

## MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

COMMITTEE ROOM 375,

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

TUESDAY, May 15, 1928.

The Select Standing Committee on Industrial and International Relations met at 11 o'clock a.m., the Chairman, Mr. C. R. McIntosh, presiding.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have with us this morning Mr. Howard T. Falk, of Montreal. We thought we would like to get his evidence to balance up the evidence given by Miss Childs of Winnipeg.

HOWARD T. FALK called and sworn.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. First of all, what is your position, what position do you hold?—A. I am Secretary of the Financial Federation of the Montreal Council of Social Agencies.

Q. If you will just proceed and give us your story, we may have some questions to ask you later on?—A. First of all, Mr. Chairman, as you informed me privately, I feel like apologizing to the Committee for not producing a written statement. Your summons reached me while I was on my way back from the Maritime Provinces and I could not do it on account of lack of time.

These agencies raise all the money for a group of non-sectarian agencies, raising approximately \$560,000 a year. I am also Secretary of another organization consisting of more societies, some forty-four in number, and I lecture at McGill University, in the school of social work.

Our Federation of Social Agencies has on its Board some of the most representative people of the City of Montreal, such as Mr. C. E. Neill, General Manager of the Royal Bank, who is Chairman of the Board of Directors, and Mr. E. W. Beatty, who is Chairman of the Advisory Board, and we have other very well known names on these Boards and Committees.

First, Mr. Chairman, I would like to submit to you, not because you have not got the figures, but because perhaps this visualizes it better than I can put it in any other way, a graph which shows the variation of employment in the City of Montreal since 1921. It is based, of course, upon the returns to the Federal Department of Labour, the Employment Service, and it represents approximately thirteen to fourteen hundred employing firms and covers a variation of approximately two hundred thousand to two hundred and fifty thousand employees, and shows a variation of 10 to 15 per cent in the number of employees, which means that there are out of employment in Montreal on the basis of the returns you get, from twenty thousand to twenty-five thousand men as a minimum. I submit that for this reason, that when you show the peaks of employment you get an idea of what it means to have so many men out of employment during the winter season.

That is all I want to say about that, because all these figures are in the possession of your Department.

The next sheet I would like to put in the record, if it is permissible, is a statement of the work of the Protestant Employment Service. That service has been in existence now since a little before January, 1927. These figures

[Mr. Howard T. Falk.]