

qualifying examination. I know, as a matter of fact, that some of those were offered employment on British bottoms in Canadian waters, but under the law as it formerly stood, and as the hon. Minister proposes to continue it, they could not present themselves for examination unless they had been three years in the country. This is a direct discouragement to our citizens who have gone to the United States to come back to Canada again, and if it is proposed to be continued it is not in the public interest. Many of these men never did pass an examination in Canada, but I have no doubt that they could well do so, and would prefer living in Canada, as their friends nearly all live here. If the hon. gentleman would strike out that clause providing for three years' residence it would effect a very good purpose; for, as far as I can see, the law provides that a man who goes up for examination must be a British subject, and if he is, whether he is in the country for six months or for three years cannot make any difference. To pass the law as it now stands would appear to me to be a great hardship.

Mr. TUPPER. That is the law now.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). I know it is, but it is a bad law, and it has worked badly, and why should we not amend it?

Mr. TUPPER. It has not worked badly.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). It has worked badly, and I have given an instance of this. I could give the names of several of my constituents in the town of Goderich who would be willing to come back to Canada, but the law stands in their way, and it is an obstacle to their coming back to Canada. If we passed a bad law ten, fifteen, or twenty years ago, it is no reason why we should not repeal it, and this is the time to make the law perfect, when it is proposed to consolidate and amend it. It is no argument to say that because we have passed a bad law that we should continue that bad law. Let the hon. gentleman now make the law perfect in this Bill.

Mr. TUPPER. Perhaps I have not made myself sufficiently explicit. The master or mate must, in addition to his qualification, have put in service, and we say that it must be service in a registered ship of Canada, or a British ship, or if he is a British subject his foreign service will count. For instance, when a citizen of this country goes to the United States and ships on a vessel there, and comes back to pass an examination here, he cannot count his foreign service on a foreign ship; he must have served on a British ship or on a Canadian ship. This is not altogether a matter of sentiment. I have alluded several times to the Imperial Board of Trade, and they only sanctioned our dealing with certificates in a direct way on the undertaking that we would maintain their principles and rules. This matter comes under the discipline and the regulations of British ships and of colonial ships regulated by the British Merchants Shipping Act, and by our own regulations in connection with the certificates to masters and mates, and it gives a better guarantee on behalf of the applicant for a certificate of having put in good service, and his vouchers are easier to trace, and the certificates of that service are safer to depend upon. I would hesitate, without the gravest consideration—and hon. gentlemen will see

the reason of that hesitancy is well founded—to make such a radical change as that in the principle of the main Bill when we only propose now to make certain slight alterations. The proposition that has been made by the hon. gentleman would require the most careful consideration on the part of those concerned in the technical portion of this work in the Dominion, as to whether there could be sufficient safeguards placed around such a practice as the one proposed. It would not be right that a man might come from any foreign country in the world and say: I served on a ship and I can give you my word, or I am prepared to make an affidavit to that effect. We cannot trace the service of this man, and it stands to reason that on our own ships or on British ships we can do so much more safely, for we know and we have the guarantee that on these ships discipline is maintained by virtue of rigid rules and regulations. Whatever can be said as to the ships of the United States—and we need not regard that country alone, for the principle is wide, and covers every foreign nation—we are unable to say whether there is that same rigid adherence to regulations and that careful regard to discipline on board these ships as is known to obtain on our own ships. This question of service comes in in that way. It is not merely that a man shall have lived three years in Canada—that is, domiciled in a British ship in Canada, or being a British subject on a foreign ship—but he must show, in addition to that, that he is able to answer questions on nautical subjects, and by the regulations he is required to prove service as well.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). You don't rely on the service; you rely on the examination.

Mr. TUPPER. Partly on the service.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). A man has got to present himself and be examined.

Mr. TUPPER. Three years' service is absolutely obligatory, as well as the examination.

Mr. MULOCK. Where does that provision appear in the Act?

Mr. TUPPER. It appears in the rules and regulations under the main Act.

Mr. MULOCK. The hon. gentleman is confounding two distinct things in one section. Part of this clause deals with the examination.

Mr. TUPPER. Section 5 of the main Act says:

"The Governor in Council may, from time to time, make rules for the conduct of such examinations and as to the qualification of the applicants, and such rules shall be observed by all examiners."

Under this section regulations have been made.

Mr. MULOCK. If the section we have under consideration has to deal with the examination, then the rules which are made under this main Act meet the whole case. I quite agree as to the wisdom of the Government in insisting upon the candidate having an acquaintance with the waters in which he is supposed to sail, but here you are confounding two things. As far as this section is concerned, if there is no subsequent legislation, or no regulation passed under subsequent legislation, then under this particular clause a man who has never set foot on a ship can go up for examination.

Mr. TUPPER. But the hon. gentleman will see that he must read this section of the Bill with the section of the main Act which I have just read. A