

By Mr. Isnor:

Q. You are here representing what?—A. The Seamen of Nova Scotia; the Nova Scotia Seamen's Union.

Q. What position do you hold in that organization?—A. President.

By Mr. Howden:

Q. You are president of what union?—A. The Nova Scotia Seamen's Union.

The CHAIRMAN: All right, just go on and tell us your story as plainly and completely as you can.

WITNESS: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I am speaking on behalf of the Nova Scotia Seamen's Union in regard to employment of alien West Indians on the ships of the Canadian National Steamships Limited. The Nova Scotia Seamen's Union is a properly organized and chartered union with headquarters at Halifax, N.S. It is a branch of the International Seamen's Union of America and is affiliated with the Halifax District Trades and Labour Council and through it is affiliated with the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada.

Late in the year 1932 a group of unemployed coloured Canadian citizens living in Halifax including many ex-service men met together for the purpose of investigating the possibility of obtaining permanent employment and decided to form a union to assist them in their effort. As a result of this meeting the Nova Scotia Seamen's Union came into being and a charter was applied for and obtained from the International Seamen's Union of America through the Halifax District Trades and Labour Council.

WORK OF THE UNION

Upon receipt of our charter immediate steps were undertaken to find permanent employment for members of the union, and for this purpose the support of local organizations, local members of parliament and local senators was enlisted in an attempt to replace alien West Indian labour employed on the Canadian National steamships, sailing out of the port of Halifax, to the British West Indies.

As a result of untiring effort of the officers of the union in April, 1933, the Canadian National steamships' officials agreed to give our men a trial and eleven members of the union were placed on the C.N.S. *Cornwallis*, operating between Montreal and the British West Indies in the summer, and these eleven men replaced non-Canadian West Indians previously employed on this ship. They performed their duties so well that they were continuously employed by the company until December of that year when the ship was withdrawn from service. Each year since then the *Cornwallis* returned to service these men have been recalled but you will see that their employment is to say the least irregular and of a temporary nature.

PRESENT SITUATION OF MEMBERS OF THE UNION

Since about November 20, 1935, there has been no employment given to members of the union, except four stewards who were retained on the *Cornwallis* for a trip to Australia. A few members of the union have found temporary employment working in the shore gangs of the Canadian National Steamships, stewards' department, at Halifax, storing ships of the line. This employment also is non-permanent consisting of several days' employment each week. The union has made several attempts to have this employment made permanent but without success.

[Mr. Walter Johnson.]