

MONTREAL, 6th February 1888.

SAMUEL CARSLY, Dry Goods Merchant, Montreal, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You are acquainted with the dry goods trade in Montreal, I believe? A.—Yes.

Q.—I understand there are a large number of persons employed in the dry goods business in this city? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the hour at which dry goods establishments generally open in the morning in this city? A.—At eight o'clock.

Q.—What hour do they generally close? A.—We and several other establishments close at six o'clock.

Q.—What is the general rule? A.—A great many keep open to nine o'clock; on Saturday nights till ten or eleven.

Q.—Do you think there is any great necessity for keeping open in the evening? A.—I am sure there is not.

Q.—What are the ages of the people employed in dry goods stores? A.—We had them in our store as cash boys at twelve years, and we have men up to seventy years of age.

Q.—Is that general throughout the city? A.—No. The general rule is from ten to fifty-five years; the bulk of them will be between eighteen and thirty years.

Q.—Those who are employed at such an age as ten years are all cash boys, I presume? A.—Yes.

Q.—At what age do they begin to go behind the counter? A.—We don't take them as apprentices to learn the business until they are about sixteen years of age.

Q.—Is that the custom throughout the city? A.—I think so—fifteen or sixteen years.

Q.—How is it with young ladies who become clerks? A.—They generally commence about sixteen, at fifteen or sixteen.

Q.—Have you any employment for girls under that age in your establishment; and allow me to say that I am not enquiring into your private business, but in regard to the general custom of establishments throughout the city? A.—Do you mean are there any girls younger than that employed in any capacity in the workshop?

Q.—I am speaking of clerks now? A.—Not as saleswomen.

Q.—Are female clerks compelled to stand on their feet all day or are they permitted to sit? A.—In our store there are seats provided for them.

Q.—Do you know whether that is the rule in establishments in the city or not? A.—I don't know; I don't think it is, but I don't know.

Q.—Are men and women or girls employed in the same departments? A.—Sometimes they are.

Q.—Are there separate conveniences provided for females and males? A.—With us there are, in different parts of the building.

Q.—Do you know how it is generally? A.—I believe in a great many cases there are not.

Q.—Is there any law in the Province of Quebec regulating that matter? A.—I believe not; not that I know of.

Q.—Is there an inspection made as to whether the sanitary condition is complied with, that is, any inspection by the Government officer? A.—None whatever that I know of.

Q.—We have been told of course about the inspection made by your municipal authorities, and it is not necessary to question you respecting that matter? A.—I have never known an inspection made by them.

Q.—What would be the average wages of a female clerk when she begins the business? A.—The regular Montreal terms for an apprentice to learn the dry goods