

expedient of issuing season licenses to United States' fishing vessels at a nominal tonnage rate. It was understood that this license system should only last for one year, but in consequence of the continued representations of the British Government it was allowed to exist for 4 years, though, owing to the extremely lenient instructions given to the British cruisers sent out to protect the fisheries, it became practically a dead letter, as is shown by the following statement:—

In 1866 there were.....	354 licenses.
1867 " " .....	281 "
1868 " " .....	56 "
1869 " " .....	25 "

fishing in the meantime being carried on by the United States' fishermen almost to the same extent as formerly, while British caught fish were all the time subject to a virtually prohibitory duty in American ports.

581. In 1870 the Canadian Government decided to discontinue the license system; vessels were provided for the protection of the fisheries, and application was made to the Imperial Government for assistance for the same purpose. It was also asked that a joint commission should be appointed to settle the matters in dispute. At the close of the season many seizures had been made of American vessels, both by Imperial and Canadian cruisers.

Discontin-  
uance of a  
license  
system,  
1870.

582. After some correspondence between the respective Governments, it was agreed that a Joint High Commission should be appointed, composed of members named by each Government, to discuss the mode of settling the different questions which had arisen out of the fisheries, as well as those which affected the relations of the United States towards Her Majesty's Possessions in North America; to arrange, also, for the removal of the differences which were existing and were generally known as the "Alabama"

Appoint-  
ment of a  
Joint High  
Commis-  
sion.