

It is a fact, whether my hon. friend likes it or not, that they were recruited as civilians.

Mr. GREEN: You said they had volunteered; you did not say they were civilians.

Mr. CHEVRIER: I said they were volunteers, but they were engaged in a civilian capacity.

Mr. GREEN: You did not say that.

Mr. CHEVRIER: I am saying it now. If one listened to all that the hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard said one would think the merchant seamen have received no benefits at all, when in fact they have received quite a number of benefits. I am just wondering if my hon. friend is familiar with them all.

I have to challenge some of the statements he made a moment ago. I did not want to interrupt him at the time. For instance, this is the monthly remuneration to which a merchant seaman was entitled. The basic pay was \$47.07 in January, 1942, but that basic rate was increased to \$89.93, to which was added a war risk bonus of \$44.50, making a total of \$134.43 a month. Income tax was paid on the basic rate only. The war risk bonus and the subsistence allowance were exempt. So much for the war risk bonus.

Then there followed two special bonuses, one called the war service bonus and the other the special bonus, each of ten per cent. One of these was paid on gross earnings after a minimum period of six months service in dangerous waters. It was paid to 6,388 merchant seamen, at a cost of \$1,800,000. Then there was an additional war service bonus of ten per cent on gross earnings for service subsequent to April 1, 1944, until the end of the war. That was paid to 4,226 seamen, at a cost of \$443,700.

There were also a number of provisions by a special order in council which had to do with railway transportation, leave on pay at the end of each year, round-trip rail transportation from a manning pool to the seaman's home at the low cost of one-third of the one-way fare.

Merchant seamen, on agreement, on completion of service were entitled to receive railway transportation from the port of discharge to their place of permanent domicile. If incapacitated from sickness or injury during service on a manning pool two-year agreement, the merchant seamen received basic pay for a maximum period of twelve weeks. There was over \$90,000 paid to those who applied under that particular order.

There was also vocational training which was paid to those who wanted to continue the calling of a merchant seaman. I agree with what my hon. friend has said that that

[Mr. Chevrier.]

does not cover vocational training for a member of the merchant navy outside of his calling. It is directed toward his own calling. That was because the director of merchant seamen was of the opinion that it was his responsibility to make sure that those men got the best possible training, and he asked that vocational training be given to men of that category.

Merchant seamen who left civil employment to serve at sea during the war are entitled to the benefits of the Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act.

Again, pension for disability incurred from enemy action or counteraction is payable to merchant seamen serving on any Canadian ship, and to Canadian merchant seamen serving on ships of allied nations employed in service essential to the prosecution of the war. We went through that at some length in the debate on the bill to amend the Merchant Seamen's Compensation Act.

In case of death from similar causes, widows and dependent children are pensionable.

A Canadian merchant seaman in receipt of a pension from an allied nation is entitled, during residence in Canada, to have his pension raised to the Canadian scale.

Merchant seamen detained by the enemy received a detention allowance, equivalent to their basic pay and war risk bonus, and also the special bonus. Dependents of merchant seamen who were detained by the enemy received appropriate portions of this detention allowance for their maintenance, the remainder being paid to the seaman on his return to Canada.

Unemployment insurance coverage for merchant seamen was passed at the last session and came into effect on October 1, 1946. By a special provision under the act, seafarers have been placed on a parity for unemployment insurance purposes with Canada's wartime armed forces. Under this provision many seamen are given credit for wartime service without payment of contributions after they have become established in insurable employment.

Medical and dental care is extended to pensioners, while men on service are covered by the sick mariners fund and the Merchant Seamen's Compensation Act. They are also entitled to medical service and repatriation when hospitalized in foreign parts.

There are a number of other things to which I might refer; for instance, the manning pools that were set up during the war and the many advantages which merchant seamen got under these manning pools. A man in a manning pool awaiting call or assignment to