

Mr. PINARD: Which company was that?

The WITNESS: This is Bruck, the first one was CIL.

It was unfortunate that we have had no opportunity to examine the evidence submitted by representatives of the woollen industry, and that as far as we are aware some other sections of the industry, such as hosiery and knit goods have submitted no evidence. It is unfortunate also that, except for a few of the companies, no figures or average hourly earnings have been submitted. I hope, however, that the comments I have made on the figures submitted by the accountants and on the evidence of the companies' representatives will prove useful to the committee, and serve a constructive purpose.

Mr. LESAGE: Thank you very much, Mr. Baron.

The WITNESS: Mr. Chairman might I answer the question put to me by counsel. The question pertained to the problem of absenteeism and the difficulty of securing manpower, especially for second shifts, and also to the lower production level as compared to pre-war. I would like to say that absenteeism is not an ailment peculiar to the textile industry.

Mr. PINARD: Did you hear the testimony of Mr. Ledoux which was given yesterday?

The WITNESS: No, I did not.

Mr. PINARD: I was going to ask you if you would corroborate his evidence and that would have been shorter.

The WITNESS: There are many many reasons for absenteeism. I would like to make two generalizations which would have some bearing on the matter. One reason is the post-war let-down due to excessive hours of work during the war. Second, I would like to point out that when investigation was made it was found that absenteeism is greater in the lower-paid industries than in the higher-paid industries.

Third, the reason for absenteeism, possibly the most important reason, is labour relations within the plants concerned. May I point out to the committee that you had witnesses here from Courtaulds and Canadian Cottons who did not make the same complaint as was made by some of the other companies, and the fact of the matter is that absenteeism is not an important item in those plants which have harmonious labour relations, that satisfactory relations between labour and management have to a great extent reduced absenteeism.

On efficiency of production and incentives I would like also to point out that Canadian Cottons and Courtaulds again pointed out that they had no complaints to make. These companies are under agreement with the Textile Workers Union. Labour relations and morale is of a high order. And in regard to efficiency, I would like to say something as to the statement made before the committee that workers on incentive will work up to a certain point and then stop because they do not earn a sufficient amount of money. I would dispute that categorically. The fact of the matter is that production has increased in those plants of which I have personal knowledge on a basis of higher wages. In so far as the problem of the industry in securing manpower is concerned I would say that it is only due to the fact that it is a low-paid industry and nothing else. Now I think, Mr. Chairman, that I have answered the questions put to me by counsel.

(Mr. Winters assumed the chair)

Mr. THATCHER: Mr. Chairman, the evidence on page 2, of the brief would indicate that price increases these companies have recently put into effect in the textile industry have not been caused primarily by labour increases; is that what you are suggesting, Mr. Baron?