

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Does the fact that they are well organized give you better wages or benefit you indirectly? A.—Well, I am not aware of it.

Q.—There is a great deal of machinery used now in carpenter work, is there not? A.—Too much, I think.

Q.—Has it had the effect of driving carpenters out of work? A.—Well, I do not know, but no doubt doing so much has kept inferior carpenters in the field. I believe if there was not so much machinery there would be better mechanics, better pay, and steadier employment.

Q.—Do unskilled workmen work at machines? A.—I am not aware that they do. I suppose that after a few months they soon get skilful enough to run any of the different machines.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—I suppose that manufactured articles in factories can be produced cheaper by machinery than by hand, for instance, doors, sashes and blinds? A.—Well, I say that I can make them as cheap. In Toronto I have gone to men, and told them that I would take all the sashes and windows that they had, and have told them when they said that I could not do it, to go to the lowest shop in Toronto, and that I would do it cheaper. When wages were \$1.60 a day I got \$1.75 a day for such work.

Q.—Has the use of machinery lowered your wages? A.—Well, it may have; I think it would employ more in the winter time, that is, shop hands.

Q.—Has it lessened the price per hour? A.—I do not think that machinery has lowered wages, but, I say that if there were no machine shops at all we could get as much work without them.

Q.—The question is this, does the mechanic earn as much as he did before the introduction of machinery? A.—There is no doubt he earns more, but whether that is the cause I do not know.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—With regard to your taking a contract for doors and windows and work of that kind, you are well aware that you might be a very good carpenter yourself at these things; you are aware that there are some men who can put up and finish doors and sashes, when there are other men who would be considered good carpenters in going through a house, but who would not be able to make the same wages as you would on a particular kind of work? A.—That is so.

Q.—Though they might be equal to you in other kinds of work in going through a house? A.—Yes.

Q.—Now, these men you do not class as the men you would put in at the lower rate of wages than that at which you work just because you are aware that a man accustomed to make sashes can make them like pop work, while another man who is a good carpenter at putting up and finishing would take double the time to make a sash that the other man would. A.—Yes, certainly.

Q.—Take for instance, stair building. It was almost a trade of itself in the old country; very few men that were general carpenters could handle that class of work at all. Many men in the association might be good carpenters, and be able to go through a house fully, and yet not strike out the lines required in winding stairs or anything of that kind. What we want to get at is the custom of the trade as regards good men in every branch of house work? A.—That is what I speak of, the average man all through. I do not take a man who can do only a certain part.

Q.—Comparing your labor in getting out stair work; taking labor in competition with machinery while a good man may do certain work almost as fast as machinery, yet do you think, taking all through, taking the twists of the stairs or anything of that kind, do you think that you could compare with machinery? A.—I do not believe I can, but I believe those acquainted with it could do it as well. Before machinery came in I have seen the work as well done as it is now.

Q.—Yes, and better, I grant you that; but can you do it as quickly? A.—Certainly not.