

easily be given, and that I would be very glad if he would take the matter up and write me in regard to it. In reply to that I received a letter from the Minister of Customs telling me that he had taken the matter up, and enclosing a letter which Mr. McDougald, the Commissioner of Customs, had written to Mr. Colpitts on the 29th of March previously, and the minister said that he did not think he could add anything to the statements of the commissioner. Mr. McDougald's letter to Mr. Colpitts is dated the 29th of March, 1912, and reads in part as follows:

I would state in reply that I am advised by the Director General of Public Health as follows: "The best course for a passenger under the circumstances related by Mr. Colpitts would be, after arranging with the ship's officers and getting his luggage prepared, to give his name and state his desire to land to the quarantine officer, when that official is preparing a clearance for the ship, and making out a nominal roll of the partial customs clearance for those who are landing at Rimouski.

That is the last I had to do with the matter. So far as I understand it, the officials of the Customs Department or other officials on board the boat, felt that Mr. Colpitts had not complied with the necessary regulations to enable him to land at Rimouski. The matter being referred to them, they adhered to that opinion, and gave their reasons—reasons which seemed good to both the Commissioner of Customs and the permanent officers of the Immigration Department.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: What are those reasons?

Mr. HAZEN: The reasons are given in the original letter, which I returned to Mr. Colpitts at his request, and I have not got a copy of that letter by me. So far as any injury to Mr. Colpitts is concerned, I may say that he was a student at college, and at the time was preparing to return to take up his studies. His time could not have been of very great value to him, and the only injury that was done to him was that he was carried on the Empress of Britain from Rimouski to Quebec, when he wanted to get off at Rimouski. He took the train for his home in Sackville at Quebec instead of at Rimouski. There was very little of anything that could be called damage.

Mr. EMMERSON: It is the principle.

Mr. HAZEN: Perhaps he has made a fight for principles, yet, after all, I do not think there is very much principle in it. The Minister of Customs points out the

[Mr. Hazen.]

steps that should be taken in order for him to land at Rimouski, and as he has had the benefit of a full inquiry on the part of the customs officials, I fail to see where any injury has been done to him. I do not think for a minute that he was not allowed to land simply because he was a third-class passenger, and not a first or second-class passenger; that is not the reason at all. He did not take the necessary steps to get what I may call a clearance (for the sake of a better word), to enable him to get off at Rimouski. I simply rose to make these remarks, as I had some correspondence with Mr. Colpitts. I have no idea what his politics are.

Mr. EMMERSON: Nor have I.

Mr. HAZEN: It is not a matter of politics. I would have been very glad to render him any assistance in my power if any wrong had been done to him. That was my sole connection with the matter.

Hon. J. D. REID (Minister of Customs): The Empress of Britain, on which Mr. Colpitts was a passenger, reached Rimouski on September 28, 1911. This man, as the hon. member for Westmorland (Mr. Emerson) has stated, blames the customs officer at Rimouski for not allowing him to land there. The officer, it is true, did allow a certain number of the first and second-class passengers to land there. Mr. Colpitts was, I understand, a steerage passenger. The quarantine officers did not give a clean bill of health to the steerage passengers, and for that reason Mr. Colpitts was not allowed to land. The quarantine regulations, passed by Order in Council in 1907, provide, in section 25:

In the case of a vessel carrying His Majesty's mails and arriving by the St. Lawrence, clearance certificate shall be from a quarantine officer at Rimouski (or at any other port designated by the minister) or at Grosse Isle, and in the case of every other vessel from Grosse Isle only, unless special permission to the contrary be obtained from the Minister of Agriculture;

(a) In the event of his finding a quarantinable disease on board, the quarantine officer at Rimouski (or at any other port designated by the minister) shall withhold the final clearance for customs entry, which shall only be given to the vessel when she has been released after quarantine inspection at Grosse Isle;

(b) When, however, in the judgment of the quarantine officer at Rimouski (or at any other port designated by the minister) mails and persons and their effects may be permitted to land at Rimouski (or at any other port designated by the minister) from such a vessel a partial clearance shall be given by such quarantine officer covering only the mails and the persons allowed to land there with their effects.