

wages of the 100 Merchant Seamen who were prisoners in Germany and for the non-payment of War Service and Special Bonuses during confinement. (Payment of Special Bonus of 10 per cent without time limitation to Merchant Seamen while prisoners has subsequently been authorized by Order in Council P.C. 18 of January 11, 1946.)

Mr. Shaw urged furthermore that the Special Bonus of 10 per cent should be paid to the many Canadian seamen who served on ships other than those of Canadian registry whose wages were in all cases lower than those paid on Canadian ships; moreover, that Canada should follow the lead of Australia in supplementing the pay to equal that payable on her own ships. (Mr. Randles said that the pay on ships of North and Central American registry was considerably higher than Canadian pay and he cited other instances of European registry where the same advantage was evident.)

Mr. Shaw's brief urged that, in addition to the points mentioned, Merchant Seamen should be permitted to participate in all benefits under the rehabilitation scheme.

Mr. O'Grady, who submitted his brief through Mr. R. W. Mayhew, M.P., argued generally along lines similar to that of Mr. Shaw but stressed particularly that only a very few Canadian Merchant Seamen were engaged in seafaring careers before the war and that they should be eligible for educational training, vocational training and general rehabilitation benefits.

The position of Merchant Seamen is broadly stated hereafter, based on the several regulations and information obtained from the Department of Transport witnesses. To achieve greater clarity, some repetition has been permitted.

Pay

Canadian rates of pay are based on those paid by United Kingdom operators. The basic rate at the outbreak of the war for an able-bodied seamen was \$52.50 per month. In 1941 a 25 per cent War Risk Bonus was added for service in dangerous waters. In 1942 the basic rate was increased to \$70 per month, plus \$19.93 Cost-of-Living Bonus and a flat War Risk Bonus of \$22.25 (£5/0/0) established.

In 1943 the war risk bonus was increased to \$44.50 where it remained until 31st December, 1945, making a total of \$89.93 a month basic pay, plus \$44.50 while at sea. The war risk bonus is payable only for time at sea and forms a part of the wage paid by the operator as distinct from the war service bonus and the special bonus payable by the Canadian Government.

War Service Bonus

Order in Council P.C. 49/2705 dated April 18, 1944, authorized the payment of a war service bonus of 10 per cent of total earnings to any seaman who signed an agreement to join a manning pool and serve at sea on foreign-going ships of Canadian registry for a period of two years or for the duration of the war, whichever might be the lesser period. The bonus was payable from the date of signing this agreement or, in the case of a man on the strength of a manning pool or serving in a foreign-going ship at the date the order in council came into effect and who immediately signed the agreement on discharge from his ship, from the 1st of April, 1944. The bonus was payable at the end of every 12 months' continuous service commencing from the date of the signing of the agreement or the 1st of April, 1944, as the case might be.

Special Bonus

Order in Council P.C. 3227 dated May 3, 1945, authorized the payment of a special bonus of 10 per cent of all earnings, excluding overtime, for all service in dangerous waters between September 10, 1939, and April 1, 1944, subject to the following conditions:—