

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Is that not because he is not compelled to teach him his trade? A.—It would be impossible I think to get an employer to teach a boy his trade, to undertake to do so. He could scarcely do it very well and he would be obliged to have his workmen to do it. This would mean that every workman would become a teacher and the workmen would resent that.

Q.—If the law said that an employer taking a boy on as an apprentice should teach the apprentice his trade would it not compel the employer to do it? A.—That is a question of law.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you find many cases where a boy after he has served his apprenticeship is discharged and a new boy taken on, for the purpose of getting the work done cheaply? A.—I think that prevails to a very considerable extent.

Q.—They desire cheap labor, and do not retain apprentices who have completed their indentures? A.—They get all they can out of the boys. Some boys get very proficient after they have been two or three years at the trade, and if an apprentice has been there five years he is probably bringing in to his employer as much as a journeyman; but that only applies to very few trades probably.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is it not the case that most trades, such as the boot and shoe trade, are divided into different departments? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think that an employer should be obliged to teach an apprentice every part of the trade—do you think it is possible? A.—I think it is impossible. I think the technical school must come in.

Q.—If we attempted to do so would we not have to revert to the old system in force two or three hundred years ago? A.—Yes; either that or have schools. Schools can do the work efficiently.

Q.—Without schools, in order to carry out that system, would it not have to be done by the people in their houses? A.—Yes, if you want to return to the old system of apprenticeship that is what we must have. Under present conditions you cannot look for that.

Q.—Under present conditions the thing is impossible? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you not consider the present condition of things a wrong? A.—I consider the present condition of things might be ameliorated to a very great extent if we had a system of manual training in our public schools, by which our boys and girls would be prepared for the work they have to do in after life. Our present system of education in Canada makes no provision for practical work of that nature, and leaves our young people who enter our establishments entirely ignorant of the use of tools. It takes a boy about a year to be acquainted with the tools and the materials in which he is to be employed, whereas there might be instruction in the public schools in regard to those simple matters, and thus afford him a preliminary preparation to a considerable extent for the work in which he is to be employed during his apprenticeship. If such a system were carried out the period of apprenticeship might be considerably shortened.

Q.—Do you think if industrial training were to take place in the public school, some of the branches of education now taught would have to be dropped? A.—Not necessarily so, and if it were the case it would not be a direct loss.