

or guardian would be of advantage he would be very glad to appoint one. He might add that he was largely in the hands of the representatives from the different parts of the Dominion as to where the officers were required, and when representations were made and he was satisfied the money would be well spent, he would not fail to make an appointment. He admitted that there was some ground for the complaint that the salaries were too small. So far as the remarks of his hon. friend from South Oxford were concerned, he had only to say that he was surprised that the hon. gentleman had not laid the information before the Department before this time.

Mr. ROCHESTER expressed his pleasure that there was a probability of an officer being appointed for the Ottawa and Gatineau.

Mr. PATERSON said it was necessary there should be a fish warden on Grand River. That officer could only proceed a certain length in his action unless he received the direct sanction of the Government. His hands must be strengthened, and when he reported that mill-owners would not put down fish-ways, and cease fouling streams by emptying saw-dust therein, he should be supported, and then there would be no cause of complaint.

Mr. PLUMB insisted that the fish in the rivers running into Lake Erie were not worth protecting.

Hon. Mr. SMITH said he would consider the matter.

The item passed.

In regard to the maintenance of a Government schooner employed in protecting the Gulf fisheries, for which no vote is asked this year,

Mr. CIMON asked what vessel was intended to replace *La Canadienne*.

Hon. Mr. SMITH said he had very considerable doubt as to whether it was desirable to repair the vessel so as to fit it for that service, and it would probably be used as a light ship. It was in the contemplation of the Government to provide a steamer to protect the Gulf fisheries, and a vessel would shortly be purchased.

Items 132 to 136 inclusive, under the head of geological survey and observatories, were passed without discussion.

Hon. Mr. SMITH in reply to Mr. FORBES, said that the omission of a vote for Halifax Observatory was due to

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the fact that other arrangements had been made.

On item \$37,000 for grant for meteorological observatories including instruments and cost of telegraphing weather warnings,

Hon. Mr. SMITH in reply to Mr. OLIVER, said that no change was proposed in the distribution of that appropriation.

On item \$5,000 additional for geological survey,

Mr. BUNSTER said that British Columbia had been neglected on this important service, for one officer was not adequate to perform the duties over such a vast extent of country. Instead of one there should be three or four.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD said British Columbia had received its due share of attention and one of the most efficient officers had been assigned to it. The item, however, was mainly intended to increase the salaries of some of the employees who were underpaid.

The item passed.

Items 139 and 140 for Marine Hospitals passed without discussion.

On item \$500 for St. Catherines Hospital,

Mr. NORRIS hoped the Government would increase the grant in the supplementary estimates.

Hon. Mr. SMITH promised to consider the matter. He thought it would be expedient if a tax were imposed on vessels in the inland waters of the Dominion for the maintenance of sick and distressed seamen as was done on the seaboard. If that proposal meet the approbation of the House and the views of hon. members representing the shipping interests, he would have no objection to introduce a measure having that object during the present session.—The item passed.

Mr. ROCHESTER suggested that the lumbermen engaged on the river Ottawa be included in the provisions of the promised bill.

Item passed as were also items 143 to 146 inclusive. On item 147, to reimburse Board of Trade, London, for expenses incurred in connection with shipwrecked and distressed seamen of the Dominion, \$6,000, in answer to Mr. YOUNG,

Hon. Mr. SMITH said the Board of Trade at London, took care of shipwrecked and distressed seamen of the Dominion