

mation was furnished to us only within the past few days, and we are now taking steps to make that fact known so that any of our seamen who are anxious to enlist in the British navy will be able to make application to us, and when the Hon. Rupert Guinness arrives here the matter will be submitted to him. I suppose that the newspaper item to which my hon. friend refers is something along that line, but I have not yet seen it.

Hon. WILLIAM PUGSLEY: As my hon. friend from Pictou will not have another opportunity to speak, I shall read the despatch which appears in the Montreal Daily Mail. It is a despatch from Ottawa as follows:

Canada to recruit for British Navy.

Ottawa, April 17.—The British Admiralty wants recruits in Canada for the navy and a recruiting party headed by Hon. Rupert Guinness is on its way across the Atlantic. The party will be in Ottawa in the course of a few days. Only seafaring men are required as recruits and the rates of pay, pensions and separation allowances will be those in force in the Royal Navy.

It is expected that the Canadian Patriotic Fund will take care that the emolument to the dependents of the Canadian sailors will be made up to the standard of the militia.

The limit of age is 40 and the period of engagement will be the duration of the war. Persons resident in the maritime provinces who wish to join should as a preliminary step send their names and addresses to the Superintendent H.M.C. dockyard, Halifax; those resident in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan to the Superintendent H.M.C. dockyard, Esquimalt, and those in the remaining provinces to the Secretary Department of Naval Service, Ottawa.

Beyond the regular naval service the recruiting party wants recruits for the auxiliary patrol service of the Admiralty. This is a motor boat service which has turned out to be one of the most valuable of the navy.

That information would seem to be somewhat more definite and authentic than the remarks of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries would lead one to suppose. It would rather seem as though some one in Ottawa, probably connected with the department, had more information as to the mission upon which these gentlemen are coming from England than my hon. friend the Minister of the Naval Service himself.

Mr. HAZEN: It is exactly the information which I have given the House.

Mr. PUGSLEY: No. While the Minister of the Naval Service puts the idea of recruiting sailors for the Admiralty as secondary to the question of getting men to man motor boats, this article puts the

[Mr. Hazen.]

question of recruiting for the navy ahead as being the supreme matter in regard to which this commission is coming from England and the question of manning motor boats is one of an entirely secondary character.

While upon my feet, I wish to express my regret at the half-hearted way in which the Minister of Naval Service speaks of the idea of recruiting Canadians for service in the British navy. He says that any persons desirous of entering the Admiralty service will be requested to send in their names, and will be given an opportunity of serving. I think that from the beginning of the war this Government has been remiss in its duty in not encouraging our young men to offer their services to the British Admiralty. Of course, we on this side of the House have always been in favour of starting a Canadian navy, which would be of assistance both to Canada and to the Empire. Failing that, I think, as many other hon. gentlemen on this side of the House think, that this Government ought to have taken hold of the question in a whole-hearted and enthusiastic manner. We have thousands, scores of thousands, of young men in Canada, living on the shores of the Great Lakes, who are accustomed to navigation; thousands of young men upon the coasts of both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans; thousands of young men engaged in the fisheries, who would be delighted to have an opportunity of entering the service of the Admiralty. But, from the very beginning of the war until now, they have received no encouragement, and to-day the remarks of my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries are made in a half-hearted way. He says that if the British Government want our young men, and they want to go, they will be allowed to go; that permission will be given to them to serve the Empire in this splendid service. I do not think that that is the right spirit in which this question should be approached. This Government should have entered into an arrangement with the British Government to enable our young men to receive in the naval service pay commensurate with that which our young men serving in the army are receiving, and should have encouraged them to enter the Admiralty service. It should always be borne in mind that our young men engaged in the naval service of the Empire would be engaged in the service of Canada, for Canada is almost in the centre of the Empire, and what benefits the Empire