

sented the minister's suggestion that I am here pleading for the rich shipowners because that is not my position at all. My position is that the fee should not be changed and that in the next place these same rich shipowners should be compelled to look after their own sick sailors under proper Government regulations and provision. If that were done I submit that it would be possible not to increase this fee this year. Let the matter stand for another year.

Mr. ROWELL: Possibly my hon. friend (Mr. Stevens) is not aware of the fact that under a contract which we have with British Columbia we are bound to maintain marine hospitals, and we cannot be released from the arrangement which requires us to make provision with existing British Columbia hospitals for the care of sick seamen. The Government has concluded an agreement with the Government of British Columbia to make such provision and therefore it is not a case where we could turn over to the shipping companies the obligation to which my hon. friend has referred. I do not see how the companies could seriously suffer from this legislation. It does increase to some extent the dues. The charges would be increased on all the ships by approximately \$15,000 a year according to the Estimates I have. I cannot see how \$15,000 would seriously prejudice the shipping coming into our ports from all nations. It does not seem to me that it is such an additional charge as to seriously prejudice any shipping interests sailing into our Canadian ports. Our charges would not compare with those of any other ports and especially American ports. One complaint of my hon. friend is that the American Government takes advantage of this provision to impose a much higher tax on our ships going into United States ports.

Mr. STEVENS: That is not the only charge against shipping. It is only an incidental charge. There are other charges and many of them in different ports.

Mr. LOGGIE: Is this one-half cent increase per ton due to the increased cost of living or of maintaining these sick sailors at the hospitals. With the increased cost of food, clothing, etc., the keeper of the hospitals cannot get a fair return on their investment. I understand that is what the minister tells the House. I would like to say also to the hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Stevens) that Dr. Godin is doing more than the work of a clerk because

he supervises the expenditures of the hospitals all over the country from time to time and that work, I fancy, requires a man of some experience. I want to know whether the increased cost is due to the increased cost of living—the cost of food, clothing and other materials necessary in the hospitals.

Mr. ROWELL: The increase is substantially as my hon. friend (Mr. Loggie) has suggested. We maintain four hospitals. The cost of everything has gone up and therefore it costs us more to maintain these four hospitals than it did three or four years ago. Then we have agreements with about 35 hospitals in the parts of Canada where sick sailors come in. We have to renew our agreements at higher rates because the hospitals cannot afford to renew them at the old rates. I could give the rates which formerly prevailed and the present rates in all these hospitals. There is a very substantial increase in the charge. We cannot help it; we have to pay. Just one word in reference to Dr. Godin. He is the officer of the Government who must see that these four hospitals in different parts of Canada are properly administered and he must also see that the 35 other hospitals carry out their agreements for the care of sick sailors. That is an important office which he has filled for a great many years and filled very acceptably.

Mr. LOGGIE: I want to confirm what the minister has said because we have one of these hospitals which has received assistance for half a century. The allowance was so small that the keeper had to put his grievance before the department. I am glad to say that they met his views to some extent but nevertheless the amount which he receives is still very small and, considering the increased cost of living, I do not know but what his case should receive even further consideration.

Bill reported, and amendments read the second time.

On the motion of the Hon. Mr. Rowell that the Bill be read a third time.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Bill can only be read a third time now with the unanimous consent of the House.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read a third time and passed.

NORTHWEST GAME ACT AMENDMENT.

On the motion of Sir Robert Borden Bill No. 151 to amend the Northwest Game Act was read a second time, considered in com-