

payment imposed by this Act," &c. Now, any vessel, engaged in fisheries in Newfoundland, in the same way, would not be entitled to the benefit of our hospitals. I find, on looking over the introduction of the Bill in the House of Commons, when the present Postmaster-General was Minister of Marine and Fisheries, the reasons he gives are found. Much to my surprise he quotes that fault is found by the American Government. As has just been stated by the leader of the Government, the authorities at Washington within a recent period have recognized fishermen as seamen entitled to the rights of Marine Hospitals by the paying of hospital dues. But this seems to shut out fishermen of all other nations. If, for example, our fishermen were in the habit of entering ports of the United States as frequently as American fishermen visit the ports of the Dominion, there would be no difficulty in the matter; but when the subject was under discussion in the House of Commons the Minister said:—

"I may say, Mr. Speaker, in moving this resolution, that we have had complaints from foreign fishermen on one or two occasions, and also from their Governments, that we have charged them sick mariners' dues."

MR. KILLAM—Will our fishing vessels, in case of sickness on board, be refused the benefits of the marine hospitals in our ports?

HON. MR. McLELAN—I think that the hon. gentleman will find that our vessels which are engaged simply in coasting, do not participate in these benefits; that no vessel, unless she pays such fees, participates in these benefits; and that, therefore, being exempt from these payments they do not share in the benefits.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH—I think the hon. gentleman is mistaken when he says that our fishing vessels do not pay these dues. I think that they both pay the dues and participate in the benefits accruing from the fund. Of course the resolution implies that they are so liable now, as it is proposed to exempt them from the obligation; in fact they are liable for those dues as well as other vessels.

MR. KILLAM—Of course the resolution implies that fishing vessels are now liable to pay the dues, and may participate in the benefits of the fund; but what we wish to discover is: does the hon. gentleman intend to relieve these vessels of these payments, and prevent their participation in the benefits mentioned.

HON. MR. McLELAN—It is proposed to exempt both British and foreign fishing vessels from the payment of these dues.

SIR A. SMITH—That is wholly.

HON. MR. McLELAN—Yes.

MR. KILLAM—The fishermen object to these payments because the fund is kept up very largely by fishing vessels.

HON. MR. McLELAN—The payment per vessel is very small, about \$3 in the year, and the expenditure has been very large.

HON. MR. BLAKE—As I understood the hon. gentleman, our coasting and fishing vessels do not pay these dues at all?

HON. MR. McLELAN—No.

HON. MR. BLAKE—And they do not obtain any of the benefits either?

HON. MR. McLELAN—They do not obtain any of the benefits.

HON. MR. BLAKE—They are not allowed to enter the hospitals and they pay nothing?

HON. MR. McLELAN—Yes.

HON. MR. BLAKE—And the hon. gentleman says that when they go on foreign voyages and do pay, and are entitled to these benefits, there are but very rare cases; and the foreign fishing vessels pay the dues only when they find a man sick on board, in order to get the benefits which the fund confers.

MR. KILLAM—We must have further explanations; although the hon. gentleman's Bill may exhibit his intentions much more clearly. In case a fishing vessel makes two voyages to the banks in the summer, and takes a cargo to Halifax in the fall, will its crew be entitled to participate in these benefits? When will vessels have to pay? At what time of the year? I think the hon. gentleman is somewhat astray in his idea that the fishermen do not participate in the benefits of this fund. I believe they do.

SIR ALBERT SMITH—Where it is decided that vessels are liable to pay, they have to pay, and there is no exception in the Act at all. All fishermen are liable to, and all pay."

The point that was made with regard to fishermen as differing from the mercantile marine was, that the mercantile marine paid three times a year to this fund while the fishermen was only to pay once. Again when the Bill came up for final discussion, Mr. Blake took exception to the measure again. At page 1131 of the Commons Debates Mr. Killam says:—

"I suppose the hon. Minister can now give us explanations regarding the Bill. I am scarcely yet satisfied that there is any necessity for its introduction at all. He ought to be able to inform the House how much is spent upon the sick mariners of foreign vessels, and whether the larger amount of the fund is paid by the fishermen of our own vessels or the steamers that call at our ports.

HON. MR. McLELAN—Very little of the Sick Mariners' Fund is paid by the fishermen of the Dominion. All the small coast-