

would be told that it was wanted at once and would be fined or checked for whatever amount the foreman saw fit to impose upon her. Mr. Davis maintained that that would not follow were the woman working for a contractor.

Mr. SANGSTER.—No, because the contractor would see that it was right before it left his shop.

The COMMISSIONER.—Mr. Davis maintains that if he takes a hundred coats from a warehouseman, he will have his own idea as to how they are to be made up. If, when he takes them back to the warehouse, fault is found with them, and he has to make alterations, it is he who has to bear the expense, but if the employees take them back, they would have to bear the expense.

Mr. SANGSTER.—If a woman can work for a contractor satisfactorily, she can do the same for a warehouseman.

Mr. GUROFSKY.—If the hands were working piece work for Mr. Davis, he would say that they were just as responsible to him as the contractors are to the warehousemen. There is one man in this city gives all his hands piece work, the man Fine I told you of. He makes knickers, coats, ladies' blouses, jackets and all kinds of work. We have to pay, if we spoil anything. I have had to pay, and I know others who have. I have had to pay Mr. Davis once or twice, I believe.

The COMMISSIONER.—Let's get down to the point. Suppose that you took work from the warehouse and took it back from your shop finished according to their instructions. Supposing then that the warehouseman found fault with it, saying he wanted it made so and so. Would the contractor have to bear the expense?

Mr. GUROFSKY.—No, he would be paid for it; but if he did not make it according to instructions, he would have to pay for it. When I was working by the piece, I would have to make it right if I spoiled anything.

The COMMISSIONER.—These gentlemen say their work is day work.

Mr. SIMONS.—Mr. Gurofsky said that if a workingman spoils anything, he would have to pay for it. I have worked for Mr. Davis for some time, and I have occasionally spoiled goods, but have never had to pay for them.

Mr. DAVIS.—I would not say that if a man goes and deliberately destroys a garment, or if two men get fighting and tear a garment, that I would stand the consequences. But if I find fault with the way a sleeve hangs, for instance, and make my man take it out and fix it properly, that is done at my expense.

Mr. O'DONOHUE.—In connection with the discussion on this matter, I would like to say that the British Government, as a whole and by departments, has done away with the sub-contract system. Every department of the British Government now has a specification in its contracts that he who gets the work must say what wages he is going to pay for every item during the time that he has the contract. Because the experience there, which was larger than any one of you or all of you put together, was, that the middleman was in every instance an injury to the person who made the garment. I am satisfied that that is the case. I say that what has been found justifiable by the British Government in this matter would be a good pattern for us in Canada to follow.

Mr. GUROFSKY.—There is one question I would like to ask Mr. Love. He said that the girls in the clothing trade were better off on the average than those outside. I would like to ask him if it is as healthy as any other trade. Is it not detrimental to the health of the girls?

The COMMISSIONER.—You'd better leave that question until we come to it. To what extent does the contract system prevail in the custom or ordered trade. I know that in the case of pants made to order the work is done largely by contract.

Mr. DAVIS.—Even in coats, too.

Mr. STRACHAN.—You were asking the question in regard to the custom trade.

The COMMISSIONER.—Yes. Does the contract system prevail in that trade?

Mr. STRACHAN.—There are a hundred and forty men and fifty women out on strike at this moment. Why are they there? Because the nineteen employers—good men, too, apparently—told us that they wanted the power over the pant and vest hands to do as they like. They found it so convenient that instead of paying two dollars for custom made pants they were getting them made for sixty-eight cents or one dollar. Eight