

sanitary condition? A.—I have not seen any sewing rooms in Montreal except my own, and I could not speak in regard to that matter.

Q.—How frequently are the clerks and other employees of the dry goods establishments paid? A.—We pay ours weekly.

Q.—Is that the rule throughout the city? A.—I believe not.

Q.—Is there a society in Montreal for the protection of women and young children? A.—Yes, there is a society for the protection of women and children.

Q.—Can you give us some idea of the work accomplished by that society? A.—I cannot remember all the members now. I know every year they have a number of cases to attend to.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are those cases of destitution? A.—There are cases of destitution and cases of cruelty.

Q.—Cruelty of women in the workrooms, do you mean? A.—No.

Q.—What cruelty do you refer to? A.—Sometimes the beating of children, sometimes neglecting them; drunken father neglecting to support his family and beating his wife and children.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are any efforts made to prevent the employment of very young children in this city? A.—They have taken means to try to get the Factory Act put into operation in certain places where it is not in operation. The Act only applies to places where there are twenty or more people employed, and I believe the greatest abuses exist often where there is the smallest number employed—by far the greatest number of abuses occur in those places. In the small stores and in the small factories are where the abuses occur; where there are a large number of people together they will in a great measure look after each other, but that is not the case where there are a few employed, and to such places the Factory Act does not apply.

Q.—Are any efforts being made to keep children out of the streets, such as very young children selling newspapers late at night. A.—Yes; that has been stopped in a good many cases.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you know anything of the wages earned by shirt makers? A.—No, I do not. The fact that all classes of the working population are not paid weekly prevents people from paying cash and compels them to pay on credit, thus giving a great deal of trouble. I think it would be well that every man and woman should be paid every week, notwithstanding any rule existing to the contrary, no matter whether they are engaged by the year or month. Railway companies and other companies make you pay before you get on board the train to begin the trip, and if they bring freight to you they will make you pay before you receive it, and a man is entitled to have his labor paid as promptly as those companies are paid. Great suffering is caused by the non-payment of wages weekly, and also by the non-payment regularly of hands working by the piece when they have delivered goods; and the non-payment of working girls by the week is one great shame in our city, in my opinion.

Q.—Are the wages of working people frequently garnished? A.—Yes they are, and it is the cause of a great deal of suffering. They come and seize the wages of a man who has only a few cents coming to him to enable him to buy provisions for his family.

Q.—I am requested to ask whether it is not the rule in Montreal to pay weekly?