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perative association and of getting all books and other necessaries from the co-operative stores, I was enabled to save a considerable sum and to this extent to take an advantage of opportunities there which I might not otherwise have been able to do. And I know that what has been my experience has been the experience of a great number of men at the University. What is true of the co-operative movement as applied to a body of students at a University, is equally true of co-operation as applied to a group of working men or to the people in any community.

*By Mr. Monk:*

Q. Did that custom obtain at the University of Toronto?—A. No, I think not. I think they have not such a club. I might say that I think a similar society started here in Ottawa would be a god-send to the members of the civil service. I think if every man in the civil service became a member of a co-operative society and purchased his coal and clothing and other necessaries through that society, he would find that his income, the purchasing value of his income, would be increased by 10 or 15 per cent. And men living on limited incomes, I think, could look for a good deal in the way of improving their condition by becoming members of such a society and helping to further a movement of this kind. I have here a volume, one of the publications of the American Economic Association, dealing with co-operation in New England. It is by Edward W. Bemis. I think it well to mention it as it has a reference to the Harvard Co-operative Society, and to a similar society at Yale; it states that the students have also similar societies at the University of Michigan and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Those universities have a very large number of students?—A. Yes, some of them have. Harvard has 4,000, I think. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has not that number. I do not think it is as large an institution as either McGill or the University of Toronto. The publication to which I referred a moment ago has also a reference to other co-operative undertakings—co-operative stores, productive co-operation and credit co-operation—in New England. That state being the most conservative in the American Union, I think the experience of the movement there would be of value to this committee.

*By Mr. Monk:*

Q. Will you leave that publication with the committee?—A. Yes, with pleasure. (Book filed as *exhibit No. 6.*)

The WITNESS.—I stated that when in England I looked into this movement off and on at different times, and this morning before coming to this committee it occurred to me that I might have in the journal, or diary, which I kept during my trip in Europe, some reference to the co-operative movement. I did not have much time to look through it, but I came across this reference, dated London, February 6, 1900:

‘Went at eleven to the Wholesale Co-operative Society’s establishment and was shown over their buildings. First went through the tea factory—about 300 employees. The conditions were splendid; lots of light and air space, clean, regulated hours and good wages.’

Then I have a reference to the use of machinery:

‘Next went through the coffee and chocolate factory, then the ham, bacon and groceries, and finally the tailoring. Here the work is kept up all the year round. Good rooms, bright and clean and not too crowded. No work given out except in pressing season.’

‘Had dinner in the hall, along with buyers from the southern section. Talked with Deans and Benjamin Jones. The former stated co-operation did not succeed in London because of the too great competition of the cheap sellers; the latter because of the nature of the people, who preferred cheap goods and poor articles.’