

“Engagement for Mr. Edmond Boué, who is engaged as second blower by the the Excelsior Company of Montreal, Canada, according to the following clauses and conditions:

“The Excelsior Company pays his passage from Paris to Montreal. The present engagement is made for three years, beginning upon the first of September, 1883, and finishing on the 31st of August, 1886. The work shall be by the piece, and the scale of prices shall be established on the following basis:—

“For button blowing an augmentation of the scale of 25 per cent. on the prices actually paid in France. For lamp glasses the prices shall be three coppers per dozen for finisher and three for blowers—six coppers in all per dozen. There shall be two shifts of 5 hours per day. Mr. Edmond Boué formally engaged himself not to affiliate with any union or American or local societies of any nature, and to faithfully execute his engagement on the above determined conditions, conformable with the conditions and usages of the workshop during the entire time of his engagement without reference to the general rates of salaries in America. In case of voidance of this contract by the Excelsior Company, the cost of returning Edmond Boué shall be at the charge of the said Company. The returns should be by the mail boats leaving Liverpool 16th April. Mr. Boué shall be ready from the 12th, at the disposition of the Excelsior Company and Mr. Alexander Hunter, No. 4 Lux Street, Paris. Each worker is entitled to 200 lbs. of baggage to be transported gratuitously, and the Excelsior Company hereby binds itself to furnish work during the time of the engagement. Dated, Paris, 12th August, 1883.”

MR. TAYLOR—He was engaged over there under this contract to come out here to perform labor, and representations were made to him that the factory had been shut down for five years. When he came here he found a different state of affairs; when he came here he found it was to displace labor which had been working for the last five years.

MR. JOBIN—The witness says this glass blowing factory shuts down during two or three months of the year. It was during the period of the closing of the factory that they imported these men from Paris, so that they would not have to re-employ the men who had been previously employed. In answer to the question asked by Mr. Lépine, he says that fifty came here to replace fifty Canadian working men and they were sorry that they came out. He says he sees that their coming out was prejudicial to the working men of Canada.

THE CHAIRMAN—This proves conclusively that this state of affairs has been in existence, and it becomes a question as to whether it is advisable that this should be avoided to have home labor displaced in this way.

MR. MCKAY—His evidence bears directly on this mode of doing it.

THE CHAIRMAN—That establishes that point fully.

*Mr. McKay:*

317. Is the witness still working at this “Excelsior” factory?

WITNESS—Yes.

318. Under the terms of this contract?—Oh no, that has been broken, we are working under union terms.

THE CHAIRMAN—The contractors themselves broke the contract and then the men followed?—Yes.

*By Mr. McKay:*

319. Was any attempt made by the Company to enforce it on the men?—They are not allowed by the Company to earn more than \$6 or \$7 a week. They were not allowed to earn enough to pay their passage home.

THE CHAIRMAN—As this contract is somewhat ancient, I would like to ask him through Mr. Jobin, if he knows of any other batches of men brought out under similar circumstances?

MR. JOBIN—That is all hearsay—he says he does not know.