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annually, and in a couple of years have a pretty good credit?—A. I am glad you mentioned that point, Mr. Verville, because it has always seemed to me that the solution of the industrial question in regard to strikes was going to be helped most by the working classes having their attention focussed on something other than a perpetual demand for an increase of wages. While this country is growing wages may continue to rise, but the time will be reached when we cannot hope to increase wages any more without putting the industries of this country at a disadvantage as compared with the industries of other countries. Now, if for a time the working classes can begin to focus their attention on the problem of how, with the wages they have, they can get more commodities, there will be less agitation, it seems to me, of a kind which leads to strikes, and at the same time there will be the possibility of their bettering their condition in an effective and genuine way. I think, just as you say, that the trade unions formed for the purpose of regulating the relations of the men with their employers would be a good nucleus for the purpose of getting the men together and of seeing what could be done by means of saving funds. The same body, formed into a credit society, would begin to direct its energies to this question of bettering the condition of the cost of living, and I am inclined to think that as the co-operative movement makes headway we will find industrial strife begin to diminish in proportion.

Q. Of course, if I receive \$1 a day, and it costs me 90 cents a day to live, or if I have \$5 a day and living costs me \$4.95, I am not any better off with the larger than with the smaller sum?—A. Quite so.

Q. Such a thing as you speak of would permit of the focussing of effort and means?—A. What the workmen must strive for is to maintain, with the incomes which they have been able to get, as high a standard of comfort as possible. Now, it seems to me they can hope to improve that standard through a movement like the co-operative movement. They cannot hope to improve it in many cases through a continual agitation for higher wages, resulting in strikes and causing them to lose, in some individual cases, whatever little they have saved.

Mr. MONK—I would like to say, before Mr. King is discharged from further attendance, that I think the committee is very much indebted to him for his evidence. It was his duty to come here, but he has gone to the trouble of collecting some very valuable data as to the prospects of co-operation in our own country, and the result of the services, I think, will be of great use to us all. I feel confident, Mr. Chairman, that if this Bill becomes law, we have a very able and competent man to help to carry out its provisions.

Mr. KING—I thank you very much for your kind words, Mr. Monk. I would like to say I feel very much like apologizing to the committee for the hasty nature of my evidence, but I have been so busy of late that I had simply to pick up these few things, running through the department, as it were, and have not had time either to frame my thoughts or gather the material in the way I would like to have had it in presenting it to the committee.

Mr. VERVILLE—You do not need to apologize. I think the committee have found it very useful.

The committee adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

COMMITTEE ROOM No. 62,

TUESDAY, March 26, 1907.

The Special Committee to whom was referred Bill No. 2, An Act respecting Industrial and Co-operative Societies, met at twelve o'clock noon, the Chairman, Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, presiding.