

member of a labour organization. I said you are one of those who wanted to have the Factory Act put into operation, and here you are giving false certificates. "Well" said he "some of the people said you would not be around for a long time again, and it would be all right." I said that I would report the matter, and I did. The Attorney General said it was a bad case, but as the man was then out of work it was overlooked. Of course, I think it was the best thing that could be done, as he promised positively not to transgress again. A great many give false certificates. A great many children have never been registered at all, and that is a great obstacle to getting at the age. When they are over 14, no certificates are required at all. If any employer sees to it that the children are of age and gets a certificate from the parents then he is trying to carry out the provisions of the Act, but if he chooses to accept the simple statement, then he is liable as well as the parents. I may say that I prosecuted two parents for allowing children to go to work who were under age—after previously warning them. But the trouble is, of course, that the parent is liable as well as the employer and if you take the one you have to take both.

The COMMISSIONER.—Is it the experience of manufacturers or wholesalers that they can get their work done as well or better and more cheaply by contractors than they could in factories of their own?

Mr. GUROFSKY instanced a firm of manufacturers in Rochester that had done away with contractors and were doing their work direct in their own warehouse. They are, he said, well pleased with the new order of things. I do not think there is anything of this here.

The COMMISSIONER.—Have there been any authenticated instances of contagious diseases having been spread by means of garments made in contractors' shops or private houses? Mr. GUROFSKY has spoken of that.

Mr. GUROFSKY.—I worked in a shop in this city where two children died of diphtheria. There were both men and women in the establishment. The man (father of children) used to come down stairs and work in the shop after he had been with the children. We did not know that it was diphtheria until one child died and the other was taken to the hospital. Then the authorities notified us and put a placard upon the door.

The COMMISSIONER.—Do you actually know of any case wherein infectious diseases were carried by means of garments?

Mr. GUROFSKY.—Well, no.

The COMMISSIONER.—I noticed that in the examination before the sweating commission in the United States, this question was asked from different witnesses. Different answers were given—whether the sponging and pressing of garments would kill the germs of disease? Some thought that it would; others that it would not.

Inspector BARBER.—There could be no doubt that the heat of the pressing irons would kill the microbes.

Mr. GUROFSKY.—I know of girls working in shops who have consumption and other diseases of that kind.

Mr. STRACHAN.—Disease was liable to be contracted in private houses where poverty, sickness, and oftentimes filth reigned. No dwelling-house, he thought, should be allowed to become a factory.

Mr. CAREY.—If that were the case the inspectors would have a better opportunity of getting at the trouble.

Inspector BARBER.—The medical health officer deals with that.

The COMMISSIONER.—I came across a case where scarlet fever was in the house.

Mr. STRACHAN.—Work was taken to private houses where mothers employed girls. When there were cases of sickness the clothing was used for bedding, etc. Sweating is the great difficulty. No work should be allowed to be done in private houses. I hope that the report which you will present, Mr. Commissioner, will bring in a new state of things altogether, and a new system of inspection in these private residences. Such a condition of things as would answer to the factory. That diseases are spread by clothing I think there can be no doubt. It is the sweating system that you want to get at the bottom of.