

five dollars, will sell now for twenty-five dollars wholesale, and thirty to thirty-five dollars retail,—namely, cheap parlour and bed room suits.

Q.—You find a market all over the Dominion for your goods? A.—Yes; we sell a good class of furniture, and we ship to all parts almost. We ship to British Columbia, Manitoba, and all over the Dominion. We do not consign goods to agents, but parties purchase from us, and have them shipped to their address.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You ship wholesale out there, that is, parties buy it here and have it removed? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you find that there is an increasing demand—a greater demand—for high class furniture among the working classes than formerly? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has the advance of the use of machinery in manufacturies a tendency to cheapen articles of furniture? A.—I consider it has cheapened articles very much, and also caused an increase in the number of hands employed; in fact, all classes of furniture are produced very much cheaper now than they were ten or fifteen years ago.

Q.—Is more machinery used now than was used ten or fifteen years ago? A.—I do not know that more machinery is used, but there are always improvements being made in all classes of machinery every year.

Q.—Have the hours of labour decreased in that branch of trade during the past fifteen years? A.—No; it is the same as it has been during my time, namely, ten hours a day.

Q.—Is the furniture made of Canadian woods? A.—Yes; except the veneers, which are imported from France, and other places. That is French veneers, and veneers taken from other foreign woods.

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JOHN C. WATSON, Montreal, Wall Paper Manufacturer.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—You were at one time an alderman of the city of Montreal, Mr. Watson, I believe? A.—I was.

Q.—The only question I have to put to you is this, if you will be good enough to tell us: is the wall paper, such as is used in the houses of mechanics and the working classes generally, cheaper to-day than it was ten or fifteen years ago? A.—Yes. I fancy it is cheaper.

Q.—You mean to say that the ordinary wall paper, such as is used in the houses of mechanics, is cheaper to-day than it was ten or fifteen years ago? A.—Decidedly.

Q.—Can you tell us what percentage, if it is five or ten per cent. cheaper than what it was? A.—I fancy the force of competition has brought it down probably five or ten per cent. less.

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JOHN T. REDMOND, Montreal, Bookseller, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How many years have you been in the book selling business? A.—Nine or ten years.

Q.—What kind of literature is most sought after by the labouring classes? A.—Since the reduction in the price of literature I find there is an increased demand for standard works, that is, since the introduction of cheap libraries.