

is that they are apprenticed for three years, and the payment for the three years is \$60.00, \$80.00 and \$100.00 a year; these are the regular standard Montreal terms.

Q.—And the people board themselves? A.—Yes; apprentices I am speaking of now.

Q.—After they have passed their apprenticeship what wages are they able to earn? A.—The value varies very much, very much indeed.

Q.—The minimum would be about how much do you think? A.—Supposing they came out of their apprenticeship when they are 18—I am speaking of boys now more particularly, because the girls are not so often apprenticed—they ought to be worth from \$5.00 to \$6.00 per week then, say about \$5.00 per week. Some are worth a good deal more, and some are not worth that.

Q.—Young ladies when they become fairly skilled, what wages do they command? A.—I am sure I don't know. I can tell you the two extremes. A saleswoman after she has served her time will range as regards wages, from four dollars to 15.00 a week; we have them at both those figures. It all depends on the girls themselves. It is not like a mercantile business.

Q.—Is the supply of young women for these positions equal to the demand? A.—Yes.

Q.—I suppose they are required generally to understand both languages? A.—It is not necessary, but it is all the better if they do.

Q.—Are sewing rooms attached to any of the dry goods shops in Montreal? A.—Yes; almost all of them.

Q.—Are apprentices received in these sewing rooms? A.—We don't take apprentices now; they may be, I think they are in some shops. In fact I think apprentices are taken.

Q.—What would they receive on beginning work? A.—Do you mean in both dressmaking, mantle making and millinery rooms?

Q.—Yes, what wages would they receive in each of these departments. A.—I think the apprentices in a great many of those places do not get anything, and if so, it is a nominal amount.

Q.—Do they learn their trade effectively? A.—They ought to be able to learn it.

Q.—After they learn their trade what would they be able to earn? A.—They would be able to earn—I am speaking of the dry goods, millinery and mantle making, and I am not speaking of factories, but of work-rooms in connection with the dry goods business—from four dollars to eight dollars a week. They will receive more, of course, if they are skilful, such as cutters; they will receive a great deal more if they become skilled cutters.

Q.—Would an average skilled woman be able to earn nearer four dollars than eight dollars a week? A.—The average would be nearer four dollars than eight dollars. I am speaking of those who have served an apprenticeship, not of an odd girl who drops in and does not know much about the business. I am speaking of people who have learned the business properly.

Q.—A casual sewing woman, what would she earn? A.—We don't employ them—I could not say. They are not of much use in our business.

Q.—During what hours would they work? A.—Our hands always work ten hours per day, that is from eight to six.

Q.—Is that the rule throughout the city? A.—I believe in some millinery establishments they work them very late.

Q.—Do they pay them extra when they work them late? A.—No; I believe not. Ours work the ten hours a day; if they work extra they are paid extra.

Q.—During those ten hours what time have they for luncheon? A.—One hour.

Q.—Then they work nine hours a day? A.—They work from eight to six, taking off one hour for luncheon.

Q.—Are the sewing rooms, as a general rule, large enough to comply with the