

might come to this country, become a good Canadian citizen and be entitled to all the privileges of Canadian citizenship. That is precisely what happened in these cases. They are not imported in the sense in which that word has been used.

Mr. MacINNIS: When I entered the chamber a short time ago the minister was answering a question asked by the hon. member for New Westminster in regard to the employment of Asiatics on some of the ships running out of Vancouver. We discussed this matter last year. Although I heard the minister's reply to the hon. member I am not satisfied. Here we have a situation where the government are giving assistance, and where they give such assistance they usually stipulate fair wages and proper working conditions. I do not know whether the minister is aware of this—I believe he is—that so far as the paying of low wages and maintaining poor working conditions are concerned possibly the shipping industries are greater offenders than any other industry in the Dominion of Canada. When the government subsidizes to the extent of over \$2,000,000 per year I maintain that some stipulation should be made as to the wages paid to the men on those ships, and also the conditions under which they work. I am not particularly concerned as to whether they employ Asiatics, Canadians or white help of any nationality, but I am convinced that if fair wages and fair working conditions were stipulated by the government, before paying subsidies, there would be sufficient inducement to these companies to employ white help. I have had many complaints, as, no doubt, have the hon. member for New Westminster and the Minister of Trade and Commerce himself. Probably the minister receives more of these complaints than any other hon. member from British Columbia. I am convinced that something should be done to rectify this condition. Last year the minister promised that he would look into the matter. I do not know whether or not he has done so—I know he has had a busy year—but I am suggesting it is a matter which should be thoroughly investigated.

Mr. STEVENS: I believe I have already covered the question. As I said a minute ago, I have nothing to add. There was one further point raised, and I might say this: Apart from the complaints of those who desire to replace the Chinese in crews with British Columbia citizens, we have had no complaints from any source regarding the

[Mr. Stevens.]

rate of wages or conditions of labour on these ships. I have made inquiries, and I cannot find anything of the kind.

Mr. MacINNIS: I have had any number of complaints as to the wages paid on ships plying from Vancouver. I have also had complaints in connection with ships on the Atlantic coast and on some of the local services. Only to-day I received a complaint in connection with the Clarke Steamship Company, which company, I am told, is one of the worst offenders so far as paying low wages is concerned. I have no doubt that white help is employed on these local services, particularly in the east, but before these subsidies are paid I think the government should take steps to find out what are the wages paid and the working conditions of the men.

Mr. STEVENS: My hon. friend was referring previously to the Pacific coast. We have received a complaint regarding the Clarke Steamship Company and I understand negotiations are being carried on between the representatives of the company and the seamen's association or union. This matter is under advisement in the department.

Mr. RALSTON: Could the minister tell me what boat is now running between Baddeck and Iona?

Mr. STEVENS: No boat is operating at present owing to the ice conditions, but the regular steamship is the Pearl Cann.

Mr. RALSTON: Is that the boat that has been in the service right along?

Mr. STEVENS: For some time, yes.

Mr. RALSTON: Is there any agreement between the owners and the government as to this reduction of fifty per cent?

Mr. STEVENS: They signed a contract for 1933.

Mr. RALSTON: In reply to the hon. member for Antigonish-Guysborough (Mr. Duff) the minister stated that he had advice as to the non-liability of the department in the case of a reduction in subsidies, due to the fact that there was a clause in the contracts making a subsidy subject to vote by parliament. Circumstances may be different now—I do not think they are—but I should like to direct the attention of the minister to what occurred in 1930. When the minister made that statement I recalled a discussion which took place in 1930 between the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett), then leader of the opposition, and the then Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Malcolm). The then Minister of Trade