

If, as you say, the culling and measuring of timber under an open list system the bulk of the work would fall into the hands of ten or twelve men, would it be objectionable?—I think it would.

With an open list system, do you think a culler could follow his business with success unless he acted fairly and honestly between buyer and seller, and would he not be more apt to do justice under the open list system?—I think he could not succeed unless he acted fairly and honestly; but the open list would lead to abuses.

Do you think that under the rotation system there are no abuses?—I believe that even under the rotation system there are abuses, but if the number of cullers was reduced to the proper number required by the trade the abuses would cease.

Should the system of superannuation in force in the Civil Service extend to the cullers?—I believe the superannuation system should extend to the cullers.

Should cullers be competent in all the Departments, and if so, would it reduce the number required?—Perhaps it would be better that future applicants to be admitted as cullers should have a thorough knowledge of deal and staves as well as of square timber, which might reduce the number required one-fifth.

What is your opinion as to a Board of Survey?—I think we should have an independent Board of Survey.

How should a Board of Survey be constituted?—The lumber trade should have the right to select one, the merchants of Quebec another, and the Government the third. I think it would be better to have the Board altogether separate from the Supervisor's office.

(Signed,) MICHAEL KELLY.

*Mr. Elie Noel gave the following evidence :—*

Are you a licensed culler?—I am a licensed culler.

How long have you been attached to the Supervisor's office?—I am attached to the Supervisor's office seven years. I was an apprentice many years before that.

In what capacity did you come here?—I came here as a delegate selected by fourteen or fifteen cullers.

Have you served an apprenticeship in a timber cove at Quebec, if so, how long?—I have served about fifteen years apprenticeship, the most of the time in the office. I was about one summer in the coves. When serving my apprenticeship I was getting from fifty to sixty pounds for the summer.

Is a period of service or apprenticeship either in the timber coves at Quebec or elsewhere necessary to qualify an applicant for admission to the cullers' staff under the present system, and is it necessary that the applicant should be able to read and write either in the French or English language?—Certainly it is necessary that he should serve an apprenticeship in a boom under a sworn culler. It is also necessary that he should write either in the French or English language.

Do you consider the number of cullers now on the Supervisor's staff sufficient, or more than sufficient, for the efficient performance of the duties pertaining to the office?—In the square timber department I think there are double the number required. I consider that about twenty cullers would be sufficient to do the work. I do not think there are too many in the other departments.

What remarks have you to make with reference to the character and ability of the cullers respectively?—A certain number of the cullers now on the staff, through old age and other infirmities, are incompetent; I would say about eight or ten are incompetent from the above causes, and as many more from vice.

In what manner would you suggest that the number of cullers should be reduced?—Out of forty-six cullers in the square timber department there is one in the stave department and two in the deal department, besides this there are ten incompetent from old age and physical infirmities, and as many more incompetent from vice, and a few more living on farms who could be paid off with an allowance.