

to do so, and he said there was a 100 per cent. difference. It would seem, however, to be something over 80.

What proportion of your branch of the manufacture is imported?—It would be hard to tell. I can tell you what has been imported the last five or six years. It has been doubled every second year. By the last return it was \$885,000. The next return, up to the end of June, according to what has formerly been the case, will exceed that.

Is that for the total imports of clothing into this country?—Yes.

Could you give us the returns?—They are as follows:—

For the year ending June, 1869	\$169,000
" " 1870.....	217,000
" " 1871.....	432,000
" " 1872.....	535,000
" " 1873.....	885,000

Would an increased duty on your manufactured goods increase the price to the consumer, and if not, why?—No. The reason why is, the more we manufacture the cheaper we can manufacture. I speak now for all in Montreal. I know something of each one. They can do twice the business they are doing now at the same rent and expenses, same foremen and expensive hands. The expense of the hands and the rents would not be increased. We should pay a good deal more money for labor, but that would be covered of course, by the goods. The larger our business the cheaper we can sell our goods.

About what amount of protection do you think would fully develop your branch of industry?—We think if we had 10 per cent. protection it would answer us. I want 10 per cent. above what I pay on my raw material.

What duty would be required to confer that protection?—Twenty-five.

Provided you get 10 per cent. on the raw material, what loss would you make in manufacturing for the interests of the Dominion?—I don't understand the question. Before going further you must distinctly understand that it is 10 per cent. net.

Do you export?—Not at all.

How about the West Indies?—I would be glad if the Government would recommend a drawback if they change the tariff.

If you had a drawback?—We have not yet tried, but my impression is we might do something.

How many hands do you employ?—I hardly know. I had a foreman some time ago who said I employed 600 or 700 hands. I did not believe it then, but at the present time I daresay I employ 700 hands or upwards. Between 700 and 1,000. A greater part do the work outside. I employ 70 to 100 hands inside who prepare work to go out, fixing canvas, etc., to be taken out and made. It is made outside. We don't know how many hands work at it. In one place they make from 100 to 150 pants a week. We only know one woman, but don't know how many she employs.

Are the hands that she employs generally men?—Generally women. We have men generally employed on black coats and the like work. They work for retail tailors, and work for us in the slack season.

Do you mean that those women, or others to whom you give out job work or piece work, are not included among the 700 operatives?—Oh, yes; they are included.

Are your employes men or women?—Mostly women.

What are their average earnings?—Well, that is another question that would trouble me a little to answer. Of course, foremen and so forth get higher pay. Ordinary hands, female labour, get something like \$3.50 a week. What would you say, Mr. Muir?

Mr. Muir,—Oh, from \$2.50 to \$3.50.

Women do get from \$4 to \$5, of course, but that is exceptional. We don't pay our hands so well as we should like, but there is a reason why.

What do the men earn?—The tailors and cutters, not speaking of the foremen, earn from \$8 to \$15 a week.

Can you suggest any means by which you can export your manufactures?—A draw-