

*Mr. Fraser gave the following evidence :*

Do you consider the number of cullers now on the Supervisor's staff sufficient, or more than sufficient, for the efficient performance of the duties pertaining to the office?—I consider them more than sufficient.

What reduction (if any) would you advise in the number of cullers in the department of square timber, masts, deals and staves, respectively?—I should think that fifteen would be sufficient for the timber alone.

In what manner would you suggest that the number of cullers should be reduced?—I think that those who have become incapacitated through old age, and after long service in the Department, should be compensated more than those who would be rendered incapacitated through other causes.

What remarks have you to make with reference to the character and ability of the cullers, respectively?—I imagine that there are from ten to twelve among the square timber cullers totally incompetent. I do not speak of the others, as my business does not lead me to any acquaintance with the cullers in the other departments.

What suggestions would you make with reference to the staff inside of the office?—I would prefer to make no answer, as I am not in a position to know.

What suggestions would you make with reference to the Board of Survey?—I think we should have an independent Board of Survey, as it is the proper way. The suggestions made by Mr. Quinn fall in with my views.

What suggestions would you make with reference to the system of rotation?—Under the old system I did not like it, as it did not work well. I prefer to do away with the rotation under the present system.

If the number of cullers were reduced to fifteen for the square timber department, would you have any objection to the rotation system?—No; not under the present system of payment by fees.

What reduction do you think could be made in the present tariff of fees?—I should judge about one-half, without making any calculation. If a Board of Survey was constituted, of course it would add to the expense of the office.

If an independent Board of Examiners were appointed, how should they be nominated?—By the Quebec and Ottawa Boards of Trade, respectively, the Supervisor of Cullers, for the time being, being the third party.

Whether the trade would not be served as well under the present system, by doing away with the rotation system and lowering the fees?—I think it would by having competent authorized cullers to do the work.

In the event of the list of cullers being thrown open, do you think should cullers be allowed to be employed in the private service of parties engaged in the lumber trade?—I do not think they should during the measuring season. I would suggest that there should be some mode of making the office responsible for the correctness of the specifications.

Are you in favor of fixed salaries?—I am not in favor of salaries, but of the fee system.

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*Mr. William McKay gave the following evidence :*

Do you consider the number of cullers now on the Supervisor's staff sufficient, or more than sufficient, for the efficient performance of the duties pertaining to the office?—I have always thought there were nearly double the number required by the trade. I believe eighteen or twenty cullers would be sufficient for the work in the square timber department. I refer altogether to the square timber department as my business has not lead me to any knowledge of the other departments.

In what manner would you suggest that the number of cullers should be reduced?—I think it would be hard to turn some of the old cullers out without making some provision for them. Some of them were, however, appointed when they were not required. It would be hard to make the trade pay for their support.