

that time, when a man died, we had to go around with a hat to bury him, for, generally speaking, the family was so poor that they had not even the money to buy a candle to wake him, or a coffin to bury him in. So we used to get up a subscription list and go around, showing that he could not have any money left—in fact, that he could not have a cent, and by this means we would raise sufficient to bury him. I may say that things are very bad this winter. Many did not earn enough to keep them all the winter, and had to go away. Others have remained. There is not a living to be got here now.

Q.—And that was the object you had in starting the Society? A.—Yes.

Q.—You, being an old hand at the business, must be able to understand it? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you give us an idea of how many dollars you earned in the seven months—from May to November last season, this last year? A.—I came in here last February—about the fourth of February—and I stayed here until about the first of October, and all I did, for the time I was here, was thirty days' work, at four dollars a day.

By MR. WALSH:—

Q.—Do I understand you to say that you only obtained thirty days' work from May to November? A.—Yes.

Q.—That is one hundred and twenty dollars you received in one summer? A.—Yes.

Q.—And the summer before, how many days did you work? A.—Thirty-four days.

Q.—At the same wages? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you give any reason to the Commission why work is so slack, when you work only that number of days in that time? A.—The scarcity of the ships coming here. I know that I was at Savannah and worked eighty-six days, at six dollars a day, before this. This winter I did not work so much.

By MR. CARSON:—

Q.—Was the time that you were employed here during the number of months that you have mentioned? Was that about the ordinary amount of work that any other man did, were he then situated the same as you were, in the business of ship loading? A.—In our business?

Q.—Yes, in your business. A.—Some did more, some less.

Q.—The reason why I ask you the question is that they received three dollars a day, which is eighteen dollars a week? A.—Yes.

Q.—So that, although their wages were high, they did not receive much money? A.—No; that is all that I got. Some work for more and some less.

By MR. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How were you paid in those days—what currency? A.—We were paid in those days all cash.

By MR. FREED:—

Q.—What do you actually receive at present for one hour? A.—We receive fifty cents an hour for work in the hold, down in the bottom of the ship.

Q.—If you are working on the dock or on the wharf, how much do you receive? A.—Thirty-seven and a half cents an hour.

Q.—When you are loading a ship, how many hours additional are you at work? A.—The day's work is eight hours.

Q.—Do you quit after the eight hours? A.—Sometimes; but if they want us to work an hour or two overtime, we do so.

Q.—Eight hours is your day? A.—Yes.