

she arrives in the Mediterranean and begins to discharge her cargo of munitions. She may never come back to a Canadian port.

Mr. HOWE: Well, our officers are Canadian seamen. We could at least penalize the officers. That is, we could strike them off the register. Some time or another a Canadian ship surely must come back to Canadian shores.

Mr. BENNETT: She need not.

Mr. HOWE: But in any case the seamen are subject to the law. It is the same, I suppose, as with any criminal; he may evade the policing authority; he may never be called to answer for his crimes. So it would be in the case of a Canadian ship that never comes back to Canada. Nevertheless I believe her officers and crew would find it necessary at some time to make use of their Canadian articles.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The minister has admitted that from a practical standpoint the scope of this bill is not very great. Could the minister give us some information as to what ships of Canadian registry are now engaged in the transatlantic or transpacific trade?

Mr. HOWE: We have two ships on the west coast from Vancouver to the Philippines and China and Japan, and we have a fleet between Canada and the West Indies on the east coast. That is all that occurs to me at the moment.

Mr. BENNETT: Are they on Canadian registry?

Mr. HOWE: Yes, the two Canadian Pacific ships are. The two running to Australia are on Australian registry.

Mr. BENNETT: And those on the Atlantic are on British registry?

Mr. HOWE: Yes.

Mr. GREEN: Could the minister tell us how this could be used in respect to the fighting in China? For instance, could the Empress boats out of Vancouver be prevented from carrying munitions from the Philippines to Hongkong?

Mr. HOWE: The two ships registered in Canada could be prevented from carrying munitions or supplies, anything that the governor in council designated as prohibited material.

Mr. GREEN: Could they also be prevented from carrying from, say Manila to Hongkong?

Mr. HOWE: Yes, that is really the purpose of the bill. There are other ways of preventing those ships from carrying munitions from

Canada to China; they could be prevented under the Customs Act. But this amendment would give us power to prohibit those ships from carrying from Manila to China.

Mr. GREEN: So that when this amendment goes through the government will have power to prevent shipment of munitions from Vancouver to China?

Mr. HOWE: Exactly. We have that power now.

Mr. BENNETT: Not under this section but under the Customs Act.

Mr. HOWE: Yes, under the Customs Act.

Mr. COLDWELL: Do I understand that the two ships referred to on the Pacific are the Canadian Pacific Empress boats?

Mr. HOWE: They are the Empress of Russia and the Empress of Asia.

Mr. HEAPS: Have we the power to prohibit the shipment of arms from Canadian ports to any country that we wish?

Mr. HOWE: Any country where a conflict is taking place and which the governor in council may designate as a prohibited area.

Mr. GREEN: Then there is no question that under the present act it would be possible for the government to prevent shipment of arms and munitions to China?

Mr. HOWE: From Canada?

Mr. GREEN: Yes, or prevent them from being picked up at Manila and taken on to Hongkong?

Mr. HOWE: Under this bill we can prevent them from being picked up at Manila and taken on, yes. Under the Customs Act we can prevent them from being shipped from Canada.

Mr. HEAPS: On any ships?

Mr. HOWE: On any ships, yes.

Mr. BENNETT: I think the minister is in error in saying that we can prevent them from being shipped on a ship at Manila. Our arm does not extend to the Philippine port of Manila. Obviously if they were laden on the ship by workmen at Manila we could not stop them. We would have to name that as a prohibited territory to begin with and then we could not touch the loading; we could touch only the ship after she got into our jurisdiction. The law of the community or port would govern with respect to any proceedings taken against the ship. If the ship were libelled there she would have to be libelled in accordance with the law of that community; she could not be libelled under the Canadian law. Our arm does not extend to touch any-