

By Mr. Lancaster:

Q. In other words, the object is protection for the wholesaler and the retailer?—
A. Yes, the trade was in a very bad condition when this association was formed. There is no question about it.

The CHAIRMAN.—What you said a moment ago in reference to prices does not agree with evidence given formerly. For instance, Mr. Cockburn said very strongly that one of his paternal characters was to see that the members did not charge too much, and that the price lists, after being fixed, were returned to him for his opinion.

By Mr. Lancaster:

Q. Supposing your idea of the objects of the association was carried out, would not the result be to limit trade, to restrict trade in a sense of limiting it to a few people who would be concerned in it?—A. Well, I don't know that it would.

Q. To what extent I would like you to say?—A. Here is another clause in my address that I would like to read—

Q. I would like you to say whether you do not think your association, if its objects were carried out as you understood them, would not have the effect of restricting the number of people who would go into the lumber trade?—A. It might have that effect.

Q. It would, would it not?—A. It probably would, but at the same time I do not think it would interfere with the public service or with the price of lumber. Now, one of the witnesses, one of the early witnesses, Mr. Green, stated in his evidence—

Mr. KNOWLES.—One of the farmers?—A. One of the farmers thought that one yard would be better than two under certain conditions, and I quite agree with him in that. One yard where there was only a limited sale of lumber would be ample to supply the requirements, and in that case I think it would be better than two yards, for the reason that there would be only one living to be made out of it and one set of expenses to be paid, and, if the profit put on was right, it certainly would be to the advantage of the customers that there should be only one yard.

By the Chairman:

Q. But your association was to be the judge as to whether there was room for one or two?—A. This is another reason for the formation of the association (reads):

'The most important duty to my mind, undertaken by the association was through its members to provide at all points occupied by members, a sufficient quantity and assortment of lumber to meet the present requirements and if the rules of the association were not violated at a reasonable price.'

Now, I think that is quite right and it is borne out by anything that the association has ever done.

By Mr. Lancaster:

Q. Is that another way of saying you wanted to regulate the output so as to guard against a possible slump in price?—A. What I mean, is that there would always be a good stock of lumber available to the public at any point—

Q. It also means not too much at any point?—A. And that they would not charge an excessive price for it.

Q. And had you not also in your mind to guard against prices going down by reason of there being too much lumber on hand?—A. Too much lumber? No, I never heard that view of it.

Q. You do not know anything about there being an equal desire to prevent a slump in price?—A. No.

Q. You might regulate this thing so that while you secured a reasonable price the price would not go down, might you not?—A. No.

Q. Because you know the market might be overstocked and there might be a necessity for selling cheaper because you might need the money?—A. That would be a business matter for the dealer himself, keeping a sufficient stock on hand.