

assented, and add to our existing regulations this third provision in regard to cod and herring trap nets:

Upon any inhabitant of the United States fishing with trap nets in Canadian waters in the exercise of his liberties under the treaty of 1818, applying for a berth site under the licensing provisions, such a license shall be issued in the usual course for any unoccupied berth site selected by the applicant upon the payment of the regular fee, in consideration of the exclusive use of such site, subject to the usual rules and regulations.

On our agreeing to make these three alterations in our existing regulations, a Minute was drawn up of the conferences of Friday and Saturday last by which Minute the understanding is recorded that in view of Canada's willingness to make these alterations, and in view of the present method of administering the Canadian laws and fishing regulations, the United States does not at present press its objections as recorded before the tribunal in the protocol I have already referred to. The United States representatives stipulated, however, that they could not at the present time close finally with Canada in view of the fact that the regulations of Newfoundland were still under consideration and that if they now concluded any final agreement in regard to the Canadian prohibition of purse seining or Sunday fishing it might prejudice their position in further discussion of like regulations which obtained in Newfoundland. In view of that difficulty it was agreed that this settlement with Canada, while it was confidently expected on both sides that it will be permanent and final, should not prejudice the United States, if, in future, conditions should so change that it became necessary for them to renew any of these objections. The Minute accordingly reads:

The undersigned, having considered the best means of dealing with the objections referred to, subject to the Minute of previous conferences signed January 12, have arrived at the following conclusion:—

Having regard to the present method of administering the Canadian laws and fishery regulations and to certain amendments which Canada is willing to make therein and to the present state of the fisheries and conditions under which they are carried on and places of fishing, the United States does not press at present any of the objections referred to in protocol XXX, which relate to Canadian laws and fishery regulations, it being understood that the right of the United States to renew such objections is not thereby in any way prejudiced should conditions change.

The amendments which were agreed to are set out in the Minute and the parties present signed this memorandum. The result of the whole matter then is that upon these changes which I have described being made in our regulations the United States agrees to drop, for the present, at all events,

the litigation in which we were previously engaged. We have, by the arrangement agreed to with Newfoundland as well as with Canada, substituted a different means of disposing of these objections for the somewhat complicated and certainly expensive one which had been directed by the tribunal in September last, and we have, in so far as Canada is concerned, reached an agreement which will be final and permanent unless conditions change in the manner which I have tried to point out. It may be that conditions will so change and that some of these objections may at some future time be renewed. If that should be so we shall then be, at all events, no worse off than we are at present, or than we would be at present if this agreement had not been entered into. The probability that such a thing will take place is, I am sanguine to think, very remote. At the present time, at all events, those in charge of the administration of affairs in the United States express themselves as entirely satisfied. Misunderstandings with regard to the meaning and application of many of our regulations have been wholly removed by the thoroughly friendly and amicable discussion which took place last week, and I have to say with regard to the whole of the discussion that from beginning to end it was carried on in a manner which one would expect on the part of the representatives of a great and thoroughly friendly nation. The attitude of the representatives of the United States throughout was of a most reasonable character. I am satisfied that they most earnestly desired to reach, if it could be possible, a final settlement of these prolonged difficulties and on each side there was in every manner the desire manifested to put an end to these century-long troubles, to make concessions where concessions were necessary and to settle by friendly conference, if such a thing could be done, matters which otherwise would have to be litigated at great expense and at great length of time before the international tribunal which had been agreed upon. It is only due, it is only justice to the representatives of the United States that I should pay to their sincerity, in the effort which they made to meet us in our unwillingness to modify our regulations to any greater extent than possible, the tribute which I have sought to pay to-day and to found upon that belief my confidence in stating to this House that I think this arrangement has brought to a final end and determination all the difficulties which up to this time, at any rate, have presented themselves arising out of the fisheries treaty of ninety years ago.

Hon. GEO. E. FOSTER (North Toronto).
Mr. Speaker, I do not rise with the idea of debating the question, but there are two