

many of you have done that? How many of you have had an awful time getting to shore? How many of you have tasted the cold waters for two hours, or maybe an hour and a half, before being rescued?

Mr. SINCLAIR (Vancouver North): We give up.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): Who said that?

Mr. SINCLAIR (Vancouver North): I say we give up.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): I cannot hear you.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Vancouver North): You asked a question.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): If you would speak a little louder I would hear you.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Vancouver North): You asked a question.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): I do not know whether you are a seafaring man or whether you have ever been on the water in your life, but if you do not know what you are talking about, please do not interrupt.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Vancouver North): I was overseas in this war and I came back.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): Are you a sailor? Have you ever been on the water? Have you ever been in the water for five hours without being rescued? I am making my speech and I know what I am talking about. I have been four or five hours in the water without being rescued and I know what it is like. A great many of our lads from the great lakes went on the ocean. I know four boys who were in penitentiary and they got out for service in the merchant marine when they could not get out for other service because they were not fit. Should they not have compensation?

How would you like to be on a raft today, Mr. Speaker? How would any of the other members of the House of Commons like to be on a raft for two or three days? Have we had any members who have had the experience of being torpedoed?

Mr. SINCLAIR (Vancouver North): The Minister of Reconstruction.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): I wish hon. members would keep their mouths shut.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Golding): I must ask the hon. member to withdraw that statement.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): I withdraw it, but the interruptions become annoying.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Golding): Such language is not to be used in the house.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): I am sorry it has been used and I withdraw it. I wish the Minister of Reconstruction (Mr. Howe) were in his place now; I wish the hon. member for Quebec South (Mr. Power) were here. They have had the experience and they know what it is like to be in the water. The boys that I have been talking about did a good job in the battle of the Atlantic and we should give them credit for what they did. As a matter of fact, our troops have far better care than these boys who were on the boats. They were taken from here, there and everywhere. They had practically no care at all as far as medical examination was concerned, until we had the manning pool set up, and then we took them from every place. They did a good job for this country, for Great Britain and for the United States as well, and they deserve every consideration that is given to any of the armed forces.

Take the question of dental care. Well, they did not have any, not even after the pool was set up.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Golding): I must ask the hon. member to deal with the bill before us, which has to do with compensation.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): I will just try to make a little plea. The bill deals with compensation. It deals with compensation before 1945.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Golding): Workmen's compensation.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): Yes, workmen's compensation. If you do not call these people workmen, I do not know what they are. They work just about as hard as any people I ever knew on the job they have to do. Why they should be cut off from workmen's compensation before 1945 is beyond my comprehension. I should like to make a plea for them on this basis. I believe we should have at least workmen's compensation for them. That is the least we should have. I hope I shall not be called out of order when I say that they ought to have much more. I am talking about workmen's compensation now. They should have much more than everyday workmen's compensation and should be treated exactly the same as are members of the armed forces. They cannot get workmen's compensation to put them through the universities. Nevertheless they did a job for Canada, did they not? Certainly they did. That cannot be forgotten. They do not get workmen's compensation for disabilities which they had before workmen's compensation came in. Those boys did not have workmen's compensation when they risked their lives on