

Mr. NEILL: Was it substantiated at the time?

Mrs. BLACK: There may have been another case that I did not hear about.

*By Mr. Howden:*

Q. Can you state whether the Chinese would man the lifeboats for the Chinese, or whether they would man for the rest of the people?—A. They would man them for the people that were in distress.

*By Mrs. Black:*

Q. They would obey their officers, would they not?

Mr. MACNICOL: I have in mind what happened on the Atlantic last fall. I have forgotten the name of the ship, but it was a ship sailing out of New York.

WITNESS: *Morro Castle.*

Mr. MACNICOL: It was either sailing to New York, or from New York, and on reading a report of it I certainly thought the crew had not lived up to the tradition of British seamen.

Mr. MACKENZIE: They lived up to the example of the officers on that voyage.

Mr. MACNICOL: That may be so, but what I am particularly concerned about is what happens on our own British ships.

*By Mr. Howden:*

Q. Are these Chinese to be depended on?—A. They are. If you will permit me to give you a few instances just to emphasize and to exemplify the fact that they can be depended on, I will do so.

In 1903 Captain A. W. Davison was chief officer of the *Empress of India*.

Q. What year was that?—A. 1903.

Q. You told us this morning 1913.—A. I know in this case the boat was manned by Chinese volunteers.

Mr. HOWDEN: Then the statement by Mr. Flintoft this morning was incorrect.

Mr. MACINNIS: They were abolished in 1913.

Mr. FLINTOFT: We always had them in the engineering department.

WITNESS: The evidence given me is that the boats of the *Empress of India* were manned by Chinese volunteers and all except 13 members of the Chinese Gun Boat who refused to leave their ship were rescued.

In 1914 Captain A. W. Davison was in command of the *Empress of Russia* when war broke out. The *Empress of Russia* commissioned towards the latter part of August, 1914 at Hong Kong under the White Ensign as an armed merchant cruiser, sailed early in September having on board a full crew of Chinese who volunteered for war service. In addition she carried a number of British and French Naval ratings who formed gun crews, etc. From 1914 to the latter part of 1916 the *Empress of Russia* was employed as under:—

Blockading the port of Manila where 17 German Merchant ships were held up.

Searching for the German Cruiser *Emden*. H.M.A.S. *Sydney* transferred at sea approximately 110 officers and men, prisoners from the *Emden* to the *Empress of Russia* for transport to Colombo.

*By Mr. Howden:*

Q. They had guns on board?—A. Yes.

Q. You said you could not adapt them?—A. I said you could, but I said they are not now adapted.