

2. Has the choice been definitely made, and if so, what rifle has been chosen?

Mr. DICKEY. The choice has been made by the Government, after obtaining the opinions of experts on both sides of the Atlantic. After mature consideration, the Government, having heard fully all the opinions given, came to the conclusion, that they would order the Lee-Enfield magazine rifle, which is practically the same as the Lee-Metford rifle, at present in the hands of the Imperial troops, but with the Enfield barrel, which, from its improved grooving, greatly prolongs the life of the rifle. This is the newest pattern known, and is the one to be given to the Imperial troops.

#### FISHING IN LAKE ERIE.

Mr. McMULLEN (for Mr. Casey) asked :

1. What is the total number of (1) gill-net, and (2) pound-net, licenses, granted on the north shore of Lake Erie?

2. What number are granted to an individual, and to a firm, respectively?

3. Is it a condition of such licenses that the licensees shall, themselves, conduct the fishing under them? Do they, as a matter of fact, do so? In how many cases do they not?

4. Are transfers of licenses subject to approval of the Marine and Fisheries Department?

5. Are the licensees allowed to transfer their licenses to United States citizens? Or to use nets belonging to United States citizens? Or to operate the licenses, under hire, for United States citizens?

6. Is the Department of Marine and Fisheries aware that many of these licenses are operated by Canadians in whose names the licenses are issued, who are acting merely as foremen for United States citizens?

7. Who holds and operates the pound-net license at Port Stanley, Ont., held last year by John Ellison?

8. How many licenses of each kind are granted to the Long Point Company?

Mr. COSTIGAN. The total number of licenses granted on the north shore of Lake Erie is : (1) gill-nets, 45 ; (2) pound-nets, 38.

2. The maximum number of pound-nets granted to individuals is 5, and the maximum quantity of gill-nets is 3,000 fathoms for a boat license, and 12,000 fathoms for a tug license. 3. It is not a condition of the licenses that the licensees must conduct the fishing themselves, and the department is not aware whether they do so or not. 4. Yes. 5. Licensees are not allowed to transfer their licenses to United States citizens, nor could they do so, as the department will not issue licenses to foreigners ; consequently, licenses could not be operated under hire from United States citizens. 6. No. 7. John Ellison holds the license, and it is presumed that he operates the fishery. 8. None.

#### GOVERNMENT DREDGES.

Mr. McMULLEN (for Mr. Casey) asked :

When, and to whom, and at what price, has the Government dredge, long laid up at Port Stanley, Ont., been sold?

Mr. OUMET. I am not aware that any dredge, the property of the Government, has been sold at Port Stanley.

#### EXPORTATION OF RICE MEAL--MOUNT ROYAL MILLING COMPANY.

Mr. CHOQUETTE (for Mr. McShane) asked :

1. What was the quantity and value of rice meal exported from Montreal by the Mount Royal Milling Company, for the calendar year ending 31st December, 1895?

2. What was the amount of duty refunded by the Government to the Mount Royal Milling Company, on said exportation?

3. What was the quantity and value of rice meal exported from Montreal by the Mount Royal Milling Company, from the 1st January, 1896, to the 1st March, 1896?

4. What was the amount of duty refunded by the Government to the Mount Royal Milling Company, on quantity so exported?

5. If any duty has been refunded, at what rate of duty has the same refund been calculated?

Mr. WOOD. The quantity and value of rice meal or flour exported from Montreal by the Mount Royal Milling Company, during the calendar year 1895, was 261,240 pounds ; value, \$4,665. Drawback of duty, at the rate of 99 per cent of the amount paid, was allowed, namely, \$775.88. The department has no record of exportations having been made between the 1st January and the 1st March, 1896. 4th and 5th answered by above.

#### PROPOSED CANAL FROM MONTREAL.

Mr. CHOQUETTE (for Mr. McShane) asked :

Whether it is the intention of the Government to have a survey made of the proposed direct canal from Montreal to St. Johns, P.Q., a distance of about fifteen miles, which, if constructed, would shorten the distance of water carriage between Montreal and New York by about eighty miles?

Mr. HAGGART. The department is not aware of the facts stated—that a canal could be built, that it is a practical route, and that the distance saved would be as stated.

#### PAYMENT TO MONTREAL "GAZETTE."

Mr. YEO (for Mr. Rider) asked :

What amount has been paid yearly to the Montreal "Gazette" Printing Company, for each fiscal year during the past five years, under the following accounts, viz :—

1. For advertising?
2. For printing and lithographing?

Mr. FOSTER. I would ask the hon. gentleman to put this in the form of a motion.

#### PUBLIC WHARF AT MAGOG.

Mr. YEO (for Mr. Rider) asked :

Is it the intention of the Government to place in the Estimates a sum sufficient to connect the