

Supply—Fisheries

are conversant with the facts as contained in the enclosed letter from the crew of the S. S. Amla, ex C. G. S. Brant, and we consider their request only fair and just before our members, to be paid their wages from these bonds.

We understand that Mr. Nordin was president of the International Fresh Fish Corporation, and further that this company had a contract with the Department of Fisheries and was granted a subsidy of \$1,800 (eighteen hundred dollars) per month, which induced the crew to hire with the above company, and also induced the merchants of Charlottetown, to supply her with fittings, to prepare the ship for her work. We are also informed that the company gave bonds, for the faithful performance of the contract, which among other things were to protect the fishermen.

The company never functioned, and we ask you in the name of our king and country, that these bonds should be used, or as much of them as possible, toward paying those poor men.

We would respectfully request you to give this petition your most favourable consideration, so that the crew, who have completely lost their summer, through the failure of O. W. Nordin. Some of these men have served their King and country for over three years.

A labourer is worthy of his hire and their wages should be paid.

I have a copy of this petition but I will not read the signatures, since it is signed by over three hundred people throughout Prince Edward Island. In addition, there were numerous other letters and telegrams sent to members of parliament; the crew of the Amla were led to believe that they would be paid, but so far that has not been done. An election was approaching; the letters became very numerous and very promising, and I want to read some of the letters received by members of the crew. By doing so I will show that some assurance must have been given by the Minister of Fisheries that the crew would be paid. A short time ago I noticed that the hon. member for Prince was very anxious that agreements with the government should be lived up to. Here we have an agreement with the members of the crew of the Amla, but as yet they have not been paid. On May 9, 1930, the hon. member for Prince wrote Captain Burke as follows:

Dear Captain Burke:

I received the information to-day from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries that he will endeavour to arrange to have your claims adjusted, and I suppose he will have to put this in the supplementary estimates, and until those are through it would not be safe to give out any information.

However, I thought it well to let you know that the minister's intentions are good and that he will do his best on your behalf.

Yours truly,

A. E. MacLean.

You will note that according to this letter no information was to be divulged at that time.

[Mr. McLure.]

Mr. AHEARN: Pardon me, but was the letter marked personal?

Mr. McLURE: No, it was not. As election day drew near, another letter was written, under the date of May 12, 1930, this time to the engineer of the boat. This letter reads:

Ottawa, May 12th, 1930.

Mr. Lemuel Winchester,
Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Dear Mr. Winchester:

I received your letter and may say in reply, that the minister has given me the assurance that it will be attended to and that provision will be made for same in the estimates.

I trust that things will work out satisfactorily and that all the men employed on the boat will be paid.

Yours truly,

A. E. MacLean.

I wish to place on record another letter to show that these men on the Amla were being assured from time to time by the members from Prince Edward Island that they were going to be paid the wages due them. Here is a letter of July 5, 1930.

Summerside, P.E.I., July 5th, 1930.

Mr. F. Skerry,
c/o Howard Clark,
Alberton, P.E.I.

Dear Mr. Skerry:

Regarding pay for the work Amla, may say that I have received a letter stating the minister had issued instructions to have cheques issued.

If you do not receive yours in the course of a day or so, kindly let me know, and I will again take the matter up.

Yours truly,

A. E. MacLean.

That was just prior to the election and would therefore be a nice letter for the crew to receive.

Mr. MacLEAN: Why pick out A. E. MacLean's? Read the others.

Mr. McLURE: If the hon. member will wait I will read some more of his.

An hon. MEMBER: Read them all.

Mr. McLURE: It would take a couple of days to read them all.

Mr. MacLEAN: We support every one of them.

Mr. McLURE: If the hon. member for Prince does not wish to take credit for all the letters, I will give him a rest and read others which may back up his own statement that the crew should be paid, that they were promised to be paid, and that, as the writer says, he had the assurance of the minister that the cheques were issued and was told that if the men did not get their cheques