

other materials into the water, and thereby interfering with the navigation. Unless the harbour master received an official appointment there would be no one to compel obedience to the orders which it would be necessary to give for the purpose of keeping the harbour free from obstruction. He did not believe the appointment would be regarded as unpopular, and if it was unpopular with any one, the dissatisfaction could be only with the proprietors. He thought the appointment was one the Government could justify.

Mr. MACDONALD reiterated the statement that he regarded the appointment as one not in the interest of the public, and he thought it should be known whether or not the office had been discontinued. Fees had only been collected by the officer the first few months after his appointment, and it was doubtful to him whether the gentleman still held the appointment.

Hon. Mr. SMITH said the appointment was made in July, 1874, and in the year 1875, the harbour master received \$142. Therefore, the hon. gentleman was clearly under a misapprehension when he said there were no fees collected in 1875.

The motion was agreed to.

THE SALT TRADE.

Mr. FARROW moved for a Select Committee to enquire into the salt interests of this country, with power to send for persons, papers and records. He said he was glad he had now an opportunity of bringing this matter before the House, having brought the subject up too late last Session for it to procure the necessary consideration. The salt interests of the country were in a very languishing condition, and it might not be generally known, but in the western part of the Province there are the best salt mines to be found in the world: There was something like \$500,000 invested in these wells, and it was an interest which, on account of various circumstances, was unprofitable. They had heard a great deal about the protection of numerous products, but not a word about the protection of salt. Those products which had a duty of 17½ per cent. were represented to

require more protection, while salt had none. The United States prevented Canadians from sending their salt into that market, whilst the Americans could flood the Canadian market free, and slaughter their goods. If the other manufacturers were placed in such a position, there would be a hue and cry sent down to the House which could not be withstood. He trusted this matter would secure the attention of the House. What were the circumstances of the case? In the first place the interior of Canada was flooded with Syracuse salt from Oswego, and at the mouth of the St. Lawrence they were met with an abundance of Liverpool salt which came over in Quebec ballast ships at very little cost. That salt was thrown on the Canadian market at a less price than it was sold for in Liverpool. At the time the Washington Treaty was consummated they were promised that the Americans would repeal their duty, but this promise passed as a matter of history merely; consequently they had to look to this House for redress, and they asked for nothing more than they had a right to expect. They asked for a small duty on foreign salt, and he thought, considering the condition of the exchequer that such a tax would contribute considerably to the revenue. There was another point. The bags in which the salt was shipped to Canada were allowed to come in duty free, while the Canadians had to pay a duty on bags they imported. The House could not fail to see the unfairness of this condition of things. Even a small duty placed on those bags would help the struggling industry of salt a good deal. The Americans sent their surplus lumber to Canada for the purpose of slaughtering the market; and he contended that the interference of the Government was urgently required to remove this disability from which they suffered.

We produced 20,000 tons of salt a year, and what were we to do with it? The Americans sent their salt here to be sold even at half price, making the best of the matter they could, and this was done repeatedly, to the great detriment of our interests, which had attained great importance. They were not to be trifled with; one-half