

threads, I cannot see. If the Minister of Fisheries is at all anxious to serve these people, I do not see why he should not press on the Minister of Customs and the Minister of Finance the advisability of changing this regulation at once. It would be a very great boon to the fishermen if that change were made even now, so that these people would have the advantage of free twine for fishing purposes as the law intends.

Mr. GILLMOR. The discussion refers more particularly to the duty on fresh fish. I represent a constituency which, being close to the State of Maine, has a special interest in that subject. The people of that constituency depend largely on fishing, and their market for the sale of their catch of fresh fish is entirely in the State of Maine. I have listened to a great deal of discussion on this fishery question. The policy on both sides has been one of retaliation, but I would like to see the Government set an example of conciliation. I think this would be a good time to take the duty of fresh fish. All through this fishery discussion I think there has been a good deal of provocation given to the Government of Canada to retaliate; but I do not think it is a profitable game. If the duty is left on, it will entail a great loss upon Canada and particularly upon the county I represent. I understand how much provocation has been given to the Government, because I know something of the habits of American fishermen; I know their disposition to encroach upon the rights of Canada. I know the men, and among the worst of them are those from Nova Scotia; they are reckless and lawless with regard to other people's rights. I do not see that it is resulting in any good. I would like to see Canada lift herself to a higher place, and set an example of conciliation. I would like to see the Government try to settle this difficulty, and not wait too long. I do not like to see the Government back down. I have a great regard for Canada and the Government of Canada, and when our Government has taken a stand, I do not like to see them back down, but my experience is that they have to back down in the long run. Let them try the policy of reconciliation, instead of that of retaliation, and thus set a good example to our American neighbors, who, no doubt, do exceedingly mean things. That, however, is no excuse for Canada doing equally mean things by retaliation. Our trade in fresh fish is, perhaps, more than that of all the lakes. The county I have the honor to represent, has a very large interest in this, and you can understand how important it is to us. Our fishermen go out and do their day's work; and instead of coming home to any part of Canada, they run right to a seaport where the fish are purchased and taken off to Boston and other American ports. I understand a good deal of the relations between Canada and the United States, living on the frontier and understanding thoroughly the American fishermen. I understand how they have encroached upon privileges that do not belong to them. I hope a new departure will be taken and our American friends set the Christian example of reconciliation.

Mr. FREEMAN. I must ask my good Nova Scotia friend to consider whether he ought not to take back what he has said about Nova Scotia fishermen. I am quite confident he is mistaken, as I have a large acquaintance with these men and many opportunities to see them.

Mr. GILLMOR. I refer to those who have gone to the States and become naturalised.

Mr. FREEMAN. I am glad the hon. gentleman has made amends so thoroughly.

Mr. BARRON. I do not wish to discuss this particular point, but would ask the House if the letter written by the American consul here regarding the spirit of retaliation would not be applicable here. The letter refers to the export duty on logs. That does not apply to the discussion

Mr. PLATT.

now, but the letter is very interesting and might perhaps give some information concerning the relations between the two countries.

The CHAIRMAN. The hon. gentleman is out of order.

Mr. KIRK. The Nova Scotia fishermen to whom my hon. friend from New Brunswick (Mr. Gillmor) alluded are those who have been expatriated owing to the bad laws of this Government, and consequently do not feel altogether pleasant towards this country. These are the men the hon. gentleman alluded to. With regard to this duty on thread to which the hon. member for Prince Edward (Mr. Platt) has referred, it would be an advantage to the fishermen of the Maritime Provinces as well as Prince Edward, if the thread were made as cheap as possible, because fishermen in the long winter nights knit their own nets, and the material they require should be made as cheap as possible.

Mr. BOWELL. There is no duty on the thread.

Mr. CAMPBELL (Kent). All along the shores of Lake Erie, adjacent to the County of Kent, there are a great number of pound nets put there by Americans who come from Cleveland and Ohio. They draw out the nets and take the fish out, and the smaller fish and those of not much account they throw away. The good ones they take to Cleveland and other places. Complaints were made last year that they threw the smaller fish into the water, thus putrifying the temperature and the waters around. I believe the regulation is that the nets shall be an inch square, but the regulations are not carried out at all. The mesh is too small, so that a great many of the small fish cannot escape as they could if the mesh were wide enough. During the summer of last year there were great complaints from the people along the shore of Lake Erie, not only on account of the disagreeable smell that arose from the decaying fish, but also on account of the great destruction that was allowed of the small fish, and now that another season is rapidly approaching, I hope the hon. the Minister will see that the proper law is strictly adhered to.

Mr. WATSON. Before this item passes I desire to say that a very large interest is springing up in Manitoba in regard to the export of fresh fish. The Trade and Navigation Returns show that \$95,576 worth of fresh fish was exported from Manitoba last year, and nearly all that goes to the United States. The people interested in fishing in that Province were very much alarmed when it was stated that the United States were going to retaliate by putting a duty on fresh fish. That would be a severe blow to our people. The fish they export are generally pike or jackfish, which are purchased there for about a cent a pound, so that a duty of even half a cent a pound would stop the export. Those fish are sold in Chicago for three cents a pound. They are caught in the winter time and are shipped by the cargo. I hope the Government will consider this matter favorably. I believe that the small amount which the Government derives from the duty on fish coming into the country should not weigh with them in such a matter as this, and that it should receive their serious attention, because, if the American Government should be irritated on account of this duty and should retaliate on us in that way, the result would be to wipe out this industry in Manitoba.

Mr. BOWELL. Does the hon. gentleman know that very strong representations have been made from his Province to have an export duty put upon the fish there?

Mr. WATSON. From whom?

Mr. BOWELL. From people in your own county and in Winnipeg, because they are looking forward to the complete depletion of your lakes in regard to fish, and especially whitefish.