

down. The majority of the shops in the city have no power machines and they are not well ventilated. I think the work detrimental to the health.

Mr. SANGSTER repeated his statement as to electric and foot power.

The COMMISSIONER.—I should surely think that power of any kind would be of advantage.

Mr. O'DONOGHUE.—(To Mr. Davis.) I would like to ask you if you are a practical workman how is it that you are in a business of this kind employing a lot of others?

Mr. DAVIS.—Because we could not get a place for work. If a man came and offered me decent wages I would drop the tailoring to-day for anything else. When I first came to the city I would never have started tailoring for myself if I could have got a fair situation. I went to a wholesaler looking for work and he told me that if I could get some machinery and help he would give me employment. That's the way I started.

Mr. GURIEFSKY.—I think working gas irons detrimental to the health.

The COMMISSIONER.—Have the health officers given any statement about these gas irons?

Mr. DAVIS.—You have to watch them; if they leak they will make you sick.

The COMMISSIONER.—Does the piecework system obtain more generally among male or female employees?

Mr. SIMS.—That might apply principally to the custom tailoring. It applies all over the country in our trade. Custom work altogether done on the piecework system both by men and women.

Mr. O'DONOGHUE.—You say that in the custom trade it is nearly all by piecework. Do the men and women get the same pay for like work?

Mr. SIMS.—Far from it.

Mr. O'DONOGHUE.—In other words I might understand that if I were getting a particular style of suit made to order, a man working on it would get one price but if a woman made that same suit for the same employer and the two articles being equally well made she would not get as much for her work but I would pay the same price for the suit to the master tailor. I would not get any advantage from the lower price of the woman's labour. I understand you to say that she would not get as much.

Mr. SIMS.—Not by one-half.

The COMMISSIONER.—That is a mean kind of sweating.

Mr. SIMS.—You must understand that these women deal directly with the master tailors. They take the garments out, agreeing upon the price they are to get for them and that is generally one-half less than a man would get for the same garment.

Mr. O'DONOGHUE.—The only inference to be drawn is this—an employer would scarcely miss an opportunity of sending as much as possible of my work into the woman's hands.

Mr. SIMS.—Exactly.

The COMMISSIONER.—Do piece hands make higher or lower wages than day or week hands?

Mr. SANGSTER said that with a number of other men he had made an investigation into a case where the middleman, although paid by the piece, was paying those under him by the week. After thorough investigation they came to the conclusion that if the girls had been dealing directly with the wholesalers they could have made from one and a half to two dollars per week more than they were earning. The piece work would really be more beneficial.

Mr. GURIEFSKY.—In the coat trade all piece workers get better wages than we do.

The COMMISSIONER.—Don't they work longer hours?

Mr. GURIEFSKY.—No, the same hours. The shop opens and closes at the same time as ours. It is the same in the shirt trade, too.

The COMMISSIONER.—You work week work now. Do you make higher or lower wages than if you were working piece work?

Mr. GURIEFSKY.—I believe that I would get better wages. There are some hands working in our shop who don't do as much work as some of the others. The good hands have to make up for the indifferent ones.