

Q. Could you pay higher wages if it were not for the upper province prison labor? A. The fact of the freight being added to the goods that come from Toronto enables us to get a profit on our goods. If it were not for the freight we could hardly get a profit. I think we could hire all the hands we want at present prices, but it would not be necessary to do so now.

Q. It would not be necessary to increase your staff of employes now? A. We could employ more hands if it were not for the upper province competition.

Q. How many more could you employ? A. We have twelve men and boys in our different rooms now; probably we could add three or four more hands.

Q. You mean if the upper province competition was out of the way? A. Yes.

ALEXANDER CHRISTIE, Door, Sash and Wood Manufacturer, St. John, N.B., called and sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How long have you been engaged in the door and sash trade? A. I have been in business since 1865; that is twenty-three years.

Q. Do you find that your trade has increased any more than it was at that time? A. The trade is about as small now as it has been for a long time—smaller in fact. Of course, we had quite a boom here after the big fire in 1877, but otherwise trade has been low.

Q. How many hands do you employ? A. We have had twenty hands this last year.

Q. Is that about your average number? A. That is about our average. We have had as many as fifty hands at work when trade was good, but for the last year or two twenty has been our average.

Q. Do you manufacture anything to go outside of the province of New Brunswick? A. Not a great deal; sometimes we manufacture a few things to go to Quebec, but it is mostly in this Province we sell our goods.

Q. What wages do you generally pay your men? A. From \$8 to \$12 a week.

Q. Do you pay your foreman any more? A. We pay him \$12. There are two men in the factory at that price, and the rest get \$8, \$9 and \$10 a week.

Q. Do you employ many boys? A. Very few; we have only two boys at work now.

Q. What are their ages? A. The eldest is about eighteen years old.

Q. What wages do these boys earn? A. They start at \$2 a week and run up to \$4 when their time is out.

Q. How many years do you consider sufficient to make them good journey-men? A. Four years.

Q. Do you bind them to apprenticeship or do you make their apprenticeship a voluntary matter? A. We used to bind them, but now we generally take them on their word.

Q. Do these boys remain with you after they are out of their time? A. Most of them remain with us.

Q. Do you find any difficulty in getting all the men you require to work? A. No; there is always plenty of men to be found willing to work.

Q. Is labor dull in the market now? A. There is not any one, hardly, to be found inquiring for work.

Q. Is there any idleness in the market? A. Not in our line of business. I know of no one being idle in our business, except in January and February, but when it comes into March these men get employed again.

Q. Your work begins in March, then? A. Yes; we are all pretty busy in our business now.

Q. Have you ever had any labor troubles with your men? A. I have never had any trouble with my men.