

Paquette

Q Would that apply equally well if the labourers had received increased aggregating 25 per cent in the two years immediately preceding, without any corresponding increase in the dividends to the shareholders? You have just told us that in the case of the Dominion Textile Co in the two years immediately preceding the 1st of May the employees had received an increase, or increases aggregating on an average of 25 per cent?

A Yes, in Montreal.

Q Did the shareholders in the Dominion Textile Company receive any corresponding increase in dividends?

A I don't think they did. They do not pay the wages of the employees. It is the consumer who pays. If they have to pay more wages they simply sell their goods higher. A storekeeper was telling me in Magog that when they increased the wages of the cotton mill ten per cent, they increased the price of their goods twenty per cent.

I will say more than this -- of course this may make Mr Ewing smile, but we hear it from the storekeepers all over.

There is a storekeeper in Valleyfield who told me the same thing, that is, that the price of the goods was increased twenty per cent when the wages of the employees was increased 25 per cent.

MR EWING: If I might be allowed to say it, we made an advance of five per cent in wages without being asked