

fishermen, and let each make the best arrangement they can, independent the one of the other?

Sir ALLEN AYLESWORTH. There certainly was no intention on the part of either my colleague, Mr. Brodeur, or myself to desert Newfoundland in any way. On Thursday night last, when we had signed the agreement, to which, of course, Newfoundland is equally a party, substituting this new method, of dealing with existing objections for the method directed by the award, I thought and Mr. Brodeur thought, that it would be quite possible for Canada to settle, and we equally thought that there was no likelihood of any present settlement so far as Newfoundland was concerned, and before doing anything further we sat down and discussed the situation fully with Sir Edward Morris and it was with his full concurrence and assent that Mr. Brodeur and I remained behind, he leaving for Newfoundland on Thursday evening, and we remaining in the hope that by resuming our conferences on Friday or Saturday we might be able to arrange matters so far as Canada was concerned. In that hope we have been successful. I do not think we have prejudiced Newfoundland in the least degree by what we have done, but hope we have rather helped Newfoundland to a similar settlement of its own difficulties. There has been no idea on our part of in any way deserting our sister colony should further difficulties arise in regard to which there is any necessity for joint action.

Mr. FOSTER. I suppose a copy of this memorandum will be laid on the table of the House?

Sir ALLEN AYLESWORTH. Certainly.

Mr. FRASER. Is there a definition of the point below water mark where the American fisherman would have a right to drop his anchor on the coastal waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence?

Sir ALLEN AYLESWORTH. There is no indication in that respect in the amended regulation, it is not even stated that the leader may extend from a point below low water mark, but that is implied from the fact that the existing regulation which requires it to extend always from shore has been repealed and taken away.

#### ANGLO-JAPANESE TREATY.

Mr. MIDDLEBRO. I wish to ask the Prime Minister one or two questions respecting the Anglo-Japanese treaty which I understand came into force in July 1899 to remain in force for 12 years, but with the condition that after 11 years either of the contracting parties could give notice to terminate the treaty. Has any notice been

Mr. CROSBY.

given by either of the contracting parties to terminate that treaty and if so, will the termination of the original treaty between Japan and England also terminate the subsequent convention between Canada and Japan? Will parliament have an opportunity of discussing the matter before the treaty is renewed, if it is to be renewed.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Some correspondence has passed on this subject, but I do not know whether it is in a position to be brought down. I will be able to tell my hon. friend on Monday.

#### WATER SUPPLY, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.

Mr. DANIEL. Has the Prime Minister observed the statements in the Ottawa Press in regard to the contaminated state of the drinking water in this city? There is, of course, a good deal of water supplied in this building in various places, and I see that the medical health officer has advised the people of Ottawa that the city water before being consumed should be boiled in order to prevent typhoid. I do not know whether the government have taken any precautions in regard to the water supplied to this building or not, but I should think it would be a subject worthy of consideration. Have any steps been taken to prevent the supply of impure water in these buildings?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. My attention has not been called to that, but I suppose when we come to Ottawa, we must take the bad with the good.

#### INQUIRIES FOR REPORTS AND RETURNS.

Mr. LAKE. Has the report of the Ottawa Improvement Commission been brought down? Under the statute it should be brought down within the first 15 days of session, but I have not been able to obtain a copy at the distribution office.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I will have to inquire as to that. I am not aware that it has been brought down, the matter seems to have been overlooked.

Mr. FOSTER. I would again ask the Prime Minister about the despatch of Sir John Thompson, for which he was to make inquiry.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I had some communication with the under Secretary of State upon that point. I have not heard since.

#### GEORGIAN BAY SHIP CANAL.

Mr. WHITE (North Renfrew). I wish to call attention to an item appearing in the Montreal 'Star' and the Ottawa 'Citizen' of January 16. It is as follows: