

clared for 3 months, from November to February, for a period of 5 years, but it may be denounced after the 5 years by a 2 years' notice by one of the contracting parties.

Halibut, under the treaty, may nevertheless be caught during prohibited season for purposes of food by crews of vessels fishing for other kinds of fish, the balance caught being transferred to officers of the Marine Department of Canada and the United States, to be disposed of by those officers at such prices as they may be able to obtain. This provision is made in order to eliminate the element of profit in the catch of halibut by those fishermen. They will not be able to dispose of their surplus for their own profit.

There is a further provision by which an International Fisheries Commission will be established in order to study the life history of the halibut, and the best means of preserving this important natural resource.

This treaty, by virtue of one of its clauses, is to be approved by legislation by the Parliaments of both countries.

The Senate of the United States has assented to the treaty, with the following reservation, added to it.

Resolved (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein) that the Senate advise and consent to the ratification of Executive D. 67th Congress, fourth Session, Convention between the United States and Great Britain, signed March 2, 1923, for the preservation of the Halibut Fishery of the Northern Pacific Ocean, including the Behring Sea, subject to the understanding, which is hereby made a part of this resolution of ratification, that none of the nationals and inhabitants and vessels and boats of any other part of Great Britain shall engage in halibut fishing contrary to any of the provisions of this treaty.

I need not say that extraordinary circumstances must have accompanied the passing of this rider, as indicated by the phraseology and the description of the other part of Great Britain, and it was written in the dying hours of the last session of that Congress.

The reason for that addition to the Treaty seems to be found in the fear, which was expressed by a western Senator, that ships from Great Britain would or could come into those waters and fish for halibut. This fear was groundless, because Canada and the United States have agreed to provide that their nationals and citizens of all other countries shall be prohibited from operating from a Canadian or an American base, or attempting to fish in those waters. This prohibition to use any Canadian or American port will ensure full protection against all comers.

Parliament is now asked to ratify this treaty, and the Government has reason to

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

believe that the reservation added to the treaty by the Senate will be withdrawn at the next session of Congress.

The Address which we have before us is for the purpose of confirming the treaty. I may say that, in connection with this resolution, which is offered to the Senate for the confirmation of this document, we will have presented to us an Act for the protection of the Northern Pacific Halibut Fishery. That Act is brought to us in Bill 247, to give effect to this treaty.

There are certain conditions surrounding the recall of a vote in the American Senate that would be necessary for retracing its steps and abandoning this condition; but if the American Government feels that it is an easier way to get around the difficulty, it may—and I understand it has allowed the Government of Canada to be informed that it may—proceed as we are doing, by concurrent legislation. So we are confirming the treaty between His Majesty the King and the United States that was signed in March last; but if, through some difficulty, it becomes inoperative, the legislation which we are submitting to the Senate at the moment will be duplicated by similar legislation on the other side, and the same result will be obtained.

I have the honour to move:

That the following Joint Address be sent to His Excellency the Governor General:

To General His Excellency the Right Honourable Julian Hedworth George, Baron Byng of Vimy, General on the Retired List and in the Reserve of Officers of the Army; Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath; Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George; Member of the Royal Victoria Order, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of the Dominion of Canada. May it please Your Excellency:

We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Senate of Canada, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to approach Your Excellency with our respectful request that you will be pleased to transmit our Joint Resolution that Parliament do approve of the Treaty between His Majesty and the United States of America providing effective measures for the preservation of the halibut fishery of the Northern Pacific Ocean, which was signed at Washington on the second day of March, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-three, a copy of which has been laid before Parliament, and which was signed on behalf of His Majesty, acting for Canada, by the plenipotentiary therein named, and that the Senate do approve of the same, and requesting that the Commons will unite with the Senate in the said Resolution by filling up the blank therein with the words "Commons and."

Right Hon. Sir GEORGE E. FOSTER: May I ask a question as to the treaty itself? With the rider which has been added by the American Senate, does the treaty become operative on the part of the United States when we pass the legislation which is asked here?