

current motors and he took it away with him. The next day I said to him, "I suppose you know a great deal about it now." He said, "If I cannot learn about it in the the company's time, I won't learn at all."

Mr. P. F. McCabe,—

If the law takes care of the boy under fourteen years of age, how is it that those little street arabs up to five and six years of age are selling papers instead of going to school.

Mr. Clarkson James,—

It is an absolute necessity in many of the cities and the law can only frown upon it. The pittance they earn on the streets in most cases has to go to help keep a mother or father who are either unable or unwilling to help themselves. There is an association now forming which will, it is hoped, help a great deal in this regard. The law cannot be severe on these boys whose environment is such as to compel them to seek a living in the streets. This is, however, a question, which, if we were to continue now might lead up to socialism, or some of the other much talked of but badly understood questions which are at present agitating society the world over.

Mr. K. D. Clark,—

I understand from Mr. James that the law compels the boys on the streets selling papers go to school a certain number of hours each day. I would like to ask, as a matter of interest, whether these boys are found to be any smarter or more apt in accomplishing their regular school work than those brought up in the average home.

Mr. Clarkson James,—

Any boy that rubs up against the world will acquire a sharpness on the surface. His little mind runs in certain channels which lead up to the best way to get the advantage of you. When such a boy is associated with other boys in school life you at once see the difference. He has very trite sayings and they come into action on every occasion, but that is the only advantage—if it can be called such—that he has. I may say, however, that there are many prominent and honored citizens of Canada to-day who obtained their early training by selling newspapers in the streets, and who on account of the strength of character and manliness overcame their condition and took their proper position in life. While others who started life under similar circumstances chose rather the path of idleness and have failed in consequence.