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BOY TRAIN WRECKER A narrow escape. An iron ring an inch in thickness was securely clamped over one of the rails. About the time the train passed, a boy was seen running through a field. One thing that prevented a derailment was the fact that the track was straight at that point.

EMPLOYERS TELL THEIR TROUBLES

Complain That White Laborers Are Too Independent to be Useful

BOARD OF TRADE LABOR INQUIRY Interesting Sidelights on Various Industries—Farmers Lament Shortage of Japanese and Chinese

That there is a shortage of labor in this province and that the farmers at least would be pleased to see the Chinese and their immigration, under certain restrictions, again permitted to be the trend of the evidence at the inquiry conducted yesterday by the special committee of the board of trade into the condition of labor in this province.

The inquiry committee is composed as follows: H. F. Bullen (in the chair), J. W. Ambery, T. W. Patterson, W. J. Fendray and Anton Henderson.

Nothing was done towards summing up the evidence yesterday and consequently no conclusions were drawn from the statements of the witnesses. It was however easy to see the direction which the evidence was taking. The majority of the witnesses, as far as they were called upon, refused to make any definite statements as to what course they would recommend to overcome the shortage.

Two of those interested in farming had the courage of their convictions and stated that the only way to meet the shortage was to bring in Japanese and Chinese labor. The relation of the unions to the shortage was discussed, and it is probable that the report of the committee will contain some references in this regard.

It was contended that the regulations governing the labor unions do not allow of a sufficient number of apprentices being trained to keep the ranks of the skilled labor force, and especially of the machinists, up to the mark.

The inability of the local machine shops and mills to keep up with the orders which came to them, and the report of the government inspectors with the cities of the Sound, especially as regards the mill and shops, were discussed. Considerable time was spent over the relative cost of raw material and labor paid in this city.

From the evidence of heads of local industries the committee was given the impression that if they increased the wages of their men they could not hope to succeed in combatting the competition emanating from the cities to the south of the line.

It was pointed out that the fact that the same on both sides of the line, and in the case here, the board could not see just why the local men should be paid higher wages than their counterparts until they were equal to those paid in the shops of Seattle.

The only satisfactory answer appeared to be that in Seattle the laboring men had to work harder than they do here. A number of witnesses were heard yesterday, the speakers interested in farming or machine shops. Only one in this category was heard.

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