

if they would send any information to this country that in future they will not accept all the qualified cadets we are able to send them. I think there may be a greater difficulty in the case of the boy who has passed through the naval college and has entered upon his course of training in the Imperial fleet or, having qualified there, has taken a position in the Canadian navy. What is to be done with the officers on our own Canadian ships who went into Canadian naval service on the faith of an act of Parliament, went through the whole course of training, passed through the college, through the rank of midshipman, obtained rank as officers in the various units of our Canadian navy, or are holding positions in the British navy? Are you going to demobilize these men? Are you going to turn them adrift? And if so, upon what principle are you going to act? I have a communication here from the parents of some of these boys. The parent of one lad living in Guelph, where I reside, has also communicated with me on the subject of his son. His son, I think, in the coming month is to become a lieutenant? Of what? I assume he will be cast adrift. Another one writes as follows:

We have say, 60, officers of the Royal Canadian Navy serving in our own ships and with the Imperials. Their service extends from one year to about twelve years. Before going to sea these officers put in three to four years of study to qualify; since 1910 at the Royal Naval College.

If these officers are turned adrift now or urged to retire on the small gratuity offered, a great injustice will be done.

The midshipmen who went to sea last year will of course be the least affected. Their training is such that they can enter the 2nd year at McGill in engineering and the break will not be severe, and they can more easily adapt themselves to some other line of work. Take, however, the officer who has put in five years or more at sea after his college course; it will take at least three years of hard work to fit him for some other work, and the officer who has served from the outset will find it will take him longer. It may well turn out that he will find it impossible to fit into something else. That will be his misfortune. All the country can do and what it ought to do is to start these officers towards any new calling they might choose.

Mr. GRAHAM: Where is he now?

Mr. GUTHRIE: I take it he is in the Canadian navy.

Consideration should also be given for the money they have been compelled to put into the expensive uniforms of the service.

I do not know exactly what England is doing but it is freely reported she is treating her officers generously. I have heard it stated that they are paying lieutenants £1,000 and allowances for uniforms.

[Mr. Guthrie.]

What are we doing with these Canadian officers in the British navy and those Canadian midshipman officers in our own Canadian navy? Certainly, it will be unjust, wrong in every sense of the word, to cast these men adrift. They will have to be taken care of; something substantial will have to be granted to them, not only for their disappointment, but for their actual outlay in payment of very expensive uniforms which they are bound to provide.

At this point, I should like to refer to one other matter. When this question was up for discussion in this House on Tuesday last, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King), made some quotations from a report of, I think, the Public Accounts Committee of the British House of Commons, and the inference which has been drawn in some quarters from that quotation or a part of it, has been, I think, an entirely wrong one. A wrong impression has been created; and, as in the interval I have been able to make some inquiries, I want to place the result of those inquiries before the committee. The quotation to which I refer is to be found in unrevised Hansard at page 1951, and in part, it reads:

What happened was that the dominion made requests for certain vessels which were usually in their waters, were not required by the Admiralty for further use and probably to them had not much more than a scrap value, and the view of the Cabinet was that when a dominion made a request of that sort it should be acceded to.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The hon. gentleman is not quoting my words.

Mr. GUTHRIE: No, this is a quotation from the report of the proceedings of the Public Accounts Committee in England.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It is a quotation of a sworn statement by a witness before that committee.

Mr. GUTHRIE: That is the statement which, I think, has given a very improper impression. The impression seems to have gone abroad that the five ships which we have in Canada have nothing more than a scrap value; that they were amongst the ships which were in Canadian waters either during or after the war; and that they were ships referred to by this witness who appeared before the committee in the British Parliament and who said that they had only a scrap value to Great Britain. That statement is not in accordance with the facts at all. As a matter of fact, the five ships which we have are thoroughly mo-