

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

TUESDAY, May 25th, 1926.

The Select Standing Committee on Industrial and International Relations met at 2 p.m., the Chairman, Mr. McIntosh, presiding.

The CHAIRMAN: I will ask Mr. Hewitson to come forward.

ALBERT HEWITSON called and sworn.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. What is your position in Cornwall?—A. I am overseer of the finishing and napping department in the Canadian Cottons.

Q. You are largely interested in what end of the business in Cornwall?—A. The manufacturing business.

Q. How long have you been in that business?—A. Twenty years.

*By Mr. Hamilton:*

Q. At the same time, would you be able to say that you are familiar with conditions in the industries other than the one you are in?—A. From coming in contact with the people, quite so.

Q. You have down there beside the Canadian Coloured Cottons, the Howard Smith Pulp and Paper Company, the Beech Furniture Factory, the McGill Chair Factory, the Cornwall Pants Company, in which about 75 per cent are female workers, the Courtalds Silk Factory, in which there are in the neighbourhood of 500 employees, and the Ives Modern Bedstead Company. In all of these industries there are both male and female employees?—A. Male and female, yes.

Q. That will tell us how much ground you can cover, and give us your opinion not only as an operative, but as a citizen living there. How long have you been working in Cornwall?—A. Twenty years next spring.

Q. And previous to that were you employed at Hamilton and Dundas?—A. Yes, Hamilton, Dundas and Merriton.

Q. And at one time were you not employed to go over to England to select desirable persons to work in the industries in Canada?—A. I went over in March, 1920, for the Canadian Cottons.

Q. And you secured these people and brought them to this country?—A. Yes, and if it had been possible I could have brought three shiploads, but I could not get accommodation for them.

Q. Now, will you proceed? If there is anything you have to tell the committee, we will be glad to hear it. How many women and girls would you say you have in your department?—A. Between 90 and 100 in all.

Q. That is, in the weaving department?—A. No, in the finishing and napping, and I would say about twenty-five per cent of them would be female help.

Q. Now, the napping department consists in putting the finish on goods, putting what is called a nap on it?—A. Yes, puts a nap on it; makes flannel-lette out of it.

Q. Now, what are the youngest girls you have in your employ?—A. We have a minimum wage for female employees in Ontario.

Q. Then you are acting under the Ontario Minimum Wage Statute?—A. Quite so.

Q. And you have to report to the Ontario government regularly through the mill?—A. Yes.

[Mr. Albert Hewitson.]