

By Mr. Gladstone:

Q. Can you tell us what wage the orientals would get for the same type of job?—A. They only get actually about \$5 a month.

Q. What would it be for quartermasters?—A. A quartermaster gets \$8 a month. Oilers get \$9 a month. It goes up and down like that.

Q. Do I understand that on account of the employment of oriental labour many more men are needed than when white labour is used?—A. They are employing twice the number. As a matter of fact we could man that ship with just half that number, and less than that. You must remember that it takes three Chinamen practically to do the work of one white man on these boats.

Q. Do the whites and the orientals in the same department of work eat together, and are they supplied the same rations?—A. Oh, no. They are kept apart. The white men eat on their own, and so do the orientals.

By Mr. Barry:

Q. They are cheaper to feed aren't they?—A. Oh, yes, as a matter of fact it is nearly all rice that they eat.

By the Chairman:

Q. The proportion in respect to cost would not be between \$9 and say £5 or \$45; that is, nine and forty-five, or five to one; for one white man can do the work of three Chinamen?—A. No.

Q. It would be the ratio between the exact amounts of money involved in each case?—A. Well, as I just said, Mr. Chairman, the amount fluctuates and it would be hard—

Q. Give us an approximate idea?—A. Wages—you see, the coast comes in. We will take coast wages.

Q. Yes?—A. Quartermasters get from \$65 to \$70, and some ships pay actually \$70 on the coast—\$70 a month. For instance, a chef on the Canadian National I believe gets \$150 a month—on the Prince Rupert and those boats. A second cook would get \$125 possibly, and it would go down to \$80 and so on, according to their rating. Now, an oiler on one of these Empress boats would get about \$65 to \$70 a month, but it might be \$60. We are quite willing to compromise on that point and will be satisfied for him to get say \$55, or possibly \$60 a month. And then a wiper would get less again, because a wiper is like an apprentice—learning the business.

By Mr. Isnor:

Q. What do you mean by compromise. I thought you had a regular scale?—A. I mean in cases like this where we are trying to get white men aboard the boat, and where the company does not like to employ white men because of the matter of cost. We are anxious to get our men off relief and we are willing to compromise with the company for a decent wage, and we claim that it would not cost the company very much in the long run.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I am just wondering now. I have a suspicion that the financial aspect of it is playing a tremendous part. If it costs a great deal more to get white men than it does to get orientals, and if you run into a condition such that one white man can do as much as two orientals, and if you are paying a white man \$45 and an oriental \$9, then it looks as though it is going to cost a good deal more to keep white labour there than it would to keep orientals. It seems to me that we would pretty well have to face that fact. If that is true then another important matter enters in. Let me say to the witness that I am very sympathetic with the idea, but there is this matter that has to be considered: Suppose the steamship company should get a crew largely of white men, and that they agree to take a lower wage to start; then after they all