

Mr. FLINTOFT: He has said he did not say it; is not that enough? This is a most unfair line of questioning.

Mrs. BLACK: I would think that this is almost degenerating into a bear baiting. These people have voluntarily come here and they have given us the information we have asked for. I have no brief for anybody, but it does seem to me we should treat them as we would like to be treated ourselves.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Neill has accepted the captain's statement.

Mr. HOWDEN: I was under the same impression that Mr. Neill got, that one factor against the Canadian crews and British crews was that there was always a danger of a strike, which did not obtain with the Chinese.

Mrs. BLACK: I never got that impression.

Mr. FLINTOFT: I think the way that happened was this: Mr. Neill was referring to the statement made by Mr. O'Donovan. Mr. O'Donovan had said that seamen do not strike, and Captain Aikman was endeavouring to answer that and he did say that he regretted to take exception to that. He was being polite to Mr. O'Donovan, but he said that that statement of Mr. O'Donovan's was not correct.

Mr. HOWDEN: That is likely.

Mr. McIVOR: He did not say that about the Chinese.

Mr. MACNICOL: Just the fact that Chinese are not as susceptible to going on strike as white men.

WITNESS: No. They certainly are not so susceptible to that.

*By Mr. Neill:*

Q. When was this strike you referred to?—A. About 1923, I think.

Q. That is thirteen years ago?—A. I was not in Vancouver at the time, but I am giving that date approximately. I am quoting from the answer to a question which was raised, and this was written about 1935:—

The *Empress of Russia* has amongst her crew 88 members who joined or rejoined in 1926 or before that. Statistics taken from the *Empress of Russia's* records indicate that during the past three voyages dismissals of Chinese crew have averaged 2 per cent, and resignations 4 per cent—this may be taken as a fair average for all ships.

In the *Empress of Asia* now in port a review of her Chinese engine-room staff of 188 discloses the fact that there are 98 members with service ranging from one to three years, 22 with four years, 54 with five to ten years' service, and 14 with over ten years' service.

In the deck department out of 68 there are 11 long service men as follows, 7 years one, 9 years one, 13 years one, 16 years one, 17 years two, 18 years two, 19 years one, 22 years two; the remainder are from six months to six years.

In the catering department there are seventeen ratings with over 15 years' service—in the following order: 15 years one, 16 years one, 18 years two, 19 years two, 21 years one, 22 years two, 23 years 3, 24 years two, 25 years one, 29 years one, 33 years one.

Two greasers were pensioned off from the *Empress of Russia* last year—one with 38 years and the other with 33 years' service to their credit.

*By Mr. Reid:*

Q. But a greater number have smaller service?—A. The average run is five years.

*By Mr. Neill:*

Q. Were your boats tied up during that strike?—A. No.