

Canadian citizens have been deprived of their means of livelihood; and whereas, in the opinion of the Nova Scotia Seamen's Union such a policy is detrimental to and unduly oppressive upon persons domiciled in Canada and having Canadian citizenship. Therefore be it resolved that the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada go on record as deprecating the conditions now existing as above set forth and as insisting that all ships engaged in the Canadian coast-wise trade subsidized or operated by the government of Canada shall in future be manned in their deck, engine room and stewards' departments (other than engineers or officers) exclusively by persons domiciled in Canada and having Canadian citizenship, and be it further resolved, that this congress now in session take immediate and effective steps as it may deem expedient to the end that matters complained of may be remedied.

It is the intention of this union and you see in this that we have the backing of Canadian organized labour that the alien coloured crews employed on the steamships of the Canadian National steamships should be replaced by native born Canadian citizens. In view of the fact that these ships are owned, controlled and operated by a company which is receiving money in its operations from the treasury of Canada this is a matter to which your committee should give very careful consideration as it comes within the terms of reference, inasmuch as the members of our union who have found employment with the company have proved satisfactory. This demonstrates our ability to supply satisfactory help. We realize full well that difficulties might arise by reason of the changing of personnel and it is our suggestion that the coloured help on these ships be replaced gradually rather than all at once. In this manner the company will experience a minimum of difficulties and the union will be in a position to supply men fully qualified to fill each rating as it is made available.

The Union contends that the ships that will be affected by the proposed change can be manned as efficiently by native-born coloured crews as they have been manned by alien West Indians. If our suggestion as to the manner of change is carried out our men can be trained to the system of service and no serious confusion will result. Our men are quite prepared to accept the existing wage scale for the present but are desirous of effecting a higher wage scale at a later date so as to bring the scale more in line with the wages paid on other ships of the same class. While this increase in the wage scale may increase very slightly the cost of operating these ships it will remove from the unemployment relief rolls men at present unemployed and no great material additional as a result of the change.

The Union desires at this point to make it clear to your committee that we are ready and willing to co-operate with the non-union Canadian employees now on the Canadian National Steamships. In this connection we desire to work in conjunction with them to have the alien coloured crews now employed on these ships replaced and at the same time place men in as many positions as possible now occupied by alien labour. It is our earnest hope that if a satisfactory working agreement can be effected with the company by our Union that these men will join us and strengthen materially the Union.

The question of percentage of white help to be employed is a matter of policy which can be determined at a later date; but it is our contention that wherever coloured labour is to be employed members of this Union who are Canadian citizens should be employed in preference to alien coloured labour.

This Union desires to express to your committee its earnest thanks for permission to submit this memorandum and knows that it will receive your earnest consideration.

All of which is respectfully submitted on behalf of the Nova Scotia Seamen's Union.

[Mr. Walter Johnson.]