

Q.—Strikes as a rule do not produce much benefit? A.—I never saw any use in them except the nine-hours strike in Newcastle. It did good in regard to getting the nine hours but it did harm otherwise.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—As a general rule, who come out worst, workingmen or employers? A.—I think employers are always better prepared for strikes than are workingmen. The workingmen also are the greatest sufferers.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you think workmen ought not to strike unless they are sure of success? A.—They should not strike unless they see they will get their money back, because they are not prepared to strike.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—You say there is no limit to the employment of boys in your business? A.—There is no rule for a certain number of boys to so many journeymen. Employers can put on all the boys they like, and if they like they can endeavour to work their shops with nothing but boys.

Q.—Do they take care to instruct the boys, or have they to pick up knowledge where they can get it? A.—They take care to instruct the boys, of course. If they have any intelligence the foreman or even the men will see that they get justice.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—At what age are boys generally taken into your trade? A.—They are generally from sixteen to eighteen.

Q.—When they are taken in are they, so far as you know, up to the average in education? A.—They seem to be pretty intelligent. I am only speaking of what I know.

Q.—They can read and write? A.—There might be some who can neither read nor write for all I know, but the boys I come across seem to be pretty intelligent.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—As general thing does the foreman take pain to teach those boys? A.—They are generally put under the guidance of a leading hand who has charge of the work—of the machine that is being built. He has boys under him.

Q.—In some shops are not boys taught one particular branch and become very good at the work in a very short time; in this way do they not become skilled workmen at one branch and find it difficult on leaving the shop to get another situation, in fact are no use? Have you not seen men who were good workmen at one particular branch be, outside of that branch, no better than ordinary laborers? A.—That is a system which prevails where a shop is run upon a certain class of machinery, which pays the employer better than any other way. Even a journeyman going into such a shop will be at the same job all the time for he gets perfect at that kind of work and it pays the employer better to have him kept at it.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—That is your experience? A.—Yes.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—It was boys I was talking about. If they train the boys in that way will it be of much advantage? A.—No; but I do not think they can do so much here in that way as in the old Country, except in an agricultural shop. If you take a contract shop where engines and general machinery are built there is abundant variety; but in an agricultural machine factory the same work is done continuously and it pays the employer to keep the boys at one class of work, but as a result they grow up to be of no use at any other work.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you think if boys were indentured they would become better mechanics