

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Now then, Mr. Johnson, you are ready for any question which any member of the committee may ask?—A. Yes.

*By Mr. Isnor:*

Q. I just wish to correct what I thought might be a misunderstanding. You stated, "who did not spend any money in Canada." You were not referring to supplies which are purchased for these boats, you are referring to the West Indian crew?—A. To the pay-off, yes sir.

Q. You mean by that of course that they spend very little of their wages in Canada?—A. For the known fact that every nickel of it is paid to them in the West Indies. Having practical experience quite naturally I know they do not spend a nickel of their wages. They are signed on out there on the island at Barbadoes or Demerara where they are all signed on.

*By Mr. Reid:*

Q. Was any reason given for changing the help there? I noticed in your brief that the white help was replaced; the stewards, waiters, and cooks employed; and then the rest of the crew, were replaced by alien West Indians. Was any reason given for that? When did they do that?—A. The only reason was, and I explained that, was on account of cheaper help. I received these remarks from those that are empowered to go to work, to hire, to seek out cheaper help. Not because of their experience in regard to catering to the general public, because we have the same qualifications, in regard to coloured folks, and we in the province of Nova Scotia should know, and it means this—

Q. The men of your Union can cater just as efficiently as the others?—A. In fact, they do.

Q. So it becomes a question of wages?—A. It is a question of working for a lower scale of wages. As I said in regard to the brief, we are willing to accept the same scale of wages as the West Indians are receiving at the present time.

*By Mr. Howden:*

Q. Am I to understand that these men sign on for their trip down in the West Indies and make the round trip?—A. They are signed on and paid off at Demerara or Barbadoes. They are West Indians. But the white crew is signed on at Halifax or Montreal—no, there is none of them signed on in the province of Quebec on this staff out of Halifax. They are signed on at Halifax and paid off at Halifax. That is the white crew, but the West Indian crew is signed on at Demerara and Barbadoes.

*By Mr. Reid:*

Q. Did you say that there were only 75 members of your crew working at the present time?—A. No, sir. I say we are paying per capita tax for at least 75. I have the receipts and the secretary over there can verify my statement.

*By Mr. Isnor:*

Q. You had a meeting of your union last week, did you not?—A. Last week.

Q. How many were present at that meeting?—A. 135 at that meeting, willing to go to work and join. They were new members—mostly were interested in regard to my coming here to Ottawa.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Can you tell us exactly how many of your association have positions on these ships at the present time?—A. Oh, yes. At the present time we have 11. We have 8 firemen on a freighter, one second steward, one pantry-man, one