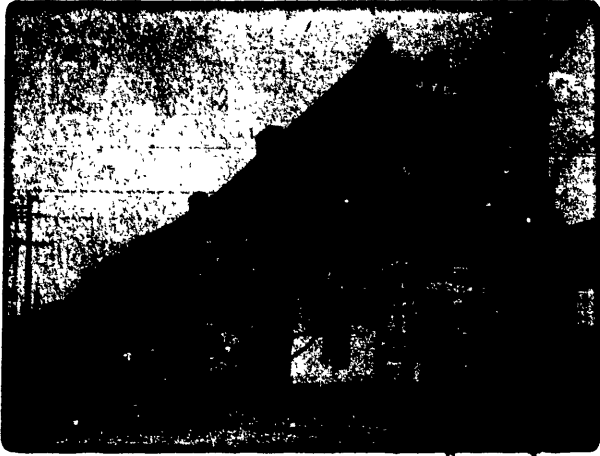


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Wages and Hours in the Cigar making Trade, Canada.

Of the 4,000 employees concerning whose conditions returns were made, one-fourth of the whole were employed in union shops. From information received it would appear that there are no unions in this trade in either Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, and that, with the exception of Montreal, in which city about one-third of the factories are union, there is little union organization in the province of Quebec. In Ontario the union rate obtains pretty generally in most localities where the industry is carried on, and especially in the cities. Probably over one-half of the factories and shops in this province use the union label on the goods they manufacture, and pay the union scale of wages and comply with the union conditions as to hours. In British Columbia practically all of the manufactories employ union men, pay the union scale of wages, and the majority of them have the union label placed on their cigars.

An effort was made by the department to discover the relative proportion of males and females engaged in the different classes of work, and the following classification, more or less general in its nature, may, nevertheless, be regarded as fairly representative of conditions in this regard. Of the total number of cigarmakers (journeymen), about one-sixth are females. This proportion, however, is due chiefly to the large number of female employees in the city of Montreal. Leaving that city out of consideration, it would appear that about one-ninth of the total number of cigarmakers are females. In British Columbia there do not appear to be any women employed as cigarmakers, and this is also true of individual shops in each of the other provinces. The proportion of female apprentices to male is considerably greater, however, about one-half or more of the total number of apprentices being females, either women or girls. Among the bunch-makers and rollers there are five times as many females as males, of strippers, about three times as many, and of packers, about one-half more. Taking into consideration all of the different classes of labor engaged in the cigarmaking trade, two-thirds may be classed as males and one-third as females.

In part explanation of the very low rate of return paid to bunchmakers and rollers, and to strippers. In some localities, it might be stated that in a number of the shops small boys and girls are engaged in this branch of the work, but this explanation is not here presented as a justification of the excessively low return indicated by some of the figures.

As to hours, the general prevalence of an eight-hour day in most of the localities is quite noticeable.

All of the reports received agree in the assertion that there is practically no home work carried on in the cigarmaking trade in this country.—Labor Gazette.

Business in the Yukon.

In speaking of the trade situation in the north, Mr. Wester, a passenger on the last steamer out, says that he does not at all agree with the statements made that the Klondike was over-stocked. It was stated that there was at present over 700 head of cattle in Dawson, or in the Yukon country, en route for Dawson. He had no reason to say that this was not so, but, even if it were, with beef at \$1 a pound, there is no indication of a glutted market, in fact, it was stated on good authority that the Yukoners were consuming 25 head of cattle a day. As for provisions, particularly cured meats, although they were obtainable last winter for a little more than it cost to lay them down, shippers had received such a severe lesson that in a severe season the amount will be shipped in this season, consequently, prices would rule higher. Just at present there was an overplus of oats and hay, and, as in the natural course of events, grain would soon be available, shippers were loading with disastrous result, all of them losing heavily. Oats were selling at 9½ cents per pound and hay at 60 a pound; this represented a loss of perhaps \$30 a ton, exclusive of the cost of storage, which ran from \$1 to \$2 a ton. Mr. Wester said he believed this year would be a prosperous one and he expected the cheap rates would swell the population up to perhaps double its normal condition.