

requests made, each year, by the shipping federation and other marine companies, to reduce pilot dues.

This class of citizens are highly respectable and have a right to our consideration. I think that the services they render to navigation are of the highest order and should be appreciated to their real value. No notice should be taken, of the requests to reduce, this year, their pay and privileges. The hon. minister, who hails from the province of Quebec will, I hope, keep his ears and heart open; he is aware of what is said and done, and, I trust that like all his predecessors, whether they were from Quebec or elsewhere, he will extend his protection to this deserving class of people, in Quebec. Will the hon. minister, now, inform the House whether it would be possible to have access to the reports he referred to in connection with the collisions I referred to a short while ago. These reports were submitted to the minister himself by the officials of his department and they advised him that enquiries were unnecessary as regards the *Empress of Britain* and the *Northern Voyager*? Would the hon. minister afford me an opportunity of examining these documents?

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): To the last question made by my hon. friend, I may state that if there is a written report, I have no objection to let him see it.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation): To whom shall I apply to see this document?

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): The hon. member may write to me and I shall be pleased to furnish him with the information required.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation): Are not these documents under the care of certain officials of the department?

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): A minister may take the trouble of replying personally to a representative of the people.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation): I just as much like to deal with the minister, although I have no quarrel with his officers. I trust that the minister will take into serious consideration my remarks in connection with the pilots as well as those of my hon. friend from *l'Islet* and that he will extend his protection to this class of citizens.

Mr. POULIOT (Translation): Mr. Chairman, the minister is in a very pleasant mood to-day; he will allow me to point out certain things in connection with the pilot schools. There was, at one time, a great number of pilots in Quebec; a large number of people followed this calling. Unfortunately, for some

time past, the young men have drifted in other directions. To my mind they should be encouraged. In pilot schools, a list is kept of apprentice-pilots who have been found eligible, they are supposed to obtain a position as soon as a vacancy arises. However, I am informed that for a number of years—I do not blame the minister or his predecessors in this respect—the minister has discriminated in making appointments among the eligible pilots instead of following the order of merit or the list already set up. I wonder if the minister would mind giving a chance to all the young men whose names are on that list by showing no favour, and allowing those at the bottom of the list to rise gradually, so that they may receive fair treatment. This is a humble suggestion which I make to the hon. minister. It is the more sincere since I am very little acquainted with the apprentice-pilots whose names are on the list in his possession.

Would it be possible for the minister to find positions of apprentice-pilots or pilots for a number of young men who are at present without work? A large number of our young men after going through college are at a loss what to do. At that period of life young men have, to some extent, a craving for adventures. Among this class it seems to me that a number could follow this maritime career and become pilots. The occupation of pilot is sufficiently lucrative, but, at present, navigation is less active than in previous years. Let us hope for better days. I make a second suggestion to the hon. minister: that of finding an occupation for young men coming out of college, who are at a loss what to do, by allowing them to study pilotage on ships.

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): Mr. Chairman, replying to the remarks made by the hon. members for *l'Islet*, *Temiscouata* and *Charlevoix-Saguenay*, in connection with the pilots and their salaries, may I assure them that we shall, as much as it is in our power, do justice to all interested parties. I have much sympathy for pilots and apprentice-pilots and I always have given much consideration to their representations. May I inform the committee that, recently, the Quebec and Montreal pilots and apprentice-pilots, met at the Marine Department the heads of the Shipping Federation. I was pleased to pass half a day listening to the arguments of the interested parties; the latter requested a reduction while the former insisted that last year's cut of 5 per cent be not continued this year. We are studying the question and I hope that the decision we arrive at will be satisfactory to all parties concerned.