

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH said they were.

In reply to Mr. LANGEVIN,

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH, said there were 110 lights in Nova Scotia, and ten fog whistles. The amount was not quite sufficient last year, and, besides, the Department had entered into a new contract for oil of a higher standard at a slight increase. This accounted for the increase in the Estimate.

MR. LANGEVIN said he would like to draw attention to the need of a good boat at Cape Beale lighthouse. If they had had a good strong boat at that lighthouse when the steamer was lost a short time ago, in Vancouver Bay, many lives would have been saved. The cost would not be much, and he strongly recommended the Department to consider the matter.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH: It will be considered.

Vote agreed to.

House adjourned at
Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 22nd April, 1878.

PRAYERS.

The Speaker took the Chair at Three o'clock.

SUPPLY.

XV. FISHERIES.

House again resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

130. Salaries and disbursements of Fishery Overseers and Wardens. \$52,500

MR. MITCHELL said he wished to learn whether it was proposed to place the fishermen of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island on the same footing with the fishermen of New Brunswick as regarded certain taxation. He had called attention to this matter last year. He had then thought that an injustice was done, and he was still of the same opinion.

MR. LANGEVIN.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH said that they collected as much money in Nova Scotia as New Brunswick. There was no tax on the salmon fishery in Nova Scotia, but this was the case in New Brunswick, Quebec, and Ontario. He understood that the salmon fishery in Nova Scotia was quite different from the New Brunswick salmon fishery; and his hon. friend knew very well that the fisheries in the Miramichi and Restigouche Rivers, as far as salmon were concerned, were superior to the fisheries in the other Lower Provinces. The taxation in question was very slight, only 3c. each on the net used for the catching of salmon. He presumed that the time would very speedily arrive when this tax must be extended to Nova Scotia.

MR. MITCHELL said he did not know there was any material difference between this fishery in the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

MR. JONES (Halifax): Ours is a coast fishery.

MR. MITCHELL said that a great deal of the New Brunswick fishery was also a coast fishery. A very large number of salmon were taken off the entrance of the Miramichi River, and around the islands in and along the shores of the Bays of Chaleurs and St. Lawrence. He had objected to the tax as originally proposed, and he heard his hon. friend (Sir Albert J. Smith) had afterwards come to an amicable arrangement whereby a small tax for merely registration purposes was imposed on the fishermen's nets, ensuring the maintenance of the Departmental control over these fisheries. He still contended that this same Departmental control, which was necessary for the New Brunswick fisheries, should also be extended to the Nova Scotia fisheries, and that a tax should not be placed on New Brunswick fishermen which was not also levied on Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island fishermen. His hon. friend, last year, had promised to consider this matter, and this tax should either be extended or removed altogether. There was no difference between the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick fisheries in this connection. He entirely approved of the tax in question, which was reasonable.