

Mr. REID: In answer to that I may say that this matter was discussed last year and information was given to the effect that 60 per cent of the passengers carried on these boats were Orientals and that the percentage of the crew would have to be at least that high. Figures given by the department showed that from 10 per cent to 15 per cent of the whole ship's crew were Canadian or British, and that 80 or 90 per cent of the crew were Orientals.

Mr. HILL: We have really essential information now.

The CHAIRMAN: There was a statement made last year in the committee and it appears at page 2 of the report. It deals with the percentage question. I shall ask the clerk to read it to you. Mr. F. E. Bawden was giving evidence at that time. Mr. Bawden is the director of steamship subsidies in the Department of Trade and Commerce.

The CLERK:

*By Mr. Reid:*

Q. You are speaking now of—A. I am speaking of vessels of Canadian ownership and registry, then I will mention the others later. The Canadian National Steamships operate a subsidized service between Prince Rupert and the Queen Charlotte Islands. The 1934-1935 contract provided that two-thirds of the total number of officers, engineers, stewards and crew shall be British subjects. This contract has not yet been renewed for the year 1935-36.

The CHAIRMAN: Was it renewed, Mr. Reid? Can you give us that information?

Mr. REID: I should not like to say, officially; I don't know.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall obtain information as to whether the contract was renewed on that basis.

Mr. BETTS: I think we should obtain some other information that may be useful. It may be in the report, but I am not sure. Information should be obtained in regard to a matter which the witness mentioned, and that is that the United States are subsidizing their vessels at the rate of a million and a half dollars a year. It seems to me, before we can deal with this intelligently we should know exactly what they are getting for a dollar on a tonnage basis, and what we are getting for a dollar.

The CHAIRMAN: You mean the subsidy?

Mr. BETTS: No; the service they are getting for that subsidy on a comparative basis. They are paying one and a half million dollars, so it is said; but we do not know how many sea miles they get out of that, and how many tons. We do not know what we are getting for our subsidy. I think the brief would be far more informative if that information was given.

Mr. MACINNIS: I think we ought to have the difference in wages and working conditions, the hours of employment on the American ships, as compared with Canadian ships.

Mr. MARTIN: The suggestion has been made that jobs on these ships are too repulsive for Canadian nationals and the Canadians will not take them. I do not think you have answered satisfactorily the suggestion as put forward by Mr. Neill.

Mrs. BLACK: I have been travelling up and down the coast on those ships for thirty-eight years; and time after time there has been what we call a new strike in the interior. On those occasions I have been told by the officers that the white seamen had deserted and gone to the interior, either to Alaska or to the Yukon. I have never heard of Chinamen deserting. I have never seen on these coast ships any Chinamen or any Oriental in a higher position. They are either cooks or pantry boys on the Princess or Prince ships. They are servants