

is being taken from the merchant's yard to the consumer, as it does from the ship to the dealer's yard? A.—I do not know what is done when it goes into the dealer's yard. I think the dealer takes care not to overload his carts.

Q.—Have you heard of any party that did not get his proper load from the dealer? A.—Yes. I cannot particularize, but there is universal grumbling that people do not get their weight of coal.

Q.—Do the merchants receive from the mine the long ton? A.—Yes; always. And they always sell the long ton.

Q.—Does the consumer always get the long ton? A.—I do not know about the consumer. The wholesale merchants always sell by the long ton.

Q.—Is there an understanding between merchants with regard to making a uniform price for coal? A.—There is none among the mine owners. I speak as representing the mines, and not as a distributor of coal in the city at all. I sell to anyone wanting a large quantity to ship, but of course if there is any such understanding among the coal dealers that is their own arrangement—that I know nothing about.

Q.—Is there any such arrangement among the merchants, and the coal exchange in New York? A.—There is in anthracite coal, none in steam.

Q.—Do the arrangements made in the New York Coal Exchange have any effect on the distribution of coal in Montreal as to price, I mean among the merchants? A.—Well, that is a question I am not at all competent to answer, but as a natural consequence I would suppose so. Their object is to get a higher price.

Q.—You cannot say there is an understanding among the retail merchants as regards the uniform price of coal? A.—No.

HOLLIS SHOREY, Montreal, Senior member of the firm of Messrs. Shorey & Co., Clothiers.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—You have appeared before this Commission before, have you not Mr. Shorey? A.—Yes.

Q.—We thought you would be good enough to come once more to tell us if the goods you sell, suitable for the working classes, are dearer than they were ten or fifteen years ago? A.—They are cheaper.

Q.—Will you tell us what is the percentage? A.—My son and I went to work, last night, and spent an hour looking over the books for this year, eighteen hundred and eighty-eight, and the books back to seven and ten years ago; and the prices, for three years previous to seven years ago, was about the same as the prices were seven years previous to that. We went into the same class of goods and the same class of cloth, made up in the same way, and we find, on the average, the prices of working-men's clothes are from sixteen to twenty-five per cent lower than they were then—that is good deal.

Q.—For how many years back? A.—Seven.

Q.—The last seven years back? A.—Yes; seven to ten years back, and the same class of goods are from sixteen to twenty-five per cent cheaper now than they were then. They will average that. I have got down different articles here; some vary. Some are seventeen and a half per cent, and some twenty-five per cent, and there are others which any member of the Commission, who may be in business, will readily believe, where there is a good deal of competition, on which we get very little profit. Mr. Boivin, for one, will understand this. Now, there is one kind of cloth, and in that particular kind of cloth there is a good deal of competition with the manufacturers, so that sometimes we receive a fair profit, and other times we receive very little. They cost us more than they do now, and than we sell them now.