

*By the Acting Chairman:*

Q. Before you pass from that, you say the Catholics carry on their work through their own institutions, that the Jews have their agencies, and that you are doing work for the Protestants. What about the other miscellaneous religious bodies; there are a great many foreigners, who belong to the Greek Church, or to no church at all; who looks after them?—A. We do. They come to us. We have to care for all the Protestant and the other forty-nine religious persuasions that are itemized in the census.

*By Miss Macphail:*

Q. You do not pretend to be Protestant?—A. We are Protestant, but non-sectarian.

*By Mr. Ross (Kingston):*

Q. You said the employment service was a Dominion organization?—A. Dominion and Provincial. There is a Provincial Department of the Federal Service.

The next bit of evidence I would like to submit is this, which I think is significant, in this way, that it has to do with the employment of children. Since March, 1920, a little over eight years, 19,113 work permits have been granted to children in Montreal.

*By Miss Macphail:*

Q. What do you mean by that?—A. This means that they must be under fourteen years, unless it is the exceptional child over fourteen. There is no compulsory Education Act. The law says that a child must be able to read and write in order to work. I suppose 99 per cent of these are under fourteen years of age. It is simply the economic pressure that necessitates that.

Q. What class of work do they do?—A. Anything that they can do; they work in stores, they work as messenger boys. It applies to any kind of work.

*By the Acting Chairman:*

Q. Are they permitted to work in factories?—A. Not under the Factory Act, although in the rural districts there has been a good deal of work done by children on permits, because of the tremendous economic pressure in large families. The Dominion Textile Company have had great difficulty; they do not want to do it, but their managers have had tremendous pressure put upon them.

*By Miss Macphail:*

Q. It is terrible to have them go out to work at that early age?—A. It is very significant but I think it is bad to see children almost grown up playing around; they would be better off if they were doing something. I would sooner see them working than playing around. I think if we could make the compulsory school age sixteen years we would solve a number of our industrial problems. If we raised the school age to sixteen, there would be more chance for all. That is one of the troubles of the whole situation.

The next thing I want to deal with is, the relation of unemployment to sickness dependency. It is obvious that unless we can carry on research work, except at very great cost, it is impossible to get exact figures, and our Council has no money to spend on expensive research work, but I can say this, out of an experience of ten years in Winnipeg directly in charge of relief work, because I held the position Miss Childs holds at the present time, and ten years in Montreal, where I have been close to the situation although not administering relief, that sickness, which is the greatest single cause of depend-

[Mr. Howard T. Falk.]