

him liable to be led away at the instance of political friends, and perhaps to cause loss and damage to political enemies. I know that in my own county two or three years ago several parties were fined for catching and packing lobsters undersized. Every Liberal was fined, but every Conservative, without exception, got free. One man's case was carried to the Supreme Court and he got free. Another man, who ran an election in the interest of the Conservative Government of the province, also got free; he was fined \$100, but the fine was never collected. These things are not correct. I am informed that on the south side of the Island friends of the Government are still fishing lobsters. The Minister told us the other day that he had applied the pruning knife all the way round, and had now no fishery wardens. The result is, that he has no person to look after the lobster fisheries. It is not fair that the people on the north side of the Island have to submit to the regulations of the department, while their friends on the south side are fishing lobsters out of season. About the 15th of July the lobster fishing is over, but the Minister thought proper, at the suggestion of some political friends, I suppose, to extend the time to the 1st of August. The fishermen on the north side took up their traps; but on the south side, which from the west point of the Island down to Summerside is a lobster fishing ground, I am told by trustworthy people fishing is still going on. Does the Minister know nothing about this? Has he no person there to protect the fisheries? What is the use of his passing regulations if he does not take proper means to carry them out? There ought to be a fixed time for these traps to be taken up. If it is to be the 15th of July, let it be so; and if it is to be 1st of August, let it be so. It is wrong to have one regulation one year and another regulation another year. The Minister may be tempted by the prayers of his friends, or they may tell him that if he does not do this, that, or the other, they will put him out at the next election. We know that these influences are brought to bear in some cases; and a rule or regulation which is made by a Minister to accommodate an individual is likely to be against the interest of the great majority of the people engaged in these fisheries. These regulations ought to be more uniform than they are; and I would advise the Minister to make enquiries to-morrow as to the people who are still using the fishing grounds. I can name the parties; I know who they are, and I know they are friends of the Government. But by the time the red tape is put into operation and a message is sent to Prince Edward Island, I suppose these people will have made a snug little fortune, by being left free to fish for a month or six weeks longer than the people on the north side of the Island. It is not fair. The hon. gentleman told us the other day, in answer to my hon. friend from Queen's, that we have no more fishery wardens, and that the protection of the fisheries is to be left to some person specially appointed for the purpose. I would like to know whether anyone has been appointed to protect the fisheries of Prince Edward Island. Who is to protect the inland fisheries, the fisheries in the rivers and brooks, where the hon. gentleman expects to plant a lot of small fish? I do not know. I am sure he is not going to have the steamer *Stanley* or any other ship run up the brooks to see who are breaking the laws or the regulations of the department there.

Those fishery wardens cost only about \$30 a year, and there are not a great many of them about the Island. The Island is a small patch of land; but the fisheries around its shores are very valuable and worth protecting; the Minister knows that there are no fish caught about the coasts of the Maritime Provinces as good as those caught on the north side of Prince Edward Island. They are worth protecting. I know fishermen on the north side of the Island who have thousands of dollars invested in this industry, and who employ a great many men, who consume more dutiable articles perhaps than men following any other occupation. They have to buy their clothing, their flour, their molasses—I will not say their sugar, because my hon. friend would tell me they are getting it free, though I do not believe it. They are large contributors to the revenue of the country, and they are aiding in developing the resources of the country. Those people ought not to be trampled down by the arbitrary rules of the department; and the sooner my hon. friend the Minister of Fisheries makes uniform laws and regulations the better. Now, this year he has extended the time fifteen days. Does the hon. gentleman intend to do the same next year? He will not say so. I suppose if the Grits next year ask him to do it he will not, but if he is asked by the Conservatives no doubt he will. That has been my experience, and I believe the experience of every gentleman connected with the business. I am not opposed to having rules and regulations, but I am opposed to having one rule for one party and another rule for another.

Mr. FORBES. Before this item is concurred in I would like to give my approval to the remarks of the last speaker. I am a bitter opponent of the vacillating policy followed for the last few years by the Minister of Marine. It is absolutely necessary, in the interests of those who have invested their money in factories around the shore, that they should know when and for how long they require to engage their men. There may be occasions when, on the northern coast of Nova Scotia or Prince Edward Island, it may be necessary to extend this season, but along the south shore I cannot see that it is very necessary to extend it beyond the regular stated period fixed by Order in Council.

Mr. TUPPER. There was no extension this year.

Mr. FORBES. I admit that, but we never know when there is going to be one. What jurisdiction has the department over the fisheries of Anticosti?

Mr. TUPPER. The same as over other parts of the Dominion.

Mr. FORBES. The hon. gentleman's policy in extending the time there I rather approve of, because the snow there sets in earlier in the fall and extends very late the next year. I have known it to be well up in June before the fishermen could get clear of the ice and make any headway. I would also ask the hon. gentleman if he can give us any definitive proposal as to the extension of this lobster hatchery business?

Mr. TUPPER. Nothing further than what I said, that until we have some experience—and we will have that this year—we cannot state how much money we will ask Parliament to sanction next year.