

EVIDENCE
TAKEN BEFORE THE
ROYAL COMMISSION
ON THE SUBJECT OF
LABOR IN ITS RELATION TO CAPITAL
IN CANADA.

TORONTO, 23rd November, 1887.

JOHN FALCONER called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What is our occupation? A.—I am a carpenter.

Q.—How long have you resided in Toronto? A.—Since sixteen years ago last May.

Q.—Have you always been in that occupation? A.—Always.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What is the standard rate of wages paid to carpenters in this city to-day?
A.—Twenty-two and a half to twenty-five cents an hour, with the exception of foremen who get 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

Q.—Have you any standard number of hours for a day's labor? A.—Yes; in the summer time we have nine hours. Of course, we cannot have that very well now, but according to the delay we have, we work eight or eight and a half, and some times nine hours just now in the fall of the year.

Q.—Is this for outdoor or indoor work? A.—Out and in too, as far as I know; it is in our shop at any rate.

Q.—What amount of lost time do carpenters experience on the average in the course of the year? A.—Well, in the position I am in, being what you would call a shop hand, barring bad health I am pretty well employed in the whole year. Outside men in all likelihood, taking it all through, weather, broken time, holidays and so on included, would average about one-sixth of their time. I do not think that they would average more than 45 hours work per week.

Q.—Have you any idea as to what proportion of the carpenters are outside men losing this time? A.—It is pretty hard to get at that. Perhaps one-third would be pretty near the mark for those who prepare for joiner work leaving two-thirds for outside work.

Q.—You think that two-thirds of all the carpenters in Toronto would lose one-sixth of their time and the rest would be fully employed? A.—I think so, taking the year right through.

Q.—Has the rate of wages been increasing of late years? Say within the fourteen or fifteen years that you have lived in Toronto has the rate increased or decreased, or has it not fluctuated at all? A.—Wages have increased certainly.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Could you tell by your books what you have been paid during those years?
A.—Yes, I could show by my books at home. Fifteen years ago, for instance, the wages were \$1.75 and \$2 per day.