

By Mr. Neill:

Q. That is not quite fair. You have already stated that the policy of your company is not to employ white men on those ships, and therefore you would not employ ten men or one white man?—A. Not unless I had a vacancy for them.

Q. You do not make vacancies. The policy is to keep Chinamen on? (No response).

Mr. MACNICOL: I had reference to one particular job.

Mr. NEILL: He would not put one white deck hand on tomorrow.

Mr. REID: There are two points of view coming up. We have heard a brief read this morning as to the number of Orientals employed as against white men, and in the brief it was submitted that in 1913 they did employ white deck hands but they are no longer employed because they were not reliable and went into logging camps. Now the captain says they would employ able-bodied seamen if they were available in Vancouver.

WITNESS: No. I am questioning Mr. O'Donovan's statement. He has made a statement and I am making a counter-statement.

Mr. REID: I will undertake to provide a list of seamen in Vancouver.

The CHAIRMAN: We want that list if we can get it.

Mr. NEILL: The Captain stated a few minutes ago that they would not employ white men.

Mr. MACNICOL: Because they could not obtain satisfactory help.

Mr. NEILL: No.

The CHAIRMAN: Can we not let the Captain complete that statement and make sure what he intended to say to the committee.

By Mr. Neill:

Q. Is it not the policy of the Canadian Pacific Company on the trans-Pacific boats to employ Chinamen as deckhands?—A. We do employ Chinamen as deckhands.

Q. And that is your policy?—A. If you call it a policy, yes.

By Mr. MacInnis:

Q. I think possibly a couple of questions might elicit from the Captain why they prefer Chinese to whites. I have here in the comparative statement filed by a previous speaker the costs to the company between Chinese and Canadian crews on the Pacific Empresses. Now, making allowance for the smaller number of whites in the various departments on the ships I find that the total monthly wage in the employment of whites would be \$77,484 as compared with \$16,990 in the employment of Chinese. Is it not fair to say that the reason they employ Chinese rather than whites is because they get them cheaper and they are more docile and obedient? In other words, they are better slaves than whites would be?—A. We do not treat them as slaves. I object to that term.

Q. They are wage slaves, in any case?—A. I object to the term "slaves."

Q. The average monthly wage for Chinese on the deck, in the engine-room and victualling departments is \$9.60, and the average wage for whites in the same positions would be \$52.53. Now, is it not correct to say that that is mainly the reason why you employ Chinese?—A. That is partly the reason. We do not deny that. We have stated that there is economy in employing Chinese, and that if we had to substitute Canadian crews our costs would be very much enhanced, our operating costs.

Q. That is true of all other employments that you can mention, is it not?—A. What do you mean by "all other employments"?

[Captain Edmund Aikman.]