

The COMMISSIONER.—I don't suppose that if I were to-night to ask the question, "what constitutes sweating?" that I would get two answers alike.

Mr. TOMP.—In reference to your former question, to which you had a good deal of difficulty in getting an answer, because the parties directly interested are not here. You see people use a great deal of caution to prevent information getting outside about infectious diseases in their houses. Instances are known where contagious diseases are concealed. We know, however, that clothing will carry infection and from the fact that much of this clothing is made up in close and ill ventilated places where disease would have a chance to spread there is no question at all but that it has carried contagious disease. A great many cases can be traced which spring from that. I think if you look over the reports from other commissions you will find that where they have had a more extended field they have been able to answer that question.

Mr. O'DONOGHUE.—It is not a fair assumption that no cases arise simply because we don't know of them.

The COMMISSIONER.—Only if I had the particular instance, it would be more satisfactory. Now, in reference to this investigation. I have only ninety days altogether in which to get the information, and consequently cannot make so thorough an investigation as I think should be made with reference to wages. I shall only be able to speak generally. To attempt in a ninety-days' investigation to get at all the facts relating to this trade, or any trade, would be useless. It simply could not be done. It seems to me that the bureau of labour statistics, to establish which an Act has been passed, but which has never been put into operation, cannot be organized any too soon. We ought to have such information as it would give, readily to hand. Other countries have such bureaus, and in the United States they not only give statistics of their own, but for other countries.

Mr. O'DONOGHUE.—If you could take a consensus of the opinions of those who take an active part in matters connected with labour, I think you would find no enemies to it. We think the Government would be justified in putting that bureau into operation. We were expecting much from it, and much good would rise from it were it put into operation. Even now it is better late than never, and we would be proud to get it. We are proud of Canada for many reasons, but that happens to be one of the things in which we think the country is behind. If the Government of the country exercises economy in every other direction, they can afford to give us a bureau of that character. It would be a great advantage to the working people and the country as a whole, because incidentally and indirectly much of the information in the hands of the Canadian people would be laid before the world.

The COMMISSIONER.—As the hour is late (it was now 10.50 p.m.) we will adjourn to meet again at this place to-morrow evening, when we will again give the matter our best attention.

Mr. GUROFSKY.—Can we ask contractors to come?

The COMMISSIONER.—We want all to be present who can give any information whatever on the matter. I may say that contractors, as well as wholesale manufacturers, were invited, and I have the promise of the contractors that they will be represented by a committee to-morrow night. You will each understand that you have the right to personally invite any who can throw any light upon the matters under investigation.

The inquiry then adjourned.

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The inquiry resumed on Thursday, the 9th January, 1895, at 8.20 p.m.

A number of contractors were present in addition to representatives of the labour organizations.

The COMMISSIONER.—Gentlemen, in answering questions, you will please as nearly as possible confine yourself to the question. Last night we got into a discussion on the