

Mr. FORBES. Does the hon. gentleman intend confining his attempts to the County of Pictou entirely?

Mr. TUPPER. Yes; at present.

Mr. FORBES. I would submit, with all deference, that is hardly fair to the enterprise.

Mr. TUPPER. I know the locality will not please the hon. gentleman, but the principle is this: We have started with one hatchery, and it would be certainly unwise to experiment with more than one.

Mr. FORBES. I should imagine the best locality would be where the lobsters are either being depleted, as regards number or size, or where there are a large number of factories. On the south shore of Nova Scotia we have from ten to fifteen factories alone.

Mr. TUPPER. If the scheme is a success, the Government will be disposed to ask Parliament to extend the system into different districts where the lobster fishing is pursued. It has been started, and six million lobsters have been hatched out this season.

Mr. FORBES. Does the department intend locating the incubators around the shore?

Mr. TUPPER. The idea is to have the co-operation of the lobster factories. There will be very little trouble; as long as they take the supervision we will supply the incubator at very small cost. It is a flat box, and these will be given to the factories, which will take charge of them.

Mr. FORBES. Another thing is the enormous cost of the steamers and vessels mentioned in these estimates. It is put down as \$100,000 for these few schooners and a couple of steamers. I submit that is an extravagant figure for the small service they perform.

Mr. TUPPER. You must not leave out the steamers.

Mr. FORBES. There are only one or two.

Mr. TUPPER. There are four. There is the *Dream*—

Mr. FORBES. She is a dream, as far as we are concerned, for we never see her around our section.

Mr. TUPPER. You do not require her.

Mr. FORBES. Positively the reverse. American fishermen have been known to come well within the three-mile limit and drop their purse-seines.

Mr. TUPPER. The hon. gentleman is hardly fair. He quarrels with the amount of money required to support a certain number of vessels, and then he desires us to have more vessels.

Mr. FORBES. What I object to is, that the amount is extravagantly used.

Mr. TUPPER. Prove it.

Mr. FORBES. I will give an instance. In the localities where these watch-dogs are required they are never found when the enemy is approaching. The whole coast can be protected if the Government will take the matter in hand. The vessels are kept on the inland waters and further up the Gulf of St. Lawrence, instead of being kept on the south shore, where the American fishermen can speedily approach from the outside limits. When the guard boats are not around they slip into the Canadian waters in broad daylight, and in open view of our

Mr. TUPPER.

fishermen. I have no desire to cut down the service, but in view of the insufficient return given for this expenditure I think there must be a leak somewhere. There are not so many seizures made as formerly, and the law is not so vigorously enforced. The fishermen rightly own the inshore fisheries and are opposed to any illegal and unjust interference. No doubt, that is due to a desire on the part of the Government not to irritate the Americans: still, if on payment of the paltry amount of \$1.50 the American fishermen get almost equal privileges to our own, except as regards catching within the three-mile limit, our fisheries should be more carefully protected.

Mr. BOWERS. I have no complaint to find, as my hon. friend from Queen's has, with regard to the protection service. In St. Mary's Bay and the Bay of Fundy last fall, when the mackerel were in, the steamer *Dream* came over and did good work in keeping the American schooners out of the bay. I have nothing to find fault with in that respect. I would say to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries that I do not think this rule in regard to lobster fishing should be a cast-iron rule. I think that, in our counties of Digby, Annapolis, Yarmouth, and along there, there should be an extension of fifteen days in the time for catching lobsters, and that is not only my opinion, but the attention of the Minister of Marine has been called to it, I think, by Lieutenant Gordon in his report on that subject. It must be remembered that in the Bay of Fundy we have no weather permitting lobster traps to be set much before the middle of May, and in some places before the 1st of June. And sometimes in the month of May violent gales of wind set in, whereby most of the traps are lost. The lobsters caught in traps in the Baie des Chaleurs are canned, but ours are shipped alive to the American market, and in July they rise in price to 8 cents and 10 cents apiece, when our fishermen have been getting only 3½ cents to 5 cents apiece in the earlier part of the season. If they could fish for this fifteen days longer, the pecuniary profit to them during the first fifteen days of July would be as much as the profit during the whole month of June, and it would make no difference in the price of the factory lobsters, because there are only one or two factories in our county, and they can only catch the small lobsters ranging from 9 inches to 10½ inches. I hope the Minister will not make the size for saving any smaller than it is now. I think our fishermen as a general rule would like to have the size 10½ inches, as it is on the coast of Maine, and that all under that size should be thrown overboard. This they regard as all the protection that is needed.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I understand that among the vessels employed for the protection of the fishery is a vessel of the name of *Dream*, as to which I should like to have some information. If I am correctly informed, she is a steamer of 25 tons or 29 tons—I am not sure which—and a rental is paid for her of \$3,600 a year. She is rented, I believe, from a Mr. Thorne, who occupies the onerous position of President of the Conservative Association down there somewhere.

Mr. FOSTER. Yes; he is a first-rate man.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. And from what I hear it is stated that: