

suppose it was, although the carpenters have always been loth to turn out to public meetings or anything of that sort, so that I would say that perhaps the majority were never there. It is seldom you see a meeting in Toronto attended by one-half the carpenters.

Q.—And did those who did not turn out approve of the strike? A.—No, they are pretty well divided there. I believe that in Toronto there are two-thirds of them conscientiously against strikes. I know that some of my best friends, who are society men, are against them, although they may go out on strike.

Q.—If they are against strikes—a large number of them—from what influences are the strikes precipitated? A.—Well, I don't know. Of course, in the different Unions, the minority must always submit to the majority and if it is carried by the majority the rest have to feel satisfied; that is the only reason. I have had to do so myself often, when I was opposed to anything of the sort, but I went with them and stuck out with them because the majority were in favor of it. Still that was the reason I left the Unions, I am sorry to say; I thought it was just as well to keep away and see if we could not fight more harmoniously outside, although when I was in the Union I supported them and stuck to them and when the majority of them were for going out of course I went too.

Q.—Have strikes been successful or unsuccessful? A.—Well, I don't know; They have been successful and unsuccessful too. The last strike was very unsuccessful.

Q.—What was that for? A.—It was for an advance of wages—at least that was the principal thing. They were twelve weeks out on strike, and they commenced again on the same terms; in fact some went back on less wages instead of more.

Q.—Was any allowance received from any fund by the strikers? A.—I do not know as to that; I was not amongst them and don't know anything about their financial standing.

Q.—Was the last strike of which you spoke ordered by a large number of the men or were any special influences brought to bear upon the men? A.—Well, I don't know. I went to one meeting to hear what the results would be; I think it was in this hall and it was decided that they could come to no conclusion. Then at another meeting it seems that the majority arranged for the strike but I did not know anything about it until Saturday when I saw the men in the shop picking up their tools. I suppose they thought I would not go out; so they did not say anything to me, but I heard that there was to be a general lockout. I went to my employers and asked them if they were going to shut up the shop; I said "if you do I want my money and I will go somewhere else; I want no man to lock me out." Our association had arranged that we should not go on strike; we had arrangements made with the different employers for an advance of wages to men who are worthy of it at the first of next season after existing contracts were finished. However we kept on on the conclusion come to the previous night.

Q.—Are many apprentices employed in the carpenters' trade? A.—No, there are very few.

Q.—Do many boys desire to be apprenticed to it? A.—Well, no, I don't think so.

Q.—If a boy desires to be apprenticed is there any difficulty on his part in getting work? A.—No, not that I am aware of.

Q.—As many as choose can enter the business? A.—It used to be the case the boys came and served their time. It is different now from my boyhood when we were indentured five years as I was. But I have seen boys who were to serve four or five or three years but after being there two years they left their employers and went somewhere else without serving out their time. Of course the employer cannot compel them and the employers lose much in that way. Whether dispensing with indentures is a good system or not I do not know but I know that in my time we had to serve under indentures.

Q.—Do you think they learned their trade better in those days than those boys you mentioned who go from place to place? A.—I think so—far superior.

Q.—And the men who learnt their trade in those days and who were indentured