

Before concluding, I would like to point out to you that last year the Association held a life boat race in the Harbour of Vancouver and it was the first of its kind ever held in Canada. Mr. O'Donovan challenged the C.P.R. at that time to enter a Life boat from the Empress of Canada with Chinese crews, but they declined to do so. Capt. Holland, however, shore Superintendent for the Company, accepted the challenge and made up a crew of baggage masters and bridge messengers, who were, of course, mere boys and were quite unable to pull the boat. They came in last. Two Norwegian ships took away the honors. We are having a similar race this year in accordance with the Vancouver Jubilee, and Mayor McGeer has already given his patronage; but in view of the great depth of gratitude whic hseamen undoubtedly owe to you, our Association will be greatly honoured if you, too, would mecome one of the patrons of our race.

Yours sincerely,

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF SEAMEN,

Per: (Sgd.) THOS. E. DANIELS,
National Secretary.

Copy

THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF SEAMEN

C. P. O'DONOVAN,
National President.

305 LUMBERMAN'S BLDG.,
509 RICHARDS STREET,
VANCOUVER, B.C.,
May 9th, 1936.

MR. TOM REID, M.P.,
House of Commons,
Ottawa.

DEAR SIR,—We have rushed this particular list, which we herewith enclose, and I have to draw your attention to page seven or rather page eight, where the footnotes denote the abbreviations. We could not send this information by wire, therefore we are sending same by the quickest means possible—air-mail.

The enclosed list is by no means the last word on unemployed seamen. It is the census which we took in 1933 and 1934. Most of the men being out of employment for two and three years, and all experienced seamen. We are at this time compiling our list of unemployed seamen known to this Association, and which we will send in our next letter. We will be working on this over the weekend and you will find these figures will reach nearly one thousand men, residents of British Columbia.

With reference to the assertion of Capt. Aikman, that there are not enough men in B. C. to man his vessels, this to say the least, is ridiculous. We have gathered from information supplied by the Naval Veterans Club of this City that the membership thereof are highly indignant at the statement made by C.P.R. representatives, that there are not enough seamen in B. C. to man these ships, and moreover it is felt that this is but another added insult to our seafaring community. If indeed there are not enough men in British Columbia with the necessary experience, then surely there are enough between here and Eastern Canada, especially among our good Nova Scotia seamen.

Further reference has been made to this, as according to press reports, the finger of scorn is again pointed at our seamen by Capt. Aikman, during the so-called seamen's strike in this port, in which he declares that a scratch-crew which was taken aboard the S. S. "Niagara," proved unsatisfactory and disappointing. That statement is entirely false. On the occasion referred to, only two able-bodied seamen were taken from this Organization, and both were so satisfactory they were told they could come back at any time, and that was all