

The COMMISSIONER.—This is merely a side issue. My point is—If there is too much labour in the market why do these men take on apprentices? I am not going to assume that these men take on apprentices for philanthropy. They are not in the business for their health.

Mr. GROFSKY.—Yet some of them are known to swindle their hands to get cheap labour.

The COMMISSIONER.—Does it sometimes or frequently happen that there is a surplus of labour in some cities or towns and a scarcity in others?

Mr. LOVE.—I believe it does.

The COMMISSIONER.—That is, that men might be looking for work in Hamilton when there is a demand for labour in Toronto?

Mr. LOVE.—Yes.

Mr. GROFSKY.—I know that for a positive fact. I got a letter recently from London stating that a firm wanted two hands there. I sent two men down, who were immediately taken on and are working there now.

Mr. O'DONOGHUE thought that that was another evidence that the labour bureau should be established by the Government.

The COMMISSIONER.—I may say that I have it in my mind to make a recommendation to the Government that when they put that labour bureau into operation, that a record be kept of employers who want employees in any trade, and that a record be kept and exchanged weekly by means of the post offices or customs-houses.

Mr. O'DONOGHUE.—I might state that that system prevails in the State of Ohio.

The COMMISSIONER.—And in California, too.

Mr. O'DONOGHUE.—Yes, and it has been of material advantage to the workers. It is possible that there might be frequently a demand for men in other places and a surplus here, and we would not know of it unless by chance, such as in casual mention in a private letter.

The COMMISSIONER.—If a stringent law was passed to prevent or suppress the sweating system or to control it in this province, would that have the effect of scattering the trade?

Mr. LOVE.—I think so. If such a law was passed, it should be made to apply throughout the Dominion. I have heard of men sending clothing from London and Toronto to Montreal to get the work done a little cheaper.

The COMMISSIONER.—Yes, I have heard of that. I may say that stringent laws in New York and Massachusetts have already had the effect of driving a large share of New York work to New Jersey, and Massachusetts work into Maine. I have heard it said that the enforcement of the Factory Act in this province places employees at a disadvantage as compared with other provinces.

Mr. LOVE.—I don't think so.

Mr. GROFSKY.—I believe that it does. My boss grumbles and says that the Act is not stringently enforced in Quebec.

Mr. O'DONOGHUE.—The welfare and health of the people should be the first consideration. When the question was put to us—If we get this Act in Ontario, what will be the result in the other provinces, we said: You pass the law, and then let the courts decide whether you have the power to enforce it or not. Give an evidence of your sincerity in trying to do what is right. We believe that this is a matter that comes under trade and commerce, and, if so, the Dominion Government has a right to uphold the law.

The COMMISSIONER.—You may remember that some years ago in addressing the Manufacturers' Association, I made the statement that it would be unfortunate if it should turn out that jurisdiction did not lay with the Dominion Government, for the reason that progressive provinces would be at a disadvantage compared with non-progressive ones, and that it would operate against getting legislation tending to lessen the evils of the sweating system.

Mr. O'DONOGHUE.—I remember that. What we want some Governments to do is to go on believing that they have some power, and let the others find out if they have not.