

section, as the Committee will see, relates to these minor or inland waters. I confess I did not give any critical examination to this clause, because I supposed it was based upon existing regulations.

Mr. LISTER. I would ask the Minister whether he intends that Lake St. Clair shall be considered one of the minor waters?

Mr. TUPPER. I am not going to constitute myself a court any longer.

Mr. LISTER. I want to say to my hon. friend from the sea (Mr. Fraser), that I have a great respect for him, but I cannot conceal the fact from myself that a great many of those gentlemen down by the sea are not acquainted with our inland seas up west. If he will come up west he will see ships that over-top the little craft they send out from Nova Scotia. These lakes up west are oceans.

Mr. EDGAR. The hon. member from Frontenac can tell us whether Lake St. Clair is an inland water or not.

Mr. KIRKPATRICK. These inland waters have not been defined in the Act yet, I think?

Mr. TUPPER. Yes; in the two first clauses, (h) and (i), which have been taken out of the regulations. They have been in the regulations, but never in an Act of Parliament.

Mr. KIRKPATRICK. I think, if my memory serves me right, you define in your regulations what minor waters are. You define the Bay of Quinté by a line drawn across Red Wolfe Island. In some certificates you define particularly what minor waters are, and you prevent any person, without a certificate, from sailing on Lake Ontario west of a certain line.

Mr. TUPPER. The only change is the words "on the minor waters."

Mr. EDGAR. I dare say it is a very good thing to require that persons should be domiciled in Canada for at least three years who intend to become masters or mates of sea-going ships, or perhaps of inland ships. But why is it necessary to apply that same rule to the masters and mates of these two-penny-half-penny little inland ferry boats on little bays or inland lakes?—for that is the way the Act is drawn.

Mr. TUPPER. That is the original Act.

Mr. EDGAR. No; it is an amendment.

Mr. TUPPER. It is in the original Act.

Mr. EDGAR. The Minister applies the amendment concerning the minor waters to the original Act, which requires three years domicile in Canada for every master or mate. Now, I think that should not be made to apply to these small inland waters. It may be all right for sea-going ships.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). I objected to this clause when it was first proposed by the late hon. member for Stanstead (Mr. Colby), and I see no reasons to support it now. It says that a party must be domiciled in Canada for three years before he can undergo his examination and engage in his particular business, although as a resident of a foreign country he may have pursued it for a greater portion of his life. Why should a Norwegian, for instance, who has sailed a vessel in his own country for a quarter of a century, and who becomes a resident of Canada, be required to reside three years in this country before he can pursue

his ordinary occupation and means of livelihood, any more than a man who comes out here for the purpose of cultivating the soil? If you were to adopt such a rule, and say that a man must reside in this country three years before he can engage as a farm hand, before he can engage as a mechanic, or a labourer, why, you see at once the monstrous and absurd character of such a proposition. I say that in a democratic country like this we ought to know no distinction, we ought not to make any classification of the population in this way. We assume that a man who engages in any calling or profession, if he is honest, if he is industrious, ought to be regarded in the eye of the law as respectable as any other, and if a man may come here without any disability being imposed upon him as an ordinary labourer, as a farmer or a mechanic, why may he not engage as a master of a ship, if he is competent to undergo an examination and to take charge of a vessel? If it is his intention to become a British subject, or if he intends to remain in the country, I see no reason why this should not be the case. This attempt to create close corporations or guilds, with a view of excluding men from this, that or the other guild, for which they may be qualified, I think is a policy that ought to find no place in the legislation of this country, and the sooner we get rid of the influence of that spirit the better it will be for us. Why, Sir, I have known myself men coming from Germany, standing high in the medical profession of that country, being run out of this country and going to the neighbouring Republic, and taking hundreds with them, where they may have the liberty of practising their profession. It seems to me monstrous that we should adopt a policy of this sort. Every calling or profession should be free for every man to engage in who is qualified, and who can take his examination, and it is not our business to enquire how he obtained his knowledge, or how long he was in obtaining it; if he possesses it, that is sufficient for our purpose, and we should allow him to engage in whatever calling or employment he pleases.

Mr. TUPPER. The hon. gentleman is mistaken when he says this proposition was brought forward by Mr. Colby last year. The Bill Mr. Colby had before the House related to steamboats; the principle is practically the same. This principle was adopted by this House as far back as 1883, and it is not a new suggestion. I merely threw it out to the Committee; of course, I expected the Committee would criticise it. It is not a proposition that affects any substantial change whatever. The Bill is long, and there are many suggestions that may occur in the direction of a reform of the present Act. But that is a matter by the way. There is a reason for maintaining the principle which the hon. gentleman criticises. The hon. gentleman says we should have practically free trade in these certificates, and that any one should be admitted to take charge of our vessels. In connection with the coasting trade, the hon. gentleman knows that the position is this: that each nation is very jealous in respect to the control of its coasting trade, and the only occasion on which this country has offered to reciprocate in these privileges or extend these privileges to foreigners is when foreigners extend them to us. We are situated in this position: that our neighbours to the south have regulations in re-