

29. Where wages or prices for making have fallen, or show a tendency to fall, has this been, or is it due to competition among contractors or workmen, to reduced prices for the finished goods, to the use of improved machinery and appliances, to division and organization of labour, to combinations among employers, or to any other specific reason or reasons?

30. Have wages been affected by immigration or by the bringing in of workmen from foreign countries by employers, under contracts made abroad?

31. To what extent does the apprenticeship system prevail, and in what degree are wages affected by it?

32. In shops or factories, does the piece work system generally prevail or are the employees generally paid by the day or week: and if the latter, is it usual to fix a stint or task as a day's work?

33. Does the piece work system prevail more generally among male or female employees?

34. Leaving children out of the calculation do piece hands or day hands, as a rule, receive the higher wages?

35. How many hours, generally, constitute a day's work?

36. Does the system of fining for imperfect or partially spoiled work prevail to any extent?

37. Are there a greater or lesser number of idle men in the trade now than formerly; that is in recent years, and if the number is greater, has this been due to a decrease in the demand for goods, to improved machinery or changed methods of manufacture, or to the number of workers in the trade having increased more rapidly than the demand for their services: and, if the latter, has the relative increase in the number of the workers been due to immigration, or has it been owing to too many of the native or resident population entering the trade?

38. To what extent has female labour displaced male labour, or child labour taken the place of adult labour?

39. Does it sometimes or frequently happen that there is a scarcity of workers in some towns or cities and a surplus in others at the same time?

40. To what extent has the tenement house work shop system obtained a foothold in Canada?

For the purpose of obtaining information under these several heads I visited factories, workshops and private dwellings, making inquiries of both employers and employees, and personally inspected the condition of the shops and other places in which work is done. I also addressed, to employers and others, lists of such questions as I believed each would be best able to give information upon. Besides these means—for the purpose of getting a very full expression of the views and opinions of the classes immediately and particularly interested—I adopted the plan of holding a meeting in Toronto to which I invited the manufacturers, contractors and other employers, and also committees of the several organizations of employees engaged in the clothing trade. At the meetings, which were held on the evenings of the 8th and 9th of January, there were also present by my invitation a committee of the Toronto Trades and Labour Council and the three Ontario Inspectors of Factories, resident in Toronto, Mr. James R. Brown, Mr. Robert Barber and Miss Margaret Carlyle. I have appended a verbatim report of the proceedings of these meetings.

So as to be able to compare the condition of the several industries in Canada, in which the "sweating system" might be expected to be practised, with the conditions which obtain in similar industries in the United States, I placed myself in communication with Factory Inspectors, Commissioners of Labour and other officials in the several States of the Union, and attended a meeting of the American Federation of Labour held in the City of New York in December last. I also visited a number of "sweat shops" in Jersey City, N. J. The time occupied in my work of inspection covered a period of seventy nine days, from October 29th, to January 28th, inclusive.

I now proceed to give, I trust with sufficient circumstantiality, the result of my inquiries under the several heads already enumerated:—