

Q. And I believe that the mill has made an arrangement with him to buy a home on condition that he would pay so much a month toward it; is that so?—A. Yes; he has told me that. I can give evidence in regard to that myself. In 1921 I was living in a rented house and working for the company. The house was sold over my head. The landlord did not even give me an opportunity to buy it, because I would have bought it as I was quite comfortable—just as comfortable as I ever was in Cornwall. I spoke to our manager, and he said “You will have to have a house,” and I said “Yes, but the only way to get one is to buy one, and I have not got the money; I have five children of my own, and they are pretty extravagant, I must admit that, and they have used up some of my earnings.” He said “How much do you want,” and I said “About \$2,000.” He said “Go ahead and buy the house; you can have it,” and he gave me \$2,000.

By the Chairman:

Q. He loaned you \$2,000?—A. Yes, at a very low rate of interest.

By Mr. Woodsworth:

Q. How many of these men with lower salaries own their own homes?—A. There are more at low salaries who own their own houses than there are with big salaries. That is a fact. You would be surprised to see them go up, and they are really comfortable living quarters, which, in my position, I would not be ashamed to live in, many of them. They do a lot of work themselves at night. They put them up much cheaper than I could put up a house myself. They will get together and have a “bee” and say “We will put up another storey,” or “We will put on the clapboards,” and finally they have mighty nice living quarters.

By the Chairman:

Q. They put the houses up the way they used to put up the barns in the early days?—A. They are certainly comfortable; there is no getting away from that.

By Hon. Mr. Tolmie:

Q. How does the rate of wage compare with Quebec?—A. It is better.

By Mr. White (Mount Royal):

Q. Better pay?—A. A little better pay in Ontario than in Quebec.

By Mr. Hamilton:

Q. Do you represent a company which has mills in Quebec?—A. No, not in Quebec.

By Mr. White (Mount Royal):

Q. Are you thinking of a place like Magog or Montreal?—A. Montreal or Valleyfield. I am not speaking with positive knowledge with regard to that, but I have had men come and apply for work and they have told me we paid better wages than they paid in Valleyfield.

By Mr. Woodsworth:

Q. Have you had much of a migration from Cornwall to the States on account of the higher wages?—A. There has been a lot go to Detroit, particularly the young men, but I would say 90 per cent of those who went have landed right back home. That is not this year, but within the last two years. There have been a lot of young men who have gone to Detroit when the boom was on, but I think I am safe in saying that, yes, 99 per cent of them have come back home.