

that, because nearly all our Canadian sailors at the present time are working on the other side every summer.

I have not known one of them to be stopped yet, because they did not go across under contract. With Canadian sailors, of course, I am better acquainted than with any other class, and they can go to Buffalo, Cleveland, Chicago, or Milwaukee and ship in any vessel there without being interfered with, on condition that they have not come under contract. I have not known one to be stopped, because they do not go under contract. If however, a Canadian goes to take charge of an American vessel, he must be an American citizen or declare his intention of becoming one before he is allowed to go as an officer of one of those vessels. I may say that a great many of the steamboats going out of Chicago or Cleveland, in fact nearly every port of the United States, are manned by Canadians. I am sorry to say that a great many Canadians have had to take the oath of allegiance to the United States before getting on those vessels. They get better pay there.

33. If they take the oath of allegiance they cannot be interfered with?—It is not necessary to go before the mast. It is to be an officer.

*By Mr. Earle :*

34. An American cannot take command of a ship here?—I do not know.

*By Mr. Welsh :*

35. No, he must be a British subject.—We think, not knowing much how laws are framed, that a law could be framed that would give to the Canadian workingman that protection to which he is entitled as against the workingman under contract.

*By Mr. McKay :*

36. You do not propose to go any further than to make the law prohibitive as against men coming over here from the United States under contract?—Not from the United States alone; we mean from everywhere else, no matter where they come from under contract.

37. MR. EARLE—Would not that place employers in the hands of organized labor associations? There would be great danger of antagonism between labor and the employers of labor.

*By Dr. Wilson :*

38. Are you as a body willing that all artizans, laborers and employees of all descriptions, shall come into the country and compete with the laboring men, here, unless it is after entering into a contract on the other side before coming in?—Anyone who comes to the country of his own free will, we receive him with open arms. We have no objection, nor do we find any trouble in dealing with the competition or otherwise of workingmen who come of their own free will. The only trouble we find is in dealing with men who do not come of their own free will. As a rule they come for less wages than we are looking for, and goodness knows that the laboring men of Canada are not receiving any more wages than they can live on. Many are not receiving as much as will enable them to live.

39. Or if men come over here in the morning and return at night, that would be agreeable and satisfactory to the Knights of Labor?—We have no objection.

40. All you desire then, is that this Bill shall act only as a prevention to parties going to the other side and entering into a contract there with labor and bringing that labor here as a body or class to work upon some works here?—That is the object.

*By the Chairman :*

41. While you are willing to permit persons to come over from the United States, you expect we should have the same treatment accorded to our Canadian workingmen if they wish to cross over to the other side and do a day's work there?—Yes.

MR. EARLE—We could ask that organization which prompted this legislation to have it withdrawn.