

THE

MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES.

NEW YORK, December 8, 1916.

The Fall meeting of the Association was held at the house of the Bar Association of the City of New York, No. 42 West 44th Street, New York City, on the afternoon of December 7th, 1916.

In the absence of the President, the Senior Executive Committeeman, Mr. Fitz-Henry Smith, Jr., presided.

There were present: Mr. Fitz-Henry Smith, Jr., Hon. Harrington Putnam, Hon. Frederic Dodge, Hon. George C. Holt, Mr. Chauncey I. Clark, Mr. Henry E. Mattison, Mr. Oscar R. Houston, Mr. Braden Vandeventer, Mr. William J. Conlen, Mr. Robert M. Hughes, Jr., Mr. Leon T. Seawell, Mr. Gerry L. Brooks, Mr. Russel H. Loins, Mr. A. Gordon Murray, Secretary.

Mr. Smith, as Chairman of the Committee on the Federal Statute conferring a right of action for a Death caused by Wrongful Act at Sea, made an informal report. Mr. Smith reported that the Bill had been introduced in the House in two forms, viz.: H. R. 60, which contained an amendment relating to Limitation of Shipowners' liability where foreign vessels were concerned, and H. R. 9919, which is the bill approved by the Association. Nothing had been done in the House since the hearing before the Judiciary Committee on February 4th, 1916, at which the views of the Association were presented to the Committee having the bill in charge. Mr. Smith further stated that the bill was reported by the Senate Committee July 25, 1916, and is the form of bill

favored by the Association and contains only minor amendments. It is Senate Bill 4288, Calendar 682. The Senate Committee struck out the provisions in the Association's Bill which provided for quieting title of an innocent purchaser for value. It passed the Senate August 5, 1916.

Following Mr. Smith's report, Judge Dodge moved:

Resolved: That the report of the Committee be accepted and that the Association records its opposition to H. R. 60 of the 64th Congress, First Session, as introducing into the subject matter the question of Limitation of Shipowners' Liability, and that the Committee be continued and be instructed to cooperate with the Special Committee of the American Bar Association having charge of similar measure.

The motion being duly seconded, the resolution was adopted.

Mr. Smith also made a report for the Committee on the Proposed Statute giving the right of recovery against the United States for damage done by a vessel owned or operated by the United States. He stated that the Bill had not made great progress, since it was on the calendar for hearing before the House Committee in August, 1912. On motion, duly seconded, it was,

Resolved: That the Committee be continued and authorized, in its discretion, to re-draft the Bill and cause the same to be re-introduced in Congress, and that the draft, in the Committee's discretion, contain provisions for including damages for personal injuries and death, and also provision for reciprocity, in the case of foreigners, or otherwise, and that the Committee have the fullest power in the premises.

The motion, being duly seconded, was carried.

On reconsideration, it was further

Resolved: That the Committee on Loss of Life be now charged with the duty of promoting such a United States Statute, and that the said Committee add to its membership when required.

The motion, being duly seconded, was carried.

The Committee as at present constituted consists of: Fitz-Henry Smith, Jr., Hon. Harrington Putnam, Mr. Robert M. Hughes, Mr. William H. Gorham, Mr. C. C. Burlingham, Mr. Lawrence Kneeland and Mr. George Whitelock.

The members of the Association dined together in the evening at Delmonico's.

Upon motion, duly seconded, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A. GORDON MURRAY,
Secretary,
No. 68 William Street,
New York City, N. Y.