

Q.—There is no regular system of apprenticeship in those large establishments?
A.—I think even in those large establishments they do take lads as apprentices, though there may be no regular system of instructing them thoroughly in the trade.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you think the people of Lower Canada would consent to have their children placed as apprentices for five or six years under a master? A.—I do not think they would object to have their children apprenticed, if they could be satisfied that they would learn the trade thoroughly.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Would the boys not be more likely to learn their trade by being apprenticed than they would by picking it up in the shop? A.—Most certainly. The proper way for a boy to learn his trade is to commence early and have proper instruction.

Q.—Can you tell us the percentage of the children of the working classes who attain to the higher branches of education in the common schools? A.—I could not reply to that question.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Are there not very large establishments in the old country that build vessels and do dockyard work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have they not the very latest improved machinery? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do the boys who are apprenticed there go out as good journeymen? A.—I could not reply to that; I have not had a sufficient knowledge of the men coming from there.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Do you not think that in regard to the matter of apprentices, supposing I had a son and was going to apprentice him to you and you were the employer; would you be satisfied to take him as an apprentice and teach him all the different branches? A.—I would, probably, if I was paid for doing it; otherwise I would scarcely undertake it.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Was it not the case in earlier times? A.—I am not quite positive it was; I believe such was the case.

By Mr. COTÉ:—

Q.—Do not the boys get higher wages by reason of working under the present system than they would be able to obtain if they were indentured? A.—I am not thoroughly well posted on the wages question, but I believe that when a boy becomes proficient in doing his work, say in connection with some part of a machine, he commands higher wages.

Q.—In the old time when boys were regularly indentured was it not the custom instead of the employer giving wages for the parents of the boy to pay a premium for his instructions? A.—That did exist.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How long ago? A.—In some professions it exists yet in England; boys have to pay to go into architects' or merchants' offices.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you believe it would be advisable to go back to the system prevailing at the time of the middle ages when apprentices were required to produce a master