

EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE THE

ROYAL COMMISSION

ON THE SUBJECT OF

LABOR IN ITS RELATION TO CAPITAL IN CANADA.

HALIFAX, 3rd April, 1888.

W. J. CLAYTON (of Clayton & Son, clothiers) sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. You are a representative of the firm of Clayton & Sons? A. Yes.

Q. You have full authority to speak for them? A. Yes.

Q. You are manufacturers of men's and boys' clothing? A. Yes.

Q. How many hands of all kinds do you employ, on an average? A. Do you mean hands in the building?

Q. Yes? A. About 100.

Q. How many do you think you have outside? A. We have about 300 names on our books, but these hands are not working for us all the time. They work for other firms as well, most of them.

Q. How long do they work? A. In the shop 9 hours. The clerks, of course, work longer.

Q. We will speak of them again, but first of those engaged in the manufacture of clothing. How many of those are females—those hands that work in your own place, particularly? A. I suppose the females number 8 or 10 to one male.

Q. Have you any small boys or girls employed? A. Yes; we have girls 15 years of age, that is they tell us they are 15, and boys from 15 years of age.

Q. You have none younger than that? A. We make it a rule never to take a girl less than 15 years of age. Some of them look pretty young.

Q. What wages do your men earn in the week. You pay them by the week? A. Yes.

Q. On an average what do they earn? A. \$5 to \$12—that is journeymen.

Q. Have you foremen, or do you work yourselves? A. We have people who superintend the departments.

Q. Are these paid extra? A. Yes; they get a little more than others.

Q. What is the ordinary rate of wages—as you say, from \$8 to \$12? A. Yes; the average wage of a tailor is about \$9 a week.

Q. Would you please state to us what is the average wage of the women? A. I don't know that I could. Where they work by the week we pay \$1.50 to \$6 a week, but the most of our hands work on piece work.

Q. What do they receive to begin with? A. We commence paying them \$1.50, and they work up to \$4.50. Unless they are very good hands they don't exceed that.