

In so far as piece workers are concerned, the figures shown on the last three pages of Exhibit No. 275 show that only in perhaps a little over 50% of the cases is the basic wage lower in 1936 than it was in 1930 or 1926, and that in quite a number of cases the piece worker's basic wage was higher in 1936 than in 1930 or 1926. As far as actual earnings are concerned, a great majority of the cases show earnings higher in 1936 than either in 1930 or 1926.

In addition to these exhibits there have been prepared statements by the Secretary of the Commission with regard to the rates of wages paid by the Company in all its mills. These are exhibits 1247, 1248, 1250 and 1252.

Exhibits 1247 and 1248 purport to show a distribution of mill employees according to hourly earnings. We understand that this information has been abstracted from the payrolls of the Company by dividing the total number of hours worked into the amount paid as wages. Exhibit No. 1247 shows average hourly earnings for male employees in the Montreal mills of 30.30 cts. and for the mills outside Montreal of 27.80 cts. Exhibit 1248 shows the distribution of female employees according to hourly earnings. The average hourly earnings for the Montreal mills being 26.11 cts. and for the mills outside Montreal being 22.91 cts. per hour.

The sheets forming Exhibit 1250 purport to give a distribution of employees according to earnings in a pay period. This pay period we understand to be the last fortnight in February 1936, and to show the actual earnings of employees. This exhibit, we submit, is without significance as it necessarily does not take into account employees who were working part time or broken time, due to a variety of reasons. For example, at Montmorency, during the fortnight in question, there were 1,753 hands on the payroll, but the total hours worked by these hands only represented full time employment for 1,241 hands. It is evident therefore that on the average each employee only worked 70% of full time, but actually of course some of the employees on the payroll may have worked full time or even overtime, but others only worked short time, the average result being as indicated. Similarly, with regard to the Sherbrooke cotton mill, there were 469 actual workers, with 362 equivalent full time workers indicating an average of 77% of full time employment; at the Sherbrooke rayon division there were 340 actual workers, with 209 equivalent full time workers, indicating an average of 60% full time employment.

In considering these rates of wages it is important to recall:

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