

Mr. GREENE: The board appoints a medical referee. A Doctor MacIntosh in Halifax is our medical referee for cases in that area. Based on the referee's findings the board will award the proper percentage on earnings, and so on and the degree of disability.

Mr. BARNETT: I should like to ask one question as to one who does not take adequate action in a case to obtain the redress, if I may put it that way. As far as I can see from the act it provides that the seaman will give notice to his employer. I was wondering whether under a regulation they are informed to direct a communication to the board, if they felt their employer has not taken the proper course.

Mr. GREENE: We have had quite a number of cases where representations have been made directly or on behalf of a seaman, and the board has dealt with each case and seen that justice is given to the injured man.

Mr. BARNETT: Proceeding on the assumption that the employer was properly notified and it was discovered after that that course had not been followed, that would not prejudice his situation?

Mr. GREENE: The board will review cases on the production of something substantial.

Mr. BROWN: No, that does not prejudice the seaman. They can communicate directly with the board. That is general knowledge.

Mr. GREENE: We did get out and have got out in the past large placards which are posted in all ports and everywhere that seamen go. Naturally, these seamen, most of them, are union men and we notified the union and we did everything we could to protect the seamen under the act.

Mr. BROWN: There is really no reason why an employer should not report, because they are covered by insurance, anyway, and the claim is paid through that source.

Mr. BELL: Mr. Chairman, may I ask where these 3600 seamen would be, generally; what seas, or if we want to carry it further, on the west coast, or great lakes or do they come in ships with British registry?

Mr. BROWN: Mostly the maritime provinces. All the seamen working on the west coast on ships there are taken care of under the British Columbia Workmen's Compensation Act and the same is true of those seamen on the great lakes. It is a question of how the provincial boards apply their residence rules in the application of their acts, and the chief area where the seamen are not covered by the provincial legislation is in some of the maritime provinces.

Mr. BELL: May I ask if there are any groups of seamen that you know of that are not covered by any acts? In other words, have you received any claims which you had to turn down because of lack of qualification under the act?

Mr. BROWN: I am not just sure that I understand that.

Mr. BELL: I wonder if there are any seamen that you know of who would not come under provincial legislation, this legislation or any other legislation? In other words, have you received any claims for compensation or inquiries that you have had to turn down due to lack of requirements under the act, and those seamen did not receive any compensation?

Mr. GREENE: We have had only one case in the last ten years.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Where was that from?

Mr. GREENE: Halifax.

Mrs. FAIRCLOUGH: What would be the circumstances?