts furnished the department for the present year by the Fishery Officers of the county of Shelburne. He said: This is a matter of considerable importance. During the past summer, a gentleman in this city, connected with the Fisheries Department, addressed a letter to the *Toronto Globe*, in which he made statements that are deserving of the attention of the Government. He took the view that, after the fishery clauses of the Washington Treaty were abrogated, the people of the Maritime Provinces would not suffer much as the home consumption of fish and the sale in markets which can yet be found, would compensate them for the loss of the United States market. He based that information upon the statistics actually submitted to Parliament in the reports of the officers of the department. I have reason to believe that some of the most important documents bearing on this question, and laid on the Table of the House, are of little value. I find it quite impossible to obtain reliable statistics from these reports, and the motion which I now make is for the purpose of ascertaining the plan upon which those statistics are collected. The figures which I propose to submit to the House are taken from the return of last year, and they include three of the most important fisheries in the Maritime Provinces. With regard to the herring fisheries, I find that the total yield for the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island was 274,657 barrels; the total export only 108,339 barrels; the value of the total yield \$1,098,628, and the value of the quantity exported only \$380,378. I find that the total production of mackerel was 182,524 barrels, valued at \$1,188,532—an average price, according to the statistics, of \$6.51 per barrel. I find that the quantity said to have been exported was 576,474 barrels, at an average price, according to the Trade and Navigation Returns for that year, of \$4.45, instead of \$6.51, the price according to the statistics supplied by the Commissioner. The total production of codfish, pollock and haddock was 871,916 quintals, valued at \$3,548,365, or an average value of \$4.06. The quantity exported was 656,102 quintals, valued at \$2,505,229, or an average price of \$3.81. When we look back at the trade a few years ago we find that in 1874 there were imported into Nova Scotia 1,612,560 pounds of fresh mackerel from the United States. That certainly is a new business to me, and one of which we know nothing in the Maritime Provinces. In 1875, according to these returns, there were imported into Ontario 294,575 pounds of fresh cod; into Nova Scotia 19,325 pounds, and into New Brunswick 5,165, and, according to the Trade and Navigation Returns of that year, the average prices paid respectively for those quantities were 4½ cents, 11 cents and 18 cents per