

Q.—Does the fact of the material being cheap tend to raise the wages of the men?—A.—Yes, it stands to reason that if a material is cheaper I can afford to give more to the men; in fact I have had to pay more wages than before.

Q.—Do you know if any of your men belong to labor organizations? A.—I do not know positively but they say they do; they all, as far as I can understand, belong to them.

Q.—Do you find it cause any trouble among the men who belong to them? A.—No.

Q.—Do your men feel it a benefit to themselves? A.—They seem to think so, and it is a benefit to me because they keep straighter when they belong to a society of some kind.

Q.—You think because they are combined in an organization of that kind their habits tend to be more steady? A.—At the time they told me they joined this organization, they demanded more pay and certainly I have to give them more. I know they were worth it at the time and then I had got the pick of my men; at the rate of wages the best men are cheaper.

Q.—And do you find it a benefit or a drawback to have the picked men at a high rate of wages? A.—It is no drawback; it is a benefit.

Q.—Is there any grading in your trade? A.—I believe there is, but I give all the one price and pick my men.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—They are all equally good? A.—Yes, they are all equally good; the man who is not worth the pay he is getting now, is worth nothing—he is no use in the shop. He has got to be a good man or else he is no use.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you know the rate of wages in your trade as compared with the wages in the same branch of industry in Great Britain or the United States? A.—Well, I do not know for a general fact but I had those working with me who came right out from the old country.

Q.—Are they better off here comparing their state of living, than they are in the United States or Great Britain at the same wages? A.—As far as England is concerned I know of two or three who told me they are far better off here; in fact one of them is in business now on Alice street.

Q.—As an employer of labor do you believe in your trade settling trade disputes by arbitration? A.—I do; I believe it is the proper way.

Q.—Do you think it is beneficial? A.—I do.

Q.—Do you know anything about the various systems of arbitration? A.—I do not.

Q.—You never had to resort to arbitration with your men? A.—I was called upon to settle little disputes; you may call it arbitration on a small scale.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You settled the dispute amicably? A.—I was the third party called in to settle between two others.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How are blacksmiths usually paid—weekly or monthly? A.—Weekly.

Q.—The men prefer it that way? A.—Yes, it has been the habit all along.

Q.—Did you ever hear of them preferring one particular day of the week to be paid upon? A.—No; the custom is to pay them on Saturday afternoon.

Q.—Of course you have no time labor in your business? A.—No.

Q.—Are the men satisfied with the present mode of paying them? A.—Yes, I pay them on Saturday afternoons and they are satisfied.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Do many of your men own the houses they live in? A.—No, I don't think any of them do.

Q.—Are they married men or young men? A.—One is married and the others are young men.