

*Inquiries of the Ministry***FISHERIES****REMISSION OF FINES AGAINST PORTUGUESE FLEET**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Acting Minister of Transport): On Friday last, as appears on page 8429 of *Hansard*, the hon. member for Cape Breton North and Victoria directed a question to the Minister of Transport concerning the deposit or fine levied against Portuguese fishing vessels after landing in harbour, and the changes in its application. By way of an answer to the question I would advise the hon. member that on Saturday, September 12, at a press conference in St. John's, the Minister of Transport announced that the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration had agreed to restore the former system of requiring deposits of from \$300 to \$500 against the possibility of the desertion of fishermen from ships, in place of the higher deposit of \$1,000. The higher deposit will continue to apply to merchant ships but the lower deposit is all that will be required of fishing vessels fishing off the coast of Canada.

This ruling will apply, of course, in all ports, not just in St. John's, as suggested in the question: but the reason for reverting to the old policy was the fear expressed in certain quarters that the higher deposit might result in the Portuguese fishing fleet moving from St. John's to St. Pierre as its main port for taking on supplies. It should be emphasized that the lower deposit with respect to fishing vessels applies in all ports, not just in St. John's, Newfoundland.

The hon. member also asked for the authority for the fine or deposit being levied. The authority is section 62 of the Immigration Act.

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): May I thank the acting minister for his reply to the question I asked on Friday, and add that I am sure I speak for all members of the house when I say how much we regret the fact that the Minister of Transport is ill and wish him a speedy recovery and return to this chamber.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): My supplementary question is this. Am I to understand from the minister's answer—I did not quite catch all of it—that no concession has been granted to the port of St. John's, Newfoundland, which will not be given, or has not been given, to the port of

[Mr. Speaker.]

North Sydney or any other port in similar circumstances?

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, there has been no discrimination as between ports. The order applies to all ports equally.

TRANSPORTATION**LACK OF RAILWAY PASSENGER ACCOMMODATION, MONTREAL-VANCOUVER**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Acting Minister of Transport): May I take this opportunity to answer a question which was asked by the hon. member for Medicine Hat on Friday last as reported in *Hansard* at page 8432, and again referred to yesterday, at page 8483 of *Hansard*, concerning the shortage of certain types of passenger accommodation on Canadian Pacific Railway trains between Montreal and Vancouver.

I have obtained the necessary information from the C.P.R. and the answer is as follows. Railway passenger equipment is used to capacity only over very short periods. Even in the heavy passenger months commencing in the latter part of June until after Labour day, there has been space available on Canadian Pacific transcontinental trains except for odd week ends this year as in past years.

However, as is normal in the heavy travel periods, some types of accommodation are often not available; for example, bedrooms or compartments. Passenger travel falls off drastically after Labour day, and accommodation is curtailed in accordance with demand. There has been sleeping car accommodation available on "The Canadian" every day over the last two weeks between many points, although special space, such as connecting bedrooms or drawing rooms, has not always been available.

The hon. member for Okanagan Boundary asked a related question concerning the difficulty experienced by railway union members as distinct from fare paying passengers in obtaining accommodation. The answer I have been given is as follows. During peak travel periods free transportation is not provided to employees on "The Canadian"; however, they can secure tickets at half the regular rate. Free transportation is provided on "The Dominion" during peak travel periods, and on "The Canadian" for sleeping car accommodation at other periods, restricted to advance reservations for upper berths only. Special arrangements are made for employees who, because of age or infirmity, require better accommodation.