

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is it not true that a portion of our population does not much care about contagious diseases? Is not this one of the reasons why our infant mortality is such as we see it? A.—Unfortunately, hygienic training is altogether wanting among our working classes; there is a kind of contempt, due to ignorance of the laws, more than any thing else, and nothing is observed from the aspect of the law. This is naturally one of the chief causes of our mortality. The great remedy would certainly be education.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—As a physician, could you give us your opinion on the age at which children may be admitted to work in the factories? A.—If you ask my personal opinion. I do not think we should allow children to work in the factories before fourteen, in the case of boys, and fifteen, in the case of girls.

Q.—Do you think that the health of a boy of twelve years, or of a girl of fourteen, would be put in danger by working for six weeks of the year, during seventy-two hours a week—that is, over twelve hours a day? A.—Six consecutive weeks?

Q.—Weeks that may be consecutive? A.—There would be a wide difference between consecutive and non-consecutive weeks. But there is no question that, even taking twelve hours' work, for one or two days only, it would be dangerous to the health of the children.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What should be the hours of work for children under fifteen years of age for boys and for girls? A.—Really, the question is very interesting and I should like to have time for reflection before making a reply.

By Mr. COTÉ:—

Q.—Do you think that children ought to be let work in factories under fourteen years of age? A.—No; not so far as my personal feeling goes. But, you will observe, that I do not mean to stand for an expert in these matters.

Q.—Do you believe that children under fourteen ought to be allowed to work in factories? A.—No; I do not.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—I would like to know your opinion about the work of young girls in retail stores, and if you think their health is endangered by working up to nine and ten o'clock in the evening, as it is done here? A.—I would prefer that you were willing to put those questions in writing to see what the authors say on the subject.

By Mr. COTÉ:—

Q.—Do you not judge that the wages of children under fourteen are an important consideration in certain families? A.—Several of these queries are out of my line. You are interrogating me on a point of domestic economy. I said that the working class suffered generally from lack of means, and there is no doubt that, in the families of working people, where the average of children is eight, nine or even ten, there is need of the handiwork of children under fourteen years of age.

S. C. STEVENSON, Montreal, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What position do you occupy? A.—I am secretary of the Arts and Manufacture Association and director of the technical schools under their control.