

ment of timber satisfactory, if not, what change would you suggest?—I would suggest an independent Board of Survey, which should also constitute a Board of Examiners, one of which should be nominated by the Board of Trade at Quebec, and one by the Board of Trade at Ottawa, and appointed by the Governor in Council; the respective Boards of Trade to have no control over them after their appointment, and the Supervisor of Cullers, for the time being, whose duty it should be to examine all new applicants, and settle all disputes arising out of the culling and measurements of timber; the two former members of the Board to undergo an examination as to their fitness, as required of new applicants (see my answer to the fourth question before this one), and when not employed in examination of applicants or holding surveys, to exercise a subordinate supervision of the culling and measurement of lumber.

What do you think would the maximum of expenditure be?—I should say not less than from fourteen to sixteen hundred dollars to each of the members of the Board of Survey.

What is your opinion of the rotation system in any case; also, if the system of salaries be adopted instead of paying cullers by fees?—The rotation system, as at present carried out, is open to great abuse, and in respect to the equalization of the earnings of the cullers, when one man may earn \$2,000, another may earn not more than \$300 or \$400, owing to the facility with which both merchants and cullers are enabled to evade the law. It often occurs that the merchants, who have large lots of lumber, will wait for several days until their favourite culler's turn comes round, and when they feel they are waiting too long, it is not unusual for them to put five or six requisitions in at a time, for perhaps not more than a hundred pieces of deal each, for the purpose of clearing away all the cullers whose names stand on the list above the one they wish to have; and I am of opinion that there are such disparity in the size of rafts and in the quantities of all other lumber, that I do not see how the rotation system can be worked with due regard to all the interests involved.

What has been the per-centage of cost to the lumber trade, from time to time, and the expense of the Supervisor's office, as compared with the price of lumber?—I have no reliable data at hand to enable me to answer this question positively; however, I may state that during the first fifteen years' existence of the office the average price of lumber was not more than fifty per cent. of that of the last fifteen years. I consider that the present rates have not been so burdensome during the last fifteen years as it had been during the first fifteen years.

What is your opinion of the present system of culling deal?—It is my opinion that the present law is rather strict, and would suggest the introduction of a fourth class.

What is the present mode of examining applicants for admission to the staff of cullers, and what are the requisite qualifications for such admission?—The mode of examination is by a Board of Examiners, four of which are appointed by the Board of Trade of Quebec, four by the Supervisor of Cullers, and the Supervisor of Cullers himself as chairman (*ex officio*). The Board takes into consideration the moral character of the applicants, as well as their ability, and appoints a day to meet in a cove where the applicants are examined on the lumber. The Board establishes the denomination of the wood, measures and culls the same, which denomination, measurements and quality are entered in a book in the absence of the applicants. Each applicant is then furnished with a book in which he specifies the denomination of the wood, measurements and quality, and the Board, on meeting another day at the office of the Supervisor of Cullers, for the purpose of examining the book of the several applicants, and compare them with the examiners book, and if found unexceptional as to fitness, certificates are given them by which they obtain a license from His Excellency the Governor General in Council. The custom hitherto, has been, that if the difference in the measurements does not exceed two-and-a-half per cent., and the culling not more than five per cent., the applicants are granted a certificate.

On a survey being granted, what is the per-centage of difference in the measurements?—There is no per-centage allowed, the whole depends on the report of the Board of Survey. If the Board confirm the measurement or culling of the cullers whose judg-