

*Mr. Michael Kelly gave the following evidence :—*

Are you a licensed culler?—Yes.

How long have you been attached to the Supervisor's Office?—Something over twelve years.

In what capacity did you come here?—I came here as a delegate selected by the cullers of Quebec.

To obtain a license and admission to the Supervisor's staff, is it necessary that applicants be able to distinguish and classify the different kinds of timber—say, white pine, red pine, rock elm, swamp elm, white and red oak, tamarac, spruce, black and white ash, cherry, walnut, whitewood, basswood, &c.?—It is necessary.

Is a period of service or apprenticeship either in the timber coves at Quebec or elsewhere necessary to qualify an applicant for admission to the Cullers' staff, under the present system, and is it necessary that the applicant should be able to read and write either in the French or English language?—It is necessary that an applicant should serve an apprenticeship of at least five years in the coves, and be able to read, write, and be conversant with figures.

Do you consider the number of cullers now on the Supervisor's staff sufficient or more than sufficient for the efficient performance of the duties pertaining to his office?—I consider the number of cullers in the square timber department more than sufficient. I think twenty cullers would be sufficient. I am not aware that the other departments are overcrowded. The only complaint I have heard from the cullers in the deal department is the great difference in the earnings of the cullers. In the stave department I have heard no complaint.

What remarks have you to make with reference to the character and ability of the cullers respectively?—I presume that fully a third are incompetent from old age and infirmities, and another portion are incompetent from causes I do not wish to explain.

In what manner would you suggest that the number of cullers be reduced?—I would suggest by, firstly, striking off the list those who are incompetent from physical infirmity; secondly, those incompetent from the cause of intemperance; and, thirdly, the last appointments made.

What suggestions would you make with reference to the staff inside of the office?—It is true there are clerks in the office who are incompetent. I think there are more specification clerks than are required. I think cullers should be called upon, when time permits, to help make out the specifications, thereby causing a diminution in the number of clerks.

How many pieces of timber is one culler able to measure in one day?—One culler should be able to measure from one thousand to twelve hundred pieces of Ottawa timber in one day, and on a St. Lawrence raft about eight hundred pieces in one day, square timber in each case. In board lumber, from three to four hundred pieces would be a fair day's work.

What suggestions would you make with reference to the system of rotation, and if cullers should be paid by fixed salaries?—I think cullers should be on a fixed salary when reduced to the number actually required of competent men, retaining the rotation system as formerly. Should the payment of fees be continued, I would still be for retaining the rotation system, from the fact that an open list would lead to abuses; as an explanation—a culler employed by a lumber man during the winter season would be apt to have all his employer's work in measuring his timber at Quebec. I believe that ten or twelve would get the greater portion of the work.

What portion of the work would these ten or twelve men be able to perform?—A little over the half.

Do you think would the twenty cullers all be employed at the same time?—I do not think so. During last summer from thirteen to fifteen were the greatest number employed at the same time.

What are the cullers expenses per day?—About eight dollars per day for himself and assistants.