

By Mr. MacInnis:

Q. Are there any Orientals employed on the *Niagara*?—A. No, none.

I would like to have the opportunity of refuting a few of the statements made in Mr. O'Donovan's evidence. At page 60 it is stated:—

The C.P.R. Empress boats are subsidized by the British Admiralty:—

- (a) Because of their speed.
- (b) Because they can stand the recoil of a gun.
- (c) Guns can be placed in position in 24 hours.
- (d) They can be quickly converted into cruisers.

The British Admiralty do not subsidize our Pacific ships. That might have been so at one time, but it is not correct now.

By Mr. Isnor:

Q. What page?—A. Page 60 of the record of the proceedings. That actually deals with the submission from the Congress of Canadian Organizations. The boats are not sufficiently stiffened to take the recoil of guns, and are not fitted with gun platforms, and the probability is that they would not be used as merchant cruisers. During the late war I served for a considerable time with the 10th Cruiser Squadron, and we started using big ships at high speeds, but found they were not satisfactory for blockade work and formed too large a target, and if they were mined or torpedoed there was too much at stake both in lives and property. We found that vessels of 10,000 to 16,000 or 17,000 tons were quite large enough for that work.

By Mr. Reid:

Q. Do you know of any countries that build ships to stand those requirements?—A. You could stiffen them to take the required guns, but at the present times these ships are not stiffened to do that. Undoubtedly in war time they would stiffen them up but at the present time they are not.

MR. ISNOR: I do not think that is in accordance with Mr. O'Donovan's statement. He was not sworn at that time, and that communication, I think, was sent to you.

The WITNESS: Next if you will turn to page 62—

By Mr. Isnor:

Q. From then you quote Mr. O'Donovan?—A. Yes.

Q. The other statement was not from Mr. O'Donovan at all, it was from the Congress of Canadian Organizations?—A. Yes.

Q. It was dealing with the view point of Mr. O'Donovan.—A. He says in the second last paragraph on page 62 that the number of white men employed on the four Empress boats was 265, and the total number of orientals employed was 175. That is obviously a misprint. He says further:

Now, we maintain that we do not want all white seamen aboard these ships, because it would be impossible for this reason: the traffic aboard these ships includes quite a number of—

The CHAIRMAN: What page are you reading from?

The WITNESS: Page 62. He says:

Our estimate is that we could man the Empress liners as follows: *Empress of Japan*, 357 white all told. *Empress of Canada*, 300 white all told. *Empress of Asia*, 250 white men; *Empress of Russia*, 250 white men:

I can assure you that these figures are at least 100 below the actual requirements that would be needed in white crews, and then we could not give the efficient service we are at the present time giving.