

for qualification is wide enough the people to whom it will apply are those persons who served on a Canadian ship or a certified non-Canadian ship during the war and who as a result of enemy action or counter action taken against the enemy suffered injury or disease or aggravation thereof resulting in disability or death. That was what cut down the real advantage of the Act to your people in regard to pensions?

The WITNESS: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: We can get the figures which will tell us the number who did qualify under that Act. Mr. Burns has the figures here and I am sure the committee would like to have the information placed on the record.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: Let us hear it.

Mr. GREEN: What was the answer Mr. Heide was looking for?

The WITNESS: In regard to the merchant seamen being considered an auxiliary of the navy, when this association passed the resolution that we were in favour of being made an auxiliary of the navy in the case of war I received a letter from Vice Admiral Grant saying that he was very pleased and it would be given every consideration by the Canadian navy.

The CHAIRMAN: If there are no more questions of Mr. Heide we could perhaps finish with him now and then take the figures from the departmental people who are here.

Some Hon. MEMBERS: Agreed.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any other questions?

Some Hon. MEMBERS: No.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Heide. We will get some figures now to fill in some of the points that were raised by the members. I do not think there is any doubt that there is a great deal of sympathy for the people whom you represent on account of the great contribution you made towards the winning of the war, and the very high proportion of casualties your people suffered in connection with their service to the allied cause.

Some Hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

The WITNESS: The trouble is, Mr. Chairman, that medals and platitudes do not do us very much good.

The CHAIRMAN: That is quite true. Mr. Burns, could you give us the figures?

Mr. BURNS: Mr. Chairman, the following are the figures taken from the last annual report of the department as to disability and dependent pensions payable to merchant seamen. These are divided into those pensions that are paid directly and those pensions which are supplemental to pensions granted by some other country. We supplement dependent and disability pensions of this kind in the same way as we supplement those pensions granted to members of the armed forces by countries other than Canada. The number of disability pensions is 38, and the number of dependent pensions is 365. In the supplemental category there are 43 disability pensions and 101 dependent pensions, making a total of 81 disability pensions and 466 dependent pensions. I do not know, Mr. Chairman, whether it would be of interest to the committee to hear the statistics of the training given to merchant seamen under the orders in council passed in 1948 and 1949, but I have them here if you wish to hear them.

The CHAIRMAN: I think that the committee would like to have them.

Mr. BURNS: The procedure was to refer applications to the Department of Transport to determine whether the applicants qualified by reason of having been members of the manning pool and the other grounds for qualification. 1149 applications were reported to the Department of Transport for approval