

Q. You are dealing largely with the province of British Columbia?—A. Yes. we are starting a branch in Halifax, but, unfortunately, we are not able to go ahead with it very well, and unfortunately, too, our finest organizer was lost on the Joseph Madell last year when she went down in the Atlantic off Newfoundland. The mate of the ship was our former vice-president.

Q. You could get an accurate estimate of the number of able seamen throughout Canada, could you not, if your organization took it up?—A. Yes.

Q. I think that would be valuable information to have.

Mr. ISNOR: I think that is on file now; likely the Department of Labour has that information.

*By Mr. Blackmore:*

Q. I was just wondering what the idea of the witness is as to why the companies persistently try to keep British off ships and are in favour of orientals; what is your honest opinion?—A. Well, the opinion we have formed is because of cheap labour, in the first place, by getting quite a lot of labour through the employment of orientals on these ships. They are employing twice as many as many as they would have to employ if a white crew were there, but, at the same time, it is cheap labour.

Q. I was wondering about this: we are subsidizing these ships now as a Dominion, and provided that we put in a 65 per cent white crew, such as you suggest—I was wondering if that would bring up the cost of running those ships so high that we could no longer afford to subsidize them adequately?—A. I do not think so.

Q. Do you find that the companies running these ships are making money and a substantial profit so that they could afford very well to put white men on?—A. Sir, that is a question we have tried to take up time and time again. In the first place we tried to find out exactly what the company was making, but that is a hard thing. The only way that you could find that out, I expect, is to insist on them showing their books. We cannot do that.

*By Mr. Martin:*

Q. Surely the government knows that before granting a subsidy—that information is certainly available?—A. We could never get it.

*By Mr. Howden:*

Q. I would like to have the witness clear up that figure of 55 per cent or 65 per cent. Does that mean an increase of 55 per cent more white labour, or does it mean that 55 per cent of the labour aboard ships should be white?—A. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: It means the latter, does it not?

WITNESS: Yes.

Mr. HOWDEN: It means that 55 per cent of the labour on the ships should be white.

The CHAIRMAN: Is it 55 per cent?

WITNESS: No, 65 per cent.

*By Mr. Barry:*

Q. Have you a figure showing anything in regard to the actual difference in the cost if your scheme were carried out?—A. No, I do not think it would cost any more. I think they would still have a margin over.

Mr. REID: I think the witness is arguing that it would not cost any more in the aggregate owing to the fact that if white men were employed the number of those employed would be reduced.