

Mr. HOWDEN: When your ships are provisioned are they provisioned in Canada?

Mr. FLINTOFT: The Pacific ships are mainly provisioned in Canada, at Vancouver.

Mr. REID: What about coal?

Mr. FLINTOFT: We try to get as much coal as possible at Vancouver.

Mr. NEILL: Where do you do your annual overhaul?

Mr. FLINTOFT: At Hong Kong.

Mr. MACNICOL: Why do you do your annual overhaul at Hong Kong?

Mr. FLINTOFT: Captain Aikman will explain that later.

Mr. NEILL: Because it is cheaper?

Mr. FLINTOFT: Yes, it is cheaper.

Mr. NEILL: With regard to your remarks as to the superiority of this service, I presume that means passenger service. The bathroom steward, bedroom steward, deck steward, and so on, all turn up about the time you get into port. In what way are they superior? Does somebody come and sing you to sleep? What extra service is there that you would not get on an Atlantic liner or another Pacific liner if it were manned by white people? I want to know where the superiority comes in?

Mr. FLINTOFT: I will ask Captain Aikman to answer that question.

Mr. NEILL: You are putting a terrible responsibility on Captain Aikman.

Mr. FLINTOFT: His shoulders are broad. As I said in the beginning, Mr. Neil, when it gets down to practical matters I think it would be wasting time for me to attempt to give explanations which Captain Aikman can give very much better than I can. I am a modest young man.

Mr. MACNICOL: I would like to ask Captain Aikman a question with reference to overhauling at Hong Kong. The overhauling of a ship must necessitate the purchase of boiler tubes and boiler fittings. Are they purchased in Hong Kong?

Captain AIKMAN: No; they are purchased in Great Britain. They are not made here. They are sent out from Great Britain. The reasons we overhaul in Hong Kong are three in number: First, the cost. It would cost us nearly 100 per cent more than it does at present to do our overhaul at Esquimalt. Secondly, there is no machinery at Esquimalt to carry out the big jobs in connection with the turbines.

Mr. NEILL: Has not that been done?

Captain AIKMAN: No.

Mr. NEILL: Did not you overhaul at Esquimalt?

Captain AIKMAN: No.

Mr. NEILL: We were told that you overhauled in Esquimalt?

Captain AIKMAN: As far as the painting and cleaning is concerned, yes, but not so far as machinery is concerned.

The CHAIRMAN: I think Captain Aikman should be formally brought before the committee and the oath administered to him before we continue to question him.

Captain Aikman of the Royal Naval Reserve will be the next witness. I will ask the secretary to administer the oath to him.

[Mr. E. P. Flintoft.]