

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Is it possible that some order in council might be passed to meet the need at the present time?

Mr. CARDIN: I may say I am quite ready to ask for any power from council in order to meet the situation, but I am afraid we shall have to proceed first through legislation. I am quite willing to ascertain whether it will be possible to deal with the matter by order in council.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I am glad to hear the minister take that attitude, but I would point out the serious situation where men are being injured and even killed. Last year several were killed and a large number injured. I do not think we should wait for another year before taking action.

Mr. CARDIN: My hon. friend will not contend that those workers have been killed on account of the unsatisfactory condition of tackle and gear. Surely a certain amount of negligence has been responsible.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I am contending that the equipment is unsatisfactory because I know of no group of men more careful in their work. I do not want to take up the time of the committee, but I have under my hand five or six pages full of details of accidents in which the trouble was due directly to lack of proper gear. In one case, for instance,—

An hon. MEMBER: Carried.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: It is all right for the hon. gentleman to say, "carried" but when life is at stake I think we might reasonably take one or two minutes to consider the matter. In this particular case the jury brought in a verdict with this rider:

The accident was due to faulty loading without bracing of the timber, and we feel that it is absolutely necessary that there should be a man with authority appointed to supervise conditions on the ship to be loaded.

I have a dozen different cases of that kind of thing. I submit that under these circumstances prompt action should be taken.

Mr. COWAN: A year ago I suggested to the minister the necessity of establishing on lake Superior at the head of the lakes life-saving equipment and a wireless station on account of the great loss of life and property on the great lakes. The minister said that he would give the matter consideration, but I have not yet heard what that consideration amounted to.

Mr. CARDIN: We have had a ship there equipped with radio and other equipment to aid in life saving. The problem of establish-

[Mr. Cardin.]

ing life saving stations is a very large one. With the equipment we have at present we may not be able to cope with all accidents that may occur anywhere. To provide life saving stations at every point on the lakes and rivers and shores of this country would mean an expenditure of millions and millions of dollars. Comparison was made last year between Canada and the United States, and it was contended that the United States were doing much more in this regard than we are doing. I took the trouble last year of visiting a few life saving stations in the United States, some not very far from here, and I was told by the man in charge of one station that he had been there for thirty years and had never been called upon to save life or a vessel. I admit that something should be done, and it is a problem that will have to be seriously considered by parliament one of these days because if we are to have a life saving organization that would take care of all accidents and difficulties the expenditure would run into millions and millions of dollars. In regard to the particular point raised by my hon. friend, something has been done towards providing what he requested.

Mr. COWAN: Has anything been done along the line of compelling the navigation companies to have wireless on their boats?

Mr. CARDIN: All ships carrying passengers have to have wireless.

Mr. COWAN: But not freighters?

Mr. CARDIN: No.

Mr. SHORT: A great deal of money has been spent by the department on life saving stations, and I do not think that in all cases you are getting the best returns. There is a life saving station in my constituency, where a body of men is kept the year round, and they do very good work indeed, but they would be able to do very much better had they proper equipment. They have a boat that was obtained in 1911 or 1912, and it was a second hand boat then. The department is spending a lot of money on repairs to that old boat, and she cannot be made seaworthy because she is out of date and obsolete. But if the minister would spend a few thousand dollars in new equipment for the Bayview life saving station at the entrance to Digby harbour, this station could render splendid service. There is a long coast line which this boat patrols, and it is very often called upon to render aid to the fishermen; but owing to the fact that the boat is obsolete and her engine breaks down when she is most needed, she is not able to render the service she should. I understand