

Q. What is the age of this boy who employs the other boys? A. About sixteen or seventeen years.

Q. Do you know what wages he pays to other boys that he hires? A. No; I do not know for certain.

Q. Have you any idea what the other boys earn in a week? A. From \$2 to \$2.50.

Q. What hours do they work? A. Except in winter, they make ten hours a day; in the summer they make a half-day Saturday by working an extra hour each day.

Q. Do your men receive anything extra for working over-time? A. We pay the same rates.

Q. You pay the same rates at night as you do in day-time? A. Yes; for piece-work.

Q. Have any accidents happened in your factory? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Can you compete with United States manufacturers in the West Indies, Australia and South America? A. We do and can, or we couldn't sell our goods; we compete quite successfully with them.

Q. Is your foreign trade increasing or decreasing? A. In some places it is increasing and in other places it is about stationary; but where it is stationary it is not in consequence of United States but of European competition, principally from Norway and Sweden.

Q. Will Nova Scotia iron not make as good nails as the Swedish? A. No; no iron has yet been discovered in America, not even in the United States, with all the processes they have for manipulating it, that is as good as Swedish iron for this purpose. We export probably 10,000 tons at \$1.10; previous to 1884 all the iron used for this purpose was imported.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are your men paid weekly or fortnightly? A. Weekly.

Q. Is any portion of their pay kept back from them? A. None.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Have you any grievances to complain of your workmen in any way? A. We have never had any trouble with our men.

Q. Have you any other complaint to make—in regard to the tariff, or the like? A. The only objection I have to the tariff is, I think, the duty on these nail-rods should be abolished, on account of their not being obtainable in Canada. I think they should be allowed to come in duty free, as no iron of the kind is to be found in this country. We cannot get material in Canada suitable for our purpose, although the experiment has several times been tried, but nothing has yet been found that is at all suitable for the purpose. It comes in a form and shape that cannot be used for any other purpose, and can be easily defined. We therefore hold that these nail-rods should come in free, because it would be an aid to the development of our export business, and afford an outlet for an enlargement of trade.

Q. Can you not get a refund of duty when exporting? A. We do; we get back some, but not sufficient. The Government gives back a draw-back equal to two-thirds of what we pay. Owing to the waste in the material the Government cannot, by a draw-back, deal equitably with us; the only way would be to let us have the rods free of duty. The only thing else to do would be to grant us something in the form of bounties, but as bounties are not popular at present we dare not ask for them.

By Mr. WALSH:

Q. Can you tell us something near about what is the amount of waste in making your horse-shoe nails? A. I can tell you within a fraction; I made a calculation about that matter for the space of three years, and sent it to the Government, and I found that the waste during that time was 25 per cent.