

two things in relation to each other. In that way the co-operative movement certainly is a strong factor towards solving the vexed problem of industrial strife.

I have here two or three reports. I will not read them, but I will turn them in to the committee, with the request that when the committee is through with them, they may be returned to the Department of Labour, so that we may have them for future reference. They are: the Report of the Workmen's Co-operative Store Company, Limited—evidently that is at Cape Breton—and the Glace Bay Co-operative Society, Limited. I will just read this one sentence from the report of the Workmen's Co-operative Store Company, Limited. (Reads):

'Brother Co-operators: We again submit for your approval the usual abstract and balance sheet for the half-year ending August 22nd, 1906. The sales for the term amount to \$24,356.57, an increase on the sales of the corresponding half of the past year of \$3,014.55. The net divisible profit, after paying all necessary expenses, amounts to \$282.33 to go to the reserve fund; \$244.21 to go to pay interest on members' capital; and \$2,262.53 to pay 10 per cent dividend on members' payments; leaving a balance of \$34.27 to be carried forward.'

By Mr. Monk:

Q. Is the 10 per cent paid upon the purchases of the parties?—A. That would mean payments on purchases. My object in reading it was to illustrate the many points of view workingmen would get in regard to business through having an association of this kind which they would probably never have had, had they not been brought into this direct relation with the employer's side of the question. Then here is the report of the British-Canadian Co-operative Society, Limited; also the Workingmen's Store Company, Limited, Dominion, Cape Breton—a small statement from them.

I have here some correspondence from Mr. O. R. Wallace, the correspondent of the *Labour Gazette* at Guelph, Ontario, in regard to a co-operative association which was formed there among workingmen, with a view to meeting what they thought were excessive prices being charged for bread. I think this correspondence is most interesting, as it shows particularly where workingmen can better their condition industrially through the co-operative movement, perhaps by taking up only one small phase of the question. On February 15, 1904, Mr. Wallace sent the following statement to the Department of Labour. (Reads):

'There is in process of formation in the city of Guelph a co-operative association of workingmen known as the Guelph Co-operative Association, Limited, which has been formed under chap. 202 of the Revised Statutes of Ontario.'

Just in this connection I may point out that the objections which Mr. Trowern was urging the other day to this particular Bill might be urged with equal force to the co-operative legislation of all the provinces which have enacted such legislation because his objections were to co-operation generally. Of course the governments of the different provinces have shown sympathy with the movement by enacting laws under which the members of some of the existing societies are working. Unfortunately, however, the laws are not of a nature which permit the phase of the co-operative movement which possibly this committee is particularly interested in—namely the banking or credit aspect. 'The Association is formed with the license to carry on by wholesale or retail different labours, trades, and businesses on a co-operative basis, but for the present it is only intended to run a bakery business. The intention of the promoters is to follow the lines of similar bodies in the Old Country. The capital stock is being sold in an unlimited number of \$2 shares in small lots to persons who will, it is expected, be the chief customers of the Association and an effort is being made to have as large a number of shareholders as possible. Up to the present the incorporating of the Association, the election of the first board of trustees and a canvass by the board of trustees for stock has consisted of the work accomplished.