

which have been adopted as a result of the negotiations with the United States authorities; but I can assure him that all the fears he expresses as to rights being given to Americans which are not going to be enjoyed by Canadians, may be discarded. There has been no change in the regulations which will in any shape or form be prejudicial to the salmon industry or to Canadian fishermen. The regulations which provide for a close season for salmon are still maintained, and the regulations which provide that traps must be made in such a way as not to affect the ascent of the salmon are also maintained. The changes, which are not of great importance, my hon. friend calls concessions to the Americans. The right we have given to Americans to get licenses is not a concession granted by us. It is a right which they had under the treaty of 1818. As a matter of fact, they were claiming that they had an absolute right to fish in those waters without any license at all. The hon. Minister of Justice quoted yesterday a despatch sent by the Foreign Office in 1906 to the effect that Newfoundland, and it applied also to Canada, had no right under that treaty to impose any license fee on American fishermen. That treaty gives them the right to fish on the Labrador coast and the Magdalen Islands coast in common with British subjects, and it was contended by the American authorities that we could not impose upon them a restriction in the form of a license. This claim certainly deserves a great deal of consideration, and, as the Minister of Justice said yesterday, was accepted by the Foreign Office. So I thought the other day, when the American authorities were willing to accept a license from us, thus virtually recognizing our right to issue a license, it was something of the utmost importance to Canada, because our licensing system is of great value for the preservation of our fisheries. The American experts who were there, after hearing the reasons adduced in favour of maintaining our licensing system, considered it a very fair one which is tantamount to their admission that the way we have been managing our fisheries is certainly commendable. My hon. friend asks what length will be the leaders. It was provided in the regulations, previous to the agreement made the other day, that all the leaders should start from the shore. The American authorities contended with a great deal of reason—I think they were right in that respect—that this was prejudicial to their rights on the treaty coast, because if our regulations provided that all the leaders should start from the shore, and if they had no right to go to the shore under the treaty, they meant that they could not put traps there where Canadians were permitted to put them, which would be discriminating. This struck me as a

Mr. BRODEUR.

fair contention, and we tried to meet it by declaring that if the leader should start from the shore, then the length would be determined by our fishery officers and not by anybody else, and our officers determine the length of the leader by the depth of the water. I think that by all these changes which have been made my hon. friend may feel assured that we have not departed in any shape or form from the principle underlying our regulations, and that the mackerel as well as the salmon fisheries will be just as well preserved under the changes made as they were under the regulations which existed before.

Mr. LOGGIE. The minister has said that the length of the leader is to be determined by the fishery officer. Should the applicant say I want a leader only 100 yards from the shore, then the trap must be at the end of the leader, which would be simply one hundred yards from the shore. That is a point worthy of consideration. Regarding the protection of our salmon, the minister tells us that the close season will not be changed. That is not the question with me, as I understand it. The season for fishing the herring traps is all the year round, if the owner could fish all the year in spite of the weather. Therefore, if a trap catches salmon, and the owner is allowed to use the salmon, there is practically no close season for the salmon caught in the trap.

Mr. BRODEUR. Any fish caught in the close season contrary to the regulations is supposed to be caught illegally, and has to be thrown away.

Mr. JAMESON. I understood the minister to say that certain regulations had been framed as the result of this memo entered into by the American and Canadian authorities. If that is the case, may I ask whether those will be available to members and when we can have them?

Mr. BRODEUR. They will be brought down Monday.

Motion agreed to, and House went into Committee of Supply.

Mr. PUGSLEY. The hon. member for St. Anne (Mr. Doherty) asked that the item relating to the Montreal barracks should stand, so we will pass to the Ontario items.

Public Works—Buildings, Ontario—Athens public building, \$5,000.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I find that the postal revenue of this town last year was \$2,152.63, money orders issued, \$17,482.56, money orders paid \$9,630.94. The population two years ago was 1,000. It is quite a rapidly growing town, has six churches, fourteen stores, two hotels, lumber mill and two planing mills and woollen factory among other industries. This will not complete.