

Q.—Are the books standard novels like those of Thackeray, Dickens, and Sir Walter Scott? A.—Yes; and other standard novels of the day.

Q.—Are they cheaper now than they were years ago? A.—Oh yes, much cheaper. Editions of most of the standard works.

Q.—How do you account for the higher standard literature being sought for by the masses? A.—It is more within the range of their abilities to purchase.

Q.—I should judge, that from your experience, if they had a shortening of hours of labour they would devote their spare time to the cultivation of their minds by reading? A.—Yes; I find it so.

Q.—Do you find any mechanics in the City purchase books on mechanics or mechanism for the purpose of educating themselves in that portion of their particular trade that might be looked upon as scientific? A.—I do; but I know there would be a greater demand for mechanical literature if it was not for the duty. There is a duty on books of all kinds which is a great drawback—which is a hindrance to the parties who would otherwise purchase. There are no publications in Canada to speak of on the Mechanical Arts. Books on the Mechanical Arts are not published in Canada and they have all to be imported.

Q.—But could not those books be re-published by publishers in Canada? A.—No; I do not think so.

Q.—Are there not some publishers in Montreal capable of publishing these works? A.—They could, but there is not sufficient demand.

Q.—Supposing there was a reprint in Montreal of some of these works. Do you think it would increase the demand? A.—Yes, there might be a large number sold.

Q.—Do not you think if that was done it would pay for the undertaking—the experiment? A.—No; I think the market is too small.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—You have been for the last few years a master workman of the Montreal district of the Knights of Labour? A.—I was, for a portion of them.

Q.—The Commission was informed in Hamilton, Ontario, that the Knights of Labour of Montreal had received aid from the Knights of Labor in the United States, to make strikes. Is that the case? A.—Not at all. There has never been any money forwarded to the Province of Quebec to support men in strikes.

Q.—If that had been the case, would you be in a position to know it? A.—Certainly. I am a member of the Order; and have been since it was first instituted in Montreal.

Q.—Since you have been a member of the Knights of Labour, has it ever come to your knowledge that any sum or sums of money has or have been sent from the United States to Montreal to assist the working people of Montreal in strikes? A.—I am certain there has not been.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—If there had been, you would know of it? A.—I would know of it; certainly.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—You said just now, that the reason works on mechanical subjects were not published in Canada, was because the demand was not great. A.—Yes.

Q.—Could you suggest a means of increasing that demand? A.—I cannot; and because the population of the Dominion is not sufficient to warrant the publication of mechanical works.

Q.—Would not the shortening of the hours of labour have something to do with it? A.—No. Because the members of each craft in the Dominion are so few in number that it would not pay to publish a treatise on mechanics.