

Q.—Or for the same price? A.—No, I could not; I am only speaking of certain people who do nothing else; it is like a trade by itself.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Is carpenter work, house fitting, stair fitting, &c., more elaborate than it used to be? A.—Yes, it is in Toronto.

Q.—Does the use of machinery encourage this elaborateness of work? A.—It is quite likely.

Q.—You think that if machinery has taken some work from the men it has on the other hand created work? A.—We are all right in the summer time. The question is what is best to employ the great majority through the winter, and if we had less machinery and more manual labor there would be a better chance in that way. A great many more would have a chance, and, besides, there would be better mechanics, whereas the machines do so much work that the men get careless as to certain parts of their work.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—But in the absence of that condition of things do you not think that the shortness of the hours of labor would give more work? It is almost impossible, you know, to stop the onward march of machinery. A.—The shortening of the hours of labor I look on like this: Take the summer months here. There is always a certain amount of work to be done in Toronto, and men are more employed, but the trouble is that there are so many holidays, and so much wet weather. I would not find fault with shortening the hours of labor; I am an eight-hour man, but I never find fault with a man who works ten hours. When the work gets slacker, make the hours six or seven; make whatever may be necessary to take up the labor whenever the men are beginning to get idle.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you know the percentage of idle men in your trade in Toronto? A.—I believe it would be as much as one-half any way.

Q.—Do you not keep a record in your Union? A.—I think there must be one-half of them at any rate.

Q.—You would be surprised to learn that three per cent. was the outside last winter? A.—Do you mean idle men?

Q.—Yes? A.—What do you mean by winter?

Q.—I mean that three per cent. would be the average, taking it from the 15th of November to the 1st of April? A.—Our firm employ perhaps on an average, twenty to thirty men, and I know they are about as honorable a firm of employers as there is in the city. I have seen them keep on work at a disadvantage to keep the men employed, and I know that there is an average of ten per cent. unemployed in the winter. Perhaps a good day may come now and then, but that is not steady work; perhaps a day or a couple of days in the week or something like that.

Q.—Yes, at your shop, but do not they get work elsewhere? A.—They cannot get it at the shops, because we work in our shop in as cold weather as any one else.

Q.—Do you think that one-half the men in your trade in Toronto are idle in the winter? A.—I do. Unless it is weather like this that is the case; I am speaking of the weather which is very severe. You cannot get men to shingle when the thermometer is ten degrees below zero, and the last two or three years have been the worst I have seen in Toronto; the winters have been very long and severe.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you know any employing carpenters in Toronto who give any proportion of their profits, over and above wages, to their workmen? A.—No, I do not.

Q.—Have you given any thought to that matter? A.—I have often thought it would be a very good thing if we could co-operate together in that way, and I do not see why it should not be done. I am afraid though, that when the end of the year showed a balance of profit it would be all right, but if there were a loss then it would