

Since 1867 the number of light houses constructed or under contract was 82; of fog whistles 10.

PILOTS.

On motion of Hon. Mr. FERRIER, the House agreed that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be laid before the House, a copy of any correspondence which has taken place between the Department of Marine and Fisheries and the Imperial Board of Trade, in London, relative to the relaxation of the Rules and Regulations relating to the granting of Masters certificates of competency to Pilots of the Lower St. Lawrence.

THE TREATY OF WASHINGTON.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL said—The bill which is now submitted for the consideration of the House is for the purpose of enacting those laws in Canada which are necessary to give effect to those portions of the Treaty of Washington that affect the Dominion. The provisions of the bill are of a very simple character. They provide for the suspension of all acts which prevent the inhabitants of the United States from taking fish on the coasts of the Provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia; for the free importation of fish oil and fish of all kinds except fish of the inland lands into Canada; for the transmission of goods, wares and merchandise from one part of Canada to another, while in transit to the United States, under such rules as the Governor in Council may prescribe; also, for the admission of United States vessels into the advantages of the Canadian coasting trade provided the articles to be carried pass over a certain portion of the United States by land. The whole bill is, by the last clause, to come into force only after the Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor General to that effect. It is impossible to approach the discussion of the Washington Treaty without being alive to the consciousness that everything which relates to it has been discussed at great length and with great ability, almost if not quite in the hearing of every gentleman present. Undoubtedly by reason of these discussions, very much interest has been taken from this subject; but nevertheless it is my duty on behalf of the Government in submitting the bill to the consideration of this branch of the Legislature to give an outline of the circumstances which have led to the Treaty and the legislation which is sought to be

passed by this House. Hon. gentlemen are all aware that on the termination of Reciprocity it became the policy and duty of the Government to go back to the exclusive rights of fishery which Canadians enjoyed within three miles of their coast. It was at the time doubtful whether it was advisable to do that absolutely or whether in order to avoid disputes we should limit the absolute use of our undoubted rights with respect to those fisheries. The counsels which tended in the direction of giving the Americans admission to our waters under some restrictions prevailed, partly on the advice of the Imperial Government and partly through the sense which the Canadian Government felt of the responsibility involved in seeking to press extreme rights. In consequence of these considerations the system of licensing was adopted for two or three years. That system had these two merits, it involved a complete acknowledgment of the right of Canada to the three miles' limit; and secondly, it prevented the danger of collision between the fishermen of the two countries. During the first two years the American fishermen took out licenses very generally. The license fee was small, and the Americans did not attempt to any large extent to evade it. Subsequently we found that the licenses were not asked for and that the American fishermen did come within the three miles' limit of our shores. Considerable feeling was excited among our people by this disregard of our undoubted rights, and it became the duty of the Government to consider what was best to be done. It was desirable that, if possible, we should arrive at some satisfactory decision between ourselves and the United States with respect to the limit of exclusive fishing rights. It was believed that were the whole question submitted to an arbitration, and a decision arrived at on the subject, there would be no difficulty in enforcing by means of our own police schooners, and vessels of the Imperial Government these enactments so far as they were applicable to the fishing rights of Canada within the three miles limits. We approached the British Government with the view of obtaining that end. We thought our object might be attained by referring the question to a commission mutually named by the two countries. The British Government were at that time ready to make representations to the United States on the subject and promised to do so. Before those representations were made other difficulties which existed between the two countries presented themselves to the