

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Euler asked a question. Would you repeat your question, please?

Mr. EULER: I was trying to find out if this Committee determined that the thing should be discontinued, how soon could it be done,—in twelve months?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: You might say twelve months, although I am not at all sure that all the ships could be sold in twelve months.

Mr. HANBURY: You could sink them, though.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Yes, they might be sunk. We might insure them in some outside agency and then send them up to Hudson Bay.

Mr. GRAY: How many are laid up now?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Sixteen are operating and thirteen laid up.

Mr. POWER: Have you any commitments which would prevent you from laying them up right away?

Mr. TEAKLE: This has rather been my baby—if the Chairman and the Minister will permit me to say a few words, as a steamship man—not that I am afraid of my job.

Sir Henry has stated correctly that we have been working with obsolete tonnage. I give great credit to the Canadian Yards for the way in which they built the ships; they were well built and well found; and I am very proud of the deck officers and engineers of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine. But the President and ourselves have been up against an impossible task from the beginning.

It is only in the last two or three weeks that I have been trying to assist in the carriage of cattle. The ships are not suitable for the shipment of cattle, and the best we can do is to go out and help the Department of the Government to find space.

Referring to Australia, if we were to take that service off, I doubt whether we could get a company to take it up. We have joint Australian and New Zealand services, and by reducing the sailings from twenty-six to fourteen I think we may do something with them.

In South America we are pioneers, and I can confirm everything the President has said as to the possibility of trade. We have just had a goodwill ship and a goodwill party go down there. What would be the effect if we took that service off, I am not competent to say.

When I was out at Vancouver in April, talking to some of the gentlemen out there, they said, that service must continue. We could tidy everything up, I suppose, in three months,—I do not know what our commitments are,—and we could eventually liquidate it in a year or a year and a half. Having no fear about my job at all—I suppose something else would be provided for me—I think it would be a mistake until we get somebody to take up the routes we have got in order to preserve Canadian trade.

Mr. HANSON: You think it cannot be done precipitately.

Mr. TEAKLE: No, as I have said, at the present time we have either to go out of the business or get new ships.

Mr. MCGIBBON: Haven't you now enough experience in the business?

Mr. TEAKLE: We cannot compete against the faster liners.

Mr. GRAY: The thing he says is that he does not want to see the trade routes dropped.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: I assume, when we speak of going out of the business, that we are going to do it with some exhibition of judgment.

Hon. Mr. MANION: This is a recommendation to the Government, and I have thoroughly enjoyed the discussion. I just mention that in the end it will