

Seamen's Act, shall not exceed what it would be if section 16 thereof were in force in that province.

So that objections have been fully met by the Department of Justice. It is needless for me to go over the ground we have already gone when the question was under discussion on former occasions. I think that the Bill as proposed to be amended will be acceptable to the House.

Mr. STOCKTON. As I understand, the classes of people named cannot be appointed as shipping masters. But, if I caught correctly what the minister said, they can be appointed deputy shipping masters with the consent of the Minister of Marine.

Mr. PREFONTAINE. No; the appointment of such people is illegal, and the sanction of the minister cannot make it legal. I will send the hon. gentleman (Mr. Stockton) the copy of the amendments that I have, and he will see the effect of them.

Mr. STOCKTON. Having read the amendments, I see that they meet the points.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The minister's position is that the prohibition against the appointment against this class of people is still in force?

Mr. PREFONTAINE. Yes.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I think that the amendments, as drafted, meet the objections that I had to the Bill.

Bill, as amended, reported, and read the third time and passed.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

Bill (No. 186) to provide for the regulation of wireless telegraphy in Canada—Mr. Préfontaine—was read the second time, and House went into committee thereon.

Hon. RAYMOND PREFONTAINE. (Minister of Marine and Fisheries). This Bill is almost an exact copy of a Bill passed by the British parliament last year for the regulation of wireless telegraphy in Great Britain. It was forwarded to the Department of Marine and Fisheries in the month of August last with the suggestion that a similar law should be passed for the Dominion of Canada. As it was towards the end of the session, the matter was postponed until this year. The House will remember that when the Fessenden Wireless Telegraphy Company asked for a charter and their Bill was before the Railway Committee, it was redrafted almost entirely on the lines of the law passed in England in 1904, so as to protect the public interest. The object of this Bill therefore is to give the government control of wireless telegraphy in such a manner as to ensure the greatest efficiency, and to obtain the greatest benefit to the public interest. Wireless stations, whether on ocean or on shore, must be li-

Mr. PREFONTAINE.

censed by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, who shall prescribe the conditions under which they may be worked. The Bill makes provision for instrumental installation. The importance of the Bill will be manifest to every one. At the present time the government is installing wireless stations on the Gulf of the St. Lawrence as aids to navigation. It is therefore important that these stations, which are under the control of and maintained by the government, should be protected, and that no other stations should be installed near enough to them to interfere with the public service. In the contract between the government and the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company, they are granted no exclusive privileges, so there can be no monopoly. But it stands to reason that if other stations were to be installed near the Marconi public stations which are maintained by the government, our stations would probably be rendered useless or ineffective. For that reason the Railway Committee unanimously inserted in the Fessenden Bill most of the clauses which are contained in this Bill.

Mr. BLAIN. Have the government any vessels fitted up with wireless telegraphy at the present time?

Mr. PREFONTAINE. Yes, we have four vessels equipped with the Marconi apparatus, the 'Minto,' the 'Stanley,' the 'Canada,' which is going to meet the 'Virginian' near North Sydney in a few days, and the 'Montcalm.'

Mr. BLAIN. What has been the experience of the government so far?

Mr. PREFONTAINE. Most satisfactory. The last station that was installed by the Marconi Company was at Sable Island, and I received the first wireless despatch that was sent by this company from that noted spot on the ocean. It is called, as everybody knows, the cemetery of the Atlantic ocean. It will be no longer a cemetery, because the people on that island will henceforth be in communication with the rest of the world, and have already been so for ten days.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. In view of the fact that the Bill was withdrawn last year because it was introduced at so late a period in the session, we must congratulate the minister on his promptness this year. Five months and eighteen days after the session commenced he has introduced his Bill, and we are now within three days of six months; so there can be no complaint this year on that score. As I understand the Bill, it is merely to provide that licenses shall be issued, that no person shall establish any wireless telegraphic station either on ocean or on shore unless he has a government license.

Mr. PREFONTAINE. That is all.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.