

master plumbers here, who recognise the importance and necessity of having schools in which to instruct plumbers, and who have come forward and aided the establishment of such a class, and not only that, but the master plumbers themselves give the instruction.

Q.—In the other classes, are the teachers practical men or merely theoretical instructors ? A.—As nearly as possible, we get practical men ; we have a number of practical men, the majority of the teachers are men who have a knowledge of the work the pupils do and know the wants of the pupils.

Q.—Are the pupils in the classes taught more a practical part of the work or do they receive instruction in the theoretical part ? A.—They are taught practical work.

Q.—They do not receive instruction in sanitary science ? A.—They will do so. Lectures are given, or what are hardly to be called lectures, but short talks by the masters to the pupils assembled, on the various subjects. I have here a circular relating to the plumbing class which shows the nature of the work which is being done in that class.

Q.—You make a restriction ? A.—If we did not make that restriction, we would have a great many of those who are receiving instruction and acquiring a knowledge of the trade going around and saying they were plumbers and qualified to do different varieties of work. We want to be sure that they are really employed in the business.

Q.—You do not wish to exclude those who are actually apprentices, even if their employers should not be willing to give them a letter to you ? A.—No, it is simply a guarantee that they are employed in such shops.

By Mr. COTÉ :—

Q.—You were speaking of the apprentice system in this country : there is no apprentice system, is there ? A.—The word is used very frequently.

Q.—There is no such thing ? A.—The title is about extinct.

Q.—There are no apprentices in this country, as a rule ? A.—There are boys.

Q.—Is it not a rule that in factories and large work shops boys are employed, but there is no such thing as an apprentice, but merely boys brought there to look after the machines or to do certain work ?

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—There is no system of indenture ? A.—I think there is, but it is perhaps not so prevalent as it was sometime ago. Nevertheless, in most trades in Montreal, there are as yet apprentices to those trades.

By Mr. COTÉ :—

Q.—Is it your experience of the country that boys are apprenticed to serve their time ? A.—I certainly think that where boys at early age are bound as apprentices to a business, and where they are instructed in that business in a workshop and by means of schools, we can certainly look for better workmen.

Q.—But as to their moral standing ? A.—I think Mr. Helbronner referred to the quality of the work.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—When you opened your building classes did you not receive numerous applications, more than you were able to accommodate ? A.—Yes.

Q.—When you opened your classes for leather cutters, did you not receive more applications than you could accommodate ? A.—Yes.

Q.—In your opinion, are the working classes of Montreal desirous of coming more