

field every year. The enquiry as to the condition of labor and so on varies to some extent from year to year, but we follow generally the questions set out on pages 31 and 32 of the report.

Q.—Do you think the result of your investigations and labors has been to benefit the working people of Ontario? A.—I think so.

Q.—That it spreads information among them? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does it enable them to take care of their own interest more effectually? A.—I think so. In one way it leads them to keep accounts; I think the general tendency is to make them more economical.

Q.—Does it enable the Government to legislate far more intelligently? A.—Yes, I think so.

Q.—It places information in the hands of the Government which enables them to care for the whole people? A.—Yes, and also the legislature.

Q.—The reports inform them as to the condition of the working people. A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any suggestions to offer respecting the operations of your bureau? A.—I do not know that I have any special suggestions to offer. There is a provision in the Statute creating the Bureau of Industries that the Bureau may co-operate with the Dominion Government on any of the lines on which we work in regard to agriculture and the different interests.

Q.—You want co-operation on the part of the Dominion Government? A.—Certainly. I think if we co-operate we could cover the whole field much more successfully than we can hope to do without going to very great expense.

Q.—Do you know if other Provinces have established Labor Bureaus similar to that of Ontario? A.—No, I believe no Province has.

Q.—Even if all the Provinces were to establish Labor Bureaus, would there still be a field of labor left to the Dominion Government? I think so.

Q.—Does convict labor in Ontario interfere to any extent with free working people? A.—I suppose it does to some extent. I think that is inevitable.

Q.—Is there any other institution in Ontario in which convicts or prisoners are employed in mechanical work? A.—I do not know that there is any Provincial institution except that at the Penitentiary.

Q.—Do you know how it is at Kingston? A.—I believe the prisoners are employed at mechanical work there.

Q.—Do you know how it is at Penetanguishene? A.—The boys are trained to trades there.

Q.—Have you any information respecting the savings of the working classes in Ontario? A.—No, except inferentially. We cannot obtain returns from the Savings societies as to the class to which the men who make deposits belong. The report shows the average savings and the aggregate savings of the men in respect of whom we have collected statistics.

Q.—Perhaps you will give the Commission the information requested on that point? A.—You will find it on pages 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31.

Q.—Can you add anything to what we will get from the study of those facts? A.—No, I think not.

Q.—Do you think the savings of the working people in Ontario are increasing or decreasing from year to year? A.—There is very little difference.

Q.—Do you think the average condition of comfort in which Ontario working people live is growing better or worse? A.—I think there is a slight advance, but I have not sufficient information to speak positively on the subject. It may be slight improvement in the average condition of the working people. It may be better one year and worse another. The conditions are always changing, and for that reason I think it is of the first importance that we should have statistics for every year.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you know whether there are many working men who have savings in the Post office Bank? A.—It is impossible to get that information.