

Mr. Lewkowicz,—

The releasing hooks are part of the boat equipment, and have nothing to do with the davit.

Mr. Adams,—

Can that equipment be used for canvas boats?

Mr. Lewkowicz,—

Oh yes, on most vessels nowadays they have canvas boats.

Mr. Adams,—

How near to the side of the vessel is the boat when it is launched?

Mr. Lewkowicz,—

The boat is launched close to the rail. This apparatus gives you an idea how close to the ship the boat is when it is launched.

Mr. Baldwin,—

Can this system be adopted in lowering steam pinnaces on battle ships?

Mr. Lewkowicz,—

Yes. One of the points brought out was that with this apparatus it would be possible to have larger life-boats. The Canadian rules and regulations only allow boats up to 22 feet to be used, although I understand they have been increased to 24 feet in recent years, this being the longest boat they considered could be safely handled with the old fashioned davit, and I think they were very wise to make that restriction.

Mr. Bannon,—

What would be the result if the man in charge of the apparatus lost his head, and allowed the boat to drop suddenly, would it not swamp the boat?

Mr. Lewkowicz,—

Commander Thompson of the Life-saving Department at Ottawa told me that the midshipmen in the navy have to practice manning a boat and dropping it down from the releasing hooks, with the object of accustoming them to letting both ends down simultaneously.

I have let a loaded boat go down as fast as it possibly could with this apparatus, just to test it. Of course it made a big