

ship in all the time I have been at sea; and I know my friends have never deserted their ship. I cannot see why we should blame all because one or two desert. You never condemn your own race because one or two go wrong, do you?

*By Mr. Howden:*

Q. I do not think there should be any ambiguity in that statement. The statement made by the former witness was that white men would be more inclined to change their position if they could do something better for themselves.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

*By Mr. Howden:*

Q. Whereas the Chinaman would stick; he would not think about his position at all. That actually was the statement made?—A. There was a question raised a short while ago about the food item. It costs the Canadian National about 16 to 17 cents a day to feed one man, and sometimes on the C.P.R. it is less than that, the way they buy the food, you see.

*By Mr. Blackmore:*

Q. How much does it cost to feed orientals?—A. The orientals? Of course, you must remember you will feed three orientals to one white man. They eat plenty of fish; they eat plenty of rice, and they have to have the best rice. I do not know what its cost is. We have been trying to get that for a long long time, but naturally the company watches us very closely. We cannot get that.

*By Mr. Martin:*

Q. With regard to the suggestion just made that white men are inclined to leave whether by desertion or some other way, what about the orientals? How many of them stay on for a period of time? Have you any figures to show the number that stay on per trip or per month, or per year?—A. According to my information there are changes every five or six months on those boats. I have knowledge of that myself. I mean, when you see one Chinaman, you see the whole lot. It is pretty hard, you know, to distinguish one from another. I tell you it is very hard on those boats to find out—

Q. Have you any figures at all?—A. No, I have no actual figures, but it is my information that they change like that.

*By Mr. MacInnis:*

Q. What are the governing regulations in this country with regard to wages and working conditions of sailors?—A. Well, I will tell you that it is up to the company, Mr. MacInnis. That is a matter which we have been fighting also for years, regulations in regard to hours of labour on the ships. Seamen's wages should be standardized by parliament, by the law of the land, because our contention is that other rates and provisions are protected. Their wages are protected by law, but the seamen's wages are not protected. One company can pay what it likes, and another company can pay what it likes; consequently they are both fighting one another on the freight rates and the result is the seaman and the fireman, and even the captain himself are all suffering because of small wages, also the cooks. Their wages are not standardized.

*By Mr. Neill:*

Q. Does the British board of trade fix the wage of seamen?—A. Under terms of the Maritime—

[Mr. Charles Patrick O'Donovan.]