

Q. Did you not make use of that waste? A. Two-thirds of this waste is in the form of scrap iron, which is saleable, and for which we have been getting 70 cents per 100 pounds. The increase of duty has not increased the price of scrap. We have been selling our scrap to the Nova Scotia Iron Company, and when the duty was increased on iron we thought the scrap ought to be worth more; so we asked them 1 cent a pound for it, and they answered that they couldn't pay us that sum; and only last week they told us they couldn't pay us the price they had been formerly giving.

Q. You think it would be fair, in your case, if the Government would allow a discrimination for the amount you get for scrap? A. No; because if the rods were free scrap would still have the same value attached to it; the waste would be precisely the same if the rods were free. The Government allow us no consideration for what goes to waste. In the United States the American Government pay their manufacturers a draw-back on the weight of the article used to produce the article exported, while here they charge us an *ad valorem* and specific duty. They aid them, by premitting them to add 25 per cent. to the weight of the exported article; so that the manufacturers in the United States get 25 per cent. more in draw-backs than we do.

Q. Then, you think you ought not to pay duty on the waste? A. We hold that we ought not, and that we should have a draw-back equal to free rods; we ask them to make the draw-back  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent. a pound. The duty was increased last year to 25 per cent. We hold that the Government should give a draw-back equal to making the rods free. The cost of a ton of rods at present is about \$42, and the duty, at the rate of 20 per cent., would be \$8.40. The way the duty is levied the waste pays about one-third. If you take old iron at \$42, free of duty, and add the amount necessary to cover the waste, you would find that the cost would bring the residue up to the original amount. Taking one-third, and adding it to \$42 on a ton of rods, would give \$50 if the duty were free. Taking the same amount of iron at \$42, with the 20 per cent. duty added, would make \$50. The duty paid on the waste would be one-third, and that one-third would be about \$16.80, with the iron paying 20 per cent.; so that while the manufacturer gets back every cent of duty he pays he still loses the waste; so that no draw-back will meet the case so well as to put rods on the free list. From that fact we argue that the simplest way for the Government to adjust this matter is to put rods on the free list. Still, if they cannot do that we will be satisfied with  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent.

Q. Have you ever had an opportunity of explaining this matter to the Government? A. No; not personally.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What day do you pay your men? A. Saturday.

Q. Do they prefer Saturday as a pay-day to any other day in the week? A. They have never expressed any preference for any other day, so we have always paid them on that day.

T. S. SIMMS, Brush and Broom Manufacturer, St. John, N.B., called and sworn

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What class of people do you employ? A. I employ men, women and boys.

Q. Do the men require a great skill to do your work or will unskilled laborers do? A. Most of the men require to be skilful.

Q. What would be a fair average week's earnings of a skilful artisan? A. We manufacture brooms and brushes, and a skilled brush-maker would earn from \$10 to \$15 a week, and a fair average would be \$14 a week.

Q. And what would be a fair average for a broom-maker? A. About \$9. Possibly, on an average, brush-makers would be worth about \$12. Their wages run from \$10 to \$15.