

Mr. POULIOT (Translation): In connection with these professors, will the hon. minister permit me to point out a fact? At present, things are abnormal. If the country is so depressed, it is, perhaps, because there are too many doctors. There are doctors not only in medicine, but in various occupations. There are people eminent like the Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition who have received a number of university degrees, yet the name of Dr. Bennett is no more heard of than that of Dr. King. I wonder whether all these professors are doctors. There are gentlemen who sometimes receive the degree of doctor in law from universities who hold no chairs, yet these gentlemen are all along called doctors. I wonder if these professors are doctors and whether their names appear in the public accounts with this degree attached like that of certain individuals inscribed with the degree of doctor and followed by very numerous letters, in the documents relating to the House of Commons—doctors in bluff!

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation): Some time ago I inquired from the minister about an accident which took place last year, in August, on the St. Lawrence river, when the Empress of Britain collided with another ship at the mouth of the Saguenay river. I wanted to know whether an inquiry had been held under the supervision of the Wreck Commissioner. The minister answered that there had not been one. I then asked why an inquiry had not been held and the minister answered that in the opinion of the Marine department an inquiry was not necessary. I put similar questions, about the same date, in connection with another accident which took place at "île Rouge," when a ship belonging to the Clark Co. was dashed on the island, and the answer was the same, that in the opinion of the Marine department, an inquiry was not necessary. If I am not mistaken, there is a provision in the Marine Act that, when a rather serious accident takes place, an inquiry must be held. In the first instance, the accident was serious enough since two boats came into collision, the Empress of Britain and another ship. In the second case, the ship had been dashed on the island and remained there for a few days. Certainly there was, in both cases, a casualty at sea and the act provides that in all such cases an inquiry must be held.

I have, as counsel, defended a pilot when it was a case of a ship which had slightly touched a rock, near Tadoussac, four or five years ago. When the inquiry started before Commissioner Demers, I contended that there was no necessity of proceeding with this case,

because there had not been a sea casualty in the sense of the law, since there was no damage sustained, the ship having continued its course and arrived safely at Quebec, and later, at Montreal. I note that in both cases to which I referred, no inquiry was held, although a collision took place, and, in the other case, the ship remained on the rocks, I think, for a day. The reply of the hon. Minister of Marine was, in both cases, that in the opinion of the Marine department an inquiry was not necessary. I wish to inquire why the Minister of Marine, on his own initiative, decided, contrary to what the Act states in such cases, that no inquiry was necessary.

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): Mr. Chairman, in connection with inquiries, the rule which the Department of Marine has always followed, is that an unofficial inquiry is held by certain officers of the department. When, in the opinion of the department, there is not sufficient grounds to warrant an official inquiry, that such an inquiry would throw discredit on the St. Lawrence or our navigable routes, when the matter has no consequence, the department considers that it is better not to hold an inquiry first, on account of the outlay involved and then because no purpose would be served. In both cases quoted by my hon. friend, a moment ago, the officers of the department came to that conclusion which, moreover, I approved. I think that neither the good name of the St. Lawrence, nor the companies interested, nor the employees of these companies, nor the passengers and pilots suffered from the fact that an inquiry was not held. As to the Empress of Britain, it was but a bare contact, and after looking into the matter the department decided that an official enquiry was unnecessary.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation): Will the hon. minister state on what section of the Act he bases his decision?

Mr. MACDOUGALL: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. CASGRAIN: I should like an answer from the minister.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: I happen to understand the French language and consequently can appreciate the altercations proceeding between my hon. friend and the minister. I think, in fairness to those who do not understand the French language, these items should be discussed in English as well as in French.

Mr. CASGRAIN: I should like to have an answer from the minister.

Mr. DURANLEAU: In English or in French?