

citizen who, by reason of circumstances of whatever nature, travels third-class, should not have the privilege, in common with first and second-class passengers, of landing at Rimouski. This is the crux and gist of the whole matter. I do not bring it forward in any spirit of antagonism; in the interests of this young man and of all other Canadian citizens who may, perchance, be like situated, I invite the attention of the Government to this matter in the hope that some measure of readjustment or regulation may be effected whereby in the future no Canadian citizen will be subjected to the inconvenience to which Mr. Colpitts was subjected in September, 1911. I think the full facts should be laid before the House, that a complete return should be made, and that an official notice should be issued to the general public detailing just what the rights of Canadian citizens under such circumstances are. I am sure that it is in the interests of the country at large that our young men should be encouraged to travel abroad, to widen their field of knowledge and improve their education. Many young men do seek thus to broaden their ideas by travelling, but they have to travel, perchance, at the minimum of cost, and I am sure it is not in the interests of this country that they should have stripped from them their rights as Canadians simply because of the impoverished condition of their finances. I commend the matter to the careful consideration of the House and of the Government.

Hon. J. D. HAZEN (Minister of Marine and Fisheries): The motion offered by the hon. member for Westmorland asks for the production of all documents in and correspondence with any department of the Government, particularly the Department of Marine and Fisheries. There has been no correspondence on this matter with the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and that department is not concerned with it in any way. I myself had some personal correspondence with Mr. Colpitts, who, being a native of New Brunswick, wrote to me in regard to the matter, and, while I think this correspondence is of a personal nature I would not have the slightest objection to bringing it before the House.

Mr. EMMERSON: In drafting the resolution in the first instance I was under the impression that the correspondence was with the hon. minister, and that is the reason why his department was particularly mentioned.

Mr. HAZEN: Mr. Colpitts wrote to me as minister from New Brunswick in the Cabinet; that is why he solicited my good offices in the matter. As I understand it, Mr. Colpitts came out from England on the Empress of Britain, which arrived at Rimouski on September 28, 1911, at the time the Customs Department was being administered by the predecessor of the present Minister of Customs.

For some reason or other Mr. Colpitts was not allowed to land at Rimouski, and had to go on and disembark at Quebec. He felt that he had a right to disembark at Rimouski, and took the matter up with several departments of the Government, writing letters to the Customs Department, the Immigration Department, and the Department of Public Health. On the 20th of February he wrote me a letter enclosing copies of this correspondence, and stating that he had been unable to get what he considered a satisfactory explanation of his not being allowed to land at Rimouski, and he asked me if I would ascertain what the reason was. He enclosed me the original correspondence, which I returned to him, and which I have not now in my possession. I replied to him on the 26th of February, and after acknowledging receipt of his letter, said:

The letter from Mr. R. R. Farrow, assistant Commissioner of Customs, dated the 11th of December, 1911, states the law very clearly as to why you were not permitted to land, and in view of the same, I would not care to interfere in the matter, as I am quite sure it would be of no avail.

Apparently, among the letters he enclosed me was one from Mr. Farrow, which, when I read it, seemed to me to give a correct explanation of the reason why this young man was not allowed to land at Rimouski, and in view of that letter I thought nothing was to be gained by pursuing the matter further. However, Mr. Colpitts, who seems to have been somewhat persistent, and to have had a good deal of that quality which is known as 'stick-to-itiveness'—a very good quality to have in life—was not satisfied with this, and he wrote me again. I was absent when his letter reached here, but when I reached home from England in 1912 I wrote the Minister of Customs pointing out what Mr. Colpitts had said, and pointing out, further, that his complaint was that no explanation of the action of the customs officer in refusing to let him land at Rimouski had been given; and in my letter I said to the Minister of Customs that I thought a satisfactory explanation could