

or sixteen years ago when you came here? Does it cost more or less now to live equally well? A.—Taking it all through, with the exception of rent, I do not know that there is much difference.

Q.—Rent is dearer? A.—Yes. Of course I am a married man, with a large family; and, taking one thing with another, I consider that I can live as reasonably and as cheaply, barring rent, just now as perhaps I could twelve years ago.

Q.—Do you think you are better off by the increase of wages than you were twelve years ago? A.—Yes, I am; I am better off now at twenty-five cents an hour than I was then at twenty.

Q.—And the increase is to the good? A.—Certainly; I have now twenty-five cents an hour and a chance of even $27\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

Q.—Perhaps you don't understand my question. Will the 20 cents an hour buy as much for you to-day as it would at that time? A.—I think it will.

Q.—Then the increase of wages is all to the good? A.—All to the good.

Q.—Do many mechanics with whom you are acquainted in Toronto own their own houses? A.—Oh yes, a good many.

Q.—Do you think they are largely in debt for their houses or have they mostly paid for them? A.—That I cannot say.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—As a general rule? A.—I could hardly say. There are some who have a hard struggle to meet their obligations and keep everything clear; some that perhaps have had bad health in their families, or one thing or another of that kind, but I know there are a great many who have their property clear; they may have had a great struggle to do so but they have done it.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You are intimate with a good many mechanics; you visit their houses and know how they live? A.—Oh, yes.

Q.—Do you think that taking the ordinary comforts of life and the commoner luxuries, the mechanical class live in as good style, or in better or worse style than they did twelve or fifteen years ago? A.—They live in better style; I have no hesitation in saying that.

Q.—How are their houses furnished as compared with then? A.—Very well. I speak of those who are sober and careful men, and I have no hesitation in saying that they are far superior in every respect.

Q.—What is your opinion of the footing of a sober, steady, competent workman in dealing with his employer, in selling his labor? Does he stand on an equal footing with his employer in making a bargain for work and the wages he is to receive, or has the employer the advantage of him? A.—Well, I do not know; that is a question I have tried to solve for a long time; I can hardly give an answer to it. There is something there that I can hardly make out, but I think it is six and half a dozen between the employer and the employé. Of course I speak always for myself and I never had a bad employer in my life; I have always got on well with them and when I wanted my wages advanced and if they did not do it, I could pick up my tools and go somewhere else, so that I never go against my employer. But there are some employers in Toronto who are pretty great tyrants, but I happen to be fortunate in that way and I am sorry to say that the greatest tyrants we have are people who came from the ranks amongst ourselves.

Q.—But on the whole you think they get along remarkably well. A.—Very well indeed.

Q.—And have a friendly feeling one towards the other? A.—Yes. Now taking our last strike, I have been on every strike perhaps during my life, since the great lockout in London twenty-six or twenty-seven years ago until the last one, but though I am down upon them and though I knew so many of the men, no one ever molested me. I give that credit to the carpenters at any rate. That was at a time, too, when I might have expected it, working as I was when perhaps a good many were out; so that I cannot say that they interfered in that way.