

before the committee without being summoned, so as far as coming from Vancouver is concerned, the cost there will be the minimum. With regard to the Seamen's Union, Mr. Reid did not say how many witnesses he would like to have. Can you give us any idea of that, Mr. Reid?

Mr. REID: In order to fully present the matter, as it is so very serious, I think there should be at least two from the Seamen's Union come all the way from Vancouver. The reason I am asking for those witnesses is this: Statements are made to the committee, and were made to the committee last year, that the steamship companies would have to go out of business if they had to employ white Canadians and pay higher wages. These are the general statements made, and if they are going to be given any weight, we should have all the data here. We should ask these companies to come here and give us the facts; and in rebuttal against that, we should have the men who are actively engaged in these ships.

Mr. ISNOR: I quite agree with Mr. Reid that perhaps two representatives from the west would be sufficient, and the same thing to apply to Nova Scotia, that we should have the privilege of having two witnesses.

The CHAIRMAN: By what took place in the House yesterday, that would have to have the consent of the House, of course, before we could do that. Has any person here any idea of what it would cost to bring these two men from Vancouver? It would be quite an item.

Mr. MACNICOL: It would appear to be rather expensive. They would have to be paid for all the time they were away from home, at so much a day. I was wondering if it would not be possible for the Seamen's Union or rather the two seamen's unions, if they had representatives in Montreal qualified so to do, to send them up here to present their case.

Mr. REID: The members in Montreal have an Atlantic slant; also the people from the Atlantic seaboard. We want the people from the Pacific seaboard, which is more vitally concerned.

Mr. MACNICOL: When it was before the committee last year, the Atlantic seaboard did not enter into the discussion on account of not being affected by oriental labour; and that is the main purpose of your motion, is it not, the subject of oriental labour? For what reason would be need to bring any representatives from the Atlantic seaboard at all?

Mr. REID: They did last year send letters.

Mr. MACNICOL: For what reason would we need them if the reference does not affect them by way of oriental labour? Perhaps if we forget about the Atlantic seaboard and not ask for too much, the committee might be able to persuade the House to vote funds for two from the west.

Mr. ST. PERE: The Seamen's Union has a branch in Montreal.

Mr. REID: I am not sure, but I think so. The union has branches from one end of the country to the other, but whether they have representatives in Montreal or not, I am not in a position to state.

Mr. McIVOR: Why have two men? Could not one man carry all the wisdom either from Vancouver or from the east?

The CHAIRMAN: I was going to suggest that perhaps, if we were unanimous on one man coming, the House might be more favourable; if we were to ask for two or three men, the bill would run pretty high and I am afraid the House might object.

Mr. McIVOR: We have a difficulty at the head of the lakes that neither of these ends may know.

Mr. HILL: I think if we had one man come, it would be satisfactory; and if the union wants to send another man at their expense, that would be up to them.