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REPORT

OF THE

ROYAL COMMISSION

ON

THE RELATIONS OF CAPITAL AND LABOR
IN CANADA.



EVIDENCE—ONTARIO.



OTTAWA:

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1889.

EVIDENCE
TAKEN BEFORE THE
ROYAL COMMISSION
ON THE SUBJECT OF
LABOR IN ITS RELATION TO CAPITAL
IN CANADA.

TORONTO, 23rd November, 1887.

JOHN FALCONER called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What is our occupation? A.—I am a carpenter.

Q.—How long have you resided in Toronto? A.—Since sixteen years ago last May.

Q.—Have you always been in that occupation? A.—Always.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What is the standard rate of wages paid to carpenters in this city to-day?
A.—Twenty-two and a half to twenty-five cents an hour, with the exception of foremen who get 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

Q.—Have you any standard number of hours for a day's labor? A.—Yes; in the summer time we have nine hours. Of course, we cannot have that very well now, but according to the delay we have, we work eight or eight and a half, and some times nine hours just now in the fall of the year.

Q.—Is this for outdoor or indoor work? A.—Out and in too, as far as I know; it is in our shop at any rate.

Q.—What amount of lost time do carpenters experience on the average in the course of the year? A.—Well, in the position I am in, being what you would call a shop hand, barring bad health I am pretty well employed in the whole year. Outside men in all likelihood, taking it all through, weather, broken time, holidays and so on included, would average about one-sixth of their time. I do not think that they would average more than 45 hours work per week.

Q.—Have you any idea as to what proportion of the carpenters are outside men losing this time? A.—It is pretty hard to get at that. Perhaps one-third would be pretty near the mark for those who prepare for joiner work leaving two-thirds for outside work.

Q.—You think that two-thirds of all the carpenters in Toronto would lose one-sixth of their time and the rest would be fully employed? A.—I think so, taking the year right through.

Q.—Has the rate of wages been increasing of late years? Say within the fourteen or fifteen years that you have lived in Toronto has the rate increased or decreased, or has it not fluctuated at all? A.—Wages have increased certainly.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Could you tell by your books what you have been paid during those years?
A.—Yes, I could show by my books at home. Fifteen years ago, for instance, the wages were \$1.75 and \$2 per day.

Q.—How many hours' labor were there then per day? A.—Well, putting it by the hour we were receiving twenty cents per hour. We have since then got as low as fifteen cents according to the amount of work, demand and supply regulating it. Last year we have not seen it go much below 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ for good mechanics—22 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 25.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What difficulty would there be for a man who lives in Toronto in getting work? Could he keep pretty steadily employed? A.—Speaking for myself I must say that I do. Perhaps I am a little more fortunate than the majority; I have been very fortunate in that way through my life; but really for men who are good mechanics, sober industrious men, I think they will find pretty steady work taking it all through if the weather will admit of their working outside.

Q.—Do many carpenters come to Toronto from outside seeking work? A.—Yes, there is no mistake about that—a great many.

Q.—Do more come than can find employment? A.—Sometimes. Taking the summer time I have found here as a rule that men are well employed in the summer, and that is the time they rush in. If they come in the winter they cannot expect to find work if the weather will not allow of work being done. But in summer I don't think that as a rule you will find them going idle if they wish to work—at least not many of them.

Q.—From what part do the newcomers come? A.—From all parts; the great majority come from England and Scotland.

Q.—Immigrants? A.—Yes, immigrants; the great majority come from these two countries, but we have likewise some from other countries outside.

Q.—Do they offer to work for lower wages than the scale here? A.—Well, I am not aware that they do. All I come in contact with never fight for low wages but try all they can to get high wages. That seems to be the general rule along. But there is a wide difference in men when they come because, no matter how competent a man may be in England or Scotland, he may be a first class mechanic there and yet so different is our work here that for some time after they come they are not able to compete with us who have been here fifteen or twenty years. That was my own case when I left Scotland to go to London, England. I thought I was all right, that I was a good mechanic, but I found I was far behind in England; I had almost to learn my trade there, and when I came to Toronto it was something the same. So when these men come here if they get a little less at first it is not long before they are able to command as good wages as the rest of us.

Q.—Do they mostly join the Carpenters' Unions when they come? A.—Well, no, they don't.

Q.—Do they find a difficulty in getting work if they don't join the Union? A.—Sometimes and at some shops they might.

Q.—Do the carpenters who belong to the Union consent to work with those who do not? A.—Well, I can hardly say; I have heard reports that some do not, but I never found any difficulty.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Speak of what you know yourself as much as you can? A.—Well, I have never seen any difficulty about that. They all seem very friendly and very brotherly; I do not think there is any objection in that way.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—The carpenter who refuses to join the Union is not placed under any ban or disability? A.—Not in our shop anyhow. But in fact I would not work in a shop in which that was done and so wherever I have been I have never seen it. I am myself always prepared to work with free men and do the best I can for myself and my fellow men; and I would not work with any employer who was partial to one more than another.

Q.—Can you give us any idea of what the cost of living is compared with fifteen

or sixteen years ago when you came here? Does it cost more or less now to live equally well? A.—Taking it all through, with the exception of rent, I do not know that there is much difference.

Q.—Rent is dearer? A.—Yes. Of course I am a married man, with a large family, and, taking one thing with another, I consider that I can live as reasonably and as cheaply, barring rent, just now as perhaps I could twelve years ago.

Q.—Do you think you are better off by the increase of wages than you were twelve years ago? A.—Yes, I am; I am better off now at twenty-five cents an hour than I was then at twenty.

Q.—And the increase is to the good? A.—Certainly; I have now twenty-five cents an hour and a chance of even $27\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

Q.—Perhaps you don't understand my question. Will the 20 cents an hour buy as much for you to-day as it would at that time? A.—I think it will.

Q.—Then the increase of wages is all to the good? A.—All to the good.

Q.—Do many mechanics with whom you are acquainted in Toronto own their own houses? A.—Oh yes, a good many.

Q.—Do you think they are largely in debt for their houses or have they mostly paid for them? A.—That I cannot say.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—As a general rule? A.—I could hardly say. There are some who have a hard struggle to meet their obligations and keep everything clear; some that perhaps have had bad health in their families, or one thing or another of that kind, but I know there are a great many who have their property clear; they may have had a great struggle to do so but they have done it.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You are intimate with a good many mechanics; you visit their houses and know how they live? A.—Oh, yes.

Q.—Do you think that taking the ordinary comforts of life and the commoner luxuries, the mechanical class live in as good style, or in better or worse style than they did twelve or fifteen years ago? A.—They live in better style; I have no hesitation in saying that.

Q.—How are their houses furnished as compared with then? A.—Very well. I speak of those who are sober and careful men, and I have no hesitation in saying that they are far superior in every respect.

Q.—What is your opinion of the footing of a sober, steady, competent workman in dealing with his employer, in selling his labor? Does he stand on an equal footing with his employer in making a bargain for work and the wages he is to receive, or has the employer the advantage of him? A.—Well, I do not know; that is a question I have tried to solve for a long time; I can hardly give an answer to it. There is something there that I can hardly make out, but I think it is six and half a dozen between the employer and the employé. Of course I speak always for myself and I never had a bad employer in my life; I have always got on well with them and when I wanted my wages advanced and if they did not do it, I could pick up my tools and go somewhere else, so that I never go against my employer. But there are some employers in Toronto who are pretty great tyrants, but I happen to be fortunate in that way and I am sorry to say that the greatest tyrants we have are people who came from the ranks amongst ourselves.

Q.—But on the whole you think they get along remarkably well. A.—Very well indeed.

Q.—And have a friendly feeling one towards the other? A.—Yes. Now taking our last strike, I have been on every strike perhaps during my life, since the great lockout in London twenty-six or twenty-seven years ago until the last one, but though I am down upon them and though I knew so many of the men, no one ever molested me. I give that credit to the carpenters at any rate. That was at a time, too, when I might have expected it, working as I was when perhaps a good many were out; so that I cannot say that they interfered in that way.

Q.—How do carpenters' wages compare with the wages of other mechanics in Toronto? A.—Taking the building trade they are no doubt under the other trades.

Q.—But mason and bricklayers cannot get in so much time as carpenters can they? A.—No, not as a rule. I have found, I may say, that our own trade is considered the most disorganized trade in the various building trades; there seems to be always plenty of them about. That has been the case all through my life; we are always complaining and at the same time we are never getting better. There are always getting to be more in the field; I suppose they learn the trade because they like it; it is considered a genteeler trade than others and I have always come to the conclusion that we have to pay for our gentility. I am well satisfied myself, however.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you think you could get higher wages than you do if you were not organized—if you had no Union? A.—Well, I don't know. Take for instance, when I was in London thirteen years ago, when I went there the wages were five shillings a day, six pence an hour. It is now, I think, nine pence or nine and a half pence, which is an advance of something like fifty per cent. But take where I was born in Elgin, Scotland, wages have increased according to what I am told by men now with me from Elgin—wages have increased, without any societies or anything of the sort, two hundred per cent., and as that is the case I do not know whether they have been the means of keeping up wages or not. I would not like to say, because I know plenty of trades which, without them, have increased their wages fully as much or more.

Q.—In Toronto? A.—No. Take London, England; there is a great centre for Trades Unions; I belonged to them there myself. I was under the impression that they might be the means of keeping wages up, but then again, looking at other places at home where they have had no Union they have advanced journeymen's wages from ten shillings, which was the rate in my time, until now they get thirty shillings. In London we had five shillings a day, or thirty shillings a week, and perhaps now they don't get more than two pounds. There is an instance of the two places, and we have different trades the same way.

Q.—Have you any sick benefit or anything like an insurance fund in your Union? A.—I don't belong to any Carpenters' Union; I belong to an independent Union which has perhaps 250 or 300 members that do not believe in strikes. We are called the Independent Labor Union.

Q.—Do you work amicably with the men who do belong to the Union? A.—Yes. We want if possible all to come into line together and live in a brotherly way; that is our meaning.

Q.—Do you know if the Carpenters' Union has any sick benefit fund or an insurance fund of any kind? A.—I believe they have; they use to have, but of course I do not know now.

Q.—You spoke of being engaged in several strikes; how many were you engaged in? A.—Take the first one in London, England; I had fourteen months of it; that should have been enough to tame me, but I have been in every strike that has come in my way since.

Q.—Well, take Toronto? A.—I have been in three strikes, besides different agitations we have had that have not been strikes. Of late there is an agitation comes as sure as summer comes.

Q.—What has been the cause of these strikes? A.—Well I could hardly explain my own sentiments on them.

Q.—Have you struck for advances of wages? A.—Well, we struck for advances and likewise for shorter hours; both come together very often. In fact in the strikes I have been in in Toronto like many others I have hardly known what they were for.

Q.—When these strikes have taken place have they been voted by the whole of the men in session? A.—Not by the whole, because we never could get the whole or half of them together in the carpenters' trade.

Q.—Have they been the general sentiment of the carpenters? A.—Yes, I

suppose it was, although the carpenters have always been loth to turn out to public meetings or anything of that sort, so that I would say that perhaps the majority were never there. It is seldom you see a meeting in Toronto attended by one-half the carpenters.

Q.—And did those who did not turn out approve of the strike? A.—No, they are pretty well divided there. I believe that in Toronto there are two-thirds of them conscientiously against strikes. I know that some of my best friends, who are society men, are against them, although they may go out on strike.

Q.—If they are against strikes—a large number of them—from what influences are the strikes precipitated? A.—Well, I don't know. Of course, in the different Unions, the minority must always submit to the majority and if it is carried by the majority the rest have to feel satisfied; that is the only reason. I have had to do so myself often, when I was opposed to anything of the sort, but I went with them and stuck out with them because the majority were in favor of it. Still that was the reason I left the Unions, I am sorry to say; I thought it was just as well to keep away and see if we could not fight more harmoniously outside, although when I was in the Union I supported them and stuck to them and when the majority of them were for going out of course I went too.

Q.—Have strikes been successful or unsuccessful? A.—Well, I don't know; They have been successful and unsuccessful too. The last strike was very unsuccessful.

Q.—What was that for? A.—It was for an advance of wages—at least that was the principal thing. They were twelve weeks out on strike, and they commenced again on the same terms; in fact some went back on less wages instead of more.

Q.—Was any allowance received from any fund by the strikers? A.—I do not know as to that; I was not amongst them and don't know anything about their financial standing.

Q.—Was the last strike of which you spoke ordered by a large number of the men or were any special influences brought to bear upon the men? A.—Well, I don't know. I went to one meeting to hear what the results would be; I think it was in this hall and it was decided that they could come to no conclusion. Then at another meeting it seems that the majority arranged for the strike but I did not know anything about it until Saturday when I saw the men in the shop picking up their tools. I suppose they thought I would not go out; so they did not say anything to me, but I heard that there was to be a general lockout. I went to my employers and asked them if they were going to shut up the shop; I said "if you do I want my money and I will go somewhere else; I want no man to lock me out." Our association had arranged that we should not go on strike; we had arrangements made with the different employers for an advance of wages to men who are worthy of it at the first of next season after existing contracts were finished. However we kept on on the conclusion come to the previous night.

Q.—Are many apprentices employed in the carpenters' trade? A.—No, there are very few.

Q.—Do many boys desire to be apprenticed to it? A.—Well, no, I don't think so.

Q.—If a boy desires to be apprenticed is there any difficulty on his part in getting work? A.—No, not that I am aware of.

Q.—As many as choose can enter the business? A.—It used to be the case the boys came and served their time. It is different now from my boyhood when we were indentured five years as I was. But I have seen boys who were to serve four or five or three years but after being there two years they left their employers and went somewhere else without serving out their time. Of course the employer cannot compel them and the employers lose much in that way. Whether dispensing with indentures is a good system or not I do not know but I know that in my time we had to serve under indentures.

Q.—Do you think they learned their trade better in those days than those boys you mentioned who go from place to place? A.—I think so—far superior.

Q.—And the men who learnt their trade in those days and who were indentured

are better workmen than those not indentured? A.—Taking my own trade which, is made of different branches, they used to take it right through, whereas now it is more divided into different parts. Men who served their time as I did went right through it and were supposed to learn it.

Q.—When any strike has been ordered and when there has been any difference of opinion between the men and the employer has there ever been any attempt at arbitration? A.—Yes, there has. I believe there has.

Q.—And what has been the effect? A.—Well, I do not know that they ever came to anything. I think with regard to that, that the great difficulty is this: I have found fault myself, and I suppose others have on this question of wages. The different Trades Unions do not believe, many of them, in the grading system; they want to be paid alike. Now, if we are all equal in the sight of God, we are not in the sight of man; some men have more than others, and the weak mechanic has to go to the wall; in the time of prosperity, the good always have to pay for the bad, and when the hard times come, away go the bad ones and they are knocked about all over the country like shuttlecocks. I think it would be better if the Trades Unions would grade men according to ability, and then I think the masters and the men could settle all their difficulties in an amicable way.

Q.—Is it possible to do so, do you think; would the poor workman be content to be put in the lower scale? A.—Suppose that I give you an instance again. When I was in England twenty-five years ago—and no doubt the same thing exists now—I have seen very good men coming from Scotland to England. I belonged to the Amalgamated Society, and have seen excellent men getting six pence an hour wages, but they were not worth it, many of them, at the rate which was paid for contracts. We got them into our societies, and then they would say: "Let us work for one-half penny less an hour for six or twelve months, until we are accustomed to the trade." Our societies would not allow them to do so, but, I thought myself then that it was rather cruel, and the result was that they were knocked about and could not get a job. There is no doubt that to-day there are plenty of men who would prefer working for less until they became masters of their trade to a certain extent.

Q.—We have rather got away from the question of arbitration. Do you think that a court of arbitration, established by law and one whose decisions would be final, would be a good thing as between employers and men? A.—I do, Sir. Yes, I have thought that for many a day. There should be something in the way of impartial arbitrators, and let their decision be final. At present we are going on in such a way that we have difficulties almost every year.

Q.—Do the carpenters of Toronto receive cash for their wages? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—There is no truck system? A.—Not that I am aware of. Wages have since I have come to this country always been paid in cash every fortnight.

Q.—They are paid promptly, then, as a rule? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think that weekly payments would be an improvement on fortnightly payments? A.—Well, I would just as soon have fortnightly payments myself.

Q.—Is it not a disadvantage to a struggling man to be paid once a fortnight only? A.—It might be; I do not know, I am sure, but I cannot see any disadvantage. It is no disadvantage to me; in fact I think it is an advantage.

Q.—On what day of the week are you generally paid? A.—Saturday.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—In the evening? A.—No, at dinner time; that is our way.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you think that is as good a day as any? A.—No, I do not. I used to be paid on Thursdays when I worked for Mr. Gearing, and I prefer either Thursday or Friday.

Q.—Do you think that when the men are paid on Saturday they are apt to drink more than if paid on other days? A.—Oh, I don't know; it might be with some; some men drink largely after they get money.

Q.—Would it not be an advantage for the good wife to have the money on Saturday, so that she might get the Sunday's supplies? A.—Friday or Thursday night would be preferable for marketing; it gives a chance for the Saturday market.

Q.—Do you think it an advantage to have the drinking places closed on Saturday night? A.—I do; I go for that every time, although I am not a teetotaler. I go for closing them altogether if you like.

Q.—Do you think there is less or more drinking amongst working people now than there was twelve or fifteen years ago? A.—Well, I fancy, perhaps, there is about the same. Of course, our population has increased so much since then that it is larger on the whole, but in proportion to the population I suppose there is not much difference.

Q.—Is the shop you work in run by machinery? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What is your opinion of the present lien law; is it a benefit to the workmen? A.—I think it is, but I never had any occasion to avail myself of it. I have heard some say that it was no good. I know of a case where a man went down to the registry office and paid a dollar to get it registered, and a month or two afterwards he said it was no good; that it did not avoid difficulty, but whether that was the fault of the law or of the party who applied for it, I don't know. In another case where the employer went away and did not pay his men, two of them got liens on the building, and though they got their money it was only after five or six months, and I do not know if they got it all then. I could not say if the law is of much benefit or not.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you know whether in consequence of the lien law a weak man financially would be enabled to get a contract? A.—Well, I do not know; I am not aware of it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Were there interviews took place towards a settlement between the employers and the employees before the strike you speak of? A.—I think there were.

Q.—And after they had the strike they tried to arbitrate? A.—As I said previously the grading of wages is a difficulty. They want to fix a certain wage, and I suppose the employers would not agree to it, and such being the case they considered there was nothing to arbitrate upon. I believe it was said that if the carpenters would come to the grading system they could have settled the affair very nicely, but when you put all the men on the same scale that is where the difficulty exists.

Q.—In the carpenter's trade is a certain notice given before a raise of wages is asked? A.—I think there is six months, but being out of the society myself I cannot speak with certainty.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you know the condition of the machinery in those carpenter shops in which there is machinery? Is it properly protected so as to avoid accidents? A.—Yes, all the shops I have been in. When I was in Gearing's, J. D. Smith's and Jacques and Hay's everything seemed to be secure.

Q.—But that shop was altogether furniture manufacture? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Of course it is only within the past few years that the carpenters have commenced to organize. Has organized labor among them benefited them in any respect with regard to increase of wages or the shortening of hours of labor? A.—Well, in shortening the hours it may have. A good many of us outside wanted eight hours; we tried hard for that for a long time, and we think that we outside have been the means of getting the nine-hour arrangement.

Q.—We have in Toronto an English Society, an American Brotherhood and also an Independent Labor Union. What is its object chiefly—that is, the one you

belong to? A.—Chiefly to dispense with strikes; but if any member chooses to go on strike he can do so; he is free to go, but as a body we cannot go on strike. But an individual can be a member and still go on strike. We had two or three of our members who went out on strike, and we left them free to act for themselves.

Q.—You have not got a minimum rate of wages? A.—No. For instance, if we find that a member is worth a little more than he gets, we uphold him in asking for higher wages.

Q.—How do you uphold him? A.—Well, employers ask us what we think of them, and we conscientiously tell them, and if we see another party who wants a good man we recommend him, and he can go and get a fair price.

Q.—You would not call that a strike? A.—No.

Q.—It is just this, that if you do not get the wages you want you go somewhere else? A.—If we think a man is worth more than he is getting and the employer will not pay it, he can go somewhere else. There is no strike there. That is just as much as I would do personally myself. If I thought I should get better wages I would give my present employer a chance, and if he would not pay me I would give another man a chance to engage me.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—I understand you have a grading rule? A.—Yes.

Q.—That is one of your standard rules? A.—Yes, we do not expect men who have not been long in the trade to receive the same wages as men who have been in it all their lives. We do not expect a careless man to receive the same pay as a man who is always trying to be master of his trade. Some men are always careless; the principal thing they think about is their pay.

Q.—How long have you been connected with that independent organization? A.—About a year or fifteen months.

Q.—How have you found it work? A.—Very well, indeed.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How many members have you? A.—250 or 300, bricklayers, masons and carpenters. We do not have any particular meeting night except during an agitation, or at time of strikes, or anything of that kind. We had meetings last year twice a week. Otherwise we meet in the house of one or other of our members, and consult together.

Q.—Are there any benefits received from that organization? A.—No, not any particular advantages. We pay simply twenty-five cents in three months perhaps; after that just enough to keep us together. If there is any agitation in the trade we send a post card to each member, and that secures entrance to the hall of meeting.

Q.—But you really believe that organization of some nature, even of the nature of your own society, is necessary for the protection of the laboring man? A.—I do; most decidedly.

Q.—And the organization to which you belong you think is the best among them? A.—Well, of course, we are only forming now; we do not know what it will be for some time to come.

Q.—Do you think that those organizations which bind their members not to work at less than a certain wage have any effect or bearing upon yourselves in securing work for your men? A.—Well, I am not aware that they do.

Q.—They have never attempted to prevent your men from working? A.—No, they have not, as I said before.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—What I want to understand is, are you more likely by that system to get work for your own people on account of these organizations, or on account of being under a system of organizations? A.—Quite likely.

Q.—So, in reality, though yours is not the same as their organization, you do benefit by their organization? A.—I do not know what their benefits are.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Does the fact that they are well organized give you better wages or benefit you indirectly? A.—Well, I am not aware of it.

Q.—There is a great deal of machinery used now in carpenter work, is there not? A.—Too much, I think.

Q.—Has it had the effect of driving carpenters out of work? A.—Well, I do not know, but no doubt doing so much has kept inferior carpenters in the field. I believe if there was not so much machinery there would be better mechanics, better pay, and steadier employment.

Q.—Do unskilled workmen work at machines? A.—I am not aware that they do. I suppose that after a few months they soon get skilful enough to run any of the different machines.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—I suppose that manufactured articles in factories can be produced cheaper by machinery than by hand, for instance, doors, sashes and blinds? A.—Well, I say that I can make them as cheap. In Toronto I have gone to men, and told them that I would take all the sashes and windows that they had, and have told them when they said that I could not do it, to go to the lowest shop in Toronto, and that I would do it cheaper. When wages were \$1.60 a day I got \$1.75 a day for such work.

Q.—Has the use of machinery lowered your wages? A.—Well, it may have; I think it would employ more in the winter time, that is, shop hands.

Q.—Has it lessened the price per hour? A.—I do not think that machinery has lowered wages, but, I say that if there were no machine shops at all we could get as much work without them.

Q.—The question is this, does the mechanic earn as much as he did before the introduction of machinery? A.—There is no doubt he earns more, but whether that is the cause I do not know.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—With regard to your taking a contract for doors and windows and work of that kind, you are well aware that you might be a very good carpenter yourself at these things; you are aware that there are some men who can put up and finish doors and sashes, when there are other men who would be considered good carpenters in going through a house, but who would not be able to make the same wages as you would on a particular kind of work? A.—That is so.

Q.—Though they might be equal to you in other kinds of work in going through a house? A.—Yes.

Q.—Now, these men you do not class as the men you would put in at the lower rate of wages than that at which you work just because you are aware that a man accustomed to make sashes can make them like pop work, while another man who is a good carpenter at putting up and finishing would take double the time to make a sash that the other man would. A.—Yes, certainly.

Q.—Take for instance, stair building. It was almost a trade of itself in the old country; very few men that were general carpenters could handle that class of work at all. Many men in the association might be good carpenters, and be able to go through a house fully, and yet not strike out the lines required in winding stairs or anything of that kind. What we want to get at is the custom of the trade as regards good men in every branch of house work? A.—That is what I speak of, the average man all through. I do not take a man who can do only a certain part.

Q.—Comparing your labor in getting out stair work; taking labor in competition with machinery while a good man may do certain work almost as fast as machinery, yet do you think, taking all through, taking the twists of the stairs or anything of that kind, do you think that you could compare with machinery? A.—I do not believe I can, but I believe those acquainted with it could do it as well. Before machinery came in I have seen the work as well done as it is now.

Q.—Yes, and better, I grant you that; but can you do it as quickly? A.—Certainly not.

Q.—Or for the same price? A.—No, I could not; I am only speaking of certain people who do nothing else; it is like a trade by itself.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Is carpenter work, house fitting, stair fitting, &c., more elaborate than it used to be? A.—Yes, it is in Toronto.

Q.—Does the use of machinery encourage this elaborateness of work? A.—It is quite likely.

Q.—You think that if machinery has taken some work from the men it has on the other hand created work? A.—We are all right in the summer time. The question is what is best to employ the great majority through the winter, and if we had less machinery and more manual labor there would be a better chance in that way. A great many more would have a chance, and, besides, there would be better mechanics, whereas the machines do so much work that the men get careless as to certain parts of their work.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—But in the absence of that condition of things do you not think that the shortness of the hours of labor would give more work? It is almost impossible, you know, to stop the onward march of machinery. A.—The shortening of the hours of labor I look on like this: Take the summer months here. There is always a certain amount of work to be done in Toronto, and men are more employed, but the trouble is that there are so many holidays, and so much wet weather. I would not find fault with shortening the hours of labor; I am an eight-hour man, but I never find fault with a man who works ten hours. When the work gets slacker, make the hours six or seven; make whatever may be necessary to take up the labor whenever the men are beginning to get idle.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you know the percentage of idle men in your trade in Toronto? A.—I believe it would be as much as one-half any way.

Q.—Do you not keep a record in your Union? A.—I think there must be one-half of them at any rate.

Q.—You would be surprised to learn that three per cent. was the outside last winter? A.—Do you mean idle men?

Q.—Yes? A.—What do you mean by winter?

Q.—I mean that three per cent. would be the average, taking it from the 15th of November to the 1st of April? A.—Our firm employ perhaps on an average, twenty to thirty men, and I know they are about as honorable a firm of employers as there is in the city. I have seen them keep on work at a disadvantage to keep the men employed, and I know that there is an average of ten per cent. unemployed in the winter. Perhaps a good day may come now and then, but that is not steady work; perhaps a day or a couple of days in the week or something like that.

Q.—Yes, at your shop, but do not they get work elsewhere? A.—They cannot get it at the shops, because we work in our shop in as cold weather as any one else.

Q.—Do you think that one-half the men in your trade in Toronto are idle in the winter? A.—I do. Unless it is weather like this that is the case; I am speaking of the weather which is very severe. You cannot get men to shingle when the thermometer is ten degrees below zero, and the last two or three years have been the worst I have seen in Toronto; the winters have been very long and severe.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you know any employing carpenters in Toronto who give any proportion of their profits, over and above wages, to their workmen? A.—No, I do not.

Q.—Have you given any thought to that matter? A.—I have often thought it would be a very good thing if we could co-operate together in that way, and I do not see why it should not be done. I am afraid though, that when the end of the year showed a balance of profit it would be all right, but if there were a loss then it would

be all wrong, and I fancy a good many would like to know before they commenced how the employer was going to come out, so that I am afraid we could not get it to work very well.

Q.—Are any contracts required of you when you go to work for an employer, or do you simply say that you will go to work at a certain rate of wages? A.—I never asked, except when I came to Toronto, what the general rate of wages was, but at my pay day if I thought I was worth as much as another man, and did not get it, I could go somewhere else.

Q.—I asked you if your employer has ever required any contract from you. A.—No.

Q.—Do you know of any such thing being done in your trade? A.—No.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Are there two or three rates of wages for carpenters at the present time in Toronto? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How many rates are recognized by your society? A.—I suppose there are two.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of a document signed by the employers of Toronto fixing those rates? A.—Only by hearsay. Of course, I have not belonged to the Union long.

Q.—Did you ever hear that agreement read at a public meeting in Toronto? A.—I think I have; it was supposed to be one at any rate.

Q.—How was that agreement arrived at? A.—I do not know. I forget.

Q.—Was it by arbitration or conciliation? A.—I pretty well forget that, but I believe there are two or three sides to that question.

Q.—Did the employers meet the men in any way? A.—I do not think they did. If I understand the matter aright they sent word to the men that they had nothing to arbitrate about. The principal grievance was about the grading, and the employers said: "If you want to make the men all alike, and we want to grade them there is nothing to arbitrate about."

Q.—I am speaking now of July, 1886, when an arrangement was arrived at between the master carpenters and the association—the Journeymen Carpenter's Association. Do you remember the agreement being signed? A.—I do not.

Q.—Do you remember the meetings held in the Temperance Hall? A.—Yes.

Q.—Well, did the employers meet their men on that occasion? A.—I do not think they did. But I cannot say anything about these writings.

Q.—You were present when that agreement was brought about? A.—Yes, I attended all their meetings as I do now.

Q.—You do not think the employers met their men? A.—I do not think they did then, but they gave reasons; I think a deputation went to them. The employers wrote us asking us to meet them. The employers, of course, did not go to the meeting, but there was correspondence or private interviews.

Q.—Then there have been efforts made in Toronto to settle disputes by conciliation? A.—Yes.

Q.—And have those efforts ever succeeded? A.—No.

Q.—At least you have no knowledge of their succeeding? A.—No, they never seemed to come together and settle anything.

Q.—How was the nine-hour movement settled? Was it by a strike? A.—No. I remember I went down and spoke for myself, and then others came. I said I wanted the nine-hour system, and then our bosses said they did not mind.

Q.—Was there any agreement drawn between the master carpenters and the journeymen about that nine-hour movement? A.—Not that I am aware of.

Q.—Because you were not present at the time, is that it? A.—I did not say but that there might be. I did not attend meetings with regard to the nine-hour movement, but some of the amalgamated brotherhood were not for going into the

shop, and they spoke about it, and I went in for myself, and my employers said they did not care if it was eight hours, if they did not have to pay for it.

Q.—You think conciliation in Toronto has been a failure? A.—I do.

Q.—Is there any convict labor in Toronto in your trade? A.—They speak about the Central Prison, but I am not aware as to that. I have heard of the existence of different trades in the Central Prison, but whether it amounts to much I do not know. I am not aware of having seen anything out of the place come through my hands.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Has there ever been any co-operative industry among the carpenters? Have the workmen amongst the carpenters ever co-operated to do work on their own account? A.—No, they have talked about it, but I do not think it ever came to anything.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What are the sanitary arrangements in connection with the different shops and factories that you have worked in? A.—Very good; nothing to complain of. I speak, of course of Jacques and Hay's, and Gearing's, J. D. Smith's, where I have been; they seem to be all right. Jacques and Hay's was the best I ever saw; the closets there had hose by which the water could be put on so as to cleanse them right out.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You think that everything necessary was done as far as they were concerned? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What is the condition of the workmen's dwellings? A.—Those I am acquainted with live comfortable enough; of course, some of them may have a pretty hard time through misfortunes or things of that kind.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You believe that the apprentice system has a tendency towards making good workmen? A.—Yes, I believe that indenturing a boy with a good employer is a good thing; I believe in serving on time, and I think it was really a mistake doing away with the indenturing system, because boys can now go away after serving a year or two to another place, perhaps because they get a little more a week. This is really an injustice to an employer, and even to other fellow workmen; and these boys are a class who a year or two afterwards will be agitating perhaps, and get a whole gang to go out on strike.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Do you think that as a general rule the workmen with whom you have been associated are anxious about doing their work well for their employers? A.—Yes, I do.

Q.—Have you ever been connected with any employing firm where there was any system of fining the men for any breach of duty? A.—No, never.

Q.—Such as neglect of hours? A.—No, not in Toronto.

Q.—Have you known of it in any other place than Toronto? A.—Yes, I heard of one shop at London, and two at Aberdeen, Scotland. In going into a shop there were regulations hung up which you had to abide by, but, of course, it was optional whether you went to work or not.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do many men with whom you are acquainted save money? A.—Yes.

Q.—How do they invest that money? A.—In the Post Office Savings Bank; a good many do that.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—And not in dwelling-houses? A.—I speak of some single men who have saved a good bit of money in the Post Office Savings Bank, and in the course of time have done what a great many others ought to do, take wives and settle down to pay taxes. It is a great evil amongst carpenters that they do not marry early enough, and if two-thirds of the carpenters of Toronto were married men to-day they would have something to think of besides wealth, and that would do more to end disputes and strikes than anything else.

Q.—You say they put their savings in the Post Office Savings Banks. Is that any advantage? A.—I do not know as to that.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—They get a greater rate of interest I suppose; do they not get four per cent.?

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Or is it that they have better security? A.—Yes, I suppose there is; I think it is better than one or two of the banks of Toronto were proved to be last week. A good many carpenters are strangers when they come here. I know two or three, who came here the last year or two from Scotland and others from London; they had a little money with them which they wanted to invest, and they asked me the best bank to put it in, and I told them that there was one bank I thought was sure enough, and that was the Post Office Savings Bank, at any rate until they got acquainted with the country, and then they would know better how to invest their money.

Q.—Have you any co-operative building societies in Toronto? A.—No, I do not think so.

W. A. DOUGLAS, Toronto, called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What is your occupation? A.—I am assistant manager of a Loan Company. I have prepared what I wish to say in written form, and if you have no objections I would prefer giving my evidence in that way. I may say that I come here as a representative of the Anti-Proverty Society.

(The witness then read the following paper).

To the Labor Commission from the Anti-Proverty Society.

In addressing you on the Labor problem we shall take the liberty of calling your attention to some facts respecting your present methods of distributing the products of labor.

Let two men settle on different sections of land. Years pass by, the one section continues to be a farm while the other has become the centre of a populous city. The farmer ends a lifetime of toil with a property valued from \$3,000 to \$5,000; the land owner has a property that may be worth a thousand times that sum. The service of toil rendered by the farmer has been vastly in excess of that of the land owner; but the reward of the latter has been enormously larger than that of the former. It would not be difficult to multiply examples to prove that reward is not merely not in proportion to production but that it is inversely so. That part of society which produces the most must be contented with the smallest share of the product.

In discussing this subject it is necessary to point out that there are two kinds of values marked by clear lines of distinction.

The laborer plants some seed, say that of the cotton plant. He tends the growing plant, picks the wool, spins, weaves, and at last furnishes a finished garment. This is the production of one kind of value.

The characteristics of this form of value are:

1st. Toil needed in its production.

2nd. The production of a commodity that did not exist in that form before,—an addition to the wealth of the world.

3rd. The disappearance of this commodity when consumed or worn out.

4th. Toil again needed for its renewal.

And this must go on forever—toil producing, wealth produced, wealth consumed, toil again necessary to maintain the needed supply.

The other kind of value shows its characteristics most prominently in the case of land, and these characteristics manifest themselves very markedly in the growth of a city or town. When the population is small the value of the land is low; as population increases, values advance, and so long as population remains round that spot, the values continue. Note the wide distinction between this kind of value and the values of labor-produced commodities.

1st. Does it require toil for its production? No.

2nd. Does it indicate an increase of wealth? Does it appear with the production of some new commodity that had no existence in that form before? No.

3rd. Does the value disappear with consumption? Does it wear out? No.

4th. Is toil necessary for the maintenance or restoration of this value? No.

Four characteristics can be affirmed of the value of food, clothing, machinery, &c.; namely, toil, increased wealth, transient duration, and toil for restoration. None of these characteristics can be affirmed of that value which comes to land from the crowding of population.

When a number of toilers bring to market garments valued at a thousand dollars, they bring the clearest evidence that they have rendered the wealth of the world more abundant by the amount of that commodity.

When a man obtains an acre of land at a value of one dollar or fifty dollars, and through the crowding of population that acre becomes worth a thousand dollars or it may be a hundred thousand dollars, can that man show that he has made any addition to the wealth of the world? Not by any means, but the very reverse.

As population increases, land becomes more scarce, the people are poorer in land.

The toil-produced values are a sign of increased wealth; the increased values of land caused by increase of population are a sign of diminution of wealth, an evidence that land has become more scarce.

Hitherto our laws have almost if not altogether ignored the difference between these two kinds of values. The effects of this oversight in our laws may be now pointed out.

When land has been patented, not merely did the patentee obtain security for the possession of his own improvements; but he became almost absolute owner of all the value that might accrue to that land from any source. He was thus possessed of the power to appropriate not merely the value produced by himself, but the value that accrued from the improvements of others, or from the increased demand caused by increase of population.

Mark, therefore, what has taken place at every spot where population has centred.

As land values increase without toil for their production, and as the so-called owner of the land is allowed to appropriate this value without limit, therefore, these so-called owners may become wealthy without toil.

As the land value increases without the production of any new commodity, without any increase of acreage, so the land owner may become wealthy without producing any wealth; he may take and not make; he becomes rich, but does not enrich in return.

As land values increase with increased scarcity of land, with increased impoverishment of this commodity, the land owner becomes rich in consequence of the impoverishment of the rest of the community.

As land values continue for all time so long as population remains round that centre, and as these values require no toil for their maintenance or renewal, the land owner who secures a town site, obtains the power of living without toil, and he is empowered by our laws to pass this power on to his heirs and assigns forever.

The practical effect of our land laws is to place almost absolute power over the

land with all its possibilities in the hands of one part of the community, with the power of excluding the other portion; and we find the result on this continent precisely the same as in the old world: poorly paid toil at one end and superfluous wealth with no toil at the other.

We can no more dispense with toil than we can walk on thin air. By giving the absolute possession of land, by allowing the owners to appropriate all the value, we thus permit one portion of the community to appropriate a value that they did not produce, and a value which permits them to live without toil; consequently, all the toil needed for the maintenance of society and the maintenance of government, must be performed by the rest of the community.

As the increase of value of a lot of land caused by increase of population is not an increase of commodities and consequently not an increase of wealth, what is the meaning of the increased wealth of the land owner? He has no more land, he produces nothing more, perhaps less—whence, then, comes his increased wealth? There is only one source; namely, the product of other people's toil. His increased income means the diminished income of the toiler. Some of the ground rentals in Toronto in the last fifty years have increased twenty-five fold. The land owner has done nothing to the increase of this value, but labor, whether of the brain or hand, must surrender to him twenty-five times the amount it had to surrender formerly. When the shoemaker offers to the tailor shoes in exchange for clothes, there is an exchange whereby each is mutually enriched. When population increases, and land becomes relatively more scarce the exchange between the landowners and the occupants is not one of mutual enrichment; but enrichment of the one by the impoverishment of the other.

The immense effect this method of land tenure has on the rate of wages, we may observe by noting the product of the poorest land occupied. In the back townships of the province there are certain occupied lands so barren that they yield no rent. The product is so scant that with very hard toil the occupant can obtain little if any more than sufficient to maintain a very meagre subsistence. In the more favored districts where the soil is more fertile rent appears varying on agricultural lands from one to five dollars per acre. In the neighborhood of Toronto market gardens rent as high as \$20 per acre. In the best part of the city rentals vary from \$25,000 to \$40,000 per acre. The variation of annual land value is from nothing in the poorest land to \$40,000 per acre in the best.

Let the laborer on the poorest farm traverse from the poorest land to the best, will he be any better off? As a rule, no.

The productiveness of his labor will vary enormously. On the poorest land it is small, on the best it may be enormous, but the laborer enjoys not the benefit of the increase.

By our present land tenure the land owner appropriates all the advantages of location, and the laborer can obtain no more than he could obtain by tilling the free, no-rent, barren lands.

But the margin of cultivation is determined by population. Our population is comparatively sparse, but it is increasing rapidly. From about five million on this continent at the beginning of this century population has increased to about seventy million. Every twenty-five years population doubles.

In another generation with the population increased to 150 million, must it not be inevitable that cultivation will be crowded back to poorer land? With such crowding back must not wages inevitably fall; for they cannot be maintained any higher than the product of the poorest land cultivated, any more than water can be kept above its level.

We feel no hesitation in urging upon your notice these facts as being incomparably the most important factors in determining the condition of the laborer.

When population was sparse and unoccupied land still abundant, the power of the land owners to appropriate the product of the toiler was comparatively small—ground rentals were low. With every increase of population his power increases— toil must surrender more. With every increase of population, whether native or by

immigration, the obligation of the toiler grows. It is a growing debt, an increasing obligation, which no amount of industry, no amount of thrift can possibly discharge; an everlasting mortgage which dooms one part of society to everlasting toil and everlasting poverty—can any inventive genius devise mechanism skilful enough, organize labor wisely enough, exercise industry enough, co-operate with wisdom enough, to get rid of this crushing, never-ending obligation? There is but one remedy.

All these facts point to but one conclusion, namely, the appropriation of the ground rentals for public purposes—a simple land tax and the abolition of all other taxes.

To produce a garment requires the combined labor of a host of producers—from the cotton planter, to the saleswoman in the store. Justice and our laws insist that the value of this garment belongs to every one who has aided in its production, transportation or exchange.

To give a value of half a million dollars to an acre of land in the centre of Toronto requires the combined presence of one hundred thousand people; does not justice and should not our laws equally insist that this land value should belong to these who cause the value?

Let this value be appropriated as at present, and the permanent degradation of the toiler is inevitable. We simply ask that the values caused by the community shall be appropriated by the community for common purposes, and that the individual should be allowed to retain all that he produces except that portion that he would have to surrender for his advantage of location.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Of how many members is your society composed? A.—Well, we started just a few months ago and I think we have between forty and fifty members.

Q.—Have you any branches? A.—There are branches but we have not yet put ourselves in communication with them; it is a comparatively new movement, and I cannot tell to what extent it has gone.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Is your society independent or is it connected with a central society? A.—We are independent, receiving no charter or anything else of that kind; in fact we make it very independent by admitting everybody who comes along and pays the fees.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You propose that the land should be taxed to pay all the expenses? A.—Yes.

Q.—Municipal and general? A.—Yes.

Q.—Provincial and Dominion? A.—Yes. I should perhaps be a little more general. In specifying the values which accrue to land there are other commodities such as mines, water-powers and perhaps some others—natural commodities, with which the Creator has endowed the globe and which, being given by the Creator, belong to the whole community and should not be appropriated by any one class. Land, however, is the principal one, though there are a few other commodities in the same category.

Q.—You would tax the value of the land but not the improvements? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the original value of an acre of land in Toronto? A.—My wife's grand father sold land for about four dollars an acre sixty or seventy years ago.

Q.—And before that time it was worthless? A.—Yes.

Q.—And you would put the tax at four dollars an acre on all the land? A.—Yes. on that particular piece of land at that time say four or five per cent., or whatever rate might be necessary to pay the tax.

Q.—What would be the revenue from Toronto? A.—I have not made an estimate of that.

Q.—Have you any statistics to show what the expenses of municipal, provincial or Dominion Government would be? A.—No.

Q.—Then really you don't know what amount on the land per acre would be required for Toronto to pay its share? A.—I don't know whether it should be put three or four or five per cent.; I have made no estimate of that kind.

Q.—What are the taxes now upon real property in Toronto? A.—It borders close on two per cent.; nominally it is about one and a-half per cent., but if you add the local improvement tax it amounts to about two per cent.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Including the school tax? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Take for instance the Queen's Hotel; there is a vacant lot on each side of it; you would tax the vacant lots the same as the occupied? A.—Yes.

Q.—And you would tax the laborer's dwellings the same as the Queen's Hotel? A.—I would tax the two lots in precisely the same way.

By Mr. CLARK:—

Q.—And how would you tax land in the country? A.—Simply on its value— independent of improvements.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Does not the society as its principles are set forth by Henry George really amount to a confiscation of land property? A.—Not at all.

Q.—I think that is what he proposes? A.—No, you are mistaken, quite mistaken.

Q.—I think his idea comes to confiscation? A.—No, it is simply a question of what is property.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Taking another view of labor—the fisherman is a laborer to a greater extent? A.—Yes.

Q.—Well, what would be done in his case? A.—Well, he has got to have a place to land and dry his fish; they all pay rent somewhere.

Q.—But he must take the fish before drying them? A.—Yes, certainly, but still he must have a place to land them.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Supposing I bought a property a year ago and pay for it; is it to be taken away from me for the benefit of the community? A.—Not at all.

Q.—Take the Queen's Hotel? A.—At present you have to pay so much to the Government every year for the privilege of living in the place, so instead of charging you on the hotel we would place the tax on the land and leave the hotel free.

Q.—You do not go further than that? A.—No.

Q.—That is a very modified form of Henry George's view? A.—Well, I do not care what Henry George says, that is my view.

Q.—When you talk about poverty, &c., how many original owners are there here in Toronto, or their representatives? A.—I could not give you any idea.

Q.—You speak generally of those who have benefited from the toil of others? A.—I know of a few where the land has been in the family for a great many years, but only a few.

Q.—Now what is the proportion of vacant lots held by the people who are not rich, and those who are rich, as we might say? A.—I could not say; the bulk of the land around Toronto for the last few years has been grabbed by land speculators.

Q.—Was there not a boom a few years ago in which there were many who lost money? A.—Yes.

Q.—And should they not be recompensed? A.—No, not at all; we would put it such a way that there would be no losing or gaining.

Q.—But we are talking of the man who has bought property subject to the laws. I have been following the elections in New York, and at one of the meetings Mr.

George was interrupted by one man who said the grandfather of my neighbor left him United States bonds, and he claims to have a right and interest in that property, and Mr. George said certainly. The man went on to say my grandfather left me a farm and I think I have a right to it. Henry George said no, because your grandfather never had a title to it? A.—That is not the answer I would give.

Q.—Well, I do not want to argue with you at all, I only wish to know the facts? A.—Well, if you were to ask me I would say the improvements on your farm should undoubtedly be yours against the world, but the value on your farm so far as it has been given by society should be taken by society for taxation. The improvements should belong to the individual, but so far as society gives value to the land so far should that value be taxed. So far as the Anti-Poverty Society has declared itself that is the one point upon which we are all agreed.

Q.—If you make the tax equal, if for instance you were to tax the property at the Queen's Hotel of which I spoke, in the way you propose, putting the tax on the whole property at the same price, would you increase the tax on the land? A.—I could not tell without finding out what his taxes are now.

Q.—That is the whole point I think—that is whether under your system the proprietor would not have to make it up by increased rents? A.—I did not understand your question. You mean that if we increased his tax he would increase the charges on his customers?

Q.—Yes? A.—As a rule he would not; as a rule the man who owns the land would have to pay the taxes. Take the land we are now on; it was valued at four hundred dollars a foot, not long ago; if the city doubled the tax the owner could not get over four hundred dollars for it and he would not charge more rental.

Q.—Why? A.—The reason is that the tendency everywhere is for every man to push up the value to its highest limit; he takes all he can get for it and if the Government steps in and takes a portion that would not enable him to increase the price. Further there is a large amount of land held by a lot of speculators who prevent the rest of society from getting at this land until the purchasers submit to their charges. Put on a ground rental in the form of a tax and they would have to drop it.

Q.—If you go that far that would be decided by statistics, but if you put on merely a confiscatory rent it is a question whether the speculators would not go on and keep the property and increase the value? A.—Well, in many cases where they tried to get a revenue—

Q.—But they pay taxes? A.—Yes, but not the taxes they should pay.

Q.—That, however, is a matter for the Council? A.—They don't pay the taxes we propose they should.

Q.—There is the difficulty; we want to know what taxes you propose and that you cannot tell us? A.—Well, take the land outside of Toronto held for speculative purposes; it is now taxed at a nominal value. I know of one piece of land the sale of which was refused a few days ago at \$450,000, but it has not been taxed at anything like three per cent. on that, for our law does not say that the owner should pay full rental value. What we propose is that he should pay the full rental value to the city or the municipality.

Q.—You mean not only that this should apply to cities, but throughout the whole country? A.—Yes.

Q.—But it comes to the same thing; if it is not confiscated then the value of the property increases? A.—My point—the one we want to bring forward—is the important effect this would have on the labor question.

Q.—What we want to know, and I have said more than I intended on the question, the important point to me at least is to know what, according to your information, the amount of rent would be; supposing your proposition should be carried into effect on the 1st of January, 1888, what would be the effect in the value of land? A.—It would diminish the value of land.

Q.—Then the important point to ascertain would be what the taxes would be on the property in Toronto, on the 1st of January, 1888, and what he pays now. A.—I could not answer that question.

Q.—That seems to be the whole question.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Take the case of two farmers whose farms lie alongside of each other; the owner of one is an industrious man who improves his property to a very great extent. Well, after ten years that farm is worth perhaps four times as much as the other, though they were of equal value when they started out. How would you manage in a case of that kind? A.—I would tax both the same.

Q.—But the farm owned by the man who improved his land would be much more valuable than the other? A.—Yes, and the improvements would be his and should be free from taxes.

Q.—Then, for his thrift and industry you would make him pay just the same as the other man? A.—No.

Q.—But his farm is worth more? A.—Certainly; you should not put a tax on his industry and thrift.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—But you are doing that; you are taxing the man who has worked hard to improve his farm and making him pay the same taxes as the man who has perhaps been drunk half the time? A.—Perhaps I do not understand the question. If one man is taxed on four thousand dollars I would tax the other on four thousand dollars.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Supposing that these farms were both composed of wild land at first, in ten years one increased four fold and the other is worth not much more perhaps than the day it was bought, for the want of work? A.—Then I would tax that precisely the same.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—And therefore you would tax the industry of the man who worked? A.—No.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—If that farm were to be sold to-morrow it would be worth four times as much as the other? A.—Yes.

Q.—That would not be according to your own theory? A.—If the one man pays forty dollars taxes I would make the other pay the same.

Q.—Supposing that one man's farm is worth only forty dollars while the other man's by his industry in improving his farm runs up its value to one thousand dollars he is taxed more on the thousand than the other man? A.—I would not tax him more, I would tax him the same.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Supposing there is a lot of land in the city on which is a \$50,000 building; you would exempt that building from taxation while on another lot on which is a small cottage you would exempt the cottage and tax the land the same as the other lot? A.—Yes.

Q.—At the same rate? A.—No; according to the value of the land not at the rate per foot; on King street land sells at \$2,000 a foot frontage.

Q.—But you would tax it at the same rate? A.—Certainly at same rate, a percentage on the value.

Q.—How then would you benefit the workingman if you tax him the same as the other? A.—At present the workingman or the working portion of the community pay all the taxes. As I explained in my paper, our present method of distributing wealth throws the whole toil of maintaining society on one portion of the community.

Q.—Yes, but if you take the value off the building which is worth \$50,000 and put it on the land the workingman has to pay his share of what has been taken off the other? A.—Yes, but as I explained, some people now don't pay any taxes at all.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—That may be the fault of the law? A.—Taking it as a question of economies or a question of ethics it is going to benefit the workingman in this way; at present the laborers, the toilers, have to pay to the holders of property in this city an enormous sum every year for the privilege of occupying Toronto. The toilers, whether manual or mental, must also provide every thing necessary for the public service, that is they pay all the taxes. This makes two funds that must now be provided by the toilers. By taking the first fund for taxes the toilers are relieved from one burden. That is one benefit. Then by putting the taxes wholly on the land we would make it unprofitable and hence prevent people holding land idle. They would use it for the benefit of society either by setting laborers to work or they would have to let some else do the same thing. This taxing of vacant land to its full rental value has several effects: 1st. Prevents men getting rich without producing riches. 2nd. Makes land more accessible so that every one could secure a site for a home. 3rd. Causes a demand for labor, by preventing people holding land in idleness. 4th. It would stop that process that now splits society asunder, carrying one part to luxurious idleness, by the form of appropriating increasing land values, and carrying another part to endless toil with poverty, by subjecting them to contribute these endless values.

Q.—But if you don't want to confiscate their property you must pay for it? A.—I want to point out the meaning of confiscation. At present the toilers of Toronto have to surrender every year thousands and thousands of dollars to a number of men for values which they never created; this I regard as a confiscation which we wish to put an end to.

Q.—Supposing I bought a property yesterday shall I not receive the rent tomorrow? A.—What you bought was really the power of taxing those workmen.

Q.—At any rate I would lose my money? A.—Yes, you would. At present the workingman of this world have to pay for the privilege of occupying the world.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—All of us do? A.—Oh, no; numbers of people don't. At present our law gives possession of the earth to one portion of society almost absolutely.

By the CHAIRMAN—

Q.—Are you a land owner? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can any one prevent you from being a land owner? A.—I am not objecting to the land owner, but I am objecting to a man taking the value of land as given to it by the community. I am objecting to the law allowing him to do so. Here is a lot of land in this city for the occupation of which one party has to pay one hundred dollars; another has to pay nine thousand for the privilege of occupying it; another seven thousand dollars; another ten thousand and so on. Now that comes off the toiler.

Q.—How did they acquire it; perhaps by hard and honest toil? A.—I was pointing out how it affected the laborer. The laborer every year has to surrender that amount.

Q.—How will you prevent it? A.—Instead of the laborer surrendering it every year it will go to the city or the state for taxes and the laborer will reap the benefit.

Q.—And the man who bought it has to have it confiscated? A.—You can call it confiscation, but I call it the stoppage of confiscation.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You strike off so much for improvements, say you take five per cent. on the \$50,000, that would amount to \$2,500 which you would take off the rich man and still you would tax him the same on the value of the land. Now you must have a certain amount of revenue for carrying on the government and you derive that now from improvements and from the value of the land together so that you must distribute the amount which you now derive from the improvements—you must place that on the value of the land? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then my improvements being less than those of the man who has the \$50,000 house you would distribute it on my land as well as his. How would that benefit me? A.—The chances are that you are a workingman, working for your living. Now the other man need not have done any work, or his heirs after him for the next ten thousand years.

Q.—That does not answer my question. You create a fictitious value on my property and I have to pay my proportion of the taxes you take off him? A.—The chances are we would diminish your taxes.

Q.—The chances are you would not. You must have a revenue just the same and you take the taxes off the improvement and put them on the land? A.—At present the toilers are compelled to benefit a number of people who do nothing in return.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—How many men of those you call toilers will shortly be proprietors themselves? Is not the wheel of fortune, particularly in this country, going to make the rich men poor or the sons of rich men poor and *vice versa*? A.—We are passing through a transition period in the history of Canada, but it will not be long—perhaps forty or fifty or a hundred years—when the whole continent will be private property, absolutely in the possession of one portion of the community.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Had not we better stick to facts and leave prophecy alone? A.—I say that in a few years the whole of this continent will be private property and is not that a fact? Judging by the past we can practically adopt that as being a fact. Now, under the present system of land tenure the toiler is compelled every year to surrender a large portion of that which he produces.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—But that is where we differ? A.—Well, am I right as to the facts? Is it not true that men are allowed to appropriate values which they never created?

Q.—You go on the principle that every land owner, every man who has got property, is never going to toil or do work of any kind. Now what is the proportion of people in Toronto who do not work themselves or whose children do not work for them? A.—I can show you number of men who take from this city an enormous amount of wealth each year and do not give a copper in return.

Q.—Then it all comes to this: it comes to confiscation, or, calling it by another word, you conveying my property? A.—That gentleman (Mr. Heakes) asked me a question which I was honestly anxious to answer and that is how to benefit the laborer. It would benefit him in this way, that at present the laboring man is compelled to surrender every year a large portion of his product to a number of people who do nothing in return and they are in power to do that in all time to come. Now, we propose that this surrender shall cease, so that instead of compelling the laborers to pay all the taxes we relieve them by putting the taxes on the land.

Q.—You propose that those who have shall give to those who have not? A.—I am confining myself to one particular kind of value.

Q.—But you know when you begin with one you do not stop there? A.—Yes, I stop there.

Q.—You may do so but your successors will go a good deal further? A.—Yes; but when I ask for justice we have a right to it and we shall not go beyond it.

Q.—You may hold certain views and not go further than you are to-day, but your successors will. Take the case of a picture which may have been bought for a song; it may turn out to be a rare picture; I may happen to be the fortunate owner of a picture which I bought for a few dollars but which I may be able to sell for many thousands? A.—Then you are entitled to all you got no matter what it cost.

Q.—But if I bought property in Toronto and it increased in value, what then? A.—The community gives the value to this property and you should not be entitled to an increase which the community gives.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You told us that the laborer surrenders to the land owner twenty-five times as much as at some former period. You told us again that the permanent degradation of the toiler is inevitable? A.—Yes.

Q.—Now as the rental of land has increased in Toronto, has the condition of the laborer become worse? A.—I cannot answer that question, there are so many factors in it.

Q.—If your premises are correct it inevitably follows that the condition of the laborer will become worse year by year as the rental of land increases? A.—It may become worse, it may remain stationary or it may possibly advance, for this reason: with increased population there is the possibility of largely increased production. Now of that largely increased production a very large portion will have to go to the land owner, so that whether the laborer will have less or will have the same or a little more I am not prepared to say.

Q.—If the laborer is so oppressed by enormous land taxes in Toronto why does he not go to some smaller place, some village for instance, in which the land is less taxed? A.—Because he cannot have the advantages which he has here in Toronto in the way of exchange.

Q.—Then the laborer gets in advantages something corresponding to the increased taxes which he pays on the land? A.—Toronto is a better place for exchanges; he can afford to pay more here and he surrenders more.

Q.—He takes with one hand and gives it out with the other? A.—I do not exactly understand you.

Q.—How do the rates of wages run in Toronto as compared with smaller places where the land tax is less heavy? A.—About the same.

Q.—You think that in Oshawa, Dundas, Ayr and Galt wages are about the same as here? A.—Laborers can do as well there and if not they can come to Toronto.

Q.—Are wages as high in these places as in Toronto? A.—I cannot tell you as to the nominal wages, whether they are the same or not.

Q.—I want to ask you again the question put by Mr. Heakes. A wealthy man owns a lot and builds a large house upon it, and a poor man owns one upon which he builds a small house. If lots lie side by side and are equal in size you would tax them equally? A.—Yes.

Q.—The wealthy man would be relieved of the taxes he now pays on his improvements? A.—Yes.

Q.—Would the taxes throughout the city be larger or smaller than those now collected? A.—I do not understand your meaning.

Q.—Would the taxation imposed be greater or less than the taxation now imposed on the whole real estate in the city? A.—I cannot tell whether it would be more or less; it would depend a good deal on circumstances.

Q.—But if the same amount were to be raised the taxes on the poor man's land would be greater than he now pays on his land and house? A.—Not necessarily.

Q.—Would the taxes added to the land be greater or less than the taxes now collected from the improvements but which are to be removed from the improvements? The taxes would be removed from all buildings? A.—Yes.

Q.—Now would that tax which is removed be replaced by the same amount placed upon the land? A.—Not necessarily.

Q.—Where would you get the amount which is removed? A.—In some cases the taxes would be largely increased.

Q.—Where would you get the amount which you would lose by relieving the buildings? A.—In some cases the taxes would be largely increased.

Q.—Where would you get the amount which you would relieve the buildings from? A.—From the land.

Q.—And the taxes on the land would be greater than they are now? A.—Certainly.

Q.—And the taxes on the poor man's land would be much greater than now?
A.—Yes, on his land, but the laboring portion of the community now pay all the taxes.

Q.—Would you collect the Customs duties and Internal Revenue taxes and so on?

A.—Speaking personally, not for the society, I think we should abolish all such taxes excepting those that it may be considered wise to retain for what we might call suppressive purposes; possibly we ought to keep a tax on liquor, and personally I would be in favor of that, in the form of licenses and so on. So far as taxes were retained for moral purposes, personally I should be in favor of them.

Q.—But all the rest on the land? A.—Yes.

Q.—How do you look upon tariffs with regard to other countries? A.—I object *in toto* to tariffs.

Q.—Now, with regard to the question of intelligence of mankind; don't you think there are a great many degrees of intelligence in men generally speaking? A.—Undoubtedly.

Q.—One higher than another? A.—Very largely so.

Q.—And the use of this superior intelligence by one man places him in a higher position with regard to what we call getting on in the world than another man who has not so much? A.—Yes.

Q.—Now, taking this matter of speculation either in lands or stocks or anything else, don't you think that a man of intelligence, and thrift, and energy, and all that should be the sole owner of whatever he should make by the exercise of those qualities in making a bargain of any kind, even in land? A.—No; I would not allow bargains in land.

Q.—Then you attack no other speculation except that in land. Take stocks or bonds by which one man aggrandizes himself more than another; is not that the same as speculation in land? A.—No; it is essentially different. We must have the earth for occupation, and if you speculate on that you speculate on the opportunity of robbing another man, but in stocks you can buy or not, just as you please.

Q.—Well, I really cannot see that there is much difference in the transaction. We know that in some places you could get land years ago at low prices while to-day it is very high. The land at that time was up for competition; it was open to any man to buy, and do you mean to tell me that if a man bought at that time in fair competition, not taking advantage of another man and his land either by increase of population or other circumstances, by the fact of a church or some public building was erected alongside of it—if other men were willing to give this man a good price for it, should that man lose the value which had accrued upon this land up to that time? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are your reasons? A.—Simply this: that the thousand men who were the means of putting that value on the land should claim a portion of that value. It takes say 100,000 people to make the value of that land, so the value should belong to them instead of to the individual.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Are you for or against private occupation? A.—I would not interfere with private occupation at all; I would not interfere with the present system in that way.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Would you exempt all kinds of wealth from taxation except land? A.—Yes, with the exceptions I have named. If it is wise to put a tax on whiskey I do not object.

Q.—It would be a *per capita* tax on the population? A.—No.

Q.—Where then would you get it from? From the article manufactured? A.—Put it on whatever you think best to suppress it, either by internal revenue or license.

Q.—Would you exempt all classes of wealth except land? A.—Exactly.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—If private ownership is retained, would the proprietors hold it as an investment and calculate to make interest on their money? A.—No, they would not.

Q.—And what incentive would they have to own land? A.—The occupation of it, the same as they have now.

Q.—Would they be inclined to improve the land under those circumstances? A.—Certainly; they would have to make a profit and they would get the profit only out of the improvements.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Suppose you applied this system to Ontario and not elsewhere, how would it affect the farmer here compared with say those of the United States or the other Provinces? A.—It would place the farmers here in a better position.

Q.—By increasing the rent? A.—I would not increase the rent.

Q.—By increasing the taxes? A.—No; I would not increase the taxes.

Q.—And still you would make the land pay all the taxes? A.—Yes.

Q.—And you would not increase the taxes? A.—No.

Q.—How would the farmers' tax then compare with what it is now? A.—If you can tell now what the farmer pays in taxes we could arrive at it by statistics, but now you cannot.

Q.—We can tell pretty well? A.—We know the local taxes and if you tell me what he pays by the tariff then I could tell.

Q.—Each pays a different share? A.—You could find out the average.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What is the amount of revenue derived by taxes from the people by the Dominion Government? A.—Customs a few years ago were about twenty-three million; I don't know what they are now.

Q.—And internal revenue? A.—I don't know.

Q.—Suppose we call the two \$25,000,000. What is the amount derived from the people by the Ontario Government? A.—I cannot answer that question.

Q.—The amount of money now levied upon the property of the country is in the form of municipal taxes only? A.—That is all.

Q.—That would remain as large as it is now? A.—Probably as large or larger.

Q.—Then in addition there would be the Dominion tax of say \$25,000,000. A.—Yes; but you would have to make an addition if you want to find out what they pay now. You must take not merely the revenue collected by the Dominion Government but the revenue collected by manufacturers on protected articles.

Q.—At all events you would raise all taxes on land, municipal, provincial and Dominion? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then the taxes on land would be much higher than at present? A.—The taxes on certain land, as far as land is concerned, would be higher, but when you take the double tax on land and improvements I believe many farmers would pay vastly less than they are now paying.

Q.—The improvements would be relieved from taxes but the aggregate of money collected would be greater than at present? A.—Not necessarily; in many cases it would be less.

Q.—How do you make that out? A.—I cannot give you any definite figures any more than this.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Poor men would pay more? A.—They would pay vastly less, in being free from paying to the manufacturers.

Q.—To whom would they pay that? A.—They would keep it in their own pockets.

Q.—And what would the manufacturers do? A.—They would work for it like any other honest men.

Q.—Are they not honest men? A.—Personally they are just as honest as others, but the tariff gives them a dishonest advantage. The tariff is dishonest.

Q.—And does not the farmer get any benefit from others by being near say a large manufactory? A.—No, he does not.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—The amount raised from the land would be the present tax for municipal purposes *plus* the revenue for the Dominion Government? A.—Yes.

Q.—And instead of its being raised on land and improvements it would be raised on land alone? A.—Yes.

Q.—And the poor man with a small dwelling would pay on his land as much in proportion to the amount per acre as the rich man would pay on his land with his large house upon it? A.—Yes.

RICHARD T. LANCEFIELD, Toronto, called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What is your occupation? A.—I am manager of the publication department of *Grip*. The few remarks I have to make refer particularly to the inconsistencies of the present assessment laws, and I think it is one of the planks of the platform of our society that if the assessment could be equalized to a much greater extent than it is now, the laboring men would be vastly benefited.

Q.—Well, we want facts? A.—I am going to try to give you facts which will support that statement. Now, the instructions given to the assessors are that they are to assess all real estate at its actual cash value, as it would be appraised in payment of a just debt from a solvent debtor, and at the rate or price which they believe, after due examination, the same would sell for at a *bona fide* sale. Another point I would strongly urge upon this Commission is the advisability of endeavoring in some way to have the assessment rolls made public, because I think the laboring men would be vastly benefited thereby.

Q.—But, would not that be interfering with the provincial right—with the autonomy of the provinces? A.—But I think the Commission might make a recommendation upon it, if facts were adduced in support of these statements. On a certain street in this city,—and I will mention its name—that is St. George street, on the east side of the street, land is assessed at \$50 a foot, but you cannot buy that land to-day for \$900 or \$1,000 a foot.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—That would only show that the assessors have not followed their instructions. A.—It would show you one reason for taking the assessment off buildings and putting it on the full rental value of the land, and it shows how that would help the workingman.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—That would be a very good question to ask in a mayoralty contest? A.—But it bears on the laboring men. If land was assessed at the full rental value there would be a vastly increased assessment on the land, and, in fact, the taxes would be less instead of more.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—This man that you speak of would not pay \$50 a foot? A.—He would have to pay \$900 or \$1,000 a foot.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—The law calls for that now, but the officers do not do their duty? A.—I was talking to a gentleman in the Assessment Department this very day. I said, "Here is a man wants \$100 a foot for the lot for which he is only assessed at \$50 a foot." He replied, "That man may think it worth \$100, but the assessor knows it is not." I said that the lot next it was sold for \$90 last week, and he said that there must be something wrong. I said when I was in business the assessor would come in and say: "I suppose you have a stock of about six thousand dollars?" and I would say, "I suppose I have not; I suppose I have a stock of about four thousand

dollars." His reply would be: "Well, I will put it down at six thousand and you can appeal against it." They assessed personal property up to the last cent.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—I think we should avoid going into municipal affairs. Do you say that we should suggest to the Government at Ottawa, that the assessors of Toronto are not doing their duty? A.—I think it would be a very good idea; it would waken them up. The assessor tells me that if a man gets one thousand dollars salary, he gets four hundred dollars off, but, if he gets ten hundred and twenty dollars he will not get a cent off; he will pay taxes on the full amount. I think there is something wrong, and if the taxes were all levied on land values the assessment on land values would be vastly increased, and if you had to raise say twenty-five thousand dollars on an assessment of fifteen millions, and if you raised that assessment to thirty millions by equally assessing the land, why the taxes would be so much less, and workingmen would have to pay so much less, and would thereby be benefited. Some of the papers in this city publish a list of real estate transactions, and one of them publishes the assessed value, and the price realized from the sale. Here are a few instances of figures which have been published. One lot is assessed for \$7,727 and it sold for \$10,000.

Q.—There is another question involved in that. Perhaps all the property may not be assessed to its full value. I know of some cases in Lower Canada where it is assessed at one-half its value, and if I said that property is assessed at \$1,000 and it sold for \$2,000 there would be nothing wrong because all the property is assessed for half its value, and that is quite understood? A.—That may be so, but it should not be.

Q.—But it comes to the same thing if it is done honestly all round? A.—But it is not, and that is what we complain of. In this city certain classes are exempt from taxation, and the rules for the guidance of the assessors state that every year the assessor shall assess the exempted property at what it should pay taxes on. Now, on looking through the assessment rolls I find on College street that a beautiful building called Knox College occupies about three and one-half acres, and that in 1887 it was valued at five thousand dollars. For 1888 it is valued at five thousand dollars, but wonderful to relate the land all around it has been increased from twenty to twenty-five dollars a foot, according to the assessor's figures.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Does that pay taxes? A.—No, but there is \$15,000 on the bare land that Knox College is on. All over the city there are blocks of equal or greater value escaping taxation. Now suppose that all this was taxed, and taxed up to the full selling value, look at the enormous revenue it would bring in and the extent to which the laboring man would be benefited.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—The question of whether laboring men would be benefited by taxing religious and charitable institutions, hospitals, &c., is another question. A.—There is another peculiarity about the present system of assessment. Most of the assessors have adopted the habit of taxing land on the corners five or ten dollars higher than on the street, because they say it is worth a little more. But all assessors do not seem to be guided by the same rule, and on some streets the assessment is made \$50 a foot right along, without allowance for anything extra at the corners. You say that land with a fine house upon it is worth more than one which has not?

Q.—Practically it is? A.—That is the general idea, undoubtedly, that land which has a fine house upon it is made valuable by the house being there. In going over the assessment roll I find a fact which is very gratifying to me, because it is a strong argument in favor of the point I was contending for, and that is that the land is the same whether there is a magnificent house upon it or not. There is one assessor agrees with me on that point. On St. George street, on the corner of Harbord, there

is a vacant lot which has been valued by the assessor for 1888 for \$70 a foot. Next to the vacant lot there is another with a magnificent house upon it. That lot is also valued at \$70 a foot. Now, Harbord street intersects St. George and the next house to Harbord street—the corner house—is valued at \$70 a foot. Next to that is some land with a house upon it, and it is valued at \$60 a foot. It is not a corner lot, but he values the house on the other side at \$70 and *per contra* that land should be worth as much, and is worth as much on the market to-day. There is an instance where vacant land is actually valued as much as that upon which the house has been built.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—That is to say the land is valued as much in one case as the other with the land and house together? A.—Yes.

Q.—The vacant lot is assessed as much as the next lot and the house upon it? A.—Yes. This land is valued at \$70, and if I wanted to buy it I would find it difficult perhaps to buy it at \$120 a foot.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—You said that instructions were given to the assessors to assess land at its actual cash value? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then the law is right. The instructions are that the land shall be assessed up to its full value? A.—Those are the instructions.

Q.—The only thing at fault is that the officials are not carrying out the law. If the law is right and gives proper instructions and the men do not follow the instructions they are at fault, and not the law.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How would you correct this evil? A.—That is a question which we are going to settle in this country somehow.

Q.—What is your plan?—I suppose one plan would be to endeavor to get officials who would carry out the law.

Q.—Therefore, you do not require a change in the law, but a change in the officials? A.—There is such gross violation of the law that it is certainly very strange that the people of this country cannot get the laws carried out. There must be something radically wrong, and what we ask is, "Is the thing which is wrong to be allowed to continue?" This principle of assessing land at a figure far below its actual worth is a bad one, and it engenders a spirit like this, one man saying to his neighbor: "You do not find fault with me, and I will not find fault with you."

Q.—You are rather pointing out what you consider to be an evil than pointing out what you consider to be a remedy for that evil. Is that the object? A.—Of course, if all taxes were put on land they would be, but, I was simply pointing out the inconsistency of a man paying taxes on \$1,200 and not on \$1,000.

Q.—But that is part of your scheme? A.—Yes.

Q.—At present, salaries above \$1,000 pay taxes in full? A.—Yes, I am told so.

Q.—And salaries between \$700 and \$1,000 are taxed too? A.—They exempt \$400, I believe.

Q.—And salaries below \$700? A. I suppose those are exempted ones.

Q.—By this change would you benefit the poor man? A.—Yes, we would, because under the change all land would pay a larger share of taxes, and that would benefit the poor man. As an illustration of that where all land would pay a greater share of taxes I would adduce this instance: On Huron street there is one lot of land valued at \$25 a foot, and it is not on a corner either. Right across the road on a corner there is a lot valued at \$18 a foot. Now, if both were valued on the same principle, the corner lot would be valued at a higher rate, because corner lots are more valuable, and this one should pay nearer \$36 than \$18.

Q.—Do you know what proportion of real estate taxes is levied on land and what proportion on buildings throughout this city? A.—No, I do not.

Q.—What is the total of the real estate taxes in Toronto? A.—It is about \$86,000,000.

Q.—What proportion of that is made up of lands and what proportion of improvements. A.—I cannot say; but all these results should be published so that we could get the information.

Q.—But you do not know? A.—No.

Q.—Can you get that information? A.—Yes, very readily.

Q.—I think it would be worth while to place it before us, if it were given in an official way? A.—I may say that on Queen street West, near Bathurst, land is worth \$275 a foot. I do not think that is above the mark, for it is selling at about that figure. It is valuable business property, but it is assessed for \$200, and you can see how much more taxes all this would bring in.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Was there not some mention in the press about a property on King street, which it was said was undervalued? A.—Yes; right at the corner of Yonge. It is assessed I think at \$1,200, and the owner has refused \$2,000 for it. Another lot is assessed for only \$950, and the owner has absolutely refused \$1,750 a foot for it.

Q.—Perhaps it was because he did not want to part with it? A.—No, that was not the reason. With regard to the question of a rich man with a mansion on his lot, and a poor man with his shanty right beside it, it was asked if you would tax them the same—

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—The question that was raised was: “If you destroy the revenue you derive from improvements from what source will you derive it?” A.—There is just where we are going to get it; by taxing the vacant land as if it had a house upon it.

Q.—You take the tax off this house valued at \$50,000 and spread it over the rest of the land, and I have to pay for it? A.—I claim that you will have to pay less.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is the land inhabited by the working classes taxed to its full value? A.—It would be taxed at the same rate as land in its vicinity.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Your views on that question are the same as those of Mr. Douglas? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you know anything about the management of *Grip* Office? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there a system of fining men in that office? A.—That does not come within our department.

Q.—Was there ever such a system in *Grip* Office? A.—There was, but not in my time; it was three years ago. I could not state anything about that.

TORONTO, 24th November 1887.

* * * Toronto, called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What is your occupation? A.—I am a steam fitter.

Q.—How long have you resided in Toronto? A.—About three years.

Q.—Where did you reside before that? A.—In Peterborough.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—During the three years that you have lived in Toronto, has there been any change in the rates of wages? A.—Well, the rate of wages rose when there was a reduction in the number of hours. The rate per hour rose when the hours were reduced from ten to nine.

Q.—Was there any strike when this increase took place? A.—There was a strike of the plumbers, and they got an increase and we got it at the same time. They are separate trades, but we work for the same employer.

Q.—Where there conferences between the employers and the employed? A.—

Yes.

Q.—In these conferences was the discussion friendly or otherwise? A.—As far as I heard from reports they where friendly.

Q.—Were you not present? A.—No; I was not a member of the deputation that waited on the employers.

Q.—The conferences were between the Labor Unions and the employers? A.—Yes; delegates from the Labor Unions, as well as from the Employers' Union, were present.

Q.—The employers have a union or organization also? A.—Yes; but I suppose they would scarcely care to have it called a Union.

Q.—Was there anything in the nature of an arbitration? A.—No, it was left to no outside party; they came to an agreement between themselves.

Q.—Is your work done in what might be called factories? A.—No. There is, I should judge, two-thirds of our work done outside, and about one-third in the shops.

Q.—Is there much machinery in the shops? A.—No; it requires little machinery except machines for threading pipe.

Q.—What are the sanitary arrangements of the shops? A.—Satisfactory, as far as I have known.

Q.—No objection on account of dust, or cold, or heat, or ill ventilation? A.—I have heard of none.

Q.—No large number of men working together? A.—No.

Q.—What are the rates of wages now paid? A.—They run from about twenty cents to thirty-three cents an hour.

Q.—Do you have a half holiday on Saturday? A.—During five months of the year.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Your work continues all the year? A.—No; for about three months it is very precarious employment.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Are there many apprentices taken in your trade? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any limit imposed on the employers by the employés as to the number of apprentices they shall employ? A.—No.

Q.—What, within your knowledge, is the proportion of apprentices to journeymen? A.—About two apprentices to one journeymen.

Q.—Do the apprentices continue in one shop until they learn the trade, or do they go from shop to shop? A.—The majority finish their time.

Q.—Is there any indenturing system amongst them? A.—No; I do not think so. Generally indentures are signed after the apprentices become valuable, sometimes after two years or after three years. I know one who signed who had been doing journeyman work for a year before he signed.

Q.—And if he refused to sign what would happen? A.—He would be dismissed. I have understood that there is an arrangement between the employers not to employ apprentices from another shop.

Q.—Do you know this or is it hearsay? A.—I could not say positively, only I know that when apprentices have left a description has been telephoned from one shop to another. I was not at the telephone and could not swear positively, but to the best of my knowledge and belief it occurred; at all events the apprentices were refused at other shops.

Q.—That is, to some extent they were blacklisted by the employers? A.—Yes.

Q.—When they sign indentures do they work for lower wages? A.—I do not know the arrangements with the apprentices regarding wages.

Q.—Of what advantage are indentures to employers? A.—Really I do not know that they are any.

Q.—You do not know, then, why they are so anxious to indenture them? A.—There are very few indentured, and it is generally after having served three years and become valuable that they are indentured.

Q.—Is there any difficulty in getting employment in your trade? A.—Yes, for about three months in the year. Many men are idle then.

Q.—What is the idle season? A.—It commences about Christmas or New Year's, and lasts about three months. I should say January, February and March.

Q.—During the rest of the year is there any difficulty? A.—No. The majority of the workmen get employment, and it is rather rare for good men to be out of employment. In this busy season a good many men come in and work at the trade, and leave again, or go at something else; if a man is handy he can go out and do little odd jobs pertaining to the trade.

Q.—Do you think there are many idle plumbers during the busy season in Toronto? A.—No; I do not think there are any.

Q.—Do you know of foreign workmen coming in in any considerable numbers? A.—No; occasionally there are plumbers who come from the old country, but very few.

Q.—Do you know of any co-operative work being done by mechanics amongst themselves? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know of any profit sharing by the employers among the employed? A.—No, and I see no prospect of it.

Q.—Are any very small boys employed? A.—No; I do not know of any; they have to be big enough to carry the tools.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—About what age are the youngest, do you think? A.—I should judge about sixteen.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What is the rule as to payment of wages; are they paid weekly, monthly, or how? A.—They are paid bi-weekly.

Q.—Every two weeks? A.—Yes.

Q.—On what day? A.—Most shops on Friday; I think all pay on Friday, but I am not positive.

Q.—Is it your opinion that bi-weekly payments are frequent enough, or should they be weekly. A.—As a matter of opinion I think that weekly payments would suit the majority of men best. Of course, that is merely a matter of opinion; as far as I am concerned myself it would make very little difference.

Q.—Is Friday as good a day for paying off hands as any other? A.—I think so.

Q.—What are your objections to Saturday as a pay-day? A.—I never had any experience in being paid on Saturday, but I should think the objection would be that most of the stores would be closed. That is the only one which occurs to me.

Q.—If the men were paid on Saturday would there be more drunkenness than if they were paid on other days? A.—I do not think it would make any difference; of course, I am only theorizing on that.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Might there not be another objection; do not the working people do their marketing on Saturday morning? A.—Yes; I should think that would be an objection with regard to dealing on the market.

Q.—Friday would be more advantageous? A.—Yes; I should think it would.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Has any change within your knowledge taken place in the purchasing power

of money within the three years you have been in Toronto? Will a dollar go as far as, or farther than it did three years ago? A.—Well, from what I have observed, I do not think it will go as far with regard to rents or purchasing land.

Q.—How about food and clothing? A.—I have noticed no alteration in prices within the three years, but rents have increased to my own knowledge, and the price of land has increased.

Q.—Is it within your knowledge that the Labor Unions secure better wages, the advantages of shorter hours, &c., to the workmen than if there were no Labor Unions? A.—Yes, they do. It has been my experience with them. We organized a union before we got the reduction, and it would have been necessary to have a union in order to be able to treat or have conferences, so as to be unanimous in our opinion with regard to what we require.

Q.—Do you think the average workman can work nine hours a day—substantial continuous work—without impairing his health or strength? Is nine hours a day too much to work in your trade? A.—That is a question upon which it would be very hard to give an opinion, especially by one like myself. I think that that length of time devoted to hard work would certainly shorten a man's days, but, of course, that question would be more properly put to one who has collected statistics in that regard.

Q.—Is your labor fatiguing? A.—Yes.

Q.—If you work nine hours you go home pretty tired at night? A.—Yes, it is all pretty heavy work. I may say that, speaking from a mechanical point of view, our trade is not affected by foreign competition, only from effects of other trades in driving apprentices into ours, and making the competition amongst us. That is the only way in which our trade comes in competition with foreign labor. Practically there are no steamfitters coming here from other countries. In the United States trade is better, and in the old country it has not been reduced to a trade the same as it has here, except, I may say, that during the busy season men who are classed as handy men are doing the work.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—The old country mechanic is both plumber and steamfitter, and coming here generally prefers the plumbing? A.—Yes. There are few plumbers coming here who can get a job except in the busy season. There are some, but during the past two years those who have come are not good mechanics; the good mechanics stay at home.

Q.—There was a time when plumbers and steam fitters were organized together? A.—That was before I came here; they were not organized when I came.

Q.—Do you find that it has been a benefit to the steamfitters to be organized? A.—Yes.

Q.—And on account of your having organized the employers organized? A.—They did previously to us; they organized before I came here.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. You had no strikes in which you were engaged during the three years you have been in the city? A.—No.

Q.—Do union men in your trade work in the same shops with non-union men? A.—Yes.

Q. Is a non-union man placed at any disadvantage by the union men? A.—No; he is not, or but very little. It is outside work almost entirely and there is very little association amongst the men; they do not see each other except sometimes in the morning when they go to a shop to do business or get material, &c. Thus it would be almost impossible for either to be placed at a disadvantage.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You don't attempt to prevent a non-union man getting work? A.—No.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Have you any benefit society? A.—There is a sick benefit in the Knights of Labour Society.

Q.—We will consider that again. Are any fines imposed on employes for negligence, carelessness or for any other reason? A.—Well at a meeting of the bosses' union they passed a law imposing some fines but I never heard of its being enforced.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—It has not been done to your knowledge at all events? A.—No; I will not say it has.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Have you any Sunday labor? A.—Very seldom; there is occasionally.

Q.—In case of emergency? A.—Yes; it is not customary when it can be avoided.

Q.—Does convict labor interfere with you at all? A.—No,—well, in saying no, the only convict labor that could in any way interfere with us is the labor done in the Central Prison and such institutions as that.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—That is work required for themselves? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—They don't do outside work? A.—No.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of how your fellow workmen and yourself invest your savings? A.—No. As a rule there is very little to invest and I think those who have saved generally prefer the banks or the Post Office Savings Bank.

Q.—Do many of them build houses? A.—Not that I have known since I have been here. I think most of my acquaintances in the trade are living in rented houses.

Q.—You think that rents have increased within the last two years? A.—Yes.

Q.—To what extent? A.—Well, I could not form an estimate; it has varied in different parts of the city.

Q.—What would be about the average rental that you or your fellow workman earning ordinary wages would pay? A.—I should estimate it at \$12 or \$14 a month.

Q.—If you were looking for a house would you fix a limit beyond which you think you could not afford to go? A.—Certainly.

Q.—About what would you fix it at? A.—For myself I could not say, not being a married man.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are members of Trades Unions as far as you know opposed to the interest of employers? A.—No; I don't think so.

Q.—Do you think that organization amongst the workingmen tends to better feeling with the employers? A.—Well, with regard to the feeling, that is a matter which depends on the state of their minds.

Q.—Speaking generally of the feeling existing between employers and men, do you think organization helps it? A.—I have not known that these feelings were at all strained with the workmen, but I think as a matter of opinion that employers would prefer that workmen had no organization; I don't know that they would entertain more kindly feelings personally towards the men, but—

Q.—I mean from the effects of organization have the relations between employers and men been any worse than before? A.—Their relations in what regard?

Q.—I wish to know whether organization injures workmen at all with their employers? A.—No; I think with regard to the relations to their employers, organization is to the benefit of the workingmen.

Q.—It is claimed by some people that workmen's organizations antagonize the interest of employers and I want to know if it has in your trade? A.—No; I think not.

Q.—Has it not rather tended to draw the men and their employers together? Do they not generally get a better understanding of what the men want and what the employers want? A.—Yes; of course they can interchange opinions better and get a better understanding with regard to each other's ideas.

Q.—What is the general practice in your trade in the settlement of any dispute? A.—I have never had any except one and it was settled by a conference between the delegates from the employers and from the men.

Q.—Conciliation—that is meeting together and discussing it in that way? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it the practice for employers to engage boys and then discharge them? A.—Yes.

Q.—They engage them as helpers? A.—Yes.

Q.—And they take a great many more boys than they require as apprentices? A.—They take on more in the busy than they can profitably employ during the slack season.

Q.—There are more boys engaged in the trade than there are apprentices? A.—I don't know whether you call them apprentices or not; they are learning the trade but they are discharged in the slack season.

Q.—Can you give an estimate of the proportion of the boys taken on to learn the trade? A.—I could not, because I have not been in the city five years, which is the time they are supposed to serve.

Q.—You are of opinion that organization is a benefit all around. A.—Yes.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—What wages do boys get as a general rule when they go on first? A.—Two dollars a week.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—That is at the beginning? A.—Yes, for the first year.

Q.—Are their wages raised as the time goes on? A.—Yes, they are supposed to be raised a dollar a week every year until they serve their five years.

Q.—You are speaking now of apprentices? A.—Yes.

Q.—You say that boys are generally in three years and more before they are indentured? A.—Yes, the majority are never indentured; it is a rare thing for anyone to sign indentures.

Q.—And what would they develop into afterwards? A.—Journeymen.

Q.—Without being indentured? A.—Yes, after serving five years.

Q.—From the first date of their going in? A.—Yes.

Q.—What length of time are they indentured for after they become indentured? A.—In those instances I have known they have been indentured for the balance of their five years. If they had served three years and signed, indentures would be for the balance of the time, but indentures are rare.

Q.—What advantage is there in being indentured as compared with the other course? A.—I don't know of any advantage to the apprentice.

Q.—Does it give the boys any better status before the community or the employers? A.—No, I have never known anyone to be asked for papers or a certificate, or anything of that kind.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Does your Union prefer a system of indentures? A.—A majority of them do.

Q.—As a body you do? A.—Yes; but there are others who do not favor it. They have never pronounced in that way in any conference; they have never sent a deputation asking for it.

Q.—And the men are more in favor of the indenturing system than the employers? A.—No; I don't know what the employers think in that regard. I suppose if the employers pressed the matter they could have every apprentice indentured; but I think they generally wait until they see if it is to their advantage.

Q.—Do indentured apprentices get special instructions that other boys do not get? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Indenturing is never for more than five years? A.—I have never known it to be more.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Don't you think it would be a better system for the trade if boys were indentured when going into work, instead of their going in first and only those who make themselves particularly serviceable being indentured? A.—Yes.

Q.—Don't you think it would be better for the trade and perhaps better for the boy if that boy were indentured at the beginning? A.—Well, that as a system only might require one answer, and as a system to be carried into effect it might require another. If by being indentured a boy would be secured proper instruction in his trade, and not sent out as an apprentice helping another boy, then it would be best; but if there was no one to see that the boy received proper instructions, one who is not apt to take his own part or who is not naturally impudent might be imposed on and might be kept for five years without learning the trade; he might be turned out a poor mechanic without having the option of going where he could get better instructions.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Don't you think that many boys go into the business, who if indentured at the time of going at the work would be complete failures—would not be able to stand the work? Is it not better to try them before they are indentured? A.—I have never known a boy leave the trade from being unable to understand it.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Do you think or do you not that it would be more likely that a boy would pay more attention to his business, be more apt to apply himself more particularly to learning the trade if he were indentured when he went in and got the run of the place? A.—I think that depends more on the boy than on the system; I don't think the indenturing system would have any effect.

Q.—Do you think there is a necessity in your trade for the employment of the number of boys in it at the present time? A.—I can see none.

Q.—You don't see any necessity for that number of boys? A.—No. In other cities where there is much more steamfitting done the number of apprentices is limited.

Q.—And I think you said that some boys after 3 or 4 years were able to do journeymen's work? A.—Yes; but they don't receive journeymen's pay.

Q.—But can they do journeymen's work? A.—Yes; very frequently. I have seen boys who have been three or four years at the trade entrusted with almost any kind of work.

Q.—You don't consider that there is a necessity for the employment of so many boys in shops at your trade? A.—No; I don't.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—There is no effort made on the part of your union to restrict the number of boys? A.—No.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Do you think that the number of boys employed has any effect in shutting out legitimate workmen who have learned the trade? Would more men be employed if there were not so many boys? A.—I think there would.

Q.—So that in that case it shuts out a thorough mechanic? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—On the other hand do you think it would be safe to allow boys to be idle until they were 18 years old? A.—No, I don't think that would be safe; I am not in favor of that at all; they must be employed somewhere and they may as well crowd into our trade as any other.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You say that before a boy serves five years he has in many cases to serve as a journeyman. Do they generally get a journeyman's wages? A.—As a rule they don't, but some of them do.

Q.—And even a boy who is not five years in the business is sent out to do journeyman's work? A.—Yes; frequently.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What is the board generally paid by unmarried workingmen? A.—\$3.50 to \$4.00 a week.

Q.—Supposing these apprentices were not living with any of their own family, is there any boarding house or place where these boys can get board and what price would they generally pay? A.—I know there are lots of cheap boarding houses where a boy could live.

Q.—I suppose most of the boys are with their parents? A.—Most of them are, but there are a few strangers.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Do you know anything about the lien laws? A.—No, I do not; I have never heard of any wage difficulties of that kind in our trade.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—That is with regard to the seizure of wages by creditors—garnishment? A.—No; I have never known of such an instance.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How far from the centre of Toronto do mechanics generally live? Do they have to go to any great distance to get reasonable rent? A.—There is one place in the centre where rents are low but it is a locality where mechanics who wish to pass as respectable people do not care to live. Out to the suburbs I should judge it is about three miles from the centre—around Parkdale and the North-East and the North-West.

Q.—What are the facilities for getting there? A.—The street cars.

Q.—And the fare is how much? A.—Five cents.

Q.—Do you know what the price of land is in that particular neighborhood of which you spoke? A.—It runs from \$8 to \$12 a foot, but a great deal of the land is held on conditions of sale; for instance, that a valuable house must be built upon it, say about \$3,000. A great deal of the land is held *en bloc* and will not be sold except on condition that a house should be built worth at least \$3,000 and in some places \$5,000, and of course that is beyond the reach of any workingman.

Q.—That applies to some localities only? A.—Yes.

Q.—There are places in which workmen or others can get land for \$8 to \$10 a foot without restriction? A.—Yes, I think there are, but it is far away from the centre where it would not be possible for a workingman to go home to his dinner. It requires about an hour or three quarters of an hour to catch the street car so that he can come to his shop with punctuality.

Q.—What additional facts could you volunteer respecting rents? A.—Well, that they are steadily rising and at the present rate of increase the price of land increases faster than the workman can save and that makes it impossible for him to obtain a house; also that the restrictions which many sellers impose, compelling the purchasers

to erect valuable buildings, have the effect of keeping workmen from building themselves. I would not object however to these restrictions unless they were imposed to increase the value of the remainder of the land.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—That could only apply to certain people, because others would not be able to sell at all? A.—The majority appear to hang on to the land.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do rents increase more rapidly than the rates of wages? A.—Yes, I say that without hesitation.

Q.—Now your wages have increased practically by ten per cent. within three years because the hours of labor have been reduced? A.—There is a ten per cent. increase in the receipts in that way, but the buying power of money has not increased; in the aggregate wages have not increased.

Q.—What is the rate per hour you get now? A.—From 20 to 28 cents; the majority run about 25 cents.

Q.—The average rate per hour would be increased about how much? A.—About 3 cents. per hour.

Q.—That would be 27 cents a day? A.—Yes; but it would be misleading to say that workmen's wages have increased 27 cents or in that proportion, because there are less hours of labor and the aggregate receipts are decreased.

Q.—If you throw off an hour's work a day that is your own lookout? A.—Yes; but we are all supposed to throw it off and the shop closes.

Q.—That is at your own request? A.—Yes; when the change was made it was made at our request.

Q.—By how much would the rent of an average workingman's house be increased in the last three years? Have you any special knowledge as to rents? A.—No, except what I have been told by those with whom I have boarded. I have never rented a house myself. The main fact I can give is that a man cannot own his own building, and the prospects and tendencies are against his ever getting in such a position that he can own it. I gather that from the facts that have come under my own observation for three years.

The Commission reassembled at 2 p.m. in the offices of the Post Office Inspector, Post Office Building, Toronto.

STEWART J. DUNLOP called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You live in the city of Toronto? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long have you resided here? A.—Since a year ago the 9th of May.

Q.—And before that where did you live? A.—I resided upwards of a year here; I left Toronto for Montreal in 1882 and I have been there and in Peterborough since; I have also been in other places for a short time.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—What is your trade? A.—I am a printer; I am not working at the trade just now, but my business is connected with printers, and of course I still continue to call myself a printer.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Are you a member of a Trades Union? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What rates of wages is paid on the morning papers in Toronto? A.—Thirty cents per thousand ems.

Q.—And on the evening newspapers? A.—Twenty-eight cents. I cannot answer so well for the management and arrangements about newspapers as I can for book and job offices.

- Q.—What in the rate in book offices? A.—Thirty-three and a third cents.
- Q.—And on weekly newspapers? A.—Twenty-eight cents. That is the same as on the evening papers, but there are disadvantages on the weekly newspapers. They have not the same opportunity of setting advertisements as they have on daily papers coming out in the evening.
- Q.—I put my next question in a general form—not in the form in which a printer would put it; a compositor in setting advertisements can set more type and earn more money than he can at ordinary reading matter? A.—Yes; I might say as near as I can judge, taking the advertisements all round, about one-half more at least and I think that would be coming inside of the mark.
- Q.—And on the weekly newspapers the advertisements are set by men who work by time and not by piece? A.—Many of the weekly newspapers in this city are printed in large establishments where there is book, job and newspaper work in one room and they can easily fill the time of the men on job work setting advertisements for their weekly papers.
- Q.—What are the weekly wages of men—ordinary job compositors, &c., who work by time? A.—\$11 a week for 54 hours a week and 25 cents an hour for over time.
- Q.—How long has that scale been in force? A.—That scale came in force during my absence in Montreal; I think it is at least three or four years in existence.
- Q.—Were the wages before that time higher or lower? A.—Lower than at present.
- Q.—How far back does your first experience of Toronto go? A.—To 1880 or 1881.
- Q.—Are there many idle printers in Toronto? A.—A considerable number.
- Q.—Is that evil a chronic or an occasional evil? A.—Well, it is occasional. Of course I can only give an opinion as to the cause, and I picked that up, too, from hearsay. It is supposed to be caused by the strikes which took place in the building trade during the summer. There was very little floating money among the working classes caused by so many men being idle and that affected merchants and all others who have dealings with the printers and there was far less job printing and advertising on that account.
- Q.—Do many printers come into Toronto from the country? A.—Quite a large number.
- Q.—Is the influx steady or otherwise? A.—It varies a good deal.
- Q.—What kind of men are they who come in? Young men just out of their time? A.—Some come as improvers and some are out of their time. Others are men who have worked in cities before.
- Q.—Have you any knowledge of the country press at all? A.—I have some experience.
- Q.—What is the class of persons mostly employed in country newspaper offices? A.—Generally boys.
- Q.—When they finish their time what do they do? A.—They drift away; practically speaking they go and come like the swallows; some go to the cities, some to the United States, and some perhaps that have not been successful in getting a proper knowledge of the business go into something else.
- Q.—Do the proprietors of the country papers as a rule—when a boy has finished his time and wants journeyman's wages—continue to give him employment or discharge him and get another boy? A.—Usually if they can strike a smart bargain with him, and get him to work for low wages, they re-employ him.
- Q.—And if they do not strike that bargain? A.—Perhaps if they have friends who will maintain them at all they try to better their circumstances, and they may move away perhaps.
- Q.—Are the presses and other machinery used in printing offices dangerous to employes? A.—Somewhat so to inexperienced hands.
- Q.—Is it possible to guard the persons who work them against accidents any more than at present? A.—The great majority of accidents are caused by careless-

ness, or curiosity on the part of young fellows around the machines, in the absence of those who are in charge of them.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Is there any way in which you could suggest that those machines could be better protected than they are now? A.—I have thought of that, but of course I have never matured any plan. It requires a careful man and a good mechanic to be around machinery; every sensible mechanic knows that it requires a perfect mechanic to have charge of these machines and guard them in his eye at all times.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Have you any personal knowledge of machinery? A.—I have a better knowledge of small presses than cylinder presses.

Q.—Did you ever have anything to do with rotary presses? A.—No, that is out of the line of the usual printer's work; it is special in itself.

Q.—Well is there anything dangerous to a boy in feeding a press—any danger of his getting hurt? A.—Yes, he is liable to get his hands hurt, perhaps by some one speaking to him, or otherwise diverting his attention, or an unforeseen accident may take place on a press—something may slip out of place. A job may not have been properly made ready to put on the press through not having competent hands working in the office, and through the movement of the press something may be shaken out of place, and thus an accident may take place unknown to the boy who is feeding the press.

Q.—Have you ever known of any accident happening in feeding a press? A.—I have.

Q.—What was the cause? A.—I remember one in particular in which a boy was feeding a cylinder press in the office where I was working. I spoke to him and he looked around, and in sliding down the sheet upon the press the gripper caught his fingers. Another boy in Montreal put his foot on the gear and his foot was taken off.

Q.—Could that gear be protected? A.—Yes; in the case of the boy in Montreal there should have been a board along the press to prevent the foot going through. Of course he was a very young boy—far too young to be working on the press.

Q.—If that gearing had been properly protected the boy would not have had his foot hurt? A.—No.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—How old was the boy? A.—About 13.

Q.—You consider that too young an age for the work he was at? A.—Yes; of course I refer to the school law which says that boys from 5 to 16 should attend school for at least 6 months in the year; that law however has been ignored by parents.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—In what province is that law enforced? A.—In this province.

Q.—Have improvements been made in printing presses within your time? A.—A great deal of improvement.

Q.—To secure faster and cheaper printing? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has the tendency of these improvements been to throw printers out of work—pressmen or other printers? A.—As regards the quantity of work to the proportion of hands employed it has somewhat, but as education has progressed there is more printing being done and therefore I do not think it has caused a reduction in the number of printers.

Q.—Has the tendency of the cylinder press been to create printing which could not have been done without it? A.—Of course as the business attains more perfection people get more work done on the press than has been previously done by other means.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How long were you in the printing business? A.—24 years the 4th of this month.

Q.—There has been a great deal of improvement in printing presses? A.—A good deal!

Q.—When you first went to the printing how many men did it take to run a big newspaper like the *Mail* and work it off on the press? A.—Well, I could not tell you.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Were there papers like the *Mail* and *Globe* in those days? A.—I would have to take a slate and pencil to figure out the number.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How long would it take to run off an ordinary weekly paper on a handpress? A.—Of course there were cylinder presses at that time, but I daresay it might take two weeks; that of course is only a guess.

Q.—How long would it take to run off 2,000 on a cylinder press? A.—Some of them could print 1,500 an hour.

Q.—How many men would it take to print 1,500 papers an hour on a cylinder press at that time? A.—Well it was supposed that they should be able to print at that time, including stoppages, at least 750 sheets an hour.

Q.—How much help was required around the press? A.—A man and a boy.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Of what presses are you speaking? A.—The ordinary cylinder press.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Nowadays how long does it take to print 700 on the newspaper presses in use now? A.—Well we could do double that work now.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—That is on cylinder presses? A.—Yes.

Q.—Take the first-class papers, like the *Globe* and *Mail*, how many do they print an hour? A.—I have been told that the *Mail* press, a Scott rotary, has been timed to something like 19,000 an hour.

Q.—One side of the sheet or both? A.—That press prints both sides.

Q.—And it does something more, does it not? A.—It folds.

Q.—The 1,500 of which you spoke in connection with the cylinder press were printed on one side only? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many papers, printing one side at a time, would one man and a boy print on a hand press? A.—Well, I have done myself 200 an hour, but of course there are stoppages and the work was a little more imperfect in those days than it is now. We did not always have a good press or a good roller boy.

Q.—Taking the ordinary country paper how many would you consider a man should do on a hand press in a day? A.—Well, suppose he gets ready, that will take one half an hour in the morning, and suppose he works to six o'clock, I should think he would be able to do an average of perhaps 220 an hour all day.

Q.—Then if we had been confined to the hand press how would such papers as the *Globe* and *Mail* get out their issues? A.—They would be obliged to have a greater number of presses and employ more pressmen, feeders, and possibly more steam power.

Q.—They would not work a hand press by steam power would they? A.—No, I overlooked that, but provided they did it with the old-fashioned cylinder press they would.

Q.—Do you think it would have been possible to print such newspapers at all with the hand press? A.—Well, it would be rather foolish to think of it, I fancy.

Q.—Do you know anything about any garnishment of wages among printers in Toronto? A.—I have not heard of any instances.

Q.—Do you know of any sharing of profits in the printing trade in Toronto—the employers giving the men any share of profit over and above their wages? A.—I cannot think of any just now.

Q.—Are any printers in Toronto compelled to sign ironclad contracts before entering an office? A.—I have not heard of any, but there are some offices I have not been able to reach in my rounds.

Q.—Do you know of any printers in Toronto who are blacklisted and cannot get employment in any office? A.—I do not know of any.

Q.—Do you know of any boycotting of offices by the printers? A.—Well there are offices where union men will not go to look for employment, and I don't believe they purchase the newspapers printed in these offices.

Q.—Will union men work with non-union men in the same office? A.—Under certain circumstances they will.

Q.—What are those circumstances? A.—If an office has been ratted they go to the president of the union and get a permit to work there temporarily.

Q.—Under ordinary circumstances union printers will not work with non-union printers? A.—There are, I think, what are called mixed offices, and when it is not known by the proprietor, or the hands rather in the office, if they find they can get a superior workman and there is a case vacant, they will put a union man on.

Q.—Are these offices in which non-union printers would not be permitted to work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Who would object to their working? A.—It would be by direction of the union.

Q.—And if employers were to put a non-union man on, what would be the result? A.—Well, it is altogether likely he would be interviewed by the executive committee of the union and some arrangements made to have the objectionable man either admitted to the union or expelled from the office.

Q.—And if the employer should insist in employing a non-union man notwithstanding the union, what would be the result? A.—Well, it is possible the hands in the office would appeal to the union to act in the matter.

Q.—In case it should proceed to extremities, would the men permit him to work or would they carry the protest further? A.—I think they would carry the protest further.

Q.—In what shape? A.—It depends on the action of the union. If they saw that he was a bad character, a man who had injured his fellow workmen in other places or had a bad record, it is altogether likely they might declare a strike.

Q.—And if he were a good man with nothing objectionable against him, notwithstanding his refusal to join the union, he might continue to work there. A.—He might in exceptional cases.

Q.—Are any young boys employed in printing offices? A.—Quite a large number.

Q.—Within your personal knowledge what would be the youngest boys employed in this country? A.—I daresay, as low as from 10 to 12, judging from some I have seen working as message boys.

Q.—And how young working at the trade? A.—Some of them may be 13 or 14.

Q.—Do these work continuously or only part of the year? A.—Part of the time each day they have chores to do, and they may be called from the case to go out on messages.

Q.—But they are employed in and about the office continuously from the time they are engaged? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are any women or girls employed in the printing business? A.—Quite a number.

Q.—In what capacity? A.—As compositors.

Q.—And as press feeders? A.—Yes, as press feeders too.

Q.—Do female compositors work by the day or week, or by the piece? A.—They work, I believe, by the piece.

Q.—If they do the same class of work as male compositors are they paid the same rate? A.—Well, not usually.

Q.—Is it your experience that they do their work as well as male compositors?
A.—No, it is not.

Q.—In what respect are they inferior? A.—Almost invariably they do their work in a very inferior manner. I daresay there may be several reasons for it and that it is partly on account of their getting such small pay—smaller pay than the men are getting.

Q.—Do these female compositors begin in the same manner that boys do and work up to the position of what we would call journey work in the same manner?
A.—No; they are put on case immediately, and are given copy and told to proceed.

Q.—And if they continue at case four or five years do you think they become as expert compositors as boys would in the same time? A.—Some do, but there are fewer swift ones in proportion to the number among female compositors than there are among male compositors.

Q.—Do employing printers prefer female labor at the lower wages to journeymen at the higher wages? A.—Some do.

Q.—Then there is an advantage to the employer in getting females at the lower wages? A.—There must be in some cases, but, of course, those who do first-class work and are competing for first-class work scarcely employ female labor at all except for feeding presses.

Q.—What is the difference between the wages paid to men and the wages paid to women as compositors? A.—From \$4 to \$6 a week difference.

Q.—How much per thousand difference? A.—Beginners get per thousand, I suppose, about 15 cents.

Q.—And those women who work four or five years and have become expert might get about how much? A.—About 20 cents a thousand, and I have known of instances where they got more.

Q.—How are printers paid—in money, or do they take any truck? A.—No, they take no truck in Toronto; they are all paid in cash.

Q.—How frequently are they paid as a rule? A.—Once a week and in some cases when a man goes into an office he does not get the first week's pay at all—there is always a week held in hand.

Q.—On what day of the week are they generally paid? A.—Some are paid on Monday, some are paid on Tuesday, some on Wednesday, some on Friday and some on Saturday.

Q.—What day of the week do you consider to be the best pay day? A.—Friday is the best day of the week.

Q.—For what reason? A.—Because the workman takes his money home on Friday night, and his wife can go out to make her purchase early in the day on Saturday, and as for the balance of the day if they have in contemplation enjoying a Saturday half holiday she can go out with her husband and family.

Q.—Is there much drinking among printers? A.—Not more so than in other trades.

Q.—Would there be more drinking or less if they were paid on Saturday instead of some other day? A.—It is possible. There might be more if they were paid a day or so before Saturday.

Q.—Do you consider the closing of bar-rooms on Saturday night an advantage in that respect or otherwise? A.—It would be a great advantage if the law was strictly observed.

Q.—Is it within your knowledge that the law is not strictly observed? A.—I cannot say positively in my own experience.

Q.—Are any boys indentured to printers, or do they make verbal contracts? A.—They make verbal contracts.

Q.—If a boy shows himself industrious and proves himself to be a good workman when he gets out of his time is he continued or is he turned off for some other boy? A.—If he turns out to be a good workman or a good boy it is of advantage to the employer to retain him.

Q.—If he is an average mechanic? A.—Yes.

Q.—Would there be any advantage in returning to the old apprentice system and having a system of indenture? A.—A very great advantage.

Q.—What would be that advantage? A.—The indenturing of apprentices for five years—after ascertaining that they were suitable to learning the trade.

Q.—Would the advantage be to the boy himself, to the employer, or to the trade generally? A.—To all three.

Q.—Would the boy get a general knowledge of his trade do you think? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are the hours of labor in your trade by men who work on time. A.—Fifty-four hours a week, or nine hours a day.

Q.—Is setting type fatiguing work, or light work? A.—Well, it is more arduous for some than others.

Q.—After a man works nine hours in a day will he be very much fatigued, or will he be pretty fresh? A.—He will be somewhat fatigued if he does not have an opportunity of sitting down at intervals. In some places they will not allow a stool to be used at all.

Q.—Do you think nine hours too long for a man to work without detriment to his health? A.—I could not fix an average; nine hours might be enough for some men; other men of iron constitution might be able to stand fifteen or sixteen hours. I have done that myself.

Q.—When men work by the piece do they stipulate for any number of hours? A.—There is a disadvantage between piece hands and time hands in that respect. If a piece hand has to come back at night he gets no more pay per thousand than during the day, whereas, a time hand gets twenty-five cents an hour for work overtime.

Q.—I think your answer, unintentionally, perhaps, has been somewhat misleading. A man who habitually works at night on a morning paper gets more than a man who habitually works by day? A.—Yes; I allude to men who are working on day situations.

Q.—Have there been any strikes in the printing business within your experience in Toronto? A.—No, I was absent from Toronto when the last strike took place.

Q.—You cannot speak of that strike from personal knowledge? A.—No.

Q.—Have there been any differences that have been settled after strikes between the employers and the employed? A.—Well, I do not know that there have been any differences that have occurred.

Q.—Are any means provided for arbitration between employers and employed? A.—Well, we have in the union an executive committee and a guardian committee and where it is necessary for either of these to step in, in a case of any difference between the parties, every one is called upon according to his province.

Q.—Is this for the purpose of securing what might be considered the rights of workmen, or for the purpose of trying conciliation? A.—For both; for the purpose of getting a fair settlement if possible.

Q.—What power or authority orders a strike in the printing business? A.—Only by the authority of the hands in a body.

Q.—Of the Toronto union? A.—Yes.

Q.—If the men consider themselves dissatisfied what is their first step? Suppose an employer refuses their individual request what do they do? A.—Well, of course, the employer is conversant with our situation and by-laws, and if he does anything which conflicts with what is laid down he knows that he is liable to get into a conflict with us.

Q.—And then do you report to the union? A.—Yes.

Q.—And what steps would the union take? A.—It depends on the circumstances of the case.

Q.—Would they send a committee to wait on the employer? A.—Yes.

Q.—And suppose he proceeded to extremities would a strike be ordered by open union, or could it be ordered by the officials of the union? A.—I think it would not be legal unless it was ordered by the union.

Q.—By open vote? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Would it be an ordinary vote? A.—It would be a meeting called for the purpose of discussing the difficulties.

Q.—Would it be an ordinary majority vote? A.—As far as I can recollect I think it requires more than a majority vote.

Q.—According to the constitution? A.—I have not consulted the constitution or by-laws recently.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you think printers would get as high wages or as liberal hours, if there were no union, as they get now? A.—I do not believe they would get nearly as good wages. It is the object, if I may use the word, of the agitation of a large body of men that they should get higher wages and more liberal hours.

Q.—You think organization is necessary to the protection of the printers' interests? A.—Yes; I found that in every case without organization they have obtained no increase of pay.

Q.—That is within your own experience? A.—No body of men have obtained an increase except by organization.

Q.—No increase of pay has ever been received except by men who were organized? A.—Yes, not to my recollection has there been anything else.

Q.—Are there any printing offices established by co-operation amongst the printers? A.—No, there are none here in Toronto.

Q.—Are the printers ever fined for dereliction of duty, mistakes or accident? Are they fined by the employers? A.—I do not know of any rules of that description in any office where I have been permitted to work.

Q.—Is there much Sunday work in the printing business? A.—On the morning papers I believe they work on the Sunday night.

Q.—Do they get extra pay for Sunday night work? A.—No.

Q.—Is the rate to either the men working by the piece or by the week, larger in consequence of the working on Sunday than it would be if they did not work on Sunday? Is it considered in fixing the scales of wages? A.—Of course there are some men who make \$13 to \$16 a week, working on the morning papers, but so far as money goes that is more wages than a man would receive who works fifty-four hours in the day time.

Q.—Would it be possible to get out a Monday paper without Sunday work? A.—I hardly think so; I believe the telegrams come in on Sunday.

Q.—Could not they get to work at twelve o'clock on Sunday night and get the paper out? A.—I could not say about the arrangement of the daily papers.

Q.—Do printers ever come to Toronto from other countries to any extent? A.—There have been a few—I dare say I have met about half a dozen.

Q.—Do they interfere with the workmen here by throwing them out of work or reducing the wages? A.—Some of them belonged to the Typographical Society in the old country, and they brought their cards with them and deposited them here.

Q.—Do they take away the situations of men who are already here? A.—Well, it tends that way, for we have more than we have employment for.

Q.—Do you think that many printers save money? A.—Well, I have heard of some. Of course, I did not ask whether they were dealing in real estate, but I think it indicates that they have saved money when some of them have bought their own houses, and have their own homes.

Q.—They have no difficulty in getting lots on which to build? A.—They have generally to go to the suburbs.

Q.—How far? A.—I should judge about two miles from here.

Q.—What would be the value of property there for vacant lots? A.—I could not say; some of them make very good bargains.

Q.—You do not know as to that? A.—No.

Q.—If a printer is a saving mechanic, and does not meet with misfortune, is it

within his means, do you think, to acquire his own home? A.—With very strict economy he might in the course of a few years do that with constant employment.

Q.—Do you know of some who do? A.—Yes, some who have been fortunate enough to have permanent employment for a number of years have almost now got their homes paid for.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you know of any employers who refuse to employ printers because they belong to Trades Unions? A.—I do.

Q.—Who are the parties who generally object to non-union men in the union offices? are they former union men, or young men from the country? A.—They are former union men.

Q.—Who have been expelled for some violation of the rules? A.—For misdemeanor of some kind, or other injury to fellow workmen.

Q.—To the best of your knowledge do men coming from distances object to coming into the union on conscientious scruples? A.—They find it convenient to join; if they happen to come into an office which is a union office they say that they find that there may be objections raised against them if they do not join. As these are favorably disposed towards the union, and if there are some who have not had proper instructions, of course their cases are investigated, and proper inquiries are made about them, if they do not show any indentures; and in some cases young men come into the city very highly recommended, yet who are not capable of setting up type from telegraph matter.

Q.—In those job offices where the majority of hands are boys, do they come into competition with men who employ journeymen who are paid the standard rate of wages? A.—They do very much.

Q.—Do you know if any women are competent to take the places of journeymen? Does the union object to their admission as members? A.—No, in fact I believe we have one female member now in the union.

Q.—She receives the same rate of wages as men? A.—Yes, she received it for some time before being admitted.

Q.—In competing for publishing work the employer who employs say five boys to one man can compete for work much lower than one who employs principally all men with one or two boys? A.—Most decidedly.

Q.—They find it then a hardship? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are the bosses of Toronto in favor of the apprentice system? A.—Most of them I have spoken to I believe are.

Q.—You know that the organizations have been endeavoring for sometime past to get employers to pursue that system of indenturing boys? A.—I do.

Q.—The men as a body are in favor of it? A.—They are.

Q.—You were not here last winter? A.—No, I was in Montreal.

Q.—Did the men ever receive more per thousand than now, that is 30 cents? A.—Yes, if I recollect right they received $33\frac{1}{2}$ cents on the morning papers when I lived in Toronto in 1881.

Q.—In the union shops is the work given out fairly—more fairly than in non-union shops, where the best hands and the ordinary hands are working together? A.—Very much.

Q.—The "fat" matter is distributed to the best hands as well as to the weak hands? A.—Yes, equally divided; whatever may be first on the hook is given to the first man calling for it.

Q.—Did you ever know the employers not to employ union men because they were union men? A.—My recollection is a little vague on that point, but I know that there are at least one or two offices in this city which will not knowingly employ union men.

Q.—As a general thing have you ever known men who said they would not belong to the union because they were in non-union offices, or when they were out of those offices were anxious to come into the organization? A.—That is almost universally the case.

Q.—That is a matter of expediency as regards non-union men? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know that it is a law of your local body, or any national law, that all difficulties must be settled by arbitration if possible, or that the resources of civilization, as it were, must be exercised? A.—I am not certain on that point, but, it is my feeling myself, and I think it is the feeling of the very great majority in our trade that we would like to settle everything without having to clash.

Q.—Are you aware that it is the law of your organization that a strike vote is to be carried by a three-quarter vote, and that each man voting must be in good standing for at least six months? A.—I believe that is so.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you know that it is so? A.—I have not looked at the laws or the by-laws and the constitution of our subordinate union for quite a little time, but I am not opposed to that idea.

Q.—What are the sanitary conditions of the printing offices in Toronto? A.—Some of them are wretchedly bad, and one in particular I was in to-day in which I held my nose till I got out.

Q.—Improper ventilation? A.—Yes, and for want of keeping it properly clean.

Q.—Were the water closets in bad order? A.—I do not know exactly the locality of the water closets, but I smelled a very bad smell when I was in the place.

Q.—Is this general or exceptional? A.—It is exceptional.

Q.—Where men and women are employed in the same office have they separate water closets? A.—I believe they have, but I am not certain.

Q.—Do printers generally prefer to work by the piece or to work by the week? A.—Well, of course, there are some who prefer working by the piece on plain book or newspaper work. Of course they can make more money by the piece, but job compositors are obliged to set on time.

Q.—But if it was plain composition the printers would rather work by the piece than by the week? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—In the settlement of disputes between the employers and the employed do you favor arbitration? A.—I do.

Q.—What would be the best means of appointing a court of arbitration for that purpose? A.—Well, I dare say the ordinary one which is followed in the case of strikes in other trades.

Q.—What is that? A.—Each party appoints a representative, and these two parties appoint a third.

Q.—Do you think that is the best mode? A.—Well, of course, I have never had any experience in it, but I think that could be suitable.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Have you ever thought of enforced arbitration? A.—No, I have not.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You think it would be better all around if arbitration was the rule? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—In the case of boys going in as apprentices, do you find that they are up to the standard in education? A.—They are far below it.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—In Ontario? A.—Yes; in this city.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Have you any suggestion to make with regard to it? A.—The only thing is to make a severe penalty upon the parents who are responsible for these children being taken from school at too early a day.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—A boy of sixteen years, say? A.—Well, he is not too young to learn a trade.

Q.—Do you think that some of the boys of sixteen are not competent to begin? A.—Many of them are not, because they have not been attending school to any extent. In one office I spoke to a boy; one of his comrades told me that he was no use, because he could not write; he was working in the office.

Q.—I understood you to say that the printer's hours were nine hours a day or fifty-four hours a week. You say that the basis of settlement arrived at with regard to those hours was by the way of a mutual understanding among the men themselves? A.—It was arranged between the employers and the men—that is, between the employers and the union.

Q.—It was a settlement arrived at between the union and the employers? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do employers or managers inquire about the education of apprentices when entering an office for the first time, as a usual thing? A.—No, they do not.

Q.—When there is a question about union or non-union men being employed, is it the proprietor, or the foreman, or manager who generally settles the matter? Generally does the proprietor have any say in the matter? A.—No, it is the foreman.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—With regard to the education of these boys, is it the fault of the system of education, or is it the fault of the boys themselves? A.—I think it is the fault of the parents in not compelling those boys to attend a regular day school.

Q.—You have heard of the advantages of education in this country? A.—We have great advantages; I think as great as, if not greater than, any possessed by any other country.

Q.—So that it must be the fault of the boy, or his parents or guardians? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Are you aware that there is a law compelling persons to send their children to school up to a certain age? A.—I believe that there is a law to that effect.

Q.—Knowing that to be the law, the fault is commonly the fault of the parents? A.—Yes, I believe that the parents are responsible. Some years ago when I left the Woodstock school, the examiners went to the factories and compelled the employers to dismiss all their boys under school age.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Do you think it is right for foremen or employers, no matter what the trade may be, to employ a boy that is idle, and who has not been able to read and write when he undertook to learn the trade? A.—I think it is a positive wrong. A boy cannot understand anything mechanically to that extent that a boy can who is educated, and our business as it is advancing requires better education now-a-days than it did in former years.

Q.—Is it possible for a boy to become useful in the printing trade any more than a hever of wood and a drawer of water unless he knows how to read and write?—A. Well, with very great difficulty he might, but the chances are against him.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—As a general question, what remedy would you offer for the state of things you speak of? A.—Well, in Montreal they had what was called the school police.

Q.—In Ontario they are commonly called truant officers? A.—I do not know whether we have them here, but I have seen them in Montreal in uniform.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—When was that? A.—When I was residing there last, between 1882 and 1886.

There were items respecting them in the newspapers, and I have seen policemen go hunting after these boys myself, and people with whom I am intimate have seen them.

Q.—I do not think there is a law of such a kind in Quebec? A.—That may be; but there was an officer who was paid by the school commissioners of the city. There was a recognized official under direction of the school board who had charge over the absentees that were reported to him, and he had nothing else to do but to interview parents and find out the causes of absence of those boys from school.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Some of these persons are very poor? A.—True; I have heard parents say that they could not send their children to school because they could not buy boots for them.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

It is the rule in the schools that the children must be sent well clothed, and if they do not come to school well clothed they are liable to be sent home; there are no ragged schools in Quebec.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—I understood you to say first it did not matter how perfect a woman became in the work she never got the amount of wages that a man did? A.—I gave one exception, the only one I knew of.

Q.—And she belonged to the union? A.—Yes.

Q.—How is it that that is so? Is it the opinion that they deserve to get more pay? A.—I could not tell you that.

By the SECRETARY :—

Q.—Does that apply to city or country offices or both? A.—To all offices.

Q.—What is the usual piecework price in country offices where work is done by piece? A.—It varies very much. In some offices it is fifteen cents a thousand, in others seventeen, and in some twenty, twenty-one, twenty-two, twenty-three and twenty-five.

Q.—In those offices where those figures prevail, is it customary to pay females the same as males? A.—They usually pay them smaller wages.

Q.—Do they pay them the same when both are working by the piece? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know instances of that kind? A.—Not that I recollect of.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do the printers' organizations demand equal pay for male and female labor? A.—It demands the same scale for all that are members.

Q.—Equal pay for equal work? A.—Yes.

Q.—It is not opposed to female labor getting equal pay? A.—No, if they are members of the union.

Q.—Do you remember the *Welland Telegraph*? A.—Yes.

Q.—Don't you remember that two females were setting type there by the piece? A.—Yes.

Q.—Don't you remember that they were then paid the same price as the male compositors? A.—I do not recollect now.

Q.—There were two females there, and you cannot recollect whether they were paid the same price or a different price? A.—I cannot positively remember now; I could not tell now what wages were paid in that office except to myself.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are there any obstacles thrown in the way of women joining a typographical union? A.—No; on the contrary we encourage them as much as we can.

Q.—Have there been many applications for membership? A.—No.

Q.—Do you think that that fact arises from the fact that few women are com-

petent, or that they do not want to join the union? A.—Well, I do not think that they do not want to join the union, but because they do not remain so long at the business as men.

Q.—If they get less wages than men, and if as members of the union they get the same wages, would it not be a manifest advantage to them to belong to the union? A.—Yes, of course; but they would have to show that they were competent to do the work properly.

Q.—Do you think that there are many who are competent to do the work properly? A.—In a great many cases they are inferior; they do not take the trouble.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What is the age at which they begin generally? A.—I have seen some as young as fourteen.

Q.—And when they get married they leave? A.—Yes.

Q.—That is one reason why they would not join the union I suppose? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Is it a fact that as a rule women who do go to work at the printing business consider it a temporary occupation; consider their business in life to get married and become the head of families, while the men consider it their life occupation? A.—Certainly, it is a life occupation to the men.

Q.—How is it with the woman? A.—Well, it is only a temporary occupation; it helps her to get her clothing, and perhaps she is obliged to pay for her board.

Q.—It is simply a make-shift with her? A.—Yes. Others are in better circumstances and do not have to pay anything for board.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do employers look upon it in that light? Do not they think they will get cheaper labor than by employing men? A.—Certainly, I think they do.

Q.—You know circumstances to that effect? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know of cases in this city where a young lady would be called competent to pass as an ordinary journeyman, but because she was under age she would not be indentured for a number of years so as to get her labor cheap under the scale? A.—I cannot say.

Q.—Do you know any cases in Toronto where there are ladies employed in the printing business where they are pretty smart, and when they were found out to be so the employers wanted to indenture them, and keep them longer at the business at lower wages? A.—It is not in my knowledge.

Q.—Is there a benefit society in connection with your union? A.—There is; in regard to death-benefits there is a levy on all members of the union to cover expenses of burial.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—And medical attendance? A.—Well, it amounts to one hundred dollars, and of course it is not often that the expenses of the funeral will amount to that much.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—There is a sick benefit besides? A.—Yes; there is a benefit in which each member is entitled to \$25 from that fund. The amount which makes up that fund is made up from instalments twice a year; July and January, fifty cents from each member each instalment.

Q.—Do they devote their money to any other purpose? A.—Yes, there is an insurance branch connected with the International Union, and this branch has a great many members in all subordinate unions, all over the continent.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What is the insurance for? A.—It is intended, as long as that branch lasts, to pay \$5,000 benefit at death.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Outside of the insurance regarding the sickness and death levies do you think that the monthly dues are too much, or is it a good idea besides from the benefits accruing from being union men? A.—I do not think the dues are excessive.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—If a man is sick he is only entitled to \$25 benefit in one year? A.—Yes, of course, we have a very large membership.

Q.—If a man receives no sick benefit for a series of years and then is sick in the tenth year he will only get \$25 in that year? A.—If he has been an exceptional man, in good standing, in an exceptional case they may give him more.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you mean to imply that he is entitled to \$25 by law? A.—Yes.

Q.—If it is required afterwards do you know of his getting more by special vote of the union? A.—Not while I have been residing in Toronto.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Looking at the matter of organization from your point of view do you consider that organizations of that kind are equally good for the employers as well as the workmen? A.—I believe they are.

Q.—Do you believe it is calculated to make men more honest, more interested in the employers' welfare, than if you had no union behind you? A.—Yes, because if we had no organization we would be cutting one another's throats, cutting each other out of situations.

Q.—Do you think that work is done more regularly than it would be under the former system? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think the men feel themselves, when they are in an organization of that kind, that it secures them better wages? From your experience do you think the men are of that disposition, that they feel more bound to forward the work of their employers than otherwise? A.—Yes, of course, they have to do the utmost to earn their wages; they are getting good pay and they feel that they must work pretty hard. Men will work harder for twelve dollars a week than if they only got ten.

Q.—Then as a general result of those organizations you consider that they are beneficial to the employer and to the workman? A.—I find it so in our trade.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Have you ever found instances in your union in which the heads of the concern endeavored to get inferior men's wages raised to the wages of the members of the union? A.—We cannot raise any man's wages.

Q.—I say using their influence? A.—No.

Q.—Supposing a man is getting two dollars a day, and another man is getting one dollar and a half a day; you know that some men are worth a great deal more than others; have you ever known where the two dollars a day man would use his influence to get his companion's wages raised? A.—If a man was worth the union scale he is requested to become a member, and in that way he benefits by receiving the wages prescribed in that scale.

Q.—Your union then has a scale of wages, and they would virtually dictate to the proprietor or employer? A.—Not exactly; if an employer thinks that his labor is not worth more than a dollar and a-half a day he can dismiss him.

Q.—Have you a scale for various grades? A.—I think in the first part of my evidence I stated that for fifty-four hours a week it was \$11 on time work.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—That is the minimum scale? A.—Yes.

Q.—There are men who receive more than that on account of their ability? A.—Yes, I am acquainted with a few men who are getting more than the minimum rate.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Is there any tendency on the part of the employers to weed out slow and loose-going printers? A.—Of course, when they get a large contract, and when the contract is finished they are obliged to reduce the number of men in employ, though as a rule they keep on their best men.

Q.—Then if these men work below the scale they are considered “rats”? A.—Yes.

Q.—Although they may not be really worth the minimum rate of wages prescribed by the scale? A.—Yes, if they are not worth the scale, of course they do not get it.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Did not the employers agree with the men by conference what the scale should be? A.—Usually when a man comes into a union office he asks for work, and they are pretty well acquainted with us, and know that \$11 a week is what we will expect to get.

Q.—Yes, and that scale has been fixed by mutual agreement between the union and the employers? A.—Of course, it is laid down in our scale, and if they say they will not accept it they interview us, and if no remarks are made we take it for granted that they accept it.

Q.—The scale is never altered without being submitted to the employers? A.—Of course, we discuss that in the union first and then change the scale.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Is it your opinion, generally speaking, that the cost of production has been increased by labor combinations? A.—I hardly think so; I can say with some confidence that they have not increased the cost of production.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you think that the publisher of a paper who pays 30 cents a thousand can get out his paper as cheaply as one who only pays 25 cents? A.—A man who pays 30 cents can command the best workmen; he has the choice or refusal of the best men, and therefore he gets the best men that can be obtained; whereas the men who employ those who offer at lower prices are apt to get a poor quality of labor.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you consider that the reputation of a book and job employer depends on the ability of his mechanics to keep up his reputation as a printer? A.—Certainly; I find that to be my experience around Toronto.

Q.—In your experience in Toronto you have known employers of men to have difficulty; previous to this difficulty perhaps the office was a non-union office and when the difficulty was over the office became a union office; have you known such employers to be well pleased with a union staff—much better pleased than with their former staff? A.—I do not remember any particular case.

Q.—In offices in Toronto have you had any experience of that kind? A.—Yes, I believe they have given satisfaction.

Q.—They were better satisfied with the state of affairs as a union office than when it was a non-union office? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Is that your experience or is it hearsay? A.—Well from enquiry.—

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Did you ever hear that matter discussed by the union? A.—Well, I can not say that I heard it discussed, but I have heard conversations about it in different offices.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you know of any particular case? A.—No, but I believe it to be the feeling which existed.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Has any employer or foreman told you so? A.—Well, I cannot say there has; there may have been, because I am in conversation with a great many firms and with a good many employers as well as employés every day in the week.

Q.—And do you derive these impressions from employers or from men? A.—Generally my conversations have been with foremen and workmen; I give it about as far as my oath will permit me. I should judge that some of the foremen would perhaps give another opinion; of course, we may have our opinion as workmen and the employer has perhaps an opinion of his own, and the foreman has also an opinion and it may be that he would slightly vary from the opinion of both.

The Commission then adjourned until Friday, 25th November, at 10 o'clock, a.m.

TORONTO, 25th November, 1887.

JOHN CALLOW called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What is your business? A.—I am a carpenter in Seaton Village, Toronto.

Q.—How long have you been here? A.—Eight years, since 1879.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are you connected with organized labor in this city? A.—Yes; I have gone in for it recently. When in the old country I belonged to a union. I could not, however, get admission here at first; I had to wait for some time, and I only got introduced into the brotherhood four or five weeks ago.

Q.—The brotherhood of carpenters? A.—Yes. I belonged to the general union in England before I came here.

Q.—Do you know whether the principles of the Trades Unions are opposed to capital? A.—I never knew that the principles of Trades Unionism were opposed to capital; I considered them both to run in the same channel.

Q.—Do you consider that organization among workingmen is a benefit to them? A.—I do, when rightly administered.

Q.—Do you think organization amongst workingmen is an injury to employers? A.—I do not, but that it is a very great benefit. The shop where I worked in England always had the working rules posted up, and allowed society meetings to be held in the shop. That was at the shop of Alderman Neill, of Manchester. In 1877 and 1878 there unfortunately happened to be a strike, and some time afterwards I left the country.

Q.—Does organization among workingmen have a tendency to cause strikes? A.—I never knew it, so far as my experience has gone. Of course, there are some fire-eaters among workingmen as there are among other classes, but my experience has been what I have said.

Q.—I am speaking of the organization of workingmen as a body? A.—I never knew it to be detrimental or injurious in any way.

Q.—You think that organized labor is a benefit alike to employer and employé? A.—I do, when justly administered.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of instances where disputes were settled by a conference between employers and employé? A.—I have known several disputes settled by what are called deputations or delegations of employers and men meeting together. A number of men were selected from each party and they were appointed to transact the business.

Q.—Do you know that cases of that kind have occurred in Toronto since you have been here? A.—I have not had a very great knowledge of the society since I have been here.

Q.—Since you have been in Toronto how do you find wages as compared with wages in the old country? A.—The wages in the old country when I was there were eight and a-half pence, or seventeen cents per hour.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Where? A.—In the city of Manchester.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you know what they are there now? A.—I do not. I do not know what the rates have been since I left. I left in 1879, after the great strike which lasted twelve months.

Q.—Do you think the wages in this country as good as the wages there? A.—I do not want to speak in depreciation of Canada, but I do not think they are so good here. Money has a much greater purchasing power in the old country than it has here.

Q.—A man can live for less there than here? A.—Yes. A man can get a good substantial brick cottage for six shillings per week, one having four or five rooms.

Q.—Is there anything in connection with your society such as a black list? A.—I could not speak as to that.

Q.—You have not heard of anything of the kind? A.—I do not go by anything I hear, but by what I know by my own experience.

Q.—Does your society prohibit union men from working with non-union men? A.—I cannot speak of that.

Q.—You have never known it to be done? A.—I have not examined the rules sufficiently—I do not know of it.

Q.—Does machinery much interfere with your trade? A.—That I cannot speak of. I have not made that a study. It has been very largely introduced into it, and it takes away a deal of labor.

Q.—Has it reduced the wages of the men at all? A.—I would not like to say whether it does or does not, but it dispenses with a great deal of labor.

Q.—What is the usual pay-day in your trade—is it weekly or fortnightly? A.—Every two weeks, sometimes Friday and sometimes Saturday.

Q.—No settled time? A.—It is here in Canada I am talking of.

Q.—It is here I want to know about. When do you usually get paid? A.—Sometimes on Friday, sometimes on Saturday. There is no day I have ever experienced except those two.

Q.—Would you prefer a weekly to a fortnightly payment? A.—If I could have my way I would have the pay weekly—every Friday night.

Q.—What difference would it make? A.—It would give the wife a chance to go round on Saturday and lay in provisions for the week following, and buy in the day time instead of having to take the refuse, anything that is left at night when everybody else has been supplied. Perhaps, too, she would purchase with a little more economy and get as good an article.

Q.—You think then if the men were paid every week there would be no necessity for a pass book? A.—I think it would do away with it a great deal.

Q.—It would introduce the cash system? A.—It would have a great tendency to do away with pass books, as only those who are paid monthly or fortnightly require pass books.

Q.—If the laboring man was paid once a week it would be a benefit to him in that way, and would enable him to save money? A.—I think benefit would result to the workingman. He can go to the savings bank in the old country on the Saturday, and his wife has a chance of going out and buying for the week. Thus the wheels of economy run smoothly, and the Government savings banks are always open for the reception of these savings. From my judgment and experience a man can actually save more hard cash in gold in England than he can either in Canada or the United States out of his wages. I know I have done it.

Q.—Do you know what the average earnings of carpenters are in this country—

say in Toronto? A.—From what I can learn I would place them at 23 cents an hour, sometimes 20 cents.

Q.—You do not know the average in the year? A.—I do not. I never was so lucky as to get a year's work or anything like it. The eight years I have been in Toronto I have never had the privilege of working through a winter. I am off now. I never start to do much again until April. That is about the way of it.

Q.—Is it because you cannot get work? A.—I cannot get it.

Q.—With respect to the settlement of disputes, do you favor arbitration? A.—I would favor Government interference. The Government build asylums and work-houses for people who cannot assist themselves and they make the rest of the people pay the taxes, and therefore they ought to protect workingmen. I am not wishing to speak too strongly in behalf of workingmen, but so far as I can judge he is in this country the victim every time.

Q.—You would believe in the Government compelling the settlement of dispute? A.—Yes, and that they should protect those classes that cannot protect themselves.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You are in favor of arbitration? A.—Of Government interference under whatever name it is called. They make us pay taxes, and we are entitled to their protection; but we do not get it.

Q.—What is the effect on a trade when men have been on strike at any time? A.—I do not know that it has any further effect than delaying the work and rather disturbing that branch of society.

Q.—Do you know any good results to ever come from strikes? A.—I do not think there are any—not really tangible good results.

Q.—Nothing lasting? A.—There is nothing lasting in it. A strike only compels employers to do a little more justly to the men, but it passes away like a morning cloud. And after a time they return to their evil doings and the wages of the men come down again.

Q.—Does organization tend to increase wages? A.—It may do so, but it is the shortening of hours that would increase wages in my judgment, because there is a preponderance of population, and the population increases so rapidly that there must be a reduction in the hours of labor or some other means found to employ the surplus population.

Q.—What I want to get at is this; would the wages be as good if there were no organization amongst the men? A.—I think that would largely depend on the surplus labor in the country. I do not think that organization would affect it altogether; it might have a slight effect, but the surplus population is what I think would affect it. It is supply and demand all the way through; when the supply is greater than the demand wages come down; when supply is less than the demand wages go up. To answer your question more directly I would say that organization might slightly affect it, but I do not think it does altogether.

Q.—What are your hours of labor? A.—I have been working nine hours lately all the week round.

Q.—Nine hours on Saturday? A.—Yes, because all the rest did it. I got discharged at one or two places because I would not do so. Mr. McCord's foreman discharged me at a job on Col. Sweeney's house because I would not work on Saturday afternoon.

Q.—What is the rule? A.—Nine hours a day and five hours on Saturday; but they compel you to break that rule, and if you will not you are discharged. I was discharged.

Q.—Employers compel you to break it? A.—Yes, through their foreman.

Q.—If you do not violate the rule you are discharged? A.—I was discharged. Robert Wilson is the man who was foreman at Col. Sweeney's job on Bloor street.

Q.—Do employers try to make the men break their agreement? A.—It is done through the foreman. It was the foreman who did it to me. Let me exonerate the employer; Mr. McCord had no intercourse with me but through his foreman.

Q.—There is an agreement between the employing carpenter and the journey-men's association which fixes nine hours a day? A.—Yes.

Q.—And the half day on Saturday? A.—Yes.

Q.—Was anyone discharged beside yourself? A.—No, because all the rest worked. I was the only one who objected to work. The foreman tried me three or four Saturdays and when he found I would not work I was discharged.

Q.—Do you know how the agreement between the employers and the journey-men carpenters was arrived at? A.—It would take too long to give my notion of it.

Q.—Do you know? A.—There were communications the year before and the men who were sent as a deputation made a bungle of it, and the trouble arose because the matter was not properly managed by the men who were sent as a deputation the summer previous. This I say caused all the trouble the past summer—it was because they did not do their duty.

Q.—Was an agreement signed? A.—No, not this time, but the terms were to be signed if the men would agree to them, and they would not.

Q.—The men would not agree to it?—A.—No, not from what I could learn.

Q.—How do you make out there is an agreement if one never was signed? A.—There is not a *bona fide* agreement, only what we are working on with the trade. There is no agreement, because the men would not agree to what the masters wanted. If I said there was an agreement I was in error.

Q.—Do you know what the men objected to in the proposed agreement? A.—They objected to the words "qualified workmen" so far as I can understand it. The men wanted 22½ cents to be the minimum and the masters wished to insert that it should be paid to qualified workmen only; and the men would not have that because the agreement of the year before had nothing of that in it, and the masters introduced it as a bone of contention and consequently the men would not agree to it.

Q.—The employers wanted to put in the agreement that they would pay to qualified workmen a certain rate? A.—22½ cents was the minimum.

Q.—And the men would not have it? A.—Yes.

Q.—And that was the cause of the contention? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think men not qualified for the work of the trade ought to be paid the wages?—A.—That is rather an imaginary question.

Q.—Do you think that a man who cannot work at the trade properly should be paid those wages? A.—He has no business there. I might as well go and be a blacksmith.

Q.—How would that injure the trade if qualified men only got the wages? What injury would it do to the men if those wages were only paid to men described as qualified workmen? A.—Because all men who have served seven years at the trade are in a degree qualified. They may not all be equally qualified mentally but so far as practice goes they are qualified to work at certain branches.

Q.—Have all the men in your trade served seven years? A.—Yes, in the old country. Here I do not think some of them have worked more than three months.

Q.—And they do not become qualified in three months? A.—No.

Q.—Was not that what the employers wished to distinguish? A.—I do not know. I took it in a different light altogether—that they did not want to pay the wages and they put that in the agreement to have something to stand on.

Q.—What is the practice in your trade about apprentices; how long must they have served in this country? A.—I can hardly tell you how long they do serve, I think three or five years, three years. In England they are indentured for seven years; I have the indenture of my son who served that time at the business.

Q.—Do you know how many apprentices are employed in a shop in proportion to the number of men? A.—Not in Canada; but speaking of home I think it is one to five or six men.

Q.—Is there no rate in this country? A.—Not that I am aware of.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q.—What age do the boys go if they are indentured for seven years? A.—They

go at fourteen and get out of their time at twenty-one. I may add that it is better both for the employer, the lad and his parents and also for society generally that he should serve for seven years and be properly indentured.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—How long have you to serve here before you can join the organization?
A.—I do not know. I do not think you can join here until you are a journeyman, but I am not prepared to give an answer because I have not studied the matter.

Q.—How long has an apprentice to serve at the trade here before he can become a journeyman? A.—I think about five years in Canada.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—On what ground do you contend that machinery lessens the amount of labor employed in your business? A.—It dispenses with so many men. Take a mortising machine. Such a machine run by steam power will mortise as much I suppose as fifty men in a day, or probably a hundred men. If this is the case it dispenses with the labor of so many men. At all events that is the view I take of it.

Q.—You are speaking from the workingman's point of view? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What would be the result if you abolished machinery? A.—I could not tell what the effect would be. When I was a boy there was no machinery.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Suppose machinery were abolished in Toronto, what would be the consequence in the carpentering business? A.—It would increase the number of men required to work on the rough materials.

Q.—Do you think there would be as much business done in house building and mechanical work generally? A.—It might lessen that somewhat, because probably the cost of production might be a little more.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Would it not be a great deal more? A.—That is only a matter of speculation.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—I understood you to say that the shortening of the hours would necessarily increase the wages? A.—Yes; for as a consequence it would employ the surplus population, and when that was employed and there were not men to be got wages would go up.

Q.—When you work nine hours a day are you paid by the day or by the hour?
A.—By the hour.

Q.—Then you are only paid for nine hours? A.—For nine hours.

Q.—Would you not prefer to work ten hours? A.—No, excuse me—I would rather work eight hours.

Q.—Do you think you would be better off? A.—I do think so.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—What benefit would you receive? A.—Several things I could do which I have not an opportunity to do now, and for which I have to pay out of the money I earn. I could economize if I had spare hours from work. That is if I was employed only eight hours I would have that spare time to attend to my own interests at home. I proposed to put up a little cottage, but I found it up-hill work. I have, however, succeeded.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Do you consider that your family and yourself would be in as good a position if you worked five hours as if you worked eight hours? A.—If the remuneration was in accordance.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—At the present rate per hour? A.—That would hardly be analogous—at twenty cents per hour for five hours, it would not pay; but the wages would go up correspondingly.

Q.—How do you compare your statement when you refer to the higher purchasing power of wages in England when you advocate shorter hours and increased pay. A.—We had shorter hours in the old country, in Manchester, than we have here or will have for some years to come; we worked forty-seven and a half hours several months in the winter and in the summer I think fifty-two hours. That was the Manchester rule. We had the rule pasted up in the shop. I had a book of rules when I belonged to the general union; I gave it to Thos. Moore and have never got it returned. If I had, I could have produced the evidence from the book. I think we worked fifty-two hours in summer and forty-seven and a half during the months in winter; the wages were eight and a half pence per hour and the purchasing power of money is greater in England. How that is I cannot explain, but I know it is a fact.

Q.—Suppose you had a contract for building a mechanic's house could you build that house as cheaply if you worked five hours a day and received forty cents an hour as you could if you worked ten hours a day and received thirty cents per hour. Would it not be better for the owner and yourself and the community at large to work eight hours and get twenty-five cents an hour or would it on the other hand be better for you to work ten hours and receive twenty-five cents an hour? A.—No, I cannot answer that question, but I would not want to go down to five hours. I think that is begging the question. I think eight hours was my remark, but to go to five hours would be going to an extreme point.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—You were in England when the nine-hour movement was established? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did wages fall or rise? A.—They came up.

Q.—You were here when the nine hours was established? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then the tendency of shorter hours is to increase the wages? A.—When I came here in 1879 I worked for John Hamblin, at one dollar and thirty cents a day for ten hours work. I was just fresh out from England; I was a younger man by seven or eight years than I am now, and I suppose I was a better man then than I am now.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Would the shortening of hours give young men more spare time to run out to saloons and spend money than when you were employed? A.—Some had a habit of going to saloons, but I did not go there. I may be what you may call a peculiar person, in other words a crank. But I desire to respect and honor the Sabbath and consequently I want Saturday afternoon to prepare the wood and do the chores round the house to be ready for Sabbath. All men do not do that, but I may be allowed that privilege. That is why I want Saturday afternoon; it is that this work may not encroach on the Sabbath.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—You have stated that a man can run a machine capable of doing the work of sixty men? A.—I suppose so. I take it for granted that a mortising machine run by steam power would do the work of fifty or a hundred men; and therefore of necessity it must dispense with the labor of that number of men.

Q.—I was under the impression that machinery increased the labor demand? A.—It may in some kinds of business; but it has a tendency in my view of the subject to decrease labor. That is from what I have seen.

Q.—You do not think more men are required from hands being required to run the engine, attend to the boiler and machinery? A.—I have looked at all those points

Q.—And in your opinion such a machine does away with forty-nine men out of the fifty? A.—I have looked at that point, and I will endeavor to answer all questions fairly.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You said some time ago that you had recently joined the union in Toronto? A.—Only about four or five weeks ago.

Q.—Was it because you did not agree to join the union? A.—No, it was because I could not get in. There is no branch of the general union to which I belonged when in England; there was only what is called the Amalgamated Carpenters', and I was too old to join. Consequently I was left out. In 1882, the Brotherhood was established, and I was admitted to that four, five or six weeks ago; I cannot tell the exact day.

Q.—Is it to your advantage to belong to the union? A.—I consider it an advantage, because it brings me more among the men at the meetings and makes me better known.

Q.—Can you get work more easily? A.—I think so. I consider it has a tendency to rub away the rough edges and bring me into work; besides, there is the sick and the death benefit, which I think a great deal of.

Q.—Do you get better wages as a member of the union? A.—I think I do; I am recognized as a member and get better wages.

Q.—We will take your own trade: do carpenters in England live as comfortably as carpenters in Canada, taking into consideration their houses, their food and their clothes? A.—To speak individually and from my own experience in Canada, I may say that I have been able to live comfortably here, but I am a sober man. I never cross the door of a saloon from one year's end to another; I am practically a total abstainer, and a prohibitionist at that.

Q.—Take the other carpenters with whom you were acquainted in England and compare their position with that of those of your acquaintance in Toronto: do you think they live as comfortably there as here? A.—Those of my class, respectable men, in England live quite as respectably as they do here—the abolition teetotal class I am referring to; I do not take the other class.

Q.—Are men more sober in Canada? A.—Yes, a great deal more sober; I give Canada the palm for sobriety.

Q.—What articles are cheaper in England than in Canada? A.—House rent, coal; bread is as cheap or nearly so; butchers' meat is not as cheap, groceries are cheaper; you will get good workingmen's sugar from two pence to two pence half-penny a pound.

Q.—Is not the workingman entitled to as good sugar as any other man? A.—It would be good brown granulated sugar, such as sells here for six, seven, or eight cents; you would get it there for four cents—two pence or two pence halfpenny a pound. You could get coal for six shillings or eight shillings a ton where I came from, ten shillings a superior quality.

Q.—What is it worth in London? A.—I am told about twenty shillings a ton but I have not resided there.

Q.—You have told us that you could not get work during the full year nor anything like it? A.—No.

Q.—About how many months in the year do you think you work? A.—I have worked very few months this year, because I have been doing for myself; but on the whole, I think, looking at the question carefully and summing it up, I do not think I have made an average of six months in the year since I have been in Canada.

Q.—Are other carpenters as badly off as you are? A.—I do not consider I am badly off.

Q.—D. they work a longer time than you do? A.—There are several I know who do not.

Q.—Take the average of them? A.—I do not suppose that the average carpenters of Toronto to-day average much above seven or eight months all the year round—

that is striking an average. There are a few who have friends or are connected with churches who probably make full time; but, taking a man like myself, with no friends, his chances are very slim.

Q.—Excuse me for asking the next question. Are you as active as most carpenters? A.—For my time of life I am much more so. I am nearly sixty.

Q.—Are you considered a fair average workman? A.—Yes, both at the bench and on buildings. I am perhaps just a little slow, but, on the whole, for substantial work, I can hold my own with anyone. But it must be remembered that work at home has to be solidly and well done.

Q.—You were talking about strikes, and you thought that strikes did little or no good. Now is it not a fact that, although an individual strike may prove a failure, yet in consequence of the strike wages are kept higher than they would have been without a strike? A.—Could you give me that in another way so that I may grasp the idea more correctly.

Q.—Let me put it this way: Do you suppose carpenters' wages are higher because of the effect of strikes? A.—I do not know. I will tell you what I think about it. In my experience in eight cases out of ten the employers infringe on the men's rights and privileges. That is my experience during the last seven or eight years.

Q.—If the workmen were not united, were not in unions, would not the employers infringe on their rights more? A.—I think they would, for they are a grasping lot. I am not speaking in any way improperly as to employers, but taking them as a rule they are a very grasping set of men.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Are not all people grasping? A.—There are some exceptions.

Q.—Is not everybody grasping? A.—I cannot say they are; no, I find some gentlemen very liberal in giving.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What qualifications are required of a man who joins the carpenters' union? A.—That he be a competent workman.

Q.—How do they determine that? A.—There are men who have worked with the applicant, and those men have to recommend them for initiation. If they do not know from their own experience that he is a good workman they would not recommend him. I had to get two men to vouch for me, although I have worked here seven years and am well known in the city. They are very particular.

Q.—You consider that all the men belonging to the union are qualified workmen? A.—I could hardly say that; that is putting a leading question into my mouth. But as a rule I might say that seven-eighths of them are qualified workmen.

Q.—Why then did the union object to that clause requiring employers to pay twenty-two and a half cents per hour to qualified workmen only? A.—Because they wanted the wages to be higher, and they did not want that to be a ground for restricting the rate from going up. They wanted things to be elastic, so the men could get advanced wages and not continue to be kept down. Employers would keep all the men down at that grade; I find they go as far in that direction as they can.

Q.—Did the men require the employers to pay twenty-two and a half cents per hour to men not qualified? A.—No; the society does not require that.

Q.—Then what is the object of the qualification clause? A.—Because the employers drew it up and introduced it into the agreement. It was an innovation and had no right to be there, and when the agreement was made the year before there was nothing of that kind in it. When, however, a new agreement was proposed it was introduced, and that was the cause of the late strike.

Q.—If the men work shorter hours than you do, do you think they should get higher wages? A.—We simply demanded what was right. Supply and demand will always regulate the wages. When men are difficult to be had wages will go up.

Q.—Will that increase the cost of production? A.—I do not know that it will very seriously; it might affect it a little.

Q.—Do you think that men working at high wages can produce as cheaply as men working at low wages? A.—I do not take in your question rightly, and I do not want to commit myself.

Q.—If you are working at thirty cents per hour can you turn out work cheaper than if you were receiving twenty cents per hour? A.—The goods would be a little dearer of course.

Q.—The cost of the work would be higher? A.—The cost of the work would be a little more, but the quality would be fully equal to it. The cost would be more, but the cost of other articles is more for workmen here. The cost of living is considerably in advance of what it was when I came here first.

Q.—You want the carpenters to share the benefit? A.—I want all workmen to come up in the social scale.

A.—Would not the cost of living increase? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you think that a man paid thirty cents per hour will do more work with the aid of machinery than a man who was paid fifteen cents per hour some years ago? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Let us go back a little. If unqualified workmen got into a union and were employed in a shop could not the employer discharge them and keep only qualified workmen? A.—It is in this way: they would keep the men who offered to labor the cheapest. That is the best answer I can give.

Q.—Will the union permit the cheap man to continue at work? A.—I do not think the union can always help it.

Q.—Are the men who are thoroughly skilled workmen employed more than those who are unskilled? A.—It depends on the wages. There might be a skilled workman who would work for fifteen cents and he would get the preference over a man who might be better skilled, but who wanted \$1.75 a day.

Q.—Does the union permit men to work for fifteen cents an hour? A.—I do not know that it does; I cannot speak about that. But I presume there are some working at that rate, if it were known.

Q.—I understood you to say that twenty-two and a-half cents was the minimum? A.—It is supposed to be, but there are a great many not getting that or anything like it. It is, however, supposed to be the minimum.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—That is the minimum wages of the union? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Is the machinery properly guarded against accident? A.—Not that I have seen; I have worked in factories where it was not guarded. I do not want to depreciate Canada; but I say the machinery ought to be guarded and it is not guarded.

Q.—Not guarded as well as it might be? A.—No, not as well as it ought to be.

Q.—Have you known accidents from machinery? A.—Yes, but I do not know that they were from the machinery not being properly guarded, but rather from the carelessness of the men.

Q.—Are boys and unskilled persons put to work at such machinery? A.—There are boys employed.

Q.—Small boys? A.—Boys of fifteen or sixteen, or in that neighborhood.

Q.—Have any of those boys within your knowledge been hurt? A.—Not to my knowledge, not here in Toronto. I have known it to happen in other places, but I will confine myself to Toronto.

Q.—Do you know of any sharing of profits by employers among their workmen in addition to their wages? A.—Not in Toronto.

Q.—Have you known of that in England? A.—I do not think I have.

Q.—It is not within your experience? A.—Not within my experience; but I

belonged to co-operative stores and benefited very materially from them; that is not in Toronto; I have not been connected with any of them here.

Q.—Tell the Commission about co-operative stores in England? A.—The shares were one pound shares, about five dollars, and we paid one shilling for entrance fee, and we let the dividends roll up so that our one pound share became ten or fifteen shares through the consumption of goods in the house. I purchased my goods at the store, and the dividends that resulted from those purchases were placed to my account and were allowed to roll up.

Q.—And those added to your capital? A.—Yes, to my principal as a shareholder, and I had fifteen pounds in a short time.

Q.—Did you pay for your goods the same prices as were charged at other stores? A.—As a rule, they were pretty nearly the same prices; perhaps, articles here and there were slightly dearer, but it was quite insignificant. I got a dividend every quarter.

Q.—A dividend in money or in additional capital? A.—A dividend that increased my shares; I let it go to my shares. I got two shillings or two and three pence every quarter.

Q.—But you did not draw the dividends? A.—No, I let them go to my account. I had fifteen pounds in a very short time. Those co-operative stores are a very great benefit, if they are honestly conducted and properly worked. But it is very much, as they say in the United States, each for himself and the devil take the hindmost. It is a very wrong principle to work on.

Q.—Do you not require men who understand business to conduct those stores? A.—They must be what we call financiers.

Q.—You would not take a carpenter to run a grocery? A.—No, I have however known several men leave the carpentering business and go into stores.

Q.—Is there no co-operative store in Toronto? A.—I am not connected with any.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Are there any? A.—Yes, there is one on Yonge street and there is said to be one on Queen street near Spadina Avenue; but I do not know anything connected with them.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Have rents increased since your time in Toronto? A.—I think so very decidedly. They have gone up like a balloon.

Q.—How much? A.—I could not say, because I have not been renting a house for three or four years; I have one of my own. I know they have gone up from what people tell me, two or three dollars a month.

Q.—Has your house increased in value? A.—That I cannot tell, because it has not been assessed yet. I am out on the common at Seaton village.

Q.—How far is that from the centre of Toronto? A.—Two and a half or three miles.

Q.—How do you come in to your work? A.—When I come into the city to work I have to take the street car and I can drop off where I want.

Q.—How long does it take you to come in? A.—About half an hour.

Q.—What is land worth per foot frontage where you are? A.—When I bought I paid six dollars per foot frontage. I cannot tell you what it is worth now, but I suppose it is worth more. I bought in 1885.

Q.—What is the size of your lot? A.—Fifty by a hundred and twenty-five feet.

Q.—Do many carpenters, within your knowledge, own their own houses? A.—There are about three near where I am, but one is a boss. I suppose there are something like a dozen up around there, and out of that dozen there are three, two journeymen and one a boss who own the houses they live in. I am the fourth. I can give you the names if necessary.

Q.—Do many other workingmen own their houses in that neighborhood? A.—Yes, there are a good many workmen in other branches who do, but I do not know about them.

Q.—Are workmen acquiring houses in that part of the city? A.—They have done so during the last three or four years. They are acquiring houses over in Dovercourt Village; there is quite a sprinkling of small houses there; I presume workmen own the houses, but I am not prepared to say whether it is so or not. They are houses suitable for workmen, houses with two or three rooms, little cottages. Whether a company built them on speculation or not I cannot say, but a great many workmen obtain their houses through loan societies. Those societies however often step in and squeeze the fat out of the men, but they do not squeeze me, because when I had money I have gone on with my house; when I have not I have stopped it until I earned more.

Q.—Do you know of any co-operative building society in Toronto? A.—I do not.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Does the introduction of machinery into your business increase boys' labor and do away with the labor of skilled mechanics? A.—It increases boys' labor and does away with men's labor.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—In what way? A.—Because a boy can tend a machine that will do many men's work, and his wages would not average one-third of what a man would get.

Q.—Can a boy attend an engine? A.—I know places where a boy does attend to an engine.

Q.—How many machines in an establishment could a boy attend? A.—He could attend one, probably two.

Q.—How many machines altogether could a boy run in a sash and blind factory? A.—He can attend to one machine, probably two.

Q.—Do you speak as a practical man? A.—Yes.

Q.—How do you arrive at that conclusion? A.—Because the job requires but little teaching. The machinery does the work. To make a blind for instance there is not much to be done, and the boy can easily do it with the machine. I have worked in such factories; I do not want to give any of the names, although it does not matter much to me.

Q.—Can a boy take care of the machine? A.—Yes; of course, he cannot repair them.

Q.—He cannot repair an adjusting machine when out of order? A.—I would not like to say that, but a mechanic is round for that purpose.

Q.—Can he change the knives? A.—Yes.

Q.—Boys then must be pretty smart round here? A.—I do not mean a boy seven, eight or ten years, but boys sixteen or eighteen.

Q.—What wages would a boy capable of doing that work earn? A.—Perhaps a dollar a day.

Q.—Could a boy run a stationary engine? A.—I know a boy who does run a stationary engine. I can give the name of the firm where he is employed.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Your society as a body is I believe in favor of the apprentices being indentured? A.—I could not exactly speak of that, but it is my individual preference. I know employers used to have them indentured, and I know that the great majority of the union carpenters are in favor of it.

Q.—The bosses as a body are not in favor of it? A.—No, they want to skin labor every time.

Q.—In your opinion the fact of boys not being indentured is the fault of the employers? A.—Yes.

Q.—So far as your knowledge goes, the indenture system makes a first class carpenter? A.—Yes, it is the way to turn out first class men. The present state of things leaves the bosses to do what they like, to make the most money out of the men, and certainly the bosses' profits have not been reduced.

Q.—You are under the impression that the present system has a tendency to

create botch carpenters? A.—There can be no doubt about it. Apprentices should be made to serve five or seven years.

Q.—You have had some experience in co-operative stores? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you consider that the secret of their success is to commence on a cash basis and compel the customers to pay cash for everything they get? A.—Yes, I know of nothing like cash payments.

Q.—If you were permitted to purchase goods and had an account which would stand against your stock, could a co-operative institution be carried on successfully on such basis? A.—No.

Q.—The principle of success is the payment of cash for what you get? A.—We always paid in cash, and allowed the dividend to roll up and make shares.

Q.—You think that co-operative stores conducted on the cash basis must succeed? A.—Yes, such has been my own experience, I have not offered an opinion on this question but what I can get up and defend. It is my experience I have given all the way through. I believe the people, the laboring classes, are not protected as they should be by the Government. The Government should protect us, but we are not protected. They make us pay taxes and yet do not furnish us with protection. I believe in supporting the Government of the country in which I live, but it is the duty of the Government to see that the people are protected. They will hang a man for committing a capital offence, and therefore they should protect men when they are weak and liable to go to the wall from their oppressors. I earnestly submit these few ideas to the Commission for their better thought and deliberation so that they may be able to get things into shape.

* * * Machinist.

WITNESS:—I do not wish my name to be published.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Why do you not wish your name published? A.—There is no use leaving myself open to the condemnation of my employers. Of course, I want to protect myself as much as possible, having a living to make.

By Mr. WALSH:—

I do not think it is the wish of the Commission that any one should place himself at a disadvantage.

WITNESS:—I think it is the feeling of the workingmen; they rather object to give evidence and see their names mentioned in the papers.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You are a machinist by trade? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long have you been at the business? A.—Thirty-two years.

Q.—How long have you worked in Canada? A.—Fourteen years.

Q.—In Toronto all the time? A.—I have travelled through the country from Halifax to Georgian Bay. At the latter place I was employed by a company to look after machinery and boilers.

Q.—Is your trade organized in Toronto? A.—Partly. I might say there is an organization to which I belonged for many years, the Amalgamated Society of Engineers. The head office is in London, England. There are only, I think, about sixty members here representing boiler makers, machinists, etc.

Q.—Do you find it to your advantage to belong to your trade organization? A.—So far as Canada is concerned it is of no benefit, more than as trying to elevate our circumstances. It is more of a benefit society than anything else.

Q.—Were you ever connected with a co-operative establishment? A.—No, not in this country.

Q.—Has your trade had any strikes? A.—No strikes since I came to the city, but there have been strikes before that, of course.

Q.—Is your trade one at which men can work all the year round? A.—Where I am working at the present time, it is. It is not a contract shop, but in such shops a great deal depends upon the demand.

Q.—The popularity of the firm? A.—Yes, getting work.

Q.—In your society are there any rules providing for arbitration when difficulties arise? A.—Yes, for arbitration before a strike occurs. Of course, our rules are guided by the rules made for the old country society; we are merely a branch, and the parent society is in the old country.

Q.—Taking the past five years and comparing it with the previous five years: is the purchasing power of money as great now as it was then? A.—No, I do not think so. Wages are no better to-day in our line of business than they were fourteen years ago.

Q.—I am referring to the purchasing power of a dollar. Does it go as far now as it did five years ago? A.—So far as victuals are concerned there is not much difference; but if you take house rents and so on they are dearer.

Q.—What is the percentage of increase? A.—I have only changed my house once. The first house I was in I paid no rent; I had house and water with so much wages. I have only been in one house since, and my rent has not been increased.

Q.—How long have you been in that house? A.—I guess about five years.

Q.—How are the sanitary arrangements of establishments in your trade in the city? A.—They are good enough in the shop in which I am working at the present time.

Q.—What are the average wages? A.—We have machinists working in Toronto to my knowledge for as low as \$1.50 a day; a first-class man gets \$2.25.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—What number of hours do you work? A.—Sixty hours per week.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is there a recognized scale of wages in your trade? A.—No, a man can work for what he likes.

Q.—Are the wages in your trade higher in Toronto than in the old country? A.—When I lived there we worked nine hours a day or fifty-four hours per week at the place I left; fifty-one hours per week constitutes a week's work. Taking it by the hour I was as well off at home as here. We had as much per hour as here.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Would the purchasing power of money in England be greater than in Canada? A.—We could live cheaper at home than here.

Q.—Money goes further there than here? A.—Yes, a great deal further. House rents are nothing there as compared with here, and coal was very cheap there.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Did you have a good house for less money than you can get one here? A.—At home there are more tenements; you are not isolated as you are here. The working classes, especially in Toronto, like to live more on the cottage system, while at home there will be perhaps ten or twenty tenants in one building in flats.

Q.—Do you get more accommodation for less money? A.—A workingman at home has generally a kitchen and two rooms. I would sooner live the way we do here than the way they do there; at the same time houses give more comfort there.

Q.—Take the house in which you live now: would you obtain the same accommodation and the same number of rooms in the old country for the same money?

A.—You would get a better house for the same money.

Q.—Then it is better in the Old Country than here? A.—Yes so far as rent is concerned.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Will you explain in what way it is that one dollar was better five years ago than it is now; is everything so dear? A.—I refer more to house rent.

Q.—You find living cheaper now than it was five years ago? A.—No.

Q.—Is it dearer? A.—No, I do not think there is much difference.

Q.—Is it about the same as it was ten or twelve years ago? A.—Yes, only I think butchers' meat is dearer than it was five years ago.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—In working over time, what are the wages in the Old Country and here? A.—In the Old Country we got one hour and a half for every one hour, from five o'clock to eight. If we worked till ten o'clock we were allowed half an hour for tea, which was not deducted from us, and we were allowed one penny beer money for every hour after eight o'clock. So from eight o'clock to six o'clock in the morning we got ten pence of beer money. So one night's work at home counts seventeen and a half hours, besides the beer money.

By Mr. BARTON :—

Q.—You do not get any beer money here? A.—No, you hardly get time to take a drop of beer.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Then for working all night you get double wages? A.—About double wages.

Q.—And for less time than that you get fifty per cent more? A.—Yes.

Q.—In Toronto how is it? A.—In Toronto so far as we are concerned it is this way: for from six to eight we get a time and a half, and after that a time and a half up to six o'clock in the morning, but we are not allowed half an hour for tea. We are supposed to continue at work from one o'clock dinner time to six o'clock in the morning.

Q.—In the old country you get one hundred per cent and in this country fifty per cent for over time? A.—In the Old Country overtime counted from five o'clock to six in the morning. The nine hours system being in force we had one hour more.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Then it is the same in England as here with the addition of the beer money? A.—I do not say it is the general rule throughout Great Britain, but it was in the district from which I came.

Q.—Where was that? A.—From Dundee.

Q.—Has your society any connection with the locomotive engineers? A.—No, not at all.

Q.—You say the accommodation and the condition of those tenement houses are not so good as the accommodation and condition of the house you live in Toronto? A.—You are more isolated here.

Q.—You have more room? A.—Yes, but of course you pay more for it.

Q.—If you had the same accommodation in the Old Country, the same amount of room you have here, how would it be? Why do they prefer to live in tenement houses? A.—I do not think they can get better houses.

Q.—What rate of wages did you receive in Dundee? A.—Thirty-six shillings per week.

Q.—Of fifty-one hours? A.—Yes. There was some who received twenty-eight shillings, thirty and thirty-two.

Q.—What would be about the average? A.—About twenty-eight shillings.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Have wages risen? A.—Yes, they rose after the nine hour system was introduced. When I first went to the trade as a journeyman the wages were from eighteen shillings to twenty-one shillings a week.

Q.—What caused the rise of wages? A.—They have been continuously rising.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—The average rate would be thirteen cents per hour? A.—I never calculated it. I did not work by the hour but by the week there.

Q.—What are the average wages in your trade in Toronto? A.—About one dollar and eighty-five cents per day.

Q.—That is a day of ten hours? A.—Ten hours.

Q.—Is much machinery used in your trade? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it carefully protected against accident?—A.—It is as well protected here as I have seen it at home, and the Factory Act was carried out with the utmost rigour.

Q.—Do you know of any sharing of profits over and above the wages paid to the men? A.—No.

Q.—Are you required to enter into any contract on going to work? A.—No. In some branches of the business I believe there is what is called piece work.

Q.—Are you required to enter into any agreement not to belong to the Union? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know of any blacklisting on the part of employers against objectionable men? A.—I never heard of it.

How many boys go to work at your business? A.—There is no limit with regard to them; of course there is no rule to prevent them; the employers can put on as many apprentices as they like, and there is no objection.

Q.—Do they take work from the journeymen? A.—The foreman gives them the work.

Q.—Are any journeyman thrown out of employment in consequence of boys going to work? A.—No.

Q.—Are many men in your line of business out of work in Toronto, so far as you know?—A.—Not that I am acquainted with.

Q.—Do many new men come into Toronto seeking work? A.—This last spring a good many came from the Old Country.

Q.—Are they good workmen? A.—They are average workmen. I am speaking only of those whom I came across myself.

Q.—Are the conditions of work different in Canada from the Old Country; have they to learn much after they arrive? A.—No, I do not think they learn anything in Canada. They are good enough in my business at home. A good many mechanics come to Canada with the idea that this being a new country anything will do.

Q.—As a rule how frequently are you paid in your business? A.—We are paid once a month. Take a stranger who comes into the shop on the first of the month, say December. It will be from the 14th to the 22nd of January before he can get any money. It is one of the things we have to complain about so far as the railways are concerned.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—How much will he receive at the end of the six weeks? A.—His month's pay for December; that is from fourteen to twenty-two days' pay belonging to him would still remain in the hands of the company. The men are paid from the 1st to the 30th or 31st.

Q.—Suppose a man went to work in the last week of December, when would he get any money? A.—From the fourteenth to the twenty-second January; that would depend on what railway he worked with.

Q.—He would have to work one month almost before he got the preceding month's pay? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Does that apply as a general rule? A.—Yes, to the great railway companies. Others pay weekly and fortnightly.

Q.—You mean shops belonging to railway companies? A.—Yes, they pay once a month.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—If there was a branch of your trade thoroughly organized, would it benefit the men in any respect? A.—It would greatly benefit them; it would benefit our con-

dition greatly, I think. You may recollect perhaps that a few months ago the trade organized to try and advance the condition of the members, but it collapsed for the time being. We met again last month.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Does convict labor interfere with your work? A.—Not in Canada so far as I know. I do not think any machinists are employed in the penitentiary. When the car shops at the Central Prison were running they interfered a little with us; that was some years ago.

Q.—Several years ago? A.—1873 or 1874.

Q.—Do many of the men of your acquaintance save money? A.—There have been mechanics in Toronto who have saved money, but that was thirty years ago. I do not know any mechanics with large families who have saved any money since I came here. I know I have not.

Q.—Do you know of any who own their own houses? A.—I know two or three, who were here about thirty years ago, and have not had incumbrances or families.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Do you think your chance of saving money would be better if you were paid twice a month? A.—Yes; I think working men would be from seven to ten per cent better off than at present with monthly wages. I know that from practical experience

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—What do you think is the best day on which to pay, if the men were to be paid weekly? A.—As far as regards Toronto, I think Friday would be the best day, because it would give the wives a chance to go to market on Saturday.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—They would save money by having the cash with which to go to market on Saturday? A.—It would keep them out of the credit system, which is so injurious to workingmen. At the present time if a man is a little extravagant with his pay when he gets it, it is a long time before he gets relief.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Does immigration affect your trade? A.—There are always immigrants arriving, but many of them stop only two or three months; they are birds of passage and remove somewhere else.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Do you find the mechanics in this country able to compete in speed and workmanship with foreign labor? A.—I think the mechanics in Canada are as good as any mechanics I ever came across; I think they are able to take their own part anywhere.

Q.—In case of strikes: have you any particular ideas as to how disputes might be arranged so as to prevent strikes taking place? A.—I think a system of arbitration would be better.

Q.—Arbitration by whom? A.—By some independent parties.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Or by a court for that purpose? A.—By disinterested parties. I think that would be a fair thing. I do not think that employers and employed could have a better plan than arbitration by disinterested parties.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Would you prefer enforced arbitration rather than none? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think if the Government were to appoint a Court of Arbitration it would meet the requirements of the case? A.—I think it would be better than the present state of things, because I do not believe in strikes, neither do I believe in lock-outs.

Q.—Strikes as a rule do not produce much benefit? A.—I never saw any use in them except the nine-hours strike in Newcastle. It did good in regard to getting the nine hours but it did harm otherwise.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—As a general rule, who come out worst, workingmen or employers? A.—I think employers are always better prepared for strikes than are workingmen. The workingmen also are the greatest sufferers.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you think workmen ought not to strike unless they are sure of success? A.—They should not strike unless they see they will get their money back, because they are not prepared to strike.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—You say there is no limit to the employment of boys in your business? A.—There is no rule for a certain number of boys to so many journeymen. Employers can put on all the boys they like, and if they like they can endeavour to work their shops with nothing but boys.

Q.—Do they take care to instruct the boys, or have they to pick up knowledge where they can get it? A.—They take care to instruct the boys, of course. If they have any intelligence the foreman or even the men will see that they get justice.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—At what age are boys generally taken into your trade? A.—They are generally from sixteen to eighteen.

Q.—When they are taken in are they, so far as you know, up to the average in education? A.—They seem to be pretty intelligent. I am only speaking of what I know.

Q.—They can read and write? A.—There might be some who can neither read nor write for all I know, but the boys I come across seem to be pretty intelligent.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—As general thing does the foreman take pain to teach those boys? A.—They are generally put under the guidance of a leading hand who has charge of the work—of the machine that is being built. He has boys under him.

Q.—In some shops are not boys taught one particular branch and become very good at the work in a very short time; in this way do they not become skilled workmen at one branch and find it difficult on leaving the shop to get another situation, in fact are no use? Have you not seen men who were good workmen at one particular branch be, outside of that branch, no better than ordinary laborers? A.—That is a system which prevails where a shop is run upon a certain class of machinery, which pays the employer better than any other way. Even a journeyman going into such a shop will be at the same job all the time for he gets perfect at that kind of work and it pays the employer better to have him kept at it.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—That is your experience? A.—Yes.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—It was boys I was talking about. If they train the boys in that way will it be of much advantage? A.—No; but I do not think they can do so much here in that way as in the old Country, except in an agricultural shop. If you take a contract shop where engines and general machinery are built there is abundant variety; but in an agricultural machine factory the same work is done continuously and it pays the employer to keep the boys at one class of work, but as a result they grow up to be of no use at any other work.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you think if boys were indentured they would become better mechanics

than if not indentured? A.—I think not, because when they are indentured they suppose they cannot be discharged.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is that the only reason? A.—Yes, the only reason. They get careless.

Q.—Are they indentured in the Old Country to your trade? A.—In some cases they are; in others there are verbal agreements.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Were you indentured when you went to learn the trade? A.—Yes.

Q.—You get, I think, a little more than the average pay? A.—I have got a little more where I am working at the present time, but if I were going to a strange shop I guess I would be brought to the same rate as the rest of them.

Q.—Did you get more than the average pay in the Old Country? A.—Yes; but I had a better position at that time.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you any protection for your wages in your business—anything that will secure the payment of your wages in case of the failure of the employer? A.—There is the lien law; that is the only thing the workingman has to protect him.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Do you know any disability under which you are laboring as a mechanic? Do you know of anything that would better your condition? A.—Yes, more money would.

Q.—You must understand that in this country as well as the Old Country a man must earn his money before he gets it. An honest man would not ask for too much? A.—I consider our trade is underpaid, because it requires a great amount of skill in the different branches.

Q.—Do you know anything by which your condition could be bettered? A.—No, I cannot say that I do.

Q.—Then you do not consider you are laboring under any disability here with respect to the prosecution of your trade, that is considering the customs of the country and the general wages given? A.—The only thing that would benefit our trade would be for an organization to try and better our condition financially. I think we are underpaid for the skill required in our trade as compared with what other grades are paid for like skill. There is more skill required in our trade than in the building business, and yet we are not so well paid.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You work longer hours? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Your employment is all the year round? A.—In contract shops I cannot say so.

Q.—Generally speaking, it is so with machinists? A.—Of course we have not the weather to contend with as has the building trade.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—You spoke of the association to which you belonged and said that it was a benefit? A.—I said it was more a benefit society here than anything else.

Q.—Is there not a benefit society attached to the railway? A.—There is what is called a sick benefit society.

Q.—Is that all? A.—Yes. The railway has a sick benefit society and the Grand Trunk has an insurance society with it. There is also an accident society, but it is just the same as insuring in any office.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—In case of accident in your shop do your employers give you anything? A.—No. All you can get is so much per week from the sick society.

Q.—Also a benefit from the Amalgamated Society? A.—Only for those who are members of the Amalgamated Society.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Then the only remedy is to pay you weekly or fortnightly instead of monthly? A.—That would be a great advantage.

Q.—The other matter is regulated by supply and demand? A.—Yes, our rates of wages.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Would you consider it advisable to reduce the hours of labor, at the same time of course lessening the pay? A.—I would go in for short hours all the time. I believe shortening the hours of labor increases the pay.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Would you go for shorter hours and less pay? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—You would be prepared to do that from the start? A.—Yes, for a time it would be a loss to the men, but extra men would be required and there would be more work to do for each. Instead of nine men being required in a certain shop ten would be needed, and employment would thus be given to an additional man. The law of demand would bring up the wages and the men would get more money.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Some witnesses have said that mechanics can do as much in nine hours as in ten; what is your opinion? A.—I don't think so.

Q.—You do not believe that a man can do as much in nine hours as in ten? A.—No.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you not perform as much work in nine hours with the aid of machinery as you formerly did in ten? A.—A great deal more.

Q.—Should not the men have benefited from the machinery as well as the employers? A.—They should. Machinery has however been more serviceable to the employers than to the men.

Q.—Suppose a man was receiving twenty-five per cent more wages with machinery than he was when there was no machinery would it cost more to produce an article? A.—It would not.

Q.—So if your hours were shortened and the wages increased it would not make any difference in the cost of production? A.—Not if the men got as much for their contracts.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you know anything about the Factory Act in force in Ontario? A.—I have read it.

Q.—Do you think it is a good Act? A.—I do not think it goes far enough.

Q.—Please state why? A.—It is about eighteen months since I read it and I cannot enter into details. I have seen the Factory Act of the Old Country, and there were provisions which I thought might have been introduced into the Act here, such as those respecting the employment of women and children. I am not certain, but I think it is not as stringent here as at home.

Q.—Does the Factory Act of the Old Country say anything as to how long a child shall attend school until he has attained a certain age? A.—I do not know anything about the New Factory Act. The one in existence when I lived there provided that no child should go to work under thirteen years—that was to work full hours. There were children employed, half-timers, in factories. Those half-timers worked five hours and the employer was compelled to send them to school for education the other half of the day. Boys under eighteen were not allowed to work any longer than the legalized hours.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Was an employer liable to be punished if he employed children under thirteen at full time? A.—Every child had to pass the doctor. A medical man paid by the Government came to the works once a month, and the children taken on during the month had to pass his examination. He questioned them as to their age, their father's name and so on. If he was satisfied he let them go on with their work, and that covered the responsibility of the employer.

Q.—But it was necessary for an employer to have a doctor's certificate before he could take on a child to work? A.—No.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—The Ontario Act provides that no child shall go to work under twelve years of age? A.—I think that is too young.

Q.—You do not think that is a proper age? A.—That is a question for a medical man.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Speaking as a father what do you say? A.—I think fifteen years is young enough. During the two years from thirteen to fifteen children take in more education than at other times.

Q.—You would not want to take children from school earlier? A.—No.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—At what age would you send a girl? A.—I think that is young enough. A great deal depends upon the nature of the employment to which you send her.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—And a great deal depends upon the constitution of the girl? A.—Of course

TORONTO, November 26th, 1887.

ARCHIBALD BLUE, called and sworn :—

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What position do you occupy? A.—I am Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture of the Province of Ontario and secretary of the Bureau of Industry.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Can you state what are the laws of the Province of Ontario regarding sanitary arrangements in factories and workshops; can you give the Commission a general outline of such laws? A.—I could not undertake to give such an outline.

Q.—That matter does not come within your department? A.—No it comes more particularly within the province of Dr Bryce, secretary of the Board of Health.

Q.—Nor do you know anything I suppose personally about the laws respecting the protection of machinery in Toronto? A.—I only know it generally from reading the statutes. I could not undertake to give any summary of the statutes regarding it.

Q.—Have you any special knowledge respecting the lien laws in Ontario? A.—No, I have no special knowledge.

Q.—Or as respects the garnisheeing of wages? A.—No.

Q.—Is it within your knowledge that there has been any sharing of profits by manufacturers or employers of labor among their employes over and above the wages given? A.—Two or three cases I think have been reported to me; it is not general.

Q.—Some cases you know of? A.—Yes, I cannot recall the particulars of them now; but I remember two or three cases were reported to me.

Q.—Were the employes given a percentage or were they simply given a gratuity at the end of the year? A.—I understood it to be a percentage of the net profits of the business at the end of the year.

Q.—Have you any knowledge whether the manufacturers were satisfied that

they secured better service from their workmen? A.—Yes, I remember one of the manufacturers informing me that it gave very good satisfaction to him. He thought they had got better services from their employees under that system than ever before.

Q.—That is very gratifying; he would be encouraged to continue the plan? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any facts in connection with that matter which you can furnish the Commission further than you have already given—any facts that would be of general interest or advantage? A.—I think I have no definite facts; none I could state from memory. I may have a record of some in my office.

Q.—Are they stated in any of your reports? A.—I am not sure. If so, they are in the report of this year.

Q.—Will you please take this copy of your report and point them out? A.—I do not find any reference just now, but I will look the matter up and if I come across any information on the point I will furnish it.

Q.—You have had a good deal of experience during a number of years in collecting labor statistics in Ontario? A.—Since 1883.

Q.—Is the tendency of the rates of wages to rise, or fall, or remain stationary, do you think? A.—I could answer that more accurately if I looked at my report. My recollection is that there is not much difference.

Q.—Suppose the question is confined at present to men engaged in manufacturing, leaving the agricultural laborers out of the question for the time being? A.—You will find the figures at page 26 of the report. Blacksmith: average wages in 1884, \$428.32; 1885, \$418.42; 1886, \$432.08. Carpenter: 1884, \$409.34; 1885, \$424.01; 1886, \$406.72. Machinist: 1884, \$417.22; 1885, \$452.97; 1886, \$463.72. Moulders: 1884, \$434.92; 1885, \$473.51; 1886, \$493.91. Painters: 1884, \$399.36; 1885, \$410.31; 1886, \$381.22. The average of the five trades in 1884 was \$416.89; 1885, \$436.03; 1886, \$434.70. We could go into the details of the various trades by taking the reports of the several years. I give these as the principal trades of the country.

Q.—And the number of reports was such as to justify you in considering this a fair average. A.—Yes, we got larger returns from those trades than from the others. We obtained I consider a sufficient number in nearly all the trades to make up a fair average; not from the whole province, but the principal centres of industries.

Q.—What is your method of obtaining the returns? A.—We employ in the several towns mentioned men who have been recommended to us as being well qualified to collect such information as is required—men who possess the confidence of the working class. In most cases they were recommended by the trade and labor organizations. We found it would be difficult, if not impossible, to secure the information we wanted from working men by employing persons who were not themselves working men.

Q.—And your reports come invariably from working men, not from employers? A.—No; a large number of the reports come from employers; you will see that only from about 2,600 to 2,800 reports came from workmen themselves. In this report they are all from workmen; but there is another report which is compiled from returns we collect from employers of labor for two weeks of the year.

Q.—Two selected weeks? A.—Yes, two selected weeks; the last week of April and the last week of October. At table 3, page 87 you will find a comparative table for four years.

Q.—That table on page 87 is compiled from returns made by employers? A.—No, by employers and employés; it is an average table compiled from those. From the employers we get the information by sending out one of the clerks of the Bureau who personally canvasses them, and he obtains the wages of each of their employés for the week from the pay sheet.

Q.—Does the table on page 26, through which you have gone, give the actual wages earned or does it give the average wages which would be earned in the case of a man who worked on every legal day? A.—No, the actual wages earned as the amounts were given to us. I could give you copies of the schedules we use, if they would be of any use.

Q.—Have you made any investigation looking to a study of the proportion of the value created by labor, which goes to labor and which goes to capital? A.—I have, but from inadequate data—from the data of the census chiefly. Of course it is easy to ascertain the proportion going to labor; it is difficult to ascertain the net profit going to the Manufacturer.

Q.—If your investigations have only been a study upon the census returns, I suppose they are equally available to us? A.—Yes. There is a paper on the subject in my report.

Q.—Is it within your knowledge from the investigations you have made in the course of your occupation that manufacturers have grown quickly or enormously wealthy? A.—It would be difficult to answer that question from my investigations. I have known manufacturers to have grown, perhaps not quickly wealthy, but comparatively enormously wealthy in this country within the lifetime of a man.

Q.—Do you think that is the rule or the exception with manufacturers? A.—I am afraid I could not answer the question.

Q.—Have you any data which would enable you to say whether the proportion of manufacturers who fail utterly is greater than those who grow greatly wealthy? A.—No, I have not.

Q.—Have you any data which would enable you to form an opinion as to whether the profit received from manufacturing is greatly in excess of the interest on the money invested taking the whole field. A.—My impression is that it is greater; but I only base that opinion on the data of the census. That is assuming ordinary economy in living on the part of the manufacturer and ordinary economy in management.

Q.—As to the actual results to manufacturers who invest money in manufacturing, allowing for absolute loss—deducting that on the one hand and the wealth accruing to the successful man on the other—do you think they do earn more than ordinary interest on the money invested? A.—I think so; they ought to do so at all events. I believe there are manufacturers whose cost of living can scarcely be less than five thousand dollars a year, comparing their cost of living with my own cost of living, which is very moderate.

Q.—On the other hand there are some who fail altogether? A.—A few not many fail; some of them are able to retire on a large competence. I believe I have read somewhere of one who was able to retire and purchase a large estate in the old country.

Q.—Where the manufacturers make considerable money, large fortunes, is it the result of ordinary prudence, business ability and attention to business, or is it the result of extraordinary ability? A.—Well, it is hard to draw the line between ordinary and extraordinary abilities. There are men who have been very successful as manufacturers whom I would not regard as possessed of extraordinary abilities outside of their particular line, and perhaps I would be better able to form an opinion of them out of their line of business rather than in it. Speaking of their mental capacity; I may say that I have known manufacturers very successful, who possessed as I thought only ordinary mental capacity; still they might have possessed extraordinary capacity for their own work.

Q.—Do you know of any case in which employers require their workmen to sign an ironclad contract? A.—I do not know of any such case.

Q.—For example, a contract binding them not to belong to a labor union? A.—I have heard of such cases, but I cannot speak definitely in regard to them.

Q.—Do you know of any case in which employers have black lists of objectionable men whom they will not employ? A.—No, I do not.

Q.—In Ontario are men quite free so far as the law is concerned to belong to labor organization? A.—I think they are; I think there is nothing in the law against them.

Q.—There is no law making labor union a conspiracy? A.—No, I think not.

Q.—Is there any Masters and Servants Act in Ontario which places working

people at a disadvantage in the selling of their labor? A.—Not that I know of. We have a summary of all the laws affecting labor in this Province embodied in my report.

Q.—What is the law in Ontario respecting child labor; at what age are children permitted to work in factories? A.—I cannot speak as to that; I know the Factory Act provides as to that matter.

Q.—You cannot at the moment say what the age is? A.—I find it at page 62 of my report, which says that a boy under twelve years or a girl under fourteen cannot be employed in a factory. But by the amendment made last session such children may be employed in July, August and September preparing fruit in canning factories, provided it is done in a room separate from the canning or cooking.

Q.—May a boy be employed all the year round in a factory after he is twelve years of age? A.—Yes, I think so.

Q.—Are many children, say under fifteen, between twelve and fifteen, employed in factories? A.—Not in very large numbers.

Q.—In what factories would they be engaged? A.—I think in cotton factories chiefly. I have heard of children being employed in cotton factories of such age. In fact a case was reported to me two or three years ago of a child eight years of age being employed in a cotton factory, and earning ninety-two dollars in the course of a year.

Q.—But the employment of that boy was illegal? A.—It would be now; it was not then. It was not reported to me as a subject for complaint, but rather in a boastful way.

Q.—Are these young children employed in cotton factories engaged at close, continuous labor, or are they at light work? A.—I cannot say positively as to that, but I think some of them are employed constantly, that is the full working hours of a day. I can only speak as to this matter from what I have been informed; I have no personal knowledge in regard to it.

Q.—Do you know of many girls of tender age being engaged in sewing? A.—No, not to my personal knowledge. There are many girls employed in what are called the sweat shops.

Q.—These sweat shops, I believe, are shops where tailoring work is done? A.—Yes, where they make ready-made clothing for the wholesale establishments.

Q.—Have you investigated that matter at all or are you speaking from general information? A.—I have not investigated it myself; it was investigated by one of my collectors.

Q.—Can you furnish the Commission with any further information on that matter after your return to your office? A.—I am not sure. I will furnish the Commission with copies of my report.

Q.—Then it is in some of your reports? A.—It may have been in my report for 1884; if so, it is out of print. I have only a single copy. It is however in the Journals of the House I can give you the name of the collector—D. A. Gibson of Hamilton.

Q.—Do you know whether any young girls are employed in working sewing machines? A.—No, I do not.

Q.—Have you made any investigation as to the hours of labor, the difficulties of the employment and so on of shop girls, female clerks, in stores? A.—I undertook to make a special enquiry into that subject last year. I employed a young lady to do the work, supposing she could get the information better than anyone else. She was at work I think two or three days and then gave it up in despair. She found there was very great reluctance on the part of the girls and female clerks to give that information, that they feared their employers.

Q.—Information so collected is confidential? A.—Yes, it is confidential to us; but although we gave them every assurance that it would be confidential there were many who refused to give it at all fearing it might leak out in some way.

Q.—Do you think there is substantial grounds for fear on their part that they would suffer for it if they tell the whole truth? A.—I suppose they speak from experience; I do not know.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Then there is the dread of being thought badly of by their fellow employes?
A.—Yes. It was more particularly in the shops in the retail trade. There are a considerable number of female clerks employed in the retail shops of the city. I have heard privately complaints on the part of some of them.

Q.—Is your knowledge such that your testimony on the point would be really valuable? A.—I should not like to offer it. I may say that the hours employed are pretty long.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—About what are the hours in dry goods shops? A.—I cannot say positively.

Q.—Have you any knowledge as to whether the girls are permitted to sit during the day or must they keep standing? A.—They are on their feet most of the time. I have heard complaints on the part of some of them that if they are one minute or two or three minutes late they are docked from their pay perhaps a day or perhaps half a day.

Q.—At certain times, of course the clerks are rather poorly in health; do you think they have any favor shown them at such times? A.—I think not, but I have not made particular enquiry. Complaints have been made with respect to the ventilation of the work shops.

Q.—Have you any knowledge respecting the employers' liability in case of accident to their employes through defective protection of machinery? A.—No, I have no particular knowledge on that subject.

Q.—What is the law of Ontario as to liability in case of accidents to employes from machinery. A.—You will find a reference to the law on page 62 of my report: "Dangerous parts of machinery and dangerous places shall be securely guarded; machinery will not be cleaned while in motion; if the inspector so directs, all hatches, hoists and elevators shall be made with catches, so as to be safe from accident." Then, again, there is the Workmen's Compensation Act of Ontario, 1886.

Q.—Have you any knowledge as to whether machinery generally is sufficiently protected, or if there is neglect in that respect? A.—There are cases of negligence; but generally it is stated that the machinery is protected, and that when accidents occur they are usually the result of carelessness on the part of the employes themselves. It is said that in many cases green hands are taken to run the machines—young men from the country who are fairly intelligent and clever and who with a little experience know how to run a machine, especially in agricultural implement work. Accidents sometimes happen to those men.

Q.—Are very young boys frequently put to run machines? A.—I would not say frequently; they are sometimes.

Q.—And other persons who lack the necessary knowledge of machines to avoid accident? A.—Yes, as I am informed.

Q.—Are the accidents of the nature of which you have spoken very frequent?
A.—No.

Q.—Are the working people through Ontario, so far as you know, generally paid in cash or partly in truck? A.—Generally in cash.

Q.—Does the truck system prevail at all? A.—To a very small extent.

Q.—Is it considered a disadvantage to a workman to get his pay in kind or in truck? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the law in Ontario as to persons engaged abroad to work in this Province? A.—At page 61 of my report I find the following: "This Act (the Ontario Act of 1886) declares that contracts made with workmen in foreign countries for work to be done in Ontario shall be null and void as against the workmen brought into the country. Such contracts therefore may be enforced by the workmen against the employers, but not by the employers against the workmen."

Q.—Do you possess any general information extending over the Province in regard to the rents paid by working people? A.—Yes, we have information on that subject. It is contained in the tables of my report, page 24.

Q.—I see it is there stated that the year's rental in 1885 was \$74.41; 1886, \$71.52. From how many returns was that table prepared? A.—I cannot state just now, but my impression is that it was prepared from nearly 1,000. I may say that for 1886 we had the returns from a larger number of small towns than in 1885, which may possibly account for the lower rate of rents.

Q.—The rent being lower in small towns than in large towns? A.—Yes.

Q.—Not that there is any reduction in the rate of rent in any particular town? A.—No.

Q.—In Toronto, what is the tendency of rents? A.—I could tell you that by comparing successive years. I do not think there is much change in the average rate of rent in Toronto.

Q.—Are you in a position to say about what proportion of an average workingman's wages goes for rent? A.—About one-fifth. You will find in another table the average earnings. There is a summary on page 23; the details will be found at Table 4 on page 92; that, however, gives the earnings and cost of living only, not the details of rent and fuel.

Q.—Do many working people throughout Ontario own the houses in which they live? A.—Not a very large number. I think I have given in my report the proportion. Following the table on page 24 you will observe it says: "The table also gives a classification of workers who made returns, showing that 340 are owners of the dwellings they occupy, 1,130 are tenants, and 1,014 are boarders.

Q.—Then one-third of those who keep house own their houses? A.—Yes. The statement you will notice refers to facts not contained in the tables but which we work out from detailed returns. We have not in any instance published the statistics in detail, but largely in abstract form.

Q.—A great deal of the information, in fact almost all the information may be confidential? A.—Yes, it is all confidential as regards the individual.

Q.—What are the usual periods of payment of wages throughout Ontario? A.—Generally once a week, in a number of cases once in two weeks, and in a few cases once a month.

Q.—What is the most advantageous period for the workmen to get paid? A.—There is a general consensus of opinion amongst them that once a week is the best time.

Q.—If paid less frequently the workman is it a disadvantage? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it a particular class or particular classes of employers who pay less frequently than once a week? A.—The cotton works pay generally, I believe, once a month.

Q.—Do all of them? A.—I cannot say as to all of them.

Q.—If a workingman is paid less frequently than once a week, is there a tendency to obtain supplies on credit? A.—Yes.

Q.—And if he buys his household supplies on credit, does he pay more for them than he would do if he paid cash? It is rational to suppose that he would.

Q.—Have you any special knowledge respecting the apprentice system in Ontario? A.—No.

Q.—You do not know to what extent boys are apprenticed or are employed at trades without being apprenticed? A.—No, I cannot speak definitely.

Q.—You have no statistics in regard to that matter? A.—No. I tried to get that information but I could not; it was very difficult to collect.

Q.—What would be the average hours of labor in mechanical trades? A.—It will be found on page 23 and 24.

Q.—Read the summary if you please? A.—In 1884, 59.10 hours. 1885, 58.85. 1886, 58.13.

Q.—Is that reduction in the hours of labor an actual reduction, or is it caused by any difference in the returns? A.—I think it is actual reduction. Many of the reports gave fewer hours of labor last year, owing to the adoption of a short hour system in a number of the trades.

Q.—There is a tendency towards shorter hours? A.—In some of the trades; in fact, some of the trades have adopted the shorter hours.

Q.—Do you know whether the employers of labor favor short hours or long hours? A.—Some favor short hours; the majority favor long hours.

Q.—Where an employer has a factory and machinery and steam power going would his expenses be reduced in proportion as the hours of labor were reduced? A.—Well, that would depend on whether his machinery is working the whole year or not. If his factory is idle for any portion of the time, owing to a surplus of the products, it would be an advantage I should think to work the shorter hours, so that the machinery might be kept in operation the whole year. Machinery deteriorates by lying idle.

Q.—It would be better to work the same number of hours stretching over a greater number of days than to work the same number of hours condensed into fewer days? A.—Yes. It would be better to work nine hours a day extending over the whole year than ten hours a day extending over a proportionate number of days.

Q.—Where a factory is worked the whole year the shorter the hours of labor the greater the comparative expense of running the machinery and factory? A.—Yes; of course that is true within limits. If you employ men very many hours they are apt to become weary and careless and accidents are liable to occur.

Q.—If a man is physically over-worked his productive ability is decreased? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever made any study which would lead you to form an opinion as to the number of hours at which a workman could do his most effective work? A.—No, I cannot say that I have. I have observed this matter in regard to my own clerks. We have short hours, but the work is hard and wearing, and I find that late in the afternoon they are much more liable to commit errors than they are earlier in the day when they are fresh.

Q.—They will do less work when they become fatigued and also poorer work? A.—Yes, and they are much more liable to commit errors.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—I suppose that refers to your clerks employed on statistics? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—The same rules would govern all work requiring skill and attention? A.—Yes, all work that is a strain on the mind.

Q.—Of course as machinery is introduced productive power is increased? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you able to form any opinion as to the percentage of increase in the productive power of labor within the last five or ten years in consequence of the introduction of machinery? A.—No. We can reach a conclusion more or less definite from the census of 1871, and of 1881. I think I have worked that out in one of the papers in my report.

Q.—That will be a very complicated calculation? A.—Yes, and one in which I would not put much confidence.

Q.—It cannot be more than approximate? A.—Certainly. At page 46 in my report you will find the following:—"The average rate of wages appears to have increased in the decade about five and one-third per cent, being \$13.15 per annum for each employé; while in efficiency of labor, as shown by comparison of the net products per hand, there was an apparent decrease of a little more than the half of one per cent., or \$3.23 per hand. But in reality what appears to be a decrease in the net product of labor was due to the high cost of raw materials relative to the value of the manufactured article—the increase in one case being at the rate of 40 per cent., and in the other of only 37.73 per cent. Had the value of the product increased at the same rate as the cost of the raw material the net product per hand would have been \$586.92 instead of \$564.96, and the difference between those figures may be taken as indicating approximately the increased efficiency of implements, processes and skilled labor during the decade."

Q.—Was that increased cost of the raw product an actual one or an increase relative to the selling price? A.—It appears to have been an actual increase.

Q.—Take cotton; is the price of a pound of cotton greater than it was ten years ago? A.—It is not now. I took all the industries. Of course there are some in which the cost of the raw product is less and some in which it is greater. That is a calculation of the aggregate of all the industries.

Q.—Has the selling price of manufactured goods been increased or decreased, or remained stationary? A.—I cannot say as to that.

Q.—Take the actual cost of labor, including all the items of cost within the means of the average laboring man, will one dollar go as far as it did five or ten years ago? In other words, what is the purchasing power of money to-day compared with its purchasing power a few years ago? A.—I have not enquired into that subject.

Q.—You are not in a position to answer that question? A.—Not off-hand, at all events. I could answer it by going into the calculation, I suppose.

Q.—You have made no study or obtained special information as to that? A.—No.

Q.—Have you made any study as to the rates of wages in Canada as compared with Great Britain? A.—The only study I have made has been in regard to a comparison between our rate and the quotations given in a Massachusetts report.

Q.—Have you tabulated the result? A.—No; I have simply made the comparison.

Q.—Are you able to tell us what is the difference of wages in Ontario and in Massachusetts? A.—The wages are lower here than in Massachusetts.

Q.—That is, taking all the trade through and all the Province through and comparing it with the whole State of Massachusetts? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does that arise from an actual difference, or from the difference in the manufactures carried on? A.—I think it is an actual difference in the same manufactures. I think the rate of wages here is a little lower than in Massachusetts; the cost of living here is lower also.

Q.—Can you put those differences in percentages? A.—I can do it, but not off-hand.

Q.—Would it be such as you would commit yourself to? A.—It would be easy enough to make the comparison.

Q.—Have you done so? A.—No. You have the Massachusetts report here, I see.

Q.—What systems, if any, are common in Ontario respecting the settlement of disputes between employers and employes? A.—There is a provision in the Statute for arbitration, but it has been very rarely acted on.

Q.—Is that because the law is imperfect or because the settlements are more easy outside of the law? A.—I am not sure it is either. When employers and employes quarrel, it seems to be very difficult to get them together at all.

Q.—When they differ respecting rates of wages, do you think there is more hard feeling and difference of opinion than there is between a man engaged in selling a piece of property to another, or anything of that sort? A.—There is rarely any feeling between men engaged in the purchase and sale of a piece of property. There is almost always a feeling, and sometimes a very intense feeling, between employes and employer in the event of a dispute.

Q.—The man who sells you his labor does not entertain the same feeling as a man does who sells a piece of property to another? A.—Not in the case of a strike or lock-out.

Q.—There is generally intense feeling? A.—There is sometimes intense feeling.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Would the Ontario Statute cover the point of wages in a dispute? A.—I think it would.

Q.—Does it not expressly exclude it? A.—I cannot speak positively.

Q.—Is not that where the Act is weak? A.—There have been complaints with regard to that. At page 60 of the report it says: "The Trades Arbitration Act in

“ the Revised Statutes of 1877 has never been extensively acted upon, but it might be found a very useful Act to masters and workmen by enabling them to avoid the expense and delay of the ordinary courts. It provides a machinery by which a number of masters and workmen may form themselves into a Board of Arbitration to decide any questions as to their contracts on which they may from time to time disagree.” There is a reference also to this matter in the report made by Mr O'Donoghue.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—There is no enforced arbitration? A.—No, it is voluntary.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are arbitrations between employers and employed frequent when differences of opinion occur? A.—Not frequent; there have been cases of arbitration.

Q.—Are any means provided for what we will call conciliation as distinct from arbitration in the settlement of disputes? A.—No, I think not.

Q.—Are strikes frequent in Ontario? A.—No, they are not frequent, relatively to other countries.

Q.—How many strikes have you known in Toronto within your residence in this city? A.—There have been a number of strikes every year.

Q.—What were some of the most considerable of them? A.—The strike of the street railway employés was one.

Q.—How long did it last? A.—It continued several weeks. It was the most intense of all the strikes.

Q.—What was the cause of that strike? A.—It was stated to be because the Street Railway Company would not allow their employés to become united with any of the labor organizations.

Q.—If a man joined a labor union the company dismissed him? A.—Yes, that was stated to be the case. The railway company themselves declined to give us the information.

Q.—Do you know what hours of labor were required from the drivers and conductors? A.—Twelve hours I think; some worked longer.

Q.—Twelve hours of actual work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did the men demand shorter hours? A.—I do not remember.

Q.—Do you know what rates of wages were paid the men? A.—I think I have set out the wages in the table. The conductors were paid about nine dollars a week and drivers, I think, about seven dollars. I am speaking from memory.

Q.—Do you think the strike was precipitated by the demand for shorter hours, or by the demand for increased wages, or by the demand of the men to be allowed to form a union.

Q.—I understood at the time it was entirely owing to the demand of the men to join the Knights of Labor—in fact they had joined the Knights of Labor.

Q.—Were any dismissed for joining? A.—I believe so.

Q.—Do you know it? A.—No. I only know it from the reports made at the time. I think there is a reference to that strike in my report. You will find it at page 37. “ About 280 men at the Massey works were on strike for about a week when all returned to work on a satisfactory basis arrived at by arbitration. The other strike, that on the Street Railway, will be memorable on account of its effect upon passenger traffic, and the fears entertained at times of rioting and bloodshed. Fortunately the crowds witnessing the scenes attending this great strike did so in safety. The employés of the company were forbidden to join the Knights of Labor and any Labor Association, and some 275 conductors and drivers struck. The company supplied their places with new men, many of whom were brought into the city from outside points, and the strikers were defeated.” That is based upon information we obtained from the collectors in the city. We had five men employed in the city and they were asked to report on all those subjects. We solicited the same information from the company, but they declined to give us any information.

Q.—Was the strike a success or otherwise? A.—It was not successful for the strikers.

Q.—Has there been any shortening of the hours or increase of wages? A.—Not to my knowledge; but we are collecting the statistics of the city now.

Q.—Do you know if the men employed on the Street Railway are now permitted to belong to a labor union? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Have you any suggestions to make as to any improvements which could be made in the law for securing arbitration between employers and employés? A.—I am not sure that we could do any better than has been done in other countries.

Q.—Have you made any study of arbitration in other countries? A.—Not a special study, not such a study as would enable me to speak with confidence, not a study except in a general way.

Q.—Take France for example? A.—It is compulsory there, I believe.

Q.—Are the arbitrators government appointees? A.—They are, I understand.

Q.—Do their decisions, so far as you know, give satisfaction? A.—Yes, I am told they do. There is no cessation of work when a dispute arises. It goes on, and the Court enquires into the matter and gives its decision, and it is binding on both parties.

Q.—Is that decision arrived at by one judge or arbitrator, or by several? A.—My impression is that there is a Board of three persons.

Q.—They are appointed by the government? A.—Yes. There is a somewhat similar law in Massachusetts.

Q.—Do you think such a Board would be more satisfactory in Ontario than arbitrators chosen by parties to the dispute? A.—It might perhaps not be more satisfactory to the people themselves, but it would obviate any delay. It frequently happens that a good deal of time is wasted in choosing arbitrators.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—In Massachusetts one arbitrator is appointed by the employer, one by the employed, and they agree upon a third; but if they do not agree upon a third and he is not appointed within thirty days, then he is appointed by the Governor and holds office for a year? A.—Yes. In France their institutions are different from ours and are a little more arbitrary we think, and from that point of view the adoption of their system here might not be popular. Our people like to better themselves and have a very considerable say in the government of themselves.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—They are willing to make sacrifices for self-government? A.—Yes.

Q.—Even to the extent of being out on strike? A.—Yes, I think so.

Q.—Have you ever noticed the effect of labor organizations upon the condition of the working classes? A.—Yes, in a general way.

Q.—Do labor organizations improve the material condition of the working people? A.—Working people themselves claim that they have.

Q.—In what respects? A.—They say that they have given them shorter hours of labor and higher wages; but there are so many circumstances governing those things that it is difficult to give credit to any organization for having effected it.

Q.—Is the workman more independent in the selling of his labor or has he any additional advantages in selling his labor in consequence of labor organizations? A.—I think he is more independent, because he is protected by all those of his own class who are in the organization.

Q.—Do you think that in selling his labor the average working man of Ontario stands upon an equality with the purchaser of his labor? A.—No, I do not think he does.

Q.—Is he placed at a disadvantage? A.—He is, in this way; that there is on the whole a superabundance of labor in the country. I reached that conclusion from a study of the average number of days workmen are employed. The average number from all the returns is only some 270 days in the year. If the men were employed full time it would indicate that there was a full demand for labor.

Q.—On the other hand, is there much overtime work? A.—No. There is some overtime work in certain of the trades at certain seasons of the year; but many of the men earn extras outside of their occupation.

Q.—Would it be possible to establish absolute equality between supply and demand in labor? A.—It might be possible, but it would be very difficult, I think.

Q.—Practically would it be possible? A.—No, I do not think it would be practically possible, that is continuously.

Q.—If there is a tendency for labor to flow into Ontario in excess of the demand, is that caused by special exertions on the part of any agency or by the attractions to working men of life in Ontario, high wages, cheap living or other advantages? A.—We get quite an accession to the population of the country by immigration, but I fear that immigration very often displaces our own men.

Q.—Is that within your knowledge? A.—Within my knowledge in this way; It is shown by a study of the municipal enumeration of the people.

Q.—If there is an excess of labor, does not that tend to lower wages? A.—Certainly it will do so; if not to lower wages it will tend to cause laborers to find another market for their labor.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—In your report you give the average earnings in the carpenters' trade at \$395 for the past year; is that the average or the outside for 263 days' work. That would be, that in 43 weeks and five and a-half days a man earns \$395. Now, would that not be the outside they could earn? A.—It is the average compiled from all the returns.

Q.—Suppose a carpenter works full time, allowing for winter and holidays, he cannot work more than 263 days? A.—Why not?

Q.—Because time will not permit him? A.—Are there no men who work longer?

Q.—Is that not the outside that a man will earn in 263 days? A.—It is the average compiled from all the returns and for all the time.

Q.—Do you find any difficulty in getting returns from working men? A.—Yes, I do, sometimes a good deal of difficulty.

Q.—Can you say why you have difficulty in obtaining them? A.—There are several reasons given by working men themselves; sometimes they earn so little they are afraid to state the amount; sometimes they earn so much they fear competition; sometimes they say we are inquisitorial and it is none of our business; sometimes it is owing to political hostility.

Q.—These are the principal reasons? A.—Yes.

Q.—They do not refuse because they do not care to have their names known? A.—I suppose some refuse on that account, although we give them every assurance we possibly can that the information is given in confidence and that we hold it in confidence.

Q.—Why are the two weeks selected—the weeks that have been mentioned—on which to obtain returns from employers; are they the best average weeks in the year? A.—No; they were so selected because they were supposed to be fair average weeks for all the trades. They are not fair for some of the trades.

Q.—Do all the trades send in returns for the same week? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then it might be fair for one trade and not for another?—A.—There are some trades, not many, in which those selected weeks are not the fairest.

Q.—Could you not have liberty to change the date? A.—I am adopting that system this year.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Does immigration affect the home market, and if so to what extent in your opinion? A.—I could not tell you except by going into a pretty full analysis of the census enumeration of the people—the census enumeration as taken by the assessors from year to year—and I have not the data at hand to go into that, but you may

study it out for yourself, taking our tables showing the growth of population as from 1872 to 1886. These are given in the several successive reports; I think in the reports of 1884 and 1886. Also take along with that the number of immigrants who are stated by our immigrant department to have settled in the country each year, and make the usual calculations of the growth of population by natural increment.

Q.—In a former portion of your evidence you state that the labor statistics in labor centres were obtained by agents selected from organized labor? A.—They are selected from men who have the confidence of the working classes, who are so reported to work. We have not a personal knowledge of the men.

Q.—Do the labor organizations select them? A.—Generally they are chosen by labor organizations where there are labor organizations.

Q.—Has that been the system in Toronto during the past year or two? A.—Yes they were so recommended to me.

Q.—By the labor organizations themselves? A.—I understood so.

Q.—By open vote in the Union? A.—I do not know how the selection was made. I appointed men connected with labor organizations to recommend men for the work.

Q.—Where they recommended by open vote? A.—I cannot say as to that.

Q.—To the best of your knowledge they have been? A.—I cannot say even as to that. I spoke to leading men in the labor organization. What we aim at always is to get men whom the workingmen themselves will trust, and those we find to be workingmen themselves. We could not send out a clerk from the office unless he was known to have the confidence of the workingmen and be able to get the information from them. We should not select a dry goods clerk and expect him to succeed in collecting the information.

Q.—About the selection by the labor organization; do I understand that the department sends an official letter to be read by the presiding officer and the men required are selected openly? A.—No.

Q.—They are selected by representatives of the bureau? A.—No, they are not selected by representatives of the bureau. We usually have recommendations made to us by working people.

Q.—By the body? A.—Yes. I am not sure that that is the practice invariably followed, but we select the best that are reported to us, and I may say we select them, too, without knowing what are their politics.

Q.—Is the information given to you as coming from the body? A.—That is what we understand to be the sentiment of the body.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I have been a member of a labor organization in Toronto for twenty years and I never heard of it.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you propose to prevent immigration; if so, how would you prevent it? A.—I do not think anyone proposes to do so.

Q.—How would you put a stop to it? A.—We might adopt such a system as was in operation many years ago and impose a capitation tax on immigrants, if such were thought to be desirable; or we might schedule them and impose a duty on each of fifty dollars or \$100 or even \$1,000.

Q.—Do you think we could prevent other British subjects from coming here? A.—I think so.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Do you think such a step would be in the National interest? A.—No.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you know whether a large body of such immigrants is to be found in the resident population of Canada? A.—They are supposed to be, but I can not say positively.

Q.—Who supposes that? A.—The immigrant agents report so frequently.

Q.—Have you any statistics as to the number of mechanics among the immigrants for a number of years past? A.—No, I have not compiled the statistics. There are some statistics of that sort in the report of the immigration department.

Q.—Of the Ontario Government? A.—I think so, and of the Dominion Government.

Q.—That does not come within your province? A.—No.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of combinations among manufacturers for the purpose of advancing prices to purchasers? A.—I have not made special enquiry as to that; I only know it in a general way, that such combinations have been formed. For example, the stove-makers, I am told, made such a combination several years ago, and have continued it. The makers of self-binders made such a combination a few years ago, but it failed.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of co-operative production? A.—I made enquiry as to that two or three years in succession, but it has scarcely been undertaken in this Province as yet.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of co-operative distribution, co-operative stores? A.—Yes; there are two stores I think in this city—I think the principal ones in the Province.

Q.—Are they successful? A.—Fairly so, but to a very moderate extent; they have been in existence for several years.

Q.—Do you know if the object of those stores is to furnish goods at lower prices than they could be obtained at other stores? A.—Partly to furnish goods at lower prices, and partly for the investment; I think mainly to furnish goods at lower prices.

Q.—The main idea is not to furnish an investment for workingmen's savings? A.—No, I think not; it is that to some extent.

Q.—Do you know whether it does secure lower prices? A.—I do not.

Q.—Have you any practical knowledge of the benefit societies among workingmen? A.—I know such societies exist.

Q.—You have not made a special study of their working? A.—No.

Q.—A little while ago, I think you told the Commission that you had no special knowledge respecting the execution of judgments, and the garnisheeing of wages; have you any knowledge respecting the execution of judgments? A.—No, I have not.

Q.—I have been requested to ask this question; when an employer does not pay his employes, or when an employer fails, how long will it be before the employe will receive the amount due him over the \$25 which is secured to him by law?

The CHAIRMAN.—The law secures three months' wages.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Three months' wages, then, constitute a preferential claim? A.—I believe so.

Q.—Over three months' wages becomes an ordinary claim on the estate, the same as the claim of any other creditor? A.—It is so stated in section 7, page 64, of my report.

Q.—You spoke a while ago about female clerks and others being fined; do you know if the fining system is extensive among employers of labor? A.—I do not know it as the fining system, but as the withholding of a portion of their wages. I understand that to be the common system.

Q.—Among what class? A.—In the dry goods stores.

Q.—Do you know anything about the clothing business, and as to how the work people are treated? A.—No.

Q.—You do not know whether they are fined or not? A.—I think among them the practice generally prevailing is that of taking the work home, and doing it in their families.

Q.—When they bring that work back and it is inspected, do you know anything in relation to that? A.—I only know from what I have heard. There is a great deal of complaint among work people on that score—that their work is very closely

examined, and if there are any defects in it they are cut down in their allowance. But it would be well perhaps, if you were to call a few of this city, and in Hamilton, who are engaged in that business.

Q.—Is Sunday labor extensively carried on in Ontario? A.—No, I think not to any extent whatever outside of the railways.

Q.—Is railway traffic as extensive on Sunday as on other days of the week? A.—No there is no freight business and very little passenger traffic.

Q.—Are there any laws regulating the railways in the matter of Sunday traffic? A.—I believe there is a Dominion law and there is the common law. Our through lines of railway carry forward freight that left before Sunday, that is before twelve o'clock on Saturday night.

Q.—That is in case of live stock and so on when it might be necessary? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—As to your street cars? A.—They do not run at all.

Q.—In any part of Ontario? A.—Not to my knowledge. I don't think they are allowed to run.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you know of industrial schools being established in Ontario? A.—There are very few. There is one established at Mimico; it is an industrial school for boys and is in a sense a house of correction and restraint. In regard to technical schools, we have the school of Technology and the Agricultural College, and in connection with the Normal School there is instruction given to a certain extent in drawing and designing.

Q.—Are mechanical branches taught in the school of Technology? A.—I think not.

Q.—Do you know of any other school in which mechanical knowledge is taught? A.—No.

Q.—What reformatory school is that of which you have spoken? A.—It is a school established by the city in the village of Mimico to which boys who, perhaps, have been guilty of misdemeanor and have no guardians or parents are sent.

Q.—It is to some extent a penitentiary institute? A.—Only to a slight extent; the boys are educated there.

Q.—Do the boys seek admission to it? A.—No.

Q.—They are sent there? A.—They usually go up before the police magistrate and he sends them there; there is no public trial.

Q.—They are not absolute criminals? A.—No.

Q.—Waifs and strays? A.—Yes. I think parents very seldom bring them before the magistrate with a view to having them sent there.

Q.—But a boy would not be sent there who had a home? A.—No, very rarely.

Q.—Have you any knowledge respecting the Reformatory at Penetanguishene? A.—No.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the Mercer Reformatory? A.—No, I have visited it a few times. It is altogether for women and young girls.

Q.—Are they actual criminals? A.—Yes. The girls are not so much so; they are put there largely for purposes of protection.

Q.—They are abandoned women and so on? A.—Yes.

Q.—They must have done something to bring them within the law? A.—Yes. The Mercer Reformatory is largely a Central prison for female convicts. Such convicts are sent there from different parts of the province, when under sentence, for several months' confinement.

Q.—Are they taught anything there? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are they taught? A.—As to their being taught, I do not know that I can say they are taught; but all who have a trade are employed at their trade. There is a great deal of sewing work done and also laundry work.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Is the laundry work done for citizens? A.—Yes. They send out waggons to collect parcels for the laundry.

Q.—Do you consider that is against the interest of any particular class in the city? A.—I suppose it is against the interest of some class; but I am not sure that it is.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is the work done at cheaper rates? A.—No, I think not. Most of us experience a difficulty in getting that kind of work done.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do they do other kinds of work besides laundry work? A.—They sew.

Q.—What kind of sewing? A.—I do not know.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—During the time you were collecting information with respect to the preparation of your report, did it ever come to your knowledge that workmen declined to furnish you with information from fear of coercion on the part of employers or those over them? A.—I heard of such cases.

Q.—It was not the prevailing feeling? A.—No.

Q.—With respect to the hours of labor, what have you to say? A.—I think there was only one case, a very particular case, that was reported to me; it was that of a manufacturer of boots and shoes, a large manufacturer.

Q.—With respect to the hours of labor of which you have spoken; in the case of a manufacturer who found that his business would permit him to run his factory year round, do you not consider it would be to his interest and to the interest of his workmen to run the standard time of ten hours per day? A.—I suppose that is largely an economic question. If the men can work ten hours a day without injury to themselves in any way, I do not think the masters could object to it.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you think working ten hours a day would be beneficial to the working man or otherwise? A.—If the firm should assure them of work extending over the whole year I think it would be to their advantage. It would be better for men to work, say 300 days a year at eight hours a day, than to work 240 days at ten hours a day.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Do you think so? A.—Why should it not be so? There a certain amount paid for wages, what economists call the wages fund. You cannot go beyond that. If you paid the whole of that out in 240 days the workmen have it. If you extend it over 300 days the workmen have it in that time; in the first case they are idle sixty days, and it is with workmen as with every other class, if they have money, they will spend it more freely than when they have a very limited supply.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—The laws of labor here must to a certain extent be affected by the laws of labor in England and the United States? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you not ascertain from your enquiries that the working classes as a general rule throughout the country would rather have eight hours a day than ten hours? A.—They would rather have the shorter hours if that system would assure them more regular work.

Q.—Would it not have a tendency to assure them more regularity of work? A.—Certainly.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—If ten hours of labor remains the day's work in other Provinces, how would that affect Ontario? A.—I do not think it would affect us here; it might do so.

Q.—If men were working ten hours in Montreal could not the manufactured articles they produce be sold here? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Are you aware as to the hours that workmen engaged in lumbering industries have to work? Do you know that they work from daylight to dark; that they go out usually one hour before day light if they have to go a long distance, that they go sufficiently early to be at the scene of their work when it is sufficiently light to work, and they usually work until night closes in? A.—Yes.

Q.—How about farmers around Toronto at harvesting time? A.—There are many farmers who work only ten hours a day, but the majority work longer hours according as the work is pressing on them and as the weather favors them. If it is favorable weather they work as long hours as possible.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have high wages and short hours tended to the improvement of the working classes as compared with long hours and low wages? A.—I do not think I should do more than give an opinion on that point. I think there is a very great improvement in the condition of our people in this Province. The forty years of our public school training has done a great deal for the people of this country. The drinking habit has largely disappeared.

Q.—Do you not think short hours would have had the opposite effect of increasing drinking habits? A.—Certainly; there are some employers who report to me in a contrary sense, but the great majority of the working men themselves say that short hours have not the tendency to increase the drinking habit and that the system has not had such an effect where it has been introduced.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you think that a man who is very much fatigued is more inclined to go in for a drink than is a man who leaves his work without being so much fatigued? A.—The tired man is more apt to go in for a drink.

Q.—That has been your observation? A.—Yes. I may say that although I am not a drinking man myself, if ever I have been tempted to take a drink it was when I was very tired.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Have you any idea of the total number of those who practically abstain from drink? A.—In my eight years' residence in this city I have seen very few drunken men, and very few drunken men of the working classes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Drunkennes is decreasing? A.—It has decreased very much.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the condition of the homes of the working people? A.—I have some knowledge. I have visited some of their homes and I have had reports as to others. It is a subject on which working men themselves are very delicate.

Q.—Are their sanitary conditions good, bad or indifferent? A.—They are fairly good in this city, especially in the upper portions. They are worse in the lower part near the Bay.

Q.—Are water closets, for example, universal? A.—Yes, I think so.

Q.—Are they so in the city? A.—In the city they are. In a great many cases the water closets are in the house; but among the working classes generally I think the water closets are outside.

Q.—Do you mean the old fashioned privies? A.—The old fashioned privy still exists in Toronto, but it is fast disappearing.

Q.—Where they are in the house do you think they are sufficiently ventilated? A.—No, they are not. There has been a great deal of improvement in that matter within the past few years, but the improvement has taken place chiefly among people

of the better class. There is a very great complaint that plumbers do not do honest work. I can give you an instance of it. A gentleman told me that he purchased a house about five or six years ago. He noticed sewer gas in it, and he brought in a plumber. The whole plumbing was investigated and finally a partition was torn down to obtain access to the ventilating pipe and it was found to be filled with mortar, so that what was supposed to be a ventilating pipe was no ventilating pipe at all, for it was choked up.

Q.—Are workingmen's houses sufficiently roomy? A.—No, I am afraid they are not.

Q.—You think they are crowded? A.—They are crowded and stuffy.

Q.—Have you made any special investigation in regard to that matter? A.—I have tried to make an investigation, but I could not obtain sufficient answers.

Q.—Does your reply cover the Province, or Toronto only? A.—It refers more particularly to Toronto, but it is generally true of the Province, and it is perhaps more true of the smaller towns than it is of Toronto. In many of the smaller towns the old privy system prevails, and in the spring of the year the floods simply sweep the matter out of the vault over the lot.

Q.—You think the average home of the Canadian workingman is too small for proper sanitary conditions? A.—I think on the whole it is.

Q.—What will be the number of rooms in an average workingman's house in Toronto? A.—I do not know as to that.

Q.—Nor the cubic contents of such a house? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know any improvement that could be made in the law respecting houses—of course it would not apply to any one class—with a view to secure better sanitary conditions? A.—Yes, I think so. There ought to be a rigid inspection of plumbing.

Q.—That is the weak point? A.—I think so. As to giving a workingman more rooms in his house or a larger house, that depends on how much he is able to earn.

Q.—Has not the sanitary Act been passed by the Ontario legislature within a year or two? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is that a pretty efficient Act? A.—I think it is doing very good work; there have been very great improvements under it.

Q.—Do you know anything about building societies among working men? A.—No.

Q.—By which workingmen are assisted to obtain their houses? Of course, there are building societies controlled by capitalists.

Q.—Not by workingmen themselves? A.—Not by workingmen themselves.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Have you any co-operative building societies? A.—No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Have you given any attention to the sanitary arrangements of factories? A.—I have made enquiries, and have received reports on the subject.

Q.—Do you think they are good, bad or indifferent? A.—They are generally good. There are complaints that the ventilation is not good in some places, and that the water closets are not kept very clean; that where men and women are employed there are no separate water closets for them. But these are exceptional cases. It is also complained that there are no wash-rooms in many of the factories.

Q.—Is there much over-crowding of factories? A.—Not generally.

Q.—Have employes in factories generally sufficient air space? A.—Yes, I think so.

Q.—Can you briefly give the Commission an idea of the scope of the enquiries undertaken and the labor performed by your bureau? A.—Perhaps I can do that best by referring the Commission to the report. The schedules will inform the Commission as to the scope of the statistics collected.

Q.—You do not go over the field every year? A.—We go over nearly the same

field every year. The enquiry as to the condition of labor and so on varies to some extent from year to year, but we follow generally the questions set out on pages 31 and 32 of the report.

Q.—Do you think the result of your investigations and labors has been to benefit the working people of Ontario? A.—I think so.

Q.—That it spreads information among them? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does it enable them to take care of their own interest more effectually? A.—I think so. In one way it leads them to keep accounts; I think the general tendency is to make them more economical.

Q.—Does it enable the Government to legislate far more intelligently? A.—Yes, I think so.

Q.—It places information in the hands of the Government which enables them to care for the whole people? A.—Yes, and also the legislature.

Q.—The reports inform them as to the condition of the working people. A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any suggestions to offer respecting the operations of your bureau? A.—I do not know that I have any special suggestions to offer. There is a provision in the Statute creating the Bureau of Industries that the Bureau may co-operate with the Dominion Government on any of the lines on which we work in regard to agriculture and the different interests.

Q.—You want co-operation on the part of the Dominion Government? A.—Certainly. I think if we co-operate we could cover the whole field much more successfully than we can hope to do without going to very great expense.

Q.—Do you know if other Provinces have established Labor Bureaus similar to that of Ontario? A.—No, I believe no Province has.

Q.—Even if all the Provinces were to establish Labor Bureaus, would there still be a field of labor left to the Dominion Government? I think so.

Q.—Does convict labor in Ontario interfere to any extent with free working people? A.—I suppose it does to some extent. I think that is inevitable.

Q.—Is there any other institution in Ontario in which convicts or prisoners are employed in mechanical work? A.—I do not know that there is any Provincial institution except that at the Penitentiary.

Q.—Do you know how it is at Kingston? A.—I believe the prisoners are employed at mechanical work there.

Q.—Do you know how it is at Penetanguishene? A.—The boys are trained to trades there.

Q.—Have you any information respecting the savings of the working classes in Ontario? A.—No, except inferentially. We cannot obtain returns from the Savings societies as to the class to which the men who make deposits belong. The report shows the average savings and the aggregate savings of the men in respect of whom we have collected statistics.

Q.—Perhaps you will give the Commission the information requested on that point? A.—You will find it on pages 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31.

Q.—Can you add anything to what we will get from the study of those facts? A.—No, I think not.

Q.—Do you think the savings of the working people in Ontario are increasing or decreasing from year to year? A.—There is very little difference.

Q.—Do you think the average condition of comfort in which Ontario working people live is growing better or worse? A.—I think there is a slight advance, but I have not sufficient information to speak positively on the subject. I think there is a slight improvement in the average condition of the working people. It may be better one year and worse another. The conditions are always changing, and for that reason I think it is of the first importance that we should have statistics for every year.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you know whether there are many working men who have savings in the Post office Bank? A.—It is impossible to get that information.

Q.—Are there many complaints about convict Labor? A.—No.

Q.—As opposed to the best interest of the working classes? A.—No there is very little complaint in this country; there is very little complaint that reaches us.

Q.—In the questions sent out have you one in regard to convict labor? A.—I am not sure whether I have or not. My impression is that the question has not been asked. It has not been such a conspicuous subject of complaint here as to render it necessary to make enquiries in regard to it.

Q.—What do the contractors who employ convict labor pay? A.—I do not know. There is a contract which expires this year, and I believe it will not be renewed.

Q.—In regard to Sunday work; have you knowledge of the printing business? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think that Sunday night work in a printing office should be abolished? A.—Yes, if you do any with Monday morning newspapers.

Q.—And without doing away with Monday morning papers? A.—Yes, you could, if the people would be content to take news twenty four hours or thirty six hours old.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—That is for the men to cease work at twelve o'clock on Saturday night and commence after twelve on Sunday night? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you think it would be feasible to get out Monday morning papers without working on Sunday? A.—I do not think so.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—You spoke of the returns and said you did not consider them to be entirely correct as they depended on the census returns? A.—No, I do not think I said that.

Q.—You said something very near to it, so far as I heard. You said you could not be particular because your information was from the census returns? A.—That was in reply to a question asked by Mr. Freed as to what proportion of the product of labor goes to labor and what proportion goes to the employer.

Q.—The reason I draw attention to the matter is because I want to know to what census returns you had reference? A.—To the census returns of the Dominion. I went through the census returns of the United States for 1870 and 1880 for the same purpose. I think it is extremely advisable that the scope of the schedules should be extended.

Q.—The reason I ask particularly was because I had something to do with the census? A.—If I might be allowed to make a suggestion with respect to the census it would be that our census should be taken the same as that of the United States which would enable a more satisfactory comparison to be made between our industries and those of the United States in the same year. Take for instance our agricultural enumeration. We may have a good harvest in our census year or a very poor one while that of the preceding year may be a very good or a very poor one. If you compare a poor harvest year with us with a good harvest year in the United States it very much injures the reputation of our country. We have suffered in that respect in past years. We suffered very much from a comparison of our census in 1871 with the United States census of 1870, for 1870 was a good harvest with them and 1871 was a poor harvest with us.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Referring to your answer to a question in regard to laboring men engaged in Lumbering; did it refer to the men engaged in the manufacture of lumber or those who go to the stump? A.—To those who go to the stump. The men who work in the mill work the regular hours, twenty-four hours with two shifts of men.

TORONTO, November 28th 1887.

JAMES BAIN, jr., called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What position do you hold? A.—I am librarian of the Toronto Free Library.

Q.—When was that established? A.—In 1883.

Q.—Is it supported by voluntary contributions or in what manner? A.—It is supported by city rates, by rents and by fees and fines—the fee which we charge for the printed ticket, to the extent of five cents, and the fines which are imposed for delay in returning books. Those two items amount to about \$900 a year. The amount of our grant from the city is fixed at a maximum of half a mill on the dollar, but we have not drawn more than a quarter of a mill, which realised last year \$18,000. The total amount of our income for 1886 was \$22,821.59.

Q.—All classes have access to the library and attend there and get out books? A.—All classes. We have now about 20,000 readers on our list.

Q.—What proportion of that number are mechanics or laborers? A.—It is a difficult matter to say exactly how many mechanics are represented in that number. A rough estimate I made this morning of those registered as mechanics shows 2,600; but in addition to those, a great many wives of mechanics, when mechanics have not time to attend to the library, take out books, so you may safely put it down at 5,000, as the number of mechanics and mechanics' wives who regularly receive books from the library.

Q.—I suppose your library is well supplied with books for mechanics? A.—We aim at getting in the library everything of value. I noticed this morning that we have 1,500 volumes directly bearing on the manufacturing arts. In addition to this we keep all the workingmen's newspapers and those specially applied to manufactures and inventions. In quoting this number of books I have merely reference to our circulating library, to books loaned for home reading. We have in addition to that number a library of sixteen thousand books exclusively works of reference, books of reference of all kinds which are only used in the reading room. In that department we aim to keep all the works we can pick up on the manufacturing arts. We have also in addition a patent library, a library consisting of specifications of patents taken out in Great Britain and Canada during the last two centuries. These are open for reference to mechanics at all times.

Q.—Can you tell the Commission anything about industrial schools? A.—I have no information except that obtained from my general reading on the subject. I have said however all along that some link was wanting between working men and what should be the workingmen's university, the public library, and it has been a problem for me for the last three years how to make that connection. I commenced two years ago in December calling upon the heads of large factories, those engaging a large number of hands, to obtain permission to invite the men down to the library in the evenings; and I had during two winters from twenty to fifty mechanics present during the evening. I made it a rule as far as possible to get the mechanics of one special class, the mechanics engaged in one special manufacture together, and I provided, as far as I could, comfortable accommodation for them, had the room nicely lighted and laid before them all the books we could gather together on the subject of their own special work, many books which they could not otherwise see. I also tried to induce the men to take the numbers and names of those books so as to be able to refer to them continuously. So far as the attendance is concerned it was always satisfactory to me. I found the men when they did come gladly availed themselves of the opportunity and were always very hearty and warm in their thanks for what they considered my kindness in the matter. I approached one or two of the unions with the purpose of endeavoring to induce them to take up the work, to try to work with the Public Library; but I am sorry to say I failed with them, as only one accepted my proposition, and that was the Painters' Union. They considered the matter and provided a certain number of men from the shops to go to the Library in

the evening. I should have very much liked to have had all the unions take up the work and arrange, as a matter not only of pleasure but of duty, to attend at the library and spend evenings there in the work I suggested. The stationary engineers held two meetings at the end of last winter, and at the last meeting, after a discussion on some books which were laid before them, a paper was read by one of their number and illustrated by the books we had there.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the industrial schools, practical knowledge or otherwise? A.—I have not; I cannot speak from actual experience. The only school I know of is the Library school.

Q.—Do you have any school for mechanical drawing in connection with the Library? A.—We are not allowed by our charter to provide schools of any kind. The school instruction to which I have referred is that of trying to make the Library itself a great school.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Has the number of readers materially increased since the Library was organized as a free one? A.—The number is increasing every day. We started with nothing and we have now twenty thousand readers.

Q.—Do you know about what number of those were members of the old mechanics' institute? A.—The old mechanics' institute did not comprise many more than 300.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Has that disappeared? A.—Yes, it has gone entirely out of existence.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Do mechanics as a general rule seem to take advantage of the opportunity to study mechanical works in your library, in other words, is their reading more particularly confined to them rather than to other kinds of works? A.—That is a very difficult question to answer. So many books are given out during the day which I have no knowledge, through my assistants, that I can only guess at the result; but from the condition of the books on the shelves, those referring to the Arts, I am satisfied they are very extensively read, because a great many are very much worn. During last year, we circulated in round numbers 5,000 volumes on the arts; those were for home reading, in addition to those used in the Library.

Q.—When you speak of the arts do you mean the schools of design for drawing, or is it practical mechanical instruction? A.—Practical mechanical instruction, books on plumbing, gas-fitting, boiler making etc.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the state of the mechanical trades in this city? A.—No.

Q.—Do you think there is any improvement in the working classes in regard to their intelligence as a result of the establishment of the Free Library? A.—That is also a very difficult question to answer, but I think there is. I know some men who have wonderfully improved through the knowledge they have gained from the Public Library.

Q.—Do you know if any special trade has taken more interest in those works than the other trades? A.—Yes, some have done so more than others. For instance, the painters naturally take a deeper interest; I know a number of painters regularly go there for the purpose of working up designs and obtaining knowledge of the higher harmony of colors.

Q.—Then again, take the building trade. Do you know of men connected with that trade going to the library to improve themselves in any particular with respect to carrying on the building work? A.—The stone masons, I think, do so to a certain extent. They apply for books on mechanical drawing and I know some have used our books very freely. The carpenters have done so to a certain extent but not very much. We have two or three very scarce books on stair building which carpenters come regularly to consult.

Q.—Do you think that the taste for such reading has increased since the establishment of the Library? A.—Without a doubt. The mere fact of our great circulation shows that. We have doubled our circulation in three years. Last year it reached a total of 300,000 volumes, taken for home reading.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you find the reading room occupied to any extent by mechanics on Saturday afternoon? A.—A great many mechanics are there on Saturday afternoon, and mechanics out of work attend on other days during work hours.

Q.—From your observation do you think that if mechanics had shorter hours of labor they would take advantage of the increased opportunity to frequent the library and reading room? A.—It is not a question to which I have given any consideration.

Q.—Of course there are many mechanics who do not work on Saturday afternoon; you say that on Saturday afternoon the reading room is full of them. Is it not evident that if all mechanics had the Saturday afternoon free the attendance would be increased? A.—I can only say, in reply, this; that I have had from a large number of mechanics this answer when I have asked them to come to the Library and consult books; telling them that if they would come in the evenings I would go over books with them and endeavor to obtain for them what they wanted. They have said “we do not get away till six o'clock and it is half past seven before we have got our supper and the Library closes at half past eight, and so there is no time.”

Dr. WM. OLDRIGHT, called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What is your occupation? A.—I am a physician; I have practised in Toronto twenty years, and have resided here twenty-eight years.

Q.—Do you occupy any public position? A.—I am professor of hygiene at the Provincial University (the University of Toronto). I was formerly chairman of the Provincial Board of Health here. I came here in response to a circular forwarded to me by the secretary, and I desire to make a few remarks with respect to the sanitary condition of the work-shops. Of course it is too large a subject to take up at length, but there are two or three points which I should like to bring before the Commission. One is with respect to the ventilation of work-shops at night. When I have visited printing offices at night, I have found the ventilation very bad, and I believe that it is greatly the result of a lack of means of consuming the foul gas, which I think might be obviated. Every gas light consumes nearly as much air as two men would do, and there is no provision generally speaking for the ventilation of these gas lights, whereas they might be made a means of ventilating the building, and be a benefit rather than an injury. If over each gas light there was placed a funnel that would act as a reflector, and throw the light down, and if from that funnel a small tube was placed up towards the ceiling, and all these tubes centered in one large tube of four or five inches, carried through to the roof, the ventilation of the offices might be greatly improved. Of course in some offices they have introduced the electric light, but in others the old plan still exists, and this method could be applied to other shops as well as printing offices. I mention printing offices as the light has to be greater in such shops, and as printers are notably liable to be affected with disease of the lungs. The condition of the offices and work-shops thus lighted would be very much improved, and it would obviate the necessity of throwing open the windows as the men are forced to do on account of the heat and foul air.

Q.—What about the electric light? A.—The electric light is a great improvement as it does away with the amount of gas, but I do not think if the gas lights were arranged in the way I have indicated the electric light would be any improvement in a sanitary point of view. Then another point is with respect to the dust of factories, which might be largely carried off. I recently visited Pullman near

Chicago and was very much impressed by the excellent condition of the atmosphere of the car work-shops. There is a ventilator of that kind placed over all the machines at which a great deal of fine dust is made. Those ventilators connect with large flues made of some light metal, and those flues again are connected with fans in the engine house, and exhaust fans which draw all the sawdust from the shops to a bin above the furnace, where it is burnt; so that when you pass through the car shops the atmosphere is very good, and I was struck with the lack of dust. I see here in the circular a reference to tenement houses and workmen's dwellings. One of the difficulties we formerly had to contend with in Toronto and elsewhere was with respect to the supply of drinking water. Of course the members of the Commission are aware that at the present time there prevails a great deal of zymotic disease, diphtheria and so on. The Ontario Board of Health had a clause inserted in the Public Health Act, declaring it to be the duty of the owner of every house in the municipality to provide the occupant of the same with a sufficient supply of drinking water, and in case the occupant is not satisfied as to the wholesomeness or sufficiency of such supply he may apply to the Board of Health Department as to the same, and if the supply be satisfactory and wholesome the expense incurred in arriving at such determination shall be paid by such occupant and if the supply be not sufficient and wholesome they shall be paid by the owner, and in either case the charges shall be recoverable in the same manner as municipal taxes. Another clause compels the closing of every well found in the city. These are only a part of the by-laws of the Act, and they may be suppressed by any town and other laws substituted. The reason I mention this matter before the Commission, it would be a good topic for inquiry throughout the various towns to ascertain whether that clause is being respected and carried out. That by-law was introduced in connection with the Public Health Act, and it is in force until repealed by the municipality. The difficulty we find in Toronto as medical practitioners is, that if we speak to a family about their well water, they say they will speak to the landlord; and when they do so, he will say that if they do not like the house they can leave it. Accordingly the next family coming into the house will be in the same predicament. The by-law works no hardship; if the water is good and the occupant has needlessly complained, he will have to pay the cost of the examination; if not, the owner will have to pay, the Board of Health adjudging between the two. With respect to the condition of workmen's dwellings I find the bedrooms are often disproportionately small.

Q.—How is it in regard to the condition of the water-closets? A.—The plan of making pits in the ground and allowing the contents to drain into the soil is a very bad one. The soil becomes saturated with filth and the wells become foul. The health officers are everywhere doing their best to do away with this condition of things, but I respectfully submit again that from the workmen themselves a great deal of information which would help sanitarians very much could be elicited.

Q.—Unless wells are a certain distance from closets there is percolation through the soil? A.—It will go through for a very long distance, that depending on the nature of the soil. Take a case which everybody can learn about that has occurred in Toronto. In Wellesley Street they had a row of privies some distance from the school. The school is now being extended and men have been engaged digging on the site. An old well still exists there and from it the privies were distant about forty five feet. When the men commenced work on the site for the new extension they found the whole soil impregnated with filth from the privies; and how much further it has extended no one can tell. The well is at one edge of the site and the privies at the other. That is only an illustration of the distance at which a well may become fouled.

By Mr. CLARK:—

Q.—How do you propose to remedy that? A.—Either by the dry earth system or by latreens or water closets. I observe in your circular that one of the subjects is employers' liability. Medical men have found at times a good deal of trouble

arising on that score when we have been called in to attend boys who have been injured. The responsibility in connection with attendance on such boys has not been borne at all times by employers, as it should be. There are a few very creditable exceptions—a great many—perhaps the exceptions are the other way now. At one time it was very difficult to get employers to do as they should do in those cases, but they now act very much more generously towards their employes than they used to do. There is one firm, Messrs. Christie & Co., who always make it a point to see that boys injured in their establishment have everything they want, and in that establishment everything is provided for the comfort of the boys. In mentioning that instance I do not mean to be invidious; there are other employers who do so. Still there are some who are very mean in this respect still.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Do you know anything about the employment of child labor in the City?
A.—I do not know very much about it. A great many boys are employed, and many of the accidents that take place in machine shops, in box factories, carpenter shops and planing mills, occur to boys.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—To boys who do not know enough about machinery? A.—Boys are not careful enough.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Are those accidents due to the negligence of the boys or the exposed state of the machinery? A.—I am not in a position to say, not having inspected the machinery. I think however that in some cases they arise from the machinery not being properly guarded. Boys are naturally more careless than men. I think boys are employed to do a great deal more work about machinery than they should be; that work should be done by persons who are older and more careful.

Q.—With respect to female labor in factories and business establishments, what have you to say? Do they get proper treatment there; are they under any disability or is there anything to prevent them remaining in health? A.—I think in stores there is a great deal of trouble in that way. They are not working under the Factory Act, and young women are obliged to stand from morning to night when there is really no necessity. They should be allowed to sit down. There are times when they could sit down if they were allowed; but it is thought not business-like. A great deal of trouble to the abdominal organs arises in this way; they are made sick by it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you find separate conveniences for both sexes supplied in the factories and workshops under the Factory Act? A.—I do not know.

Q.—The matter has never come under your notice? A.—No, I have not been called upon to examine it.

Q.—Do you know the average time a lady clerk works in the stores? A.—I think generally they go about eight o'clock in the morning and some of the stores do not close until nine o'clock at night. Other stores close at six o'clock. They have a short time for meals.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—They have to be on their feet thirteen hours a day? A.—Sometimes; hardly that as a rule, because they have a little time for meals; about twelve hours I should say.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How long can an average female remain standing on her feet without injury?
A.—I think they ought to have an opportunity to sit down from time to time, because I have always found, and it is the experience of most persons, that it is harder to stand on the feet behind a counter than if you are able to walk about and change your position a little.

Q.—Would you consider the hours from eight o'clock in the morning till eight or nine at night too long, if they were allowed to sit down? A.—That does not give sufficient opportunity for out door exercise.

Q.—What would you consider a proper day's work if they were allowed to sit down occasionally? A.—I think all the stores ought to close at six o'clock, except perhaps one night in the week, for the convenience of the working people.

Q.—Do you know if many children are employed in those stores? A.—Of course there are some employed as "Cash," but now cash is being carried a good deal by machinery. I cannot say as to the proportions between this and other cities.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—That system applies more to large cities? A.—I am speaking of Toronto

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Do you think the children of the poorer classes are neglected as regards education? A.—No, I think we compare very favorably with other countries in that respect.

Q.—As regards sobriety? A.—I think we compare very well in that regard

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Do you know any cases of disease that have come under your knowledge that you would attribute to long standing by lady clerks? A.—Yes.

Q.—That you can really attribute to that cause? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Among whom do you find cases of illness from standing on the feet? A.—I do among young girls; also from their not being able to get out and take outdoor exercise in the sunlight.

Q.—Do you find the health of workmen compares favorably with the health of other classes? A.—Yes, but with shop girls it is not so.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Do you think, then, ten hours, allowing for meals in the ordinary way, is too long a day's work for a working man? A.—I do not think that would injure him. You are asking me now as to his physical condition.

Q.—Provided he is a healthy man and not over worked and has an hour for dinner do you consider ten hours too long? A.—I do not. At the same time I think that as we have only to go through this world once every one should have an opportunity for improvement and recreation throughout the week. I think for a man to have to work every day and all day and never have an afternoon to himself is a hardship, and there is no necessity for it.

Q.—You are in favor of the Saturday half holiday? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What age should children have reached before being allowed to go to work in factories? A.—A great deal would depend on the kind of work and the educational advantages you wanted to give the child.

Q.—Taking all into consideration, the educational advantages which the child should have before going to work and considering the general run of factories, boot and shoe factories, cotton factories, broom factories, and all such industries, what is your opinion? A.—Taking into consideration the necessity of the people to earn a livelihood, I think fourteen or fifteen would be a good average age.

Q.—For boys and girls? A.—Yes.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Do you think workmen would benefit equally working nine hours and six hours on Saturday or by working ten hours with Saturday afternoon a holiday? I think about ten hours a day with Saturday afternoon a holiday would be a fair time

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—As regards the plumbing of houses what have you to say? A.—I suppose I could point out dozens of cases in this city where I know of diphtheria having been caused by a direct communication from the drain to the interior of the house and also from there being no trap to intercept the sewer gas; instances are numerous where from defective plumbing sewer gas goes into the house. A great many of those houses are built to rent and hitherto we have not had any inspection of them; but an inspector of plumbing has been appointed and we hope a similar course will be adopted in other places so as to have inspection made compulsory.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are the plumbers practical men? A.—The trouble is not with the plumbers so much as with the persons who want to have the work done as cheaply as possible and who are putting up houses as cheaply as possible.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—If there is simply an ordinary water trap in a drain pipe will not the sewer gas force its way through into the house? A.—It may do so.

Q.—Are the methods of ventilation provided in the Ontario Law of 1884 satisfactory in the case of the ventilation of drain pipes? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are measures being taken to see that at present and hereafter the law will be carried out? A.—They are in Toronto and in some other places, but in a great many cases they are not.

Q.—Do you think the average working man's dwelling is too small? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it so small as to be a danger or menace to the health of the occupants? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are considered the lowest cubic contents of a house for each inmate consistent with health? A.—You mean adopted by authorities in sanitary matters?

Q.—Yes. A.—From six hundred to one thousand cubic feet in each room occupied. It would, however, require that the cubic contents of the house should be greater than that figure, because at one time the family will be in the bed rooms and at another time in their sitting rooms; so I should think there should be double that capacity for the house.

Q.—So there should be from 1200 to 3,000 cubic feet to each occupant of the house? A.—To each individual in the house.

Q.—You think that space is not secured to the average working man? A.—I think not.

Q.—Do you know how that is outside of Toronto? A.—I think generally it is not secured, taking the accommodations all over the country. With that cubic space there should be proper means of ventilation, for changing the air a certain number of times in a given period. This should be done from three to four times per hour.

Q.—Do you think with the ordinary house as ordinarily constructed and maintained that special ventilation should be provided, or would the ordinary openings of the doors, crevices of the windows and so on, provide sufficient air? A.—I think there should be special ventilation, and with a little attention that could easily be secured. In rooms heated by a stove we lose a great deal of the benefit of the stove for lack of provision being made to carry a galvanized iron pipe into the house from outside, as we do in our furnaces. An iron pipe should be arranged to open underneath the stove and thus bring fresh air to the stove, and there should be a connection with the chimney to carry off the foul air.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—A pipe would be placed under the floor, which would be brought in from the outside? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Is it within your knowledge that poor people in order to economise fuel close up their houses unnecessarily tightly? Is that a result of their poverty—an

effort to economise fuel at the expense of breathing foul air? A.—Not always from poverty, because I have heard school trustees blame school teachers for opening the windows and keeping on a fire. I have heard one declare that he did not see the necessity for keeping on a fire, and at the same time have the windows open.

Q.—Are the school houses properly ventilated? A.—No; they have not a sufficient cubic air space. They are, however, being improved very much in that respect but in some of them the air space is not half what it should be.

Q.—The rate-payers do not want to spend the money to build new schools? A.—No.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—I noticed in one church that I need not specify, that there were no air boxes from outside, but the air was drawn up through the floor and the same air therefore passed through the furnace and came up through the register. Do you consider that a safe method of heating? A.—No; that is done in some houses also.

Q.—I know it is done in one church in this city? A.—In some houses there is a plan by which air is brought from outside, and then there is a register close to the front door, and it draws the cold air away from the door. To that there can be no objection.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Is this lack of proper ventilation due to the ignorance of the people as to what constitutes proper sanitary conditions? Yes, I think that is one of the great difficulties; but the people are improving in that respect.

Q.—Have you ever thought of any means of educating the people in that respect so as to lead them to take better care of their own health? A.—I think it would be well if lecturers were employed to give a special course under the authority of some governing body. The Provincial Board of Health has tried to do a little in that way; they have had several conventions in different parts of the Province and these have awakened a considerable amount of interest.

Q.—Are proper measures taken in Toronto to prevent unwholesome food being sold? A.—We have an inspector of meat, and an effort has been made lately by the Provincial Board of Health for inspection of other articles of food. I do not think there is any special inspection of fresh fruit and vegetables; I am not sure, I would not like to answer positively.

Q.—What measures are taken to bring before the proper authorities offenders in this regard? A.—I do not know of any other inspections beyond what I have mentioned. Under the Dominion Act there is a Dominion Analyst and any person who takes a sample of food to him can have it analyzed.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Is there a Dominion Analyst in Toronto? A.—Yes, Professor Ellis of the University.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are the people in Toronto supplied with lake water or are there wells in the city? A.—There are still some wells.

Q.—Do you regard the well water as wholesome? A.—No, except in the new parts of the city. Away up in the north-west of the city there is a district that has not yet been inhabited and for a time the water from the wells there might be wholesome; but, eventually, they will become foul in any case from surface contamination and if the people are allowed to dig privy pits it will very rapidly become foul.

Q.—Privy pits are still permitted in some parts of the city? A.—I think they are still being made. I do not know whether they are permitted or not permitted, or whether they are made in spite of the authorities. With respect to the privy pits in different parts of the city, I think that when the wells become very foul they may be closed. I know the health officer has power to order them to be closed, but the work in that respect is very slowly done.

Q.—Is sewer construction being as rapidly pushed forward as population settles in the new districts? A.—There has been a large amount of sewerage constructed lately.

Q.—Of course, you cannot have water closets without sewers? A.—No.

Q.—Is the water supply of the city reasonably pure lake water? A.—I believe so.

Q.—It is taken from beyond the Island? A.—I believe so; there have been suspicions at times as to the purity of the water, but I think the analyst generally shows it to be good drinking water.

Q.—What is the theory as to the current in the Bay—is the course of the sewage to the east or the west? A.—Both ways.

Q.—Then would it not flow round the Island, and get to the place from which the city's supply of water is drawn? A.—Do you mean by there being a western current to-day, and an eastern current to-morrow? I think it would be so broken up by the time it arrives back again that there would be no danger. A year ago there was a talk of emptying the whole of the sewage east of the Gap, and if it had been emptied there in its undiluted form, I think sometimes an eastern current would have driven it towards the place of the city's supply. It was on that ground that the Provincial Board disapproved of the scheme, merely owing to the place at which it was proposed to empty the sewage, and they thought it should be a good deal further east.

Q.—Is it your opinion that the average lake water, supposing it not to be contaminated by sewage, is as wholesome as the average water that could be derived from stream? A.—I think we could not have more wholesome water than undiluted Lake Ontario water; I believe the results of analysis show it to be one of the purest waters in the world. In regard to the gas supply, I may say that there is a great difference in the character of gas. We have had a great many deaths through poisoning here since the introduction of water gas, which contains a very much greater proportion of carbon monoxide. I have, I suppose, attended as many as three or four fatal cases of gas poisoning, and probably two or three times that number who have recovered. But you cannot be sure after they have reached a certain point that they will recover, the same as you would be confident if they had been poisoned by the old form of coal gas, or any other form of asphyxiates. They may linger a day or two and then die.

Q.—The gas itself is more poisonous? A.—Yes, there is a larger amount of carbon monoxide, and that destroys the red blood corpuscles.

Q.—Is there not more danger in breathing it? A.—I do not know that there is much difference in that respect.

Q.—Is the smell as readily perceptible? A.—I think so. Efforts have been made to either do away with the water gas, or have an automatic cut off gas burner introduced.

Q.—Does water gas poison the air of the room more rapidly than the ordinary coal gas? A.—I do not think that it does. I think the combustion is just as complete. I wish churches and public buildings came under the purview of this Commission. Some plan of ventilating from the gas burners would tend a great deal to the ventilation of the churches, and the comfort of those who attend. I think all persons have noticed that towards the end of the sermon the atmosphere of the building becomes very hot and foul.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Is there nothing of the kind here now? A.—I think so. The atmosphere of the Methodist Church at the corner of Sherbourne and Gerard is very much purer than formerly; that is the church that has recently been re-built. Every gas burner appears to open into the ceiling, and that plan might be adopted in other buildings.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—There is a depression felt by the listeners after a long sermon, a feeling of heaviness which is almost uncontrollable; does this kind of gas produce that con-

dition? A.—I think the condition of the atmosphere has a great deal to do with it I do not think, however, that water gas has any more effect in that way than the other, but it is the consumption of the gas, and the breathing of the people that makes the air impure. If the gas lights were themselves made use of for ventilating purposes it would improve affairs very much.

PHILLIPS THOMPSON, Journalist, of Toronto, called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What statement have you to make to the Commission? A.—I may say that I have resided in Toronto for twenty years. The point that struck me in connection with the holding of this Labor Commission was, that it would be incomplete if some notice were not taken of the remarkable increase of rents that has taken place in all the large centres. It has been noticeable to anyone who has had occasion to rent a house or a store that the rent has gone up in proportion as the population has become centralized here and the value of property has increased. Speaking for myself I may say that when I first went into housekeeping fourteen or fifteen years ago I could get a house that suited me, a small comfortable house in a nice locality, within reasonable distance of my business, say half or three quarters of a mile, for fourteen dollars a month. To get such a house now I have to pay eighteen or nineteen dollars and go twice or three times as far out. That is the tendency of the increase of the city, and it bears with considerable hardship upon a good many of those who have only fixed incomes or salaries. Whatever advances may be made in the way of increase of wages by combination or strikes, these are offset and more than offset by the constant tendency to increased value for the land and consequent advances of rent. I can give an instance. I had not thought particularly of looking up any special instances, but one occurred to me. A relative of my own a few years ago rented a business place on Yonge street to do a small business in the dressmaking way. At the time she rented the small shop with a house in the rear the rent was fourteen dollars a month. In a few years it was advanced to sixteen dollars, shortly afterwards to eighteen dollars; then she left, and the present occupant pays twenty dollars for the same place without any material improvement. All of those increases took place within a period of three years. That is merely one instance of the tendency of increase in rents to bear down heavily upon those whose income or salary is not increased to any considerable extent by labor movements.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—With respect to a house such as you speak of; is there increased trade at the present time to warrant anything equal to the rise in rent of which you speak? A.—I think not. I do not know, but I think the general experience is that trade remains about the same. The population has increased, but with increased population comes increased competition in the different classes, not only among the laboring class proper, but among tradesmen in a small way and even in a large way. The only real gainers by the increase of the size of the city are the men who hold land for speculation or for rental. For instance, suppose a man owns a house and lot which at that time was worth \$2,000. With the increase of population the value advances. It is worth perhaps three or four times the figures at which he purchased it but as a house it is no more valuable to him than before. He can sell it for more but if he desires to remain in the same city and pursue his regular business he has to rent another place, so he has no advantages otherwise than as a landowner; he is not advantaged in any other capacity.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is there any practical remedy for this grievance about house rent? A.—As far as I can see, and I have given the question some little thought, there should be an appropriation of the land value or a considerable proportion of the land value either

by the Government or the State, it does not so much matter which. That would have a tendency to bring the vacant lots into occupation; no man could afford to hold property on speculation, for he must pay either the yearly value or something approaching it to the Government or the State. He would be driven to sell and others to purchase, and everyone who wanted a home would have an opportunity of getting one. It would give a great impetus to trade and labor in every department.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Would houses be built under that plan in advance of the requirements of the people? A.—No; but at the present time there are not sufficient houses for the requirements of the people except at rents which are really too high.

Q.—If rents are too high, so as to give enormous dividends to the builders of those houses, will not capital flow in to earn some of those enormous dividends? A.—I do not think they give enormous dividends to builders, but rather large gains to speculators, to those who hold property for speculation.

Q.—You said you thought that the increase of wages received by working people was largely, if not wholly, offset by the increase in rent? A.—That is my impression.

Q.—What period would that remark cover? A.—I fancy since the city began to grow with something like the rapidity it is growing at present. If a city stagnates and people do not come in you do not see the tendency; it is only in case of a steady increase.

Q.—What percentage of increase would you say the average mechanic has received, say within ten years, on his wages? A.—It is a very difficult question to answer; I could hardly say as to that. There was a witness before the Commission the other day who testified to an increase of two and a half cents an hour, and another, according to my recollection, gave five cents per hour for the carpentering trade.

Q.—If a man receives an advance of two and a half cents per hour, how much would that be in a day of nine hours? A.—Twenty-two and a half cents per day.

Q.—And if he works two hundred and fifty days in the year, how much would that make? A.—Fifty-six dollars and twenty-five cents, I think.

Q.—What would be the average rent which a workingman pays for his house? A.—I could not say. I have not made any preparation and have no statistics at my command to show that.

Q.—Would the average mechanic in Toronto pay ten dollars per month for his house? A.—It would be something like that I fancy.

Q.—That would be one hundred and twenty dollars a year. Would the mechanic have been able ten years ago to obtain a similar home for six dollars a month? A.—I am not prepared to answer that question.

Q.—Is it not true that when you said the increase of wages was offset by the increase of house rent, you had not made any actual study of the matter? A.—I think it is true in regard to some departments. I do not think in journalism there has been any such increase, or in the printing business.

Q.—Was it a matter of opinion with you when you gave that answer, or was it a conclusion based on the collection of facts? A.—It has been my impression from my personal experience. I think so far as journalism is concerned there has been no material change in ten years. There has been no change for the better in Toronto. It must be remembered that while there may have been increases in trades well organized, there are many other departments of labor not organized, and in those there has been little or no advance.

Q.—We were speaking more particularly of mechanics and workingmen? A.—It is perhaps a mistake to narrow the acceptation of the word workingmen to those who labor with their hands. It should be extended so as to cover every form of useful work, those who labor by the brain as well as those who labor physically. Take my department, journalism: surely a man who gathers intelligence or writes

editorials is as truly a laborer as the man who sets the type. One gets a salary and the other wages, but I do not see much difference; I never found one dollar of salary to go further than one dollar of wages.

Q.—We like to be specific and know what words mean and in what sense we use them. A.—True.

Q.—Do these buildings cost more than they formerly cost, irrespective of the land? A.—I do not know; I do not suppose they do.

Q.—You do not know. A.—I do not know.

Q.—You think that people who build houses and own them do not receive excessive interest on the money they have invested? A.—If you look at the matter of interest, I think they receive excessive interest. To me it is merely justifying one form of monopoly by another.

Q.—If it was a fact that owners of property for renting were receiving excessive interest would you not think other capitalists would come in and share those profits? A.—I should think so; and as a matter of fact they are doing so in Toronto. There has been a great rush in the direction of property speculation.

Q.—If a portion of the real value in the land were taken from the present owners would you propose that they would be compensated for the loss? A.—If there is any compensation to be made it should go to those who have been suffering from landlordism for a long time.

Q.—If a man bought a property yesterday and that property should be depreciated to any extent by a change in the law to-day, do you think he should bear the loss? A.—I think it would be a case of hardship; but such is inevitable in all social reform. It was a case of hardship when the slaveholder was deprived of his slaves.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you know what he got for them? A.—I know that in connection with liberating slaves in the British West Indies there was compensation made. There was however no compensation to American slaveholders. But at the same time I look at it this way; it was far better that emancipation was received even without compensation, than that slavery should be continued.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—To what extent would you carry this nationalization of the land? A.—My idea is that it will come gradually. I do not think it will come so suddenly as to cause any particular hardship to individuals.

Q.—To what extent would you have the confiscation of land carried—to the total value of the land? A.—My theory is, that the Government or the community, it does not much matter which, should be the recognized owners of the land, or at least should have the right of appropriating the yearly value of the land. At the same time I do not think it will come all at once, but gradually, by shifting the burdens of taxation from those objects on which it is at present and placing them on the land, putting a little on at a time, and by degrees shifting the whole burden of taxation to the land, and as it is seen that public objects can be accomplished and a large fund obtained for many objects now otherwise unobtainable, the process will be carried a little further.

Q.—It will be like the man who cut off the dog's tail an inch a day? A.—That is about it.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Have you sufficient confidence in the Government to give them the management of all the property in the Dominion? A.—Virtually the Government of to-day has at present the right of taxation.

Q.—Suppose your plan were carried out, have you such confidence in the Government as to believe that everything would be carried out honestly and without corruption? A.—I think when public opinion becomes sufficiently enlightened to make this reform it will also be sufficiently enlightened to prevent such Government corruption as might prevent its working.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Eventually you would have the Government appropriate the whole value in the land? A.—The yearly value in the land without the improvements; the improvements would be free.

Q.—Do you think settlers would improve land under such a tenancy as that? A.—I have seen in Ireland tenants carrying seaweed from the coast to land for which they pay exceedingly high rentals, and which they are ready to rent on almost any terms. I do not see anything to prevent settlers improving land which pays the annual value as a tax to the Government, so long as they were occupied.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—For how long would it be rented? A.—There would be no necessity for renting it or for any change in the present proprietorship. The Government would say: such and such is your tax, and so long as you continue to pay it you will be undisturbed in your possession.

Q.—Do you agree with what Henry George says at page 392 of his volume: "For this simple device of placing all taxes on the value of land would be in effect putting up the land at auction to whoever would pay the highest rent to the State."

Do you believe that? A.—I do not exactly pin my faith to all Henry George says.

Q.—Do you believe that? He says it would be in effect putting up the land at auction to whomsoever would pay the highest rent to the State? A.—No, I think that is an overstatement. I think there is perhaps a measure of truth in it. I do not think any man should be dispossessed because another man was willing to pay a higher value, so long as the occupier was willing to pay what the State had fixed.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Would you leave the nominal title to the land in the hands of the occupant? A.—Yes.

Q.—And you would have him taxed to the amount of the yearly value of the land? A.—The yearly value or something approaching to it.

Q.—Do you think there is any value in land which has not been created by labor? A.—Yes; under the present system there certainly is. For instance: supposing this lot at the corner of Church street had been for some reason or other left in a state of absolute wildness, that not a tree had been cut down, but that it was in the condition of a forest. It would now be just about as valuable as any other vacant lot, even if no labor had been done on it; the growth of the city would have given it the same value for occupation as any of the surrounding land.

Q.—About when was the City of Toronto cleared? A.—The clearing was done, I fancy, a hundred years ago.

Q.—This land would have been taxed for municipal purposes? A.—It would have been.

Q.—The owner would pay for sidewalks? A.—He ought to have done so.

Q.—For street paving, sewerage, fire protection, interest on the city debt and so on? A.—Yes.

Q.—The land would have been taxed for a hundred years? A.—Yes.

Q.—If that land had laid idle the owner would not have received any return. Would not the taxes, the interest and other disbursements in connection with it for one hundred years have now amounted to its selling price? A.—That would require an accountant to determine.

Q.—Now, if the yearly value of all the land were taken do you think that would supply sufficient money for Municipal, Provincial and Dominion expenditure, the ordinary expenditures? A.—I should think it would.

Q.—Have you made any calculation? A.—I have not made any calculation.

Q.—Would you have taxation imposed on improvements? A.—No.

Q.—Only upon the land? A.—Only upon the land. If other taxation were

necessary it should be made up by a tax on incomes. That would not interfere with the principle of land nationalization, if it were absolutely necessary to supplement the land tax.

Q.—How would the value of the land be found? A.—I will answer that question by asking another: How is the value of the land being found at the present time?

Q.—By being periodically put in the market for sale and it being sold to the highest bidder? A.—In many assessments the value of the land is separated from the value of the improvements.

Q.—Take it in the city: would land as land have any commercial value? A.—Under the present system it has a commercial value.

Q.—Under your system, if the whole yearly value was taken from it, would it have any commercial or exchangeable value? A.—I think that would require to be demonstrated by experiment. It might have a commercial value; yes, I think it would.

Q.—In what would the commercial value of the land consist? A.—Well, the improvements would have a commercial value.

Q.—We are talking about the land. In the case of a man holding property from which he could get no income and no benefit, would another man be willing to give him something for that which is practically valueless? A.—Suppose a man wished to go out of business and had buildings erected for business purposes, the other man in order to get the buildings would have to occupy the land.

Q.—Suppose you do not combine the improvements and the land? A.—Property speaking the land would have no commercial value.

Q.—Then if it had no commercial or exchangeable value how could its value be found for assessable purposes? A.—I hardly see how it could. Its value under the present system can be ascertained easily enough.

Q.—But under your system? A.—I have not thought that out.

Q.—We will now take wild land. Do people rush into Muskoka or other wild districts of Ontario to take up the land of which they will become absolute owners? A.—They do not rush into Muskoka just as they do into some other sections, because the land is not so good.

Q.—Take the Northwest: are they going in there in vast numbers? A.—Not in as large numbers as was expected at one time.

Q.—What is the leading motive that induces people to go into a new country and suffer the hardships and privations of pioneer life? A.—In order to build up homes for themselves.

Q.—In order to reap the benefit that will come from an increase in the value of the land? A.—Some may be actuated by that motive; others by what they can get from the land rather than the land itself.

Q.—If they had no hope of ownership in the land do you think they would go into new districts? A.—So far as new districts are concerned I think the tendency under land nationalization would be to benefit the settler. Under the present system monopolies can control large areas and consequently settlement is scattered. Under an equitable system of land taxation, under which the occupiers of the land would be secure so long as the taxes were paid, settlement would be closer and there would not be those vacant areas.

Q.—There would be the same proportionate rate of taxation placed on the farms? A.—There would be a land tax on every one who took up land.

Q.—So that anyone taking up land and bringing it under tillage would have to pay an annual tax for the ownership of the land? A.—A small tax, inasmuch as that land being at the extreme end of settlement would not be so valuable as land in more central positions.

Q.—Could not the speculator afford to pay it as well as the actual settler? A.—No, because the one who brings land under production could better afford to hold on than the man who was putting the land to no good purpose.

Q.—Do settlers on wild lands have as a rule much money to spare, or do they make special profits out of the land during early years? A.—They do not.

Q.—Then, if they had to pay a tax in addition it would be an additional burden upon them? A.—Not so, because a good many of the present taxes would be removed.

Q.—What taxes on settlers would be removed? A.—The very onerous tax on settlers in the Northwest—the tax on agricultural implements and other machinery.

Q.—What is the tax on his implements? A.—I do not know the figures.

Q.—Do you know whether agricultural implements are higher in Canada than in the United States? A.—No, I do not.

Q.—If the price of agricultural implements is not higher in Canada than in the United States, what is the tax which the Canadian farmer pays on agricultural implements? A.—They might not be higher in Canada than in the United States, and owing to their having to import them a long distance they might have to pay for them more than if they got them just over the border.

Q.—Is it a fact that just over the border implements are cheaper to farmers than they are on our side of the border to Canadian farmers? A.—I do not know. As regards this argument of settling the North-West, it must be borne in mind that the land available for settlement in the United States is limited. In the nature of things just so soon as all the land there is taken up we will have a rush of immigration into our territory, almost as a matter of necessity, because the people being unable to obtain land there will naturally look to our side of the border.

Q.—Is it not a fact that you have theorized upon this question rather than inquired into the facts? A.—I have inquired into a good many of the facts, but I am not able to carry many statistics on the point. I could answer many questions if I had time to look the subject up.

Q.—In regard to agricultural implements you stated something as a fact, although you now seem merely to have assumed it to be so. Do you know as a matter of fact whether agricultural implements are higher in Dakota than in Manitoba? A.—I have seen it stated that settlers are under a great disadvantage from having to import what they want from Eastern Canada, rather than get it from nearer points in the United States.

Q.—But you do not know whether agricultural implements are cheaper in Dakota than in Manitoba? A.—I don't know personally.

THOMAS BOWICK, Toronto, called and sworn :—

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You are an employing blacksmith by trade? A.—Yes, a horse-shoer.

Q.—An employer of labor? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long have you been in Toronto? A.—Seven years.

Q.—How long have you been an employer of labor? A.—Twelve years, I should say.

Q.—Do you use any foreign material in your trade at present? A.—Yes, I do, some shoe iron is imported iron—English iron.

Q.—Did you ever use shoes that were imported? A.—I did.

Q.—Do you use them now? A.—Well they are imported from Montreal.

Q.—No, I mean foreign ones? A.—No, none but Montreal ones.

Q.—What was the rate you paid for foreign shoes? A.—I paid as high as \$5.50 and \$6.00 a hundred pounds.

Q.—Do you get these shoes in Canada? A.—I get them in the city, and they are brought in from Montreal.

Q.—What do they cost you here? A.—\$3.70.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Your price was how much? A.—\$4.75 to \$6.00 would be the average price.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Was the Montreal article as good at the price as the foreign article? A.—It was better.

Q.—Does the fact of the material being cheap tend to raise the wages of the men?—A.—Yes, it stands to reason that if a material is cheaper I can afford to give more to the men; in fact I have had to pay more wages than before.

Q.—Do you know if any of your men belong to labor organizations? A.—I do not know positively but they say they do; they all, as far as I can understand, belong to them.

Q.—Do you find it cause any trouble among the men who belong to them? A. No.

Q.—Do your men feel it a benefit to themselves? A.—They seem to think so and it is a benefit to me because they keep straighter when they belong to a society of some kind.

Q.—You think because they are combined in an organization of that kind their habits tend to be more steady? A.—At the time they told me they joined this organization, they demanded more pay and certainly I have to give them more. I know they were worth it at the time and then I had got the pick of my men; at the rate of wages the best men are cheaper.

Q.—And do you find it a benefit or a drawback to have the picked men at a high rate of wages? A.—It is no drawback; it is a benefit.

Q.—Is there any grading in your trade? A.—I believe there is, but I give all the one price and pick my men.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—They are all equally good? A.—Yes, they are all equally good; the man who is not worth the pay he is getting now, is worth nothing—he is no use in the shop. He has got to be a good man or else he is no use.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you know the rate of wages in your trade as compared with the wages in the same branch of industry in Great Britain or the United States? A.—Well, I do not know for a general fact but I had those working with me who came right out from the old country.

Q.—Are they better off here comparing their state of living, than they are in the United States or Great Britain at the same wages? A.—As far as England is concerned I know of two or three who told me they are far better off here; in fact one of them is in business now on Alice street.

Q.—As an employer of labor do you believe in your trade settling trade disputes by arbitration? A.—I do; I believe it is the proper way.

Q.—Do you think it is beneficial? A.—I do.

Q.—Do you know anything about the various systems of arbitration? A.—I do not.

Q.—You never had to resort to arbitration with your men? A.—I was called upon to settle little disputes; you may call it arbitration on a small scale.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You settled the dispute amicably? A.—I was the third party called in to settle between two others.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How are blacksmiths usually paid—weekly or monthly? A.—Weekly.

Q.—The men prefer it that way? A.—Yes, it has been the habit all along.

Q.—Did you ever hear of them preferring one particular day of the week to be paid upon? A.—No; the custom is to pay them on Saturday afternoon.

Q.—Of course you have no time labor in your business? A.—No.

Q.—Are the men satisfied with the present mode of paying them? A.—Yes, I pay them on Saturday afternoons and they are satisfied.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Do many of your men own the houses they live in? A.—No, I don't think any of them do.

Q.—Are they married men or young men? A.—One is married and the others are young men.

Q.—Have you anything you could recommend which would be to the interests of the working classes in your particular line of business? A.—I don't think that I have.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you believe that arbitration is the best plan of settling disputes? A.—Yes, I think so, both between nations and individuals.

Q.—Do you prefer enforced arbitration to strikes? A.—Undoubtedly, I would prefer arbitration to a strike any time.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Would you prefer arbitration by an arbitrator appointed by the Government or arbitration by means of each party choosing an arbitrator and these two selecting a third? A.—I prefer disinterested people—each picking his own and the third appointed by the Government or the authorities.

Q.—Have you many apprentices in your trade? A.—I have none.

Q.—How is it with others in the same line? A.—I don't find that many apprentices are taken on; they generally come from country shops.

Q.—Is there any law of the union forbidding you to take them or limiting the number? A.—Not that I know of; no one has broached the subject to me.

Q.—If you have no apprentices, it is simply because you don't desire to employ them? A.—In fact, in our business we have no place for them.

Q.—You stated that you used to use English iron for shoes and that now you get shoes from Montreal. Of what iron are the Montreal shoes made? A.—I could not say.

Q.—Imported or Canadian? A.—I could not say.

Q.—Have you ever used Nova Scotia iron—Londonderry iron? A.—That is, probably, what we call Lower Port iron—yes, I have.

Q.—What is its quality as compared with English iron? A.—It compares favorably.

Q.—Have you ever used any iron imported from the United States? How does Canadian iron compare with that? A.—Well there are two kinds of iron: there is the Hamilton iron and the Three Rivers iron, which used to come in at one time; and then there is the Lower Port iron, from somewhere in the Lower Provinces.

Q.—That would be the Londonderry iron? A.—It is a good iron.

Q.—Are these as good as any imported iron you ever had? A.—I would say they are just about as good.

Q.—Were the horse shoes which were imported machine made or hand made? A.—Machine made.

Q.—And those from Montreal? A.—Machine made.

Q.—And what is the quality of the Montreal shoes as compared with the imported? A.—They are better; they are what are called the Rhode Island pattern; they are manufactured by the Montreal rolling company and another firm manufactures one which is not quite so neat.

Q.—Then as a matter of fact comparing the Canadian shoes with the imported ones which you used to get you get a better article and a cheaper article? A.—We get a cheaper article and I believe it is as good, if not better.

Q.—What rate of increase has there been in the rate of wages you have paid; how much have they increased? A.—That is since May; I had to give two dollars a week to two men and one to another.

Q.—How long have you been in business here? A.—Six years past.

Q.—Have wages increased in that time besides the increase this year? A.—They have been almost stationary up to this year when the horse shoers formed a Union.

Q.—You think the raise of wages was due largely to the formation of the Union? A.—Yes, I believe so.

Q.—And you say that since the increase you have selected your men, discharged the poor men and kept the good ones? I discharged one but it was not altogether

on account of the wages. I picked the Union men out and the steady men, I believe all belonged to the Union.

Q.—In case a poor man, in consequence of not being so fast or so careful as other men, is discharged, what other employment can he find? A.—He could find employment in the city at his own trade if he wished to be graded.

Q.—Does the scale of wages permit the grading of men according to merit? A.—Of course I do not know the workings of the Union, but I understand so.

Q.—You do not know whether a man if he is a slow or poor workman is permitted to work below the scale? A.—I think he is; I believe he is allowed to get what he is worth.

Q.—Suppose a difficulty arose between yourself and your men, would you rather settle it amicably and without arbitration—would you rather deal with your own men alone or with the Union, to which they belong? A.—I would be satisfied anyway, but I would rather they would appoint a man from the Union, I to appoint another, and these two to appoint a third.

Q.—If it was simply a matter of negotiation would you prefer to sit down and talk to your own men or have the men come from the Union? A.—If I settled with my own men perhaps they might break the engagement, but if they referred it to others it would perhaps be a more solid arrangement, one which would be binding.

Q.—You think if it was settled by the Union or by arbitration it would be in the nature of an agreement? A.—Yes, it would be understood that they could not get out of it; an employer has no chance against his men, for if three or four of them say they agree to something the others can break out of it, but with an arbitration they cannot do that. They can prove that the party said so and so and that I agreed to the same thing.

Q.—Do you find that your men in selling their labor and making an agreement with you stand on an equality with you or have you the advantage over them as an employer? A.—None in the least.

Q.—You and the men with whom you are making a bargain stand in perfect equality so far as the selling of the labor on his part and the purchase of it by you? A.—Yes, in fact they are all taken for the boss but me. We are on equal terms.

Q.—During the time you have been in Toronto do you think the cost of living has increased? A.—It has a little, rent has for one thing, and I think provisions generally are a little bit higher.

Q.—Bread? A.—Yes, and all provisions necessary for the house, I think.

Q.—Sugar? A.—Well I cannot talk much about sugar for it is sold at cost to catch custom. But bread and other stuff has increased.

Q.—How about clothing? A.—I think it is about the same?

Q.—And boots and shoes? A.—About the same, I think.

Q.—Do your men ever work on Sunday? A.—No.

Q.—Are you acquainted with the condition of the houses in which your workmen live? A.—One man is a householder, the others board.

Q.—Are these houses pretty comfortable? A.—As far as I know they are.

Q.—Large enough to give them reasonable room and air space in their houses? A.—I believe so. I visited them only once and I did not take particular notice of the sanitary conditions.

Q.—Do you know of any co-operative societies in the trade? A.—I do not know that there are any. I believe there is a benefit of some kind attached to it.

Q.—Do you know of any mechanics in your trade who have joined together to do blacksmithing work co-operatively? A.—No, I do not.

Q.—Is large capital required to go into such a business as you carry on? A.—Not a great deal.

Q.—A few men could unite their little means if they chose and start such a business? A.—Yes, they would want a little means to start it.

Q.—But not beyond the means that mechanics could easily acquire? A.—If they bought a house and looked after it it would take quite a while to make up enough to carry on the business.

Q.—Do you know if any of your men save money, or do they spend it as they get it? A.—I could not say.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Has the use of machinery in your trade lowered wages? A.—No it has not.

Q.—What is the average day's pay of a blacksmith? A.—\$1.75, I think is the regular pay as far as I know.

Q.—Do you know anything about the Factory Act which is in force in Canada? A.—I do not.

Q.—If you had a child and were going to send him at his trade what age do you think he should attain before sending him? A.—About eighteen.

Q.—And girls? A.—I would not have them in the factory at all.

Q.—Suppose you could not help yourself? A.—Eighteen or twenty years of age, at any rate.

Q.—Have you any opposition from foreign contract labor? A.—What do you mean by that?

Q.—Work which is done in the United States and sent over here. A.—Canadian work you mean done in the United States?

Q.—Yes. A.—I would oppose it certainly.

Q.—Has any been done? A.—I do not know.

Does prison labor in any way interfere with your business? A.—Not that I know of at present. At one time I believe there were shoes made in the prisons—

in Kingston penitentiary—but there are none at present.

Q.—Would that have a bad effect on your trade? A.—Undoubtedly it would.

Q.—Would you rather have Union men work for you than non Union men? A.—It would make no difference if they were good workmen.

Q.—There are not any better than Union men are there? A.—None better than Union men; mine are Union men and I would not want three better men in the shop, but I believe another man would be as good as they are whether he was a Union man or not.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Was there not a time when there used to be apprentices in your trade? A.—Yes, and I believe there are at present.

Q.—To what do you attribute the necessity of doing away with them for the most part, now that they are not so much used? A.—I was talking of the city; they are not used here, because young men will get work in a country shop and learn a certain part of their trade and then come into the city and go under instruction to finish.

I have had to take them that way myself.

Q.—Don't you think that the introduction of the method of making these shoes and nails as they are made at present is a great means of doing away with the labor of junior hands or apprentices? A.—I don't know that it would be.

Q.—Was not there a time when you had all the pointing of nails to do and small matters of that kind which could be done by young fellows? A.—Yes, but the young fellows could not do it; it required a good mechanic to point a nail.

Q.—I recollect a time when apprentices were frequently used in your business and that kind is a means of doing away with apprentices? A.—I don't think it is altogether. At that time when we had to point nails we got about three and sixpence a set and at the present time we get \$1.50 and \$1.75 for the same work and the nails are handed in to us all ready.

Q.—I merely wanted to know if that was the reason for doing away with apprentices—that there was no necessity for them at the present time because your nails come ready to hand? A.—Of course when I served my time there were four apprentices in the shop where I was. The introduction of machine goods undoubtedly is the cause of doing with one man less in a shop.

JOHN H. LUMSDEN, called and sworn :—

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What is your business? A.—I am a printer.

Q.—Do you live in Toronto? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How long have you worked as a journeyman in the printing business?
A.—I have worked as a journeyman twenty odd years.

Q.—Have you been all those years a journeyman? A.—Part of the time a journeyman and part of the time an employer of labor.

Q.—Did you ever act in the capacity of foreman? A.—Yes, on several occasions.

Q.—And as manager? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you a member of the typographical Union in this city? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long have you been so? A.—Every since I was a journeyman.

Q.—What are the laws of the Union to which you belong in regard to strikes?
What kind of a vote will cause a strike? A.—It takes a three-fourths vote, a vote of the members, and those have to be six months in good standing before they can vote on the question. That is the rule to the best of my recollection—I would not be positive.

Q.—Have you held any position in the Union? A.—At the present time I am vice president; I have been president.

Q.—Is there any rule governing the employing of apprentices? A.—In what respect?

Q.—In regard to the number of apprentices to be employed? A.—Yes. There are so many apprentices allowed to so many men.

Q.—Do you know the ratio? A.—I am not well up in it just now. It has been changed I think; I am not positive what it is.

Q.—Is the number more or less than formerly? A.—That I could not speak definitely about.

Q.—Are the apprentices indentured? A.—Not that I know of.

Q.—Is it the desire of the Union to have apprentices indentured? A.—The Union has on several occasions tried to bring the matter before the master printer with a view to having them indentured.

Q.—What is the reason the masters did not like to have, or did not choose to have, apprentices indentured; what in your opinion as a practical man is the reason why the employers of labor in the printing business do not desire to indenture apprentices? A.—I could never understand the reason.

Q.—Have you not formed your own opinion on the matter, from a printer's point of view and from your own experience? A.—What I say every day is this: that after a boy has been one or two years at the business an adjoining printing office endeavors to get him by giving him a trifle more wages.

Q.—Are there any objections in the Union to taking in as members female compositors? A.—No. They come in on equal terms with the men.

Q.—Does the Union see that they receive equal wages with the men? A.—Yes.

A.—They always try to have arbitration before they resort to other measures.

Q.—Is that optional with them or is it compulsory, as a law? A.—I think, I mistake not, our governing body declares it to be a law.

Q.—To resort to arbitration? A.—Yes.

Q.—With respect to printers in the book and job offices—the day hands as well as term them—what hours do they work? A.—Fifty-four hours constitute a week's work with them.

Q.—That is, they are enjoying the shortening of the hours of work? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long have they had this privilege? A.—The agitation was first started here in 1872.

Q.—It has passed into history by this time, but it will be remembered that there was a long strike at that time. Now, did the Union at that time resort to arbitration or consultation or interview the employers? A.—They tried to interview them.

Q.—What progress was made at those interviews to the best of your knowledge? A.—They were not satisfactory to the members of the Union.

Q.—Were the majority of the bosses willing for those interviews to take place? A.—It was rather the reverse.

Q.—Of course a strike ensued? A.—Yes.

Q.—And the result was what? A.—It resulted in the ten hours being attained.

Q.—Are the men principally paid weekly, or fortnightly, or monthly? I think, with one or two exceptions in the whole city, they are paid weekly; there may be one or two exceptions, and in those cases the men are paid fortnightly—not more than fortnightly however.

Q.—To the best of your opinion, would you prefer weekly payments? A.—By all means.

Q.—Have the men a choice as regards being paid on any certain day in the week so far as their convenience is concerned? A.—Several have expressed their opinion in favor of different days, and a good many with whom I have talked are most favorable to Friday evening.

Q.—Did you ever hear them give any reasons why they prefer Friday evening? A.—It is because it would give their wives or anyone who has to do the shopping a better opportunity to do so on Saturday morning.

Q.—How long has the Printers' Union in this city been in existence as a union, to the best of your knowledge? A.—Since 1844.

Q.—How many strikes during all that time have actually taken place? A.—I do not think the number amounts to more than seven or eight, if that many.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the book and job business? A.—Latterly I have not been very much acquainted with it; I have been out of that line of business for some years.

Q.—In what capacity did you serve? A.—I have been foreman of a job printing office in my time.

Q.—Has there been more printing done, do you think, in proportion to the size of the city, within the past five or ten years than formerly? A.—A great deal more.

Q.—Is it on account of the increase in the number of reading people? A.—Yes, that has something to do with it.

Q.—Do you know any other reason? A.—I suppose it is largely on account of the rapid growth of the city. That, no doubt, has something to do with it.

Q.—Have the book and job offices increased in volume, so far as business goes, on account of the supply of work? A.—Yes.

Q.—And have they brought the printing art down finer? A.—Yes, it is a great deal better to-day than it was formerly.

Q.—Is it more artistic? A.—Yes.

Q.—That is, that establishments are built up for specialties in the trade? A.—Yes.

Q.—Why is that done? A.—It is only in unison with what has occurred in every other trade. The departments of trade are being divided; different branches of work are being run in different offices. One office makes a specialty of one line, the same as is done in other branches of business, as we see almost every day.

Q.—For example, a book and job office goes into the line of illuminated bills? A.—Yes.

Q.—And they do so because they now have a demand for that kind of work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Whereas, before those offices were built up for that purpose, I presume there was scarcely any illuminated work done in the city? A.—Very little was done.

Q.—Did any come into the city? A.—Yes, lots came in.

Q.—From a foreign market? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know anything about this matter (for I know it is done in some establishments in the city), whether a certain class of printing is done in box factories? A.—I know that in some such factories they employ say one printer who does certain work in printing, which printed matter is afterwards placed on cases and biseuit boxes and such like.

Q.—A printer is employed for that particular work? A.—Generally one printer is set to prepare the type and put it on the press.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is that for their own work? A.—No, for outside work.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Who are generally employed in making those boxes? A.—Females.

Q.—Young women? A.—Yes, ranging from nine to twenty years.

Q.—Are they employed by the week or by piece work? A.—Some by the week's work and some by piece work; the majority I think are on piece work.

Q.—Take an ordinary fast hand, what would such a young lady earn? A.—Perhaps from three dollars up to four and a half or even five I have occasionally heard of.

Q.—That is on piece work? A.—Yes. That is for making the boxes and pasting the printed material on the outside of them.

Q.—We will take five dollars as the average? A.—It would be a very high average, I think.

Q.—How many hours a day do those young woman work in order to earn five dollars? A.—Five days in the week from eight o'clock to six, and they quit perhaps on Saturday afternoon. That is nine hours a day for five days and they are off Saturday afternoons.

Q.—Did you ever know it as a fact that when a young woman who makes a large bill, say five dollars, there was a tendency shown on the part of the employer to reduce the price per box or per dozen? A.—I have heard it said that the girls did not want to make more, for the employers might cut them down on their piece work. Some I have heard say so.

Q.—How are the sanitary arrangements of those factories, to the best of your knowledge? A.—In one or two I have been in they are anything but good.

Q.—There are separate conveniences for both sexes? A.—Separate in a sense that they are alongside of one another.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—During your experience as a practical man has it come to your knowledge that printers have become possessed of the houses in which they live? A.—Not very largely.

Q.—On the other hand, have the employers of labor become wealthy? A.—I should certainly say so.

Q.—Could you give the Commission any information as to the parties who have become wealthy say during the last few years.

Mr. ARMSTRONG—You need not mention the name.

WITNESS—I would rather not answer the question if I have to name any person. As an outsider and one judging the affairs of the world when I see the employers living in better houses I must certainly come to the conclusion that they are prospering; but we do not always know what the inner circle of the financial arrangements is.

Q.—But you have come to the conclusion that they have made money? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think that if apprentices were indentured to the trade they would make better mechanics? A.—By all means, decidedly.

Q.—Please state why you think so? A.—Because the amount of migration going on from office to office does not tend to make good mechanics. That is why I say so.

Q.—Have stereotyped plates any effect on your trade? A.—We have not felt much of it here.

Q.—Do you know if they have had any effect? A.—Not to my personal knowledge.

Q.—Would you prefer nine hours for a day's work? A.—I say we are better off since we have got nine hours. It has been established with us since 1872.

Q.—You spoke a few moments ago about posters coming in from other markets? A.—They are not coming in so largely now as they did some years ago.

Q.—From what market did they come in? A.—From the American market principally.

Q.—You refer specially to the large show bills? A.—Exactly.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Did you ever know a case where a printer who was supposed to have served his time had to go and serve longer? A.—I never saw a case.

Q.—Have you ever heard of such a case? A.—I have heard of cases where it was necessary to go and do so, in order to qualify for newspaper work.

Q.—Would that be from the hands not having been properly trained or would it be due to the boy's own idleness? A.—A good deal of it would be due to the boy not having been properly trained; in some cases no doubt it would be due to the boy's idleness; but I think in more cases it would be due to the other cause.

Q.—Is there any rule in the Union with respect to efficiency before men are admitted as members? A.—No; it is largely judged from the member or members who propose the men.

Q.—You admit all persons who are journeymen? A.—Yes, after they have shown satisfactory proofs that they have served the number of years.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—You say that printers work nine hours a day at the present time? A.—Yes, in offices governed by or under the control of the Union. I do not say that all offices have nine hours, but many offices not under the control of the Union have acceded to the nine hours since the Union obtained it; or perhaps not the full nine hours, but the men do not work, then, full Saturday.

Q.—They work fifty-four hours a week? A.—In printing offices where Union men work the hours are fifty-four per week. If they work in non-union offices they are supposed to get paid for the extra time over fifty-four hours.

Q.—Would the printers prefer to have the hours in that way or to have regularly nine hours a day? A.—They would rather have the half day on Saturday.

Q.—Is a man better off by having a half day on Saturday? A.—I think the majority of the printers are.

Q.—As a class are they pretty steady and industrious? A.—They are much better than they were some years ago.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are printers in any of the offices required to sign any document before going to work? A.—Not that I know of.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Why do you restrict the number of apprentices? A.—So as to give the mechanics a chance to get some work.

Q.—It is in the interest of the journeyman? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then this has a tendency to compel employers to give work to journeymen at journeymen's wages which could be done by boys at lower wages? A.—If you judge the class of work.

Q.—As a matter of fact do employers desire to employ more apprentices or boys than the rules of the Union permit them to employ? A.—I do not know of any such place.

Q.—If they were not disposed to employ a greater number of boys, would the Union have this rule on its book? A.—It is for self protection to themselves that it is put on the book.

Q.—Do you know if Union men have remonstrated with employers with respect to the number of apprentices employed, or saying that too many were employed? A.—In our trade, or do you refer to trades generally?

Q.—In your trade? A.—I have not heard of anything of that kind lately.

Q.—Have you heard of boys trying to get into printing offices and not being able to find employment in consequence of that rule? A.—I have heard of but one case. The office is always satisfied with the number of apprentices to which it is entitled, and I have never heard it objected to in any way.

Q.—Have you heard any complaint that boys were unable to find employment in the printing business? A.—No, I do not know that I have.

Q.—Are you familiar with morning newspaper work? A.—Yes.

Q.—About what would be considered the fair average week's bill for a morning newspaper hand of average ability? A.—From fifteen to sixteen dollars.

Q.—In order to earn that would he work every night in the week? A.—Six nights in the week. It would depend greatly on whether it was the busy time or not; sometimes there is more work in the office than at other times, and when there is more work the news is set in smaller type and there are consequently larger bills. The smaller the type the larger the bill.

Q.—I am not asking for large bills, but for the average bill of an average compositor? A.—I think fifteen dollars would be about the fair thing.

Q.—What are the wages paid for day work, that is where men are employed by the week at the union scale of fifty-four hours? A.—Eleven dollars.

Q.—You spoke a while ago about posters coming in; you said that some time ago such printed matter came in and now it does not? A.—I said it did not in such large quantities, because the offices in the city have gone more largely into that class of work.

Q.—Formerly they could not do the work? A.—It was done here, but it was not done to the extent it is being done now.

Q.—You do not know whether the customs duty has anything to do with it? A.—I could not answer that question.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Did you ever know of an employer of printers who objected to take a man because he belonged to a printers' union? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FRED:—

Q.—Will a union printer work in the same office with a non-union printer? A.—Some do, but very few in this city.

Q.—Would a non-union printer be permitted to work on one of the morning papers in this city? A.—No.

Q.—The men would object to his being employed there? A.—Yes.

Q.—Would the rules of the union justify a strike if the employer persisted in employing a non-union printer? A.—If it was gone about in a proper manner and laid before the union, it would.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Is there any agreement between the employers connected with the news papers, and the union as to who shall be employed? A.—No.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Upon what ground does the union man object to work with a non-union man? A.—As a rule the non-union man is not particular whether he gets the same of wages the Union man gets or not.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Of course there is a difference between a non-union man and a man who

was formerly a Union man, and who violated the rules of the Union? A.—There is a difference, and the Union treats the men in that respect differently. There are lots of men who come into this city who do not know there is such a thing as a Union until it is explained to them what it is.

Q.—Do you find them willing to join? A.—In the majority of cases they feel inclined to join.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—If a union man violates the rules of the Union and is expelled, what means are necessary in order to reinstate him? A.—His case can be re-opened.

Q.—If it is re-opened and he has no excuse to offer, but he desires to return to the union, is he permitted to re-join?—In some case he may be taken in again without any fine being imposed, and in other cases they may put on a fine.

Q.—What would be the amount? A.—It varies, and often when he is reinstated it is refunded.

Q.—What is the lowest fine you know of? A.—I do not know the particular amount. There is no settled sum for a fine, either high or low.

Q.—What sums do you know of having been imposed? A.—I have known as low as five dollars.

Q.—And as high as what? A.—A hundred dollars.

Q.—That would be in a flagrant case? A.—In a very bad case, in a very extreme case.

Q.—Do you know any case where men who sought re-admission to the union were refused? A.—I know of no case myself.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What age do you think apprentices ought to be before they go to a trade? A.—I do not think they should go before sixteen years.

Q.—Are the women employed in your trade provided with stools on which to sit? A.—I never worked in an office where there was female labor.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How many female compositors belong to the Union? A.—I do not know; I do not think more than two.

Q.—How many female compositors do you think there are in the city? A.—I do not know; not a great many; I could not say anything as to the number. I do not think, visiting the different offices, there are a great many.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you think a boy should be in charge of his father till he is sixteen? A.—I am speaking of a printing office; I think a boy should not go till he is sixteen and finish at twenty-one.

Q.—Then he should be in charge of his father till he is sixteen? A.—Yes, exactly.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You think that in order to make a good printer he should have a good education? A.—Yes, he should have a very good education.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Do you find the education of boys generally neglected in your business? A.—No, I cannot say it is. A very good test of a boy in our business is as to the way he can read manuscript when he first goes there.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Are there not many parents who need the wages children would earn before they reach sixteen?—I could not say.

Q.—Do you think the average mechanic in Toronto who has an ordinarily large family growing up can afford to maintain his children and keep them at school until they reach sixteen years? A.—I think so. I was raised by an ordinary mechanic, who had a large family, till I was sixteen; and I was twenty-one before I finished my time.

W. J. McFARLANE, carriage maker, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How long have you been in Toronto? A.—Six years.

Q.—Have you been in business all that time as a journeyman? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has the rate of wages in your trade increased or decreased during the last five years? A.—They have decreased from the time I came.

Q.—What is the reason? A.—Because there is so much machinery work; we have to compete with factory work.

Q.—Have you to compete with foreign manufactured goods in any shape? A.—Yes, with the American side.

Q.—That is with certain parts of a carriage? A.—In fact, with the whole of it in some goods; in others, with certain parts.

Q.—Just state in your own way how this is? A.—They manufacture the carriages and send them over here and they sell them cheaper than our bosses can manufacture them and sell them owing to our not having the machinery. That is one reason; and therefore to keep the work here I have to take less wages.

Q.—Are the carriage makers of Toronto an organized labor body? A.—Some of them are.

Q.—Do union and non-union men work in the same shops? A.—No.

Q.—What are the hours of labor? A.—Fifty-four hours per week; some shops in the city make it 60 hours.

Q.—Have they a standard rate? A.—Yes, to take nothing less than \$1.50 per day.

Q.—Are they paid weekly or how? A.—Weekly and fortnightly.

Q.—Do the men prefer that way? A.—Yes, they say they are quite willing to accept that.

Q.—Are they paid generally in cash or in truck? A.—There is no truck.

Q.—Have you many apprentices at the trade? A.—Not at wood work; there are at blacksmithing.

Q.—I presume carriage blacksmithing, and not other blacksmithing? A.—Yes, it is different from horse shoeing. Apprentices are kept filing up and putting on the irons in carriage making.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are the irons imported partially manufactured? A.—Some of them, like joints and so on, are.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Could these be made in Canada with encouragement? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. They are imported from the United States? A.—Yes, some from the United States; and some come from Gananoque.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is the cost of living greater at the present time than it was some years ago? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it more so in comparison with the rate of wages? A.—I think it is.

Q.—How are rents? A.—Dearer.

Q.—How much? A.—About four dollars dearer than they were six years ago.

Q.—In the same sized house? A.—Yes, they have been increased in the last years to the extent of four dollars.

Q.—Does the organized body of carriage makers believe in arbitration or have they any rules covering strikes?—A.—When they cannot settle quietly with the employers they would sooner have arbitration than go on strike.

Q.—Do the men know it to be a benefit to be organized? A.—Oh! yes.

Q.—I presume the principal reason is the increase in wages? A.—Yes.

Q.—But there are other local or social benefits arising? A.—Yes, it makes the men more sociable among themselves.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—What kind of arbitration do the men in your business prefer—a board appointed by the government, or that each side should call in a party and let them choose a third? A.—Let each side choose a party and the government appoint one man.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—In the event of the employers and the men not coming together in that shape do you consider that government interference would be justifiable? A.—I think it would.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—What effect has organised labor on the working classes in your trade? A.—I think it benefits them.

Q.—In what way. A.—In different ways; it brings the men sociably together so that one man will not take a job away from another.

Q.—What are the hours of labor? A.—Fifty-five hours a week; in some shops sixty. We work only fifty-five.

Q.—That is you quit at five o'clock on Saturdays? A.—We quit at twelve on Saturdays.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—You mentioned that you had to contend largely against the American imported goods and the reasons you gave were that the Canadian manufactories did not have the proper machinery. Have you ever seen the carriage works at Gananoque? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you been through American shops? A.—Yes I have worked in American shops where it was all machinery.

Q.—Were you in the establishment at Guelph? A.—Yes I was through it; I did not work in it.

Q.—Do not Canadian establishments turn out equally as good work as American? A.—They could but they could not turn it out as cheap.

Q.—Do they not? A.—I don't think so.

Q.—Have you not known cases where our Canadian manufacturers have taken the prizes over the same style of goods exhibited by Americans? A.—I have.

Q.—How do you account for that? A.—Partiality was shown; I think they preferred giving it to Canadians rather than to Americans.

Q.—For what reasons? A.—I think it was to encourage home industry.

Q.—What reasons can you give for our Canadian manufacturers not adopting the same system as the Americans? A.—They cannot. In the first place you have to import the stuff and bring it here to manufacture—that is first class stuff; we do not grow it in Canada.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What woods are generally used? A.—Hickory.

Q.—Don't we grow that here? A.—We grow shell bark hickory, which is not so tough or as good as that which grows in the New England States.

Q.—What kind do they use there? A.—The white hickory.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Are there many apprentices in your trade? A.—Not many in the wood working; they generally keep one in the shop.

Q.—What is about the age at which they are apprenticed? A.—We do not take any less than eighteen.

Q.—Do you take them any younger than that to the blacksmith's shop? A.—Yes, from sixteen.

A—8½

Q.—What age do you consider an apprentice should be before he goes into the trade? A.—I think he should be sixteen before he is fit for our trade, because it is heavy work.

Q.—Is the wood that comes from the United States used for all parts of the carriage or only for the hubs? A.—It is used for the shafts and spokes but the hubs they can get here as good. The gear, spokes, rims, and shafts come from the United States.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Does the establishment at Guelph manufacture a great many? A.—Yes after importing the raw material.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You spoke of white hickory; what is it? A.—It is second growth.

Q.—Shell bark hickory of second growth? A.—No, we don't get shell bark hickory of second growth.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Shell bark hickory is a Canadian hickory? A.—Yes, a kind of britch hickory.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—If a shell bark hickory is cut down what grows in its place? A.—I don't suppose there is anything but sprouts.

Q.—What do you call second growth hickory? A.—That which grows from the roots of old trees, but that which sprouts out from the cuts of shell bark hickory is no second growth hickory.

Q.—What wood is mainly used in the bodies of carriages? A.—Ash, white wood and bass wood.

Q.—All of Canadian growth? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is any of the iron work in carriages imported? A.—Very little is imported from the American side; it comes from Montreal.

Q.—Is the iron for carriages which is made in Canada as good as that which is imported? A.—I should judge it is.

Q.—What about the leather work. Is that imported? A.—Yes, that is all imported.

Q.—In what state of manufacture? A.—It comes here all ready, that is the leather top stuff—the glazed leather.

Q.—Made into tops? A.—No, it comes here in rolls; it is manufactured in the hide.

Q.—You think the only reason why Canadians cannot manufacture the wood work as cheaply as the imported article is that we have not the wood in Canada? A.—Yes, we have not the wood in the first place and then there is so much machinery there that they can manufacture it cheaper than we can.

Q.—Is it because our market is not large enough to warrant the production on a very large scale? A.—That is one thing.

Q.—What are the wages in the carriage trade in Canada as compared with the United States? A.—I think pretty nearly the same in some parts of the business.

Q.—Are Canadian workman as skilful as those of the United States? A.—I think they are.

Q.—And as expeditious? A.—That I would not say.

Q.—How much have wages been reduced in the six years you have been living in Toronto? A.—They have been reduced twenty-five cents a day.

Q.—Has the factory system grown more extensive in those six years? A.—It has.

Q.—And that has had a tendency to injure the mechanic? A.—It has. I know the factory in Gananoque was not going six years ago. Armstrong, of Guelph, has been going twelve or fourteen years but not on so large a scale as at present.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Does convict labor interfere in any way with your trade? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Does immigration? A.—Yes, it does.

Q.—Do you find the immigrants as good workmen as the Canadians? A. Well, he is not used to the work as well as the Canadian.

Q.—Does it take him long to get into it? A.—Sometimes a year and sometimes a year and a half, accordingly as he is a smart or a slow hand.

Q.—When he comes first does he work at as high wages as Canadians? A.—They generally take cheap wages to get instructions.

Q.—And generally engage themselves as being under instructions? A.—They engage as journeymen only; they want to get into Canadian ways of work.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What nationality interferes most with your trade? A.—Scotch and Irish.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How many immigrants who have already been mechanics in your trade have you known to come to Toronto? A.—Seven or eight.

Q.—In how many years? A.—In the last four years.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What would the others do with them? Do they interfere with them in any way? A.—I would send them back again.

Q.—Those that came here first you did not send back? A.—No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Are you a Canadian? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you think that as a Canadian, born of English, Irish or Scotch parents you should send those persons back? A.—I could not tell you; they get naturalized after a number of years.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Has the rise of rents of which you spoke been gradual or spasmodic? Have they been high, then fallen and then risen again? A.—No, they were at a stand for a long time but they have risen very much the last two years.

Q.—You don't know of property decreasing in value and then going up again? A.—No, not that I know of in this city.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—A house worth nine dollars a month four years ago would be worth thirteen now? Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How are the sanitary conditions of the carriage factories of this city as a general thing? A.—They are not very good.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—In almost every particular in regard to the building of carriages we are equal in Canada to the United States unless in the production of the wood in which they are made? A.—Yes, we can make a better carriage than they can over there.

Q.—What is the difference supposed to be in price? Take the same kind of article here and in the United States and what is the difference in price? A.—About twenty five dollars.

Q.—Now what will be the value of a carriage in which there would be that difference? A.—What kind of a carriage do you mean?

Q.—Take any line of carriages? A.—You must mention a special line of carriage before I could tell. Do you mean the common buggy?

Q.—What did you mean by saying that there would be \$25 difference? A.—I mean in a common buggy.

Q.—Do you think there would be \$25 difference in the wood alone—because in all other respects, the production of the iron and fittings and all that goes to make up a common buggy you think we are equal? You think there would be \$25 difference in the wood alone? A.—No.

Q.—What would cause a difference of \$25? A.—It would be caused in the labor and in the way we put the stuff on the market. The labor would make up the difference, taking the different branches of labor, wood-workers, painters, blacksmiths and trimmers.

Q.—Have we not got them in Canada? A.—Yes, but the difference is they make theirs so much cheaper and quicker that they sell them for \$25 less than we can.

Q.—What would be the value of this common buggy you spoke of? A.—You could buy it for \$75, that is the American buggy, which, if we made it ourselves and had no competition with them, would cost \$100.

Q.—Now, do you think that \$25 difference would be in the article produced here? A.—It would be better put together.

Q.—Would it be equal to the difference of \$25? A.—Yes, it would.

Q.—Because \$25 on a \$75 buggy would be 33 1-3 per cent., and that is a very big difference. Would it be that much better? A.—Yes it would.

Q.—So, in reality, if we could afford to pay the difference, we would not be losers by buying the Canadian buggy? A.—No, you would be benefited.

Q.—Your buggy would last longer in proportion to the amount paid for it than the American buggy? A.—Yes, it would; put an American buggy on the roads in Canada and drive it at the same rate as the Canadian buggy, and for the same time and you will find it will give out sooner.

Q.—What do you pay for a pair of American shafts all ready for use? A.—\$2.

Q.—And rims? A.—\$2.75, \$3, or \$3.75, according to quality.

Q.—I suppose about \$7.50 would cover the whole wood-work of a buggy, such as you speak of as being imported from the United States? A.—Oh, no; where is your duty?

Q.—Well, I am only speaking about the intrinsic value of the wood; I understand about the duty.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Could you give us the approximate prices for the different articles of wood work, such as spokes, hubs, etc.; such as you could buy them for in a carriage supply shop? A.—The wood work, work and all of a single buggy would cost you \$30.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—That would be the buggy completed? A.—The wood work of the buggy completed.

Q.—How much would a man receive as wages out of that? A.—Do you mean making it by the day or by the piece?

Q.—How much do you ordinarily earn making a buggy of that kind? A.—That would be about \$11 or \$12.

Q.—And the difference between \$30 and the selling price of \$100 would show what it cost the manufacturer for finishing and his profits in addition? A.—Yes, have the blacksmithing and finishing besides that.

Q.—How much would the blacksmithing cost? A.—\$35 to \$40.

Q.—That would not leave much for painting and trimming? A.—No, it would not; the blacksmith gets most of it. You must understand that the manufacturer make a difference in buying the iron themselves, but I am giving the price it would be if you went to a blacksmith shop to get it ironed.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—In Canada are you able to get out all this iron work as well as they do in the United States? A.—Yes.

- Q.—And as quickly too? A.—Yes.
- Q.—And the wood-work too? A.—Well, if we had the machinery we could put it out quicker.
- Q.—In all these things you find our workmen just as expert as in the United States? A.—Yes, a Canadian will command better wages any time in the United States than an American will.
- Q.—Then the special things are the wood work and the small fittings of different kinds? A.—Yes. A buggy manufactured here in Canada would be better to the buyer by \$25 than one brought from the United States.
- Q.—We would be better off by buying our own even at the advanced price? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Where are axles mostly made? A.—Mostly in Gananoque.

TORONTO, November 29th, 1887.

RICHARD DENNIS, called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What is your occupation? A.—Builder and contractor in the City of Toronto.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you employ men in all branches of the building trade? A.—In one sense I do, but my principal work is carpentering.

Q.—Do you take contracts in which you do all branches of work? A.—Some-times, but not often.

Q.—What wages do you pay in the carpentering trade? A.—The minimum rate is $23\frac{1}{2}$ cents per hour, sometimes we pay as high as $27\frac{1}{2}$ cts.

Q.—Do you pay men according to ability? A.—Just so.

Q.—Is the matter arranged by a scale of prices? A.—In my own case where there is a minimum rate I do not endeavor to go below it. If there is a price that is said to be the minimum price in the trade I do not on any account try to get men to work for less.

Q.—But if you think the men were worth more than $22\frac{1}{2}$ cts., would you be willing to give an additional sum? A.—Just so.

Q.—The scale fixed does not classify the men at all? A.—No. I believe in classifying men. I think it is the most serious thing in connection with our trade, that men should be supposed to receive the same money for the same time.

Q.—Would it be possible to rate the men? A.—I think so; I have never found any difficulty.

Q.—Would it be possible before a man is employed that you, for example, should know what his worth would be, and classify him into a certain grade? A.—I do not think that could be done because I think the results would prove different with different bosses. If you will allow me to explain, what I mean is this. For instance; an employer might engage a man, and put him to work at which he would prove to be a very good hand for that employer, and he would readily pay him $22\frac{1}{2}$ cents an hour. The man might, however, go a few blocks distant to another employer, who could not give him that amount of wages, because the man would not be worth it to him, because he was employed at a different class of work, and one at which the master could not make the man's work profitable.

Q.—If you have a man who is not considered worth $22\frac{1}{2}$ cts., per hour what do you do with him? A.—I simply discharge him.

Q.—Would it be possible, or easy if possible, for that man to get work elsewhere at his trade? A.—I cannot see that it is not easy for him to get work elsewhere.

Q.—Would some other employer be willing to take a man who could not earn his wages with you? A.—I do not think a good competent contractor would be guided in any sense by my opinion.

Q.—Do slow and inferior workmen get work as readily at any wages as quick and competent ones? A.—I should certainly think not.

Q.—Would it be an advantage to such men if they were permitted to work at just such wages as they and their employer could agree upon? A.—Most decidedly; it is eminently proper that it should be so. I feel so in the matter.

Q.—Do you think the Unions are an advantage to competent workmen? A.—I do not, because I have found in my thirty one years experience in Toronto that competent workmen will always get employment. Even in hard times I have always found competent workmen to be employed. I have many in my own shop, who have worked for me seventeen years, summer and winter, and have never had another boss.

Q.—Do you think the rates of wages would be as high if there was no union among the men? A.—Pretty much so, because they can only look at it in one light—it is only an opinion, and I do not know that it is worth very much here—it is that it is simply a matter of supply and demand. Some thirty years ago I sent to the lower provinces to bring up men, and I got them for \$2.00 a day. I paid their fare here and took them home again.

Q.—That was an exceptional case, however? A.—Just so, but we were very busy in Toronto, and men were scarce.

By MR. HEAKES:—

Q.—It was after the Russian war? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you give as high wages at that time as \$3.00 a day? A.—I never heard of that rate. About two years after that it is a well known fact that trade was bad, and carpenters worked for 87½ cents or \$1.00 a day on our University.

By MR. FREED:—

Q.—If a man stood alone in selling his labor would he be as independent as he is now as member of the Union, with the power of the Union at his back? A.—I think so, because I have some men who never were in the Union, and probably never will be in the Union, but they always commanded the best wages. I might say that personally I have no objection to the Union; it is all right enough. The only thing it feel about it is that while some men may if they choose combine with a view of obtaining better wages and other advantages, other men who are independent should not be interfered with in any way.

Q.—You believe in personal independence? A.—Yes certainly to the fullest extent.

Q.—There was a strike in the building trade in Toronto recently? A.—Yes, this spring.

Q.—What caused that strike? A.—The matter is past, and I do not care to be very dogmatic about it. But, if we would be very honest about it we might say that the men wanted everything and left nothing for the bosses. They wanted nine or ten things granted to them at one time, and they said that if the bosses did not grant the whole they would not be allowed to do business. It was simply such a demand that if the bosses granted it they would have to give up business.

Q.—What were the principal demands made by the men? A.—One was that the men should be paid wherever they were working.

Q.—I do not understand your answer? A.—They claimed that the wages should be brought to them wherever they were at work.

Q.—They would not be compelled to go to your office or shop? A.—Just so. And another demand was that all men who called themselves carpenters should be paid alike. That is not practicable in our trade; it is easy enough in some trades. I can see that it is easy in some trades, but it is not practicable in a business like carpentering.

Q.—They did not demand that you should be compelled to retain incompetent workmen? A.—It was not laid down in that way, because I claim that I always employ first-class workmen. They are not only good workmen, but they are gentleman in every sense of the word.

Q.—Did they claim that you should not have exclusive charge as to whom you should employ and not employ? A.—I do not think that it was put in that way.

Q.—How long were the men out on strike? A.—I think ten or eleven weeks.

Q.—Were any attempts made before the strike, or during the term of the strike, at conciliation or arbitration? A.—The men after a while got tired, and some wanted to do anything to get back to work again.

Q.—Were any efforts at arbitration made before the strike by either side? A.—I do not think there were before the strike. If my memory is correct an offer to arbitrate was not made, because it was a very sudden strike; I never expected anything of the kind.

Q.—How long did negotiations go on between the employers and employed before the strike began? A.—For a long time there was correspondence, which is all to be obtained from the men and the masters. The masters felt that the wages and everything else should continue this year the same as last year, and that there should be no change. There was nothing in the circumstances of the trade of the city to warrant any rise or any change, and the masters wanted the terms for 1887 to continue the same as 1886.

Q.—Did the question of hours come into this strike at all? A.—I do not think so, because it was only about a year ago, if I remember rightly, that the men demanded nine hours, and it was, in my opinion conceded to the men in a splendid way. There was no strike on that account. It was simply understood that the men should work nine hours: the men wanted it, and they had it conceded to them.

Q.—When the men at last returned to work did they get their demands, or was the strike a failure? A.—The strike was a failure; they came back exactly as they went out.

Q.—You treated them when they came back as before? A.—In what way?

Q.—You gave them the same wages? A.—Those who had worked for me before received exactly the same wages when they returned; that was the understanding when they returned.

Q.—It was this understanding? A.—Yes.

Q.—The employers have a Union; they are organized? A.—They have an Association. I suppose the majority are in it, but a great many are not in it.

Q.—Do you consider the organization a benefit to the employers? A.—I do not know. For years I had nothing to do with it; I can conduct my business as well without it as with it. I did not attend the meetings, and I do not care much about them.

Q.—Then you do not think Union is of any great advantage, either to employers or employed? A.—I do not. I do not see it is any good.

Q.—If the employers had not been united in resisting the demands of their workmen would they have been able to hold out as they did? A.—They could not go to work very well, because the trouble stopped all the building trade.

Q.—Would they not have conceded the demands of their men if they had not been united amongst themselves? A.—Here and there was a case where men got all they wanted, for you must understand that although there was a strike, there was a very large amount of work being done all the same.

Q.—The strike was not universal? A.—No. There were lots of men at work. I had scores of men working.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the number of men out on strike? A.—It is variously estimated; I have no means of estimating it. Some people calculated the number at 1,200 or 1,600 carpenters in Toronto.

Q.—Not all out on strike? A.—No.

Q.—Have you any means of judging how many were on strike? A.—All I can tell you is what the papers said, and, unfortunately, what the papers said, or at least two of them, is not correct. Errors, of course, will get into the best newspapers. The papers said that 600 or 700 attended at the meetings. I do not know what the number was.

Q.—Did that strike affect the bricklayers? A.—It did not affect them so very badly at first, but no doubt it affected them afterwards. It is affecting them today and it will all this winter.

Q.—If the carpenters were not at work the bricklayers could not proceed very far? A.—No, and after a time they had to stop.

Q.—Did it affect the painters, plasterers and other men engaged in the building trade? A.—Most of the departments kept along pretty well, considering the strike lasted eleven weeks, but, as I said, it will naturally affect them later.

Q.—Did it affect the brick-makers? A.—I do not think it had much effect on them; I do not think any brick yards stopped on account of the strike.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of any other strike in the building trade in Toronto? A.—Yes, they have frequently occurred during the last twenty or thirty years.

Q.—What has been mainly the cause of the strikes? A.—Out of my own line I have not paid any great attention to the matter.

Q.—Has it been a demand for higher wages? A.—Yes, and shorter hours.

Q.—Have the employers ever tried to reduce wages? A.—Wages have been reduced without trying very much, because it was inevitable. Years ago carpenters got \$1.60 a day, but I would rather be paying \$2.50 than \$1.50 or \$1.75.

Q.—It does not affect your profits? A.—No; I would rather pay the higher wages.

Q.—Have you any idea of the number of employing carpenters in Toronto? A.—I have not; there is a great number. Some employ one or two men; others three or four.

Q.—There is a considerable number of builders or carpenters who employ a large number of men, is there not? A.—Yes, a great many.

Q.—Have any of them been in business as long as you have been? A.—I do not know anybody except Mr. Wagner. He was in business when I came here in 1856; and also J. B. Smith, then with Smith & Burke. I do not remember any others.

Q.—Have any of these employing carpenters, who have been in business for a considerable number of years, made what you would call large fortunes? A.—Certainly not; that is out of the question.

Q.—Have they become moderately wealthy? A.—I do not know anybody who has become moderately wealthy out of the building business.

Q.—Take an employing carpenter, with good business ability and a reasonable amount of capital, push and energy, do you think he can make inordinate profits out of the business? A.—I do not think it is possible. The competition is so keen at these times I do not think he can possibly make anything like inordinate or large profits.

Q.—If a man is not a pushing business man, or if he has not good business ability can he succeed at all as an employing carpenter? A.—I do not think it is possible because when we had bad times a few years ago only three or four stood on their feet right through the whole of it. They all went down like nine pins.

Q.—Among the journeymen carpenters do you know personally if many of them save money? A.—I have a number who have acquired property. They are frugal and industrious, and I think they have benefited largely out of the movement; that is to say they had more hours to spare to apply to purposes of their own benefit by building for themselves good homes and nice snug properties. Some men in my employ one, two, three, four, have houses, and not much mortgage on them either.

Q.—Do you think it is within the power of the average carpenter, who has ordinary prudence and an average family to maintain, to save money enough to purchase his house? A.—I do not see anything to hinder a man, who would only get as a rule \$2 a day, doing that, if he has only pluck and makes use of all his spare time to build a home.

Q.—What is your opinion of the style in which journeymen carpenters live compared with the style in which they lived when you first came to Toronto? A.—

I think they are better off, vastly better. There are men among them, as I have said, who own their own homes. That is much more common to day than it was twenty years ago.

Q.—Do they live in better houses? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are their houses better furnished? A.—I can hardly say; I do not know that. I think they are better.

Q.—Do you visit the houses of many of your journeymen? A.—If any one is sick I go around and see him. I often have to call on them if I want to communicate with them.

Q.—Do you find their houses poorly furnished as a whole, or well furnished? A.—None of the houses of the men in my employ are what we would call poorly furnished; they are comfortably furnished.

Q.—Are there carpets on the floors? A.—Yes.

Q.—Pianos? A.—I doubt that. A piano is not a necessity, although they are good things to have around.

Q.—What is your idea of the cost of living as compared with the cost of living twenty five years ago in Toronto? A.—I think twenty five years ago many things were very cheap which, thirty years ago, were exceedingly dear, but, there has been so much competition of recent years as to result greatly to the advantage of workmen.

Q.—How about provisions; do you think they are as cheap as twenty or twenty five years ago? A.—It is not fair to take an exceptional time like the Crimean War. I think things are now reasonable on the whole.

Q.—Take bread stuffs and vegetables. A.—I think things are pretty much the same all over, freight has got down so fine.

Q.—How is meat? A.—I cannot say. Meat must be reasonably cheap now.

Q.—It is not as cheap it was fifteen or twenty years ago is it? A.—I have to plead ignorance to that; it is a question I am not prepared to answer.

Q.—How is house rent? A.—House rent in Toronto is certainly dearer. There is a tendency for house rent to be higher.

Q.—Is that a universal tendency, and does it simply drive the comparatively poor man further back into the suburbs of the city? A.—I think a great many men are getting bigger wages than they did a few years ago, because they pay more for their house rent, and they will have as good a house although the rent is dearer; I know some cases in which the men are living in the same houses as they did years ago, and they are paying higher rents for them.

Q.—If a man could afford to pay, say \$10.00 or \$12.00 per month is he compelled to pay more now, and is he forced to go further into the outskirts? A.—Yes, because in all the central parts there are lots of cases in which the poorer classes of houses are being torn down to make room for better ones, and the result is that the workingman has to walk further to his work.

Q.—Can he get just as good a house for the same rent as formerly, if he goes further back? A.—Yes, you will find that to be the case. There are houses on Major Street, from which it will take a good half hour to walk, renting at \$16.00 per month and if these same houses were on McCaul Street they would rent for \$25.00 a month.

Q.—Can you give the Commission any information as to the scale of rents in any given locality, say for eight or ten years? Can you fix on any particular street, and tell us how much the rents have risen within ten years? A.—I have a lot of houses on Markham Street. Although the street has improved, is block paved, and opens to Queen Street I only get the same rent as I did ten years ago. I do not know how the matter applies to other people.

Q.—Who has paid for the improvements? A.—I have. Perhaps the property would now sell for more, but I do not charge any more rent now than I did ten years ago.

Q.—That will be an exceptional case? A.—It may or may not; I cannot tell how it is with other people.

Q.—Do you think that a person who owns a rented house gets excessive interest

on his money? A.—No, indeed no. The better the house a man builds the worse it pays.

Q.—Do you consider that a grievance? A.—Yes, it is very clear. For instance, I have cottages that pay very well on the outlay: Then I have a better class of houses and the interest they return is less, and when you get up to the first rate houses it is very poor. You can get better interest on almost everything else than on good houses.

Q.—Then, in proportion, the houses occupied by the working men pay more than those of the well to do citizens? A.—They certainly do, for a cheap house, a workingman's house, will pay better.

Q.—Do you use much machinery in your business? A.—I have almost all necessary wood-working machinery.

Q.—To what extent has machinery replaced manual labor? A.—I do not see any difference between now and thirty years ago in that respect. Carpenters are in just as good demand now as formerly; that is to say that I can employ men all the year round much better now than twenty five years ago, because it was customary then to stop work a considerable time in winter. If any employer will make an effort now he can keep some good men all the time.

Q.—If all the machinery were taken out how many more hands would you employ? A.—It would require a fine calculation to tell.

Q.—A considerable number? A.—Certainly, I cannot imagine how many it would take to dress lumber, make flooring and sashes, and so on, as against the machinery we have in operation.

Q.—Of course, the work turned out by machinery is cheaper than the work turned out by hand? A.—Certainly.

Q.—Has the effect of this cheapening caused more work to be done than would be done if there was not this machinery? A.—Certainly.

Q.—Is the carpentering work more elaborate than it used to be? A.—Yes, there is more ornamentation. In fact, on houses it is now carried to an excess; all the trimmings and everything about it are more elaborate than they formerly were.

Q.—So, if machinery has taken labor from the workmen it has created more labor for the workmen? A.—Certainly.

Q.—Are any carpenters required to sign any agreement not to belong to a union or anything of that sort? A.—I have never heard of such a thing. I should as soon think of cutting a man's throat as asking him to sign anything of the kind.

Q.—Is your machinery reasonably well protected? A.—It is; so much so that the other day when the inspector came around he was delighted with it, and he made only one little suggestion, which he thought would be an improvement, and I will carry it out at once.

Q.—Have you had any accidents in connection with machinery? A.—I have never had any accident, except a trifling one due to simple carelessness. I have had no accident worth mentioning; nothing serious.

Q.—What is your liability in case of accident? A.—I never could understand that properly; I do not know what it is. It seems there is an employer's liability Act, but, I do not know how far it would affect me.

Q.—How frequently do you pay your men? A.—Every two weeks at Saturday noon; that is up to the Friday night previous.

Q.—You pay them on Saturday up to the previous evening? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think that is sufficiently frequent? A.—I do; It is the way I used to be paid; I do not see that it is not satisfactory.

Q.—Have your men ever asked to be paid more frequently? A.—I never supposed they wished it.

Q.—Did it ever occur to you that it would be better for the men if they were paid more frequently? A.—I do not think it would help them one bit, or that my men wish it. If I thought it would do any good I would do it, although it would be considerable trouble to myself.

Q.—How much trouble—just the making up of a pay list every week? A.—Not only that, it is a matter of financing.

Q.—If the men were paid weekly would they not be able to pay cash for everything they got, more completely than they do now? A.—I do not see how it could make any difference. If a man is prudent, and lives within his income he will have his two weeks' income all the same.

Q.—Is there not a temptation when men receive large sums of money at a time to spend more freely than they would if they received small sums at more frequent periods? A.—I do not think that would affect the majority of the men—men as intelligent as those I employ.

Q.—Do you think many of your men go on the credit system? A.—I do not think any of them do. I do not think any of them are in debt or in difficulty. I am speaking strictly within my own men.

Q.—Do you think Saturday the best pay day? A.—I think Saturday is a good time all round, for employers and employed; Saturday noon.

Q.—If the men were paid on Friday would not their wives have a better opportunity of purchasing in the market on Saturday morning? A.—I do not think so, because the supplies are so distributed over Toronto, and there is so much shopping done on Saturday afternoon that you can buy things as cheap on Queen or Yonge Streets on Saturday afternoon or evening as you can in the morning.

Q.—Do not the wives of the working people go to St. Lawrence market, or do they buy at second hand? A.—I do not think many go to the market. There is no need of it, because there are such splendid markets and stores all over the city.

Q.—Do many buy at the farmer's waggon? A.—There is not much of that done. Are not vegetables cheaper at the farmers' waggons than at the green grocer farmers' supplies are bought up by store-keepers generally, and are resold.

Q.—Is that custom disadvantageous to the working people and the comparatively poor; could they not get the supplies cheaper direct from the farmer? A.—I do not think the farmer would have patience to peddle them out by the bag or half bag, or in smaller quantities.

Q.—Was there ever a by-law in Toronto against what is called forestalling; that is, buying from the farmers before a certain hour? A.—I think there was an attempt to carry that out, but I fancy it fell through. You can stop a man on the street, and if the man will sell you can buy, and that is often done.

Q.—That is under the Ontario Law? A.—Yes. The farmer has to pay the market fees all the same as if he were on the market.

Q.—Are not the best articles in the market bought up during Saturday forenoon? A.—Of course, the market is in the morning, and everything is pretty well cleared out later on.

Q.—Have not those who have to do their market in the afternoon to suffer a disadvantage compared with those who go in the morning? A.—Yes, if they want to buy from the farmers in the market.

Q.—How about shops? A.—It will apply to shops also. The market is closed about noon.

Q.—Then, it will apply to shops also as well as to the market, for the best articles are bought up on Saturday morning? A.—I do not think so; because we have such fine supplies that you can buy everything on Saturday night as good and as choice as at almost any part of the day.

Q.—Your men are always paid in cash? A.—Always.

Q.—Have you known of any carpenters coming in under contracts made with them abroad? A.—I have never heard of a case of that kind.

Q.—I thought you told me that on one occasion you went down to the Lower Provinces? A.—Yes, you would not call Montreal abroad.

Q.—Certainly not. Then you do not know of men being brought from foreign countries under such contracts? A.—I never heard of such a case.

Q.—Do many emigrants come in who are carpenters? A.—Most of my men

are English or Scotch or Irish: men who learned their trade in the old country.

Q.—Do new men come in in any large numbers? A.—I do not see anything of them; if they come they pass through Toronto and do not come to me.

Q.—Is there in ordinary times a surplus of carpenters in Toronto? A.—I think the most of the year for years past the carpenters have been well employed, and for several years past almost every carpenter could be employed all the year round. He will be able to work for at least two hundred days in the year.

Q.—A good deal of carpenter's work stops in the winter? A.—It is stopped. Supposing men are working on a roof, and it is so cold they cannot remain there, they have to wait two or three days until the weather moderates. They do not stop for any other reason.

Q.—Does the outside carpentering work go on all the winter through? A.—Yes. I rebuilt the sugar refinery two years ago right through the month of January.

Q.—You do not wish the Commission to understand that as many carpenters are employed in the winter months as in the summer? A.—For the last two winters there have been scarcely any men asking for work. I do not understand the way it has been put, that carpenters should only get \$350.00 or \$400.00 a year, because I have men who have worked 300 days, and got 22½ cts. an hour, or \$2.05 a day.

Q.—Do you work as long hours in winter as in summer? A.—You have to shorten up from now till the middle of January. At the middle of January we pull out longer. So soon as we can see during nine hours we work nine hours.

Q.—Can you tell the Commission how the wages of the carpenters in Toronto compare with those in the cities of the United States—such cities as Buffalo, Rochester or Detroit? A.—From statements shown to me the wages paid here compared very favorably last spring with the wages in a number of cities in the United States.

Q.—Cities as large as Toronto? A.—Bigger; Buffalo. There were seven or eight cities compared with Toronto, and the showing for Toronto was first-rate. I could not mention the cities from memory; but on the other side it was claimed that seven other cities might be selected where bigger wages were paid; and that again was met by the fact that everything might be dearer there, and the men consequently no better off.

Q.—There is a tendency to pay higher wages in large cities than in small places? A.—I think so. I presume that the wages of carpenters in country places are less than in Toronto.

Q.—Have you any knowledge as to how the wages in Canada compare with the wages in Great Britain? A.—I think the advantage is altogether in favor of Canada, because I have made three trips to the Old Country during the last few years, and I found among my old fellow apprentices, and people who were learning my trade, that they certainly are not in a position to compare with carpenters in Toronto. They would do anything if they could square up there, and have a chance in Toronto.

Q.—Can you give us figures as to the prices paid there? A.—I cannot state positively, and they only apply to the provinces anyway.

Q.—You cannot speak as to the wages in other places in Canada than Toronto or Ontario from your personal knowledge? A.—No, but I understand that the wages in Toronto are quite as good as in any place in Canada, and better than in most places.

Q.—Do you know of any co-operation amongst carpenters to carry on business? A.—I never heard of any.

Q.—How many apprentices do you employ in proportion to the number of men? A.—I have no apprentices; I cannot handle such a thing.

Q.—You do not want them? A.—No.

Q.—Would you consider a training school in which a boy would learn the carpentering trade or the elements of it would be an advantage? A.—Indeed, it would; that is what is badly wanted here. Perhaps you will allow me to explain. The trouble with apprentices here is on the one hand that they are no use, and on the other because they will not stay; they go away to better themselves after they learn

a little of the trade, and it is too much the system in shops to keep the boy at one thing. Some of them have been kept at one job for two or three years, and they are then useless at anything else. That system is all wrong; boys do not have a chance of learning the trade properly, the same as they do in the old country.

Q.—So, you think that if a boy were indentured he would not be so ready to leave you? A.—I have had to destroy their indentures with the consent of the parents of the indentured apprentices. One thing I think is very necessary, and that is that good Canadian boys should have a chance to learn the trade properly in all its branches, not according to the present practice of keeping a boy for two or three years at the same machine, and when he leaves it he may tramp all over the city, and not be able to get work at a similar machine, by which means he is thrown on his beam's end, and does not know what to do.

Q.—Do you think that the abuse of the apprentice system is due to the fact that boys will go away in spite of their indentures? A.—I do not know how it may affect other people. I have had a few cases. After a boy has been kept at a machine for a few years he becomes restive and you cannot help him. I think it is very important to properly train up apprentices to the business.

Q.—Does contract labor interfere with you at all? A.—No.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You said at the commencement of your examination that there was a minimum rate of wages in Toronto. How in that rate fixed? A.—By agreement between the men and the bosses.

Q.—Did the men and the employers meet together, or was there a deputation? A.—It was through a deputation.

Q.—And they were successful that year in obtaining their desires? A.—Yes, evidently so. I think that was the time when the nine hours system was inaugurated.

Q.—In that agreement in which they fixed the minimum rate of wages, did it not also state that there was a higher rate to be paid to men? A.—Of course, it was implied that there might be a higher rate.

Q.—Did it not distinctly say so. If the men were getting 22½ cents an hour, and they had to get 25 cents for the future, or if they were getting 25 cents and had to get 27 cents, a higher rate was implied? A.—There was an advance all along the line of 2½ cents.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you think settlements should be arrived at without a strike? A.—Certainly; there ought to be no such thing as a strike.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You think the attempt made that year was successful? A.—It was so successful that everything was quietly settled; trade was not interrupted, and there was no division of any kind.

Q.—You are still working under that agreement? A.—No. I pay nobody under 23½ cents; there are, of course, young men who are improvers; young men who are so unfortunate as to have been employed at one machine, and who want to get a chance to be mechanics, and they are perfectly willing to work for \$1.75 or \$2 a day. There are some, like that, but they do not set themselves up as being first class mechanics, and they would not claim what is termed the minimum rate of wages.

Q.—That agreement was brought about by representatives of the unions and the master carpenters' association, I believe, was it not? A.—I do not know that the representatives were all unionists; they may or may not have been.

Q.—But, they were representatives of the trade? A.—Of the carpenters.

Q.—That agreement could hardly have been brought about except by concerted action? A.—Of course, not.

Q.—In that sense the union worked a benefit all round? A.—Yes, they obtained what they wanted in that case, undoubtedly.

Q.—You are a member of the master builders association? A.—I am on the roll.

Q.—Do you find it a benefit? A.—I cannot say that it ever benefits me.

Q.—Is it not a benefit to be together? A.—I cannot say that it is, for the simple reason that the masters are not on a par with each other. If they were all men who employed on an average seventy five men, like myself, it would be all right, but the trouble is that there are men who never employ more than one or two hands, and they have more to say than the men who have thousands at stake.

Q.—I suppose there is no coercion on employers who do not choose to belong to the association? A.—No, it is purely voluntary, because a great many employers do not belong to it.

Q.—I think you said that the last strike in Toronto was due to the fact that the men wanted to get everything there was in the business; can you state to us what their demands were? A.—I could not go into the particulars, because there were a number of demands of which you are probably better aware than I am—nine or ten demands which the men wanted the employers to sign. If I had thought that it would have been of any assistance to you I would have obtained a copy of their demands.

Q.—Will you send a copy to the Commission? A.—I will do so with pleasure

[The following note was subsequently handed in with accompanying document:—

Herewith find copy of draft agreement, carpenters to employers, last January 7th, which I promised to hand the Commission.

The main objection was, that the unskilled carpenter was to be at once raised to the value of the best joiner. This was refused, as it would be putting a premium on incompetence, and the employers must continue to be the valuers of their own commodity.

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD DENNIS.

TORONTO, January 22nd, 1887.

DRAFT AGREEMENT submitted to *Master Carpenters' Association by Journeymen Carpenters, &c., for acceptance.*

AGREEMENT between the Master Carpenters' and Woodworkers' Association of Toronto, and the Journeymen Carpenters', Joiners' and Woodworking Machinists' Association of Toronto:

1. The Master Carpenters' and Woodworkers' Association do hereby agree with the Journeymen Carpenters', Joiners' and Woodworking Machinists' Association, to advance the minimum rate of wages from 22½ cents per hour to 25 cents per hour from the 1st day of May next.

2. That it shall be imperative on the part of all employers of labor in connection with the Carpenters, Joiners and Woodworking Machinists, that none but Trades Unionists be employed.

3. That nine hours constitute a day's work, commencing at 7 a.m. and leaving off at 5 p.m. for the five days of the week, and on Saturday from 7 a.m. until 12 noon.

4. Overtime to be paid for at the following rates:—From 5 p.m. until 8 p.m., 10 cents per hour extra time worked; after 8 p.m., until next morning, 12 cents per hour extra; overtime on Saturday to commence at 12 noon, at the rate of 10 cents per hour extra, until 5 p.m.; after 5 p.m. until 6 a.m. Monday morning, double time. Systematic overtime to be discountenanced.

5. That all men be paid on the jobs, or allowed time to walk to the shop for same.

6. That in the event of a Carpenter or Joiner being discharged he shall receive one hour's time for the purpose of grinding and putting his tools in order.

7. That in the event of any change in this Agreement being desired by

either party, three months' notice to that effect must be given on or before the 31st day of January, in any year, and such change not to take effect before the 1st day of May next ensuing.

8. The foregoing rules and regulations to apply to the Toronto district, said district to include the city of Toronto, Parkdale, Seaton village and Rosedale].

Q.—I am particularly anxious to show that in the event of a dispute between capital and labor such a dispute might be settled without a strike, and I would like to show that there was some effort made to settle the dispute before the strike took place. You know that the men made certain demands, and the employers' association had a meeting with them and it was not satisfactory. That was before the strike, and after the strike the demands were changed. Would you favor some form for the settlement of disputes rather than these continuous strikes? A.—I would go in for anything that would satisfy both sides. Strikes are very bad. I never know any good come from strikes.

Q.—You think some effort should be made to provide means for settling those disputes? A.—I wish there were some means that would be acceptable to all concerned. It is a very difficult matter. I hope it will come out in the long run, but it is impossible, when you speak of arbitration for a tailor to arbitrate for carpenters. When I say that it is not said in an offensive way with regard to the tailor, and I could never see that Mr. Howland as Mayor of the city did any good in the way of arbitration, because he was out of his sphere.

Q.—You think arbitration would be a benefit? A.—Yes; I think it would be preferable to strikes.

Q.—You said something about men wanting to be paid at their job as one of the causes of the strike. If a man is working for you at the East End, would you allow him his time on Saturday afternoon for walking to your shop at the West End to be paid? A.—He would be allowed it. I always make it a rule to pay the men on the work, as far as possible. If a number of men are employed on a building, I never think of compelling them to come to the office for their pay, but we take it to them, on the other hand, if I had men employed at the Don, and others at the Subway, because at Rosedale, it would be too much to ask me to send their wages to them, and others at Rosedale, they would have to verge towards the office; and, for that reason it is right that they should come to the office and get their money. In all cases the money is ready in envelopes, and it is rapidly handed out.

Q.—As a rule, in Toronto, are men who have to walk long distances to the shop allowed time for going for their pay? A.—I have never had any difficulty on that score.

Q.—Is it a rule that the employers in the city make that allowance? A.—I do not know.

Q.—One can easily see that the men might lose the better part of their holiday on Saturday? A.—Yes. However, that was only one thing that occurred to me in regard to the demands of the men. There are several matters much more important than that.

Q.—Did it ever occur to you, speaking of pay day on Saturday, that it would be more beneficial to the men if they were paid on Friday? A.—It did not, but, if it would benefit the men, I would pay on Friday night.

Q.—Do you not think that if workmen were paid on Friday night, the men would have an opportunity of spending the afternoon in pleasure with their families, or in going over to the Island? A.—If a man is paid, as in my case, at twelve o'clock it does not hinder him going to the Island or to Mimico in the afternoon.

Q.—Yours is an exceptional case, and, even if the time of pay is twelve o'clock, are not some of the men so far distant that it will be two o'clock before they receive their money? Now, would it not be more beneficial for the men to have the whole Saturday afternoon from twelve o'clock to themselves? A.—I do not think it is right for any master (I do not know any that do) to dilly-dally over paying their

men. In my shop for twenty years past all the envelopes have been ready at twenty minutes past eleven. When the bell strikes we are in the shop, and all the paying is done in a minute or two.

Q.—Would you favor some system of paying the men which would enable them to get the most benefit from their holiday? A.—Any proper, decent employer should make an effort to do that; he ought to take pride in doing it. In fact, if men would only do as they would like to be done by, it would be all right. That is the way I have done.

Q.—In regard to apprentices you say that boys are kept to do the same thing two or three years, and that a boy is turned out a one-handed mechanic. If employers had been more industrious to teach boys the trade they would not have kept them two or three years at one branch? A.—No. The matter ought to be put in the indenture, and instead of a boy being kept at one machine he should have a chance of improving himself, and using his thinking powers, and not learn to act like a machine.

Q.—Then if a boy was anxious to learn a trade, and the employer was bound to teach him the trade, he should be indentured? A.—Yes.

Q.—You favor the indenture system in every trade? A.—Yes. I think it is a real necessary to Canada at the present time. In fact, boys have no show in Toronto. I do not know how it is in Guelph or elsewhere. A boy has a very poor chance to learn to be a skilled mechanic. He may work for years, and know no more about stair building or laying out work than any man out on the street.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Is it usual for a boy to get into a shop to learn the trade in Toronto? A.—I do not think it is, because I have had to refuse my own friends. In two cases two people in this city, who went to school with me, and who are my own personal friends begged me by letter, or otherwise, to give their boys a chance to learn the trade.

Q.—Are boys growing up ignorant of a trade who would be glad to learn the trade if they were given a chance? A.—I think many boys would like to learn the carpentering trade if they thought that by working at it for a number of years they would become skilled mechanics.

Q.—Do you know whether that extends to other trades? A.—I do not.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Does convict labor interfere with your trade? A.—Not in the least; it is not applied in Toronto to carpentering.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—From your knowledge of the building trade, and from your large experience is it possible, either in the interest of society, or in the interest of the employer to carry on any successful business now without machinery? A.—I do not think so, though I never had any love for machinery, but was simply driven into using it. In order to get along at all I was driven to put in machinery.

Q.—At the present day everything is advancing, and railroads are improvements on old stage coaches, and so I suppose machinery is considered an improvement on the old way of doing work? A.—It is so, undoubtedly.

Q.—Do you think it is possible in the interest of either the employers, or in the interests of society to do away with the use of machinery in carrying on building work? A.—I do not think it is feasible. I do not think it is possible. All the rough work that has been done by the jack plane is now done by machinery. They used to say when railways were first introduced they would do away with horses, but there are horses to-day, and there are more required than ever before.

Q.—Do you think that machinery has been advantageous with respect to the progress of such cities as Toronto, and other cities that have grown very rapidly? Could the same amount of work be done, and would it have been possible to progress with

the same speed as has been made, except for the use of machinery? A.—It could not have been done without machinery, unless you had an unlimited supply of cheap or gratuitous labor such as they have in the east, with respect to the indenture of boys.

Q.—You have said that, in your opinion, you would consider it better that all boys going into a trade should be indentured. Heretofore as you are aware, seven years was the time. As time has progressed, and machinery has been introduced, the trade has changed to a certain extent. Now, in your opinion, would it be necessary for boys to be indentured for as long a time as formerly? A.—I think they should be indentured for four or five years.

Q.—How long is it necessary for a boy to work at a trade before he turns out a good man; I mean the average of apprentices? For a fairly intelligent boy how long ought it to be necessary for him to be indentured? A.—As nearly as I can answer I think five years will do. When I was a boy in England the earlier part of the seven years was in slavish work that is not done now. The boy at the present time has an advantage, and can get to work, and acquire skill in the early part of his apprenticeship, and advance more quickly than it was possible for him to do some years ago. Five years would be as good, I think, as a term of apprenticeship for boys now as seven years was formerly.

Q.—Would it be possible to have boys become very useful in the meantime? A.—Yes.

Q.—What was the principal difficulty with regard to apprentices; was it the interference of their parents? A.—There was one case where a boy was of good family—his parents were splendid people, but the boy was restless, and nothing would keep him right. He went to the bad altogether, but, strange to say, he has now turned out a first-rate citizen.

Q.—Is it the inclination of boys, after they have acquired a little skill during one or two years' service, to go away on their own account? A.—I have known of such cases; for boys can get to Buffalo and Detroit for very little, and many of them can earn better wages there than in Toronto. That was the difficulty some years ago to my knowledge.

Q.—You think five years would be the average for an intelligent boy to be indentured? A.—It is long enough. That is time enough for him to turn out a good mechanic.

Q.—Then, you are clearly of the opinion that according to the requirements of society, and of the building trade, and workmen themselves as such, that the use of machinery is needful? A.—Certainly.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Is not a great deal of work done now without machinery? A.—Yes; a great deal.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Please give the Commission your idea in regard to arbitration between employers and employed? A.—I think the most practical way is for the men to find two or three of their number, those in whom they have confidence, and for the builders to find a similar number of men, who ought to know what is right and fair, and then this deputation should meet and consider the matter. The results arrived at should be reduced to writing, so that no misunderstanding could arise afterwards, and that should settle the matter.

Q.—Do you favor that plan in preference to a Government board of arbitration? A.—I think it would be nicer than to have direct interference by the Government.

Q.—Do you think it would be an easy matter to have that plan carried out which you suggest? A.—The difficulty is to get both sides to look at the matter in that light. The Government system works very well in France, but I do not think it is applicable to the people of Canada. Disputes are considered and decided without work being stopped, and I believe for a number of years strikes have been unknown there.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—If ordinary arbitration would not settle the difficulty would it not be better to refer the case to a Government board, who could, if necessary, step in and settle the matter in a compulsory manner? A.—If the plan I have suggested would not work I believe the other would be entirely better than a strike, because a strike is bad in every way.

Q.—The community is injured, and commerce is damaged? A.—Yes; we have seen that, and we will see it through this present winter.

Q.—Do the master builders belong to the building division of the Board of Trade? A.—I know some of them are members of the Board of Trade.

Q.—Not all? A.—Oh, no; I think very few.

Q.—You remember some few years ago the carpenters' difficulty. After that was ended, did you hear of a black list in connection with the master builders' association—of course you may not have seen it? A.—There was a list which I believe was called a black list; I do not know how it got that name. If I remember well it was due to the exasperation of the union masters as to certain men.

Q.—That so and so was no good? A.—Very much like that.

Q.—You have knowledge of that matter in connection with your association? A.—There was a thing of the kind. For instance, I wrote what I thought of my own men, of certain individuals, just as I believed them to be; but, it did not affect the men. It could not affect the men in any way, that is, anything I said to my own men.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Were any men listed, on account of their being unionists, or taking any action with regard to the strike? A.—No; I think not. I do not care whether a man belongs to a union or not, or what he is, so long as he is a skilled, good and respectable citizen.

Q.—Do you think any man has been blacklisted, in connection with taking a prominent part in the case? A.—No man was ever the worse so far as I am concerned.

Q.—How as to the others? A.—I do not know of any. I think when a strike is over, all is forgotten.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You shake hands all around? A.—Yes.

JOHN SMITH, Merchant Tailor, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—I understand you take an interest in workmen's benevolent societies? A.—For quite a number of years I have taken a very great interest in them.

Q.—Have you had much experience in them? A.—Yes; I might say I have had a great deal of experience in them, more than most people.

Q.—The Commission is anxious to know how the funds of the society are invested, where they are invested? A.—As a rule, the constitutions state how the funds of the society are invested, where they are invested? In fact, the constitution of the different societies to which I belong all state how this shall be done. Of course, it is a matter of opinion sometimes as to whether those funds are properly invested or not.

Q.—Are the societies as a rule incorporated? A.—Yes, I believe the parent societies of the three societies to which I belong are incorporated.

Q.—Are all the branches incorporated? A.—Of course, a certain time is given to the different branches of the society to become incorporated. I have known some cases in which the time limit was passed, and through the time limit being exceeded many wrong things have crept in, evils which were never intended to be permitted under the rules of the parent society. This occurred simply from the incorporation of the branch not being carried out according to law.

Q.—Do you mean that from the fact of those branches not being incorporated funds are used for any other purpose than the Act of incorporation permits and requires? A.—It is difficult to tell what the Act of incorporation requires. I draw a line between the registration of the society as an incorporated society and the requirements of the Benevolent Societies' Act.

Q.—I suppose the Act of incorporation will be in accordance with the requirements of the Benevolent Societies' Act? A.—I do not think that the Benevolent Societies' Act is full enough in stating and determining how the funds of the different societies shall be invested. As I understand the Friendly Societies' Act, it does not really state distinctly and clearly how and by what means the funds up to a certain limit are placed in the Receiver-General's office. When they exceed a certain amount the Receiver General is not compelled to take them; in that case they are supposed to be placed, and sometimes are placed, in some other Government securities. In other instances I have known, the funds were not at all well placed; cases where although members had contributed to the funds for the purpose of obtaining benefits subsequently, and who supposed that in the event of their death there would be a certain amount of funds in the lodge to pay a benefit to their families and an allowance—*I say I have known cases where for want of incorporation of the three years afterwards. That is not a satisfactory way to conduct benevolent societies, and so long as the laws relating to them are in such a condition as they are at present there is no method of compelling the societies or the branches to put their money in Government investments, and people who use their influence to regulate such societies are always on the blacklist and to a certain extent are not wanted there because they tend to disturb the harmony of the lodge.*

Q.—Have you ever known any case where a member of those societies after paying in for two or three years has been unable to obtain any benefit from them? A.—No; I cannot say that. So far as my experience of benevolent societies goes I never heard of such a case to my knowledge so far as regards the societies with which I am connected. I believe that to a certain extent they have always been able to pay what was justly required of them.

Q.—When you speak of funds being diverted from their proper use, I suppose the proper use is to provide benefits for member and indemnities payable in case of death. Have the funds been used for purposes outside of benevolent objects? A.—Yes; that is what I complain of in regard to the Government Act relating to benevolent societies. It does not distinctly state, except in certain particulars, that the funds shall be invested in a certain way and that they shall only be used for benevolent purposes; but the actual experience of the lodges is that they are sometimes (I do not say often, because I know of only one particular instance) diverted from the proper use to which they should have been placed.

Q.—In the matter of the officers of those friendly societies, for instance the secretary and treasurer—is it the custom to take bonds from them in any sums? A.—The constitution always provides that this shall be done. Before you pass on I desire to refer the Commission to clause 2, which reads: "The general benefit fund of the subordinate lodges shall not be used for any purposes other than those expressly set forth in the constitution and the legitimate working expenses of the lodges."

Therefore if you find that funds originally intended for benevolent and insurance purposes have been diverted from the original purpose of the lodge, and that a lodge has undertaken certain responsibilities without the full sanction of the members having been obtained, such for instance as hiring a room, furnishing it, all by way of speculation, we cannot fail to come to the conclusion that such doings should not be permitted in any society under the incorporation of the Government in the interest of the workingmen and of the societies themselves. The accumulated funds of benevolent societies should be invested in chartered banks or Government securities where they would be available in case of emergency.

Q.—Do you know of cases where lodges have been crippled through speculation in this sort of property? A.—I could not say for a fact at the present time; but I know of certain lodges that have done this, and when I endeavoured to bring the matter before the Grand Lodge and spoke to the presiding officer about it, I was not thanked but was advised to leave the matter alone. I told that officer that it was disgraceful that such a state of things should be allowed to prevail, and that such a lodge working under the charter should be expelled.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Will not the Act apply? A.—There is great trouble to set the machinery going, and to do so you must take much greater interest in the Society than does the ordinary member, and on more than one occasion I have injured myself in trying to benefit the Society to which I belong.

By MR. HEAKES :—

Q.—As regards the matter of security to be given by officers are they compelled to give bonds and security? A.—According to the constitution they are compelled to do so, but it is not compulsory in practice. There is no method to bring them to time. For six months of last year I was presiding officer of a benevolent society. I did my best to get the treasurer in bonds for a certain amount, according to the society, for which he was required to give bonds, but during those six months I failed to accomplish it, and although other six months have elapsed, I am sure he has not yet given the necessary bonds—at least he had not a month ago—yet he was handling funds which amount in the aggregate to say two dollars per head for three months, or between \$200 and \$250 every quarter, a nice little sum. Instances have been known outside of this society, to which I can refer you, where those not under bonds have walked away with the society's funds.

Q.—Do you speak of the incorporated society or incorporated branches of the society? A.—I am talking now of incorporated branches and the incorporated society.

Q.—You cannot compel the officers to give bonds? A.—I do not think you can. I have read the Act carefully, and there is no compulsion.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—That is where the society itself does not do so? A.—Yes. The constitution requires it, but in order to get this done a man must work hard and would not fail to make himself obnoxious to the officers and members.

By MR. HEAKES :—

Q.—What would you suggest as a remedy? A.—I would suggest that the Act of Incorporation governing all benevolent societies be put in force either by the Ontario Government or by the Federal Government.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How? Suppose you have a law that is everything to be desired, and if those for whom it is intended will not put it in force, what action can be taken? A.—If there was a Government officer appointed whose special duty it was to look after benevolent societies, I think that would go a long way towards remedying the evil.

Q.—An inspector? A.—Yes, an inspector.

By MR. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do the societies publish an annual statement; are they compelled to publish an annual statement of their condition? A.—Under the Ontario Act there is no compulsion. There is no statement of funds published except by the Ancient Order of Foresters. Although they are supposed to be governed by the rules of the High Court of England, still they have rights and prerogatives which give them the privilege of making their own general laws, provided they are not contrary to the

fundamental principles of the Ancient Order in England. So there is nothing at the back of them. Most societies print an annual statement, but having been auditor on several occasions at the annual or half-yearly audit, it is not to my mind worth a row of chips. You take a lodge with 110 or 115 members and undertake, at the regular times, to make an audit of the society's books, you will find that most of the members who are assisting you have so little interest in the work that they endeavor to get through it in an hour or an hour and a half. The first time I was engaged on the audit I surprised those associated with me by wanting to go through the books and accounts in a systematic manner. I wanted to take the minute book, the receipts for cash as registered in the minute book, the cash book and to balance the cash off against the minute book, and show that the total amount paid balanced the amount in the minute book. Then I wanted to go through the lodge book and the names of those on the roll. The other members of the committee said it would take too much trouble and they would never get through the work that night. I however stuck to it and got a correct audit. But the next night I left them and would have nothing more to do with it. So the annual or half-yearly statements of those societies do not contain a fair representation of the work of the societies.

Q.—Are members ever induced to join by misrepresentation? A.—They are sometimes.

Q.—Do they find after they have become members that the condition of the society is altogether different from what it was represented to be? A.—I suppose that is something which requires an explanation. The society to which I refer at present is the Order of Foresters. Some time ago (I thought I was a pretty old man, but I was taken in with the rest of them, but I did not lose anything else than the entrance fee), there was a little book issued as a means of inducing persons to join that society. It states that there are funds invested with the Government. A gentleman came round and urged us to form a Court. We got eighteen or twenty members on the list, and he gave every member to understand that he would be insured for a thousand dollars. The Court was opened and the members were given to understand that in the event of any one of them not being accepted by the medical officer, the fee of five dollars, less doctor's expenses, would be refunded. The members were satisfied with this understanding, and indeed they joined with the distinct understanding that if they did not pass the medical board each would be entitled to a rebate of the five dollars, less the medical expenses. It was not however until after the branch was opened, until after we made due and proper enquiry from the Supreme Court of the Independent Order of Foresters that the members were given to understand that they had got to work for their five dollars' rebate; that it was not to be refunded to them although it was specifically stated that it would be refunded. They were given to understand that they had to pay for their charter. I have here a list of members who each and everyone was under the same impression as myself that in the event of any of them not passing the medical board he would be allowed a rebate of five dollars. It was not however until six weeks or two months afterwards that they were given to understand they would have to work for new members and put money into the lodge before any of them would get the five dollars out. I was one of the lucky ones to pass the doctor. I think it right and proper that whenever an opportunity arises the public should be made aware of these facts.

Q.—Were any of those who joined the lodge first rejected by the doctor? A.—Yes; out of about nineteen members who were initiated that night only seven or eight passed the doctor.

Q.—Did they get their five dollars refunded? A.—They never did and never will.

Q.—Do you find the charges made and the funds accumulated by benevolent societies in excess of those required for benevolent purposes? A.—That the funds of benevolent societies are really in excess of the needs of the societies is proved by experience as these documents will show. The Foresters' record for 1886 will show that in the old country there is a surplus of over fifteen millions which can never be used for benevolent purposes and according to the constitutions of the different

societies it can never be used for any other purpose; so it is simply piled up by the members who will never receive the benefit of it. Another instance is furnished in the returns of the society in Toronto, which show that the benefits are really not in proportion to the amount of money paid in. That is however for the societies to determine. What I claim is this, that by the society's own returns the amount is needlessly large. Take Court Campbellton of the Ancient Order of Foresters. With a membership of 128 they have got \$2,192.94 in the bank.

Q.—Do you think that would be an excessive sum in case of general sickness among the members? A.—I think it would be because the experience of all societies is that such a large amount is not required. Take Court Hope of the Ancient Order of Foresters, with a membership of 352 it had \$8,069.22 in the bank. The history of that Court in particular shows while it has not made any great progress for a number of years, still it has not gone back. After a certain sum has accumulated in the bank to the credit of a benevolent society, say five years' actual payments, that is in a lodge with a hundred members and an annual payment of two dollars, when every man has ten dollars to the credit of the society in the bank, the interest on that amount should go to decrease the member's payments in his lifetime, instead of helping to pile up a large sum that no one will be able to gather in.

Q.—You think the members do not get the benefit of what they put in? A.—Yes; that is my opinion, because the history of the society shows it.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You think the members should divide up the funds? A.—They cannot divide up the funds.

Q.—Can they not alter the constitution? A.—It is claimed that this course is authorized by the constitution.

Q.—How do you desire interference to be had with benevolent societies? If the members are of one opinion would you have people outside interfere with them? A.—Benevolent institutions are among working people and there is not one man out of a hundred who can go and express his views at the meeting. In the Ancient Order of Foresters there are not more than five or six members who have the capacity to express their views; and if they have, they have not the strength of mind or will to make their opinions public.

Q.—Do you wish it to be said to the members of those societies: You do not know how to conduct your business and we will conduct it for you? What Governmental interference or what remedy do you propose, admitting the truth of the grievances? A.—One remedy I suggest, is this, that as most benevolent societies are either national, religious, or in some other way restricted in their character, it would be a good thing if the Federal or Ontario Government would institute and control a government society for benevolent purposes, taking the records of existing societies as a guide and insuring workmen or, indeed, anyone, in good sound health, for a sum of one hundred dollars or more. This system which has worked so well with all its disadvantages, would, under new direction, be a source of revenue to the Government and give the citizens renewed interest in the welfare of their country; the more so, as statistics show that in a well-conducted society, after some years, the accumulated funds amount to, in some instances, sixteen dollars *per capita*. The record of Court Hope I may say, for four years is from ten dollars to twelve dollars *per capita*.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You think the Government should interfere so as to control those societies in the same way as they supervise insurance companies? A.—They should have a controlling influence. This is done in the old country. Every law relating to benevolent societies is placed before the Government, and before it has the stamp or seal of law it must be approved by the Government. The Government inspector decides whether it is in the interests of the country and people or not. I suppose there is no better example of the working of the laws regulating benevolent societies than that of the Ancient Order of Foresters of England.

Q.—Is there any limit to the liability of those societies? A.—Their liability, of course, ceases, with payment of money.

Q.—Is it the case that risks are taken by the insurance societies, these benevolent societies, and after a certain time the risk is increased? A.—Yes. I would like to say that I believe that is one evil of benevolent institutions. An institution like a friendly society, originally intended to insure the workingman for a small amount, should not be able to take larger risks than one hundred dollars or two hundred dollars; and if a risk is taken for a small sum when the man is in good health and the society subsequently undertakes a larger risk, I think it ought to be distinctly and clearly understood in the same way as are insurances for one hundred or two hundred dollars.

Q.—You think the power of the societies in this regard ought to be limited? A.—I think it should be.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—With all those disadvantages you speak of, is not the Foresters Society as cheap a system of insurance as you know of? A.—It is safe enough.

Q.—Is it not as cheap? A.—I do not think it is; it is not quite so cheap, as the Sons of England who are ahead of it. A comparison drawn between payments for sums over \$100 as between the Independent Order of Foresters, the Sons of England and the Ancient Order of Foresters show the following rates: sixty-seven, eighty-seven and ninety-six cents per thousand. There is a bone of contention among them with respect to the rates, one charging less than another; so there must be something wrong somewhere.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Does not one pay a larger benefit than another? A.—How do you mean?

Q.—If a society charges at the rate of sixty cents and another charges eighty cents, would not the society charging eighty cents pay a larger benefit? A.—No, that is their advertised scheme. The societies pay the same amount, but some charge less for it.

Q.—Do you think there is danger in some cases of charging too little to enable them to meet their liabilities? A.—There is that possibility. That is the reason why I would put a limit to the accumulation of funds, that where sums have accumulated to the credit of a lodge equal to five years' payments for each member, the interest on that sum ought to go into the pockets of the members so as to lessen their subscription.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How are the funds worked? A.—The way the Foresters do is this: they pay \$1 a year out of the funds for every member into the High Court, and that insures an amount during sickness and in the event of death. \$100 is paid out of the High Court in the event of death and \$50 in the event of a wife's death. In other societies it is different. If they are not sufficiently strong to make the payments in consequence of the misappropriation of money or from defalcations of officers, the members cannot do anything; they may, as they say, "Whistle o'er the lave o't."

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you heard of members being defrauded of their benefits? A.—No, I cannot say that I have. I think the benevolent societies are conducted, so far as I know, upon a pretty good financial basis.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—There has been no special strain on them of late years, I think? A.—No, they have had an extraordinary time of good health. But, I think all benevolent societies should, when making their annual report, publish in some way or other, a statement prepared by some qualified individual in order to assure the public and the members themselves that everything is fair and square. I do not think the Government exercises sufficient jurisdiction over benevolent societies.

Q.—Has the Government any control over them whatever? Did they not refuse three or four years ago to come under the head of Government insurance societies? A.—That is where I draw the line between benevolent societies by the way of weekly payments and benevolent societies as I understand them by mutual companies.

Q.—Did they not refuse to be made parties to that Act passed by the Federal Government four or five years ago? A.—I think the Ontario Act gives them the privilege of increasing the amount of benefit or insurance up to \$1,000. So they are well within the limit.

Q.—What I mean is this: if they are not now under Government supervision, is it not because they did not want it? A.—It is, I suppose, because they did not want it.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—I suppose what you contend is, that whether the societies like it or not the Government should take control? A.—I think it would be in the interests of the benevolent societies if the Government exercised jurisdiction over them somewhat in the same way as the Government of Great Britain does over Friendly Societies there; that the constitution of each society should be registered, and that no amendment should be legal unless it was authorized by the Government. I claim moreover, that no amendment to a constitution should be made legal unless the proposed amendment had been in the hands of members at least three months before the general meeting. I have seen in the history of societies resolutions passed at a general meeting, and which were not to take effect for three months, acted on right away. I have seen cases in the history of benevolent societies where the whole constitution was changed without any notice at all. In the Ancient Order of Foresters of Canada resolutions have been passed and have gone into effect in a manner that was not in accordance with the Friendly Societies Act of the Old Country. Every amendment should have been in the hands of the different Courts so that each member would have been aware of what was proposed at the general meeting.

Q.—If the societies are incorporated must they not submit a copy of their by-laws and constitution to the Government before they get their Act? A.—I think not. All they have got to do is to obtain from a judge or registrar a certificate that he believes to the best of his knowledge the by-laws are in conformity with the law of the land. It is not so with the Friendly Societies Act in the old country. If a by-law is proposed it must be sent in the first instance to the Government registrar and approved. You may have some idea of what notice is given when I tell you that the notices are published in such a paper (the *Ancient Forester*). When that is the sort of intimation given for amendments to the constitution it is time the Government stepped in and exercised supervision over benevolent societies.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Has the Government ever been asked to step in? A.—I do not think the Government have been asked; I should like to ask them.

Q.—You remember that several months ago a deputation went to Ottawa on the insurance question, and at that time the Government recognized the right of the benevolent societies to have their rights protected? A.—I think they were very short-sighted if at that time they did not inform the Government of these grievances. I beg to hand in to the Commission a statement of the suggestions I offer:

WORKINGMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE BENEFIT SOCIETIES (HANDLED IN BY JOHN SMITH.)

I have had considerable experience in connection with Sons of England; Ancient Order of Foresters; and Independent Order of Foresters, which rank among the Benefit Societies. It should be the duty of the Government:—

1. To define how the accumulated funds of the Benevolent Societies should be invested, *i.e.*, in a chartered Bank or Government Securities, not in speculative buildings.

2. To see that each branch is properly incorporated: and if not incorporated within a reasonable time it should cease to work as a branch of the parent society under a legal penalty.

3. By Act of Parliament to state that the funds raised for benevolent purposes should be kept intact for the purposes of paying sick or funeral expenses and working of the Society.

4. The Secretary and Treasurer should be under bonds (which too often is neglected.)

5. Each branch and parent society should be compelled to furnish the Government with a copy of its annual audit, under seal of the lodge, signed by the Officer presiding and the Secretary, showing the membership, state of funds and how invested.

6. The Societies' Laws relating to charges against members should be so changed as to give the accused the privilege of a direct appeal to common law or give him the privilege of a trial by members of another court or lodge.

7. That where it is made to appear that individuals have been induced to join in opening a new branch of an order by certain facts being withheld from them, the incorporated society should return the fees paid by such parties; as such fees would not have been paid had they been in possession of certain knowledge.

8. Where the accumulated funds of a branch are equal to a five years' payment per capita of the members, the interest of accumulated funds should be used to decrease the payments of the subscribers on a truly mutual basis by way of a bonus towards the next payment due; for, as benevolent societies exist at present, the subscriptions are too large, and no matter how wealthy the society may be, it has become so at the expense of the hard-working men who support it.

9. No society should have the power to prevent its members making a will in favor of whom they please, as is done under the A.O.F. rules, which declare the will must be made in favor of a next of kin, or blood relation. Individuals are unaware of this until they join, which might leave the bestowal of benefits to the arbitrary action of an executive, if they see fit to exercise it.

10. That all amendments to benevolent societies' constitutions should be registered in a legal manner, and every copy of laws given to members should plainly state within the covers of the book, the Act or Acts under which they are incorporated and the government. rules relating to it, and no amendments should be permitted at a general meeting of the order unless printed copies of such amendments have been in the hands of the members of branches three months previous to such annual meeting.

11. That where benevolent societies start with benefit clauses appropriating say \$100 benefit, special legislation should be had to permit them to insure upon the mutual plan; and it should be distinctly legislated so that they should testify that the success or failure of the new plan does not alter or interfere with the original benefits or standing of the order for which they were first incorporated; or in event of a monthly stated sum being exacted, it should be the duty of the Government to see that the increase of risks in the larger amounts does not increase the liability of risks for those who are only insured for the smaller amount.

12. It would be better to limit the liability of the societies to say \$100 and require them to issue policies for larger amounts upon terms as may be agreed upon if mutual; or if the fees be monthly the Act should empower an inspector to refuse permission to the society to act until the Government can be satisfied as to the stability of the institution and its ability to pay, for which the Government should exact a guarantee as with regular line companies, for there is no comparison between the three societies as to scale of prices; the Government issuing the policies or stamping them, which in itself would be a recommendation to prospective insurers. A small fee could be charged which might be sufficient to enable the Government to repay the cost of supervision.

13. That to insure the proper working of the societies a system of fines should be inflicted under the Act and a qualified Government officer should take cognisance of all insurance work of such societies and to whom any communication from a member should be privileged.

14. That for the better understanding of the objects of Benevolent Societies by

the public, no law should be incorporated or registered which in intent should preclude a member making known the wants of the order either in the public press or public meeting, when such appears to a member to be for the good of the order and does not seek to give away any of the secret work or the private business of the society.

15. That as most benevolent societies are either national, religious or in some other way restrictive in their character, it would be a good thing if the Federal or Ontario Government would institute and control a Government society for benevolent purposes; taking the records of existing societies as a guide; and insuring working-men or indeed anyone in good sound health for a sum of \$100.00 or more. This system which has worked so well, with all its disadvantages, would, under a new direction, be a source of revenue to the Government and give the citizens renewed interest in the welfare of their country; the more so as statistics show that in a well-conducted society after some years the accumulated funds amount to in some instances \$16.00 *per capita*.

This would seem the more reasonable when it is borne in mind that no further disposition of funds of Benevolent Societies can be made except to apply them for such purposes; experience showing they will never be required in such a large way for such purposes.

16. That where a member may be guilty of infraction for some law or by-law, that though he may be suspended from intercourse with his lodge, no act of his ought to deprive his family of the benefits his money had previously bought.

ROBERT LEE, Carpenter, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How long have you been in Toronto? A.—About fifteen and a half years.

Q.—Have you worked at the business all the time? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you a journeyman? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the general condition of the carpenter business at the present time?
A.—As far as I know I think it is a little slack.

Q.—What are the rates of wages which are paid in Toronto just now? A.—The rates in our shop are 27½ cents and 25 cents; there may be some less, but I am not aware of it.

Q.—Have you taken any interest in trades unions at any time? A.—Yes; I have; but not much just now.

Q.—Do you find that combinations among workmen help them in any way?
A.—Well, I could not say; I think they do, perhaps.

Q.—In what direction? A.—Very likely in the shortening of the hours of labor.

Q.—Do they tend to increase wages or to keep them up? A.—They may tend to keep them up for a while, but I do not know that they can put them up very much.

Q.—Is there any rule that you know of which prohibits a Union man from working with non-Union men? A.—No; I do not.

Q.—You have never known the Union to interfere with non-Union men? A.—No; I have not.

Q.—What is the general effect of strikes on the trade? A.—The immediate effects are sometimes bad, but I do not know about the general effect.

Q.—Do they produce any permanent improvement in the trade when they are successful? A.—I have never known any to be successful altogether, that I have been connected with.

Q.—Have you ever paid any attention to the question of arbitration? A.—A little.

Q.—Can you suggest any means for settling disputes by arbitration? A.—Well, I could not suggest any particular means except arbitration in the general sense.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Arbitration, as you understand it, is each party choosing a friend and these two choosing an umpire? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—If a court of arbitration was formed, do you think it would meet the requirements? A.—That is to make it compulsory?

Q.—Yes. A.—Well, I believe it has worked well in some places, but I do not know.

Q.—How do you think the men generally regard arbitration of that kind? A.—I think they would agree to it.

Q.—Is it not a fact that the men have frequently demanded arbitration? A.—I think they have lately asked for it here in Toronto.

Q.—Have the employers ever met them in that spirit. A.—I am not aware of it.

Q.—Have you ever known of any black-listing in Toronto by employers? A.—What do you mean by black-listing?

THE CHAIRMAN—The employer sending round to other employers and telling them of those who should not be employed.

A.—I have seen such a thing.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you think such a thing is in existence to-day? A.—I do not think so.

Q.—You work a good deal amongst machinery? A.—Well, I work in the way of getting out stuff for machinery.

Q.—Do these machines have a tendency to do away with the labor of men in the trade—I mean, generally speaking, have they decreased the amount of work that carpenters have to do? A.—Of course they do work a great deal quicker, but there is a great deal more work done on account of machinery than there would be otherwise.

Q.—Have they in any sense decreased the amount of wages? A.—No; I don't think it.

Q.—Are there any boys employed about these machines? A.—There may be at the saws sometimes—pulling away and carrying from the saws, but not working them.

Q.—Have you any rule in the trade as to apprentices? A.—No; we have not that I know of.

Q.—Do you think it would be better or not that apprentices should be indentured for a term of years? A.—I think it would have a tendency to make better workmen.

Q.—Under the present system of taking apprentices, do boys have a fair opportunity of learning the trade? A.—Some of them.

Q.—And some don't? A.—A great deal depends on the boy and his aptitude.

Q.—You think from your experience that boys get a fair opportunity? A.—I think a good many do; I would not say all.

Q.—A good many good mechanics are turned out? A.—Yes.

Q.—It would be preferable, however, to have a regular apprentice system? A.—Yes; some system—perhaps not the old system.

Q.—How frequently are you paid? A.—Once in two weeks.

Q.—Would the men prefer weekly pay? A.—I have never heard them complain.

Q.—Would it make any material difference, do you think, if the men were paid on Friday or Saturday? A.—I think Friday is the best; we are paid on Friday evening.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—What class of work is done in the shop you belong to? A.—House work.

Q.—Do they take contracts in the building trades on their own account? A.—Sometimes.

Q.—Do you employ a large number of men? A.—Yes; in the usual seasons there are a good many.

Q.—In your bench work I suppose? A.—I could not say how many; the shop is pretty well filled.

Q.—Have you any different grades of men in your shop? A.—I don't know that exactly.

Q.—Have you any different grades of wages for men? A.—I mentioned two rates that I know of.

Q.—What is the difference in the wages which are paid? A.— $27\frac{1}{2}$ cents and 25 cents.

Q.—What is the reason for the difference in wages? A.—Of course the best men take the most difficult work.

Q.—As a general rule, do you think there is that difference between the men getting $27\frac{1}{2}$ cents and those getting 25? A.—Yes; I think there is.

Q.—How many boys are there to a man in your establishment? Do you think there is an unusual number of boys? A.—No; I do not.

Q.—The boys there are all required? A.—Yes.

Q.—And you don't know of any apprentice system? A.—No; I do not.

Q.—But you think it would be better if they were apprenticed? A.—I think it would probably be better if there was some system.

Q.—Why do you think that? A.—I think it would produce better workmen, for one thing.

Q.—Do you think it would give the boys some idea of their own responsibility, more than if they were left to go and come any way they liked? A.—I think it would.

Q.—It would incline to make them better? A.—I think so.

Q.—You would be in favor of an apprentice system? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are these boys treated well in the establishment? A.—Oh, yes.

Q.—Are the sanitary conditions of your establishment good? Are they healthy? A.—Yes; very good.

Q.—I suppose your hours of working are the ordinary hours. A.—Nine hours generally; only eight just now.

Q.—You don't see anything to complain of, then, in the establishment you work in? A.—No; I do not.

Q.—From your knowledge do you know of any disability that the working men in your line particularly, or in any line, labor under at the present time? Is their condition better now than it has been? A.—Yes.

Q.—Could you give any reason why their position is better now than it has been heretofore? A.—I don't know that I can exactly.

Q.—Is it the progress of the country or the increase of work? A.—No doubt it is the progress of the country and of the times; that has a great deal to do with it.

Q.—What is your notion with regard to the employment of machinery in relation to your work? Do you think it is a necessity at the present time, according to the advanced state of society, the increase of work etc.? A.—I think it is.

Q.—Do you think that the machinery introduced into shops now where general work is done a benefit to the working men or otherwise? A.—There is generally more work, I think, to do, and it can be produced cheaper.

Q.—You are aware from your experience likely that there was some very heavy work devolving on men heretofore? A.—Yes.

Q.—Such a thing as preparing a great deal of this work by hand-grooving a one and a half inch floor for instance? I suppose you know that that kind of thing prevails here? A.—I don't know of it in Toronto, but it has prevailed in other parts.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—And must have prevailed in Toronto? A.—Certainly I should think so.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Is that done away with now? A.—Yes.

Q.—Don't you think that the doing away of this heavy work is an advantage to the mechanic? A.—I think so.

Q.—His work is more of a nature which does not require so much physical strength as formerly? A.—Yes.

Q.—And that is a benefit to him in that respect? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is the condition of the workmen at the present time, in your trade or in any trade you know about, taken as a whole, better than it has been, say within the last ten years? A.—Well, I don't know that there is very much difference between now and that time; wages are a little better.

Q.—Consequently their condition is better? A.—Other things may be dearer too. Q.—Take the cost of living; is it any more than it was ten years ago? A.—I could not speak very positively about that.

Q.—Are the men as a general rule more comfortable now; are their dwellings more comfortable? A.—I think they are tending to be better all the time.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of men who have houses of their own? A.—Yes.

Q.—Many of them? A.—A few—not very many.

Q.—Have they these houses in their own right or are they under mortgage? A.—I don't know as to that.

Q.—Have you any idea of men who have savings in the bank or elsewhere? A.—Yes; I know of some.

Q.—How does that question of savings apply to the generality of the men? A.—I am afraid the generality have not very much.

Q.—It is only in special cases you think that they have savings? A.—Yes; I think so.

Q.—Are the men as a general rule improved in their moral and intellectual condition now, compared with what they were before? A.—Yes, I think so.

Q.—Can you give any reason why that is so? A.—I think the general intelligence of the community at large is much improved.

Q.—And your educational system here has a good deal to do with it? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—And temperance? A.—Yes; temperance, too.

Q.—But that is not universal? A.—No.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Do you think many of your people take advantage of the Free Library for their information? A.—I believe there are a good many.

Q.—So that on the whole you think the status of the workmen at the present time, morally, intellectually, and otherwise is better than it was ten years ago? A.—Well, I would not be prepared to say just for the ten years, but it is better than it has been, going back a little further than ten years.

Q.—What age are the boys who are generally engaged in your establishment? A.—I think the average age is about fourteen or fifteen; there may be one or two younger; I have known some younger.

Q.—Do you know of any boy who is engaged who is physically unable to perform his duties? A.—No, I do not.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you think, to the best of your knowledge, that the shortening of the hours of labor has a tendency to make men more intelligent? A.—I think so.

Q.—Can a boy on account of the large amount of machinery in your trade learn the carpentering trade as thoroughly as if there were no machinery? A.—It all depends on the chance he gets.

Q.—Where machinery is employed he generally learns one branch? A.—Very often.

Q.—And sometimes he is put from one to the other, but that is not the general rule? A.—Yes; sometimes.

Q.—At what age should a boy go to the carpentering, which is rather a heavy

trade? A.—He should not begin before fourteen, and I think fifteen or sixteen would be better.

Q.—Do you know in your trade many who take advantage of the Public Library on Saturday afternoons? A.—Well, I don't know.

Q.—The wages of carpenters are generally paid in cash? A.—Yes.

Q.—No truck system? A.—No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You said upon one occasion the journeymen offered to arbitrate with the employers in a dispute; when was that? A.—It was last summer.

Q.—Did they make a formal offer to arbitrate? A.—I suppose they did.

Q.—Sent a deputation to the employers to say that they were willing? A.—I understood so.

Q.—And the employers refused? A.—I think so.

Q.—You are not sure? A.—Not quite sure.

Q.—What was the cause of the blacklisting of men by employers? A.—I do not know.

Q.—You don't know whether it was because of any action they took in making themselves prominent in the labor movement or whether they were poor workmen? A.—I think it is stated sometimes after their names—"poor workman."

Q.—Do you think any boy in Toronto who would desire to learn the trade can find an opportunity? A.—I think so, if he is anxious.

Q.—You think an opening can be found? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think technical schools would be good for the working people in Ontario—schools in which they would learn branches of the trade or mechanical employment? A.—I could not say.

Q.—If fair, average mechanics in Toronto fail to save money, is it because they cannot earn more than is absolutely necessary for comfortable subsistence, or is it because they spend money imprudently? A.—I don't think very much can be saved if they want to keep themselves a little respectable, and give themselves fair play.

Q.—Some men save money? A.—Yes.

Q.—Why cannot others if they choose? A.—I cannot say as to that.

THOMAS PICKETT, Iron Moulder, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you been long in Toronto. A.—Thirty years.

Q.—What is the general condition of the moulding shops in Toronto as far as sanitary arrangements are concerned? A.—Those I have worked in have been very good.

Q.—Well ventilated? A.—Yes, with the exception of the present shop we are in outside of the smoke it is a very good shop. We are troubled somewhat with smoke which might perhaps be avoided to some extent, but I think it is the intention of the firm to make it pleasant for the men.

Q.—What is the general rate of wages in your trade by the day? A.—We get 22½ cents an hour.

Q.—How many hours a day do you work? A.—Ten, at present, and we work five and a half days in the summer.

Q.—Have you piece work? A.—Yes; they do more work than the day hands.

Q.—Do you think piece work is any benefit to the men in your trade? A.—No, I do not.

Q.—Has it a tendency to lower wages? A.—Yes.

Q.—And piece hands have to work harder for less money? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has the Union as a body ever made any representations to employers with regard to piece work? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—Have they ever taken any step to have piece work done away with? A.—Not to my knowledge; they might have, but I could not say.

Q.—In settling disputes between employers and men do the employers meet the men and arbitrate? A.—No; they are not in the habit of doing that, although the workmen would prefer it.

Q.—You would prefer arbitration to the present mode? A.—Most decidedly.

Q.—Have the employers within your time refused to arbitrate questions? A.—Yes, they have in several instances.

Q.—Have there been any strikes in your trade in the last eight or nine years? A.—No, sir; I cannot go back that far in regard to the Union, for I have worked in Lower Canada where there are no Unions as a general thing, but speaking of the three years I have been here there have been only two troubles in the city. In one of those we were shut out and in the other we had to go on strike to get what we claimed was right; we got it through the strike and not through arbitration. There was a kind of go-between from outsiders to settle the thing, but it was the actual strike that brought the men and the firms together.

Q.—What effect has a strike on the trade generally? A.—A bad one.

Q.—I suppose you would not resort to a strike unless it was impossible to settle by other means? A.—I don't believe any fair-minded workman would, and as a Union I don't think we would. I have never seen any feeling to any extent which would prefer a strike to arbitration.

Q.—Is it the last resort? A.—Yes.

Q.—And always forced on you by the employers refusing arbitration? A.—Yes.

Q.—In your opinion, would compulsory arbitration be better than the present system? A.—Yes; I believe it would.

Q.—Would it generally meet the requirements of the men? A.—A think so, and speaking for myself, it would suit me.

Q.—You would be willing to submit to arbitration? A.—Yes; I would.

Q.—Are there many apprentices taken on in your business? A.—Well, there is an understanding between the employers of Union shops and the Union that there should be one to eight men and we consider that is very fair.

Q.—At what age generally, are these boys set to work? A.—From about sixteen to seventeen.

Q.—At what age do you consider a boy should go into your business? A.—I think they should not begin before sixteen or seventeen and then it would depend a good deal upon the constitution of the boy. Our work is laborious and some boys at fifteen would be stronger than others at seventeen. I have seen boys go to the trade who were not physically strong enough to follow it.

Q.—Are there some boys whom you consider too young at your business? A.—No; not to my knowledge; I think we are very careful about that. I think our union is careful and we would advise them not to go if we thought they were physically unfit.

Q.—Do you know, in case of accidents in shops, if the employers have any liability in the matter? A.—I don't know that they ever were liable for any accident. I have worked at the business twenty-seven years and I must say, that I have seen very few accidents result in our trade from carelessness. Of course it is a risky business and most of the accidents are from carrying iron and they are sometimes from our own negligence and sometimes from things we could not avoid. Sometimes I have known them to arise from the liability of the firm, but mostly they are from the causes I have spoken of.

Q.—Have you worked in the United States? A.—Yes.

Q.—How do wages compare in Canada and the United States? A.—I have always made bigger wages there.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What part of the United States? A.—I have worked in Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont—the eastern States.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Could you live cheaper there, than in Canada, while you were earning larger wages? A.—No; I think not; I was a single man at the time.

Q.—Can you give us an idea of the difference in the purchasing power of money there and here? A.—Part of the time I was there, the purchasing power of money was not so good; that was during the American civil war.

Q.—Say during the last fifteen years? A.—I think in some portions of the States it is better to-day than it is here.

Q.—A man can live cheaper? A.—Yes; comparing their wages with ours.

Q.—You could not tell us whether the condition of workingmen in Toronto has been bettered during the last eight or nine years? A.—I cannot go back that far.

Q.—Have house rents had a tendency to go up? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have they increased much? A.—Yes; I should think they had increased to high.

Q.—Have you any benefit fund in connection with your union? A.—We have a sick benefit and a death benefit.

Q.—And members generally have the benefit of these funds? A.—Yes; in all cases where they are entitled to it.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How long since you worked in the United States? A.—I worked there in 1863 and 1867; I think between 1863 and 1867.

Q.—Before the resumption of specie payment? A.—Yes.

Q.—If you reduced greenbacks to gold values, would wages be higher than in Canada? A.—I think so.

Q.—Did you work there by the piece or by the hour? A.—By the piece.

Q.—Did you work harder than you would here by the piece? A.—No, sir.

A.—If you worked there by the piece and here by the piece, how much higher would you scale there than here for the like work? A.—Of course at that time wages were higher than since, but I should think from ten to fifteen per cent.

Q.—But there was the money difference? A.—There would be more than that difference in the United States money brought into Canadian money.

Q.—So that actually in gold your wages would be lower—They would be lower if converted into gold? A.—No, sir.

Q.—What was the premium on gold in 1867? A.—I cannot remember but I think it was somewhere about ninety cents on the dollar, but of course it is a long time ago. It was not a great ways from par—that is my opinion.

Q.—How long does a boy serve before becoming a journeyman? A.—He is supposed to serve four years.

Q.—Your Union allows one boy to eight journeymen? A.—Yes one, and the firm one, besides.

Q.—Then 32 years' life of a journeyman would be passed away before a boy would take his place? A.—Yes, but I don't think the life of a moulder at the trade would average 32.

Q.—Then as a matter of fact you don't allow enough apprentices to take the places of the journeymen? A.—Yes; I think there are; I think that would allow enough.

Q.—If one boy comes in for 32 years of a journeyman's life and you say a journeyman's life at the business is not 32 years, how can the boys replace the journeymen as they pass out? A.—Of course you must understand, there are a great many moulders, or boys, who learn the trade outside in the country towns who come into the city and they do not even have to serve time at all.

Q.—And you have to try and balance between the city and country as well as you can so as not to have your trade overstocked? A.—Yes, and protect ourselves.

Q.—Do many moulders come from foreign countries? A.—Yes; quite a number.

Q.—What countries? A.—Mostly England and Scotland and a good many from the United States.

Q.—Then their condition in the United States cannot be much better than Canada or they would not come? A.—Well there is a certain amount of trade travelling backward and forward—roving kind of young men.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you find organizations to be a benefit in your trade? A.—Yes.

Q.—In what directions? A.—It is beneficial in this way, that I think the men get fairer rates of wages than they would, and I think the employers receive a fair return for the wages they have to pay.

Q.—Have the rules of your Union a tendency to make men steady and moral in their habits? A.—If they follow its teachings they have.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What benefit do you derive from the Union outside of organized labor? A.—We receive four dollars a week sick benefit, and \$300 at death is given to the widow and children.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Has any attempt been made to secure nine hours as a day's work at your trade? A.—Not in Toronto.

Q.—You desire it? A.—Yes; I think it would be a benefit to lessen the hours of labor.

Q.—If you were working by the piece would you rather work nine or ten hours? A.—I would rather work nine hours.

Q.—The rate of wages being the same? A.—Yes.

Q.—You have observed men in other trades who have shorter hours? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Have you any doubt that men in your trade could put the saved hour to good use? A.—I think the largest portion of them would.

Q.—Do you think they would try to improve their minds and have reasonable and proper recreation? A.—I think a fair percentage would.

Q.—You think it would not increase drunkenness? A.—Well, amongst a certain class, of course, the more time there is, the more is the tendency to drink.

Q.—Your opinion is, on the whole, that the working man is able to use his spare time to good advantage? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Does convict labor interfere with your trade? A.—Not much now; I do not believe there is any in Canada.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—We have been told that there was a contract here at the Central Prison, that it has expired and that it would not be renewed. Does it interfere at all? A.—Yes; I believe it is injurious to honest labor.

Q.—But if there were none? A.—If there were none, I think it would be beneficial.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Don't you think that it is right that prisons should be made self-supporting? A.—Yes; I do.

Q.—You would not object to any but surplus labor? A.—I think there are things which the Government could put them to, which would not come in contact with honest labor.

Q.—You do not object to convicts being employed? A.—No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you think they could be employed usefully in manufacturing goods which could be exported to foreign markets? A.—No, I do not think so; I think we have enough outside workmen, honest and good citizens, to furnish that market.

JOSEPH HUNT, Moulder, Toronto, called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is there anything in the evidence of the preceding witness from which you differ; or do you corroborate it in everything, and if not, to what do you object?

A.—I object to the wages.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Will you tell us please what is the condition of the moulders in this city regards the rates of wages? A.—Well our condition is better than it has been heretofore.

Q.—Have wages increased perceptibly in your trade in the last ten years? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you give us any reason for that increase? A.—Well as the population and growth of the city have increased the wages have increased.

Q.—It has made a demand for your work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has the combination amongst the men had any effect in that direction? A.—Yes; I think so.

Q.—You think the combination amongst the men has a tendency to keep wages up? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the general condition of the shops to your knowledge? A.—Some of those I have been working in are not fit for a horse to stop in.

Q.—You don't work in the same shop as the last witness? A.—No.

Q.—Do you find them badly ventilated? A.—Yes; and bad for the winter weather.

Q.—From the cold and wet? A.—Yes; cold and wet.

Q.—The shops are not sufficiently protected against draughts? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know that many men, from this state of the shops, are made ill? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it a frequent occurrence? A.—Yes; we had two this week who have been laid up for three weeks.

Q.—Do men working in shops such as you describe have serious illnesses frequently? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know that death often occurs from such a cause? A.—Well there have been two boys, apprentices, who have died from the effects of cold, and one man.

Q.—Has that been recently? A.—Inside of three years.

Q.—Has the Union ever taken any steps to have these shops improved? A.—Well the Union has not, but the men have in the shops they work in.

Q.—They have made representations to their employers? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have the employers shown any disposition to meet the men? A.—They have given us an answer that they would do it as soon as possible; but they have never made any improvements in the last three years and the shop is now open this winter for the next cold weather.

Q.—Have you any knowledge as to whether it costs a man more to live in Toronto now than it did four or five or six or seven years ago? A.—Yes.

Q.—In what articles has living increased? A.—Dry-goods, eatables, and house rent.

Q.—In what proportion has house rent gone up; how much more a month? A.—Some have gone up five dollars. I used to get a nice, comfortable house such as a workingman would need for five or six dollars, but now I have to pay ten dollars.

Q.—Do you think that wages have increased in proportion to the cost of living? A.—No, they have not.

Q.—Then I suppose the men in your business are to-day worse off than they were five years ago? A.—Pretty near.

Q.—Does machinery come into any great use in moulding shops? A.—No, except cranes; the men have to work cranes.

Q.—They are a convenience to you? A.—Yes; we could not do without them.

Q.—Do you find any difference in the shops in the city in the number of apprentices employed? A.—No difference.

- Q.—The rule is generally carried out? A.—Yes.
- Q.—And the hours of labor are the same? A.—Yes; ten hours a day.
- Q.—What is the usual pay day with you? A.—Every two weeks
- Q.—What day? A.—Saturday
- Q.—Do you consider Saturday the best day? A.—The bosses keep back three days' pay.
- Q.—Do you consider Saturday the best day in the week to pay? A.—No.
- Q.—What day would you prefer? A.—Friday.
- Q.—Why would that be a benefit? A.—Because we can spend our money on Saturday; our wives can go and buy things on Saturday morning which they cannot buy on Saturday night.
- Q.—Going on the market on Saturday morning the wife can do better than she can later on in the day after two or three o'clock? A.—Certainly.
- Q.—And it would benefit the workman by his getting a better class of goods? A.—Yes; and cheaper goods, at the market.
- Q.—Have you worked in the United States? A.—Yes.
- Q.—How do the wages compare with those in Canada? A.—When I was there they were better than they were in Canada.
- Q.—Can a man live as cheaply? A.—Well I dont know; of course I did not take my family over; house rent was dear, but everything else was cheap.
- Q.—Are there any tenement houses in Toronto that you know of? A.—Yes.
- Q.—What is the condition of them? A.—Very poor.
- Q.—As a rule do workmen live in them? A.—They have to do it when they cannot get better.
- Q.—Is it a difficult thing at present to get a good house within reasonable distance of work at a fair rent? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Men have to go long distances? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Do you know anything of building societies? A.—I think they are good.
- Q.—Do you know of any society amongst workmen where a man may pay his money in and have his house built for him? A.—I do.
- Q.—Do you know if many men have taken advantage of it? A.—Lots of men have taken advantage of it this year.
- Q.—Has it been long in operation? A.—No.
- By the CHAIRMAN:—
- Q.—What is it called?—A.—I forget the name.
- By Mr. HEAKES:—
- Q.—It is what would be called a co-operative building society? A.—Yes, I think its name is the Co-operative Society.
- Q.—Do you know if many men have commenced to build houses through its operation? A.—Well, not many as yet.
- Q.—How long has it been in existence? A.—It was only started about this time last year.
- Q.—But some men have taken advantage of it? A.—Yes.
- By Mr. FREED:—
- Q.—What part of the United States did you live in? A.—Cleveland and Akron.
- Q.—How long since? A.—Six years ago.
- Q.—Do you think you are benefiting yourself by coming back to Canada? A.—I did in one way because my family was here.
- Q.—You said that articles of dry goods are dearer now than they were at some former time; what former time was that? A.—Seven or eight years ago.
- Q.—What articles of dry goods are dearer? A.—As far as I know children's wear and my own clothes were cheaper then than now.
- Q.—Are cottons dearer now than they were seven or eight years ago? A.—Yes.
- Q.—On what do you base that answer, your own personal experience? A.—Yes.

Q.—Would you be surprised to learn that you can buy three yards of cotton of equal quality for less money than you could buy two yards seven or eight years ago? A.—I might think so and so might you if we went to buy the goods, but women are different from men.

Q.—You say that articles of food are dearer; what articles are dearer—bread or other stuffs? A.—Yes, bread and vegetables.

Q.—How much do you pay for a four-pound loaf in Toronto? A.—I could not tell you whether we buy a four pound loaf or not as I do not buy the bread. For a large loaf I think my wife pays twelve cents.

Q.—And seven or eight years ago what would you pay? A.—Eight and nine cents.

Q.—What did you pay for a yard of good white shirting? A.—I cannot tell you.

Q.—And what would you pay for a yard of bleached shirting seven or eight years ago? A.—I could not tell you.

Q.—Are boots and shoes dearer or cheaper than they were seven or eight years ago? A.—A little dearer.

Q.—How much would you pay for a good pair of working boots now? A.—For those made by hand you would pay seven or eight dollars.

Q.—And how much for a pair seven or eight years ago? A.—Made by hand you would get a good pair for \$4.50 or \$5.

Q.—Equal to the ones you now pay \$7 or \$8 for? A.—Yes; because the cost of leather has gone up and wages have gone up.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Do you think you get a fair share of the results of your labor? The former witness led me to understand that he got a fair share and the master got a fair share of the product; do you think the same? A.—Yes.

Q.—The master does not get an excessive profit on your labor? A.—No; I do not think so.

Q.—Fair to all parties? A.—Yes.

By Mr. KIRWIN:—

Q.—Who is it makes the wages in your trade—is it the Union? A.—No.

Q.—Would you be in favor of arbitration in preference to strikes in disputes between employers and men? A.—Yes.

Q.—What form of arbitration would you be in favor of? A.—I would be in favor of a committee of each.

Q.—One of each and an outsider or three of each and three outsiders? A.—Two of each and an outsider I think would be a suitable arbitration.

Q.—Would you be in favor of the government having a board of arbitrators, or one arbitrator, in case your own arbitration could not settle the dispute? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you think the government arbitrator would have sufficient knowledge of your trade to be able to judge justly between you and the employers? A.—Yes.

Q.—You think a man would be sufficiently skilled in your trade? A.—Well, a man who was not skilled should not be in the position.

Q.—And of course a government arbitrator could not be skilled in all trades? A.—No.

JOHN THOMAS DODWELL, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How long have you lived in Toronto? A.—Five years.

Q.—Have you been working as a journeyman all that time? A.—Yes; working at agricultural implement moulding.

Q.—What are the wages made in your trade? A.—Three dollars a day in the city and \$1.50 and \$1.60 outside the city, not over \$2.00 in many places outside the city.

Q.—Have you any scale of wages in the city? A.—No; not in the agricultural line.

Q.—Do you have much trouble in keeping up the rate of wages in your branch of industry? A.—Yes. Moulders come in from country shops, where they are turned out as you would turn articles out of a machine; and some also come from the Old Country here, as agents represent that there is employment for them.

Q.—In what way are they induced to come from the Old Country? A.—By articles in the newspapers and by agents stating that employers cannot get sufficient help here, and that induces them to come.

Q.—Do you find it hard to maintain wages in view of the keen competition between the different firms? A.—Yes; we do here in the city from outside competition of firms using cheap labor that is not organized.

Q.—Are the different branches of the moulding trade all organized in one body or are they separate? A.—They all come under the one executive head.

Q.—Then all have benefit from the organization? A.—Yes.

Q.—Would it be beneficial to your organization if it were incorporated? A.—Yes.

Q.—What benefit would accrue from it? A.—We would derive several benefits: we would have a legal standing and have power to collect dues from members, and also have more control over them.

Q.—Is there as much work, taking into consideration the development of the country, as there was eight or ten years ago? A.—There is by the increase from the use of machines; but outside of that I do not think there are so many working days in the year.

Q.—Have you to contend much against manufactured articles coming in from abroad? A.—No; not a great deal under the high tariff.

Q.—The laws of your body, you say, govern the whole three branches? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Agricultural implements were formerly imported from the United States pretty largely? A.—Not to my knowledge, not to a very great extent.

Q.—How far back does your experience go? A.—About fifteen or sixteen years.

Q.—Were not agricultural implements imported from the United States pretty largely fifteen or sixteen years ago? A.—No; not to my knowledge.

DAVID BLACK, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What is your occupation? A.—I am a stove plate moulder in Toronto.

Q.—Does your branch of the moulding trade believe in arbitration? A.—Not in compulsory arbitration.

Q.—Will you state to the Commission the nature of the arbitration that would be most likely to suit your trade? A.—I think it would be some board agreed upon by the men and the employers without outside interference.

Q.—Appointed both by employers and employés? A.—Agreed upon by both parties.

Q.—What is the condition of the shops where stove plate moulding is done? A.—Where plate moulding is done the condition is very good generally; the condition of other shops is however not all that can be desired. In some cases they are very poorly ventilated. You will understand that in casting at night gas and smoke come

off which are very injurious and have a very irritating effect on the lungs; and if a man after working a couple of hours goes outside, he is very apt to catch cold.

Q.—Do you think your wages constitute a fair share of the profits? A.—I do not.

Q.—For what reason? A.—For this reason: in former years a moulder did not have to do so much work as at present. Besides, the purchasing power of money is not so great now as it was formerly, and wages have not increased proportionately with outside expenditures.

Q.—Taking the necessaries of life, in what goods are the prices higher than they were some years ago? A.—Rent especially is higher.

Q.—In what proportion has rent increased? A.—A fair proportion to estimate would be twenty-five per cent. Nowadays it is very hard for a workingman to get a house to suit him. The class of houses built in Toronto have too high rents for workingmen.

Q.—On that account workingmen have to go further from the city to get suitable houses; they have to go into the outskirts? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you believe in the piece system in your trade? A.—I do not; I think it is very harmful to the men. It is better of course for the bosses; they can get more work for less money.

Q.—It creates a rushing tendency? A.—It creates a rushing tendency on the part of the men and consequently a cutting down of prices.

Q.—What is the proportionate ratio of apprentices to men in your shop; or have you any rule laid down in that regard? A.—One to every eight men and one for the shop. But it must be remembered that our ranks are supplemented by immigration, especially from Great Britain, to such an extent that there is no dearth of moulders. A moulder's life is not so long but that the supply is easily maintained.

Q.—Do moulders save much in the year over all expenses,—that is moulders of ordinarily steady habits? A.—In regard to stove plate moulders I would say, no. For this reason: the stoveplate business is being centralized in one large firm whereas formerly there were several small firms. They have a large shop and consequently do in eight months what formerly took twelve months and, therefore, moulders have out of the year only eight or nine months' work.

Q.—That is, this large establishment squeezes the small establishments in the city? A.—It does.

Q.—Has the trade been tending that way for some time? A.—It has.

Q.—I suppose you cannot give any definite reason? A.—It seems to be the general rule in everything.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Does the large concern squeeze the small ones because it is able to sell stoves for less money than the small ones can afford to sell them at? A.—No, I will not say that; but the cost of them will be less.

Q.—Cannot the small firms still continue in business and make money? A.—I have no doubt they could.

Q.—Why then do you think they have quit business? A.—I could hardly account for it, but it is a fact nevertheless.

Q.—Have the prices of stoves advanced? A.—They have.

Q.—Does a stove cost more or less to manufacture now than formerly? A.—I should say about the same.

Q.—What is the price of iron as compared with former years? A.—I am not very well versed in the prices of former years; but I think there is not a great difference.

Q.—Where does the iron come from that is used in the manufacture of stoves? A.—Some from the United States; some from England.

Q.—Does not most of it come from Scotland? A.—I mean from Great Britain.

Q.—Do you think much iron comes from the United States into Canada for the stove business? A.—A good deal.

Q.—From what part of the United States? A.—That I could not tell.
Q.—I suppose you have not much knowledge of the business outside of your branch? A.—I have not.

Q.—Do many men of your acquaintance, moulders, save money? A.—They do not; what they save in the first half of the year they lose in the second half.

Q.—It is the custom I believe about holiday time to stop work and enter upon stock-taking? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long does that generally last? A.—It varies. Sometimes they shut down from Christmas to April; others again for not so long.

Q.—Do you think in the stove business men earn wages more than eight or nine months in the year? A.—I do not.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—You spoke of rent: are you a married man? A.—I am not.

Q.—Then on what authority do you speak? A.—On the experience of my parents.

Q.—You also spoke about stoves being dearer now than sometime ago: are you aware that iron is dearer now than it was twelve or fifteen months ago? A.—The combination would have failed in its object if it were not—that is the iron ring.

Q.—Have you knowledge of an iron ring? A.—I have from what the papers give me; I do not know whether that information is reliable or not.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Where is that iron ring situated? A.—It works in the market.

Q.—In what market? A.—I could not say. I guess it governs all the markets—Canada and the United States.

Q.—And the old country? A.—No.

Q.—If there is no iron ring in the old country and if the iron is imported from the old country, how does that affect the price of iron? A.—It is the superior quality that is generally brought from the old country, and it therefore would have a higher value.

Q.—Superior to what? A.—Superior to the American iron.

Q.—What is the price of a ton of pig iron in Glasgow? A.—I could not say.

Q.—What is the price of a ton of pig iron in New-York or Philadelphia? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Would you be surprised to learn that pig iron in Philadelphia is fifty per cent dearer than in Glasgow? A.—No, I would not, not in Glasgow itself. I would be surprised to learn that American iron was dearer than Glasgow iron in America.

THOMAS PICKETT, re-called:—

I am not much acquainted with American iron, although I know it comes into our trade in certain lines; but Scotch iron I know something about, as I ran a shop a number of years, and was in a position to know. Of course, I do not know the price of late years any more than from having occasionally seen the quotations. From my experience of Scotch iron, I think it is as good for the work produced in this country. There is a class of iron made in Lower Canada, Three Rivers iron, and for car-work, perhaps it is better than any other class of iron made, and I know something about it. Some of the American iron is very good; but there is a certain class that is very poor; if you take the Gartsherrie iron, it is of as good a quality as any we get in this country. We do not get much American iron. The prices of iron run from \$16 to \$32 a ton.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Is that laid down in Toronto? A.—No; but laid down for the Montreal market from which the shops in the country towns obtain it. I am now speaking of the Province of Quebec.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—What dates do those quotations cover? A.—From 1870 up to eight or nine years ago. Of course, in one or two of those years iron was high, running up to \$40 a ton.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—That was in 1880? A.—Yes; but it only remained one season at that price. The general run was from \$18 to \$20, or \$21 or \$22.

Q.—What would Eglinton iron be worth now? A.—We considered Eglinton inferior iron to Gartsherrie and Summerlee.

Q.—Take Cambree? A.—There is not much difference. Eglinton is cheaper than Gartsherrie, Summerlee, and the one I have just named.

Q.—What would Eglinton be worth,—say at Glasgow? A.—I think it would be worth \$14 or \$15 at Montreal, that is wholesale. I believe iron is as low within a year or two as in any time within my knowledge.

Q.—Would \$10 at Glasgow be low? A.—It seems to me it ought to bring that price there.

Q.—Would \$5 cover the freight to Toronto? A.—Yes; I think so. I am not well versed in regard to freights from the old country, but a great deal of iron comes out as ballast.

Q.—In the shape of kentledge or pig iron, that is to say cast blocks for ballast? A.—Yes; as pig iron.

Q.—Does much of that come to Toronto? A.—I could not say.

Q.—What would anthracite iron made in Pennsylvania be worth? A.—I could not tell the American price. We never deal in American iron at all. I think we have as good native iron in this country as anywhere.

By M. CARSON :—

Q.—Are you aware that contractors within the last year have been obliged to throw up contracts owing to the increase in the price of iron in our markets? A.—No; I am not aware of it.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are you aware that Scotch iron is imported in large quantities into the United States? A.—Certain brands are, I believe.

Q.—What is the duty on iron into the United States? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Pig iron? A.—It is pretty high. It must be 40 or 50 per cent. I should think. The Americans have got to have it.

Q.—If it goes into the United States and pays a high duty it is because it is cheap in Scotland? A.—It is produced cheaply; and not only so, but it is a quality of iron we have got to have. In regard to the cost of living, to which reference has been made and the difference in wages to-day and some years ago, I may say that I can go back fifteen or twenty years. I can go back twenty five or twenty seven years ago as regards the prices paid in the trade and I can quote the prices then paid. Wages are not any more than they were in those days, and comparing the prices of articles to be purchased they are not nearly so good as then. I am not speaking more in regard to the rural districts, for I have worked in towns where we had the advantage of buying from the farmer and directly from the producers more than we have here. But I know from my own case in Toronto that a man, with a family, as I have, of six or seven, whatever economy he may use, cannot bring up his family respectably and live in a respectable way, and make both ends meet at the wages paid in our trade today. I know it for a fact. I have been here three years and I cannot rub one cent against another, and I conclude that I have not lost one day a month through my own neglect. I heard the question asked of a witness, how long it would take him to build a house. It would take me a thousand years to build a house in Toronto, if I continued to live in a respectable way such as a working man is expected to live and bring up his family. A question was asked in regard to children going to work. I have four boys. I mean to give them a fair education.

but the little one of my boys has been able to clothe himself. I merely mention these facts to show that there must be thousands of working men worse off than I am.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—What would be the remedy? A.—Many things might be done. In the first place, there is speculation in land. I believe speculation in land should be stopped. The higher you raise the price of land the more a man will have to pay for it. If I have to pay a thousand dollars for a lot with fifteen feet frontage the tenant has ultimately to pay the price; if the price is only a few dollars the rent will be correspondingly reduced. I live in a house for which I have to pay a rental of \$12 a month. That is more than a workingman ought to pay in this city. That is more than a workingman can pay in this city. If I want to live in a cheaper house, where must I go? I should have to go into some back street. I believe the contractors here are building a class of houses not suitable for working men. Most of our houses are comfortable, I know my house is comfortable, but there is too much room for a man in my station; there are six rooms in my house. I could get along with less, with four; but the houses are constructed in such a way that if we want a house with four rooms we have to go into a back street and the cottages are not built so comfortably as the houses at a little higher rent. An improvement in building would be to erect double tenements as in Montreal. In that way the builders will be able to charge less rent because it would be a double house with two entrances and yet it would occupy only the same frontage as a single house. There might be four rooms upstairs and four down. Supposing in the case of my house there were four rooms upstairs and four down with two entrances, the owner might be able to claim eight dollars a month from each tenant; but by compelling a man to pay twelve dollars for one it is too much strain to impose on the man's income. In that way double tenements instead of single houses would be a benefit to workingmen, from my point of view.

Q.—You mean that the cost of land is so high that the owners are obliged to charge high rent in order to pay interest on the money invested? A.—Yes; and the tenant has got to pay it. One of the great causes of high rent is over-speculation in land, for it is nothing but speculation.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Do you think those double tenements would be as healthy for your family? A.—Yes; I believe so, for in Montreal where there are double tenements the people seem to be as healthy as here.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—And larger profits accrue to the men who build them? A.—Yes; and the tenant gets his rent cheaper.

Q.—Then it benefits both landlord and tenant? A.—Yes; and I may say that the upper tenement is as a rule preferred there.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Do you mean that the rooms of each tenement would be on the same flat? A.—Yes; you would have to arrange it so in that case.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What water rate do you pay on your house in Toronto? A.—I do not pay the water rates; the landlord pays them, and I think they amount to ten dollars a year with fifty per cent off. I never was assessed for water rates, for when I have hired a house it has been on the agreement that the landlord shall pay those rates.

By Mr. KIRWIN :—

Q.—But you pay them indirectly? A.—Yes.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—I understand you to say that the rentals have increased in greater proportion than your wages? A.—Yes. In speaking of the price of provisions I am not able

to go a great way back in Toronto, but I can give my own experience. *Some* articles have advanced and some have dropped, but taken as a whole the increase of wages has not corresponded with the advance in the price of goods. I do not believe five per cent of our trade or of any mechanical trade can save a dollar in Toronto. When I say that, I mean the building trade, the mechanical trades, and the iron trades. There may be some exception throughout the city, such as printers who have constant work the year round. No doubt there is a certain percentage who have work the year round.

JOHN PIERCE, called and sworn :—

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. What is your occupation? A.—I am a machine moulder and have lived in Toronto for the last eighteen months.

Q.—Have you made any study of the Factory Act that is now in existence? A.—No; I have not. I have read it once; I just got the loan of a copy and had to hand it back, so I had no chance to study it.

Q.—You have heard the evidence of the previous witness; have you anything to add or any suggestion to offer to the Commission in connection with the machine moulding trade? A.—With respect to the hours of labor, I think the eight hour movement should be carried in order to secure the half holiday, which would be a benefit to all workmen.

Q.—Considering a man physically do you consider that if a man works steadily for a month he can put in as much work in nine hours as in ten? A.—I think he could do so. I think so because after a certain time his strength is exhausted at the rate he is compelled to work at the present day, that is speaking for my own trade.

Q.—I suppose that if a man works long hours he therefore becomes fatigued and is more liable to take a glass going home? A.—I have often seen that occur, for it helps a man along on his way home.

Q.—You think then that long hours have a bad tendency, and tend to increase unsteady habits? A.—I do.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—From the remark just made do you wish the Commission to understand that the Moulders Union is a less temperate body of men than other Unions in the city. A.—No; I do not think they are less temperate.

Q.—Do you find the education of the poorer children, that is of children of the working classes, is being neglected in any way by the parents? A.—That is something I could not answer; I have no knowledge in regard to it.

Q.—Speaking from general knowledge? A.—Speaking from my own little experience I think the facilities for their education are better.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Do you entirely agree with the statements made by the former witness? A.—Yes.

Q.—With respects to the cost of living, the prices paid for labor and so on? A.—Yes, I do.

Q.—Are the necessaries of life, in your experience, dearer? Are you a married man? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is the price of living higher or lower than five, six or ten years ago?— A.—Some things are about the same, but others are less. I think there is a reduction in clothing.

Q.—Boots and shoes? A.—They are higher; that is hand made boots.

Q.—I suppose there is very little hand made work done now? A.—Not so much as formerly.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the iron ring spoken of; where does it exist and what are its effects? A.—No; the only idea of any ring I have is the coal ring; that is the only ring I know of. I could not say whether there is an iron ring or not.

Q.—Do you know what the price of iron is at the present time? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the price? A.—It runs from \$18.00 to \$21.50.

Q.—Which iron is \$21.50? A.—A 1 American.

Q.—What is \$18.00? A.—I think it is a poor class of American iron that is sold for \$18.00; I forget its name.

Q.—Which do you use the most of? A.—For stove plating, A 1 American.

Q.—Is that the high priced iron? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you use any Scotch iron? A.—Not very much at the present time. Some years ago there was considerable used.

Q.—Do you know the price of Scotch iron? A.—I do not.

Q.—Do you know whether it is higher or lower than American? A.—I could not say.

Q.—Would you be surprised to find that there is a big difference in the price? A.—I would not be very much surprised. One is not so good an article as the other; that is where the difference comes in.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Have you in your business ever used, are you using now what is called waste shell from the English market? A.—I have seen quite a little of that used; about three years ago I saw some used. I believe it is brought from Nova Scotia, from the lower ports.

Q.—I refer to the English article? A.—I have seen some here this last season. I do not know whether it was from England; I judge it was.

Q.—Has there been more used previously? A.—I could not tell.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—As a matter of fact do you know what quantity of iron is used? A.—No; it is something I do not study, except when it comes into the ladle.

Q.—The iron used from the United States. What is that? A.—It is classed as A-1 charcoal iron.

Q.—You do not use much charcoal iron in stove-making, I believe? A.—It is the chief trade in which it is used.

Q.—From what part of the United States does it come? A.—I could not tell.

Q.—Do you use any Nova Scotian iron? A.—I have seen a little used in agricultural machinery.

Q.—It is a very high quality of iron, I believe? A.—Some of it is. I have also seen plenty of it sent back.

Q.—Your work is very hard work? A.—Very hard.

Q.—When you quit your work, especially after casting, I suppose you are generally in a very high perspiration? A.—Yes.

Q.—After you have worked ten hours at your trade you have done as much as you are able to do? A.—About as much as I want to do for that day; sometimes, very often, as much as I would like to do for two days.

Q.—When you go outside in this high state of perspiration there is, of course, a tendency to catch cold? A.—Yes; it has that tendency.

Q.—And I suppose, as a result, there is a temptation to men who are not very strong to drop in and take a horn? A.—I do not; I can say for myself that that is something I do not care for; I do not take it at all. I can either take it or leave it alone.

Q.—If the men work shorter hours the temptation to drink would be less? A.—Yes; because the men would feel more refreshed and there would be a chance to be better educated.

Q.—Do you think the hard work does it, because it breaks the men down physically? A.—It does.

Q.—That would be lessened if the hours were shorter? A.—I think it would be.

Q.—You would think that ten hours' work at your trade is such a strain that a man cannot perform it without sooner or later breaking down in health? A.—I do. I think ten hours are really too long for a man to work when he has to work as hard as a moulder has, and a great many men in different trades have to work harder.

By Mr. KIRWIN:—

Q.—At present you are receiving \$13.50 a week? A.—\$13.40.

Q.—Have you sufficient confidence in yourself to say that you would be able to save up money enough to build yourself a decent dwelling house—not too expensive a house, but one that would suit a mechanic in the near future, say in fifteen years when you would be able to enjoy it? A.—Do you mean if I was in steady employment?

Q.—On \$13.40 a week? A.—It depends on whether we get twelve months, or six months work.

Q.—I am supposing that you work steadily right along? A.—In my own case I have no doubt I could, simply because there are only two of us to keep.

Q.—How many moulders in this city own their own houses? A.—Very few in my knowledge.

Q.—You think you could save up the money? A.—In fifteen years I think I could, if I had steady employment at that rate of wages, that is supposing the price of necessaries did not go up. I would not have confidence to begin just now in the present condition of affairs. That is why many workmen have not homes, because the uncertainties of trade are such that they do not have a chance to commence such undertakings.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—You are not employed the year round, I understand. Do you think shorter hours would increase the length of time at which you would be employed during the year? A.—I do.

Q.—If you had the eight hour system how much longer do you think you would be employed? A.—If we had the eight hour system it would increase the employment one to every ten.

Q.—It would give employment to eleven where there are ten now employed, that is, if they were working the same period? A.—Yes.

Q.—Without employing any extra number of hands would that as regards time give you an additional number of hours sufficient to make up twelve months' work in the year? A.—It would hardly be sufficient, because there is always one-third of our trade walking round looking for work.

Q.—You mean that there is always an overplus of labor? A.—Yes, it has been so ever since the panic of 1873. According to our Union statistics there is always one-third more men than the demand.

Q.—Have you any theory as to how that state of things could be relieved? A.—The only theory I have is that a reduction of the hours of labor and the abolition of piece work would overcome it.

Q.—You think that would be a remedy? A.—Yes. Where there are two men at present employed on piece work three men would be required if they were working day work.

Q.—Could not the Union bring sufficient influence to bear to make some arrangement by which piece work would be abolished? A.—We could make some arrangement no, doubt, if we were in the majority. That however is a difficult matter for the selfishness of the men will not allow it to be done. You cannot instil into the minds of a great many of our members to-day that day's work is of benefit to them, it is the money to which they look. So long as they can get dollars and cents they do not care as to the amount of work they do.

Q.—In your trade is as fine work turned out under the piece work system as day work? A.—No.

Q.—Then the piece work system in the moulding trade, as in other trades produces work not so good as day's work? A.—Piece work in our trade may be equal as regards a few small articles, but it is not as a general rule equal to day's work. Piece work has generally less by ten per cent. than day's work.

Q.—So the consumer does not get as good work from piece as if the products were turned out by day's work? A.—He does not get as good work because he pays less for piece work.

Q.—Consequently the consumer gets his profits for less sums? A.—He gets as good work for his money and he pays less for it.

Q.—He cannot get as good work for his money? A.—He does not as a general rule get as good work for the money as if it were turned out by day's work.

Q.—Then it would be in the general public interest to support you in your endeavors to have piece work abolished? A.—Just so.

Q.—Because the consumer would get better work for his money? A.—Better value for his money.

Toronto, Wednesday, November 30th.

W. H. HOWLAND, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You are Mayor of Toronto? A.—Yes.

Q.—This is your second term in the mayor's chair? A.—Yes.

Q.—You have been a resident of Toronto for a great many years? A.—32 or 33 years.

Q.—As mayor, you come in contact with the poor of Toronto to a great extent? A.—Not only as mayor, but for the last eleven years I have been working among them as a matter of love, and I have a very considerable knowledge of their ways, their difficulties and circumstances.

Q.—Are there large numbers of people in Toronto requiring assistance? A.—They require assistance from only two causes as a general rule, excepting extreme cases of misfortune, or cases where widows are left with large families. The first cause is, of course, drinking, and the second cause is the sending out to this country of people who are unsuited to make a living here—the sending out of great numbers of people who have got the poor-house taint, and who never will work or do any good anywhere.

Q.—By whom are these people sent out? A.—They are sent out in various ways. Up to the last two or three years our government machinery was very largely used for the purposes of relieving the poor-houses—not with their consent, but their machinery was perverted from its original intention and used in that way. Then, colonies have been sent, out from time to time, with the kind intention of helping people in different districts. For instance there was a colony of a poor class sent out from some of the towns in Ireland some years ago; they are nearly all to be traced here at the present time, and to a large extent they have remained a charge on the people of this country.

Q.—Would you rather give us a narrative respecting these people, or have us ask questions? A.—Just according to your judgment.

Q.—Then perhaps you had better give us a narrative? A.—As a visitor of the House of Industry, I kept coming across a class of people from a certain place in Ireland; they were thoroughly unsuited for this country; they had been under the poor-house system very largely; they were demoralized, and all the spring was taken out of them for honest or faithful work. In the same way there has been progressing for sometime an immigration from England from the different poor-house Unions. You can trace them in particular streets; you come across a family at one time, sent out by certain poor-houses, or given means to come out. I have met several cases of that kind. For instance in East London they are now sending out

families, and you cannot help being sorry for them, because they sent out people with large families—eight or nine children, and sometimes more. It makes you feel that the children might have a chance, but the parents are unsuitable; having no courage, or pluck, or hope, they drop at once into the old habit of depending on chance work or assistance. They had been so much in the habit of getting help from others that they do not think of being able to help themselves; in fact they are a helpless immigration. In a great many cases they are chosen with some judgment as far as personal habits are concerned; many of those East London people that I have met with are not dissipated people, but they are corrupted with the poor-house character.

Q.—They don't know how to help themselves? A.—They have not got any spirit; they are absolutely helpless.

Q.—Admitting this to be an evil can you suggest anything? A.—I think we should adopt the American principle, which would prevent them being sent. I think we should stop helpless people who are going to suffer—stop them at the border. In this country the climate produces more suffering than in the old country, and I don't think it is fair to send out to us people, known to be paupers, and that we cannot make men of. I should be sorry to limit a class of immigration of which there was any chance or hope—such as young men, or those children that Dr. Barnardo and others are training. It is very wonderful how such as these fit themselves to the country and become a good population.

Q.—Is that remark made from your own observation? A.—It is from my observation and from the evidence in the books of the agencies. And, mind you, many are sent out by the poor-law Union who have nobody to look after them, and I think that that is a very poor and wicked way of sending them out. They are sent out; somebody agrees to find them a place; they are put into a place, but if they are not well placed they drift back to the street. Some of them do well, but it is a wickedness and a hardship to send them out in this way. But when they take the children and train them a year or more in England and get them into regular habits, clothe them properly and bring them out and put them in the hands of their own agents who place them in carefully selected farm houses where they are visited regularly by the agent, and in case of the child not being suited he can be taken back to the home and then sent out again, and even in cases of extreme unsuitability can be sent back to the old country—it seems to me that that immigration is a valuable immigration.

Q.—That is the immigration of which I have been afraid and I am much pleased to hear a better account of it than I feared we would get from you? A.—I might suggest to the Commission that they should make enquiry of these agents. There are a number of these institutions in London, such as Dr. Barnardo's and others, and there is one old philanthropic institution which has been sending out people for twelve or thirteen years, although nobody hears anything about it. Their reports from Canada are almost always favorable; and I think there is also a Scotch one, besides the one at Belleville. As to the Scotch homes I forget the name of the gentleman who manages them; you don't often hear his name, but he manages them very carefully and brings out hundreds and places them with farmers. There is a Roman Catholic system which is very well managed and has its head quarters in Hamilton. I have not come across, in working amongst the children in Toronto, but one boy so far in connection with any work that we have had here that was on the street; that is of boys who came through these agencies. I come across those who are sent out by the poor-law Unions; they have some agent to find the first place and then that is the end of it, and I believe there are some places in which children have been really turned out on the street. I cannot prove it, but I have strong suspicions of it.

Q.—Are not the agents of these homes interested in sending favorable reports? A.—Well, get the books; they cannot cook the books. I think I know every boy in the city who is not in very good shape; they come to me, or I see them somewhere.

Q.—Do you believe in the law of heredity? A.—I am not entirely a believer in

it, though, of course I believe it affects them physically. But my experience with children is that if they are taken at the right time they can be saved from crime. That is the way you can get them. Of course there are exceptions to everything, but I am speaking of the general principle, and my experience with children has been exceedingly favorable, when they are taken and handled in anything like a careful, kindly and intelligent way. I do not believe it is necessary that any child should be a criminal as a child; and if you get a child up to seventeen or eighteen in a good line the chances are strongly in favor of his getting on.

Q.—You think that, setting aside the higher law of humanity and putting it on the narrow ground of the good of the country, this immigration of the boys of whom we are now speaking is good? A.—I do. I tell you another thing about these children: it is the general estimation that they are children taken altogether out of bad homes, but that is not the case. In a country densely populated like the Old Country there is an immense class of people who, from age, poverty or the death of the bread-winner, are very poor and miserable, but who are perfectly respectable, and the children are right down at that point that they become part of the miserable poorhouse class unless they are dealt with. Now, a large proportion of the children taken charge of in these homes are of this class, and I think many of them are the finest children I ever saw in my life—children who have come out in that way. You find that the majority of these children are very much liked in the homes they come to in this country; I know that the people get very fond of them. I forgot to mention Miss McPherson's Home at Stratford.

Q.—And Miss Rye's? A.—Miss Rye's, I think, is for girls; but I think Miss MacPherson's is for boys. If you have a session at Belleville and Stratford, go right into the places where they have been working a long time and summon the farmers in the neighborhood; I think it would be a good thing. I have not done that myself; I have only met particular cases; but that is my judgment, as far as I have had opportunities of learning.

Q.—Have you anything further to add on that point? A.—There is another class. It often happens in the Old Country when a man is getting a little past work, when he begins to be a little bit of a charge, though he may never have been on the poor list; but he is not quite so able to make his living—people of this class are helped out to this country by private funds. This class are more helpless still. I do not say that we have any right absolutely to exclude anybody that can make a living, but, at the same time, this is a hard country for helpless people for physical and other reasons, and they should not come here; it is more cruel to bring them here than to leave them.

Q.—You think it is not right to load us with the paupers of other countries? A.—Yes; and, besides, in this country they are far more helpless and suffer more than at home, because of our climate.

Q.—It is an injury to the people and a wrong to us? A.—Certainly; the economic feature of it does not require discussion, I think.

Q.—Now, as to the class known as news-boys in Toronto, are they mostly immigrant boys or native boys? A.—Well, you could get that information better from the newsboys' institution. My opinion is, that they are neglected children, some of them the children of widows trying to earn a little; but the majority are neglected children, and it is ruinous to a boy to become a newsboy, in nine hundred and ninety-nine cases out of a thousand. When I was in Chicago the other day, I saw many of these boys; they all knew me. There are several runaways among them, and they earned me to see their parents here. I found them respectable working people good mechanic. They told me that their boys were all right until they began to ask me to see their parents here. I found them respectable working people though a well newspapers on the street at eleven and twelve o'clock at night, but then they got demoralized. I met a number of those boys and they were all alike in that respect. My judgment is, that if we were really paternal in our management of children, they would not be allowed to be on the streets at late hours at night doing any business of that kind.

Q.—Would you advise a law by which the police would be permitted to drive these boys home after a certain hour? A.—It does not require police; the school system could be so simply extended to do it all that the wonder is that it is not done. In Glasgow the school system is a paternal one. The chairman of the school board goes into these districts and has the parents and children come before him and he enquires into their mode of living, and so on, and if any cause prevents them from going to school he gets it removed some way. The system, as I said, is paternal, but the authorities take a great deal of trouble. I have, with some trouble, persuaded our Police Commission that the great bulk of our petty crime has been committed by boys just in this way. I persisted in bringing it before the board until they consented to allow a suitable policeman to be put on duty for thirty days, to go about in plain clothes and try to break up these gangs of boys who assemble on the streets.

Q.—You are *ex-officio* a police commissioner? A.—Yes. The result has been that we have broken up twenty of these gangs, ranging from five to twenty-five. They were systematically organised as a general thing, the head of the gang being a boy who was convicted once or twice before the Police Court. They were systematic gangs, organised for all kinds of mischief, and in a great many cases they indulged in petty stealing. He has succeeded in breaking them up, and it has made an immense difference already. In some cases the parents were got to send the boys to school or to work, and now the Commission has made an order that this shall be done regularly once a month or as often as necessary. I am satisfied that in every city a large portion of the petty crime is done by these boys, and you would be surprised at the perfect organization they have amongst themselves for the purpose of discussing and planning how to carry out their mischief. At first there were one or two things that struck me very strongly. One of them was the way in which every window in a vacant house would be broken, and I found that it was one of their plans to assemble together by a pre-concerted arrangement, armed with stones, and with one volley they would break every window in the house, and then they were off like a shot. There is no such thing as a boy being really criminal at heart until he gets to be about thirteen or fourteen; it is all surface depravity up to that time; and I don't believe in the necessity of allowing boys to go to the devil at all if they are properly managed; I think it's a sheer waste, the result of bad government and bad management.

Q.—What proportion of the boys in Toronto do you think are absolutely homeless? A.—I don't know that you could say that of any boy. There is a certain number who are regular residents of the Newsboys' Lodgings. There was a boy in my office yesterday, an incurably bad boy you might say, because we have not got the machinery to cure such cases just now. He is between thirteen and fourteen; he moves about from place to place; he has been helped several times to work, but he will not stay at work. He should have been taken care of and dealt with before being allowed to drift down into criminal life. That boy may be called homeless, but it is by his own determination.

Q.—Boys cannot be sent to the Penetanguishene Reformatory, unless they are actually convicted of crime? A.—No.

Q.—Do you think that a reformatory for boys not convicted of crime would be a good institution? A.—Do you know the principle of our industrial school?

Q.—Well, perhaps, it would be as well for you to state it, so that we may get it on the record? A.—I have been convinced all the way through that it is a wrong principle to treat boys as criminal under any circumstances, that there is no necessity for it, and that a child should be treated as a child, and on an altogether different system from the one we pursue. Now, our industrial school is modelled on the English system, and the particular point about it is this—that there is nothing in the world about it that has the prison taint. If, we have ourselves a boy who is unmanageable we send him to the strictest boarding-school that we can find, the one having the best manager. That is what we do for our own boys, because we have the means to pay a couple of hundred dollars a year for it. But the workingman cannot do that; he has no play ground near his house, and when the mother is busy in the

house, and the father is at his work, the boy is on the street, subject to bad influences until he gets unmanageable. The parents cannot manage him; they have not the time nor the opportunity to get him really under control. Now, to say that that boy becomes a criminal, and is to be treated as a criminal, because he commits an offence against the law—to send him to a place with the criminal taint—under such circumstances is simply an outrage. The principle of the industrial school is nothing more nor less than a compulsory boarding-school, attached to our school system, for boys who are unmanageable; and if the parents cannot pay the expense the municipality pays it. If they can pay, they do so, so that they are not under any obligations to the municipality. Now, that institution has got no cells and no bars over its windows; it has not even a high fence around it—the fence is one, which when I was a boy I could have jumped over with a running jump. There is nothing in the world about it which would prevent a boy from escaping, if he tried. Of course, they do escape sometimes—we have had four cases. Of course, if they went as far as Japan we would get them back. One got as far as Sarnia, and another as far as Point Edward; a third was found in the city, but we got them all back. One of them came back from his mother's home. They are not put in cells, they have no criminal treatment; they are treated as you would treat boys in school. If it is necessary to give them the strap, they get it, though there is but little of that. At first when a boy is brought before the Police Court, instead of being brought up in the open Court he is taken to the judge's room. The judge talks with him, and has a talk with the parent; he looks into the case, finds out from the parents what the fault is, and what they think about it, and if he thinks it is wise to do so he simply writes an order to the school, and they take the boy, and keep him for five years, if necessary. There is one boy that we have already restored to his parents. He had simply got uncontrollable, and lost his head and judgment, and when he had been there for three months the home feeling was restored. The parents were living in rather a bad neighborhood, they moved to a better neighborhood, and the boy was taken back to them, and now he is as good a boy as any. He would have been ruined if he had been sent to a jail or handled in that way. Therefore, I say it is an outrage to treat boys as criminal, when you can answer every purpose in that way.

Q.—It does answer the purposes? A.—Yes; I wish you could go out to Mimico and see it. At present we do not teach them with any intention of teaching them trades. My theory is that we have too many in the different trades in the city now, but there is any amount of land in this country and we take the boys and teach the great majority of them, who are physically suitable, so that they may be useful to farmers. They are taught so that they can do anything about a farm, the handling of horses, sowing, planting, the use of implements, simple carpentering work, mending harness, so that when we give the boy out to a farmer he finds him posted in the very things he wants. There will not be any trouble in placing them and eventually they will be holding land of their own and we will have good citizens manufactured out of so-called bad boys. You would be surprised at the work these boys are able to do under the carpenter's instructions; they are so quick and clever that they require less teaching than you have any idea of. Our theory is that in the common schools we have no education which is worth anything which does not educate a boy perfectly. We should train him to use his mind, his hand and his eye together and when you thoroughly train him to do that, when he is turned out, he are turning out of the public schools. They are taken away from school at twelve or thirteen when they have just education enough to fit them to be shop men or book keepers or something of that kind. By our system we are raising a miserable class of this kind of whom we have a superabundance already, a class whose wages are very low. There are married men who are working as book keepers and in other occupations of that kind, who have large families who get perhaps seven dollars a week and some even four or five dollars a week. They are educated to a point which just makes them unfit to go into manual occupations and they go into callings where they have almost to starve for the rest of their lives.

Q.—Is that not due to a false idea of gentility rather than to defective education?

A.—Yes; but the proper thing is to teach every boy at school a manual training, and don't mean to teach him a trade but to teach him to use his mind, his eye, and his hand together. Most of the boys when they come out of school have fingers so clumsy that they are good for nothing. I was at the manual training school at (Chicago), it is rather more of an aristocratic institution; the boys who come out of it become foremen and managers of work, but it has been very successful. They are now starting an ordinary high school in that way but they do not go far enough. They teach some of the boys in this way; they take an ordinary class and begin with, say, a block of pine wood; they are asked about it, its nature, where it grows, the purposes to which it can be applied, and so on. Then they are taught to draw mortises on a blackboard, after which they go to a bench and are taught to do the work themselves and you would be surprised at the results which are attained. This is on the principle of complete training but it is not trade training, because I am convinced that you have to go back to the old system of manual training, the old guild system, to some extent, not only to get men to learn their trade properly but to give them a better opinion of labor and to remove silly objections to manual training. I might illustrate that from our own experience. I was not inclined to be a very quiet boy when I was young, and when I was at Upper Canada College I took a fancy for printing and I was not long before I had a good stock of everything connected with printing, and I used to put in all my spare time working at it and knowing the number of boys of my time who went to the dogs I am certain that made a great difference to me. I believe it was of enormous value to me, and I think that interesting boys in these things will have the best practical effect in keeping their minds off the things which will injure them—to say nothing of the more material benefits they will receive.

Q.—I will ask you to refer back for a moment. You spoke of these gangs of boys; were they made up to any extent of the newsboys? A.—No; I don't think so. To give you an idea of how these boys get hold of the training of the common school I will mention the case of one little fellow of about thirteen. He had been up many times before the police magistrate who however looked upon it as ridiculous to bring him up—he was very small for his age and he used to turn him off. That boy was a perfect little thief. I have often seen him with a string of school boys at his heels watching around the fruit stores and teaching these schoolboys to steal. We bring before the police court in Toronto about a thousand girls and boys every year and these children are in touch with the children of our public schools. Now it is all wrong. It is marvellous how these boys follow a leader; they go through a regular process of electing a leader.

Q.—There are natural leaders of boys, just as there are of men? A.—Yes; and they generally lead them through some gratification or through some bold leadership in mischief.

Q.—This school at Mimico might be called a primary technical school? A.—That would not be a bad term for it.

Would you carry the technical education of the ordinary schools further than that? A.—No; I would not. My theory is—and I think it will eventually work into practice—that we have to go back to the guild system in order to determine the education of apprentices. If you are to have first class workmen you must have a definite system of apprenticeship and carry it out.

Q.—Are not the conditions of production so changed that these old conditions of apprenticeship are no longer useful? A.—No; I don't think so. I don't think there ever was a better system than the old craft system by which you determine the exactly an apprentice system so that men could not be considered workmen until they have gone through a certain training. I will not go into the particulars but I am satisfied that it has got to be done. The main difficulty now between workmen and employers is that boys are engaged as workmen and take the place of skilled labor the result being that it is unjust to skilled labor and does not give a fairer price for dearer labor.

Q.—Would there be economy in employing skilled and therefore

rather than employing unskilled and therefore cheaper workmen? A.—I think the best is always the cheapest; that has always been my experience. It is always cheap to employ a thoroughly skilled man; he looks to the consequences, and even if he is only to make a hole in a wall he looks further to see if it will lead to other damage.

Q.—You would not employ a bricklayer to carry a hod? A.—No. It would not be wise to do so.

Q.—Then in any craft you would not require a skilled laborer to do unskilled work? A.—No; certainly not; it would be a waste of time and good material.

Q.—If there was any kind of a law forbidding an employer to put unskilled workmen at rough work you would say that would be a hardship on the employer? A.—If I were to answer that you would probably get me into some technical position in which I would not be very strong.

Q.—No; I confine myself to general principles? A.—Well, the general principle is that work is of a kind either requiring skilled labor or not. The case of a bricklayer carrying a hod is a clear one. It does not require a bricklayer to carry a hod, and in anything connected with carpenters' work if there are rougher portions to be done by apprentices, those apprentices should be called on to do it, but they should do it under a system which trains them to be skilled men. The result is simple in its effects; you will always have men going through, but you will have skilled work-guilds. You will always have enough labor under a proper system, within scope of the put at more valuable work.

Q.—Referring again to technical schools, do you think that technical education should properly be taught in the common schools? A.—You understand just how far I carried that idea just now. You cannot educate boys to be fit for tradesmen's or workmen's positions in the common schools. But this manual training I speak of would be simply part of his education; he would be receiving that training which would make him a perfect man. That training would be common, perhaps, of twenty different occupations; it would be necessary to fit the boy for any one of them. Just as we are giving in our common schools a certain intellectual and moral training, we should give the pupil also a certain manual training, which will make him more facile, take away his objections to manual labor, and give him an interest in it. In the Old Country, I believe they are pursuing a capital plan with regard to apprentices, and the result is that they are getting capital workmen.

Q.—You would combine primary technical education with ordinary public school education? A.—Yes, I would; I think our public schools are terribly imperfect at present. They are turning out bookkeepers and shopmen; training men into labor of that kind where they are not needed, and are not productive to themselves or the community. They are destroying good workmen by destroying an interest in the very things they should take an interest in.

Q.—You think the common school education should take into account, more than it now does, the actual lives of the people in the way of educating them for the actual battle of life? A.—Yes; I think so. I would make no exception; I would make every boy go through this manual training.

Q.—Familiar with the use of tools? A.—I would have his mind, his eye, and his hand trained together:—made a perfect man, who can apply himself either physically or mentally. Of course in some countries, Austria for instance, everybody has to acquire a trade; I believe the Emperor of Austria is a tinsmith, for instance, and I see no reason why we should not have that system here.

Q.—Have you a pretty general knowledge of the homes of the poorer people of Toronto? A.—Yes.

Q.—You have visited them? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think they are as good as could be expected for people in their circumstances, or is there room for improvement in that respect? A.—Do you mean in the character of the houses?

Q.—Yes, the character of the houses first? A.—Well, there is very little system

about the character of the houses; in any new place they build according to the fancy or idea of the builder, and many of them are built by the men themselves. What we know now of sanitary necessities was hardly known at all when many of them were built.

Q.—Are they large enough? Do they give the people sufficient air space? A.—I don't think the old ones do. I think the houses now being built, such as the row of cottages you see in the newer districts of the city, are better; they are being built with high basements, good first floors and in some cases rooms above. There is comfortable accommodation accompanied with good drainage and generally a piece of land behind them. I think there is another thing in which our Government should be more paternal. For instance, in St. John's ward you will find houses built in front and then others are built in at the back end, the result being that there is no space or air room and they are very unwholesome. Many of these rear buildings are taken advantage of for bad purposes, especially when they fall into the hands of landlords, as they are very profitable. Of course originally the additions were made when poor people managed to run up a little cottage and draw some revenue from them, but now they are largely falling into the hands of people who own a number of houses and the system is wrong in every way. It is also wrong to put two or three families into these small houses of two or three stories, for instance. I think the whole question of artisans' dwellings should be as much under Government inspection as factories and I think there should be prompter methods of dealing with cases where people are being crowded together to their injury and, in many cases, their positive destruction. It has taken us nearly a year to get rid of one lodging house of bad reputation and one in which hundreds of children have been ruined.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Have these places different entrances? A.—This was an old and a large house, originally a sort of mansion house with one entrance.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How many rooms would one family have in these houses? A.—In some cases only one. I think that is the case, but, of course, I have not been enquiring particularly, but have mentioned these things as they came into my mind. I have heard of many cases where decent people were in two small rooms—decent people, but they were being injured physically by being in such close quarters. I think that artisans' dwellings require rigid inspection for their protection. I do not say that we should have buildings which would increase the rents too much, as they are now so large under present wages, but I think the inspection should be such that all such dangerous and unsuitable places, the number of houses on one lot, and all that sort of thing, should be covered by Government supervision. You never can depend on any machinery for things of that kind.

Q.—Would it be possible to educate the people themselves as to the care of their homes and the securing of better sanitary conditions? A.—I think so, but you don't know how helpless they are. Houses just now are scarce and a man is given very short time to complain. I have never had a complaint since I have been in the city and yet I know hundreds of houses that should be complained of. Here, say, a man lives in a house at a rental of six dollars a month; it is not suitable but the tenants cannot afford to pay more and if they complain they either get the rent advanced or they are turned out. They are not in a position to complain.

Q.—The people are afraid of their landlords? A.—Well, they are not in a position to complain; they will tell them that if they don't want it they had better go.

Q.—How could a landlord turn them out? A.—Well, they are only monthly tenants.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do I understand you to say that the landlords boycott their tenants? A.—I would not say that, but very naturally a case of that kind would get about.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—It is the law of supply and demand? A.—If a troublesome tenant comes

me and complained and I went to the sanitary office and there was a row I tell you that tenant would have a hard time. I have very often taken the responsibility myself and I have told the inspector to say that I have sent him or otherwise there would be trouble, if they thought a complaint had been sent in. Of course when a person complains of the house next to him it makes it comparatively easy, but it would be an injury to the tenant if it were done in such a way that he would be suspected of complaining.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What advance has there been in the rate of rent in last few years? A.—I cannot give you that though I could ascertain very easily. A real estate agent could give you the figures from year to year.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the position occupied in shops by shop girls? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are they over worked or badly treated? A.—I think they do more than you or I could do. I know I could not stand in these shops from eight o'clock in the morning until closing hour as they do.

Q.—Are they required to stand? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are no seats provided. A.—I know of none, but they may be provided. I am perfectly certain that you or I would break down under it, and they do break down; sometimes they drop down behind the counters.

Q.—Is that within your knowledge? A.—Yes.

Q.—If they sit down at their work are they fined? A.—I could not say.

Q.—Do you know what pay they get? A.—Yes, they get from one dollar a week upwards; there are some as low as one dollar when they come in.

Q.—And after they get experience? A.—After experience they get up to good wages—from three to six dollars would be the average, according to their skill. Of course there is a much larger supply than demand but the whole question of female labor is one which should also be under government supervision as a helpless class. They are a helpless class. For instance to give you an idea of the effect, or what I consider to be the effect of the present system of competition for work. I am only giving this from general information gathered in various ways; I do not mention it as happening in any particular shop or implying that it is the case with any particular person here. A sewing woman is taking shirts to make, for example, and getting so much for them. She goes into the establishment and says, "I want you to give me some work." She is told that they have plenty of workers and that they must keep their own people going; however after some conversation she asks what price they will give and they arrange to send her a lot at such a price—a lower price than they have been paying. It is human nature and business nature for that to be done and it is undoubtedly done and the result is that when the regular worker comes in she has to take that price or she will not get the work. Now these are cases which happen and I think there should be a limit to the prices at which work should be given out to helpless people. I have seen things of that kind which would make your blood boil. Look at the east end of London where it is carried on to such an extent, where there have been so many visitations, where the prices are so much reduced, and see what awful misery there is. The same thing will work out here unless there is government protection for helpless classes.

Q.—Would you have the Government fix the price? A.—Yes; I would have them fix a price below which no one would venture to give out the work to helpless classes. Men can take care of themselves, but a woman looking for bread for her children cannot do it; girls cannot do it; they have no friends and they have just to submit and take what they get. There is no question about the necessity for protection of that kind. You may say that the work would not be done and they may say that it can be brought in from a foreign country. I was in the City of St. John and I saw a beautiful mantle with something which I think was a kind of fur around the collar and cuffs, and they told me they could sell them at one dollar apiece. They

were made in the East End of London, and of course the women who made them made a portion of their living at something else. I would not allow a dollar's worth of such goods to come into the country; I would put a prohibitory duty on them.

Q.—Do you believe that the under payment of these women draws them into prostitution? A.—I have only got to answer this—that a good woman will die first but there are a great many unfortunate girls, who are young and careless and like pleasure and who have not had a good training, who are under the influence of temptation, with possibly starvation, in spite of the best work they can do. It is only too possible; I do not see how it can be avoided with the temptation it offers for an easy living. We have been dealing with this question of prostitution in this city differently from the way in which it has been dealt with anywhere else, by breaking up of these houses. I may say that I always send an officer before, telling them that if they will take up decent work, or if they will go to any home, we will get homes for them, but that they must stop that kind of life. There has never been a case of breaking up a house of the kind without a notice of that sort. Of course many have accepted the offer and we have sent them home or helped them and a great deal of good is done; but many have gone away from the city, feeling that under such a system they would go away sometime anyway. But it is rooted laziness which is the great difficulty with those who are really prostitutes. Their laziness becomes a matter of education and training; they have led a lazy life for such a time that they become unfitted for industry. Take a girl when she first begins and there may be some hope for her; she might overcome the tendency to laziness, but with those tendencies to laziness and idleness, of course it is almost a certainty that she will drift into such courses.

Q.—Do shop girls and sewing girls generally live with their parents, or are they alone? A.—Many of them come from the country or from other places and as far as I meet them, I have a wonderful respect for them. It is wonderful how they fight a hard battle and get on, and how honestly and decently they live. I have known hundreds of them and it is wonderful what a superior class they are and how faithfully they do endure and work on. I know that the percentage in this city that feel it in the recruiting of the regular class. We find the same women to a large extent coming under our notice, and coming into the court. We had a case actually within our knowledge where a girl of thirteen was brought up and sent to the Mercer Institution; she got along there very nicely, but when she got out, she went home to her mother who actually sold her again. Of course in such homes as that, children must be bad, and there is where we get a large recruiting ground for that class.

Q.—Have you any knowledge to what extent working men own their houses in Toronto? A.—I think that up to the last few years, to a very considerable extent and I think it you reach the foundation, as to the people who own buildings in Toronto they have nearly all been working men originally. The great majority of the buildings here have been built from wealth right from the hand.

Q.—Is the ability on the part of the mechanic to own a house less than it formerly was? A.—Certainly; property has increased in value so much and they have to go further away, though of course the street car system has stretched out. I was surprised to find in our new addition to the city, about four miles away, so many mechanics going out to and from their work, at a place where they have a mile and a half to walk to the street cars.

Q.—It is a question of distance and not of actual increase in the value of property? A.—It is a question of increase in value anywhere within reasonable reach. We used to have a dense population all through these streets here in this part of the city but now you will notice, these old houses are being pulled down and fine warehouses and other buildings are going up; it is the old question of a crowded population. But take a man who has been living here anywhere south of Queen street, and fine working men used to do, and when you get property assessed at \$100 a foot it walks into his wages, though of course he can sell it.

Q.—And car fares, of course, cost a considerable sum? A.—Yes quite an item

One of the things I hope for when we get our street car system into our own hands is to get it down and remove that difficulty to some extent. In four years we have the right of becoming the owners of the car system. I think we should continue to own the road bed and lease the right to run upon it at a certain rate of fare which should be much lower than it is. The rate is now four and five cents, but I think by using other motive power than horses and so on we can bring it down to at least one half of that.

JAMES BOYLE, Iron Founder, Toronto, called and sworn :—

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How many men do you employ? A.—About two.

Q.—Do you make any particular class of castings? A.—All kinds, just jobbing work.

Q.—Do you know very much about wages paid to moulders? A.—I think I should do. I have been a journeyman for forty years in this country and the old country.

Q.—How long did you work as a journeyman in Toronto? A.—About eight years.

Q.—Did you receive the ordinary wages that were going while you were a journeyman, or did you do better than that? A.—No, I just received the Union wages.

Q.—Do you think that a journeyman can save money out of his wages? A.—Yes. It all depends on the circumstances in which he is situated. What one man would think necessities another would think were not, and he would save the money.

The reason they join the Union is to better their condition, but there are very few men who say they are paid enough for the work they do.

Q.—Did you know any of your fellow workmen who saved money? A.—There are many in every class who out of a dollar a day would save money.

Q.—Did you know whether those men who save money deprive themselves of the absolute necessities of life or many comforts? A.—Since I have had what I consider the necessary comforts of life I have saved the most money. That is a matter varying with different people's opinions.

Q.—Difference of opinion as to what constitutes the necessities of life? A.—Yes. What you would consider necessities of life, I would not; and that money I would save, if I was so inclined.

Q.—Did you save the money with which you entered into business or did you get it in other ways? A.—So far as that is concerned I am not particular who knows. In every new country the trouble is that men go into business on too small capital and have either to beat their creditors or grind it out of the men. That is what I know to be the fact; but what money I got I certainly worked for.

Q.—Do you know of any reason why other moulders, as industrious and energetic as you were and having the same prudence, could not have been as successful as you were? A.—If another man had done everything I did and we had the same number in family, he would be the same as I am.

Q.—Have you an ordinary family to maintain? A.—I do not understand your way of arguing. If a man did everything I did, if he had the same income and the same outlay, he must be in the same position. You mean I suppose that if you both got the wages and he did as he liked with his money and I did the same, I might have a hundred dollars ahead and he might not?

Q.—What I mean is this; had you any extraordinary advantages? A.—I had the Union wages, for I could take nothing less according to the rules of all Unions. You may obtain as much more as possible but you cannot take less than \$2.40 a day or whatever the sum might be. Some men might consider themselves worth more, but a line has to be drawn between the man and the boss, and it is agreed that he is worth at least so much.

Q.—Taking one year and another, about how many days' work in the year can a moulder get in Toronto? A.—At stove plate moulding (I never worked at that, it is too hard for any human being to work at) a man could not possibly work more than four days a week in summer, because the work would be all out of him by Thursday if he did the quantity of work he is supposed to do.

Q.—Are you taking about week's work? A.—No, about piece work. For day's work in a good shop, where the workman has a good deal of skill, it is the same as all other classes of work.

Q.—Do you know of any moulders who have saved money? A.—I know a good lot who have not. We do not know everybody's business; I could not attempt to say, because I am sure I could not tell. Some people think I am well off, but I know my own business best, and if I were I would not work to-day. I might go into a shop where there were twenty men and the one I thought had not a dollar might be the one best off.

Q.—Do you know many moulders who have bought houses for them selves? A.—I know many have bought houses, but I think somebody else belongs to them.

Q.—Do you think ten hours for a moulder is too long? A.—I have thought that ever since I started to work and all arguments have never turned me from my opinion.

Q.—Are the sanitary conditions of the foundries in Toronto good, bad or indifferent? A.—There are very few moulders who think anything about it; they think about it just as much as I think of being President of the United States. He does not care what the sanitary conditions of the shops are; he goes out for a change and to get out of a little work—I have done it myself. Perhaps the sanitary conditions are not quite what they should be, but the men do not think so much about that as getting shorter hours and more money. They can put up with the former. In my opinion, there is much ground for complaint (in the matter as regards the buildings. It is harder for the stove plate-moulders because there is extreme heat and dust, and the shops, even the new ones, are not built high enough to carry these away.) A man who comes out of the foundry in summer is more dead than alive; in fact, he does not look like a man and does not feel like one; I could not work a horse in that way.

Q.—Are castings taken out of the sand the same night? A.—That is small castings, because there is a certain amount of steam in the sand, and if they do not cool quickly they would rust by the next morning. That is where the advantages is in the old country; the men have not to work so hard.

Q.—Do other persons there take the castings out of the sand? A.—Yes; laborers do it, that is, in the big shops. I was put to work in a foundry when I was nine years old and have worked in rolling mills and foundries ever since. So I have done my share; in fact, I have done enough for two or three men. I was President of the Union in the old country, I was twice on the executive of the iron moulders union, and I have seen the working of the system in this country, and I made up my mind that I would come before the Commission and give them my opinions. Like most Englishmen I like to have a finger in the pie, and I consider myself nothing else than a journeyman now. I have argued a good deal with different persons, sometimes I think to the injury of myself, with respect to strikes. For instance persons have argued with me that all men in a trade should not be paid alike, that there should not be a uniform rate of wages. My style of argument is this, it may be wrong, but it suits me. If you take two men, carpenters for instance and put them both to work, you do not agree what you will pay them, and both are strangers to you. You put them both to a rough job, sawing wood, or butchering wood as they call it here. Perhaps the worst man tries to do the most work. If he does not, he will not be kept on if there is a good job. The best mechanic does not hurry up to that extent, but does what he considers a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. At the end of the week, on Saturday perhaps, when they come to be paid the worst man gets paid first, and he is asked what wages he got, and he perhaps replies 26 cents or 27 cents per hour. The foreman has watched the two men and observed

the quantity of work each has produced. The man who goes in second, who is considered by the foreman the worst hand, is paid $22\frac{1}{2}$ cents per hour. He asks the man whether he has not made a mistake in his rate of pay. The employer replies no, that the other man has done more work than he did. The better mechanic therefore takes away his tools. Presently they get employment in another shop, and are put on a first class job. The man who was paid $22\frac{1}{2}$ cents there gets 26 and 27 cents, and the other is not wanted because he is not fit for the job. Now, how are you going to draw the line if you are not going to have a uniform rate of wages. The one mechanic who is five times a better mechanic than the other was in the instance I have mentioned, paid less wages simply because he was not put at the right kind of work; he was put at work which anybody can turn out after six weeks' practice. The same thing applies in all other trades. If the boss is allowed to judge as to the rate of wages to be paid, he does so selfishly; that is natural and human. If you do not draw the line, how are you going to get on? That is why I take such an interest in these matters, and that is the way I argued with men during the strike this past summer.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You believe there should be a certain rate struck, no more, no less but as much more as they like to give the mechanics? A.—No less, but as much more as they like to give the mechanics. The employer has this advantage over the employes. If a man does not suit, he can always discharge him in a moment. You cannot blame an employer for discharging a man who does not suit him.

By Mr. Armstrong:—

Q.—How long have you been working in Toronto at the foundry business?
A.—Eight years next June.

Q.—You say you were president of the Moulders' Union in the old country?
A.—Yes.

Q.—For how many years? A.—We were elected every six months. I was on the executive for two terms of six months in London. I was president of the East London branch.

Q.—You have been a union man in the old country for some years? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you find it beneficial to belong to organized labor? A.—Yes; what would we do in London except for that.

Q.—What other benefits did you derive outside of that, connected with organization? A.—We got sick benefit, accident and superannuation and funeral money.

Q.—Does organized labor have a tendency to keep men steady in habits and morals? A.—I do not know that it does to any extent, because I have worked in a shop where every man was a Union man and we did not allow others to come in, and yet, excepting myself and another, every one has been drunk every chance he could get. So I cannot say that makes a great deal of difference. That lies with the men themselves, and every man thinks he has a right to do what he likes with his money.

Q.—Was there an apprentice system in connection with the trade in the old country; did you recognize an apprentice system? A.—In the large shops there were apprentices, and also in some of the ordinary shops. The shops were allowed one boy to every three men; that was the proportion at the Union shop.

Q.—Do you believe that the indenturing of an apprentice has a tendency to make him a more competent journeyman? A.—When he is bound as an apprentice he does not very often run away; that binds him. Moreover, if he runs away, he has to put up with the consequences when he comes back, if the employer chooses to push the case. I have run away many a time, but I was not apprenticed.

Q.—Do you not think that a boy is more controlled by his employer when indentured for a certain time and that he is more likely to make a good workman? A.—I heard what was said about it to-night, and I thought it was a lot of bosh, because it was something like a man getting married; he does not know what's going

to be the result. How many elopements you see occurring. Take a boy who is apprenticed. The boss for a long time does not know the apprentice. At my last shop he did not know me (and I had worked for him a long time) let alone the apprentices. That is the difference between the old country and here. They serve seven years in England and in most trades here they serve four years, and naturally the men when they are out of their time are better men at their trade there than they are here, because four years in my opinion is not long enough. I have always advocated a longer time. It may be long enough for the boy and his father; but as regards the mechanic I do not think in that time he knows enough of the trade, to be a machine moulder at all events.

Q.—Do you believe in the principle of arbitration in the settlement of labor disputes instead of strikes? A.—Certainly I do. I believe in that system worked in this way; they should be very particular who the third party is. If you were going to arbitrate you should have a certain number of men from the shops to represent the workmen, and a certain number of employers, and then a disinterested party.

Q.—Provided both parties could not come together, do you think the Government should appoint an arbitration board to step in and arbitrate either from a voluntary or from a compulsory stand point? A.—I do not think they should in either way; I do not think the Government should interfere with it, for two or three reasons. I would sooner have a man as arbitrator who understood the working of the business, even if he had left it, than a man who did not understand it. I do not think he should have to depend on what he hears from other; he should know the run of the business on which he is told to arbitrate. I do not think you can show me men in the employ of the Government who know all the different trades, and so I suppose we would have our taxes raised ten times more than they are, for so many men would have to be employed, they would have to be plumbers, printers, carpenters and God knows how many more. However by arbitration we might come to some conclusion, for working men are a class of men easily led.

Q.—As an old Trades Unionist in England, did you ever hear of the manner in which Mr. Rupert Kettle settled arbitrations? A.—No; I never heard of it.

Q.—At what time do you think men should be paid? A.—A week is long enough for me. If there is any interest to be had the men should have the benefit of it, especially in Toronto where there are so many bankruptcies and assignments.

Q.—During the seventeen years you have been here has the condition of matters been improved? A.—Yes, I am certain it has.

Q.—Have the wages risen? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has the cost of living increased proportionately? A.—House rent has gone up; in fact, I do not know where the mechanic is shortly going to live unless all live together.

Q.—Considering the cost of different articles and of living and the wages received is a man better off today than he was ten years ago? A.—I am myself, because I have no children to keep; but I cannot answer for other men. I daresay as a rule they are better off; I think so in Toronto. The only thing in my opinion that has gone up in Toronto is house rent; but I do not take much notice of domestic affairs so long as I get three meals a day.

Q.—Is there much manufactured moulding coming into Toronto at the present time from foreign countries? A.—There is unfortunately a lot which comes in because they have cheaper labor in country places.

Q.—I mean that comes in from foreign countries? A.—I do not know. Some comes into England from Germany and Belgium but I never heard of any coming into Canada.

Q.—You have been working as a journeyman seventeen years? A.—No; I do not know what to call myself now. I am not exactly a journeyman and I cannot call myself a boss.

Q.—Have you been a boss for eight years and been in the country seventeen years? A.—Yes.

Q.—I presume you were working as a journeyman previous to the eight years you have been a boss? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have as many manufactured articles come in during the last ten years as formerly? A.—I could not tell whether any came in; I never saw or heard of any.

Q.—In your opinion at what age should an apprentice go to the moulding business, which is a heavy trade? A.—I should think an apprentice should not be less than sixteen years. A boy is not set before that time, and it is heavy work, especially in stove plate or agricultural work. We have an advantage in London over Canada. The rules of our society are very strict in providing that the men shall not work one hour piece work, so that a boy there is not expected to work to the extent he has to do here. In this country when a boy goes into a shop where nearly all the men are working piece work he becomes anxious to work piece work too; and thus when he becomes a man he is played out, he has lost his vitality and someone else must take his place. It is bad enough for men, but when you put a boy at piece work he works too hard, for he does not know the consequences, and when he reaches forty years of age he has gone up.

Q.—You think that both as regards boys and men piece work is injurious? A. I always thought so; I never would work at piece work. I have had to work at it, but I have shifted when I got the chance.

Q.—Do you know if convict labor affects your trade? A.—I was over the Central prison when they built cars there.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do they do it now? A.—Decidedly not, although they make brooms.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Were you ever connected with any co-operative establishment? A.—Yes; I was one of the committee of a co-operative store when I left England.

Q.—What is the basis of success on which they work? A.—The first one I joined smashed up. We did not have the rules strict enough. But for the next one we altered them, and had it managed properly. We gave non-union members one third of the profits, and we had metallic checks from one half penny up to one pound, and these were given according to the amount of the purchase. When they got one pound's worth of checks they changed them for one pound, and they were handed in every three months. We took stock every three months and divided up every six months; we paid five per cent on the paid up capital and gave dividends on the purchases. I consider it was one of the best things we ever had; it was very handy for me with my family.

Q.—When the checks got up to one pound did you get them changed for cash, or was the amount added to your share? A.—It was in cash up to one half of the shares the person had. A man was not supposed to go over a certain amount; the shopkeeper was answerable for all over that.

Q.—Was the institution a success on that basis? A.—Yes; it was first class. I was one of the committee of managers for two years; I was on it at the time I left, and I have had letters from them since and they say they are going on in a first class way.

Q.—Will you tell us the basis on which the establishment was conducted that was not a success? A.—We allowed the shop keeper to have too much scope, but after our experience we got a little wiser. We found out this would not do, and in the second case the shopkeeper was supposed to pay for what he got himself. Previous to that there was no check on him, and at that time we had no metallic checks. These checks were kept in a box, and if you were a member of the concern and went there and bought two shillings worth of articles the shopkeeper would have to enter that in a book and give you a check, and if you were a non member he would give you the same.

THOMAS BECKETT, called and sworn.

By Mr. FRED :—

Q.—Are you a master carriage builder in Toronto? A.—No.

Q.—You are a journeyman? A.—Yes.

Q.—Into what classes are the men who make carriages divided? A.—In the first place, there are four divisions of the carriage business: the wood-worker, blacksmith, painter and trimmer.

Q.—The men who work at one branch do not work at another? A.—No; the wood-work is divided into three parts. The blacksmithing: I do not know that that can be said to be divided, but the men who work at it are the blacksmith, his helper, and finisher. In the paint shop, there may be a painter or a painter, colorer, finisher and striper, but in the shops in Canada they do not employ all these separate men because their business is not sufficiently extensive to allow them to do so.

Q.—The painter, for instance, will be able to do other parts allied to his business? A.—Yes.

Q.—And the wood-worker the same? A.—No; not quite so.

Q.—What men would there be? A.—There is generally a wheel-builder, a body-builder, and, I believe, in some of the shops they keep one or two of the men according as the demand may require, to do the heavy work.

Q.—Such as waggons? A.—No; heavy work is supposed to be carriages of heavier dimensions and larger accommodation than buggies, such as Broughams, rockaways, coupes, or landaus. That is called heavy work.

Q.—About what wages do the men get? A.—They range from \$1.25 to \$2.25 a day of ten hours.

Q.—Do some work as low as \$1.25 a day? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are they skilled workmen? A.—They have served an apprenticeship. We generally find they come from shops in the country.

Q.—Have you a Union? A.—We have a kind of a little organization in Toronto; that is about all I know of in Canada.

Q.—Is the scale of wages fixed by the Union? A.—No.

Q.—Then what the men receive is obtained by an understanding between the men and their employers? A.—Yes; it is just according to a man's ability.

Q.—How do the wages of those men compare with the wages of men in other trades? A.—They are away below; they are below any other trade in Canada.

Q.—What reason can you assign for that? A.—Competition.

Q.—Too many men in the trade? A.—Too many small shops, and also the chance of importing from other countries.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—From what other countries do you mean? A.—I mean from the United States, from England, Germany and France. I would not say they make a business of bringing in carriages from those further countries of which I have spoken, but men of means moving here bring their carriages with them, whereas, if they would come here and leave their carriages behind them, they would spend the money in this country and help our mechanics. Canada is a newer country than the United States, and, consequently, many of our people think that better carriages are manufactured in some of the large cities of the States than in Canada. Consequently, they go there and pay more money for a carriage and bring it here, thus taking the money out of the country.

Q.—Do you think the carriage they would get under those circumstances would be better than the one they could obtain in Canada? A.—There has been a time in my recollection when the American carriage was better. It might not be more durable, but it would be better finished, of better and later style and more suited to the taste of the man who bought it.

Q.—How is it now? A.—I think we can fully compete with them.

Q.—Can we compete with them in prices? A.—Not with their factories, that is such as Cunninghams of Rochester, the Cincinnati Carriage Company or the company out in Wisconsin. We can compete with Brewster of New York or Thomas of Boston, but we cannot compete with the Rochester factory.

Q.—How do wages in Toronto compare with wages in Rochester? A.—I can hardly answer that question. I have never worked in Rochester.

Q.—Have you worked on the other side? A.—Yes.

Q.—Where? A.—In Cleveland, Ohio, and in Detroit, and in some other places not worth naming.

Q.—How do wages in Cleveland compare with those in Toronto? A.—They would offer me 75 cents a day more than they would here.

Q.—Would you be better off there with that money? A.—Yes, I think I would. I went there a perfect stranger and they offered me that to fill the place advertised; they were willing to offer that for a man who was capable of doing the job. Here they would offer me \$2.00 a day for the same work.

Q.—Still you came back to Toronto? A.—I did; I did not leave there to come to Toronto. I never had my family in Cleveland. After I was there a short time, I was taken sick and had to come home. My family were in Michigan. I had to give up the job. There are only one or two such jobs in the United States or in Canada outside of New York. There might be perhaps two in New Haven and two in Boston. Such a job as I am speaking of I was looking for, at that time. I had, as I have said, to give up the job. The doctor told me I would not be fit to work within three or four months, and the boss said he could not wait more than that number of weeks, and I did not go back.

Q.—How are the blacksmiths paid? A.—Their wages run about the same; that is, the men who iron heavy work are paid about the same as the wood workers who build it.

Q.—Do any of them work as low as \$1.25 a day? A.—Yes.

Q.—They work ten hours a day? A.—They are supposed to work ten hours a day, for the money you spoke of. If they work less they are reduced in proportion.

Q.—Do painters get about the same? A.—The head painter gets about the same as the head body builder. If there is any difference, he receives a little less.

Q.—Have wages increased or decreased within the past few years in Toronto? A.—I do not think they have risen; they have decreased, if anything. In eleven years they have gone down in some of the branches.

Q.—What is the cause of that reduction? A.—I really do not know; I would attribute a little of it to this; those shops in which wages have been lowered were formerly paying a little more than some of the other shops, I think they had to come down, and paid less wages because they could not otherwise compete. However, I was not working in any of the shops where the wages were lowered, but I was working in the city at the time.

Q.—Are carriage shops in Toronto as well furnished with machinery as the shops in the United States? A.—The carriage shops in Toronto are not furnished with machinery, neither are any of the shops on the other side. Machinery is only used in factories. We have one factory in Toronto. The men there say that the work is not done as well as on the other side.

Q.—What parts of the carriage are made in factories? A.—The body, wheels, and gear. They are generally called body shops, and the one which builds bodies and gears here is called the Canada Carriage Co.

Q.—Where does the wood work for the carriages mostly come from, is it made here? A.—Here of course.

Q.—Are hubs, spokes and so on, imported from the United States? A.—Yes, all the better class.

Q.—How does the wood work made in Canada compare with the imported article? A.—It compares favorably with it except as regards the quality of timber, the durability of the timber.

Q.—What is the difference? A.—They have a better timber there.

Q.—What makes it better? A.—I could not say. I do not know what makes good lumber, except the nature of the soil on which it grows.

Q.—Do you consider that if you had a strong Union you would be able to obtain better wages than you receive? A.—If our Union was not an international one, I do not think it would be any benefit to us. There is not enough of our business carried in the country; it is split up in such a shape; we have been trying to do something, but we could not succeed.

Q.—Could the employers afford to give you better wages, considering the competition? A.—Since the National Policy has been in force, I think they could.

Q.—That enables them to give higher wages than they could before afford to give? A.—There is a considerably better business done since then. I do not see why they cannot give better wages, because if I leave here and go to Rochester or New-York or Boston, or any other city in the United States and do the same class of work as here, I can get more money, and I cannot see any reason why they cannot give more money here.

Q.—Are the prices for finished goods higher here than in the United States; in Canada are buggies a higher price than in the States? A.—No. The highest price we ask for a buggy in Canada, a top buggy for two passengers, is \$250, and that is the very best got up in the Dominion, and in New York you cannot get one out of Brewsters' shop for less than \$400.

Q.—Are not Brewsters very high priced men? A.—Yes.

Q.—Go to New Haven and take the price? A.—They do not build as good a class of work. It is more of a manufacturing city and they manufacture for any place. If a Canadian dealer gives an order they will fill it. There was a time when New Haven work stood very high in reputation but it has gone down wonderfully.

Q.—Take Cleveland, would a buggy be sold for a higher price in Cleveland than in Toronto? A.—Yes. You can go even closer than that town, just across the river dividing Canada and Michigan. At Detroit you can sell a buggy for \$300, which you cannot sell here for \$200.

Q.—So if the men in the United States get a higher price it is because the proprietors get better prices for their carriages? A.—I do not altogether attribute it to that. I have known carriages to be sold there for no more. Rents are higher and property is higher and it costs more to live there.

Q.—In what city? A.—In Detroit; everything is higher there.

Q.—Are rents higher in Detroit than in Toronto? A.—Yes.

Q.—By how much do you think? A.—I think I could get as good a house in Toronto for \$18, as I could there for \$25.

Q.—What other items of living expenses are lower in Toronto than in Detroit? A.—We can get some of our food for less money, butter, sometimes eggs, but every thing else is about the same.

Q.—How is clothing? A.—I can clothe myself as cheaply there or a little cheaper than here, unless I go to a merchant tailor and order goods to be made and then I will pay one and a half times what I would here—I would pay a great deal more.

Q.—What are the sanitary conditions of carriage shops in Toronto? A.—I think they are very good. I have no fault to find in regard to any shop I have worked in in Canada.

Q.—How frequently are the men paid? A.—Once a week.

Q.—What day is pay day? A.—Saturday.

Q.—Is that the best day? A.—It suits me best. There is one shop in Toronto which pays once every two weeks and that on Saturday.

Q.—Do you have many apprentices at the business? A.—No; not many.

Q.—Does it attract many boys? A.—Not as many now as it used to do. They have begun to find out that it is a poor business; their parents are not advising them to go into it.

Q.—Does it take much capital to establish a business? A.—Yes, it does now.

Q.—Did you not speak of small shops being in existence? A.—Yes; a great many.

Q.—Do they require much capital? A.—No.

Q.—Who establish those small shops mostly? A.—Men who are not able to obtain work in large ones, those who cannot keep a job. Men get jobs in a large shop, and they cannot keep them, and they then start a little business. They go out with a wheelbarrow and bring in a job; they make a little profit out of that, and they gradually get a little bigger.

Q.—And then these men who are not a success as journeymen become successful as manufacturers? A.—I do not say that is so in all cases. That is about the starting point of a small shop. The man I am to-day working for, is, I consider, a good mechanic, and he started from being a journeyman; he got a little ahead, and started in partnership with his brother. They are doing a good business, and are men pretty well fixed.

Q.—Did he start business with money earned as a journeyman? A.—Yes; I think so, I never knew of anything else that he raised money from. He might have married a little, but it would not be much.

JOHN McLAREN, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How long have you been working in the gilding business as a journeyman in Toronto? A.—A little over three months this time. I was here two years ago for five or six months.

Q.—Is the gilding business as prosperous in Toronto as it was five or ten years ago? A.—Wages are not as high for journeymen. I presume employers are making as much money.

Q.—Is the same volume of work done according to our increased population? A.—More.

Q.—Are there women employed at your trade? A.—No; not in gilding.

Q.—At portions of the gilding trade? A.—Not in the mechanical part of it.

Q.—What is the reason that wages are not so high as they were some years ago? A.—Within the last five years there has been a revolution in the business, and there is now a different class of work done. Some years ago there was nothing but gold and silver work. German metal has come in during the last five years and it does not require so much skill. More boys have gone into the work, and the manufacturers here have to compete now with the American market, especially in Chicago, where a number of Bohemians, Poles, Bulgarians, Hungarians and all the other artisans, are employed.

Q.—There are more boys working at the trade now on account of the German process? A.—Yes; it does not require so much skill.

Q.—What are the wages of an average workingman at gold gilding? A.—They will reach about \$10 in this city.

Q.—Is there any piece work? A.—Not in this city, not in the gold gilding; in the metal gilding and silver gilding it is almost all piece work.

Q.—They are paid so much per foot, I presume? A.—So much per thousand feet. There are boys working there who should not be in the shop; there are boys running around the shop, and some of them will not be over thirteen or fourteen years.

Q.—But those are looked upon as apprentices? A.—There are no apprentices in the business.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is it heavy work? A.—No; it is light work.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—In what branch of the business do the women work? A.—In ornamenting mouldings. They tried women in one shop at plush work, but they disposed of them.

Q.—How long in Toronto, has a boy to serve at the business to become a journeyman? A.—In the gilding business it was four years, but I do not know of any apprentices now.

Q.—It is just according to the aptitude of the boy? A.—They go around taking up what they can, but do not become thorough mechanics.

Q.—Are the men paid weekly, fortnightly or monthly? A.—Mostly weekly; one shop pays fortnightly.

Q.—Have you ever heard that the men prefer one day for pay day more than another? A.—No; they generally pay on Saturday. For my own part I would sooner be paid on Friday, but I think the majority would rather be paid on Saturday. I never heard any expression of opinion in regard to it.

Q.—Is there no co-operative moulding factory in the city? A.—No; none in the United States, either, I think. I have worked there for the last six years.

Q.—Do any mouldings come in from any foreign country? A.—Quite a lot from Chicago. A large firm in this city does not manufacture anything, but imports everything. One large shop deals almost exclusively in American goods. I know one large retailer who has quit taking goods from manufacturing establishments in this city and imports everything from the other side.

Q.—Are they gold or silver mountings that come from Chicago? A.—They are metal mouldings and ornamental mouldings without any gilding on them. The Chicago manufacturers are able to compete on account of the cheap labor there. I received yesterday a letter from a friend in the trade there, and he said they had two men, Swedes, in the shop who could not speak a word of English. They enter the shop and take what they can get; of course they are not so expert at first.

Q.—Comparing the moulding trade in Chicago and Toronto are the wages lower in Chicago. A.—Yes.

Q.—On account of the foreign labor there? A.—Yes; mostly Germans.

Q.—Has the trade here ever experienced any labor troubles in the shape of strikes? A.—They had one here some time ago. The men were working day's work and received \$1.25 and struck for \$1.50. The men were put on piece work and they worked so hard as to work themselves out of work.

Q.—Was the settlement arrived at by arbitration or mutual agreement. A.—There was a mutual agreement as regards day's work and when the men went on piece work the employers guaranteed that they would make equal to regular day's work. They made a little more money but they worked themselves out of work.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Have you worked with Germans. A.—Yes; with lots of them in Chicago.

Q.—How is it that they can work at cheaper rates? A.—They live cheaper. Some of them when they come out first live in a way I would not like to live. They huddle up in tenements and I suppose they live on cheaper food, but I do not know that.

Q.—A man might be able to live more economically and might be able to eat food which you might not eat? A.—They live cheaper; they live in tenement houses and in a way I would not live.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Can you live in Chicago as cheaply and comfortably as in Toronto on the same wages? A.—No; not by a good deal.

Q.—And save more money? A.—On the same wages as I was getting, \$2.00 a day, I could save money. A single man can board here at \$3.50 a week, and that would cost him \$4.50 or \$5 in Chicago; and then he may have to pay street car fares which he has not to do here. His rent is more there than here by a good deal.

Q.—Is there night work? A.—There is no night work unless there is a rush at the Christmas holidays.

Q.—How are the sanitary arrangements of the shops? A.—Very good in this city.

Q.—Is the ventilation good? No; I do not think it is. It is good, but I do not think it is as good as it should be.

Q.—What process causes bad ventilation, is there a drying room? A.—In regard to the present shop I am in, I think that if there were ventilators in the top of the building to carry off the foul air they would be a benefit; sometimes it is too warm and sometimes it is too cold.

Q.—The moulders as a rule are paid in cash? A.—Yes; in this city.

Q.—Do you know any truck system here? A.—No; I do not know of any.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—As regards house rent, what would be the difference in rent for a house in which you would live in Toronto and a similar house in Chicago? A.—It would depend on the locality.

Q.—Take a similar locality in each city? A.—If I had one hour for dinner I could live in a small cottage in Toronto for which I would pay \$10 a month, and I could not get a house in Chicago at the same distance; if I got a house within two or three miles it would cost twice as much. But they have flats there, in which a man can live very comfortably and which can be obtained at a little less money than a cottage here.

Q.—So that taking all things into consideration, wages, cost of living, and comparing those with the cost of living and wages here, a journeyman would be better off in Toronto than he would in Chicago? A.—No; I would not say that; I could get a better class of work there, for which there is no demand here.

Q.—For the same class of work? A.—Yes; at the present time.

Q.—You would be better off here? A.—I would be as well off.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you say you can get a better class of work in Chicago? A.—Yes; because there is not the demand for first class work here.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Is yours considered a healthy business? A.—No; none of the healthiest; it is about like painting.

Q.—Is it injurious for young people to work at it; would it injure the health of boys under fourteen or fifteen? A.—No more than any other inside business unless they were working a great deal on bronze. I do not know whether the German metal would affect them or not, as I do not know its composition.

FREDERICK NICHOLS, Secretary of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Have you considerable knowledge of the manufacturing industries of Canada? A.—I have had good opportunities for picking up knowledge regarding them.

Q.—You have travelled in different parts of the country in visiting manufacturing industries? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long have you resided in Toronto? A.—About seven years.

Q.—Do you know whether as a rule manufactured goods are imported more largely from the United States or from other foreign countries now, than they were some years ago? A.—No, I think not; I think the reverse is the case.

Q.—What facts lead you to that conclusion? One very strong evidence to substantiate my conclusion is the fact that so many American firms are establishing branch factories over here. I can instance a good many. They find that, owing to

the high protection we now enjoy, it is more profitable to start a branch here than continue to try and ship from their works on the other side.

Q.—Will you mention a few of such cases that occur to you? A.—One witness just now was talking about the carriage industry. There is the Carrollton Carriage Co., of New York State, which has just made arrangements to start a very large factory at Brantford, the company having been given a bonus of \$20,000 by the city. There is another large factory, which is really a branch of the American concern which was established two or three years ago in Gananoque. It was originally a Canadian firm, but the concern was taken over and enlarged, and now it is in a very large way of business indeed. In Toronto there are many instances. I might mention one of the most recent, the American Rattan Co. on Niagara street.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the Meridan Britannia Works Co? A.—Yes; that was started as a branch of the Meridan Britannia Works of Meridan, Conn.

Q.—Where is the branch? A.—In Hamilton. In Hamilton also there is the Canada Screw Company, which was originally started under the auspices of the American Screw Company of Providence, Rhode Island. There is hardly a town in this Province of any importance but has a branch of an American concern that has been started in it.

Q.—Referring to the carriage question; have you any knowledge of factories making gears for carriages, and do you know whether they have prospered or not of late years? A.—So far as my information goes, the carriage industry is radically different from what it used to be. Some years ago carriages were made in what were called carriage shops; that is, the whole of a carriage would be made in one shop. Now it is the reverse and they are made under the factory system, and often when a shop makes a carriage they purchase the carriage box from a factory. There are special factories now; one makes a specialty of manufacturing carriage bodies, another of carriage tops; another makes the wheels, and so on. So that in many places the makers can buy the principal parts of the carriage and put them together. Iron them and paint them. I might say that in Canada the carriage manufacturer formerly suffered very much from the importation of cheap American carriages, the product of prison labor in the United States. The axle work was all made at Jackson, Mich. at the prison there; but since the prohibition of the importation of the product of prison labor, if a carriage were imported here and only the axle were the product of prison labor, it would be seized.

Q.—We have had witnesses before us who have asked to have their names suppressed, because they feared their employers would resent their coming before us. Do you think there is any coercion of their men by employers of labor? A.—I have no hesitation in saying that I think quite the contrary. There may be isolated instances, but I do not know of any manufacturing employer, and I know a great many, who would coerce his employes for testifying before a Commission of the kind. They are just as anxious for light to be thrown on this question as the laboring men are.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you think that any employer would inform you if he did coerce his men? A.—I can answer that question by stating another instance. You know probably that the Manufacturers' Association has been blamed and criticized in the press for fighting the passage of the Factory Act. Those who know anything about it are aware that there was not one word of truth in it; the Manufacturers' Association never fought the Factory Act. When the Act came before both the Ontario and Dominion Governments—and the Dominion Government can corroborate what I say—no effort was made in any shape by the Manufacturers' Association to prevent its passage. What the Association did do was to endeavor, when the Act became law, to see that impartial men were appointed as Inspectors.

Q.—That is not answering my question. My question was this; if those bosses did use coercion would they be likely to tell you? A.—I noticed an item in the newspapers, probably a week ago, that an employe was afraid to give his name to

the Commission when appearing as a witness, and I asked two or three manufacturers I happened to meet whether they had any objection to their men testifying before the Commission, and in each case I was told they had no objection whatever, that they were willing for any of their employes to testify. I am sure if there is any branch of industry respecting which the Commission may desire the employes to give evidence, the manufacturers are quite willing to let their employes come.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Does the workman stand on an equality with the employer of labor in the commercial transaction of selling that labor? A.—That is according to circumstances. I think the law of supply and demand is just as applicable to labor as it is to the purchase of commodities. If, for instance, there is a scarcity of men, as there is sometimes, employes have certain advantages; if there is an over-plus of workmen the employer has the advantage. I was told on visiting a large foundry in Galt last week, one of the largest in the country, that they could not get men; that they were willing to pay high wages if they could obtain the right class of men. They had advertised but had failed to get them. That is a case where the workingman has an advantage.

Q.—That is the exception rather than the rule? A.—I think it largely depends on the season. At certain seasons of the year there is a scarcity of work; at other times there is an abundance.

Q.—Are there not branches of trade in which the overplus of labor is chronic? A.—It may be so.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—You have had no practical experience in that line yourself? A.—No; I have heard a good deal about it. In the cities it is more likely to be the case, especially, in a city like Toronto.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you know anything about the Ontario Employers' Liability Act? A.—I know it is in operation at present.

Q.—Is it a satisfactory Act to employes? If a man is injured by machinery or anything of that sort does his remedy lie at his hand? A.—According to the letter of the Act it does. Of course the Act has only been in operation a short time, but even now there are a number of cases brought under the Act. The employers evidently think it is a step in the direction of affording employes increased protection, because they are insuring their men at their own expense in many cases. There are special companies now.

Q.—Are there Employers' Liability Acts in other Provinces than Ontario? A.—I think not. Employes in every Province can bring actions for damages under the common law, providing employer's negligence can be proved. In case of contributory negligence they can bring actions under the provisions of this Act.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—You spoke of many of the employers insuring their men at their own expense; do you mean at the employes' expense, or at the expense of the men? A.—At the employers' expense.

Q.—Would such an employer exact an agreement from his men that they should have no claim against him? A.—Certainly not, as I understand it. It is this way: I am an employer of labor, and I insure my men, say a hundred of them, with the company at so much per head. You are an employe and you meet with an accident. You think you have a case under the Act. If I think you have not, I decide to contest it, or to lay it before the company in which your life is insured. If the company think they have a chance to successfully contest the case, that the complaint is not a fair one, they would take my place and contest it in the courts.

Q.—The employers are protecting themselves against their own negligence? A.—No. Allow me to say you assume that in every case there must be contributory

negligence on the part of the employer. There have been cases, one not long ago in Guelph, in which employes thought they had cases against employers, but when the evidence came to be sifted before a judge, the party has been non-suited, and the judge has stated that the negligence, if any, was on the part of the employe.

The CHAIRMAN:—Take the case of railway accidents. In law the company is blamable.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—In this insurance the employer simply insures his own risk? A.—Yes; that is supposing it is found after the accident that there has been contributory negligence.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Where would be the necessity of the employer securing himself by insurance if in the first place he complied with the factory law and had his machinery properly protected? A.—I answered that question by stating a case where an employe was non-suited by the judge. Employers have to protect themselves against litigation. An employe may think he has a case, and yet the employers may be in the right all the time. In the Guelph instance the employe had not a case, but he brought a suit against his employer.

Q.—The employer would gain nothing if he had had that man insured from the fact that the employe was non-suited? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Take the case of a piece of machinery that turned out defective? A.—That is a case which in nearly every instance would have to go to the court, unless the company agree to pay the damage. Often workmen say a piece of machinery was not sound, and the employer says it was in perfect order. All those cases go to the court, and that is the necessity of insurance. It is a difficult matter for any person to determine, other than a judge after hearing the evidence, who is to blame in a matter of this kind.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—In the case of railway companies, they are excepted from the Employers' Liability Act? A.—That Act, so far as my memory serves me, has been in force for about two years; the railway companies, the Grand Trunk for instance, were exempted from its operation. The Grand Trunk was exempted from the operation of the Act for one year, because the company had at that time and have now a system of benefit insurance amongst their own employes. At the last session of the legislature they applied for a further extension of that period of exemption. There was a special committee appointed to take evidence in the matter, and after evidence had been taken there was still another adjournment, and the matter will come up to understand, at the forthcoming session of the Ontario Legislature.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—That is in connection with the extension of time? A.—They are enjoying that extension now.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—It is, I understand, to allow the railway companies to answer certain questions sent out by that committee? A.—Yes; by the Railway Committee of the Legislature. They met last session, and took the evidence of the employes and of the railway people, and after that evidence was in the period was further extended, possibly, as you say, to enable them to take other evidence. I am not saying either for or against; I am simply answering the question as to whether the law would be operative as against the railway company.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you know whether there is a great deal of friction at ordinary times between employers and employed in Ontario? A.—I do not think there is as

unnecessary amount—well, I do not mean an unnecessary—I mean an unusual amount other than there is in the United States; there is in fact a great deal less.

Q.—Except in times of excitement the relations between them are friendly and pleasant? A.—I think so in most instances.

Q.—When demands are made is there generally feeling, or do they simply disagree as two men would disagree, about a piece of property for instance, without feeling? A.—That is a question of rather too intimate a nature for a third party to answer.

Q.—Do you know whether attempts are frequently made at conciliation between employers and employed? A.—I think so. I think that manufacturers go sometimes further than they think they are justified to forward conciliation, probably in some instances. Of course it is a foolish thing for any factory to shut down for any length of time, because competition is keen and if they get out of the run of trade and cannot fill orders they will likely go to competing firms and once one man gets another's custom he is likely to hold it.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Kindly give us an instance of that kind—where a manufacturer has gone further than he ought to go in the way of conciliation? A.—I could not do that; that is a question of privilege.

Q.—Well it is facts we want to get; it is only a matter of opinion unless we have facts? A.—I may say that in hearing those matters discussed the manufacturers have told me that at different times. I have heard, for instance, that there was trouble in their factory and have asked them how they got along and they have told me to that effect; I don't know that I can remember specific instances.

Q.—You cannot give us a case in point then? A.—No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Don't the men make strong efforts towards conciliation? A.—That I could not say.

Q.—Do you know of many cases of arbitration between employers and employed? A.—No, I do not know of many; there have been cases in some instances that I know of—not cases that I specifically remember—but it is within my memory in which arbitrations have even been successful.

Q.—Do you think the present system of arbitration is the best that can be devised? A.—You mean the voluntary system?

Q.—Yes. A.—I don't know but what it is as good as any other plan; I am not altogether in favor of Government arbitration.

Q.—What is the time within which arbitration may be secured between employers and employed under the Ontario Act? A.—I am not sure.

Q.—If there is long delay—? A.—Pardon me; I do not think there have been many cases of arbitration under the Ontario Act. When I was referring to arbitration I referred to voluntary arbitration, the employer and employe agreeing on the arbitrators. Although there is an Ontario Act I think you will find that it has very rarely been called into force.

Q.—Would you consider voluntary arbitration as better than enforced arbitration? A.—I am not prepared to say; I have not given the matter sufficient study.

Q.—Have you made a study of the French system of arbitration? A.—No, sir.

I think, however, that with regard to all these questions of labor and capital the Dominion Government should be taken or arrangements made to have similar Acts become operative in each Province at the same time.

Q.—Do you think the Dominion Government has power to make such legislation? A.—That is a question I do not pretend to be familiar with. Now we have a Factory Act which I consider is a very valuable addition to the statutory enactments of the Province, but they also have a Factory Act in the Province of Quebec, and as far as my information goes it is not operative.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—The Quebec Act is almost a copy of the Ontario Act, is it not? A.—Yes; but it is not operative. Now, in textile manufactures, such as the woollen and cotton industries, there is a great deal of child labor usually employed. Well, in the Ontario mills, say the Cornwall mills for instance, under the provisions of this Act they are not able to employ that labor. It is illegal for them to do so. But just across the river, a few miles further down there is another large competing cotton mill at Valleyfield, Quebec, and, of course, the Ontario manufacturers are at a disadvantage to that extent because they can employ child labor there.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You are aware that property and civil rights are confided to the care of the Provinces under the British North America Act? A.—Yes.

Q.—And would not this legislation come under that clause of that Act? A.—That is rather a wide question for me to consider. That matter came up at the time the Factory Act was before the Dominion Government and it has not been decided, but the right of the Dominion Government, as I understand, was waived in favor of the Province.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—As a matter of fact it has been stated publicly, and in Parliament, that the Government of Ontario wanted to know if the Government of the Dominion had any objection to the constitutionality of the Ontario Act? A.—What I wish to emphasize is the fact that if the Employers' Liability Act and the Factory Act were made Dominion measures they should become operative in each of the Provinces at the same time.

Q.—You mean that similar Acts should be passed by them? A.—Yes. That I think, is something which might have engaged the attention of the Inter-Provincial Conference.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Why has the Ontario Arbitration Act not been a success? A.—I do not wish to hazard an opinion on that.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the contents of the Act? A.—Yes, I have read it, but I have not studied it.

Q.—Is there anything in the Act which would prevent workmen from taking advantage of its provisions? A.—Not that I remember.

Q.—I have a clause here—clause twenty-eight of the Ontario Act, which reads as follows:—"Nothing in this Act contained shall authorize the said Board to establish a rate of wages or the price of labor for workshops which workmen shall in future be paid." Do you think that is one reason why the Act has never been operative? A.—Probably it is. According to that clause the arbitrators are divested of their power.

Mr. HEAKES.—The power we need to settle labor disputes is taken away from them.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Have you studied much the condition of the laboring population of Toronto, say? A.—I have not made a study of the laboring population but I have a superficial knowledge of it; that is to say I suppose I have visited in the course of several years back nearly every manufacturing establishment in every manufacturing centre in Canada from Halifax to Sarnia. When I go to a factory I do not go merely to the office but I go through completely; in many instances I chat with the men and I think that in Western Ontario they are far better off than in the Eastern section.

Do they get better wages? A.—I think they do in some instances. If you ask me whether they get better wages here than in other parts of the Dominion I would say that they do in many lines. Some firms have moved from this Province to Quebec in order to get cheap labor. I know of one boot and shoe firm in Hamilton who have moved to Montreal on account of the cheapness of French labor.

Q.—Do you know what rates of wages are paid in this line in Hamilton and in Montreal? A.—No; I could not say.

Q.—Do you know whether there has been any improvement in the condition of the mechanical classes, or the reverse, say within ten years? A.—Yes, sir. I have collected a great deal of information on that question. Wages rose from, say, 1878 to 1882 and 1883 with a pretty steady rise, but I don't think they are much higher now than they were then. I think about 1882 the maximum was about reached; in some lines there has been an increase since then, but not much of a general increase all round.

Q.—Do you think that working people have received any great advantage from getting more continuous work than they used to have? A.—I think so, undoubtedly.

Q.—Do you think that the production in the factories, say, has been increased in greater proportion than the number of hands employed? A.—That is a question about which I have my own ideas, but I would not care to state them specifically in evidence. If you would allow me to make a suggestion here I would say that there is involved in this question, as in many others, the necessity of a Dominion Bureau of Statistics. No person can answer authoritatively such a question; they can only go by general ideas or superficial information, in the absence of proper statistics. One person can speak for one particular trade but not generally; and every day the need of a permanent Bureau of Statistics for the Dominion is becoming more felt. We have no information, no data, upon which we can write or compile evidence on these questions since the last Dominion census.

Q.—You have nothing to add with reference to a Statistical Bureau, to which you have referred? A.—Nothing, except that it should cover a pretty wide ground—something similar to the American Statistical Bureau. I think, for instance, if we had a Statistical Bureau there would not have been so much over-production in some trades, for example the cotton trade, in which there was such depression and so many operatives thrown out of work. The cause, I think, was more from ignorance of the consumptive requirements of the country than anything else, and I don't think a mistake would have been made if we had had such information as they have in the United States, because the men who put money in these enterprises are thinking men, men who are accustomed to study out the prospects before investing capital in an enterprise.

Q.—Have not the cotton manufacturers an organization amongst themselves? A.—Yes.

Q.—And don't they keep pretty good track of stocks on hand &c.? A.—They do now, but that was a system born of that very necessity, and after they had lost a great deal of money. If they had had that information, or that organization, there would not have been over-production, and depression, and so many operatives thrown out of work. In fact they did themselves to a certain extent what the Government ought to have done for the country at large.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You speak of a general advance of wages since 1878. Was there not a general decrease of wages from 1873 to 1878? A.—There was a decrease in many lines.

Q.—And were not wages in 1872 and 1873 about the same figure as they are to-day? A.—No, sir.

Q.—You are sure? A.—I am not speaking authoritatively; I am speaking according to the statistics I have in my possession. It is a question in which I am interested, and I did again what I think the Government should do in the interest of both labor and capital; I sent out several thousands of circulars all over the country, at different times, for the purpose of getting some information other than we could get from the census reports.

Q.—Of course if you have not the information you cannot answer the question, but wages ruled much the same in those years they do now as, in my own business at least? A.—The trouble is that you can speak for your own business but not for

others, and even if you could speak for other businesses you cannot speak for manufacturing centres of this Province, to say nothing of the other Provinces, and this again shows the necessity of a Government Statistical system. We have for instance a very admirable system in this Province, but it is only a Provincial affair at best. You have to take the mean average in discussing labor and wages, and in a country we have to cite the mean average of the whole country, and not of one isolated Province.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Is not there another matter almost of more importance than the rate of wages, and that is the continuity of labor? A.—I think very much more so.

Q.—And you think the working people are more steadily employed now than they were 8 or 10 years ago? A.—From my own personal information—and I think I have had exceptional facilities for gaining information—I think the chances for steady employment are very much better now than they were some years ago.

Q.—Do you think there are many unemployed mechanics in Toronto? A.—That is a question I would not care about answering.

Q.—The information at your command does not enable you to answer it? A.—No; but instead of answering it I may say that within the last month I have been pretty much over the whole Province, and I find that the manufacturers have all the hands employed that they had capacity for. They are very busy, and the reports coming into me now are that the season has been busier, and that more employment has been given to men than in any previous season.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—How then do you account for the present stringency of the money market? A.—There can be a stringency in the money market without going into the question of capital and labor at all; there can be an artificial stringency created.

Q.—By the locking up of money? A.—For instance, the banks may find that they can get a higher rate of interest across the line than in Canada and if they get say one per cent, more they would send a large amount of money there and that would create a stringency here.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—And I suppose if war was declared to morrow between France and Germany the rate of interest would go up? A.—I think it would.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—But if business was so active and good wages paid should not money be plentiful? Do you think that if the Government controlled every banking system of the country that these artificial stringencies would still take place? A.—I think in many cases they would and more so. At present we are under different conditions to those that, as far as my information goes, prevail in the United States. In certain seasons it requires in this country a banking system with an expansive circulation, that is at the time that the crops are moved. Supposing that the banks under the present Banking Act are able to increase their circulation to a certain number of millions of dollars, the crops can be moved without taking the money for manufacturing interests, without calling in their loans to manufacturing and other enterprises. When they need a large amount of money to move the crops they are able to increase the circulation and when the crop is moved the money is returned to their vaults; the expansive character of their circulation has enabled that operation to be carried on without any financial stringency being experienced. It is rather different in the United States because they have a very much wider range of seasons and temperature so that after the crops are moved in the Southern States the money is returned and can go into use to move it in the northern portions of the country.

Q.—What I wanted to know was if we had the Government controlling the currency and banking of the country would not a financial stringency be impossible? Could not the Government always issue sufficient money to meet requirements?

A.—That is a question of paper money and I do not want to go into that broad question; I do not think it is necessary. I do not think it would be in the interests of the country if the Government were to take away from the banks the power of issuing notes. According to what you say the Government are perfectly at liberty to do that just now; they can issue ones and twos and fours.

Q.—But the Government could not prevent the banks from locking up fifteen or twenty millions of dollars and practically raising the interest? A.—Do you want to know if I am or am not in favor of the Government taking away the currency issuing power of the banks?

Q.—No, what I want to know is this—if the Government had control of the banking system of the country would it be possible to create artificial stringencies like the present when there is plenty of work going on and good wages and yet money has gone up two per cent? A.—I am not aware of any Government controlling the banking system of a country.

Q.—That is hardly an answer to the question. Would it be possible to create an artificial stringency if the Government had control of the banking system instead of private banks? A.—That is a question upon which you can expect no man to give a decided answer. It is a system which has never been tried by any Government under the sun, and it would be impossible without experience to give a decided answer. I do not think that the business of the country could be carried on in that way; I think there would be a dead lock in a short time. I do not think it is possible for a Government to carry on a banking system; they might issue notes as they do in the United States, but as to discounting and all that, I do not think that is for a Government to do.

Q.—Don't you think that the banking system has a closer relation to labor than most people have given thought to yet? A.—I do not think it is all practicable for a Government to take hold of the banking system of a country.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—From your close intimacy with the manufacturers of the country do you think from your personal ideas and observation that they are in favor of arbitration and conciliation in settling labor troubles? A.—I think they are—from the experience I have had, and from information.

Q.—All over the province? A.—Yes; and from the meetings of the Association and from their conferences I may say that their tone has always been conciliatory.

Q.—Do you know how many labor troubles there have been in Toronto during the past year? A.—No sir; I know there have been a good many.

Q.—Do you know any case where the employers offered arbitration or conciliation—do you know one such case? A.—You ask me about labor troubles. Of course there have been labor troubles; there was a strike among the bricklayers and the carpenters but that is a question about which I do not know anything pro or con. I was referring to troubles in factories and not to labor troubles generally.

Q.—Well there have been troubles in factories? A.—I don't think there have been many in Toronto factories this year.

Q.—I may say that the reason I put this question is that many of these manufacturers and many of the employers in the building trade belong to the industrial branch of the Board of Trade, so I thought that you being connected with the Manufacturers' Association would be posted on that question? A.—No, sir. I may say that the industrial branch of the Board of Trade is in no way affiliated with the Manufacturers' Association.

Q.—You said that the manufacturers are agreeable to the Factory Act? A.—I said when the Factory Act came up for discussion in the Association.—

Q.—The Ontario Factory Act? A.—Both. First of all it came up for discussion when the Factory Act was brought before the Dominion House, before it came before the Ontario Legislature, and in no case was there opposition to the Factory Act as a whole.

Q.—Were you Secretary of the Association at the time the Factory commission of the Federal Government presented their report upon which the bill was founded?
A.—No, sir.

Q.—It was Mr. Kelly, was it? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did the manufacturers send a deputation from Toronto to have certain clauses of the Act altered to suit their views? Are you aware of that? A.—No, I am not.

Q.—If it was the case, would you know? A.—Yes; it would appear in the minutes.

Q.—And if it was in the minutes you would know of it? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Can you give us any information respecting the difference between manufacturers' prices and the retail prices in any lines of manufactured goods? A.—I could not speak specifically. The manufacturers in very few instances sell directly to the retailers.

Q.—Do you know, for example, what it costs to make an average sewing machine?
A.—I think I do.

Q.—A plain sewing machine for the table? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you give us about the figures? A.—I understand you wish to get at the first cost of the sewing machine when it reaches the consumer and the cost when it leaves the factory?

Q.—Yes? A.—Well, in a line such as that there is a wide margin of difference which is accounted for in different ways. There is first the method in which it is to be put on the market. I might say that what is fully as important, to the success of a manufacturing enterprise, is economy of distribution as compared with economy of production; it is even more important. Now the economy of production has been studied so much and so long that production has been brought down more within the limits of a science, but the economy of distribution is only just commencing to be studied, and I think there is yet room for a good deal of improvement. Of course, we are a young manufacturing country and by way of illustration I might talk of the country as being one industry. Well, when a man starts a new industry he does not think so much of putting the goods on the market as he does about the most economical way of producing them as compared with his competitor. That is the first point to which he has to devote all his attention, and when he has got that successfully accomplished then he is able to turn his time and attention to studying the economy of distribution. Our country is to some extent in the same way as a new industry. We have gone into manufacturing much more largely within the last ten years than we did before and a great many new industries, industries which were new to this country at least, have been engaged in within the last 10 years. Well, in engaging in a new industry the first thing is to produce the goods at as low a price as the American or English competitors are offering them for. Then, if they can economize in the production it is so much gain.

Q.—If there is a very wide margin between the cost price to the manufacturer and the retail price of some articles isn't there a very narrow margin in others, for instance cotton? A.—There is where the economy of distribution comes in. In cottons there is a very narrow margin because the manufacturer sells directly to the wholesale trade and the wholesale trade to the retailer, and so it is simply a matter of selling in large quantities and the profit is less. With sewing machines it is different because in selling them there is not only the competition but the canvassing. A man may go around 4 or 5 days working hard 10 hours a day and sell only 2 or 3 sewing machines a week and that has to be taken into consideration. The cost of putting those goods on the market is largely the time of the men employed in putting them on the market. In country places a man has to take a horse and buggy and perhaps drive for miles to the houses and then perhaps find that every house has got a machine.

Q.—Do you think the margin of profit is greater on domestic goods or on imported goods? A.—I think the margin of profit is larger on such imported goods as can be imported with profit.

Q.—If goods are manufactured in the country instead of being imported do you think it brings the manufacturer nearer to the consumer than the original importer was to the consumer? A.—I think so.

Q.—There is less money goes to the middle man? A.—Yes. There is in most instances. For instances if I import goods there is a double number of middle men; the American or English manufacturer will sell to the English exporting house, and they will have to send their traveller here; they sell to the wholesale trade.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the number of commercial travellers in Canada? A.—I have no figures as to the exact number, but the number is very large indeed and their expenses very heavy.

Q.—Would you say that there are between 5 and 6 thousand commercial travellers employed in Canada? A.—I should think there was fully that.

Q.—What do you think would be their average salary? A.—I don't feel competent to answer that question but I should think there would probably be an average of \$1,000; of course I do not speak authoritatively.

Q.—What would you estimate the travelling expenses or allowances to be for each? A.—They vary very much according to the class of goods. For instance take a dry goods traveller, he will probably have 12 or 15 trunks and his excess baggage may come to \$1 or \$2 a day. Another man may travel for a manufacturing house and have all his samples in a little grip sack but I should think the average cannot be less than \$5 a day.

Q.—They are not out all the time? A.—Most of the time.
Do you think that \$1,000 each per annum would be an extravagant sum?
A.—No.

Q.—Do you think it would be extravagant to say that each one of these men in salary and expenses costs \$2,000 a year? A.—No; I think not; that would be very moderate for those who keep them out all the time. But in certain manufacturing industries the traveller may be one of the firm and make only two trips a year. But the dry goods houses, the wholesale hardware and grocery houses and so on, keep their travellers out nearly all the time and some of their men get salaries more than double the amount I named. The expenses of some of them cannot be much less than about \$7 a day.

Q.—Then if the calculation of \$1,000 for salary and \$1,000 for expenses be a fair average, and within the mark, and if there are 5,000 commercial travellers we find the expenditure on this head amounts to \$10,000,000 a year in Canada? A.—I don't think it would average that for the whole 5,000. For instance, take the Commercial Travellers Association which has its office in this city, and which has a very large membership. But many of these members cannot properly be counted commercial travellers. For instance I suppose I am eligible for membership the same as Mr. Hugh Blain, Mr. Darling and others who are the heads of firms and who so long as they are engaged in business are eligible for membership. There are a good many employers who figure in the membership of the Association.

Q.—You think the estimate then would not be a fair average? A.—Not of what we might call professional travellers, those who are on the road the whole time. For instance, I am not a commercial traveller, but I am on the road.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—How many do you think there are? A.—I am not conversant enough with the subject to hazard an estimation but I should think there are 2 or 3 thousand. Many commercial travellers are getting over \$2,000 salary. With a traveller it is not exactly his ability but it is his connection as well which gives him value. He generally carries a connection with him; he has gone over the road, say, for a number of years; he is on friendly terms with his customers and if they want to buy goods they wait till he comes and that gives him value to the house that employs him, his intimate connection with the clientage of the house.

By Mr. KIRWAN:—

Q.—How many hours of labor do you consider is a fair day's work for a man

working at heavy work, such as moulders, bricklayers and carpenters' work? A.—That is a difficult thing for me to say.

Q.—I would like to have it from your standpoint? A.—It is difficult for me to answer, because I had not sufficient practical information to enable me to judge of the amount of fatigue incurred by men in a given occupation.

Q.—Well in your own business? A.—Well, in my business I work an average of sixteen hours a day.

Q.—Commencing at what time in the morning, if it is not an impertinent question? A.—Not at all. I generally start at my office at 8 or 8.30, and five nights out of six I work until eleven o'clock at night, and some times to three or four in the morning.

Q.—Of course, if you were working as a moulder or heavy work of that kind you could not work sixteen hours? A.—No; I am not physically capable of that, but I don't know that physical labor is always the hardest.

Q.—How many hours do you consider is a fair day's work? A.—That would largely depend on circumstances. I would not consider, for instance, that a painter had to work as hard as a blacksmith.

Q.—Well I am speaking of blacksmiths and moulders, and people who do the hardest kind of work? A.—I should think from nine to ten hours.

Q.—Suppose they work from six in the morning until six at night, with two hours off, how long do you suppose a man could stand that strain? A.—I told you at the beginning that I am not acquainted with the amount of strain a man would have to stand, and that I could not answer intelligently, unless I had some idea.

Q.—Your opinion is that nine hours would be a fair day's work? A.—Well, I could not say, because I am not in a position, and I do not want to give an answer to a question that I cannot answer intelligently.

Q.—Do you consider that fortnightly or weekly payments are best for working-men? A.—I think it is better that they should be paid weekly; I should like to see them all paid weekly.

Q.—What day of the week do you think would be proper? A.—If you like I will give my personal convictions? I think Friday would be the best day, because it would give them more opportunities to devote their earnings to their families than they are apt to do if they get paid on Saturday.

Q.—Now with regard to profit sharing—do you think it would be beneficial to the employer, or an inducement to the employe to work on this profit sharing plan. I am not talking of railroads or banks, or other corporations, but only of a concern where one man employs a number of men? A.—That is really a very interesting question, but one that I do not know that I am in a position to give an intelligent answer to, and for this reason, because in older manufacturing countries they have tried it, sometimes with success and sometimes without. There have been notable instances of its success, and there have been instances of its failure, and I do not know whether we have arrived at such a pitch of perfection that it would be possible to adopt that system.

Q.—You don't know that it has been tried in this country? A.—Well, it has not been tried; there has been no regular system of profit sharing; but I have known firms who have had an exceptionally good year, or term of years, give a bonus to employes, but of course, that is not a regular system. I have known men act with equal generosity towards their employers. I know of a case where a mill was burnt down, and there was such good feeling among the employes that, knowing that the firm had suffered serious loss, each man offered a week's work free of payment to re-building the mill.

TORONTO, December 1st, 1887.

THOMAS GALBRAITH, SWORN.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You are market reporter employed on one of the city journals I believe ?
A.—Yes.

Q.—Which journal? A.—The "Globe."

Q.—How long have you been employed in that capacity? A.—Nearly eight years.

Q.—Have you provided yourself with memoranda so that you will be able to furnish the Commission with information as to the market prices during a series of years? A.—Yes, for the past ten years; that is, four years in that period of ten years, that is, 1872, 1877, 1882, and 1887. The memoranda are as follows :—

	1887.	1882.	1877.	1872.
FLOUR—				
Superior Extra...	\$3.65	\$4.60	\$5.65@5.70	\$5.70 (fancy)
Extra.....	3.55	4.45	5.30@5.40	5.30@5.35
WHEAT—				
No. 2 red.....	85 cts			
No. 2 white.....	82	93 cts.	\$1.25	\$1.32
No. 2 Spring.....	83	95	1.10	1.20
BARLEY—				
No. 1.....	78 cts.	76 cts.	71 cts.	68 cts.
No. 2.....	72	71	61	60
No. 3 Extra.....	70	61	56	
Oats, No. 2.....	35	39	34	38@39
Peas, No. 2.....	61	75	63	65

PROVISIONS.

BUTTER—				
Tub dairy, choice.	20@21 cts.	20@21 cts.	17@18 cts.	16@18 cts.
Tub dairy, med...	16@17	16@18	10@12	8@11
Rolls, St. Market.	25@28	22@23	18@20	20@21
Eggs—Fresh.....	29	25	15@17	21@22
Cheese.....	11@12	11½ 12½	13@13½	12@12½
Mess Pork.....	\$17.10	\$22@\$22.50	\$16@\$16.50	\$16@16.25
Hams, smoked....	11@11½ cts.	14 cts.	11@11½ cts.	12@ cts.
Lard, tierces....	9½@9¾	15@15½	10½ 11	10½ 11
Dressed Hogs....	\$5.75@6	\$7@7.75	\$5@5.25	\$4.80@5.15
Dried Apples....	5½@6 cts.	8@8½ cts.	7@8 cts.	8½@9
Beans.....	\$1.80@2	\$1.50@1.75		
Hops.....	12@14 cts.	90@1.00	10@12 cts.	15@20
Potatoes.....	80@90	65	60@70	50
CATTLE—				
Shippers.....	\$3.75@4.00	\$4.50@5.00	\$4.75@5.00	\$4.50
Butchers, best....	3.00@3.50	4.52@4.50	4.50@4.75	3.50
Sheep, best.....	3.25@3.50	3.50@3.75	6.00@7.00	5.00@6.00
Medium.....	4.00@5.00	4.00@6.00	4.00@5.00	3.50@4.00
Lambs.....	3.50@4.50	3.50@4.50	2.50@4.00	2.50@4.00
Hogs.....	4.50@4.75	6.00@6.25	4.00@4.25	4.00
HIDES AND SKINS—				
Hides, green No 2.	\$5.00	\$8.50	\$7.25	\$7.00
Sheepskins.....	80@ 85	1.10@1.20	90@1.00	1.20@1.40
Calfskins, green...	7@ 8		11@ 12	10@ 12

	1887.	1882.	1877.	1872.
WOOL—				
Fleece	21@22 cts.	20 cts.	24@25 cts.	45@50 cts.
Supers, pulled.....	23@23½	27	26@27	37½ 40
Extra.....	27@27½	32	28@30	
HAY—				
Timothy.....	\$15.00@17.00	\$14.50@16.00	\$17.00@19.50	\$24.00@25.00
Clover.....	12.00@14.00	13.00@14.00	15.00@17.00	20.00@22.00
Straw.....	10.00@12.00	10.00@13.00	13.00@15.00	10.00@14.50
APPLES—				
Apples.....	\$2.25@2.50	\$3.00@3.50	\$2.50@3.00	\$2.50@3.00
GROCERIES—				
Coffee, Java.....	22@25 cts.	20@25 cts.	28@33 cts.	22@24 cts.
Rio.....	23	12@13	22@24	
SUGAR—				
Can. refined.....	5½@6½ cts.	7½@8¼ cts.	8 @ 9 cts.	9¼@10¼ cts.
Granulated.....	7½@7½	9½@9½	9½@10	13 @13½
IRON AND HARDWARE—				
Nails.....	\$ 3.00@ 3.05	\$ 3.05@ 3.10	\$ 2.80@ 2.90	\$ 5.75
Pig Iron, Sum'lee..	21.50@22.00	26.50	20.00 21.00	
Pig Iron, U.S. no 1.	20.50	18.00	Eglinton 38.00	Eglinton
Iron, ord'y bar...	2.00@ 2.10	2.20@ 2.25	2.00@ 2.10	3.75
Lead, bar.....	4@ 4½	5@ 5½	6@ 6½	6½@ 7
Tin, bar.....	35@ 36	30@ 31	20@ 22	40@42
Copper, Ingot.....	13@ 15	20@ 21	19@ 20	27@28
COAL—				
Stove and nut....	\$6.75	\$6.50	\$5.00	\$8.00
Egg and grate....	6.50	6.25	5.00	8.00
WOOD—				
Best hard.....	\$6.50	\$5.50@6.00	\$5.00	\$7.50
2nd Quality.....	5.00	4.50	4.50	4.50
Pine.....	5.00	4.00@4.50	4.50	4.50
POULTRY—				
Turkeys.....	7½@9	8@ 9	7@ 8	50@80 a piece
Geese.....	5@ 6	6	6	40 "
Ducks.....	45@55	50@70	6@ 7	50@60 brace
Fowl.....	25@35	40@45	35	30@40 "

By MR. FREED:—

Q.—Referring to the prices of hops in 1882, 90 cents to \$1.00: I suppose there was a failure of the crop in that year? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is the comparison one which would be fair? A.—The prices ranged from 50 cents to \$1.20.; the whole crop was sold at those prices.

Q.—Referring to potatoes: do you know if the price of potatoes is higher this year in consequence of the comparative failure of the crop than in immediately preceding years? A.—Yes; that is one cause. There is a large crop in Manitoba. A great many Manitoban potatoes are coming in here, but they do not reduce our price much. Our potatoes are smaller than theirs but are a fine quality and better eating; Ontario potatoes are selling much higher than Manitoban potatoes.

Q.—Is it a fact that immediately after the Manitoban potatoes came in the prices of Ontario potatoes began to drop? A.—No. The market depends upon the Nova Scotian and Lower Province potatoes—upon the crop there. Prices here are ruled to a great extent by the Lower Provinces, where they grow large quantities of potatoes.

Q.—Do you think in ordinary years potatoes come here from the Lower Provinces? A.—Yes. They however ship nearly half their crop, or more, to the United States; Boston is the chief market for them.

Q.—In ordinary years does not Ontario produce sufficient potatoes for the consumption of its people? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then how do the prices of Lower Province potatoes affect prices here? A.—I do not think they do except when they have a surplus. If we have a large surplus their prices will not have much effect; but in case we do not have an overplus and they have a large crop down there, it will be different. It very often follows that when we have a small crop they have a large one, and that tends to keep prices moderate.

Q.—Do you know any year in which Ontario has not produced sufficient potatoes for home consumption. A.—I think 1882 or 1883, perhaps 1883 or 1884 when potatoes went up to \$1.50 a bag here.

Q.—Are you aware of any change within the last few years in the class of sheep raised in Canada? A.—I believe our farmers now have a little better class of sheep and grow better wool.

Q.—Has there not been a change, Leicester sheep being abandoned to some extent and Southdown and other fine wool sheep taking their place? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is this due to the fact that there has been a change in the character of the woolen goods produced? A.—Yes.

Q.—So that coarse long staple wool is not so valuable now as it was formerly? A.—The demand is governed to some extent by the styles of woolen fabrics worn. Most of our fleece wool goes to the Eastern States, and from the character of fabrics made it was formerly more valuable than it is now. In 1872 prices were high, for our wools were well-adapted to the kind of goods then in demand.

Q.—Are you aware of any difference in the character of the sheep raised in Canada and in the United States? A.—No, I am not.

Q.—Are merinos raised to any extent in Canada? A.—No.

Q.—Are they in the United States to your knowledge? A.—They may be on the Pacific coast.

Q.—With respect to the quotations for coffee, is not the quotation of 12 cents to 13 cents very remarkable? A.—The prices in 1882 and at the present time are both remarkable.

Q.—The price is remarkably high now? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you heard of a "ring" in coffee to corner the market? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think that has made the price abnormally high? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you go into the market a good deal when people are buying their supplies? A.—I do not get my prices altogether from the farmers; not on all articles.

Q.—I am there about half an hour a day.

Q.—Are you able to tell the Commission whether mechanics' wives, we will not say the exceedingly poor people, but the average working people of Toronto, are compelled to buy inferior cuts of meat, or to buy food inferior to that which people in better circumstances buy? A.—As a rule I do not think they are.

Q.—Do you think they go and buy good food and are able to pay for it? A.—Yes.

Q.—There are of course poor people in Toronto who have to take what they can get? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think there is a large number of such people? A.—No; I think not.

Q.—If a dealer finds him-self with inferior vegetables or meat or poultry on his hands that is not unwholesome, does he find difficulty in selling it, or are there people ready to snatch at anything below market price? A.—Inferior articles are hard to sell in the market. There have always been a great many complaints about unwholesome produce coming in.

Q.—You have a food inspector in Toronto? A.—Yes.

Q.—If he finds food unwholesome and unfit for use he condemns it? A.—Yes.

Q.—It is confiscated and the seller is punished? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there reasonably good precaution taken to secure good wholesome food for the people? A.—Yes.

JOHN GALT, Civil and Mechanical Engineer, Toronto, called and sworn.

By MR. FREED:—

Q.—I understand that you have had some experience with the industrial or technical education of young people? A.—Yes; I have had a good deal, especially in the old country.

Q.—Will you kindly make a statement of your experience, or such part of it as you think will be of use to the public? A.—I may say I have taken considerable interest in the subject, since I came to this country, because I find there is great necessity for it. There is now in this country nothing coming in between common school education and University education. The most important part of education of a practical kind is obtained after a boy leaves school and enters a distinct trade, calling or profession. There are no facilities of any consequence whereby a working-man can become conversant with that instruction necessary to fit him to be a good workman, well up in the practice and theory of his business. There are really no facilities of that kind now. In the old country there is what is called the science and art department.

Q.—Is that connected with the public schools? A.—No; it has its head quarters at South Kensington, and it is controlled by the imperial parliament. There is a large vote of money granted annually by parliament for that purpose. Schools are formed all over the country, local committees are formed and the subjects taught are both art and science subjects.

Q.—Who pays for those schools? A.—That is done in this way; there is a nominal fee paid by each student. The examination papers are prepared at the end of each session, and are sent to London and examined there. Upon those examinations what are called payments on results are obtained. A great many subjects are taught, and every student who gets a first class is entitled to what is termed a Queen's prize and certificate, showing that he has passed first in that subject; but in each subject there are three stages, elementary, advanced and honor. The teacher claims for every first class a grant equal to ten dollars. That is what the teachers gets; the student gets the prize and certificate. For every second class, each of whom gets a certificate, the teacher claims five dollars. I have put the amount in dollars, but they are two pounds sterling and one pound respectively. Those grants are and have been considered sufficient for very many years, and the result of this system is that all over the country there are competent teachers employed in teaching a variety of subjects closely bearing on all the different trades, businesses and professions. In addition, these classes are largely attended by workingmen, artisans of different trades. Then to encourage still higher education, there are scholarships established. Those scholarships entitle the gainers of them, the best students of each school, to attend special lectures in London, the amount of money furnished by them giving to the students those facilities. Those scholarships I say put students in the way of passing through still higher studies. Some of them enable the students to attend the University and pursue their studies to a very high extent indeed—in fact they graduate.

Q.—At the ordinary Universities of the country? A.—Yes. So there is a connecting link between school and University education, and this is brought directly in contact with the working classes.

Q.—Will you briefly describe the course of study in those schools? A.—Take the science and art department. There are taught freehand and model drawing, perspective, geometry, mechanical drawing, building construction, machine designing, acoustics, light and heat, steam and the steam engine, metallurgy, botany, and a great many other subjects that I cannot enumerate; it is, in fact, a complete curriculum.

Q.—Do they acquire an actual knowledge of the use of tools? A.—The workingmen who take advantage of those evening classes are practically engaged in the different trades; they are, therefore, getting the best possible education; but what they lack is theory. Therefore, the combining of their practice with the theory they can get in the evening classes makes them first-class workmen as well as

students, and those who show special ability can prosecute their studies very much further. I will give an example. When I was in charge of one of the larger schools of the kind in Glasgow, which was under the direction of the School Board and under the supervision of the Science and Art Department in London, there was a little boy, I think somewhere about twelve or fourteen years, unusually young, who attended my school. I saw at once his great ability in the mechanical and geometrical line. I asked him what he did. He said he was an office boy up town. I then asked him if he would not like to change his business, as I thought he was at his wrong calling. He said he would like to do so very well, but he did not think he could get away from his present place for a year or two. I called on his parents, and I found they had been considering the advisability of making some change. I got him taken on with a mechanical firm as an apprentice, working at the regular workshops and also in the drawing office part of his time. He attended the school regularly and showed extraordinary ability, so much so that he took honors in the most advanced stage of the different subjects relating to engineering. He won a scholarship which entitled him to go to London. He obtained a Wickworth scholarship, the value of which at that time was 200 or 300 pounds a year, and that enabled him to pursue a very high course of study in the University. He went to Manchester and passed through the University, and he is now, I believe, one of the chief assistant professors in the Guilds of London School, one of the best of the kind in England and one which has been established only about five years. That boy furnished no extraordinary case; there are hundreds of similar boys in this country and also workmen, who, for lack of an education of this description, have no opening for their ambition and aspiration. No doubt, there is a crying necessity for some such education between the common school education and that of the University, and this can best be secured by evening classes. That kind of education for workingmen is given during the winter evenings. The classes run from October to May, and the examinations come on in May.

Q.—Could any of those classes be attached to the public schools so as to be made part of the public school education? A.—Some of the subjects, such as geometry and plain mathematics, form part of the regular study now; but you want to teach mathematics and drawing connected with the men's trade. You do not want simply to lecture on those subjects, but you want to sit down with the students and help them to overcome the difficulties they meet, to explain the difficulties with the aid of a blackboard and to go into the subjects most thoroughly and bring up the students gradually.

Q.—Teaching the students in fact by object lesson? A.—Yes; so I do not think the public school education is adapted to meet that want. It is a special one and special means will have to be adopted to meet it. That has been the experience of Germany and the old country, and in the United States they have taken special means to accomplish that end, and something will be required here very soon. There can be no doubt that if Canadian workmen desire to hold their own, they must have such privileges within their reach.

Q.—Do you know whether it has been found in Great Britain that the superior technical education of continental workmen has placed British workmen at a disadvantage? A.—I think England has not kept pace as she should have done, with the advance made in that direction. The science and art department was forced upon the Government after the first great exhibition of Paris. They adopted it then as the best means available, and they have kept to it without making very much change. They have got to change, as the circumstances have changed. They are going rather slowly, but there is an agitation on foot to change the system.

Q.—Have you visited any of the continental schools? A.—No; but I have met many students who have been through them. I know the whole system followed, and also that adopted by many schools in the United States, such as the Boston school of technology. You see that university training is confined to those whose parents are well off, those who are able to send their boys to obtain the education necessary to fit them for a profession. But it is different with workingmen.

Q.—That is a classical education; what is called the Humanities in Scotland?
 A.—Yes. Very few can attend the University. A boy has to earn his bread and butter, and there should be suitable education provided on winter evenings to enable him to combine theory with practice at his trade.

Q.—Have you any information as to the school of Technology in Toronto? A.—Very little.

Q.—What want does it fill? A.—I think so far as it goes it fills a want, but it does not go far enough. I know in a great many universities they are introducing practical work by means of workshops. You cannot however make that shop work take the place of apprentice work or of boys going to learn a trade; but it is thought that if they get theory combined with that amount of practical training students will have a pretty good idea of practical work and be more competent. It can never however take the place of apprenticeship or of the thorough work of a workman, no more than the work in evening classes can make a thoroughly theoretical man of a workman, but at the same time it places him in a superior position in carrying on his trade.

Q.—How are the teachers for those evening classes in Great Britain trained?
 A.—They have to hold a certificate before they are allowed to teach; most of them have passed first in the advanced subjects.

Q.—They must have a practical as well as a theoretical knowledge? A.—Yes. I do not think they would be very desirable teachers unless they were practical men. Many of them are draughtsmen or managing men of different firms; they are well up in the business from that fact, both practically and theoretically, and they make the very best teachers. As a rule they get the fees and all the government grants; all the expense is the rent of rooms, gas and expenses of advertising.

Q.—The government allowance you think is sufficient to compensate teachers, in addition to the fees paid by pupils? A.—It seems so, because there are a great many schools and there is very little complaint on that score. They seem to be balanced rightly.

Q.—Is a sufficient number of practical men found to conduct the school?
 A.—Yes; there seems to be no difficulty whatever. There might be such a difficulty here for a little while. There was difficulty in England at first when the classes were started in 1882, but as the students passed in the higher branches they became teachers and the want was supplied. I am very much impressed with the great necessity of something being done in that direction for the working classes, something to bridge over the wide gulf between the common school education and university education. It would benefit the universities as well.

Q.—This education would not be in any sense that of teaching the different trades to the pupils? A.—No. It is more in the direction of giving a theoretical education in the evening to practical men. They would go to those classes right from the trade at which they had been working all day.

Q.—Would they obtain knowledge that would enable them to more successfully prosecute their trade, just as the ordinary school education fits them for the ordinary requirements of life? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the industrial school in the suburbs of Toronto to which waifs and strays are sent? A.—No; I think that is only a recent affair, and it is connected with a different subject entirely. I think that so far as it goes it is a very laudable enterprise.

Q.—Do you know anything about the education given to boys sent to Penetanguishene reformatory? A.—No; I do not; I have simply referred to the subject wherein technical education has a bearing on the labor of the working classes; that is the subject chiefly on which I wish to speak.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—With respect to the School of Practical Science in Toronto; can you furnish any suggestion as to the means by which that can be made of practical benefit to working men? A.—I think if it was large enough and fully equipped, not only in

one department but in every department necessary, if it was temporarily located—and you must bring matters down to a practical bearing—to suit working men and if it is brought within easy reach of working men, and if the instruction was not too much of the nature of sermons or lectures, you might be able to attract them. If, in addition, the Government supported the institution thoroughly by paying teachers' fees and giving grants, much might be done. I believe so far as Toronto is concerned that the establishment of a technical college of science and arts, fully equipped in every department, suitable during the day for art work and higher professional work such as is conducted now in the University, and also suitable in the evening for classes of working men, would be a great benefit.

Q.—Do you think the present course of study in the Toronto school would have to be considerably changed before it could be adapted to that sort of teaching?

A.—Yes; as it now stands it is hardly suitable for the great bulk of the working classes.

Q.—It is practically out of reach, and is not in the right direction? A.—It is not altogether suitable for that instruction.

LOUIS P. KRIBS, journalist, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—I believe you desire to speak to the Commission on the subject of industrial education? Please proceed with your statement. A.—My knowledge of the subject is theoretical; it is not practical. I suppose I was desired to come here in consequence of certain articles I have been writing on the subject. As a workman myself, and the son of a carpenter, I believe I have some idea of the practical needs of the country in this matter. The trouble was only partially referred to by Mr. Galt, who is very capable of speaking in a practical way respecting Canadian workmen. You have to go further than he suggested. The system of apprenticeship by which a young man is taught his trade has been outgrown in this country—it has disappeared; and while that has disappeared, or been outgrown, we have nothing to take its place. There is no system for teaching a young man his trade and thoroughly training him in a mechanical calling, and making him a first-class artisan, except as he goes into a shop and starts to work as a boy. Some trades are different in regard to the manner in which boys learn the trade; in some trades he will learn the business very fairly, but in others he will be kept at certain branches. For instance, in the boot and shoe trade he may be able to make uppers or soles, but he will not be a thorough workman; and the Canadian workman to-day is not taught that technical knowledge to make a man a first-class artisan, because he has no place to acquire it and nobody to teach it. In the city it is even worse than in the country. In the country boys run round and get acquainted with tools, and they know how to use their hands; but in Toronto we are turning out of the public schools thousands of boys to whom it is almost impossible to teach a trade within a reasonable time, because they have no idea of how to use their hands. One of the best manufacturers in wood and iron tells me that if a boy has gone through the Kindergarten, where he is taught how to use his hands, he will be able to pay wages to that boy, while a boy from the public schools will take two years to find out he has a pair of hands. That is where I find fault with our public school education to a certain extent. In the public schools we cannot teach all that is required in a technical education so far as tools are concerned and the materials to be used, and it is therefore necessary to establish night schools; I know one or two places in this country where such night schools are established; Galt is one place, and there they teach young men freehand and mechanical drawing and applied mechanics. But I know also, within a few miles of that very town, where night schools have been in operation a long time, that a leading foreman carpenter in working on a building did not know the common principles of the strain that wood can bear, for a scaffold accident occurred by which one man was killed and

many injured. I know a case where an accident occurred by which a machine fell on a man's leg, and yet it was being managed by a practical mechanic from Toronto, born and bred here, who was supposed to know all about the business, but he did not know the first principles connected with the strain on materials. These are matters that impress one with the necessity of having a system of technical education. The night schools are good enough, but the public school system turns out boys without the least knowledge of the capacity of metals, iron, rope, wood, and other materials to bear strain, and the very elementary matters connected with technical education. There is where I find fault with our public school system. The fact of the matter is that to my mind the public school unfits a boy for learning a trade. He is actually less able to do so, he is in a worse condition to learn a mechanical trade if he remains in a public school till he is fifteen, than if he goes to work at ten. That is my experience of the public schools. To go to the High School and the University fits him for nothing in the way of earning a living as an artisan. This is, of course, mere theory, and I think that technical education will not only have to be by evening classes but also by means of regular schools. The little town of Zurich, in Switzerland, has a polytechnic school. This was established in 1854. It has a magnificent building, containing laboratories, libraries, industrial museum, collection of apparatus and objects of scientific and artistic interest. It makes provision for more than two hundred distinct courses of lectures, given by sixty different professors, to say nothing of teachers, curators of museums, etc. In the most successful factories of Switzerland, Southern Germany and France are found managers, foremen and leading workmen from this institution.

By MR. FREED :—

Q.—They draw pupils from all parts of the country? A.—Yes; largely so, of course. It is established at a most central point. Then, take the technical high school at Munich, founded in 1868. The buildings cost \$775,000, and the total cost nearly \$2,000,000. Its annual expense is \$100,000.

Q.—Was not the King crazy when he built it? A.—No.

Q.—Is that institution not for all Bavaria? A.—It is for Munich alone. The Government grant is very small. Instruction has special reference to the higher industrial education of the industrial classes. There are forty-five distinct courses of lectures, by thirteen professors, in the department of engineering alone. Engineering is a department with its own professors. A person can enter and study engineering from the lowest to the highest grade, and can come out with a diploma that will give him occupation anywhere. That, however, is only one of the thirteen departments. Again, there is a weaving school at Chemnitz, Saxony. It is the central school, but all through that district, which is largely devoted to weaving, there are different schools, fourteen or fifteen.

Q.—Do they teach weaving in all textures? A.—It is particularly silk weaving, also flax and perhaps cotton, but I am not sure. Workmen go there from all over. Owners of mills and weaving establishments send their apprentices who show special skill, and they pay for their education. When those apprentices return they know the art of weaving in all its branches, and are practical and thorough workmen. Weaving has been taught in this school for thirty years. School of similar character have been established at Glauchau, Meerane, Lössnitz, Oederan, Milverda, Hamichen, Frankenberg and other towns. The Martin school was established at Lyons, France, fifty years ago. It is the bequest of Mayor Martin, who went out to India and acquired a great fortune, and on his return took measures for the establishment of schools. It is endowed with a large fund. The buildings, &c., cost \$200,000. It contains forty masters and ten assistants. Of late years it has been teaching workmen silk weaving. Lyons was the centre of this industry, but some years ago it began to fail in consequence of competition in other parts of the continent, and superior fabrics were being woven elsewhere. It will be the same as regards the iron industry of Canada if measures in the same direction are not adopted. There is also a professional school at Rouen, where instructions, of very much the

same character is given. They found that they had to go in for practical education or they would entirely have lost the silk weaving industry. In the great iron and steel industry of Westphalia a number of schools are established, the largest being at Bochum. There the employers require all their apprentices and boys under eighteen years to attend the evening classes. It is part of the law, and a boy cannot learn the trade without attending there. It is just as much the law to attend those schools as it is in Canada to attend the public schools. In England there is the Technological College at Bradford, which was opened by the Prince of Wales, in 1882. The cost of buildings and apparatus was \$200,000, and the institution is not yet fully completed. It is entirely the work of the citizens; there is no government grant to carry it on. Then there is the city and guilds of London institute, of which Mr. Galt spoke. The guilds are establishing technical schools all over London. The principal one is at South Kensington and is similar to the polytechnic schools of Germany, Switzerland, Italy and the Ecole Centrale of Paris. Russia has two great Imperial technical institutes, one at St. Petersburg and the other at Moscow, maintained by the State—and Russia is looked upon in Canada as a country of barbarians. Sir William Armstrong has a technical school at Elswick. The London and North-Western Railway Company have similar schools at Crewe. Nine thousand men are employed by the company, together with six hundred apprentices, and the young journeymen attend the evening classes. Messrs. Mather & Platt, large iron manufacturers at Manchester have their own institution. At Crefeld in Prussia, a town of 80,000 people, there is a technical school for the silk industry alone. They take silk and weave it in a fabric at that school, which is supported by the town. It was found to be such a necessity that the town itself voted the money and has since carried on the institution. There are also schools at Mülhausen, (Germany,) Verviers, (Belgium,) Roubaix, (France,) and there is also a training school for marine engineers at Amsterdam. In England there is Kingsbury College and the Young Men's Polytechnic Institute, and the Birbeck Institute, all in London; the Manchester Training School; School of Science and Arts, Oldham; Yorkshire College, Leeds; University College and People's College, Nottingham; College of Science and Arts, Allan Glens' Institution, Anderson's College, Glasgow; Science and Art Museum, Edinburgh; Science School, Crewe. I am giving these cases to show the great advance that has taken place in the instructions of workmen in England. Mr. Galt has spoken about the establishment of the Science and Art Department. The Imperial Government sent commissioners to the great Paris Exhibition in 1868 to find out how workmen were getting along, and they found that the Schools of Industry, such as I have mentioned, that had been established throughout the continent, in Germany, Switzerland, Austria and France, had taught artisans to work so much better than English workmen, that England was being undersold and run out of the market. The Commissioners on their return made that report. I may here say that the Commission should obtain a copy of that report which is to be found in the library at Ottawa; I think it was made in 1869 or 1870 by the Imperial Commissioners to the Imperial Parliament, and is a most valuable work. Another commission was appointed later, and two reports were made; they might have been the reports of the same commission. They reported that the education of the workmen of the continent was causing continental fabrics to supersede English manufactures all over the world. Americans have, within the last few years, taken up this question of trade education. Girard College was among the first to teach the art of handling tools. We hear a good deal about Yankee notions, but the Swiss workman undersells the American at his own door because he has received an industrial education. The Americans are however establishing Technical Schools all over. Here are some of them; Steven's Institute, Hoboken, N.J.; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, Mass.; Free Institute, Worcester, Mass.; Columbia College, Columbia, N.Y.

Q.—What does Columbia College teach? A.—They do not teach practically with tools, but they teach the science of a mechanical training.

Q.—Do you know anything about the school of Mines? A.—I think the school of Mines is the department of Columbia College to which reference is made. There

are also Columbia Union, New York; Manual Training School, Philadelphia; Spring Garden Institute, Philadelphia; Manual Training School, Chicago; Maryland Institute, Baltimore; Manual Training School, Baltimore; Rose Polytechnic Institute, Terre Haute, Indiana; Mechanics Institute, (cost of building \$300,000,) Eastern Pennsylvania; Miller's Manual Labor School, (endowment a million dollars,) Balesville Va.; Workingman's School, New York; Worcester Co. (Mass.) Free Institute of Industrial Science; Manual Training School, St. Louis; Girard College, Philadelphia; Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, New York; Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana; University of California, School of Mechanical Art. A few words with respect to the Cooper Union. A matter has come under my observation which illustrates the absolute necessity of these schools. As you are aware, most of our wall papers are printed in New England, where they have very large factories. The wall paper manufacturers, who have an association desired to obtain new designs, and offered a series of prizes. Now one of the objects for which Peter Cooper established Cooper Union was to find out what trades girls could follow with advantage. One of the ideas was that in designing girls would be successful, and that while it would not interfere with man's labor it would be the means of giving women employment. They have a department there for teaching designing, and the students are put through a regular course and come out with a diploma. As I have said the wall paper manufacturers offered a series of prizes for the best new designs in a considerable number of branches and every prize was taken by girls out of Cooper Union.

Q.—They are taught in classes? A.—Yes; but they were taught the practical work of designing and they carried off all the prizes, which to my mind is a strong argument in favor of woman's work.

Q.—They are simply classes maintained out of the rents of stores and offices in the building, and endowed by Mr. Cooper? A.—I think there may be some special sources of income. I am informed that there are four thousand pupils taught in the different classes at Cooper Union.

Q.—Do you know anything about the education given at John Hopkins University? A.—Only in reading up the subject. My own impression is that this commission or a committee of this commission should visit half a dozen of those American schools before concluding its labors. The Baltimore and Ohio railway have taken a deep interest in this matter, and on finding that their workmen at St. Clair and other works were not turning out a satisfactory product, they deputed Dr. Barnard to examine the subject. He, with two other commissioners, visited all those schools, or most of those I have mentioned, in the old Country and also the schools in the United States and made a report which came out in the early part of this year and which contains valuable information. I think this Commission should obtain half a dozen copies of that report. The result of the Commission's labors was that the Baltimore and Ohio Railway Co., established two schools of their own and are teaching their own apprentices to be thorough workmen. The only point I had to make is this; to my mind in dealing with this question the kindergarten system furnishes the proper foundation for industrial education. If we had the kindergarten system established throughout Canada, that system which teaches the child to work with his brain, hand and eye at the same time, a great advance will be made. Seven years of age I think is the limit at which children are allowed at the kindergarten. By that system he is taught, I say, to work with the hand, eye, and brain, but on going into the public school he is taught to work simply with his brain, or with his hand and eye to a very small extent. My idea is that the kindergarten system should be first used as a means of education; then the public school, which should ground the child in the elementary knowledge he requires, changing the public school curriculum so far as children of the working people are concerned so that they can be taught with a view to their becoming mechanics and artisans; and then they should go from that school at the age of twelve or fourteen to a school such as those I have mentioned, a school which should be authorized by the State, which should teach, not only the science of mechanics, but the actual use of tools as well, as is done at Girard College and other institutions; and the result would be that we would turn

out mechanics who would be thoroughly grounded in their trades, and a class of men who would be superior to those produced under the old system. In Canada we are hedging round our industries with all the protection we can give them; we are trying to make Canada a country in which the workingmen will obtain a good living, and only last session there was adopted a tariff to protect our iron industries, and we must obtain industrial schools and teach them thoroughly how to handle tools and work at their trades.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you think that if the Public School Board were to set apart one or two schools for this purpose, and parents had the option of sending their children to their schools, that boys, after they had passed through the four elementary branches of education, would attend them? A.—Yes. We are bringing up a nation of shopkeepers. To teach a man to earn a living by the use of his hands is the proper way in this country. If a young man wants to enter a profession later on, to become a lawyer or a doctor, let him pay for his education at those special schools. The Canadian people, in order to earn their livelihood, must work with their hands, and I think the whole Public School system should run in that channel, that if a young man wishes to become a professional man he must pay for his education at a special school.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you think the kindergarten system can be carried into the Public Schools? A.—Yes.

Q.—You think that practical education should accompany the ordinary teaching? A.—I have no doubt about it.

Q.—Do you think that a pupil by working part of his time at those special branches and carrying on the ordinary branches as now taught in the Public Schools, would learn nearly as much of the ordinary branches and at the same time would be acquiring the other knowledge in addition? A.—I think he would acquire all of the ordinary branches that would ever be of practical benefit, and at the same time he would acquire a knowledge of those special branches.

Q.—Do you not think there is too much already taught in the ordinary branches? A.—There is too much taught that is never of any use. They teach a boy subjects which no doubt tend to expand his knowledge, but they are of no use to him. He is bound to forget that knowledge because he never can apply it to anything.

Q.—With respect to mechanics becoming specialists instead of learning a trade thoroughly; can a specialist do more work at his specialty than a man would do if he was an all-round mechanic? A.—That is a difficult question. The foreman at the shop may not be the quickest workman at some particular branch, but he is often the best all-round man and the most valuable.

Q.—But he directs the work? A.—A man who did nothing but make soles or heels would become very rapid at that particular branch, but practically useless at anything else. While he might be worth a certain amount of money at that work, he was no use either to himself or his employer at anything else.

Q.—Are you a printer? A.—No; I am not a practical printer.

Q.—If a man serves his term at a country office, where he learns job, press, newspaper and composition, is he as rapid a compositor as the man who never does anything but set type? A.—He is not when he comes into the city office; but I can guarantee that after he has been two years at the case he will have got all the speed he could have got if he had never been anything else, and he would be a more valuable man in the printing office, because he would be a good all-round man. He could set advertisements with some style; while the man who had done composition all his life would set up an advertisement at that would scare the chickens out of their roost. We in Canada have workingmen as intelligent as any in North America or in the world, as well educated and as handy with tools and everything else, but if you do not give them some place where they can learn science and theory as well as

be taught the trade, you are going to turn out inferior workmen. This is a necessity, and while we are endeavoring to build up Canada as a manufacturing country, if you do not give the workmen a chance to learn their trades as well as the workmen of the continent and the United States, there is no possibility of building up this Dominion into a manufacturing country.

Q.—Is there not another very serious disadvantage from the lack of such industrial education in the circumstance that when special skilled labor has been required it has had to be brought from abroad? A.—In my own business—as I say my father is a carpenter—I have known cases in point. I remember one instance in connection with the building of a church. It had an arched round roof and we had to employ workmen from England to do the work for we could not get them in Canada. We obtained one in Canada, but he had drifted out from England, and we had, I say, to import the men to do the work. There is no reason why Canadians should not have done it if they had been properly instructed. I maintain that carpenters should not only be able to handle the plan in store but be able to work from working plans and build anything in wood. If they were properly taught they would be able to do this, and if we had industrial and trade schools we would have more first-class workmen.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you know how many different designs are taught in the kindergarten school? A.—They hardly teach them designs.

Q.—Has not the teacher to furnish a book and a certain number of designs before he or she is allowed to teach, and are not those designs taught to the children? A.—I do not know. This is done no doubt in order to obtain evidence of the capacity of the teacher for a position in the school more than for anything else.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You are no doubt somewhat acquainted with the system in our public schools? A.—Yes.

Q.—Keeping in view the greatest good of the greatest number, do you not think it would be better for the parents sending their children to the common schools that the books should be free, that a portion of the government revenue now diverted for university and higher education should go to educate the children more thoroughly, and do you not think that in some families with the husband earning moderate wages at the trade, children are liable to be taken away from school on account of the cost in that direction? A.—I have peculiar ideas perhaps on that subject. I hold that everything used in the school should be free to the pupil. I do not mean books alone but everything used, and that all those articles should be subject to general taxation.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—In Hamilton we paid a small fee and the books were supplied? A.—We have not that system in Toronto. Not only should books and everything be supplied and subject to general taxation, but every child should be compelled to attend school. With respect to the industrial school at Mimico, the city should look after that institution by a proper system, something like that of an industrial school, and children whose parents are too poor to look after them should be cared for. All through the city there are little waifs of the street, hundreds of them, running round, growing up to be criminals, that should be taken in hand by the city. If their parents cannot support them, they should be sent to a school and taught a trade, and then they would become respectable citizens. It is almost impossible at present to see how these waifs and strays should grow up anything else than criminal; they grow up to be dangerous members of society, but it is not the fault of the children themselves. They have no better chance; we do not look after them. They sleep in doorways night after night. I have scores and scores of times taken two or three little waifs down into the engine room of the newspaper office where I was employed, against the orders of the office, and provided them with some place to sleep, on a pile of

sacks, or some other spot where at least they would not be frozen. They sleep night after night in doorways and we stumble over them; for newspaper men find out these little people. There is of course the Newsboys' Home which looks after a certain number of them, but four times as many are out of it as are in it. They grow up in destitution and viciousness. The industrial school at Mimico is altogether a different place from a school established to furnish industrial education.

CHARLES R. RUNDLE, Contractor and Builder, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What is your business? A.—I learned the trade of a wall mason, but I have been engaged more particularly in the plastering business.

Q.—How long have you been in Toronto? A.—Seventeen years.

Q.—Are you in business as an employer? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long have you been an employer? A.—Fourteen years.

Q.—Did you work as a journeyman in this country during the three years before you commenced business as an employer here? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you tell us if the condition of mechanics in your trade has improved during the past fourteen years? A.—Yes; I think on the whole it has.

Q.—Have the men been paid better wages? A.—The wages are higher now than they were. I worked when I came here for \$2 a day; there were a number working for \$1.50 and \$1.75 for twelve hours.

Q.—What wages would they get to-day? A.—Plasterers get 30½ cents per hour.

Q.—What number of hours do they work now? A.—Nine hours.

Q.—And you think, taking into consideration hours of labor and the rates of wages, they have improved their condition? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you give us any reason why this improvement has taken place, and can you state any matters that have tended to the improvement? A.—The general impression of all employers, I think, as well as the employes is that nine hours a day are sufficient; that is so far as our trade is concerned. Of course the times have improved. Taking men's wages all over the country they have risen. When I started in business first I paid \$2.50 per day; that was before there was any labor organization at all.

Q.—Was that ten years ago? A.—That was about twelve years ago. Then the wages dropped a little down to twenty cents per hour. They have been gradually on the increase here for the last four or five years. The demands of the Union no doubt have brought about that state of things.

Q.—That is partly so; and in the case of plasterers they are very scarce? A.—There is scarcely any time of the year when you can get a sufficient supply.

Q.—You say that twelve years ago you were paying \$2.50 for twelve hours a day, and you are paying now \$2.75 for nine hours; is that the case? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think the combinations among the men have been a benefit to them all around? A.—I don't know; perhaps they have on the whole.

Q.—Do you think the shortening of the hours of labor has demoralized the men at all? A.—No; so far as my experience has gone. When a man stays away from work we speak to him once or twice, and of the sixty men I employ I have no more than one or two who take an occasional spree—they just stay away from their work. I don't know what they do after the hours of labor, but judging from their appearance they do not dissipate.

Q.—Your trade involves pretty hard work? A.—Yes; it is hard work.

Q.—Would you consider nine hours a day quite sufficient for a man to work at your trade? A.—Yes; I am no advocate of long hours.

Q.—Do you take many apprentices? A.—I have three; that is the limit I am allowed.

Q.—You are limited to that number by the Union? A.—Yes.

Q.—In carrying out an agreement with the members of the Union what is the usual method on which you proceed? A.—We draw up documents generally and have them signed by representatives of each association.

Q.—You meet and discuss the different matters? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think that is a good method? A.—I think it is defective as arranged, inasmuch as the fact is that the members representing each Association are as a rule the worst men to come to an agreement. I find them to be generally hot headed on both sides, and they will not wait, and they are not willing to come to an agreement for a considerable time. Perhaps neither side will give way until the men have been on strike for a month or so, which I think is a mistake.

Q.—How would you propose to improve that arrangement? A.—I have thought whether the matter could not be referred to a judge to take evidence and pass it under review, evidence as regards the state of trade, the wages paid, and of such things, and lay the matter before some other party, so that a decision might be arrived at a few months previous to the time when it is necessary for contractors to put in tenders, in order to give the contractors a chance to raise their prices if necessary. With regard to contractors in this country, especially in this city, the system is not like what it is in the old country where there are men employing a large number of hands and possessing a large amount of capital. Here men engaged in the building trade, that is employers, really only act in the shape of foremen; you cannot call it much else. They arrange the work, get the money from the architect or proprietor every few weeks and hand it over to the men. It is not like where a man has a large amount of capital invested. Here it takes the builder all his time, I know it from personal knowledge, to pay every two weeks. It is not a matter of capital and labor or of large firms, but it is a question of builders acting in the capacity of foremen; and the builder simply assumes the position of an employer and either stands or falls by his own ability or push. That is the position so far as the building trade is concerned.

Q.—Do you think some disinterested persons would be able to settle those disputes more rapidly than the persons who are interested in the disputes? A.—I think so. For instance if journeymen thought they required a raise of wages they should give at least four or five months' notice of their intention to apply for a raise. On the other hand if the employers wished to reduce the rate of wages, they should be compelled to do the same thing, and in all cases the matter should be fixed three months ahead. For instance, in regard to the men who have been working for me all summer, I never thought I would have to give the advance, and I could swear positively that I have not received enough to pay the rate since the strike. There was a misunderstanding in that respect. I understood that if the men did not make an application for a raise by the first of January such would not have to be granted until next year. They took the agreement in another light. There was a misunderstanding as to the date of the agreement, and the expiration of the agreement—there was three months of a difference. The men struck in the summer at a time when we could not well allow the work to stand, which I think was very unfair. We submitted the agreement to several architects and they all claimed that the employers were on the right side, and the men had no right to the raise, according to their own agreement; but on the other hand the men submitted the agreement to the Attorney General of this Province, and he interpreted it the other way. It is thus clear that if there had been some person to interpret the agreement, and we had received a fair amount of notice we would have been able to prepare ourselves; for it does not matter so much to the contractors or the foremen what wages we pay, provided we have fair notice and can make our own prices.

Q.—Have you ever known the men to violate the agreement arrived at between the two Associations? A.—So far as my experience goes I have always found the men very honorable in carrying out the construction they put upon the agreement. We have never had any difficulty in regard to that; when an arrangement was once agreed upon it has been carried out.

Q.—Do you know whether in case an agreement was broken you would have power to enforce it? A.—I don't know.

Q.—Does the Ontario Act cover the ground you desire to have covered in regard to the matter of arbitration? A.—I just glanced over it some time ago, but I am not sure whether it covers the case or not.

Q.—What question most frequently causes a strike? A.—Sometimes the matter of apprenticeship will cause a strike. The master is employing a certain number of men, and has one, two or three apprentices. I will state a case. There was an employer who had the privilege of having two apprentices. One of them was no good, he could not do anything; went to the bad. The other boy went to Chicago. The employer claimed that at all events he was entitled to one apprentice. The men claimed that he was not entitled to any more apprentices. He showed that it was impossible to bring a boy back from the United States. The men, however struck because he took on an apprentice.

Q.—To take the place of the boy who was on the other side of the line? A.—Yes. Our last agreement was a more satisfactory one. There cannot be a strike unless the different committees give the proper notice, but before that they could strike at any time. Now they cannot strike until all other means have been exhausted.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do I understand you to say that having sixty men you are only entitled to three apprentices? A.—That is in the plastering trade of which I am speaking.

Q.—How many plasterers do you employ? A.—Twelve.

Q.—And you are entitled to three apprentices? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you know the 28th clause of the Ontario Act; is there anything in it that requires amendment? A.—There is no reference to the fixing of wages. I think they should be fixed in the spring; before the spring work comes on, so that the employer may have a chance to make his arrangements. Of course, in large contracts the men who make them must run the risk, but I think we should know at the beginning of the year what the prices are that we will have to pay. Most building contracts come out in February and March when the architects have prepared the work. In that way builders would get a better chance if the wages were fixed early in the year rather than leave it till the summer, with the possibility of having a strike.

Q.—Then I understand your position to be that you would favor compulsory arbitration, and that arbitrators should fix the rates of wages and the hours of labor? A.—Yes; I would be in favor of that; there should be some board to take evidence on each side.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You said that all the architects, to whom you showed the document, referred to by you, said the employers were right? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did any leading architect in the city say the men were right? A.—Not that I am aware of.

Q.—Are the master builders organized? A.—They are kind of organized; they do not meet, but there was such an organization.

Q.—In case of labor troubles do they come together in a body? A.—Yes; that is all.

Q.—Is there a written understanding between the men of the union and your organization that a certain time is given before a raise in wages takes place? A.—There is.

Q.—What was the cause of the last difficulty in Toronto? A.—It was in regard to the interpretation of that agreement. The representative of the men told me that he showed the agreement to Mr. Mowat, and he supported that view, but that representative himself admitted to me that the verbal agreement made was that the matter

should be discussed on the first of January, not on the first of March. But it was of the interpretation of the agreement, and not on the language of it that the men struck. A.—

Q.—Were the bosses willing to submit the whole difficulty to arbitration? A.—I do not know. I did not hear anything of it at first. The committees on each are, as a rule, not fit men to meet, because they generally get pretty warm on the subject, each looking at it from his own standpoint, and after exchanging a few hot words they separate, and it is difficult to get them together again.

Q.—You cannot say, I suppose, that the employés were willing to submit the matter to disinterested parties? A.—Yes.

Q.—There was a strike at all events? A.—Yes, because some of the employés were not willing to arbitrate, while the majority were willing. What they claimed was that if all these matters had been brought up before the strike occurred they would have been perfectly willing to arbitrate, but the employers claimed that after there was a strike it was not right for the architects to step in and settle the matter.

Q.—In case the two sides could not possibly agree, would you think it right and prudent that a Government board of arbitrators should interfere and settle the difficulty? A.—I do not know whether it would be best done by the Government or by the aid of judges; I think, however, a judge with a commission appointed by the Government might do so.

By The CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—That is a judge with two assessors, one for each side? A.—Yes, that would be a good way of settling it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are there two schedules of wages with you? A.—I pay one man 33½ cents an hour for looking after matters; the general rate of wages is 30½ cents an hour.

Q.—You believe in paying a man according to his ability? A.—No; we do not do that, only in regard to the foreman.

Q.—Are many of your men Canadians by birth? A.—Yes; some of our best plasterers are Canadians; men brought up in our own shops.

Q.—Some inferior hands also? A.—Yes; and they come in from the country. That is one of the difficulties, and I think in that matter our own workmen are cutting their own throats. Toronto and Hamilton are the only places where a man can learn plastering in a proper manner; for he cannot learn it in the country. Take these two cities, and the trade organization limits the number of apprentices, and the result is that while some of our best men go to the United States, we have to draw from the country where there is no chance of properly learning the trade. From the country we get poor bricklayers and poor plasterers. I have some inferior men in my employ, but I cannot do better.

Q.—Are the apprentices indentured? A.—Generally.

Q.—In regard to the building trade, is bricklaying, from your standpoint, a more scientific part of the trade than is plastering? A.—No.

Q.—Is it more fatiguing? A.—I do not think especially so.

Q.—It is not dangerous to the health and constitution of a man? A.—No, for they say plasterers never die. It is a very healthy trade, and I have worked at it for a number of years.

Q.—Then it is an advantage in that respect to belong to the plastering trade? A.—The men breathe the air that has passed over the damp mortar, and they get healthy and strong.

Q.—Why, if bricklaying is not more scientific and is not more fatiguing are bricklayers paid more than plasterers? A.—There is this disadvantage with bricklayers; they do not get in so much time, for plasterers are employed almost all the year round. The plasterers work inside, and in bad days have stoves. Their wages on the whole show more money than the bricklayers, although the latter get higher wages.

Q.—Is that one of the many reasons? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Is not the work of a bricklayer when exposed to the heat of the sun very fatiguing? A.—Yes.

A. M. WICKENS, Stationary Engineer, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How long have you been employed in the capacity of a stationary engineer in Toronto? A.—I have been in Toronto two and a half years in that capacity; I have been coming in and out of Toronto for the last twelve years setting up machinery and have been connected with stationary engineers during that time.

Q.—Is there an organization among the stationary engineers? A.—Yes; we have what we call the stationary engineer's Association.

Q.—Perhaps you will give us an idea of the laws governing the use of stationary engines? A.—That is one of the reasons we formed into an Association; we had no laws at that time in Ontario or Canada.

Q.—Are there not laws for their inspection? There are no inspection laws and that is one of the weak points of the Factory Act. You can go into a factory and see that the belts are properly covered up and so on, but there is no compulsory inspection of boilers or engines.

Q.—What are the qualifications required by law for engineers? A.—There are none at all for stationary engineers; an employer can go on the street and put a man in the engine room provided he thinks he can do the work.

Q.—Does the failure to inspect boilers and steam machinery lead to accidents? A.—Undoubtedly it does.

Q.—There should be a law you think requiring inspection and demanding of owners that steam machinery should be kept in good repair? A.—Yes, sir; either that or a law fixing the status or the amount of knowledge a man should have before being put in charge of an engine.

Q.—That however is a separate matter is it not, from the question of inspection? A.—Not necessarily so.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Supposing there were both? A.—That would be better.

Q.—If we had no law requiring proper inspection of steam machinery by a government official would the requirement of a proper qualification on the part of engineers cover the whole matter? A.—It would help it greatly but it would not cover it entirely; it would make a great difference.

Q.—Would not an engineer be afraid sometimes to report that his machinery was in bad condition? A.—I think not; if he had a licence by law he would not be afraid to make a report; I think it would put him on his feet in that particular matter.

Q.—Have you any other suggestions to make on this subject? A.—Yes; the engineering people of this country want a technical school very badly. If we want high class engineers we have to send to England, Scotland or the United States. Young Canadians go to the United States to the technical schools of that country, and the result is that they stay there, getting the best situations in the country. I was looking a short time ago at a list of the Boston Technical School, and I found twenty-seven Canadians who had passed through that school and had remained there getting exceptionally high salaries for works on the large railways on the other side and other work of that kind. If these men get a high school education here in Canada, when they go so far they have to go to a technical school somewhere and they go to the United States and stay there as, our schools do not teach the subject at all.

Q.—A diploma from one of these schools is a good certificate of efficiency? A.—One of the best in the world.

Q.—Then we not only lose our young men but we have to send abroad for persons to fill like positions at home? A.—Yes. Of course, a school of that kind would not only serve the purposes of mechanical, or stationary, engineers but of machinists and all that class of constructing mechanics; they would go to a school of that kind. I may state that the stationary engineers' association are advocating some such system very strongly with the present government of Ontario, trying to get them to do something or make some kind of a movement in this matter.

Q.—Could the primary part of a technical education of this class be given in connection with the ordinary schools? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—And then if they wished to become engineers they would have to take special branches in a special technical school for that purpose? A.—Yes.

Q.—If a large number of well educated engineers were in Canada, would they take persons under their training to give them practical instructions? A.—I think so.

Q.—Do you know of young men taking lessons in that way who will grow up into engineers? A.—We have young men who are so anxious to do it that they are paying old engineers for private lessons and this is done without any proper apparatus to help the teachers, such as would be found in a properly equipped school; our associations are practical schools of instruction and that is all they really are. The older men are instructors of the younger with a view to make them more proficient in their business; that is one of the principal objects of the association.

Q.—You should have model engines which could be taken apart so as to explain all the inner parts of the engine and so on? A.—Yes; in those schools they have all those things got up in skeleton shape and when they go far enough along, for instance, in Stephens, they have complete shops in which the young men can go right through and learn the whole business as pattern makers, machinists, engineers and so on, and become, say, first class bridge engineers or mechanical engineers of any kind, and they are then in a position to occupy some place in the world afterward.

Q.—Is not there a danger that so much scientific learning will make a man a little too big for his business as a stationary engineer? A.—No, I don't think so; I think the man who knows the least is the poorest engineer, the poorest for himself and for his employer. I may say that the prices now being paid are very bad.

Q.—What wages are paid? A.—They are running all the way from \$8.00 a week to \$20.00 dollars, but I think the average would be about \$10.50 for this part of Ontario.

Q.—Those are very low wages for such an important position? Yes; and these men have longer hours to put in than any other men about the establishment. In every case he has to be there before the others so as to get ready, and he has to be there after the others have gone to see everything secure for the night.

Q.—Have you any further suggestions to make? A.—Well, I don't think I have. There is nothing will help us any more than these things I have mentioned. I may say that when I first started the association here the employers rather looked down upon it, but as soon as they found out what our principles were, and how we were working, they withdrew their antipathy to the association. We showed them that we had their interest at heart as well as our own, and any of those that understand the association have a good feeling towards us. Some of them, however, think we are some kind of a trades union, just because we are banded together, but there are few of that class.

Q.—Is not there danger that if you had strict laws governing this matter they would work hardly upon those having small engines and working occasionally? A.—I think it is possible to make equitable laws for these people.

Q.—Would you give permission to use an engine under a certain power? A.—Yes; I think the law should give a special permit for them; if a man understands how to do a thing, he understands enough to tell how to do it.

Q.—How about agricultural engines? A.—I think if there is anywhere in the world that they want legislation to save life and limb it is in the case of agricultural engines. There have been more people killed in Canada by explosions of threshing engines from incompetency alone than almost any other way; and if they cannot thresh grain without killing so many people I think they had better thresh it with a flail.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—In your business do you find second-hand boilers frequently put in? A.—Very often indeed.

Q.—Are they always in good condition? A.—Not always.

Q.—Is not that one of the evils you have to complain of? A.—It is a necessary evil—one which follows with a business where machinery or any other article is sold second-hand. After a boiler has given almost its whole service to the firm they can afford to throw it away, but a poor man comes along and buys it; he has the worst end of the bargain; the engine is liable to explosion, and it has a short life under any circumstances. A good inspection law would remedy that to a great extent.

Q.—In the case of stationary engines, are they required to have a governor valve to the boiler? A.—Not here, but in cities like Montreal, Buffalo and Detroit where they have city inspection it is required. Montreal is the only Canadian city where they oblige them to put on a lock valve; the matter is in charge of their city inspector.

Q.—There is a governing valve in use on vessels? A.—Certainly; all men running on vessels carrying a certain number of passengers must have a government license; the boiler, engines and hulls have to be inspected by the government inspector.

Q.—Do you know anything about the inspection of vessels? A.—Not in this country. I have had a good deal to do with inspection of boilers for insurance purposes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How many business concerns insure with a steam boiler insurance company? A.—I could not tell you that.

Q.—A large proportion of them? A.—No; only a small proportion; only the larger establishments.

Q.—Is the inspection ordered by the company pretty thorough? A.—Reasonably so.

Q.—Are explosions of insured boilers as frequent as of non-insured? A.—No, sir. I cannot tell what the statistics of Canada are but the statistics of the United States show the proportion to be as one to seventy-two; seventy-two non-insured boilers explode where one insured boiler explodes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you know anything about the rate of insurance? A.—In Canada it is about one and a quarter per cent. but they will not write less than so much insurance. They visit each boiler three times a year and they cannot do that unless the premium is \$25 or more, so they will not usually take a risk of less than \$2,000. The cost of the business is largely in travelling expenses for inspection.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What are some of the chief causes of explosion? A.—There is only one cause for a boiler exploding to my mind and that is carelessness or ignorance on the part of the attendant.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Explosions sometimes take place on steamboats, the engineers of which you say are licensed? A.—Yes; even a licensed man can be careless. I have spent thirty-two years among engines and boilers and the longer I live the more thoroughly I feel convinced that the attendants are accountable in these cases.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—There is a good deal of theorizing on that point, is there not? A.—Not so much now as formerly. There used to be a theory about an unknown gas and all that sort of thing, but latterly that has been all blown to the winds.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Is a boiler which is incrustated or fouled inside more liable to explode than a clean one? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Are these boiler purgers good articles? A.—Some of them are better and some worse. Engineers as a rule use some purger.

Q.—Are there not some purgers which will eat the iron themselves? A.—I believe there are, but I think the time has gone past when those will sell. Engineers who use purgers are beginning to learn enough not to buy any that destroy the iron. The purger business is older than it was; there was a great deal of trouble about it at first.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What is that process which is technically called foaming? A.—It is when the water won't show its proper level and begins to churn up and down.

Q.—Can that be controlled? A.—Yes, usually; it can always be stopped by an engineer who knows his business.

Q.—It would be no source of danger to a man if he understood his business? A.—Any man who has common sense can avoid the danger if he will.

WILLIAM SUTTON, Stationary Engineer, Toronto, called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You corroborate what the last witness has said and entertain the same opinions as he has expressed? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Have you any statements to make in addition to those we have already heard? A.—No; I don't think I have any further than this, that some steps should be taken for the protection of the stationary engineers—those that really are stationary engineers—against people purchasing boilers and engines and placing them in the hands of boys or incompetent men. I believe we have in Toronto somewhere about seventy or seventy-five boilers that are placed right beneath our sidewalks, and these are very apt, I am sorry to say, to fall into the hands of men who are not competent to take proper charge and, of course, their lives and ours and the lives of our friends and families—the lives of all passers by in fact—are in danger at any and every moment. This is a matter which should be taken into consideration by the authorities and the Government.

Q.—You think there should be a thorough system of supervision over boilers and engines? A.—I heard of a man who was in charge of one of these boilers; he did not notice its condition when lighting the fire and finally he got it almost red hot. A plumber went in and observed that he had no water in the boiler but instead of taking out the fire he was going to turn the water right into the boiler. If he had done this he would have blown the boiler out and killed himself and others and destroyed a lot of property. If the man had been competent to take charge of the boiler he would not have done so, of course.

CHARLES W. BARTON, Harness Maker, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How long have you been in the city? A.—Three years last March.

Q.—What branch of the trade do you work at? A.—I work at making the harness.

Q.—Is that distinct from collar making? A.—Yes; distinct altogether.

Q.—What is the condition of the harness trade in this city; what wages do they get? A.—We have a book drawn up between the employers and the employés; it was drawn up five years ago and we are supposed to abide by that book. It calls for first class men to get twelve dollars, second class men to get \$10.50 and third class men \$9 a week.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How many hours? A.—Ten hours every day, excepting Saturday. Of course when the book was drawn up it was supposed to be ten hours every day, but I don't think there is a man in Toronto to-day who is getting \$12 a week. There are only about three or four second class men who are getting \$10.50 and there are men in the city working below nine dollars and down as low as six dollars a week. I have heard of some at \$5.50, men who went through their time and are supposed to have learned their trade.

Q.—Have you any organization amongst the harness makers? A.—We have had up to the present time. It is not generally known but we have not anything now which is worth anything. We had an assembly of the Knights of Labor; we were the third assembly of the Knights of Labor in the city.

Q.—At the time the book was drawn up they were organized in Toronto? A.—They were as a union, the Harness Makers Protective Association.

Q.—It was under the management of the union that this association was made? A.—Yes.

Q.—What in your opinion has caused this decrease in wages? A.—I don't think the rate of wages was ever paid. The bosses got together and they said to the men: Now look here; we have a lot of old men around who are not able to earn nine dollars a week, we will put another provision in here and will employ them at whatever they are worth. Of course under that they crept out and other men are being employed down to six dollars and there is no regular scale at all.

Q.—Do you think that grading wages has a tendency to lower wages? A.—Yes; I think so. If a man wants big wages and can do the work he will get good wages and will get employment during the busy season, though when the season is over they will keep the cheap hands on and pay off the well paid men.

Q.—And a well paid man if he wishes to have work must come down to the prices of the others? A.—That is the reason, I think. Another reason is that the bosses have no organization amongst themselves so that if a young man starts in business and goes on and makes cheaper goods than the others, they are working one against another, one selling at a certain price and another at a lower price, and of course it comes out of the pockets of the employes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are the harness makers better paid in this country than in England? A.—Of course they are getting a little more money but I don't think they can do as well on the money they get here as they can in the old country on the money they get there.

Q.—The purchasing power of the money is greater there? A.—Yes; rent is cheaper. In some of the small towns there where you get a decent wage you get a nice little house for three and six pence or four shillings a week and everything else is cheap.

Q.—Have you any suggestion you wish to make to us in reference to trade matters? A.—I hardly know what anybody could do to better trade; it seems to me to be in an awkward state just now.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—I would like to know how your harness compares with that which is made in Montreal? A.—The bosses say it is altogether better.

Q.—Do you know what wages are paid in Montreal? A.—I do not.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You think if the employers had a Union by which they could keep up the prices the men would reap the benefit in larger wages? A.—I think they would, because there are quite a number of bosses in this city who are apparently really square men and are willing to help the men along, but I don't think they can afford to pay more wages; of course some might pay more wages. For instance, I know when I

came to this country there was a boss in this city advertising for men and I answered the advertisement, not knowing the country. We were paid a dollar a set for making these long tugs and I thought that was the regular price. We went to work and had to work very hard to get in a set in a day's work; and after doing that for some weeks he said: Now, I will put you on week's work; that shows you can just earn a dollar a day. When I came to get the piece book of the Union I found they were worth \$1.65, and yet he was only paying a dollar.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Others were paying \$1.65? A.—Yes; he had two or three of us working on the same wage.

Q.—It does not require a large sum to open a store in the city? A.—Yes; it does; sometimes you have to give harness on credit. Of course some of the whole-sale men will back them up, but I don't think it would be possible for any journeyman harness-maker to save sufficient out of his wages to start in business.

Q.—Are the shops generally pretty comfortable? A.—Some are, and some are not. Some of them have not got very good light and others not very good ventilation.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Are there many men thrown idle in a slack time? A.—Of course there is a great number, but as a general rule the shops don't discharge their men. They may discharge one or two and put them on short time and then of course the whole of them have to suffer, of course in the winter time just when they need more money; that brings wages down considerably. I have known some shops for three months in the winter when the men are on three-quarters time, receiving 18½ cents on full time and then in winter it would be brought down by 25 per cent. I think that is about the rule with all trades in winter. I have known men in winter to work half time for four months; I know one such case.

Q.—Do you think the trade is overstocked with workmen—the supply greater than the demand? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—In summer time you have work enough? A.—Yes. Some of the employers are obliged to buy stock in summer because they have not got it made up, whereas, if they were to launch out a bit and make up their goods they would be able to keep the men going all the time.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Would not shorter hours help you? A.—I think they would. Of course last year in many shops we had two hours taken off on Saturday night; we tried to get half-a-day, but as the men were divided we got only two hours in some of the shops and some of those who signed the agreement have gone back on it.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—If the men combined properly and stated the case plainly to the bosses, do you think any arrangement could be made, so that the bosses could shorten time and so that you could be put on full time? A.—I believe that could be managed; but the trouble is, you can't get at the bosses as a whole, because they have no union. Each one has to go to his own individual boss. He will say that there is another man who is paying such a wage or keeping his men to such a time, and that he cannot afford to do it if the other would not.

Q.—If the harness makers were properly organized and stated this in an intelligent manner to the bosses, don't you think that some arrangement could be made between them? The employers could do as well, only they would have to increase the prices of harness? The bosses are selling too low, owing to competition? A.—Yes. On the other hand, we have a harness factory which claims to sell harness about ten dollars cheaper than other harness makers, and they have to cut the men down still lower.

Q.—Then, there is really no way of relieving the difficulties that you can see?
 A.—No. I would like very much to see some way; I know that the men, as a rule, are very dissatisfied.

Q.—Have you ever thought of co-operation? A.—Some of them have thought of it and talked about it, but they never came to any conclusion. I think the men were in a position last summer—if anything could have been done—to have bettered themselves, if they had been handled. But they were all one against the other, and for that reason they could not do anything. Of course they had the teamsters and other men with horses; they were all united; they were in the different unions, and they might have helped them to carry any point they wanted. If they had started a co-operative store, they might have shut up a good many stores unless they gave reasonable pay.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you think that the old Union among the harness makers secured their interest better than this Assembly of the Knights of Labor? A.—They may have been the best at one time; but I think if we had been of the Knights of Labor we could have got more than we got as a Union. My own idea is, that the best thing we could do now is to start a Union again.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are there not some foreign establishments in the harness trade? A.—Well, there is a Buffalo firm called the Canada Harness Co.—the one I spoke of before.

Q.—Do they pay the same wages as the men on Yonge street? A.—No; not by far; they work on a different style.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—And what is the result? A.—I can hardly tell you. The men are working there for almost nothing.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG—

Q.—Is their harness as good? A.—No; it is not. Of course the men cannot make it; they get only about half what we get. They all work by piece work. The firm employs a contractor who contracts to make so many dozen sets for a certain wage; then he hires a fitter and finisher who fits and finishes the work with the contractor and then they employ either a lot of boys or young fellows who can just stop the men who are out of work. They are obliged to do that or starve. They pay next to nothing and if they work very hard and manage to knock out a dollar a day they do very well—in fact they can hardly do that.

Q.—Do they get their material from the other side? A.—I don't think they get much from the other side; of course there are different statements going about but I cannot say.

Q.—Was the Ontario harness company on King street originally an American firm? A.—Yes; it was; it is a branch of a Buffalo firm; they were here once before under the name of Anderson.

Q.—Do they depend in a great measure on improvers—these young men between apprentices and journeymen? A.—Well they get a boy at first and teach him to stitch and get other young men in from the country who have served two or three years and cannot get work in other shops, so they go there. They are continually changing their men but they can get enough to keep going. They will advertise for instance for twelve men; everybody knows that they cannot employ that number, but if all that number come there are always so many spare men in the city.

Q.—Have you any apprentice system? A.—No; we have not.

WALTER S. APPLETON, harness maker, Toronto, called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Have you anything more to say than has been stated by the other witness?
A.—I think an indenture law would be a benefit to the trade because there are so many incompetent workmen in the trade. They serve one or two years in the country and then come to the city and pass themselves off as journeymen. I think shorter hours would be a benefit to the trade if they would keep the men more employed during the year.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you think a Government law compelling indentured apprenticeship would be a good thing for your business? A.—Yes, I do.

Q.—Would compulsory indenturing be the best? A.—Under the present state of the trade and there being no organization of the trade I think it would be better.

Q.—Have you any further suggestion to give us in addition to what has been said? A.—I think if there could be a licensing of the livery stable people so as to restrict them a bit it would be better—something which would induce more private carriages to be kept and that would extend trade.

Q.—I think what you want is thorough organization amongst yourselves? A.—I think that is the main cause of the trouble. Legislation would not do us much good without local organization; indenturing laws would help us and local organization would do the rest. I have heard my boss tell me that labor is let out from the industrial school by contract to a Montreal firm at fifteen cents a day, and that comes in competition.

The CHAIRMAN:—

I understand that after the existing contracts have expired they will not be renewed.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—There has been no harness making in the Central prison? A.—No; I believe not.

Q.—You are speaking now of Montreal? A.—Yes. This harness comes from Montreal here and is sold lower in Toronto than the local harness on account of the cheap labor. I think I might say that the average wage is not \$12 or \$10.50 or \$9—it is nearer \$8. I lost time last year thus reducing my wages below \$8—short time in winter was the cause.

OWEN MEAD, Toronto, called and sworn:—

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you occupy any office in a benefit society? A.—Yes, I am permanent secretary of the Metropolitan Lodge of the Manchester Unity of Odd fellows; Lodge 6534.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Tell us how the funds in your society are invested? A.—Do you want me to speak of the English Society or those we have here?

The CHAIRMAN:—Better confine yourself to those about which you can speak personally.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are all the branches of your society incorporated? A.—No; they are not incorporated.

Q.—Is the parent society incorporated? A.—Yes; in England.

Q.—Are the funds of your society used for any other purpose than that which is stated in the by-laws? A.—No; in fact we don't do anything of the sort. I would

like to speak about our incorporation. We are situated in this way; that our district is the Montreal district and of course belongs to the Province of Quebec. Well, we cannot incorporate here because the whole of our district funds have to go to Montreal and therefore we are fixed in that position. But on the 16th of this month we intend opening a new Toronto district; we have just got the papers out from England and then we will have a Toronto district of the Order and we will be able to incorporate as a district, and then incorporate each lodge under the local laws.

Q.—Do your treasurers give bonds for security of the money entrusted to them?
A.—No; we have nothing of that kind at present; our surplus money is invested in the banks.

Q.—Do you publish an annual statement? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are people ever induced to join your society by misrepresentations? A.—No; not in the slightest. We would not dare to do that under our general laws.

Q.—They don't find after they have got in, a different state of things from what they were given to understand? A.—No; we have to make a return to England every year.

Q.—Do your members get the benefit of the surplus funds over and above what is required for benefits? A.—We have an arrangement for that, but we are too young yet here to be able to do it, but we shall do so after being established five years. We have a quinquennial return to make and whatever the surplus is, beyond providing for the order is paid back to the members according to the amount paid and received from them.

Q.—Have you any insurance benefit? A.—Yes; for children, and an extra one for members.

Q.—Can a member of your order will to any person other than the person named in his certificate the amount of his insurance? A.—He is compelled, when he first comes in, to say to whom his money shall go, but he can revoke that at any time by filling up another form.

Q.—Supposing that a person was insured in your society, and the benefits were to go to his wife, and that his wife should die; supposing that he should be taken sick himself before another form was made out, could he will that money to another person? A.—I think our law provides that it shall go to his children.

Q.—Could he leave it to anybody else? A.—Yes; he could if he had time.
Q.—Supposing he should die before he had time to make out one of the old forms could he will that money to any person other than the person named in the certificate? A.—I don't know any reason why he should not; we have all manner of forms for that particular purpose, and our laws state distinctly that the money should go to the wife or sister or children or mother. That is according to the law; we are bound by the law of England as we are incorporated there and we cannot go out of the general law. We may have our by-law or district law but we are compelled to go by the general laws of England.

Q.—It is not possible for a person to be defrauded out of that money? A.—No.

Q.—It is not possible to use the funds for any other purpose such as speculation in property? A.—No; they are very particular about that; we cannot even spend it in getting up a supper and we must not touch the sick or funeral fund under any circumstances.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Who has the right to spend the money? A.—It is by the vote of the lodge.

Q.—The money is in the hands of the treasurer? A.—It is invested by the trustees; the treasurer holds only a small amount.

Q.—How many trustees? A.—Three; and it can only removed from the bank by a resolution passed in the lodge and the bank must get notice through me that such is the case before they can allow the money to go.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Would not it be better to limit the liabilities of these societies in some way?
A.—Ours is pretty well limited by the laws of England, because we don't dare to allow a member to insure over £200.

Q.—Does the law of England apply in Canada? A.—Yes; because we are bound by the general law. I will tell you another thing, if a member is insured for sick pay and it is over his average wages we could not pay him without the permission of the Grand Master and the Board of Directors. At present we are paying two dollars a week for the first year and two dollars a week for the remainder of the sickness, but in the new law it will be four dollars for the first six months, three dollars for the second, and two dollars as long as the sickness lasts: \$80 on the death of the husband and \$40 on the death of the wife. Then there is children's insurance costing them about 40 or 45 cents a year. A child can be insured after it is three months old and the amount rises from 30 shillings to eight pounds; after that they get no more until they belong to the Society. If a man dies the widow can insure the money she would have received supposing that her husband had lived. Then there is an extra insurance insuring six dollars a week instead of four. Those were all new laws coming into force this year.

Q.—Do you think these benefit societies should be under government superintendence? A.—Yes I do; they are in England and that is what we want to do here. In fact our people in Montreal called on Mr. White to try if he could not get a special Act covering our own body but he advised us to wait a year or two because he thought there would be a Dominion Act covering all these things. That was two years ago. Of course we are very anxious that there should be not an Ontario Act but a Dominion Act.

Q.—A Dominion incorporation Act? A.—Yes.

Q.—But that is not exactly what I asked? A.—Well then, Dominion inspection.

Q.—General supervision of your business to see that the funds were properly secured and the business properly carried on? A.—I think it would be very advisable.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Auditing your accounts and so on? A.—Yes; it is done in England and we have to make returns to the registrar. We have over 500,000 members and over six millions of pounds sterling capital?

Q.—Where is that money invested? A.—In various ways, in public securities a good deal of it is in mortgages in England.

By Mr. HEAKES :

Can that money be used? A.—For nothing but for the purpose for which it is subscribed.

Q.—What was it subscribed for? A.—Ours is to provide for payments in sickness and payments on the death of husband, wife or children.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—It is purely a benefit society? A.—Purely a benefit and benevolent society.

By Mr. GIBSON :—
Q.—Don't you think the amount taken from insurers is too heavy, that too much is paid for insurance? A.—No; I don't. We pay only fifteen cents a week and out of that we allow them a free doctor for attendance.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you give charity in addition to the benefits to which a member is entitled? A.—We even give relief. Supposing a person came over here in distress and he came to us we would allow him out of the relief fund; we pay three cents every quarter for that purpose.

Q.—Not out of the regular fund, the general fund? A.—No; we cannot pay that for any purpose whatever. If we did, before we could make our return we would have to make it up by excursions or soirées, &c.

Q.—If the local fund were not sufficient cannot you get a fund from England? A.—We first go to the district and if they cannot make it up we go to the Unity at Manchester.

Q.—You spoke as if the Order was of recent introduction; was it not here thirty years ago? A.—It was, in the form of what we call the Canadian Order of Oddfellows, but when I came out here first I wanted to see the old Order established with a direct connection with England. We tried to do so for a long time and five years ago we formed this Metropolitan lodge; we have two more here in Toronto now and we purpose forming this new district.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—In case a candidate for admission does not pass inspection to the doctor is the money he has paid returned? A.—Yes. If a candidate comes and pays us a dollar and does not pass the doctor he is given his dollar back.

JOHN GALBRAITH, Professor of Engineering, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—I believe you wish to address the Commission respecting technical education? A.—I do not wish it; I have been sent for, and I am prepared to tell you anything I can on the subject. I have not really put my thoughts into such a shape as to tell you systematically anything.

Q.—Have you heard the testimony of Mr. Galt? A.—No; I have seen no testimony whatever.

Q.—You were not present when Mr. Galt or Mr. Kribs gave evidence? A.—No.

Q.—Could you put your views respecting technical education into narrative form without waiting for questions? A.—That is just the trouble. I could speak perhaps, with respect to some portions of the subject. I do not think it is likely that what would apply to one portion of technical education would apply to another; I do not think you can make many generalities.

Q.—To what extent have you been connected with technical education? A.—Only in the teaching of engineering.

Q.—At what engineering school? A.—At the School of Practical Science in Toronto. It is not, however, what is ordinarily known as technical education; that is why, perhaps, a misapprehension might arise.

Q.—What class of engineering is it? A.—Civil engineering, principally. It is giving an education to a professional man; what I understand technical education to mean generally is the education of an artisan, a workman. If that is the meaning of it, I have had practically very little experience, although I have done a little of that kind of work, but very little. The work I have in teaching engineering compares to the work of a medical professor in teaching medicines, and it is not, I think, ordinarily understood by technical education; at least, not in the sense that technical education would include the education of a doctor or a lawyer, or a professional man, as well as a mechanic. If you take it in that sense, of course, I am familiar with part of that work.

Q.—How many pupils have you in your school? A.—Sixty, at present.

Q.—And these are all studying what? A.—Most of them civil engineering.

Q.—So that it is not at all a branch of popular education, but a special study? A.—Of higher education.

Q.—Of professional education? A.—Yes. At the same time the engineer is brought more into contact with the trades, that is with the engineering trades, than he has to be familiar with work of all kinds. He is something like an architect in that respect, and the bricklayer, the carpenter, the blacksmith, and the mechanic generally, and with all these trades. If he is not, he is not fit to be an engineer, so that, in that way engineers are perhaps, more interested in what is known as technical education than any other class.

Q.—Take steamfitters and plumbers, and men of that class, do you think they have sufficient theoretical knowledge of their business in addition to the practical

knowledge they possess to make them first-class workmen? A.—I think as a general rule they have not. I know they would be benefited by more education; I feel sure of it. These are the trades with which the engineer is brought in contact, and he can see to a certain extent the want of education in the workmen.

Q.—If a plumber had a better theoretical knowledge, for example, he would be more interested in securing proper ventilation by his work, and so on, would he not? A.—He ought to be able to know how to do his work. I suppose he does work according to his payment. If a builder is not willing to put in good plumbing it will not be put in by the plumber.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is there an inspector appointed for that work? A.—I believe so. There is no doubt a great deal of bungling in the trades due to ignorance, and, at the same time, there is a great deal of bad workmanship due to scheming, not to ignorance at all, but due to competition for contracts, to small prices paid for the work. I think that, perhaps, there is as much due to that cause as to the other cause. At the same time it is quite certain that every workman, no matter what trade he is in, would be benefited by having better opportunities for learning the theoretical side of his work; but still it is very difficult to see how to get up a practical plan of doing it. It is hard to do this in the ordinary public school where boys are taught, where they learn reading, writing, arithmetic, and history, which are easy to teach and require no apparatus, nothing except a teacher. If you are going to teach boys trades, such as blacksmithing, carpentering and work in a mechanic's shop you can easily see that the expense of doing that will be on a scale, if efficiency is to be secured, that will simply make it altogether impossible.

Q.—That would be to teach trades in every school? A.—Yes; and to make education free. I do not think it is at all possible to teach trades generally except as they are being taught now—that is to say by a boy going to learn a trade for himself; at the same time I think there are certain parts of theory connected with each trade that a man or boy should know more fully, and that knowledge he has no chance of acquiring as things are at present. Perhaps the best way to secure it would be by means of night schools. Boys or men working at trades cannot give up time in the day; it is utterly useless to think of it. But boys until they are thirteen or fourteen years old go to school, and then go to a trade, and they could learn the theoretical part at a night school. Let the people interested in the trade get together, and arrange for a certain amount of scientific instruction in every town. Let them fill out what has not been done in the schools for one thing, and let them teach more on the lines of their own work. I think the only kind of successful teaching in that way has been by men familiar with the trades taught; I do not think the ordinary school teacher can teach the theory necessary for blacksmithing, carpentering or anything else. I think a pupil is very apt to learn more from a man who is familiar with the trade, and yet who has studied it and is altogether a higher class of workman than the ordinary workman. If you could get a few such men in every town they would do more for workmen than any other class of people. It is a pity there are not more of them. In the engineering trade the difficulty is not very great, simply because the engineer has to learn something about the trades connected with his work, and he then makes a very good teacher. He can teach the workmen engaged in those trades the theoretical knowledge they want. I do not see how that can be done very well in other trades; it can be done in the engineering trade simply because in engineering there is a class of men who have the theory better than the workmen themselves. In many other trades there is not that class at all, and the difficulty lies there.

Q.—Could not the children while attending school be taught generally the use of ordinary tools, the natures of woods and the properties of metals, and so on? A.—I have very little confidence in anything of that kind. I do not think it would be worth a snap of the fingers.

Q.—Why? A.—Because there is nothing systematic in it. They are all separate and individual facts, and they would go through a boy's mind like a receipt

in a cook book. Once over, and a year afterwards, if he had not occasion to need the facts, all would be forgotten. Learning a few little facts of that kind does not constitute training. I think a boy would be far better trained for any trade if he were taught just the ordinary things in school, and taught them well; his mind would then be trained to some extent, because the work would have been done systematically. Take a boy of fourteen who learns a little carpentering and the use of tools; I can hardly imagine what could be taught but a little theoretical knowledge regarding different things; but when he has obtained that knowledge you have not educated him.

Q.—Would it not make him handy and versatile? A.—It would, if you gave him time enough. If you had a carpentering school and put a boy through it for three or four years, at the end of that time the boy would turn out a better carpenter than he would turn out in existing circumstances where he has simply to pick up his knowledge. But if you simply teach every boy who goes to school a little carpentering you are going to make the same mistake that is said to be made now; you are undertaking to teach boys a lot of stuff they are never going to use, and to force things upon them they do not want and will never want.

Q.—One witness, Mr. Kribs, said that boys with such technical knowledge would learn to be handy with their hands, and he mentioned that boys of the better class had for some years no idea that they had hands? A.—Perhaps he may be right; but still I cannot imagine myself, as a boy, going to work to learn carpentering when I had not the faintest idea of being a carpenter or of going into the trade afterwards. I do not imagine I could learn it any better then; I do not think it would do any good.

Q.—Suppose a boy from school has a theoretical knowledge of the steam engine, and so on, would he not be better prepared to become a mechanical engineer than one who has not such knowledge? A.—I do not think so. I do not think schools are fitted for teaching boys the steam engine. I think they need to learn something lower down than that in schools. The steam engine is a thing that cannot be properly taught until a boy has left school.

Q.—Are you aware that it has been taught in some classes? A.—I do not know how much it is taught. From my experience I have very little confidence in that kind of knowledge; I do not think there is any royal road to learning; the only way to learn anything is by hard work. The idea of taking a little of this and a little of that, whether it is wanted or not, is perfectly absurd, and a waste of energy and time. There is no more value in learning a trade that a boy is not going to follow than in learning a science or anything else that a person is not going to use. The only value it can have is an educational value, but if it is taught in that way it is simply worse than useless.

Q.—Your profession is that of engineering; do you think you are any the worse engineer because you have a knowledge of the classics and mathematics? A.—The classics are not necessary, but you cannot be an engineer without mathematics. I do not think I am much the worse for knowing classics. It is a question of teaching children that which will do them the most good. I think if a teacher has to teach all these subjects he is wasting his energies, and he is not doing any good. The attention of a teacher in an ordinary school should not be given to too many subjects, but to a certain number that should be taught systematically. If a boy is put through that course he is educated and he is fit to take up other subjects. Just as training in the classics is not given for the help it gives you in a profession, but for the training it gives you mentally. Surely a purely systematic education will do good, and that is the education you must give. If you can make the teaching of trades of educational value, and teach them systematically, then I say at once that education will do good; but I do not see how it can be done.

Q.—Do you know anything in regard to Mechanics' Institutes? A.—No.

Q.—Or as to their mode of teaching? A.—No. Although these things are very necessary it seems that the only places in this country where technical education, if you like to call it such—I do not know whether it is such or not—is taught is at the penitentiary and the Mercer Institute.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What trades are taught at Penetanguishene? A.—If a man goes to the penitentiary he can be taught a trade systematically. There must be some experience in teaching trades, and, of course, they have learned something about teaching trades in those institutions.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—And that knowledge will be possessed by the wardens? A.—They are the only men who have devoted their time to the systematic teaching of a trade; there is no one else in the country who has had any experience. The masters in the different trades, as I understand it, do not teach their apprentices, or rather, perhaps they teach them something, and the boys have to look to themselves to pick up the trade.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are you acquainted with the history of technical education at places like Chemnitz or Zürich? A.—No; I cannot say that I am. I have not had time to study it. It has not been exactly in my line and I have not worked it up.

Q.—Are the schools like the Institute of Technology in the United States? A.—Yes; that is a school of the same class as ours, only a great deal better. That is not, however, for education simply in trades.

Q.—Have you seen the report recently issued? A.—These schools do not refer to the teaching of trades.

Q.—Not of trades but of technical knowledge, without absolutely teaching trades; the giving of a course in technical instruction? A.—The work at the Stevens Institute is very high class work; as high as the University work here. It is not a kind of work that could be taken up by a boy at the public school at all.

Q.—Have you made any study of the work done in evening classes in England? A.—I do not know. I have not had an opportunity of studying these matters, but I think the only successful way of doing the work to which you refer is in night schools. It is utterly impossible to do anything else, and then, as I have said, I think those night schools should be systematically conducted, and teachers of the day schools might, to a certain extent, be used in them. But I think if you get men like engineers or foremen in the different trades, who possess a good theoretical education in addition to their practical knowledge, (and such men might be picked up here and there to teach in night schools), a great deal of good would be done. I do not see any other way of doing it. If you do not do that, what is to be done? It is the only method to educate men and boys thoroughly in the trades. The only thing to be done besides that is to educate the boy in the ordinary branches before he leaves school, say at fourteen years, and you know how much a boy will take up before he reaches that age. At that time he is full of fun and nonsense, and has not come to his bearings, and he never settles down to work until he is eighteen, nineteen or twenty. I have little confidence in the knowledge he can get at the public school, except in reading, writing and arithmetic. Other instructions suggested might be good; I am not prepared to speak for I do not know; but I think he gets a more systematic training in reading, writing and arithmetic than he can hope to get at any trade, unless he has a very good teacher. The difficulty is to get the teachers. How can you get a teacher for more than one trade? If there is to be a master for each trade, and there are to be masters in the schools the boys might learn the trades, but what good are the trades going to do in a large school?

Q.—We are not taking up the teaching of trades, but technical knowledge? A.—The only way you can teach that is in connection with the trades, and, if a teacher has not a knowledge of the trade, he cannot teach the other.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are there not certain principles taught in your college which could be applied to mechanics? A.—That is what we do teach or profess to teach, the application of those principles to mechanics.

Q.—Why could not those principles be taught in elementary classes in the public schools to pupils, say, twelve or thirteen years old, or, say, up to fourteen?
 A.—The first thing a boy has to learn before he takes up such a subject is arithmetic; then he has to learn geometry, and he ought to have a little algebra. If he learns these three branches by the time he is fourteen, enough to go on with, he is all right. But the trouble with most of the boys is, that they want to learn mechanics at once; they think they can learn mechanics without getting up these branches first. For two years I taught an evening class in connection with our work. I had a large class of carpenters one winter, I think about fifty to start with. The men were very enthusiastic. I gave two lectures a week. I began teaching the theory of their work. I knew enough of the practical part to work with them, and to keep right in the line of their work, and applied the theoretical knowledge as closely as possible. I found that, although they were anxious to learn, yet two-thirds of them had not sufficient education to start with. Some did not know how to handle vulgar fractions or decimals. I found I had to stop and teach part of that subject. Some of them had not a knowledge of the ordinary principles of geometry. Again I had to stop work and try to teach them a little geometry. Again, they did not know and could not understand a rule written shortly as an algebraic formula, and I had to write all such out at length, almost covering the blackboard. I found these average difficulties cropping up constantly, and the consequence was, I had to give a sort of average instruction, and I had to let the men who knew the least go altogether. About one third were sufficiently educated to go on with the course, and they followed it to the end of the term. Those who could not follow and found it difficult, gave up; so there was only a certain percentage, and not a very large percentage, who had preliminary education sufficient to enable them to understand the application of theory to their business.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Is not the fault in these things with public school teachers? A.—Perhaps.

Q.—Their lack of trained education unfits them to teach the children proper?
 A.—That is the idea I am endeavoring to convey.

Q.—They do not practically apply their education to the intelligence of the child they are teaching? A.—Yes.

Q.—A teacher in school wants to teach geometry; he does not need to go far for examples by which he can put geometrical figures or principles into a child's head. He looks across the street at a building, and he can observe what angles they are. Would not a child know more about geometry by such practical methods than by theoretical teaching? A.—I quite agree with you. The trouble with all ordinary teachers in teaching subjects like that is that they are not familiar with the trades. If they were familiar they could apply the theory and teach it. An engineer can teach the theory to carpenters, blacksmiths and steamfitters in a better way perhaps than any other man, because he cannot be an engineer without having a fair knowledge of the trades. Take a school teacher who is not an engineer, although he had read up all about mechanics, yet when he commenced to address the workmen he would be all at sea, his examples would be all wrong, and he would make himself ridiculous.

Q.—So we are turning boys out of the public schools who know nothing?
 A.—Yes.

Q.—But he can go to work and work out problems in arithmetic but cannot teach the knowledge? A.—That is the trouble with a good deal of our school teaching. Perhaps it is unavoidable. I will tell you one thing that makes it hard; it is easy to teach one, two, three or four pupils in that way, but to teach a large class is somewhat difficult. You have to address yourself to the average boy; you cannot take them individually. If you can teach persons singly you can do it much better than you can teach half a dozen together.

Q.—All we have to do is to carry out the Kindergarten system further than we are doing. Could not that system be extended to children fifteen years old?

A.—Educate the teachers in the trades to some extent, to the same extent as an architect or an engineer is educated in his trade, and he can teach the theory of those trades to some advantage. If he is not educated in the trade he cannot teach it at all, and a boy has to depend on his common sense. I think a great deal more could be taught if teachers had more practical knowledge. Perhaps the way to overcome the difficulty would be for our normal schools, where a great many of our teachers are educated, to have some trade-teaching done there, and then those men, who were so instructed, could go through the country and spread it. I do not know, however, where you are going to get the teachers. You have got to build them up. The education of a boy can be carried on to much more advantage by practical questions than by questions up in the clouds; it is not easy for a boy to go through gymnastics of figures which he cannot grasp. I have very little faith in what is called science teaching in the ordinary schools—that is to young boys. I do not think science teaching can be taught in such a way as to be of educational value. I do not think there is much use in telling a boy how to get specific gravities, and to calculate the height an arrow will rise if shot from a bow; although these things are simple acts the matter is a difficult one. There is no use in trying to make it easy. The boy does not really understand it, and when he does not understand it he is not being educated. You will make him a better man by teaching him simple things he can understand, rather than by teaching him all the science in the world if he does not comprehend it, and science, even in its simplest form, is difficult. It is beyond the mind of a boy. In engineering trades experiments are being made in regard to education. In the Boston Institute of Technology, which is an engineering school, they have a work shop. It is divided into several parts; one part is a carpenter's shop; another a pattern machine shop; another is a foundry; and another is a machine shop furnished with a few ordinary machines, a planing machine and so on. These are all trades a man must know to be an engineer. The course is a four years' course; the student takes lectures on the theory in one part, and he gains the practical knowledge in another. He is forced to put in out of the four years, three months in each shop. The pupils are under the management of a competent foreman. In the shops they merely learn the hand work; the idea is not to make a boy a workman. He is put through the blacksmiths', carpenters' and machine shops and the foundry, not at all with the idea of making him a workman—that cannot be done in three or six months or two years—but with the idea of giving him such knowledge of the handling of materials, and of the materials themselves, as will enable him to combine his theoretical knowledge with the practical, and in that way make him an engineer. It is utterly impossible for an engineer to be an expert carpenter, machinist and moulder, but to be an engineer he must be judge of the work of these trades. There is no opportunity of picking up that knowledge except by questioning the men and keeping his eyes open. That is the way he has to learn now. These shops are doing more in the way of educating engineers in their trades than has been done hitherto. Such institutions go that far, but as I have said they are not used for any other purpose. It strikes me they might be used for other purposes, if established to educate young men in trades who do not expect to be engineers, those who are willing to work ten hours a day in the shops, and thus they are learning the trade. Perhaps they might not work ten hours, but six or seven hours, and might attend certain lectures on the theory of their work in the other part of their institute. In that way an educated workman could be produced. His work would be principally practical work combined with a certain amount of theory, whereas an engineer's work is principally theory combined with a certain amount of shop work, which is a very small part of it. Both these objects might be secured in a school of that kind, but if such school were established—leaving out engineers altogether and speaking only of workmen—it would have to be established not only in Toronto, Hamilton and Montreal and the large cities; but smaller schools, thoroughly equipped, would have to be established all over the country. The boys who learn trades as a class are not those who can afford to leave home, and go to a large city to attain their education. It is only the wealthy class who can do that for their children. I see that there are a great many difficulties anyway, and I do not see how you can get over them.

TORONTO, Friday, 2nd December 1887.

WILLIAM HOUSTON, M. A., Librarian of the Ontario Legislative Assembly, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You have prepared yourself to give us some special information, I believe?
A.—Well, I don't know whether it would be right to call it information; it will be a mixture of facts and information perhaps.

Q.—What particular ground do you expect to cover? A.—Just what is now being done, as far as anything is being done, in industrial training under our educational system, with perhaps some suggestions as to how we could modify it.

Q.—Would you rather put it in narrative form? A.—If you wish I could make a statement and leave myself open to be interrupted by questions at any time.

Q.—Will you be good enough to begin your statement? A.—I may say that my remarks of course will apply to this province mainly. I am not acquainted with what is done in the other provinces, either in the way of general education or industrial training. In this Province we have not to consider the question, which is often raised in connection with industrial education, whether the State can do anything in relation to education or not, because we have a public system of education largely maintained by the State, under public law, and controlled by the State. Therefore we can start with the two questions: What kind of education the State should aim at giving; and whether it has succeeded in giving us that kind which is desirable for the people to have. The general aim of our educational system, as far as we have a theory for it at all, may be summed up by saying that it is intended to give a good physical, intellectual, aesthetic and moral education. It is not necessary but there can be no doubt that in the popular mind the intellectual element bulks up so largely that almost all our efforts are now directed to making the school system an intellectual training system, and the results are judged very largely by the opinion we arrive at as to whether the intellectual training is the right kind of training or not. What I mean is that the public are apt to overlook the fact, or not to ask the question whether there is a good physical education or moral education or is good intellectual education. That may be a right or a wrong state of public opinion; I myself think it would be better if we paid more attention to some other things as well as to intellectual education. I would like to make the preliminary remark that in advocating industrial training, as I have had occasion to do recently, I have always taken the ground that if industrial training involves any loss of intellectual training as compared with the ordinary public school education I would not advocate it. I do not think it would be desirable. I think the industrial class should have as good opportunities for intellectual culture as any other class and I think that any provision would be inadequate which does not take cognizance of that fact. The question arises, what is the general tendency of our present educational system of Ontario? After giving all the consideration I can to the matter for some time, I am forced to the conclusion that the tendency of our educational system—so much of it at all events as is of a public character—is towards professionalism and perhaps commercial life. I do not think it does very much at all—what it does do I shall try to indicate presently—towards inclining men or women to industrial pursuits. The reasons for that will perhaps be better brought out incidentally. Now, if that is the tendency I don't think it is the intention. I don't think it was the intention of the founder of our system that it should have that effect; I do not think it is the intention of those who have the control and responsibility that it should have that effect. Probably they would all deprecate that if they believed it. If that is the tendency it is certainly injurious to the best interests of the country that it should be so. The great productive classes of this country are undoubtedly the farmers or the artisans or mechanics, and if our educational system is not doing something to keep these classes recruited from the youth of the country then our industrial system,

and with it the whole material condition of the country, must suffer. I believe this very strongly from my intercourse with different classes that no pursuit or occupation will be recruited or will keep men in it very long that has not got some intellectual hold upon them. The mere fact that it furnishes a living—even a very good living—will not make it attractive to the average man or woman; there must be something in it to occupy his intellectual faculties and keep him intellectually interested; and I believe that the great secret of the dislike of young people to farm and artisan life and to household labor is very largely that it is a life of drudgery—not that it is hard work, but that it is uninteresting work. And if we could find some means of infusing intellectuality into the ordinary occupations of life I think they would be as attractive in the main as commercial pursuits and even professional callings. There is this to be said, too, that culture or intellectuality depends not so much on the choice of the subject which is to be taught to the boy or girl, as it depends on the method in which the subject is dealt with. If it were otherwise we should have very little hope for the future of the industrial classes. I believe the best kind of intellectual training, or just as good as any, can be had from manual operations properly taught—the hand and mind trained together.

Q.—To what extent did physical culture and mental culture go hand in hand in ancient Greece? A.—Well, of course, it would be impossible to go into detail, but there is no question about the truth of this—that the Greeks paid far more attention to physical culture than we do. Amongst the Greeks proper—of course the laboring class was a slave class—but the Greeks proper in Athens paid great attention to the body and to personal form.

Q.—Does not the average Canadian schoolboy in his sports acquire the physical training that takes the place of the training of the gymnasium in Greece? A.—That is true to some extent as to what we might call the exercise which is necessary to develop his body, but I would include in physical education more than that. First, I would include the giving him a knowledge of his own body, of its wonderful construction, of all those organs which, when they are in active operation in a healthy condition, we do not notice, but which we soon notice if they get out of order.

Q.—Is not physiology taught in our schools? A.—Very little is taught effectively. I do not think it is taught any better than it was forty years ago; I think what is taught is not effectively taught, because it is crammed up largely from books or notes given by the teacher, instead of being, as it should be, the result of incidental inspection, taking advantage of occasions which may present themselves. For instance, take the prevalence of bad air in a school room; that could be made an occasion for hygienic instruction, which should not be systematic but incidental.

Q.—Do you believe in carrying object lesson teaching to the utmost possible limit? A.—Yes; I think nearly all good and effective teaching would be incidental, and that is true of physical culture, even more than of ordinary school subjects. In connection with a remark I made a moment ago that excellence of culture depends more on the method of teaching than on the subjects taught, I should say that our mistake in the past in this province—and I think it is true of the United States and England—is that we have depended far too much on the selection of subjects, and too little on the selection of proper methods. That has been the grand educational blunder of modern times.

Q.—Have the teachers been properly educated for their work? A.—They have been educated under the same vicious defect. They have been simply perpetuating a bad system in which all that was thought necessary was to stuff the pupils with a lot of facts relating to certain subjects and depend on culture resulting, whereas nearly all culture which is worth anything comes from the method of teaching, and that has not been properly insisted on. I think we are making progress in the right direction in this province, but not as rapidly as I think we ought to do, if we once get a clear conception of this truth that I have been trying to bring out. I will illustrate in this way, by saying that I don't think that the ordinary facts of history or biography or grammar as ordinarily taught, or even the ordinary processes of mathematics, have a very vital connection with practical life, and if they have not they will just

enable a pupil to get a lot of unassimilated knowledge which is put to no practical purpose in life, just as the food we do not digest serves no good purpose in our physical economy.

Q.—Do you think that a youth who intends to enter upon a mechanical occupation should be only equipped for that occupation, and should not have any intellectual life outside of it? A.—No; I would not say that. I think every mechanic, every one who is devoted by others to an artisan's life, should have a general training as well, and a good deal of it.

Q.—That he should get all the intellectual power that he can independently of his mechanical occupation—that all men should do that? A.—Yes. At the same time I think one great idea to be always borne in mind is the old dictum of Aristotle: Teach a boy what he will have to practice when he becomes a man. That should never be lost sight of in his education, and if we teach him that in a proper way I maintain that good effects will result from it.

Q.—About what age does the ordinary boy—the son of a mechanic in moderate circumstances we will say—leave school? A.—I think in a city like Toronto we will probably get an average for the whole province, and I don't think it is above fourteen, and perhaps it is lower.

Q.—At the age of fourteen, taking the ordinary school course, what studies will he have pursued which were not only not necessary to him as an artisan, but which will not be followed up in his ordinary intellectual life outside of his calling?

A.—Unless he has been taking some special course in some part of the country where they have a flexible system, I should say that he has acquired a great deal of what is called "eram", which will be of no practical use to him, such as definitions in grammar, parsing, analysis and so on.

Q.—Will he have carried arithmetic beyond what will be useful to him? A.—Almost necessarily he will; that is he will have got beyond what will be practical or useful to him afterwards and will have acquired much which he will afterwards forget. He will certainly have done so in geography; he will have learned about many names of places which will not be of use to him.

Q.—You think that some things might be left out of the course and other things more useful if not more necessary put into it? A.—I would not exactly say that. I would not leave the subjects out, but they should be differently taught. Take geography for instance; I think the starting point in that should be the boy's own locality. He should be made familiar with conceptions of distances, climatology and so on, enlarging his ideas and conceptions as occasions present themselves so as to include the adjacent districts, and from that go on to the Province at large and the Dominion. I think that that should be all preliminary to his getting a knowledge of the minute geography of the world. Of course, the great facts of the universe must sooner or later come under his notice; he will be got to notice these, and his curiosity will be aroused. I am afraid however that geography as ordinarily taught is comparatively useless to anybody, the mere learning of names of places and so on.

Q.—Do you think that the boys' or girls' education might be continued, beyond the actual school, best with evening classes or during part of the day? A.—I think so in cities especially. In the rural districts it would not be so easy. Night schools would be inconvenient to many, owing to the distance they would have to travel, and it would only be those who had arrived at a considerable age who could do it. We have night schools in Toronto, but I think we might have them of a different class, and I will recur to that presently. It may be worth while here to describe the kind of institutions in Ontario which are called public educational institutions. First, there is the Kindergarten which is rather a principle or method than an institution, because there are many schools where Kindergarten principles or methods are practised, where they have no special department for that kind of work. Then there is the primary or ordinary public school, the secondary public school or high school and Collegiate Institute—and we have a special one in this city called Upper Canada College—and then we have the Provincial University. These are all

of the class of institutions I was speaking about when I said that the public institutions tend to professionalism, except the Kindergarten. It seems to me, as I think it does to anybody who will look into the matter with any intelligence, that the Kindergarten principle or method is almost perfection at the age at which the pupils attended. It is the best combination ever devised; I think almost the best conceivable combination of manual training with mental training.

Q.—Point out please one other feature of the Kindergarten and that is the confining the pupils to any study after they are tired? A.—One great object is to keep the pupils interested the whole time and that cannot be done by confining their attention too long to one thing. It cannot be done with older people, and children are very similar to ourselves. Rest comes from change of occupation to everybody, young and old, and not from ceasing to work. For instance I do not find my recreation in reading fiction, but in taking up hard intellectual work and I have often found other people who take their recreation in the same way. If we could manage to carry our Kindergarten arrangement forward and adapt it to meet the advancing age of the pupils in the public schools I think we would have a better public school system than we have now. How far up we should be able to carry it is the question. At all events at present our secondary schools as well as our public schools leading directly into the University do certainly draw children away into professionalism and commercial life, for there is not a scintilla of industrial training in the public schools which I can discern and I think there is nothing at all in the high schools but a little teaching of science which will be useful in industrial work.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is not that the case all over the world? A.—Yes; but my contention is that we have given that sort of thing an impetus instead of trying to check it. I don't think we have done so intentionally; it has been by a mistake.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Will not boys be especially attracted to professional life by the promised rewards of professional life being greater than those of mechanical life? A.—Yes; some of the prizes are greater; there is more distinction and that is all the more reason I should say why we should try to counteract that tendency by some system which would take our minds away from that view and make other pursuits intellectual.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—The blanks in professional life are not thought of? A.—No; they are not. But I do not think there is so much importance to be attached to that as to the distaste we give boys and girls for industrial pursuits by the utter lack of intellectual interest in them and if could make them take an intellectual interest in those callings I think we would largely solve the problem. Take, for instance, a smart boy growing up on a farm, what has he to interest him? Ordinarily it is all a very dull routine to him. And yet the farm is one of the most wonderful places in the world for experiments. It is a great chemical laboratory, where there are all kinds of inorganic and organic objects, and I do not think there is any calling which demands a higher exercise of intellectual power than that of the successful farmer. Yet there are few of our farmers who give it any intellectual attention at all. They plough down clover for instance, just because their fathers did it before them and their boys are taught to follow the same rule without understanding the reason for it; they never inquire why they do these things.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Have not the farmers of Ontario as a rule been a hardy pioneer class, less intellectual than we hope their sons will be? A.—Yes.

Q.—And has not this fact a good deal to do with the non-intellectuality of country life? A.—Yes. And then there is the isolation of the farm. The farmer has harder work than the man in the city to keep up associations with his neighbors and all these things impress me very strongly with the necessity of counteracting

what we can of the mischief. We cannot make him live close to his neighbors; he cannot live in a dorf like the Mennonites, or in a village, but if there is any element we can introduce into the farmer's or artisan's life which will tend to counteract this state of things, I think it would be a wise thing to do. Now, I have been speaking of those institutions which, with the exception of the Kindergarten, tend as I think to professionalism. I don't object to that altogether; professionalism is all right if we do not have too much of it. I think though that the professional classes are not promoters in the ordinary sense, and that the material welfare of the country depends more on the farmer and artisan than on the lawyers, the doctors and the clergy. There are three other classes of institutions to which I would like to call attention. The first is the blind institute and the analogous one for the education of the deaf and dumb, one at Belleville, and the other at Brantford, both maintained at the cost of the province at large, in which the training is largely industrial. We can omit consideration of these however as filling the bill, because they are for defective pupils and the amount of industrial training is limited by the capacity of the pupils to receive it. In Brantford the object is to teach the pupils to make a living, and to do that they are trained in piano tuning, music teaching, basket making, knitting, and I think plain sewing. I think that would about cover all the industrial teaching they have there. At Belleville there is a somewhat similar limitation but a greater variety of teaching as the pupils can see. Passing over these there are two other institutions, the Agricultural College at Guelph, which is a purely industrial training school, or at least belongs to that type, and the School of Practical Science in Toronto.

Q.—The book learning at Guelph is simply to assist agricultural operations? A.—No; it is to do what you indicated a little while ago—to give them some more culture outside of what intellectual training can be given them by the study of agricultural subjects; and I think that would be legitimate, to give them during the winter some kind of culture; English literature, for instance, would be well-adapted to that purpose. Then there must be some mathematical knowledge required for keeping accounts. I am not in a position to know whether the Agricultural College at Guelph is doing what we expected it to do and what it was intended to do. I have looked into the reports of the institution and I am satisfied that the theory of the institution is very sound; the theory of its curriculum, I think is very sound, as far as I can understand it. I know the institution costs the province a good deal of money and I simply express the hope that it is carrying its theory into practice in the best possible way. Of course, the farm itself serves a double purpose. It is an experimental farm and it is also a place where the students reduce to practice as far as they can the teachings of the lecture room.

Q.—Has that farm been established sufficiently long to demonstrate by actual results what its working has been? Have boys gone on to farms and have the results of their experience been reported? Have they graduated either from the college or from the experimental farm to the actual farm and become more successful farmers than others? A.—I could not say whether they have been more successful farmers but I think they do exercise a useful influence in their own locality. I know myself of some places where the graduates of the institution, intelligent young farmers, have exercised a very useful influence by becoming teachers by example, by conversation with their neighbors, and in many other ways; and that element is being extended and made still more useful by means of farmers' institutes, where the farmers discuss subjects among themselves. I noticed, if I am not mistaken, that Mr. Galbraith spoke yesterday of the comparative uselessness of industrial training in the public schools unless the teachers knew some industrial callings. I just saw in the brief reports in the newspapers something to that effect. If that was his view I would be disposed to differ from him a little. I think our public school system might be made more useful in the industrial direction without changing the programme in any way. I do not know whether his mind has been directed to this, but I will illustrate my meaning by an example. Suppose a teacher in a rural school section sees a farmer performing the act of ploughing down a field of clover. I

suppose most of the children in a rural school have seen that done over and over again but never thought to inquire why it was done. It looks like a foolish, almost an insane act; it is a waste of good cattle feed and what is going to be gained by it? Now, cannot a teacher serve a useful purpose by directing the attention of the boy who is to become a farmer and making him think of the nature of this operation, arousing his curiosity and getting him to ask questions about it? Perhaps he should not answer these questions, as it is better to have the pupil find out by asking his father or somebody else what it is done for. In this way an ingenious teacher could stir up a whole neighborhood so as to get them thinking about the causes of these different operations, why one kind of crop grows better on one soil than on another, what kind of manure is suitable for clay, gravelly soil, sandy soil and so on. The treasured experiences of generations are in the possession of the farmer and he puts them into practical use, very often without thinking why; and would it not serve a useful purpose if the boy is taught to inquire at an early age why these things are done? Perhaps, too, there would be a little self-consciousness aroused amongst the farmers themselves if they were asked by their boys why they do these things. I think a teacher with a very limited knowledge of agriculture might in this way become the means of a great agricultural awakening in a rural district; and in the town or village where mechanical operations become familiar to the children the same thing might be done. A very common thing which may be seen in front of a blacksmith's shop in the country almost any day is the putting of a tire on a wagon wheel. Every child is familiar with the process, but why is the tire heated before being put on and then cooled as quickly as possible afterwards? If these questions are asked of the child he will have to ask somebody else for the information, and he will find out one of the great principles of physics that heat expands an object and cold contracts it. Now from my knowledge of a child's mind gained in teaching I am satisfied that if the child learns that great fact out of the book he is as likely to say after a while that it is the cold that expands and the heat that contracts as he is to say the opposite.

Q.—Cold does expand a few objects? A.—Yes; water into ice.

Q.—And type metal? A.—Yes, and type metal. I give the illustrations to show that a teacher might, according to his locality, do a great deal in this direction and it would be done without any special provision for it in the school programme. I don't think the best way to secure good teaching would be to put it on the programme, because it would then become a subject of examination and perhaps of cramming. I think that in Toronto besides the Kindergarten and the public schools and the one secondary school belonging to the city and the Collegiate Institute, there might be established a secondary school of a different class, which should receive recognition in the way of Government aid the same as the Collegiate Institute—one in which manual training might be made an important feature. I suppose other cities could do the same thing, but as a matter of local enterprise I think it would be a good thing in this city. To the school there might be attached a workshop with certain kinds of machines selected for the purpose of illustrating certain principles. I do not think the aim of industrial education should be to make men skilled mechanics but to make them see the principles underlying mechanical operations rather than to perform the operations skillfully; we should not aim at that in a school any more than we should teach a boy at the agricultural college to draw a straight furrow with the plough. That is not the object. One other way in which our educational system could be improved in the way of industrial training would be to improve the School of Practical Science. That is the highest class institution of the industrial kind and it is the only one of that class that I know of in Canada. In looking over the reports of that institution for the purpose of this Commission I have been struck with one fact. Professor Galbraith of course belongs to that institution; I do not know what he said of the working of it, but I infer from the reports that the curriculum is not extensive enough, the accommodation is too limited and the staff is too limited. There are just two Professors in the school; Professor Galbraith and Professor Ellis, both thoroughly competent men and greatly overworked. It is

no fault of theirs or of the Education Department that the school is in its present condition. I do not know that it is the fault of the Legislature; I am not disposed to assign the blame anywhere, but it is in a wretchedly bad condition as far as industrial training is concerned. The training as far as it goes is good, but it only just goes far enough to show how much we really need it. Mr. Galbraith's department is engineering and he is a very competent mechanical as well as civil engineer; I think he teaches both, and cognate branches. Professor Ellis' department is applied chemistry and that is a tremendously large field for anyone to assume to occupy. In talking with some skilled mechanics in this city and with architects and others I have come to the conclusion that we should have not less than ten distinct departments in that school. One of these, and the fundamental one, ought to be industrial drawing, because there is not a single mechanical pursuit where that is not useful. Then the engineering should be divided into two different branches, civil and mechanical; it is very seldom that we can find one man who is competent to teach both these departments. Then there is a special kind of engineering which is important within the last fifty years, sociologically, politically and industrially, and there is no country which needs more instruction on that subject than Canada, as great as any railroad in the United States. The Baltimore and Ohio Railway some years ago found it absolutely necessary to establish industrial schools for the express purpose of training their own staff and while it would be almost too much perhaps to expect the Grand Trunk or the Canadian Pacific Railway to do that, I think the School of Practical Science should aim at giving special training in that direction. There are two branches of railroading which might be recognized; first, construction and maintenance of track, which is different from ordinary civil engineering; and secondly, rolling stock. Another department in such a school would be house construction, not mere architect's work, or the mere knowledge of the strength and utility of different kinds of materials, but instruction which would give men the capacity to draw at least a simple plan, and not merely a ground plan but a working plan. I think every man who has had such a training should be able to make a working plan and I am not saying this from mere speculation. Some time ago I had a talk with a working carpenter who called to see me about this very subject. After we were through conversing about some matters I wanted to ask him about, I asked him what that roll of paper was which he had in his hand and he said it was the plan of a building. The building was a somewhat elaborate one and I asked him if he had drawn the plan himself. He said he had, and as far as I could judge it was a well drawn plan, and though I questioned him very closely he seemed able to explain everything about it. As he was simply a working carpenter I asked him where he had got this facility in drawing, and if he had picked it up. No, he said, he had spent some months at South Kensington, and it was from him that I got this idea about house construction which is one of the departments they teach there. Then there should be a department devoted entirely to coloring. I have talked with some of the best painters in this city on the subject and also with Mr. John Taylor of the Morse Soap Company. Mr. Taylor some years ago thought of adding dye-stuffs to his business, as he was in the habit of selling soap to cloth manufacturers; but he found it necessary to import a man who know something about dyes, because he could not give instructions to those who bought from him. He had to import a chemist skilled in that kind of work but owing to some difference between them they separated and now Mr. Taylor's son takes charge of the chemistry of the dye department. In that department they have mineral, vegetable, and animal dyes from all parts of the world; they have a laboratory on the premises so that anyone buying dyes from him can get instructions how to use them. Now, there is just as much need for something of the kind in dealing with paints. Both painting and dyeing are subjects having certain underlying principles in common which ought to be in the possession of every intelligent workingman. As an illustration of intelligence in connection with paints I asked a merchant who dealt in paints if it would be safe

to buy mixed paints. He replied that he had them but that he would not advise me to buy them unless I was going to use them at once. He said they would not stay mixed and that I had better buy the ingredients myself. I questioned him and I found that he knew that certain substances like white lead were very heavy and would separate themselves, so that they had to be remixed by the person using the paint.

Q.—Is it not true that in most of these paints there is very little white lead?
A.—Yes; I believe that is true. There are other branches of applied chemistry but I need not name them. There should be a department of textile fabric, as that industry is so important; this would include the whole process of converting wool into cloth; and now, when we are doing so much in the way of cotton, the process of converting cotton into cloth. I believe we have not any silk manufacture in this province.

Q.—Is there not one in Montreal? A.—I am not aware of it but there may be one. However that whole subject of textile fabric working ought to be dealt with in the School of Practical Science. By the way, I think it should not be called the School of Practical Science, as the name is misleading. I think we should go back to the old well-understood term of the School of Technology, that is a school where the trades and occupations are taught, not to make them occupations, but taught in the way of giving the pupils a practical understanding of the operations connected with various occupations. Then there should be a department of metallurgy for the working of metals. We have a great deal of that in Canada. Lastly there should be a department of mining in two branches—one mining engineering, and the other mineralogical.

Q.—A knowledge of minerals in the first place, and in the next place how to get them out of the earth? A.—Yes; every mining engineer is more or less of a civil engineer, but there are some features about shafting which are not found in the other branch.

Q.—Wouldn't you have a department of electrical science? A.—Yes; I think probably it would be better to have one; the reason I omitted it is because we have a very good physical department in the University that serves the purpose so far as Toronto is concerned. If, however, you had a School of Practical Science in Hamilton where you have not a University as well equipped in that department as ours, I think it would be necessary to have a department of electrical science. One objection of course would be the cost of such a school, and I wish to say a word about that. Of course, if we could demonstrate that it is going to be perhaps not exactly necessary, but highly expedient to have such an institution, the question of cost is a minor consideration. I want, however, to make a comparison. The cost of the Agricultural College and farm, as I said before, is very great. Omitting the receipts from fees at the college and from the sale of stock and other things at the farm the net cost of the college this year, judging by the sum voted by the Legislature last year, was \$19,815.

Q.—That is the net cost to the country? A.—Yes; and the net cost of the farm is \$14,196, making the total cost of the two institutions, and their supplementary institutions, \$34,011. So much for technical education for farmers, and the sum is not too large if the work is well done. But here is what is voted for the School of Practical Science where the mechanic must look for his technical education if he gets it at all—\$7,594, being about one-fifth of the sum voted for the technical education of the farmers. I do not think the Legislature is to blame. Legislatures only move when they are moved by public opinion, and one object I have had in discussing this matter in teachers' institutes, as I have taken occasion to do several times this summer, and in making my present statement, is to try and get public opinion aroused on this subject. I have no fear that the mechanics cannot assert themselves in the matter whenever they wish to do so. I have been too long and too close an observer of their movements in Toronto and too intimately acquainted with them not to know that. They have the necessary intelligence and organizing power and they have the voting power—two things of very great importance. It is said by some people that this would not be a proper use of public funds. As I said

moment ago, if it is not a necessary use of it is a highly expedient use of public money in my opinion, and for several reasons. In the first place, assuming that by this kind of industrial education we could accomplish the object we have in view, then I say it is necessary that that should be done, because, there is such a competition in industry all over the world that it is going to leave us behind if we do not put ourselves in a proper shape to compete with others. We will be industrially left behind, and that means that we will be commercially and financially left behind and that in almost every way we would suffer in competition. We have not such a country as would enable us to sit down with folded hands and think that production will go on without effort. We labor under some disadvantages industrially, and we must try to make up for them. In the next place, other nations, in spite of having greater advantages than we have, have gone largely into this work of giving technological education to their operatives—Germany to an enormous extent, France perhaps to a less extent, England to a less extent still, and the United States, considering their population, least of the four; but all of these have a large number of institutions devoted to this kind of work. The United States, I think, in another twenty years will stand in this respect, as in most other respects, ahead of the world, judging by the rate at which public opinion is now being aroused on the question. The third great reason, and perhaps the most urgent of all, is that there is deterioration—if I may judge from my own observation and from conversations with the industrial classes and others—there is, deterioration going on in the artisan class itself which we must do something to check. Now, I do not think that this is a reflection on the artisan class; it is simply the result of inevitable conditions. Influences are at work which will continue to aggravate this deterioration if we do not take some steps to stop these influences and counteract them by supplying influences of a different kind. What are these influences? The first is a historical one; it is the decay of the old guild spirit. The guilds which grew up in the different callings were not close corporations in the legal sense but they were close corporations in a very practical sense. It was extremely difficult to get into one of them and when a man did get in he had some reason to be proud of his position. Closely connected with that difficulty in getting into the guild was the long term of apprenticeship required, which made the workman a skilled workman and a more intelligent workman, assuming that the teaching during the apprenticeship was thoroughly good. We all know that for one reason or another the guild spirit has almost entirely disappeared from modern industry, and its place has been taken as far as it has been taken at all, by voluntary organization amongst the industrial classes themselves; and I think the most valuable feature of trades unionism is that it tends to some extent to supply the place of the old guild system. We all know that apprenticeship has become much shorter than it used to be; and another influence in the same direction is the invention of machinery and the division of labor. By means of machinery the division of labor becomes much more possible and can be carried to a greater extent while, on the other hand, by means of a division of labor the use of machinery can be extended.

Q.—Involving the factory system? A.—Yes; and instead of the term division of labor, as Adam Smith called it, we use the larger term organization of labor. One of the men who has done most as a writer on political economy to elucidate this subject is Mr. Walker, of the Boston College of Technology, which is probably one of the best of the kind in the world. His book on work and wages is, I think, one of the most valuable contributions to economic science that has ever been made. He has come to this conclusion—and he has given good reasons for it—that instead of expecting the artisan class to become more democratic, self-controlled and autonomous, we may expect them to become less and less so. The organization of labor which has been going on so rapidly during the past twenty-five years is going to go on the next twenty-five years with perhaps even greater rapidity, so that the great establishments will continue to swallow up the small ones, and thus the individual workman will count for less and less in the industrial scale, and the organization of labor for more and more. Labor will become aristocratic rather than democratic, he thinks.

The result is, that instead of having a whole product like a chair produced as at present, a man will spend his whole time in working a machine which makes the bottoms, or the legs or the backs. Instead of making the whole shoe, as the workmen used to do, he now spends his whole life driving pegs, for example, and doing nothing else. Of course he becomes extremely expert at driving pegs; but what is the effect upon him? The effect upon him is to narrow his intellectual and industrial horizon, and it is analogous to the effect produced upon a man accustomed to freedom by putting him in a cell and taking away from him the natural horizon. The result must inevitably be deteriorating. I suppose it is all for the best; I am not finding fault with it; it seems to be a necessity, and at any rate it is going on and we cannot control it. It is the life and enterprise and capital and competition amongst nations and amongst individuals. If the tendency is in that direction; if the productive power of the community is being made more effective by means of this organization of labor, and if the result is the deterioration of the artisan, then the community can afford to turn round and do something for the artisan by giving him opportunities which he has not got now of leading some kind of an intellectual life. It seems to me also that one of the tendencies of modern industry is towards such events as those we have been witnessing in the last few years in Chicago. Those misguided men who suffered the extreme penalty of the law the other day were not the natural products of American society, but were the products of a system which may be repeated over here bye-and-bye. It is hard to tell what the individual may do when he finds himself hedged in—cribbed and cabined and crushed by a great industrial juggernaut; it is hard to say whether he will not, like the worm, at last turn round and attempt to resent it. He may turn round and do it in a very foolish way, but I say the best preventive of all for these things would be industrial education; it would do what we can never do by any amount of preaching. It would add dignity to toil, ennobling it and making it intellectual, and making the artisan less amenable to the teaching of those who have adopted such ideas as those men in Chicago. And if the best means open to us to accomplish these ends is by industrial education, then, surely, the necessity—or the expediency, if not necessity—of establishing some kind of an industrial training system should be considered established.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Don't you think that the gradual self-education of the people in this way has a tendency towards making the whole community better from generation to generation? Don't you think there is a general improvement of the whole country, intellectually? A.—I think, taking the community as a whole, there is, and I would like to believe that that is true of the artisan class, but I am not quite able to say that it is. I do not know whether all the artisans themselves are agreed upon it, and the conditions under which they have to compete for life are such—it is *saufve qui peut* with all; they are handicapped by the organization of industry on the one hand and by other conditions which are equally hard to avoid—that I do not think their condition has improved, at all events, as fast as it should.

Q.—To go back to the point which was touched on before, that is the ability of the teacher, don't you think that our system encourages the mere machine teacher to too great an extent in our public school system? A.—Well, in the sense I pointed out awhile ago, I think that is true. If you put a subject on the school programme, and then have examinations, and prepare the pupil for it, the tendency of the examination is to make the teaching a cram.

Q.—Have you studied the results of the teaching of such men, as for example the late Bishop Strachan, of Toronto? A.—No; I do not know very much about the bishop particularly.

Q.—Have you noticed that where there has been an exceptionally talented teacher he has turned out good men? A.—Yes; the most notable case of the kind is Dr. Arnold, of Rugby. Fault was found with him that he had made no valuable contributions to the science of pedagogy, but it was said that he had done what was far more important—shown himself to be a great educator, whose influence and success

was seen in such men as Matthew Arnold, Dean Stanley, Tom Hughes and a great number of leading public men in England. Speaking of the artisan class, I would not be understood as saying that their condition has not absolutely improved. I think they are absolutely better off than they were; relatively they are in some respects worse off, and I believe they are bound to be worse off, unless something can be done in the way of technical education. I do not think that Henry George, when he couples progress and poverty together as being almost inevitable concomitants, would refuse to say that the whole community is progressing in wealth. I think what he means is that with the growth of wealth under our present system comes inevitable poverty to certain classes, and I cite this simply as an illustration of what I want to get at. While the whole community is being improved by that progress, and while the workingmen share in it to some extent, yet relatively they are to some extent injured, and terribly injured by it, and I think there is where there is the necessity for industrial education.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are you acquainted with the system of the publication of our public school books? A.—No; except in a cursory and superficial way.

Q.—Do you think a better system could be pursued than the system now pursued in Toronto, so that our books would be cheaper? A.—I fancy that an opinion on that point would have to be the result of a good deal of investigation and expert knowledge. I may say this, however, that systems of producing school books, assuming that it is necessary to have uniform text books, resolve themselves into two general classes—(1) leaving it to competition absolutely; and (2) for the department to secure the copyright and throw open the publication as much as possible to competition.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Why should not they be published directly by the department, and the profits go into the public treasury, if there were any? A.—I think likely the chief difficulty there is to get the Legislature to consent to go into that business. There is a feeling that the less the Government has to do with the production of these things the better. I think that in Dr. Ryerson's time his system was much the same as it is now; but Mr. Crooks was gradually introducing a different system. His idea was, in the main, in the direction of allowing the copyrights to rest with the private owners, so that competition could be had between book and book. I see myself no choice between that system and the present one, other than the department holding the copyrights, and, under certain limitations, allowing a certain competition in the publication.

Q.—You believe books would be cheaper than under the present system, which is of course a monopoly? A.—Only for a term of years. It was the same with the old Readers in Dr. Ryerson's time; some firm has to be selected to bring them out, and if others share in the advantages of publication they recoup the original producers of the book. The only way to avoid that, I think, is for the Legislature to go into it after voting the money, just as the government in Ottawa now propose to do with the printing.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Where is the copyright held? A.—Some of the copyrights are held by the department and some by the publishers. In some cases a Toronto firm holds the copyright for an English firm, as in the case of Mason's Grammar.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Does the Nelson Company, of Edinburgh, receive a royalty on any books published in Canada? A.—Not now, I think, except perhaps on some Readers. I may say that it is not exactly a royalty. I do not know in what shape the transaction stands with Copp, Clark & Co.; but it is generally understood that a certain sum was paid by Copp, Clark & Co. for the privilege of being Nelson's representative. All

over the United States this problem is just as difficult as it is in Canada, and there seems to be no satisfactory solution ever yet devised. While, I am not prepared to express any opinion as to the relative merits of these different systems in the way of cost, I am clear that it would be best for educational purposes, irrespective of cost, to adopt this plan; if I were Minister of Education and were not hampered by the consideration of cost—and perhaps in any case—I would adopt Mr. Crooks' theory, that is, to have several works on the list and let the local authorities choose between them, and then there would be competition between book and book and I think the best results would be secured. The copyright might remain with the publisher.

Q.—Would not there be a good deal of log rolling among the trustees?
A.—Well, in that case, it would be better to have the log rolling there than some-where else, and I think on the whole the plan would be better than the one which is now followed.

Q.—The entire community elect the trustees, and they would have a certain say in the matter which they have not now? A.—Under the present law the boards of trustees are absolutely masters of the situation. The department does not prescribe but authorizes the text books and the boards of trustees must choose one or the other among those authorized. It is at their option, and there is more than one book on every subject.

Q.—What is the percentage of mechanics' sons, do you think, who go as high as a University education? A.—I could scarcely tell you that, but if you include farmers' and mechanics' sons, fully one-half of those going through the Provincial University come from the farming and mechanical class.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are not the greater number of them farmers' sons? A.—Yes; I think there are more of them than of mechanics' sons, but I could not say. In my own time a very large proportion of those who went through the University had been farmers' or mechanics' sons who had gone into teaching and found a way for themselves to the University.

Q.—Do you think the present system of education in the School of Practical Science is calculated to give a mechanic a good training? A.—No; I do not—not from any fault of the staff, but for the reasons I have already given. The staff is too limited, and there is no room for laboratories or workshops, or anything of that kind.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You mentioned about large industrial establishments swallowing up the small ones; do you think that concentration of capital has anything to do with it? A.—Of course; it is a moot point in political economy whether capitalists are responsible for this. I am inclined to take Walker's view, that management is where the concentration is. I mean that kind of management which not merely keeps the men at work but includes the taking cognizance of the markets, and so on—men of brains, energy and organizing power. A capitalist may have his capital or borrow it; it does not make much difference which, but I think it is an entire misnomer to call the present a struggle between capital and labor. It is a struggle between employer and employed, between men of energy and activity and power to organize labor and the individual who is the subject of organization. That is where the struggle comes in, and I think if we recognized that fully and clearly our industrial disputes would take a different form. For instance, you would never hear of an organized attack, like that of the Anarchists, to burn down a building for the purpose of destroying capital.

Q.—Still you would not classify the Anarchists in the same class as the Knights of Labor? A.—No; I mention this to show that it is misdirected hostility. Occasionally you must have heard of the capitalist and the laborer being set out against each other, whereas the capitalist as such has really nothing to do with it; the employer is simply the person connected with the laborer, but he may be a capitalist or he may not. The capitalist may lend his capital or he may work it himself; in the one case he combines the two functions of employer and capitalist; in the other he exercises only one of them.

HENRY LLOYD, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What is your business? A.—Carpenter.

Q.—Have you been working long at your trade in Toronto? A.—Off and on for eleven years.

Q.—During those eleven years has the business of carpentering made progress in an upward direction—has it improved? A.—It has slightly improved, but not in proportion to the improvement in other trades in the building line.

Q.—Can you give us any cause for the improvement; what do you think has brought it about? A.—I certainly attribute it very largely, if not wholly, to the organization that has been continually taking place in the carpenters' ranks.

Q.—Then you think organization is a direct benefit to labor? A.—Yes; I do.

Q.—What are the wages of carpenters in Toronto to-day? A.—The wages, I presume, run all the way from twenty-two and a half cents to twenty seven cents; probably some are lower than twenty-two and a half cents.

Q.—Is there any agreement between journeymen carpenters and the employers, fixing the rate of wages? A.—Not at the present time.

Q.—There is no such agreement? A.—Not at the present time.

Q.—Have you had such an agreement during the last few years? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did that agreement expire, or was it broken by either of the parties to it? A.—The agreement was never lived up to—not as far as the employers were concerned. The men, I believe, and I think I am in a position to know, especially the organized labor concerned in the agreement with the bosses, lived up to it as far as it was possible to do so, and the agreement expired.

Q.—You are now speaking as a representative man? A.—I do not know that I am a representative man in any sense; I belong to a union.

Q.—Are you not a member of the Joint Committee, the Executive Committee?

A.—Yes.
Q.—That committee represents the whole body? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did that Executive Committee of which you are a member make any effort to have that agreement renewed or amended? A.—Yes; they made every effort.

Q.—Will you tell the Commission in your own way what steps were taken when the agreement expired, and the reasons why the agreement was not renewed?

A.—So far as my memory serves me—I perfectly well remember—that the agreement called for three months' notice to be given if at any time a change should be necessary either on the part of the workmen or the bosses. That notice was to be given from 1st January till 1st May. In the neighborhood of the 1st of January the corresponding-secretary of the Executive or Joint Committee notified the bosses that the carpenters had grievances which they wanted adjusted, and they would like to hear from the masters on the subject, and asked when they could have a meeting. The bosses wrote back and told the men that they had no grievances and they did not think they could meet them. Our Executive took steps to inform them that they thought they had grievances and would like to be a party in the settlement of the wages question in the future in Toronto. That correspondence ran on from January till the following June. We offered them everything, even to arbitration. When we found we could no longer succeed in meeting the employers we offered them arbitration. They refused to arbitrate. The only thing then left to the men was to assert themselves and to strike, which they did.

Q.—You say there was a clause in the agreement requiring three months' notice on either side to change the wording of the agreement? A.—Yes.

Q.—And you gave that notice last January; had you a meeting with the employers? A.—One meeting.

Q.—And they refused to discuss the matter with you? A.—Any further.

Q.—Did you make any effort to settle the dispute by conciliation? A.—Every effort possible, I think.

Q.—Before the strike was ordered? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it true that in your demands to the Master Carpenters' Association you wanted everything in the trade? A.—No; it is not. The carpenters of Toronto have always held that instead of having everything they have had nothing.

Q.—We had a copy of your communication to the Masters given to us. It was stated that your demands were such that if they were granted there would be nothing left for the employers. You say that is not true? A.—It is not true.

Q.—Tell the Commission what the changes were in the proposed agreement? A.—In the first place, the old agreement called for a minimum rate of twenty-two and a-half cents an hour. Our demands were, at the time we went out on strike, for a minimum rate of twenty-five cents an hour. That was one of the changes. (I might have brought a copy of the agreement with me, but I am positive, at all events, there was the change proposed from twenty-two and a-half cents to twenty-five cents an hour). If my memory serves me, I think another of the changes was in regard to this: Our agreement of the year before had a clause that was very obnoxious to carpenters—that was what we termed the qualifying clause. It specified that no one but a qualified workman could receive twenty-two and a-half cents an hour. We wanted a change in that regard.

Q.—Did it not rather say that all qualified workmen should receive that amount? A.—I think the clause read for qualified workmen only.

Q.—Was there any other change required? A.—Of course, we had been dealing with the bosses, and wanted an over-time clause inserted—time and a half, for instance, for each hour overtime and double time for Sundays. We were in favor of that, of course; and in the agreement of the year before we asked for fifty hours per week, and we were in favor of altogether doing away with overtime on Saturday afternoons, if possible.

Q.—Then you wanted a change in this way: the old agreement stated that the minimum rate should be twenty-two and a-half cents per hour for qualified workmen; you wanted the word qualified workman struck out; and you wanted the minimum rate increased from twenty-two and a-half cents to twenty-five cents? A.—For carpenters.

Q.—You say you could not get a meeting with the employers to discuss that matter? A.—We could not.

Q.—They refused to discuss the question with you? A.—Exactly.

Q.—Could you tell the Commission as to the feeling of your union in regard to arbitration? A.—I am rather inclined to think that as a body they would be in favor of arbitration.

Q.—They would rather have arbitration than the present state of affairs? A.—Yes. Personally, I am not in favor of it; I think as a body the union would favor it.

Q.—Does your union demand that employers should not employ non-union men? A.—I will explain that to the Commission. There was a clause to that effect, but it originated with the employers themselves. You will understand that there is a branch of the Master Carpenters' Association, known as the Woodworkers' Master Carpenters' Association. Those men held a meeting with a sub-committee of our Executive, and they suggested that the carpenters should boycott material coming from outside manufacturers into Toronto in competition with their goods. The men pointed out to them that it would be utterly useless to try to boycott goods coming from a distance, when they had not control over more than one-fourth or one-fifth of the carpenters of Toronto—in other words there were not more than that number organized; but if the Executive engaged to boycott those goods, they asked if the masters would engage to employ none but union men. Then, of course, we could handle those men, for out of the organizations we had no control over them. They agreed to do that.

Q.—They agreed to do that, and that was put into your memorandum to them: if they would employ union men, so that you could control all the men, you would refuse to use this material that came in from outside the city? A.—Yes. But I want to draw attention to this fact: we did not suppose that agreement was settled,

because when they went back to the Master Builders' Association, that association condemned them for taking this line of action. They were to meet our sub-committee again, but they failed to do so. We put that clause in, but it was to meet the wishes of the bosses, and as it failed to do so, we struck it out; for, as I have said, it was put in at their suggestion.

Q.—You afterwards struck that out? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does your union prohibit members of the union from working with non-union men? A.—No.

Q.—Have you many apprentices in your business? A.—I do not know of three regularly indentured apprentices to the carpenters' business in Toronto to-day.

Q.—Is it a difficult thing for a boy to become a good skilled mechanic in the carpentering business? A.—It is.

Q.—What I mean is this: is it a difficult matter for a boy to learn the business, in consequence of the present state of affairs in regard to apprenticeship? A.—It is impossible for a boy to learn the trade correctly in the present state of affairs.

Q.—Must he not be pretty smart to pick up sufficient knowledge to enable him to get along? A.—He must be very smart.

Q.—Have you ever expressed yourself in regard to the apprentice system, as to whether the indenture plan would be any benefit? A.—The committee have done so very often. They are certainly in favor of having every apprentice indentured.

Q.—At the present time boys are not indentured; you say you only know of three indentured? A.—I do not know of more than three.

Q.—Have you ever known of any co-operative building among the carpenters? A.—I do know of one such business.

Q.—Is it in operation in the city? A.—Yes; I believe it is.

Q.—Can you give the Commission any information regarding that sort of work? A.—I must admit that I am very poorly posted in that matter. It is an experiment in Toronto; although one of the members of the union to which I belong is one of the stockholders in it, I am not so well posted as to know how it works. All I know is, that from what I can gather and ascertain it is a failure.

Q.—Is it so because the men have not confidence in each other? A.—It strikes me that is about the case. Co-operation is a new thing in this country, and the men have not so far grappled with it. So far as I can understand, it has not been successful in any sense.

Q.—Have you ever seen the Ontario Arbitration Act? A.—I have read parts of it; I do not know that I have read it through.

Q.—Have the men in your trade ever taken advantage of it? A.—Not very largely.

Q.—Do you think there is anything in the Act to prevent a settlement of a dispute such as you had last summer. Really, I do not think there is.

Q.—Read the twenty-eighth clause of the Act as you find it there (handing witness paper), and give me your opinion. A.—I am of the opinion that possibly in connection with that clause there might be something done.

Q.—Do you think that would prevent you settling such a dispute as that you had last summer? A.—Yes.

Q.—Arbitration, to be effective, would have to cover that ground? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the most frequent cause of dispute between employers and employed in the carpentering business? A.—The dispute seems to generally run in this way: it seems to be upon questions between employers and employed. They argue on the line that we are at all times asking the same wages for unskilled mechanics as we are for skilled mechanics, when the contrary is the fact. Our answer to that is, that we are only too happy to see carpenters become skilled; that we desire to associate ourselves with skilled men, and it is at all times the bosses that create those poor mechanics. Of course, the wage question enters largely into it. The reply they make is, that they are paying all the wages the work demands and that supply and demand always regulate the wages.

Q.—Is it the practice for an employer to have so many men earning a fixed rate of wages and so many men working with them at an inferior rate of wages? A.—Yes; that is frequently the case.

Q.—Have you ever known a case where a thoroughly skilled workman has been on one side of the bench and a man practically unskilled on the other side? A.—Yes; the bosses generally work it that way.

Q.—And have not the wages of the unskilled man a tendency to bring down the wages of the skilled mechanic? A.—Certainly; that is the arrangement.

Q.—Is not that one of the most frequent causes of dispute? A.—It is very often, indeed.

Q.—And is not the result, that the skilled man must take the same wages as the other man, or leave the shop? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you mean to say that the unskilled man would do as much work as the skilled man? A.—No; certainly not.

Q.—Do you think the man who is not able to do so much work as a good mechanic should be paid as much as the good mechanic? A.—No.

Q.—Do you think there should be a difference in the pay between men who are efficient mechanics and those who are not? A.—That is what we are fighting for.

Q.—That is what you want? A.—Yes.

Q.—You say that is not understood by the employers? A.—They do not want to understand it; that is the trouble.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you ever given any consideration to the subject of industrial education? A.—I cannot say that I have; I have not had time to do so.

Q.—You could not give the Commission any idea with regard to the industrial education of boys before they go to a trade? A.—No.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Do nine hours constitute your day's work? A.—Yes; they are our working hours.

Q.—Do you work many hours over-time? A.—Not very often—that is not organized labor.

Q.—Do you work on Sunday? A.—Very seldom; very little Sunday work is done in Toronto.

Q.—Of course, when work is done on Sunday, or after the regular hours, it is done at the request of your bosses? A.—At the request of our bosses.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is anything done on Sunday, except from great necessity? A.—No.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—It is only in case of actual necessity that you work over hours? A.—Not always.

Q.—When you wanted a time-and-a-half to be paid for over-time what answer did you get? A.—The bosses were never favorable to over-time.

Q.—They did not want to pay any over-time? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you mean they wanted to get over-time without paying you? A.—They wanted it for the same rate of wages as they paid for regular hours.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—When you work after nine hours or before the nine hours which constitute a day's work, you do so because your employer requires you to do so. A.—Certainly.

Q.—And yet he does not want to pay you anything extra? A.—He does not.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Does he do that? A.—It is very seldom done.

Q.—Does he very seldom pay you more than the regular wages? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you know what rates of wages are received by men in other branches of the building trade? A.—Yes; I am pretty well conversant with the rates.

Q.—What is the rate paid to bricklayers? A.—Twenty-three and a-half cents per hour is the minimum. I know as high as fifty cents per hour was paid this summer.

Q.—Bricklayers cannot work as many days in the year as carpenters do? A.—I think they do. You see they are always on the buildings before carpenters. The carpenters are probably there a little longer, but there is a great deal of inside work for them to do, such as setting hearths, building in furnaces, arches, and so on. I am of the opinion that there is very little difference in the time made. I have known bricklayers to work outside when we could not work outside.

Q.—How many months in the year do you think bricklayers in Toronto can average? A.—I presume a bricklayer can average in this city ten months in the year.

Q.—What rate of wages do house painters get? A.—Their wages run from twenty cents to about twenty-two and a-half cents, as a rule.

Q.—They get in more time than the carpenters? A.—Yes.

Q.—The plasterers: what do they get? A.—They run from thirty cents to thirty-two and thirty-three cents: thirty and a-half cents is their minimum wage. They work steadier than carpenters, or bricklayers either.

Q.—Take a good carpenter, who knows the city pretty well, a man of fair average ability—what time could he make during the year? A.—I think the average would be possibly in the neighborhood of ten months.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Does that make allowance for short hours in winter? A.—I am taking into consideration the fact that there is a certain period of shorter hours in winter, but I am not counting in holidays. I think that possibly he could work ten months in the year.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—With respect to the meeting that took place between journeymen and employers: I understand that to have been a meeting between committees of the Master Builders' Association and of the Carpenters Union? A.—It was a committee so far as the employés were concerned, but the Master Carpenters' Association as a body was at that meeting.

Q.—What was the line of discussion at that meeting? A.—It partook of a general character, in reference to this agreement and the alterations proposed. When we started out in January we asked by way of change the over-time clause, and that the obnoxious clause respecting qualified workmen should be struck out; we did not ask for a raise in the first place.

Q.—In the documents submitted to the Commission, I believe seven or eight demands were made? A.—There were several demands made. Among them was one that the masters should employ none but union men. I have explained that that was the suggestion of the wood-working machine bosses. After we found that was obnoxious to the boss builders we struck it out at once.

Q.—Was it not in the final document you discussed? A.—No; it was not.

Q.—At that meeting did the employers ask for any modification of those demands? A.—I was not on the committee that waited on them. I had the facts, however, from the committee. They did not want to consider them, but they told the men plainly that the qualification clause must remain there.

Q.—Was that the only rock on which you split? A.—I believe that, in the first place, that was the chief difficulty.

Q.—The other matters would have been got over if you could have agreed as to that? A.—If the bosses had met us, in the first place, in a fair spirit, we could have got over that trouble nicely.

Q.—They met and discussed the matter with you? A.—Certainly.

Q.—Do you mean that their spirit was arbitrary and unreasonable? A.—Certainly; we considered it so.

Q.—In what way were they arbitrary? A.—We considered they were arbitrary when they would not allow us to have a say in the selling of our labor.

Q.—Were they not willing to grant you any portion of your demands? A.—Nothing was granted; they refused every demand.

Q.—Then it was useless for your committee to meet them? A.—Useless. In fact, we could not get a meeting with them for a long time.

Q.—Was not that one clause to which you have referred the principal subject of discussion at that meeting? A.—Yes; it was.

Q.—Were you not determined to precipitate matters so soon as you found that clause would not be removed by the Master Builders' Association? A.—We made other efforts. We offered to leave the matter to arbitration.

Q.—Did you send the masters a formal written offer to arbitrate? A.—Yes.

Q.—Coming from your Union? A.—Yes; and we gave them one month to consider it.

Q.—You spoke of unskilled carpenters who were put to work: what is your objection to an unskilled carpenter working in a carpenter's shop? A.—In the first place, those unskilled men are frequently stealing the bread and butter from a skilled man.

Q.—Has not the unskilled man as good a right to work as the skilled man? A.—We find no objection to the unskilled man working, but we claim that the unskilled man shall not be paid more than a certain rate of wages.

Q.—Do you demand that he shall be paid more than he is worth? A.—No.

Q.—Is he worth as much as a skilled man? A.—No; we do not say that he is.

Q.—Do you demand that he shall receive the same rate as a skilled man? A.—No.

Q.—How do you propose to fix the rate of wages to be paid to the unskilled man? A.—We propose to deal with it in this way: we propose there shall be a minimum as the rate of wages for a carpenter; we ask that it shall be twenty-five cents per hour. We say that that shall be the minimum rate for a man who is a carpenter. If he is not capable of earning twenty-five cents an hour, he is not capable of working at the carpentering trade.

Q.—But there is certain work which does not require the skill of a regularly trained carpenter; do you object to an unskilled man not receiving as high wages when so employed? A.—We do not object to his doing work, but we object to the pay he receives.

Q.—You demand that unskilled shall be paid as high as skilled labor? A.—We do not.

Q.—Then I cannot understand you? A.—I will try and explain. What we propose is, that if a man carries a kit of tools and works at the carpentering trade, he should be worth twenty-five cents an hour. We find laborers in Toronto getting twenty cents per hour. This carpenter, no matter how unskilled he may be, certainly requires a little more brains and intelligence than does the man who carries the hod. If he puts up a fence it has to be done in a skilled manner; it has to be done properly, to be plumb and so forth; and then there is the question of tools for the carpenter, which the laborer has not to find. We therefore claim that the carpenter should be paid living wages, for an amount is spent to replace broken tools and for sharpening saws, and so on, and by regulating the wages of the poorer class of mechanics we are always sure that the wages for the good class of mechanics will regulate themselves.

Q.—Does all unskilled labor in Toronto receive twenty cents an hour? A.—In the building trade the plasterers' laborers have twenty cents an hour. The builders' laborers I know last summer received as high as twenty-one cents.

Q.—Is not the work of the hod carrier extremely arduous, dirty, hot and unpleasant? A.—Yes; I will admit that; but it is not any harder or dirtier than the work of the unskilled carpenter, who has to carry joists from morning to night.

Q.—Do those unskilled carpenters belong to the union? A.—Very few of them.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How then do you define the difference between such a carpenter and a common laborer? A.—There is a great deal of difficulty in this connection in Toronto, for there are men who call themselves carpenters and work at the carpentering trade who are really unskilled. We are anxious to do away with that class of men.

Q.—At present there is nothing to mark the distinction; it is simply that a man calls himself a carpenter? A.—Yes; and he can work at the trade, and bosses will employ him.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are those men themselves anxious for the demand to be made that they shall receive twenty-five cents per hour, or would they rather make their own terms? A.—I always find those men very anxious to receive the highest pay going.

Q.—If twenty-five cents per hour was fixed as a minimum rate, would they continue to be employed? A.—I believe they would still be largely employed; but the difference would be in the winter time; when trade was slack the skilled man would receive the benefit, because he would be kept on in preference to the unskilled. As it is now, the competition runs this way: in winter we are placed in competition with a poor class of mechanics.

Q.—If the unskilled men should be employed to the same extent as now, how would the skilled man benefit by having them paid higher wages? A.—You will remember I said that I believed a certain number of those men would be employed: but eventually the bosses would see it was to their interest to employ the better class of mechanics steadily.

Q.—Then some of the unskilled men would be driven from their present employment and forced into other branches of trade? A.—Into their legitimate channel, that of laboring men.

Q.—If they are properly skilled at the carpentering trade, why should they not be permitted to work at it? A.—They are handy men. Men who have served their time as carpenters totally object to working with carpenters who have not served one hour, and who are entirely unskilled men.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—With respect to working with this unskilled labor: is it not the practice to hire an inferior carpenter and call him a handy man? A.—Very often.

Q.—That is to say, that through the competition of that unskilled class of labor the skilled mechanic is frequently forced to take a lower position and smaller pay? A.—Very often.

Q.—That is a grievance which the carpenters feel? A.—Exactly.

Q.—If such men were employed as laborers, would the carpenters object? A.—Certainly not.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—If they were hired as laborers, and put at the same work as at present, would the carpenters object? A.—They should not be allowed to be put at that work. If this were done the carpenters would undoubtedly object; if they were allowed to handle carpenters' tools we would object.

RICHARD SOUTHWELL, called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What is your occupation? A.—I am a carpenter in Toronto.

Q.—Do you corroborate the testimony of the last witness? A.—Yes; I corroborate what Mr. Lloyd has said. I think he has covered the ground very fully; if there is anything further required, and which has not been asked him, I shall be glad to give the information. We have done everything to arbitrate, and have failed.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You have seen the Provincial Act pertaining to trade disputes? A.—No; I have not.

Q.—You have had some experience in trade matters? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know there is a law in existence in this country which states that upon the application of any employer to the chief of police, the police shall be sent to protect any property or buildings he may have on hand? A.—I did not know that until a few months ago, during our strike.

Q.—Is it so? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they have to pay for that police protection? A.—I cannot say.

Q.—Do you know upon what grounds police protection is granted employers in case of a strike, and what evidence is required before it is granted? A.—I do not know what evidence is required or why police protection should be granted them, because they have applied for it in the most paltry cases, and a force of police has been sent to guard their property.

Q.—Was that done during the late trouble in Toronto? A.—Yes; frequently.

Q.—Had there been any disturbance? A.—No.

Q.—No riots? A.—No riots.

Q.—And no attempt to drive men off work? A.—No.

Q.—The employers asked for protection, and police were sent? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is labor handicapped by the laws of this Province? A.—We are, in that respect.

Q.—Have you had any experience in workingmen's co-operative stores? A.—Very little. I had a little, while in a co-operative store in the west end of the city.

Q.—Can you state whether they have been a success or not? A.—The one I was in was not a success.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Has there been more than one? A.—There is one on Yonge street at the present time. Whether it is a success or not I could not say.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you know what was the cause of the failure, or the comparative failure of the store with which you were connected? A.—I believe there was a lot of bad debts.

Q.—They gave credit where it should not have been given? A.—That was one of the causes; and another cause was the members not buying all their goods in the store, but purchasing them at other stores.

Q.—Was sufficient capital invested to conduct the business properly? A.—I think there was. I was not in it very long before the business collapsed.

Q.—Were you in it as a stockholder or as manager? A.—As a stockholder.

Q.—Was it a grocery store? A.—Yes.

Q.—Was a trained grocer in charge of it? A.—Yes.

Q.—He was a competent man? A.—Yes.

Q.—A man of good judgment? A.—Yes; I should think so.

Q.—He knew how to buy prudently, and so on? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then the principal cause of the failure was the giving of credit where it should not have been given? A.—Yes; and from members not dealing fully in their own store.

Q.—Did they give credit outside of the members? A.—I rather think they did, because I dealt with them before I became a member.

Q.—The articles sold were as good and as cheap as those to be had at other stores? A.—Yes.

JOHN S. BALLANTINE, Carpenter, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You have heard the evidence of the two previous witnesses (Messrs. Lloyd and Southwell)? Do you concur in it? A.—I do.

Q.—You agree with it in every part? A.—Some points might be extended a little, but in its general result I agree with it.

Q.—Can you give the Commission any information in addition to what we have received, anything that you think will be a benefit to the trade? A.—Part of the trouble suffered by carpenters has not, I think, much to do with the question of capital and labor. It seems to me that the formation of employers into a society is done with a view to keeping down all union whatever on the part of the men. In the last difficulty the carpenters had, the question of capital and labor was one of minor consideration; it seemed to be a question as to whether any union on the part of the men would be allowed. We claim equal rights with the employers; they had a union, and we claimed that we ought to have one for this reason—that unions have been a direct benefit in shortening the hours, and thereby raising our wages.

Q.—When hours were shortened in Toronto were the wages advanced? A.—Undoubtedly.

Q.—Did you find any tendency on the part of the men who had shorter hours to waste their time in dissipation? A.—No; I did not.

Q.—The habits of the men were steady? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Did the employers demand the dissolution of the carpenters' union? A.—In some cases they discharged men who belonged to it.

Q.—Because they belonged to it? A.—Yes.

Q.—But they offered to retain them if they left the union? A.—They would give them a chance, either to leave their employment or to leave the union.

Q.—Is that with your knowledge? A.—Yes.

Q.—You knew the employers and you knew the men? A.—Yes; I knew them.

Q.—It is not mere hearsay? A.—It is not mere hearsay, it is truth.

Q.—The strike was a failure, I believe? A.—Not altogether, although there was no final statement in regard to what we demanded; there is this fact, that it has been the means of increasing wages. They are higher to day than they were previous to the strike.

Q.—The men went back to work without their demands being definitely granted? A.—Without an agreement as to their demands.

Q.—Have employers since that time demanded a dissolution of the union? A.—Not as a body; I do not know.

Q.—Have many employers discharged men for belonging to the union? A.—That I cannot say, as to the exact number.

Q.—Do you know of more than one? A.—There are cases where the men were asked to work on Saturday afternoon, which the employers know is contrary to the rules of the union, and the principles of the union, and they have given their men the choice of either leaving their employment or breaking the laws of the union.

Q.—Did the employers' association ever pass a resolution that the men should leave the union or be discharged? A.—Not that I am aware of—not in deliberations.

Q.—Do you hold the association or a majority of the employers responsible for the action of a few of its members? A.—Undoubtedly. I think it is responsible; the whole is responsible for the few.

Q.—Do you know of any employer in Toronto who refuses to employ union men? A.—There were one or two at the time of the strike who positively refused to employ any but non-union men.

Q.—That was while the strike was in progress? A.—Yes; and immediately after it closed.

A.—16½

Q.—Do they still refuse? A.—I could not say. I think not.

Q.—Do you know any who now refuse to employ union men? A.—I do not.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—What prompted the men to ask for shorter hours? A.—The possibility of thereby increasing their wages.

A.—That may have been one reason—it certainly is. But we concluded that laborious work might be paid for at the same rate for nine hours as for ten hours, and not only that, but it would tend to equalize the labor market and to have those in the trade more generally employed.

Q.—Are there any other places in the Dominion where the nine hour system is in force? A.—Yes.

Q.—In Toronto? A.—I think the nine hour system prevails very generally throughout Ontario. One reason is, that it is a well-known fact that the shorter the hours the higher the wages. We find in the reports from other places where there are unions that this rule is correct. In the reports we have from all over the United States and from England, we find that mechanics working four or five hours less per week now receive higher wages. We believe that is one of the reasons for making the demand.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you know what the wages are in the border towns of the United States; how do the wages in Toronto compare with those in Rochester, Buffalo and Detroit? A.—Higher wages are paid there than here.

Q.—Do you know anything about the general rates of wages in the United States? A.—They range from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per day.

Q.—Then they are generally higher than here? A.—Quotations are given in the monthly and quarterly reports we have from several American cities, and the wages are higher there than here.

Q.—What are the wages in Buffalo? A.—I think in the last report I saw the wages were a little less in Buffalo than in Rochester at that time; but usually they run about the same.

Q.—And what rate in Detroit? A.—Something about the same.

Q.—Do you think, taking things all round, that the carpenters in Toronto are not quite as well off as are those just across the lake? A.—They are not.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Is this information given from general belief on your part, or from actual knowledge of those cities? Have you worked there? A.—I have received the reports of different Unions, and I am speaking from them. I worked in some of those places some years ago.

JAMES WRIGHT, Plasterer, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—I understand you wish to tell us something about technical schools? A.—Yes; about technical schools and trade schools.

Q.—What experience have you had in such schools? A.—I have always had a desire to attend one of these schools, but unfortunately I have been unable to attend one of these schools since leaving England, in 1868.

Q.—Did you attend one there? A.—I attended one in Oldham, in Lancashire.

Q.—Will you tell us something about that school? A.—It was inaugurated to allow mechanics and others to obtain a technical knowledge of the different trades. I believe, however, that Mr. Cooper, founder of the Cooper's Institute, in New York,

inaugurated the system of trades education, so that each man was practically at work while he was getting a general knowledge of the trade, and instead of using books and mathematical appliances he used tools. I did not attend that class, owing to not being sufficiently long in New York at that time. I endeavored to establish a school of that description in this city last winter. It was so successful, so far as attendance was concerned, that I thought I would come before this Commission, and advise the Government to establish some school of that sort in Toronto and other towns in Canada. In regard to the United States, there is one firm employing 250 apprentices, which has established a technical school belonging to the works, and fifty teachers attend the school each evening. They worked at the trade, and proper apprentices were appointed to assist them with respect to the use of tools. The school I established in Toronto was one for plasterers, I being well known in the city, having lived here for fourteen years. Mr. Rundel, who was giving evidence here, was one of the first to whom I went about the matter, I having worked for him. I asked him to send his apprentices to me, and I would give instruction two nights a week for six weeks. I had to furnish the room, light, fire, material and tools, and my own time; I charged the apprentices \$5 each. I know that it was too heavy on young men here trying to learn the trade, and who were receiving probably \$2.50, \$3 or \$4 a week. Mr. Rundle, however said: "You commence the school, and I will send my two boys, and pay for them myself." I went to other boss plasterers, and they were all willing that I should commence the school for their advantage, but in regard to fees the boys must pay them. I had seventeen or eighteen boys who applied. The result of the whole thing was that the \$5 scared them away; but there was one boy who was so anxious to acquire knowledge that he said he would pay his fee in instalments. I said to him: "If you will come even alone I will go on with the school, even if it is only for your benefit." He came and paid me by instalments. Eventually I had only four apprentices who went through the whole term. I wrote to the journeymen's union in this city, advising them to come, or appoint a committee and watch the progress of the work during the evening. We were on actual work, and I have the work finished by the boys in my shop now. I did not even receive a response to my letter, and I felt a little hurt. Since that time some of the journeymen have asked me to establish a school again this winter. I thought, however, it was nonsensical on my part to go to work and establish such a school for only four or five boys, as I was out \$60 last time, and I could not afford it again. In my endeavor to establish a technical school I thought I would have had the support of the trade last winter. As the Commission were in the city I thought that probably we might stir the trade up on the question, and show the feasibility of establishing such a school for apprentices. I had to learn my trade, as others have had to learn it, from journeymen. One boy assured me he had been six months at the trade, and a piece of work that could be taught a boy in three hours so that he could do it perfectly, he had never been even shown. I showed him how to do it, and he applied himself so well that I have kept his work since. Even a boy who had but one month to serve had very little of the business, any more than what he had picked up. He had no technical knowledge; he did not know how to measure a yard of plaster; he had no idea of how much work had been done when he went home. It is generally understood that a man will do one hundred yards of work per day, but there are not half a dozen apprentices who know how much work has been done during the day. They have not the faintest idea of how to measure it. They do not seem to know that if a work is ten feet long and ten feet high there are one hundred square feet in it. Apprentices have had no opportunity of obtaining school education in most cases, because in our business they are taken from a rough, strong class, who have little education. They have not had even the ordinary education given in the public schools; they are generally picked up from those who are suffering from poverty, or they enter the trade simply because they expect to get higher wages when they get to be journeymen plasterers.

Q. Yours seems to have been a school of instruction in a particular trade rather

than a technical school, such as we have been hearing about? A.—I observed that the architects of this city have established a school for their business. It is held, I believe, at the Canadian Institute. Different architects lecture to the students or apprentices to the architectural business. It is merely a trade school for architects. Bricklayers, carpenters, stone masons and plasterers should certainly have technical schools as much as their children should be instructed in the public schools.

TORONTO, December 3rd, 1887.

JOHN DIXON, Carriage Builder, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Are you a journeyman, or employer? A.—An employer.

Q.—Have you been in business long? A.—About twenty-six years.

Q.—You ought to be pretty familiar with the carriage building business in Toronto? A.—I am. It is considered a pretty good trade, what with here and outside. Some hundreds of hands are employed altogether, and there are quite a number of shops.

Q.—How much of the materials for carriages is imported from abroad? A.—There is not a great deal of it imported. Most of it is manufactured here. That which is not, comes from the other side, such as spokes.

Q.—Are these in their natural state, or sawn? A.—They are in butts—short logs for making hubs.

Q.—Is it impossible to get the very best wood for carriage building in Canada? A.—We have not got the best wood here, such as hickory and elm.

Q.—What kind of elm do you use? A.—We use rock elm, but not much.

Q.—Is there not sufficient rock elm in Canada? A.—Not much; not sufficient for hubs.

Q.—What is the condition of Canadian hickory? A.—It is a little soft.

Q.—Cross-grained? A.—No; the better the timber the crosser the grain is.

Q.—A witness told us the other day there was not sufficient white wood hickory in Canada for the trade? A.—That is a mistake. As a general rule, carriage makers would as soon have colored as white wood. It is necessary that hickory should be second growth. I think that hickory is nearly all cut out in this district. There used to be a large amount of it at St. Catharines and Niagara. It is suffering the fate of the walnut and white woods.

Q.—With the exception of the importation of wood, the manufacture is mostly carried on in Canada? A.—Some few things we require are got from the other side—the States. There are numerous places where carriage building is carried on in Canada—perhaps fifty. There are some factories at St. Catharines, a very extensive factory at Hamilton, and at other towns.

Q.—So far as iron is concerned, do you get it here? A.—Yes, principally in Canada. We get some axles from the other side. These are special kinds—steel axles; none are manufactured here. There are very few iron axles used now. Steel ones have become so cheap that they are mostly used. I do not know where they get the steel from. They are manufactured in Guelph, Galt and other places. They could be manufactured here equally as well if we were to import Bessemer steel.

Q.—About filagree work in Canada—where does it come from? A.—Montreal and Oakville.

Q.—As a rule, do you buy your iron ready-made or rough? A.—We manufacture it ourselves.

Q.—Your principal work is fitting and finishing the woodwork and iron? A.—There are four sections—painting, trimming, woodwork and iron.

Q.—What rates of wages are prevalent in your trade? A.—The ordinary mechanic earns from \$9 to \$10 a week; first-class men \$12 to \$15 a week all the

year round, winter and summer. All higher class men are employed that can be got. There are some men employed on rough work at from \$5 upwards.

Q.—How about apprentices? A.—We do not have any apprentices. Boys learn the trade without indenturing. This is not the best system. I would rather have them indentured. We have had a written agreement with some of them, but it has never been properly carried out. If you take proceedings in the court against them sympathy always goes with the workman.

Q.—Would you consider the apprenticeship system, if it could be restored, to be good? A.—I think it would be very good.

Q.—Would boys be benefited by technical instruction? A.—I do not think many would avail themselves of it.

Q.—If they should? A.—It would be a good thing for them.

Q.—When boys come to work in your shops are they handy? A.—We do not take any "green" hands. There are plenty of country boys who know something of the business. They serve a couple or three years in the country and then come to the cities and hire for \$5 or \$6 a week. They agree to stay a few years. The only way we can keep them is to give them an extra good chance and increase their pay. We give them \$5 for the first year, \$6 for the second, and find then that somebody else will take them.

Q.—Do you give special instruction? A.—We do; it is for our advantage to do so. We give the youths special instruction as soon as we get them.

Q.—Have you any machinery in your business? A.—No; steam power, but little machinery.

Q.—These are not such machines as would be likely to cause accidents? A.—Not at all likely.

Q.—How often do you pay your hands? A.—Every Saturday, in cash and in full. We make no deductions whatever.

Q.—Have you ever been asked to adopt any other pay day? A.—I did make a change. Last summer I commenced to pay on Friday. The first Friday I had three hands off; the following week, nine off. I therefore changed the pay-day back to Saturday.

Q.—What took these men off? A.—Pleasure.

Q.—How many hours do men work? A.—Ten hours a day; sixty hours a week. I do not see what benefit it would be.

Q.—Have any efforts been made to reduce the hours of labor? A.—Eleven years ago there was.

Q.—Do you think the men would be better off if they only worked nine hours a day? A.—It is not a laborious business.

Q.—Do not iron-workers work very hard? A.—I am an iron-worker myself; it is not heavy work; it is a very healthy business.

Q.—Are not the men pretty well fatigued when they quit work at night? A.—They take care not to fatigue themselves; they maintain their health fairly well.

Q.—Is there no indication that you have observed that they wear themselves out with hard work? A.—No; there is only one line of trade which I think to be injurious; that is carriage painting. This is on account of the paint and the carelessness of the men themselves. Some do not keep themselves fairly clean, nor are they clean about their work. They do not keep the shops as well ventilated as they should be in summer. I am speaking of my own shops. They are all pretty well ventilated in the city. Men who are accustomed to work in shops do not care much about ventilation. We make efforts to secure ventilation, but the men do not care for it. I very often go in and find an unpleasant smell and have the windows opened, but some of the young fellows close them again.

Q.—Do you employ female labor? A.—We do not employ any women. There is work they can do, but we do not employ them. They could do work in the cushion shop, and trimming.

Q.—Would it not be a great advantage to them to be so employed? A.—We could not employ many. Where there were thirty or forty hands you could not employ more than two or three women. They could not work unless experienced men showed them. There are branches that are not adapted to female labor at all. There are certain portions they could do as well as men, and other portions they could not do.

Q.—Do you keep your shops comfortably warm in winter? A.—I do.

Q.—So that if the men took the same care as you do, there need be no unsatisfactory conditions? A.—I take every care. There are water-closets in the shop, but I am afraid not very good. The Bay street sewer is 8 feet 6 inches below the surface of the street. This is not sufficiently good drainage for a cottage. It is just sufficient to take off the running water and that is all.

Q.—How about wages? A.—There are always good wages. Good workmen command good wages, but many of the good men are not very steady.

Q.—Do men in your trade leave Canada for the States? A.—Not many. A man who left me for the States has come back, and says he can do better here than in Detroit. He says he can live more economically. He got higher wages there, but lives more comfortably here. He had been working seven years for me, and left last summer. He is a very good workman.

Q.—Have you known any carriage makers in Toronto to acquire great wealth? A.—What do you consider great wealth?

Q.—Well-to-do? A.—All that I can say is, that the men are living well. They are living better than I was when I was working much harder than they are.

Q.—After you had begun business and were doing comfortably well you lived more economical than some of your workmen live now? A.—Yes; I see my workmen riding down to and from their work while I walk. Workingmen have more luxuries now than ever. I speak from personal observation of them and their families.

Q.—Do they dress in better style than ten or fifteen years ago? A.—One hundred per cent. better. Many men who are steady are doing well. I would like some of you gentlemen to visit my factory and ask them how they are doing.

Q.—Do they not get into difficulties through buying good clothes? A.—I cannot say they do.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Have you had any garnishment in your shops? A.—We have not, but there was the case of a good workman who used to send money to his friends. His boarding woman came round and said he had not paid her for seven or eight weeks. I paid him every Saturday night.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do any workmen in your trade own houses? A.—Some of them do. Perhaps not one-fourth of them. I employ from 35 to 40 men. I have 35 working now. I keep on about the same number of hands the year round.

Q.—Do you make special efforts to keep your men on when you have not special orders on hand? A.—I do. There is no occasion for a man to lose an hour, whether business is good, bad or indifferent.

Q.—Do you know anything about house rent in Toronto? A.—I know what I have paid myself, and I know what working men can get a house for.

Q.—Are you speaking positively? A.—I merely speak from what I have heard of the present rents.

The CHAIRMAN:—We can get this direct from others.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you know of any profit sharing by carriage-makers? A.—No, I do not.

Q.—Do you require any contract from your hands that they do not belong to any union? A.—I do not. I employ only skilled workmen. There are no union men in our business. I never interfere. They have never troubled me. I do not object to union men working for me.

Q.—Have you never been asked to employ any but union men? A.—Never. I have never taken action in the matter. A union was formed here some years ago. The president and vice-president worked for me. They made arrangements for a strike.

Q.—Will you tell us about this strike? A.—My brother's hands turned out, and remained out part of the day, and my foreman and all the other men had to quit work. That evening they had a meeting, and that disorganized all things. The men said they were perfectly satisfied, and did not know what they had left work for. This burst up the whole thing. They made no demand on us. I do not know what they were striking about.

Q.—Were they badly treated in your brother's shop? A.—No; they went back to work again the next day.

Q.—It was a very extraordinary strike? A.—It was. I made no enquiries about it.

Q.—Is there any "black-listing" in your business? A.—No; I have no lists of men who are objectionable on any account.

Q.—Do carriage builders from abroad—emigrants—come largely into Toronto? A.—Yes; we have them from all parts, but not very many of them. They come principally from the United States and the old country.

Q.—Those from the United States—do they remain here or go back? A.—Some remain and others do not. Men travel very much more than previously. They are continually moving around.

Q.—Is this to better their condition? A.—It may be, but some of them like a change.

Q.—You have told us that the rate of wages has not materially changed, but you think your men are better off? A.—I think you can live cheaper in Toronto to-day than ever. Things are cheap.

Q.—Are not rents higher? A.—You can get a good house reasonable if you go further out. You can get one from \$8.00 to \$10.00 a month within one mile or a mile and a-quarter of the centre of the city—say twenty-five minutes' walk.

Q.—That is nearly an hour off his work? A.—They do not trouble about that. Many get their meals in the city. They can do this for ten cents. My foreman only paid twelve cents for a meal, and said he never got a better one, the only drawback was that the room was too crowded.

Q.—Do you know how wages are in your business, as compared with Great Britain? A.—No; I cannot say.

Q.—Don't you think your men would be better off if they had a union? A.—I do not think they would. I think being master of his trade is decidedly better than the union. Let each man be paid according to his ability.

Q.—Have the master carriage-builders a union? A.—None whatever. We do not desire one. It has not been talked of.

Q.—Are there any co-operative carriage shops in Toronto? A.—There are none. There never have been any.

Q.—Would it require a good deal of capital? A.—It would depend on the extent of the business. A man with good character might be able to start with \$500.00.

Q.—If a few men were to combine they could start a very considerable shop? A.—It is a very difficult thing to get men to work together. There is always some dissatisfaction about the way the business is conducted. It takes years for a man to get the requisite business experience. He must have experience of four different branches, and that is what the journeyman hardly accomplishes. There are four separate and distinct branches of our trade—trimming, woodwork, blacksmith and painting. A workman in one department does not know about the others. A man to conduct his business right must have a knowledge of those four branches.

Q.—Does it require much knowledge to buy property in your trade? A.—Not very much, but it is said, "a thing well bought is half sold."

Q.—Does it require much knowledge and experience to best dispose of such property? A.—It requires tact. We depend more on a ready sale than on orders. We do not care so much about orders as regular cash sales.

Q.—Do you think that mechanics in Toronto have, so far as you have observed them, houses as comfortable as formerly? A.—I think they are much better, more sanitary, and fitted up with more modern conveniences.

Q.—But the men are crowded together further away from their shops. A.—That is so. I have always worked ten hours a day, and never suffered from it, or a long walk.

Q.—Do you fine your employes? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Have you any Sunday work? None. I do not think over-time pays.

Q.—Does convict labor interfere to any extent with your trade? A.—Not at all.

Q.—Do you think your men have saved much money? A.—Not to any extent.

They can save money if they try.

Q.—You would not care to live on the scale on which journeymen would live if save money. A.—No; I would not, for I have lived better for many years. I have lived as they do, but never lived yet but I could save money.

Q.—When you lived in that style, did you have the ordinary comforts of life? A.—I always tried, by not being too extravagant. I have a good many old hands. I do not often change hands.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—When a man does not do enough to fatigue himself he does quite enough to satisfy you? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you given the question of shorter hours any study? A.—No; I have not.

Q.—You have no knowledge of the benefits shorter hours confer? A.—No. The only thing I think is, that it gives workmen time to knock around and spend their money.

Q.—How do you arrive at that conclusion? A.—I have not given the subject much study, but this is what I think. I know that when men have a holiday they generally make very poor use of it.

Q.—All men? A.—Many of them. I do not think the majority do.

Q.—Don't you think your men would be better workmen if they had more spare time? A.—They have plenty of time in the evening.

Q.—Should not mechanics have time to come into the city, visit the public library and other places of recreation? A.—I have had to go through it. I commenced as an apprentice, and worked as a journeyman. I think that ten hours a day is a reasonable day's work for any man, and certainly if they work shorter hours they should be paid less in proportion. I do not think that ten hours' work will hurt any man, unless it is at some bad and injurious business, such as stonecutting. We do not rush in and break their necks to work for you. We do not keep men longer than we want them. When slackness comes on we let bad workmen go. There is a good demand for good skilled workmen at all times, and we keep the good workmen.

Q.—You overpay one man and merely give another what he is worth. A.—This is only in the spring of the year, and it pays you to give a man ten dollars a week if he is only worth eight dollars, but it would not pay you to keep him all the year round.

Q.—If you gave a man one hour a day in pursuit of happiness, don't you think he would work with greater physical energy? A.—I do not think he would; I think he would just work the same way as before. It is natural for some men to be active and quick and others to be inactive and slow, and it would not matter how much you increase the latter's pay, he would be slow. The fast man would always be active, whatever his wages. It is his nature.

Q.—Are you aware that in some trades wages have been advanced, and at the same time hours have been reduced? A.—I do not know about it. We have very little piece-work. The man who makes wheels does not work piece-work in the winter. He earns more by working by day. A man working on piece-work does more work than on time.

Q.—You are a practical man yourself; do you not think that you could do a reasonable day's work in eight hours? A.—I know I could not do as much in eight as in ten.

Q.—Could not you do a fair day's work in eight hours? A.—I might have been able to do it.

Q.—Does a man who works piece-work put in ten hours a day? A.—He has to come at the same time as the day hands. On piece-work a man works on special things. Some weeks he would earn more than by day's work. I have had men working for me for five or six years.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you know anything about the keeping open of retail shops here? A.—I do not know anything very particular. Some shops open at eight o'clock in the morning and keep open till ten o'clock at night.

Q.—Are other firms busy as well as yours? A.—Mr. Peterkin says he has as much work as he can do. He pays his men from \$1.75 to \$3.00 a day, and business is very good.

Q.—How long have you been in Toronto? A.—Fifteen years.

Q.—Can you tell us the proportion of immigrants in Toronto? A.—I cannot say what it is. We do not care much about the immigrants when they come here. In the papers in the summer season there are lots of advertisements for woodworkers, blacksmiths, trimmers and painters, for carriage shops.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Is there any surplus labor in Toronto? A.—There is not. Skilled workmen are very scarce. I think we ought to have some better apprenticeship system. The boys do not get well taught, as it is. They do not stay long in one place.

Q.—Have boys an opportunity to get into shops? A.—O, yes. Apprentices would pay if they would stay their time. The first two years they are not much use. The third year they are more useful, and the employer can afford to give good wages. By the time his term is up he would be a good mechanic. We cannot depend on them staying, and therefore do not take them.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—It is the fault of the employers that there are so few apprentices? A.—There has never been much consideration of it. The bosses would have no objection to apprentices, but the boys will not stay. By increasing the pay the boys would stay their time out. I have some working for me as journeymen. The present system works this way: I have a boy in my employ, and he goes to another employer and says: "Do you want a hand?" He says where he is working, and that he has been getting \$4.00 or \$5.00 a week. The man says: "I will hire this boy; he has been doing good work." He will give him \$7.00 a week, and he is glad to take him on. A boy in Toronto at a good shop would be better than a journeyman from the country. They would understand how we would want our work done, and are more active than countrymen are.

Q.—You said that a man can get a respectable house to live in within a mile and a-quarter, and cheap. Will you name the street? A.—I am not very familiar with the outskirts of the city, but I know there are plenty of respectable houses suitable for workmen within a mile and a-half. Some of our men go as far. I do not think it would kill a man if he had to go two miles.

Q.—Don't you think a man should take his family to the Island occasionally? A.—I am sorry to say that they take too many holidays. You cannot always get them to work in fine weather. The men have more luxuries than the masters. I do not envy the men having a half day off, but it is the drinking I condemn. You go down to the ferry on a summer evening and see the number of people going over to the Island. I have this year seen workmen going over by the hundreds. Ten years ago you would not have seen fifty.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Don't you think a workman has a right to as much relaxation as yourself? A.—Certainly I do. An employer would not object to a man going off occasionally. If he does he is very unreasonable.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you known bosses in Toronto who have refused this, and others who have deducted wages? A.—We certainly deduct the wages.

Q.—You say the men have their evenings, but a workingman has got very little time in the evenings for enjoyment at the Island? Don't you think you should consider this? A.—All men do not take into consideration giving the bosses a good day's work. In the majority of cases you must look after them or you will not get a good day's work out of them. You will be left if you don't. I do not say they are all "sharps," but the majority of them will not do an honorable day's work unless they are looked after. The man who looks best after his men is the best business man.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Is not what you complain of the fault of their education? A.—I do not know. Certainly, they would be better for better education. I have got as good men as any in the city, but they will not work for me for the love of the thing.

Q.—Then you say that if a man had a better education he would work better? A.—Yes; he would.

To Mr. ARMSTRONG.

I pay a man according to what he is worth. A man is not in the city six months before all the trade knows all about him. They say: "Dixon has got a good body maker, or a tip-top blacksmith, or a good painter," and everybody is ready to hire him. There is a demand for good, skilled mechanics, and such a man need not be out of work.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You are speaking of skilled men? A.—Yes; I think good, skilled workmen in almost any trade in the city are in demand, and that throughout the year. I have had work done by other firms and found them very busy. There are indications that trade is good. You cannot get work done for you immediately.

JOHN SCULLY, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What is your business? A.—I am a contractor's agent, and reside in Toronto. I supply laborers and mechanics for public works, such as railways and canals. When contractors require hands they apply to me and I procure them. I get a commission on the men I supply. Sometimes one hundred men apply for work and only five are hired. I look to the men themselves for my remuneration as a rule. Sometimes I get a commission from the contractors as well. I also deal in contractors' plant. They put such things in my way. For nine or ten years I have hired men for the Canadian Pacific Railway. In 1879-80 I shipped men away to Port Arthur before the present syndicate took the railway in hand. The pay for laborers was \$2 to \$2.25 per day. Piece men made as much as \$4 to \$5 a day. Swedes generally work piece-work.

Q.—How much was deducted from their pay for their board? I believe \$1 a week, but some boarded themselves. Italian laborers state they wish to do this before they ship. They live much cheaper this way.

Q.—What were the lowest rates of wages paid by the Canadian Pacific Railway during construction in Ontario? A.—\$1.50 on the Ontario and Quebec division. It was reduced to \$1.25 when the line was getting finished and men were more plentiful.

Q.—Have you ever sent men out to contractors who failed to provide work for them? A.—I have sometimes had too many applications, and have engaged too many, and I have given them their money back. A firm of contractors wrote and said the men sent out would not work. Then there was the case of a blacksmith who was directed to the wrong place.

Q.—How do you procure these men? A.—I advertise for them. Sometimes contractors from the United States come here to get men.

Q.—Are there not plenty of men in Canada looking for work? A.—There are, at this time of the year. I do not have many applications in winter. In the summer there was plenty of work.

Q.—Do you get many Italians? A.—Quite a lot.

Q.—Where do you get these men from? A.—I write to the States for them. As a rule they pay their own fare. Sometimes I advance fares. The Canadian Pacific Railway carried men to the Pacific coast and charged nothing.

Q.—Have you supplied men for the Welland Canal? A.—I have. The pay was \$1.25 per day of ten hours, with an hour for dinner. That is the usual time.

Q.—It is hard work, is it not? A.—It is. Some of the men like it in preference to city work.

Q.—The "shanty" life is pretty rough? A.—Well, it is not as clean as it should be. Sometimes vermin get in. The railway companies sometimes keep the men in boarding cars. There would probably be twenty-five men in each car.

Q.—When the men are discharged do they get paid up pretty well? A.—As a rule they do, but sometimes there is difficulty in getting paid.

Q.—If the contractor fails, who is responsible to the men for their wages? A.—The sub-contractor, or the man doing the work.

Q.—Do men ever come back to you and complain that they have been badly treated? A.—O yes: sometimes they do.

Q.—What do they complain of? A.—About the shanties, cooking and boarding; most of the complaints were about the food being badly cooked, and not sufficient of it; also the bread not being properly made.

Q.—Do you supply men to manufacturers? A.—I have not supplied ten men to manufacturers. I have supplied men as stonecutters and bridge mechanics.

Q.—At what wages? A.—Stonecutters, \$3.25 to \$3.50 a day; rough carpenters and farmers for British Columbia, to build snowsheds, \$2.25 a day, with fare paid out and the men brought back to the point where they started.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—In times of difficulty of contractors with their men, do you supply the places of the dissatisfied men? A.—I only once supplied some men for a certain work, when I did not know there was a strike. This was at Oswego, and the men were returned.

Q.—What are your charges? A.—I charge \$1.00. If a man does not get a situation I give the money back. I sometimes deduct 25 cents for my trouble; but, if they want the money, they get it.

Q.—Have you ever sent men out on speculation? A.—I have not. I assure myself that all is right beforehand. The men I sent to Port Arthur all got employment. This last year I have not sent men to British Columbia; the year before I did. I have been pestered with applications to send men there this year. I never had any trouble with the men on coming back. About three dollars is the average charge for board in the shanties. Lumbermen work long hours—as long as daylight lasts—from six o'clock in the morning till five or six at night. As a rule, their fare is advanced. Sometimes contractors only pay a portion of the fare.

Q.—Is it common for men to receive a free passage? A.—It is not customary, but there are exceptions. If the fare is advanced it is stopped from the wages. Sometimes the men change their names and the contractors lose the money. I have lost a lot of money by that myself.

Q.—Do you have a commission on railway tickets? A.—I used to have, but not now. No one gets a commission except the authorized agent of the company.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What proportion of the people here are immigrants? Over one-half of the people in Toronto and vicinity are sons of people born in the British Isles.

Q.—Do you think the people of Ontario object to immigrants other than paupers? A.—I do not think they object at all. I can hardly place every workingman who applies to me. Some only come to ask questions.

Q.—To put an extreme case: suppose half-a-dozen paupers arrived here, do you think Christian people would raise a subscription and send them to British Columbia? A.—There has been a similar case here. There was trouble in Toronto some time ago by pauper people being sent here from Ireland. Some were sent to the United States and some were sent back to Ireland. Some charitable Irish people got up a subscription for them and had a soup-kitchen opened. They did not starve, but they had a pretty hard time. They were mostly not fit to work. They were mostly married people, with large families of small children. I have heard that some of them have done very well, and some have settled in this country. One is a foreman over some drainage here.

Q.—I suppose that in Toronto, like other places in Canada, a good many people are now well off who were little better than paupers when they came here? A.—That is so. A good many farmers here, well-to-do, have worked at fifty cents a day. Some were farm servants at ten dollars a month, and worked on the farm they now occupy. They saved money and bought out their masters.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—And married their masters' daughters? A.—Yes; I hear the men talk of their affairs. I hire men for the farmers, sometimes.

Q.—You are not busy in winter? A.—I have not much work in this respect from now till the 1st of March. I get men plenty of work in summer.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you not ask what a man's religion is? A.—I ask no questions, except their capacity for work.

CHARLES PEARSON, Real Estate Agent, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How long have you been in the real estate business. A.—About twenty years.

Q.—Have you been engaged in real estate transactions in all parts of Canada? A.—I have.

Q.—Has land very much advanced in value during the last twenty years? A.—It has.

Q.—And the city of Toronto has been extended in all directions? A.—It has.

Q.—Have you much knowledge of the class of houses occupied by working people? A.—Yes; very large.

Q.—Are many such houses rented through you? A.—They are.

Q.—And sold through you? A.—Yes. We are the largest estate dealers in the country.

Q.—Do workingmen pay much more rent now than ten years ago? A.—Yes; they do.

Q.—Can you make any estimate as to the the increase in the rents? A.—Yes. It is possible for a workingman to get a house at nearly the same rent as ten years ago. But to do that he has to go to the outskirts of the city, and this necessitates the expenditure of car fare.

Q.—So what he gains in rental goes in the mode of travel? A.—Very much so. There has been an increase of thirty to forty per cent. in house rent in the centres in which workingmen mostly live, during the past ten years. In these districts they are pretty much the same class of houses now as then. There may be a little difference in the fixing, but they are the same style and class of houses.

Q.—Do the houses for working people in the central localities rent pretty freely? A.—The working people as a class like to cluster in the centre of the city, so as to be as near as possible to their work. They put up very often with poorer houses to be nearer to their business.

Q.—Do many of them put up with small houses, and crowd together? A.—Yes; they are smaller houses, and poorer than they could get outside the city. They put up with inconvenience rather than go further away.

Q.—What would be the rent? A.—A mechanic pays from \$10.00 to \$15.00 a month for an ordinary house. Ten years ago the rent would be \$7.00 to \$10.00 a month for the same houses.

Q.—Are mechanics frequently forced in paying rent to go beyond the increase previously fixed in their own mind? A.—We do meet with instances of that kind.

Q.—Are they rare or frequent? A.—Not very frequent, but I think mechanics go beyond what they intended. Sometimes mechanics—two families—live in the same house, to be near together and to their work.

Q.—Take an average mechanic—how many rooms would he have in his house? A.—Seven or eight rooms, taking it all round. Mechanics, as a rule, have large families. The poorer he is, the larger family he has. If he cannot get real estate he can have a large family.

Q.—The unskilled laborer—what kind of a house has he? A.—One for which he pays \$6.00 or \$7.00 a month. It is very rare for a family to have but one room. We have the largest business in this respect, and I do not know of any house of one room. I know of some four or five-roomed houses with more than one family. I know some houses where the basement has one family, and another lives above. There is a row where there are two families to each house.

Q.—What is their sanitary condition? A.—They are pretty well drained. They are under the supervision of the city council, and a policeman goes round to inspect them. If not carefully looked after the condition of the older and poorer houses would be bad. They have the old drainage, and in a great many cases the old fashioned privy. The council are doing away with this. On the score of health it pays a man to put in a water-closet.

Q.—Is there a municipal law to insist upon them being cleaned? A.—Yes; but the cost is paid generally by the proprietor. The tenant ought to pay it. The man who creates the nuisance should be responsible. But the landlord generally puts sufficient on the rent to cover a cost like that.

Q.—Do you sell many houses to working people? A.—Yes; many pay \$100.00 in cash, sometime \$200.00, and pay the balance quarterly or monthly. The greater number pay quarterly.

Q.—Do many parties who make contracts find themselves unable to complete them, and therefore sell out? A.—Very few. We generally find that when a man is unable somebody is willing to take his place, and he is in that manner reimbursed. The working people keep up their payments pretty regularly. It is their first thought to get "the house paid for." Interest is paid on the whole amount, generally. The Government now have passed an Act under which the rate of interest must be on the sum remaining due.

Q.—Is the price of houses of the class we are speaking of increasing yearly? A.—It is.

Q.—Is the cost of building greater? A.—It is very much greater, both in the cost of labor and materials.

Q.—Can you fix some particular locality in which workingmen's houses have been in existence for a number of years and state pretty nearly the increase of value of such houses? A.—Yes; take St. John's ward. It is a centre for workingmen engaged in every business. It is a source of great profit for the landlords. The average price of a workingman's house there would be from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

Q.—What would such a house have sold for ten years ago? A.—From \$750.00 to \$800.00—about fifty per cent. higher now.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—A man who would have bought a house for \$1,000 ten years ago can get a house equal to it now by going farther out? A.—He can get a better house for the same money, with more modern conveniences, such as water-closets.

Q.—Do workmen as a rule have gas in their houses? A.—Gas is laid on when the house is built. It costs little putting in. Tenants often do not use it. It is put in in case they want to sell. There are no cooking ranges or bath rooms, and the plumbing work is as bad as it could be.

Q.—Death-traps? A.—Yes, death-traps. Some sort of check is required for this.

Q.—Are you familiar with the Act for the inspection of buildings and plumbing? A.—This is one of the grievances we complain of. Wages are cut down and men do not get sound work. It may be owing to the contract system. There is no reason why we should not pay more and get better work done. The difference of cost between a good job and a bad one is very little. Some houses to be put up for sale are skimmed over and the workmen bound down to a certain figure.

Q.—Are architects to blame in not requiring proper work? A.—A good deal of work does not come under the notice of the architect; it is left to the builder, and one man is sometimes trying to do two or three kinds of work. He is a builder, but thinks he can do plumbing and other things as well.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You have an inspector? A.—I never see an inspector. A policeman looks round and sees the place is safe. There is a commissioner who grants permits for erection, but it is not his duty to go in and see the work done. A policeman is appointed to examine properties, but he knows nothing at all about plumbing work.

Q.—In business centres which would be the more valuable—the buildings or the land? A.—It would depend on the class of buildings and the site. Take, for example, the corner of King and Yonge streets. The owners will not sell the property. You could not buy it at any figure. The last sale on the north side was at \$1,300 a foot, but you could not buy it at all. The land about here (the post office) is worth \$2,000 a foot.

Q.—In good residential districts, where merchants and people of considerable means live, how much land do they generally occupy? A.—As a rule, fifty feet, but first class residences run much over that. The land would be worth perhaps \$75 a foot. The house would be worth more than the land. A mechanic would live on a twenty-five foot lot. This would be worth probably \$50 a foot. The house would be poor; perhaps not worth more than \$500.

Q.—Would you tell us your views about leasehold property? A.—There is no greater injustice to the community than public bodies holding leasehold property. They drift into old families, who will not sell. There are blocks in King street east belonging to the city of Toronto which interfere with the city's progress. That part of the city which improves least is often found to be land which is held by the corporation. People will not improve another man's land. If we do not stop it, we shall seriously suffer. Leases generally run twenty-one years and sometime are not renewable. The property is taken over, on the end of the lease, on valuation, but they do not take location into consideration. They give you the actual cost of the building, but it is depreciated in the course of years. The conditions are more binding, and the tenants have little security. The objection to leasehold property. Such bodies ought to be made to sell their property. There are whole blocks which are really not fit to live in.

Q.—How would you compel them to sell? A.—By Act of Parliament. The old properties received from the Crown ought to be sold, and then improvements would take place.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are rents of leaseholds more strictly collected than ordinary rents? A.—They are. The hospital trustees are generally very liberal.

Q.—How long can a man defy his landlord? A.—I have seen it done for twelve or fifteen months. You cannot go into the house, and the tenant turns the key and is monarch. Legal proceedings must be taken. There is a law which is very unjust to working people. A man may erect a house on leasehold land and the tenant pay his rent regularly every month, but if the ground rent be not paid a man can come in and distrain the tenant's goods because the ground rent is not paid.

The CHAIRMAN:—That is a very iniquitous thing.

To Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

A.—I do not think the new law is much improvement. As a rule, we find honest people pay their rents, and if they do not, you had better get rid of them. We do not employ bailiffs very much. There are useful provisions in the new law. If you let rent run twelve months you cannot recover. If a landlord lets it run so long it is at his own risk.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Have you any "black list" of people who do not pay their rent? A.—We have not. We carry them very much in our heads.

Q.—Have you any other suggestions to offer? A.—There is one thing it is very important the public should be protected against. I send for a stair-builder and the master sends a carpenter who knows nothing about stair-building. If trades unions issued some certificate for a man, to show what department of a trade he is, it would be better than the present system. I think the unions might remedy this complaint.

TORONTO, 24th January, 1888.

EDWARD HAWKINS, Engineer, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How long have you worked at the business of an engineer? A.—I have worked for eighteen years in this city.

Q.—Did you pass an examination as such? A.—I have not passed an examination, but I would like to see an examination held. That is what I am in favor of.

Q.—What kind of an engine do you run? A.—It is an automatic engine.

Q.—A stationary engine? A.—Yes; a stationary, high-pressure engine.

Q.—Do you know much about the engines in the Toronto shops? A.—They are mostly all high-pressure; there are very few condensing engines, except those on the Esplanade.

Q.—How often are they inspected by the proper authorities? A.—They are never inspected at all, unless they are paid for it; we have no Government inspection.

Q.—Do you think there is any danger arising from want of inspection? A.—I do.

Q.—Do you ever have control of engines that you look upon as dangerous? A.—I have had lots of engines that were not fit to run.

Q.—Are there engines in Toronto that are run by incompetent hands? A.—Most of the engines in Toronto are run by incompetent hands; there are very few reliable men employed on engines.

Q.—You think, then, that is a drawback to practical engineers? A.—It certainly is.

Q.—And also a danger? A.—It is a danger to the public and every one concerned.

Q.—How long do you think a young man should serve to become a competent engineer? A.—He should serve at least seven years; that is the lowest term a man should serve, and he should be a good scholar and well up in figures in order to be a practical engineer. He should also be well versed in mechanics and geometry.

Q.—Did you serve your time in the old country? A.—I served my time in the old country and in the United States—part of the time in the old country.

Q.—Do you think that if there was an examination, so that an engineer would have a certificate of competency, it would have a tendency to elevate the business?

A.—We have a society formed with that object. We are agitating with the Government to take the engineers in hand, and to compel engineers to pass an examination and obtain a Government certificate. If a man is incapable of answering the usual questions in regard to the trade from which he obtains his livelihood he should be debarred from the trade altogether. That is what we are figuring on—having competent men to run the engines. Take, for instance, the place where I have been employed: there are three large steel boilers right under the sidewalk; when they have a man there who does not understand his business one of the boilers might explode and cause great destruction to life and property, for people might be passing over the sidewalk at the time. We are getting into a position in Toronto now that people walking on sidewalks do not know what is under them—whether the engines are being run by boys or girls. I have been in places where girls were running an engine. Only last week I was in a saw-mill at the west end where the engine was run by a boy. The boiler was fizzing in such a manner, and it looked to be so dangerous, that I walked out and got away. How it has run to the present time without accident I do not know. That is a common thing—that is occurring every day. I say this is a fact, and I can prove it, and I can take any member of the Commission around and show him that such is the case.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How frequently should the inspection of an engine and boiler take place?

A.—I should think an inspector should go around every three months. A good, intelligent inspector should go around, say four times a year, and inspect the plant and see the engineers who are running it, and if there is any doubt as to the capacity of the engine the matter should be brought before the employer, and he should be fired out and a competent man taken in his place.

Q.—Where there is a fireman employed, who is responsible for the boiler and engine? A.—The engineer himself is responsible; they always look to the engineers in cases of that kind.

Q.—Is not dirt a common source of danger? A.—Yes; if they let the engines run too long.

Q.—How frequently should a boiler be cleaned? A.—If it is working hard, it should be cleaned at least once a month.

Q.—Do you know what is the common practice in this city? A.—The common practice with many of them is to clean out the boiler about once in six months—that is the practice with some men. A good engineer would never let a boiler run that long without cleaning.

Q.—If a man is not skilled as an engineer, would you consider him competent to take charge of a boiler? A.—I certainly would not.

Q.—Is it possible for a man who has been firing for a length of time to become so proficient in the management of a boiler and engine as to become competent to take charge? A.—He should not take charge unless he has gone through a regular apprenticeship. A man who fires does not understand the mechanical part of the business—he never can do so until he has had experience. I say, that a man, if he has been firing for some years, is not competent to take charge of an engine until he has had practical experience. After firing, he wants to go into an engine-room and become thorough in all the mechanical part of the work.

Q.—Do you know if it is the practice to take men who have been firing on boilers and place them in charge of engines? A.—That is done all the time. The trouble is, that now they take any body who knows enough to handle a shovel and knows how many pounds there are on the steam-gauge, and they consider he is an engineer. Of all the badly paid classes of men, the engineers are the worst paid and least appreciated, as I know myself, and I have been an engineer fifteen years. The people think no more of an engineer than they do of a dog.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What are the wages paid to an engineer? A.—From \$6 to \$10 a week. There are very few places that pay \$2 a day and offer proper wages and proper inducements to a man to become educated and train himself up to a proper scientific point. But it does not matter how learned you are or how well skilled you are, the people do not appreciate your services. Engineering, above all other things, is one which the Government should take hold of. We have an association formed among the trade to bring this matter before the Government, with a view to compel engineers to get certificates from a duly appointed board of examiners, and if men could not pass they should leave the business altogether and take up the pick and shovel, because human life is at stake. So far as wages are concerned, an employer can hire any one he likes for he is not compelled to have a certificated engineer. He will take a laborer in the streets, so long as he can shovel coal, and get him to blow off steam, and perhaps he does not understand anything about a boiler and engine. A man should know how many pounds pressure there is on the engine. That pressure is not the pressure that is on the whole boiler. He has to know the number of square inches there are in the boiler. If you will calculate that, the pressure is something enormous. These fools will fire in the coal, and all they know is that there are so many pounds on the steam-gauge. That is not the pressure on the boiler.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Will a boiler always stand with safety the amount of the pressure with which it is tested?—No; you have got to go under that; that is the utmost pressure with which it is tested with cold water when it leaves the boilermaker.

Q.—Is there not a tendency to increase the pressure on a boiler at times? A.—There is a tendency, but it should never be allowed to be done; you have appliances on the boiler so as not to let it reach that point. The Lowmoor iron boiler is tested at 150 pounds. A steel boiler is tested at 175 pounds; that is the utmost limit, but you should go fifty pounds below the test. Cold water is much more severe at the same pressure as a test.

Q.—Is it possible for a boy on going to learn the trade to learn the theory as well as the practice in a shop? A.—He can learn the practice but he cannot learn the theory without study. He can get the practice part; there are lots of good practical men in the country, but he has to get the theoretical part of it, too.

Q.—Do you know of any institution where apprentices could go to learn the theoretical part of the trade? A.—No; we have not got that institution. The great need of this country is a practical school for engineers, where they could be educated and their children after them. In England an engineer has to go to a regular, practical school of science. Here we have not got such an institution, and it is a want greatly felt, and the Government should do something in regard to the matter. It would be a great benefit to the country if we had a school for engineers. As a workman, and a poor man, I spent hundreds of dollars on my education; still I could not get in those colleges what we want to get for our trade. We want teachers who are practical and scientific men also. In England, I know, the engineers have to go to a regular school, where the teachers are employed and paid by the Government.

Q.—Do you know if there is any institution in Toronto where engineering is taught? A.—There is not at present. There are the higher branches taught in the Practical School of Science; but that institution does not meet the requirements of working engineers.

Q.—Can a boy learn the theory of his trade while he is attending school, or after he goes to be an apprentice? A.—He can learn the theory before he goes to the business, but he has to get the practical work afterwards.

Q.—Could a boy be taught, while attending the public school, sufficient of the theory of a trade to enable him to go to the practical part of the trade intelligently? A.—No; mechanics is a branch by itself; they could not teach that in the public schools.

Q.—They would need to have separate night schools established for that purpose? A.—A school for the purpose alone; a school of engineering.

JOHN HODGSON, Engineer, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You are a practical engineer, I believe? A.—I am.

Q.—Have you heard the evidence of the last witness, Mr. Hawkins? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you anything to add to that evidence? A.—No; I think he has made a very fair statement of the way the engineering trade is carried on—in Toronto, at least.

Q.—You have nothing to add to what the last witness has said? A.—No; only I would emphasize his desire that the Government should conduct examinations for engineers, and grant certificates. At the present time it does not seem to matter what kind of man is placed in charge of a boiler, so long as some one is in charge; but it is important that these men should be made to pass an examination and obtain a Government certificate.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you know if engineers in charge of boilers in large buildings require to be as skilled as engineers in charge of engines and boilers? A.—If you had a small cartridge of dynamite in your pocket it would be just as dangerous to you as if you had a barrel of it.

Q.—Do you know if there are different grades of engineers required for stationary engines? A.—That is a question. Some plants are more expensive than others, and a man on a small plant of a 10-horse-power engine should not be expected to possess the same abilities as a man in charge of a 250-horse-power condensing engine.

Q.—You would not have the same standard for all the examinations. A.—No; but we would allow a man to work up to a higher standard.

Q.—Then you would have a few first-class and second-class certificates? A.—Yes.

ANDREW DELANEY, Cooper, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You are a cooper, I understand? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long have you worked at the business? A.—I have worked at the business about eight years in Toronto.

Q.—In what state is the cooper business to-day? A.—It is in a very bad condition now. It has been so for the past three years and is still getting worse.

Q.—Are there many goods imported—is it importation that causes the trouble? A.—No.

Q.—What is the reason of the trouble? A.—The chief cause of the trouble of the falling off in our trade is the Scott Act.

Q.—That refers, however, to only one class of goods, I believe? A.—That is the only one class of goods manufactured here to any extent—beer barrels.

Q.—Is it all tight work? A.—Yes; there is very little of any other class of goods in our line manufactured in Toronto.

Q.—Have the coopers who were employed changed their occupation or have they left the country? A.—A number of them have left the country. In fact, in the shop where we work there are only seven men employed, where four years ago there were fifteen. The majority have left the city altogether.

Q.—Then the Scott Act does work? A.—It works to our injury, anyway.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What remedy would you propose in order to prevent the depression in your trade? A.—I do not know of any remedy, except to do away with the Scott Act.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What are the wages paid to a good hand at tight work? A.—They cannot now make more than \$1.80 a day.

Q.—Do they work at piece-work? A.—By piece-work. The worst feature in connection with the decline in the trade is that we have not got work all the year round—we have not work for more than eight months.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Before there was a depression in your trade, what wages were received by a good cooper? A.—A man made from \$2 to \$2.25 a day.

Q.—And worked all the year round? A.—Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Have you any idea of the number of coopers in Toronto at the present time? A.—There are about seventy-five or eighty.

Q.—Before the Scott Act was carried into force how many were employed? A.—About 150. Of course, I judge that entirely from the shop in which I work.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do they take many apprentices to the trade? A.—No; there have not been any apprentices in our shop since I started at the trade.

Q.—When times were good how long would it take an apprentice to learn his trade—how many years, do you think? A.—It would take him about three years.

Q.—Is that the standard, do you think? A.—That is the time they usually served.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Previous to the introduction of the Scott Act, was there not a large falling off in the cooper business? A.—No.

Q.—I mean, falling off through the introduction of machinery? A.—No; machinery has not been introduced to any extent here; in fact, it cannot be introduced to any extent in beer-barrel making.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Do you make barrels for all the brewers in the city? A.—Not for all, but for some of the brewers; we used to do considerable work for outside brewers.

Q.—What I mean by the question is, whether all the barrels purchased by the brewers in this city are made in this city? A.—They are.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Is it not true that ale is bottled a great deal more now than it used to be? A.—I do not know anything about that.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Still you are positive that the Scott Act has had a great effect on your business? A.—It is the only cause I can give for it. Our business with the brewers has fallen off since the Scott Act came into force.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you ever worked on the other side of the line? A.—No; I have not.

Q.—You do not know the difference between the wages paid in Toronto to men employed in your branch of industry and those paid to similar men in the United States? A.—No; only what I have heard.

MICHAEL DONOVAN, Cooper, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you heard the evidence of Mr. Delaney? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you substantiate his statements? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you anything to add? A.—No; I have nothing to add to them.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Like that witness, do you believe the Scott Act is having an injurious effect

upon your business? A.—Yes; because the Scott Act is the means of closing saloons and the people use more whiskey now than they do beer—it can be more handily managed.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Does it not require barrels to hold whiskey? A.—Not so many barrels. A great deal of water will go with it.

HUGH BURKE, Box-maker, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You are an employer of labor at the box-making business, I believe? A.—Yes; I am at present.

Q.—Where do you find the market for the boxes you manufacture? A.—In Toronto entirely.

Q.—How long does it take a young man to make himself efficient in box-making? A.—In Toronto the general system is to take a foreigner, for an employer gets him cheaper than the usual run of city hands, and if he can get him to run a planing machine for a couple of weeks he will do it.

Q.—Is it dangerous for these green hands to make boxes and use saws and other dangerous machinery? A.—Yes; but it is very seldom taken into account. If one man is injured they can get another man for the same wages as the first man and they do not have to pay anything for getting him run through.

Q.—Have you known accidents to happen to green hands in that way? A.—Yes; I have known a great many happen in my time.

Q.—In this city? A.—Yes; in this city.

Q.—Have you known the inspector to come around and visit these places? A.—Yes; Never to my knowledge.

Q.—Have you known many accidents to happen one year? A.—I have known shops where it was the general rule that an accident of some kind or other would happen every day.

Q.—In this city? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you know of any accidents having happened since the factory inspector was appointed? A.—I have not. I could not say whether the inspector has examined the factory or not.

Q.—Have you known any accident to happen since the inspector was appointed? A.—What time was he appointed?

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Last October? A.—I could not say.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—By what machines do the accidents occur? A.—From all the machines, the cross-cut saw, the rip-saw, the planing machine, and from putting on belts while the machinery is going.

Q.—These are about the only machines you use in box-making, I believe? A.—The usual thing is for a man to have two or three fingers taken off by the rip-saw.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is it a dangerous thing to put on belts while the machinery is going? A.—I should say so.

Q.—What is the proper course to pursue when a man wants to put on a belt? A.—The safest way is to stop the engine and then it is always sure. An experienced man can put on belts easily enough but an inexperienced man cannot. It requires practice to be able to put on belts properly without getting hurt.

Q.—The belts are put on while the machinery is going for the purpose of saving time, I suppose? A.—That is the general rule. I have known men who have been accustomed to it for years and yet get hurt; I know two men who got hurt putting on a belt.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—That is a matter that the inspector could not take any cognizance of; but with regard to accidents, do not some of them occur from the men's clothing getting caught? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Has box-making increased during the last few years in Toronto? A.—It has increased greatly.

Q.—Is there much competition in your business? A.—In our business competition has been pretty keen in Toronto lately.

Q.—What will be the weekly wages received by a good box-maker? A.—The wages five years ago were better than they are now in our business. The wages came down greatly two years ago, when the combination of the employers induced the men to join a labor organization. They were successful. The men joined in organized labor, and the employers—some of them—then sent around circulars stating that the men had been the cause of a rise in wages and they would have to raise the price of boxes. They did not require the men after that—after they got the prices the boxes raised they did not want those men any more. With that and improved machinery they have done away with the services of a great many box-makers, and a great many are out of employment at present.

Q.—Are the men organized? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it to their benefit to be organized? A.—They think so.

Q.—The employers are also organized? A.—Yes; it is the employers I mean.

Q.—But the employes are also organized? A.—They were organized, but whether they are organized now or not I cannot say.

Q.—Has the trade experienced any labor difficulty? A.—Yes; it has experienced two or three labor difficulties; there was one pretty heavy strike last year and a lock-out.

Q.—Did the men endeavor to settle the matter? A.—Yes; they endeavored to settle it through arbitration, which so far as I know was refused. Offers to arbitrate were of no avail.

Q.—Will you tell the Commission the cause of the strike? A.—I believe it was something about throwing the men out who belonged to organized labor—that is, so far as I can learn. The men wanted to have an understanding about apprentices, and as an understanding could not be arrived at they struck.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you know if any employer in the box-making business refused to employ men belonging to the trade organization? A.—That is a question which it would be pretty hard to answer. While a man may feel within himself that such is the case it would be pretty difficult to prove it. I believe there are some.

Q.—You stated that the employers induced the men to form a labor organization? A.—I was advised to join it myself and I would get a rise of wages; that was done by an employer at that time.

Q.—How long after the men had formed an organization was it before the employers commenced to discharge them? A.—About two months after the first man was discharged.

Q.—In the meantime, had the prices of boxes been raised? A.—Yes; the prices had been raised from 30 to 40 per cent.

Q.—Can you tell us the difference in the rate of wages at that time and at the present time, since the men were discharged? A.—Well, I believe the rate of wages formerly was 20 cents per hour for a first-class hand and 18 cents for a second-class hand; now the prices are from 12½ to 15 cents for hands.

Q.—Can you give us the percentage of the increase paid in the prices of the boxes? A.—The percentage of increase will run from 25 to 40.

Q.—Do you mean per cent.? A.—Yes. The increase in the wages was supposed to be 5 cents per hour. It might be that in some places they got only raised to the standard that one of the other factories had been paying, as one of the factories paid higher than the others. The men were all raised up to that rate, and the manufacturers all raised the prices of the boxes.

Q.—And the rate of wages is now much lower than it was then? A.—Yes.

Q.—And the manufacturers have an extra 25 per cent. profit on the boxes, and 25 per cent. on the labor in addition? A.—Yes; they have a profit on the labor.

Q.—A man who buys the boxes has to pay the increased percentages? A.—They say the price of lumber is raised—I do not know.

Q.—What class of lumber is used in box-making? A.—Common lumber, common stock.

Q.—Do you know the price of common stock lumber now? A.—It runs from \$10 to \$14 per thousand.

Q.—Can you tell us what the price was two years ago? A.—I believe it was about the same.

Q.—It was about about two years ago that this increase in the boxes took place? A.—I have seen invoices at that time at the same prices, as lumber can be bought for now. I have also seen invoices of four years ago with the same prices charged as it can be bought for now.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How much do you pay your hands? A.—The full union rate of wages.

Q.—What is the full union rate? A.—Twenty cents per hour for box-makers.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You say that the bosses stated that the price of lumber has increased. Do you know as a fact, from your experience in buying your lumber, that the price has been raised? A.—It is not raised. In the circular issued to customers at the time of the combination they said that owing to the rise in wages and the general increase in the price of lumber, and to avoid a strike, they were obliged to increase the prices of the boxes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have all the box-makers reduced the wages the same percentage? A.—I believe one factory has not reduced the wages.

Q.—How many box-factories are there in Toronto? A.—There are seven.

Q.—Is there any other factory besides your own that is paying the full union rate? A.—Yes; and probably more.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You are a member of the labor organization, I believe? A.—Yes.

The Commission resumed at 2 p.m.

WILLIAM COOPER, Jeweller, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You are a working jeweller? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long have you worked at the business as a journeyman? A.—About eight years.

Q.—In Toronto? A.—Yes.

Q.—Into how many branches is the business divided? A.—Well, there are diamond-setters, mounters and ring-makers. Then there is a branch which comes in with mounters, but it is sometimes carried on separately—that is making medals, and things like that. They generally employ at that youths, whose time is just expiring.

Q.—What would be the wages of a first-class setter? A.—The wages of a setter working piece-work, I am told, are about \$18 a week.

Q.—What is the average in the other branches? A.—Taken on an average, they don't earn more than about \$10 all the year around.

Q.—How long would it take a young man to serve the trade and be turned out as a good journeyman? A.—It is a business that not every person is suited to. It is a business a man must have a taste for, and some will make good journeymen in five years, while others will be poor. What they generally serve is five years, and they generally give an apprentice after he is out of his time \$7 or \$8 a week.

Q.—Are they indentured? A.—Some are and some are not. One firm does, I believe, make a practice of having an agreement of that kind.

Q.—Do more men come from the old country? A.—There are more from England in the country to-day than there are Canadians.

Q.—Do employers in your trade in Toronto make it a point to bring men out from centres of trade in England to Canada? A.—There is one firm especially that does. I don't know the form exactly in which they bring them, but they guarantee them a situation, and I believe have a man in Birmingham in the jewellery business who gets them men on their writing to him. They pay the passage, and after the men come out they take off so much a week for their passage.

Q.—Can you tell us if this is on account of the incompetency of Canadian workmen? A.—Some manufacturers might think that it was incompetency, but I have been around to manufacturers who would not employ imported labor.

Q.—From your experience as a practical man, do you think a Canadian jeweller is as competent in all branches of the trade as any men that can be imported? A.—Taking them as general workmen, I think they are. Of the class imported the majority of them are just working on watches, but as a rule in Canada, when they find that a young fellow is competent they put him on different branches. As far as I know several who served their time under the same firm as myself are general workmen—that is, they can do anything which is brought to them.

Q.—Is it for the purpose of keeping down wages that those men are brought out in that way? A.—Well, I think the firm that brings them out brings them out for that purpose, as far as I can say. Before this firm started, wages in the jewellery line were a great deal higher than they are at the present time. A man, before they started out, could make \$15 or \$16 a week and have steady work all the year around, but now he cannot.

Q.—Have you known any jewellers who came out under agreement of any nature who, when they came out found they were misled? A.—Well, I have heard several remark that they were greatly disappointed when they came out here.

Q.—Have you heard them say people could make as much, in comparison to the cost of living, in England as they could in Canada? A.—Yes; they say people can do better there.

Q.—Are there any goods in your trade imported from the United States? A.—That I could not say, being a working jeweller, but I think there are, but not to such an extent as formerly.

Q.—Have there been any troubles in your trade of late—any strikes or anything of that kind? A.—There have never been any strikes in the jewellery business because they don't seem to hang together. If a man wants to get a raise and they refuse him they can always fill his place, and he has either to stay or else get out.

Q.—Do you think that your trade, considering the highly-skilled nature of it, is as well paid as other branches of industry? A.—No; I don't. It is a trade that, after a man works a few years at it, he is put off and a younger man put on.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Is there a scarcity of workmen in your business in this city? A.—No.

Q.—Was there at the time those people were brought in? A.—I think not; I think they could have got all the labor they wanted then.

Q.—You don't think that was the object those people had in bringing in those workers? A.—Which object?

Q.—Owing to the scarcity of native labor? A.—No; I don't.

Q.—Brought over simply to reduce wages? A.—That is my present opinion.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Is any work sent from Toronto to the United States to be done? A.—Not at the present time, that I am aware of. There used to be enamelling sent, but now they have enamellers.

Q.—Were those men brought from Birmingham capable of doing enamelling work? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How many of those men were induced to come in that way? A.—There are more men imported to-day working at the jewellery business in Toronto than there are Canadians.

Q.—Are those men brought from the old country what might be called specialists in any branch of manufacture? A.—Well, they work at different branches.

Q.—Are they men who do a class of work which has not hitherto been done in Canada? A.—No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Are you aware that persons with whom contracts are made in foreign countries are at liberty to break that engagement in Canada under law? A.—I could not say, but the firm which previously brought those men out have paid their passage and took so much a week.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You have stated so. Do you know if there is law to prevent that? A.—I could not say. I do not know of it, if there is. I do not know what the agreement is, but it is made with the men.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Have you any idea of the number of men employed in the business in this city? A.—No; I have not. I should think there are about 150 to 175, but I would not be certain.

Q.—Do you know if that kind of work is increasing. A.—No; it is falling off. It has been worse this present year than ever since I have been in the business. A good many are walking around to-day without employment.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you know of any definite grievances that the jewellers are laboring under in this city? A.—Well, I can only speak for myself, and that is, as I said before, if a man wants to try to better himself he has either to take what they give him or else go out. They can always fill his place.

TORONTO, 25th January, 1888.

HENRY THOMAS BENSON, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You are a member of the Builders' Laborers' Union? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you inform the Commission the average wages in the year a builder's laborer earns? A.—In the neighborhood of \$275 a year.

Q.—Is that over and above all expenses, such as housekeeping? A.—That is all we earn on an average. I don't do anything in the winter, hardly.

Q.—On an average, how many weeks in the winter are you idle? A.—Some

where about twelve weeks. Some are idle all the winter, but it would be an average of about twelve weeks.

Q.—What would be the average rent which one of your members pay? A.—Eight dollars. Some get them for \$6 and some \$10 and \$7, but I think the average would be \$8.

Q.—After deducting the house rent, cost of living and cost of fuel, how much do you think can a builder's laborer save at the end of the year, providing there is no sickness in the family. A.—Generally they are in debt every year.

Q.—You have got in your union a scale of prices—so much per hour? A.—It is the same uniform wages.

Q.—The laborers who are engaged on the corporation work, are they paid more or less than those who look upon themselves as builder's laborers? A.—By the day they are paid below us, but for work steadily they earn as much as, if not more than, we do.

Q.—How strong is your body? A.—At present 925 members are on the roll.

Q.—Is the scaffolding of buildings erected on the inside or outside of buildings? A.—In some cases it is inside; in some cases outside. Quite a bit of outside scaffolding is being erected in this city now.

Q.—Is there any danger arising from defective scaffolding? A.—Yes; there have been several accidents this summer.

Q.—Who is responsible for the erection of scaffolding? A.—There is generally a man who erects scaffolding, and he is himself crying out for better material and more ropes and poles, but cannot get them. I don't think there is a builder in Toronto has sufficient plant for his business; and in striking ledges it weakens scaffolding and there are not enough ropes, and life is in danger. Yesterday a man died from the fall of a derrick in the Canada Life building.

Q.—Was it defective scaffolding? A.—It was something wrong with the derrick.

Q.—What do you recommend—an inspector of scaffolding? A.—Yes; an inspector of scaffolding, to compel men to put up scaffolding firmer and stronger. It is all hurry and scurry until there is an accident.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—There is a law? A.—I have been here fifteen or sixteen years. I never knew there was such a law.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Would an employers' liability Act, which would make proprietors liable for such accidents, be acceptable? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you tell us anything about the working of the mechanics' lien law? A.—Yes; we find the law is very defective. Only lately I had a case in hand. There was a small contract for \$130; the contractor skipped out, and when we went to the lawyer we found we could only lien 10 per cent., which amounted to only \$13 that we could recover under the Act.

Q.—Have you known cases besides the one you have just mentioned where mechanics or laborers could not recover under the lien law? A.—Yes; we had a case with a man who had a machine shop in West Toronto. He was putting up a lot of houses, but when we came to put a lien on the place it would not pay the demands of the court, and when the place was put up at auction there was such a mortgage on it nobody would buy it, and the wages have not been paid.

Q.—The law, as it stands at present, will not protect the workingmen in their wages? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you any knowledge of corporation work? A.—Not very much; just what I have seen. I have worked on some corporation work on contract.

Q.—Do you believe day's work, immediately superintended by an engineer, would be a benefit to the workmen of your branch? A.—Yes; and they would get better work. In competition they drive men; men would like to do an honest day's work for the corporation on account of the taxes, but they cannot. I was on one

work in North Toronto—a \$21,000 job—and just when it was put up it nearly all came down. If it had been day's work I believe it would have been done properly.

Q.—If such work was done by the day it would keep men busier in idle times, such as the winter season? A.—Yes; it would.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—What is the rate you receive now by the hour? A.—Eighteen and a-half cents.

Q.—Do you get paid every week? A.—No; once a fortnight.

Q.—How many hours a day do you work now? A.—I have worked something like forty hours since Christmas, but I have worked every day I could work.

Q.—How many hours constitute a day's work? A.—Nine.

Q.—Before you formed a union didn't you have greater difficulty in receiving wages due than you have at present? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is that the only benefit you have derived from organization? A.—No; before we organized we were getting 9 and 10 cents an hour, but since then our wages have gone up to 18 cents.

Q.—Do you have any sick or death benefits? A.—Yes; a death benefit of \$75. There are lots of members who, if it were not for the death benefit, would be an expense to the city and would be buried as paupers, so it is a benefit to the rate-payers. We bury where they would have to bury.

Q.—Are wages in Toronto as good as, or better than, in cities of smaller size? A.—A trifle.

Q.—You have had some difficulty lately with regard to strikes? A.—Yes.

Q.—How was the last strike settled? Did you ask to arbitrate, or anything of that sort? A.—I believe there was some talk of arbitration, but two years ago last June the union I am a member of went out and after being on strike six weeks the bosses were acceding and the men were pretty nearly acceding. They could not come together and we went to arbitration. There is a statute on the Ontario Statute-book by which the Board of Trade become arbitrators, but I am satisfied we got the worst of it. These arbitrators who arbitrated for us were employers of labor themselves.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Did the men stand by the result of the arbitration. A.—Yes; we promised to do so, and we stood by it loyally. It was a slight advance, but if it had been a decrease we would have stood by it. The union is in favor of an arbitration board similar to France, to prevent those strikes. It is only a last resort. We don't want to strike, but we don't earn enough to support us.

Q.—Do you know the principles of the French system? A.—Before employers can lower wages they have to submit reasons for lowering to a board of Government arbitrators, and when the men want an advance they have to send grievances and reasons to this board before they can go out.

Q.—It is composed of a judge and a representative of capital and one of labor? A.—Yes; I think so. I think it would be acceptable to our union to have a compulsory board of arbitration, because there is loss to the country when the men strike and loss to the workmen themselves. It is only a last resort. They never resort to it until they are forced.

Q.—Do you know there is a law for arbitration in Ontario? A.—Yes; our difficulties were arbitrated under that Act two years ago.

Q.—Is that Act satisfactory? A.—It was not in that case, and I think ours was the only case settled under it. The Board of Trade are arbitrators, and they are interested parties in the buildings.

Q.—Are not the builders of Toronto connected with the Board of Trade? A.—Yes; there is a builder's branch to the Board of Trade.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you think a bureau of labor statistics, formed for the benefit and information of the working classes, would be an advantage? A.—Yes; a Dominion bureau. We have the Ontario bureau. I believe a Dominion liability Bill would be better for us. We never know, when we have the Ontario Act, whether it is unconstitutional or not, but under a Dominion Act we would not have that fear before our eyes.

THOMAS WEBB, Laborer, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You have heard the evidence of the last witness; do you approve of it?
A.—I approve of it, and every word he has said is true.

Q.—Have you anything to add to what has been stated that would afford any information to the Commission? A.—The only thing I would like to add is in regard to the liability Act, and I would like to see an Act to compel contractors to leave more planks and scaffolds, so that if a man fell from the top they might help him a bit. In England the liability Act provides that the bosses must leave the first scaffold, and all the way up they must leave two planks on the scaffold. I can give an instance this fall where I was working beside the Queen's Hotel and a young man fell. He was working on a scaffold and he fell back and went through the well hole, and in that case if a few planks had been over it he would probably have saved himself to some extent. He will never have the use of his limbs again. If the Government would compel the bosses to leave two planks on a scaffold, as they are compelled to do under the English law, workmen would be more safe. I am sure every week this summer scaffolds in this city have broken down.

Q.—What is the difference in the wages paid to a builder's laborer in Canada and England? A.—In regard to the wages received by a builder's laborer in England, I must explain that I have been out here about nineteen years. I understand they get about $8\frac{1}{2}$ pence an hour. Laborers receive $5\frac{1}{2}$ pence to 6 pence per hour. In England there are what are called competent men for scaffold building, and they get nearly as much as bricklayers. They are not put to any other work. A boss in England knows that if anything happens to the scaffold claims will be made on him, and therefore they are all competent men who do scaffold building there.

Q.—Has your union paid out much money for hospital expenses during the past twelve months through defective scaffolding. A.—I believe the Builders' Laborers' Union granted a sum of money to the hospital—I think we gave it two grants. When an accident happens in this city the person is taken to the hospital and the hospital does not charge for them; whether the bill is sent to the corporation I do not know.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—If you refused to work on scaffolding that is not properly put up, I suppose the bosses would consider that as equal to your striking work? A.—Last fall there was one case of that kind of scaffolding on Church street. The boss was running the scaffolding 64 feet high and I did not think it was safe. I had to leave.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you know whether planks were left on the scaffold immediately below the one the men were working on in the accident to which you have referred?
A.—When this is done it breaks the fall if a man has the misfortune to fall. You can go around to any scaffold in this city and you will see the boss and the foreman order the men to strike the scaffold at four stories high. If the liability Act of England was in force in this country they would have to be put up more securely.

Q.—Do I understand you to say that the English Act compels the employers to leave a certain number of planks on a scaffold? A.—Yes; 4 feet of boards, on the outside, and beyond that the law says there shall be left two boards on every scaffold until the building is finished.

Q.—Do you know, as a fact, whether the liability Act of England has improved the condition of workmen, so far as their safety is concerned? A.—In England the scaffolds are all put up by competent men.

Q.—Were you in England when the liability Act was brought into force?
A.—Yes; I was in England at that time.

Q.—Did it in any way make the employers more careful in regard to the construction of scaffolds? A.—Of course it did. A builder at home, in England, has

a building plant—a man whom we call a builder in England has a plant worth thousands of pounds; but builders here have not got plants, and cannot put up scaffolds, as they should be put up, for want of the proper material.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do I understand you to say that the put-logs are removed from the lower scaffolds in Toronto? A.—Yes; sometimes three stories high they will strike and take two or three ledges up.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—If the planks were taken off the put-logs what benefit would the scaffold be? A.—It still would be a scaffold.

Q.—If there was no weight on the put-logs would it have the effect of steadying the scaffold? A.—Yes; they are to steady the scaffold.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—At the building, when you left work on account of bad scaffolding, were any men working there subsequently hurt? A.—Yes; the wall fell; there were three or four men hurt at that building.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—If there was a building inspector, would he not be able to look after the scaffolding connected with all buildings in Toronto? A.—If he was a practical man, and did his duty every day, it would keep him going all his time to look after scaffolds and see that workmen were better protected. During this summer, at nearly every meeting of our union, we have had reports that scaffolds have gone and men have been hurt and were in the hospital. I was down there last Friday and there were two men lying there; one man had been injured by something falling from the scaffold, and in the case of the other man some little gear had given away, causing injuries to him.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You have heard what the last witness stated about the lien law: what is your experience in regard to it? A.—I have had no experience in regard to it, and there are others who will speak to you who have had experience.

Q.—When an employer fails or leaves the city without paying his men's wages, does your union take the men's cause up? A.—We generally put it into a lawyer's hands. I was working on Duke street school and the contractor failed; it was three or four weeks before we got our money; but the school board paid us. I blame them, because they should have taken good security, in order to see that the workmen's wages were paid; but the matter was left to the contractor, who had nothing, and if the school board had not paid us we would have had nothing.

Q.—Does your union furnish money to the men to enable them to put a lien on a building? A.—We generally employ a lawyer, and when a lien is put on it is put on by the union. As the lien law now is, it is no benefit to workmen. You might as well let the money go; you will save money by letting it go. There was a case in which the union put a lien on a property, but it turned out that the property was mortgaged, and when it was offered for sale no one would buy it, and our men lost their money, and so did the bricklayers also.

JOSEPH BISSELL, Builders' Laborer, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you heard the evidence of the previous two witnesses, and have you anything to add that would be of importance to the Commission in regard to your trade? A.—I quite concur with what these witnesses have said, and I would like to add that the bosses here do not provide their men when they are working in the

winter time with any place to eat their meals; thus they are obliged to sit on the street on the frozen ground and eat their meals like dogs. This is a great detriment to a man working in the winter, for he is liable to catch cold, and he cannot afford to pay a doctor out of the money he earns.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You think the employers should provide some shelter for their men? A.—Yes; so that they can warm their tea, and so forth.

Q.—Have the employers ever been asked to do so? A.—That I could not say, but the men are always grumbling about it, and I believe the employers have been asked, in some cases, to take that or some other measure, but they never will provide such things.

Q.—How much time is a man allowed for his dinner in winter? A.—Half an hour. You cannot get down frozen bread and butter in half an hour.

Q.—Is it impossible for you to go home in that time? A.—You cannot go home.

Q.—I suppose if a man will not put up with it he can leave? A.—Yes; he can quit.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Would it be more convenient to a workingman who has a family if he was paid weekly instead of fortnightly? A.—I think it would be a great benefit to him.

Q.—It would do away, to some extent, with the garnisheeing of wages, would it not? A.—Yes; a great deal. Then the bosses would not have such a pull on the men as they have now, by keeping two weeks' wages from every man, and they would not be able to skip out quite as easily.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do many bricklayers' laborers own the houses in which they live? A.—Not a great many of them, considering the number there is. There are some men who got houses when the land was very cheap—when it was almost given to them—in the heart of the city. These are the kind of men who own houses of their own. I have been here six years in January, but I am in debt every year, and am obliged to work in the summer to pay my debts off.

Q.—How long does it take a builders' laborer to become skilled, so that he can work around a building? A.—That all depends on his own energy.

Q.—Any laborer could not go to work on a building, I suppose? A.—Yes; he could work on a building. When I first tackled work on a building I had to go up to the third story from the street. That was in the old country; of course, it is different here.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Have you anything further to say to the Commission? A.—No; nothing further than I quite agree with the two witnesses who have given evidence in connection with our trade, and especially I think it would be a great benefit to the men if the boss builders were compelled to leave two planks on the scaffolds, and so on. If there were more pulleys and ropes used, instead of so many nails, there would not be so many accidents.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you not think that the use of nails on scaffolds should be prohibited altogether? A.—Yes; altogether. Here they have not enough tackling, and are obliged to untie ropes and tie them again to get the scaffolds up to any height.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Who puts up the scaffolding for carpenters, for example? A.—As a rule, they put it up themselves.

Q.—Could they put it up more skilfully than builders' laborers? A.—Builders' laborers could put it up just as well. In the old country they have competent men

who are used to this kind of business and erect scaffolds. If any defect in the pulley or in the put-logs is seen and the boss notified this must be remedied. Under the law here many a man gets injured who would not be injured if the law was as it is in England. These men employed in putting up scaffolds receive more remuneration than the rest of ordinary laborers, because they are skilled laborers; in fact, they get as much as mechanics. I have known men to get 10 pence per hour, at the Kensington Museum, at this work. There was a gang of men, and he was the foreman.

HENRY LLOYD, Carpenter, Toronto, re-called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—I believe you stated when you were here before that you favored arbitration? A.—I might say when I was here before I was undecided as to my opinion of arbitration, but since then I have been making enquiries and reading up, and I may say I am decidedly in favor of it.

Q.—Can you give us some idea of how arbitration should be put in force? A.—Well, I might say that I have here an Act which was sent to me from the New York Bureau of Statistics; I have read it over with the Commissioner's report on the working of the Act last year, and I am entirely in favor of it. I think it is the best Act I have read, and if we had it here I think it would be the best thing for the Commissioners to recommend. There is what we call a local board and a State board. The local board, when a difficulty occurs, meets representatives of the two parties for arbitration, and inside of ten days either party can appeal to the State board, which is composed of three gentlemen. One of them has to be appointed by the party who polls the largest number of votes in the State at the last election; the second is the representative of the party who polls the second number of votes; and the third has to be the representative of labor. Those men are appointed for a term of three years, with a secretary, and they are always on duty, as it were, and of course it is not necessary that the local board should have anything to do with the dispute at issue. The parties, if they wish, can have it taken at once to the State board, and its decision is final; there is no appeal. They have a work in connection with the bureau of statistics and it give dates of the different strikes and other information as to troubles between employers and employés, and I think about 75 or 80 per cent. of the troubles were settled without the men going on strike at all. As soon as the State board heard there was any trouble they instructed the secretary to write to both parties, to see if they would agree to arbitration, and in a great many cases they agreed to do so without a strike at all.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have the decisions of this State board been generally carried out? A.—Generally they have been carried out, as a rule.

Q.—Do you know what percentage of labor troubles in the State of New York have come before this board? A.—I might say also the Commissioners state that between 70 and 80 per cent. of the troubles which have taken place have come before the board, and about 60 per cent. have been settled without dispute. The name of this gentlemen is F. F. Donovan.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What is his position? A.—He is chairman of the State board, I believe.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—The local board has discretionary powers to mediate? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has the award of the local board ever been accepted as final? A.—It has very seldom been accepted.

Q.—How is that local board appointed? A.—As I understand, they don't attach much importance to the local board. When a dispute arises between the parties it

has been customary for the secretary of the State board to write to both parties, asking if they would have it settled by the local board or State board. When both parties decide to settle by arbitration the secretary of the State board goes to that place and brings them together, and then the employers appoint a representative and the employes appoint a representative, and the two of them appoint a third.

Q.—By mutual agreement? A.—Yes.

Q.—Who selects the third representative of the State board? A.—The Government, I presume.

Q.—Do you think such an Act as that would be generally acceptable in Canada? A.—I really think it would.

Q.—You have some knowledge of course, of the feelings of workmen in this city? A.—Yes; I believe they would highly delight in any arrangement which would do away with strikes.

Q.—What is your position? A.—I am a member of the executive board of the building trade.

Q.—Can you tell us anything with regard to the desire of the workmen for technical education? A.—Well, I believe as far as it is understood among the men they would be in favor of technical schools. They have very little knowledge, as far as I have been able to find out, any more than that which they get from old mechanics.

Q.—Are there no schools or classes in Toronto where young men can go to get this technical education? A.—At the present time I don't know of any outside of the Practical School of Science, which I believe does not now give practical lessons in science.

Q.—The present Practical School of Science does not meet the requirements? A.—No; it does not.

Q.—Have you ever thought how those schools could best be made available? A.—I have always thought that there should be a technical school for this Province, under the control of the Government of the Dominion, with, of course, competent instructors to impart the scientific part of education to the men in the evenings and in the day time, in the winter time, when they are not very busy.

Q.—Do you think it would be possible to attach any portion of that training to the public schools? A.—No; I do not.

Q.—Have you given the subject of the employment of prison labor any thought? A.—I have given it a little thought.

Q.—Would you give us your opinions on the best way of employing prisoners? A.—I have a decided opinion against them being employed at any trade whatever. As far as I know—for I have never made it a study—I have always had too much building to do—but I presume if they were coming in competition with my work I would object to it. I think, as a rule, that their work is inferior. If they were employed at all I would have them come in competition with the best work, and not in competition with ordinary work, but I am opposed to them doing skilled artisan work at all.

Q.—Should the Government utilize prisoners' labor or should it be let to other people? A.—Well, I would be opposed to letting it out, unless there were restrictions. I am opposed to it in any shape, but if it is a necessity I would have them restricted to doing nothing but first-class work and come in competition with first-class men outside of prisons, and I think the Government should employ them, if they are to be employed at all.

Q.—Supposing the Government employed those prisoners and the revenue derived from their labor was greater than the cost of keep how should the Government dispose of their surplus? A.—I would suggest that they could dispose of it by keeping a technical school here for other mechanics.

Q.—Do you think a system by which all surplus earnings of prisoners should be disposed of amongst their families would be a benefit? A.—Seriously speaking, I think that would be a very good idea.

Q.—Prisoners are unskilled laborers, generally? A.—I think the proportion would be small of skilled labor.

Q.—The proportion would be small? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then they should remain idle? A.—Just work them on the farm or on the streets.

Q.—You would require chains. Have you ever seen a chain-gang on the streets?

A.—No. You could employ a lot of them nicely on the straightening of the Don.

JOHN KANE, Carpenter, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you know anything of the operation of the mechanics' lien law? A.—I cannot say I am very well acquainted with the law as it is, but I have had occasion to take notice of the operation of it, and it would seem to me to be a wrong Act, not a good measure, not worth the paper it is written on.

Q.—Be kind enough to tell us what has come to your notice in that connection? A.—Take it, for instance, in connection with the building business. The case I have reference to is a building which was unfinished by the contractor. It was taken from his hands by the architect, and liens were put on by workmen who were unpaid. When those liens came to be tried in the county court it was held by the judge that the proprietor of the property had to hold back 10 per cent. of the contract prices. The proprietor had paid out more than the building was worth up to the time it was taken out of his hands.

Q.—Then the contractor is not left with 10 per cent. of the contract price under that? A.—No; it would seem not. The judge said he did not believe, that the law required any man to pay more for his work than the work was worth.

Q.—At what period in the construction of buildings do men generally lose their wages? A.—Well, my experience of it has been when the lathing has been completed, and when the large bills had to be paid out for material.

Q.—Liens are more frequently on unfinished buildings than on finished buildings? A.—I think so.

Q.—Could you give us any suggestion which would be of benefit in improving the law? A.—If a lien law is to be of any benefit, if 10 per cent. is to be held back it should be 10 per cent. of the work as far as it has progressed.

Q.—In that case there would be always 10 per cent. on hand? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever known another case where a lien has been put on, and the men have failed to recover? A.—I remember, some time ago, a case was tried by Vice-Chancellor Proudfoot, where a lien was put on a public school building, and the finding of the Vice-Chancellor was that a lien could not be put on the building because it belonged to a public corporation.

Q.—If the proprietor paid the whole money upon it, and did not retain 10 per cent., nothing would be left at all? A.—I think he held it was different in the case of a public corporation.

Q.—Generally speaking, is the lien law considered in an unsatisfactory state by mechanics? A.—Yes; and I think justly so.

Q.—Can you give us any opinion as to the best modes of employing prison labor? A.—That is a question which better men than myself have bothered themselves about. I think it is advisable to employ them, but not so that their labor can compete in the market with outside free labor at a lower figure.

Q.—What kind of labor would be least likely to come in competition? A.—I don't know but what it would be right and proper to employ convict labor on Government work of any kind, although in some cases it might be injurious to outside labor. That labor would be distributed into one section of country, although all sections of the country would be benefited by it, so I think their labor should be confined strictly to Government work. I believe, also, their labor might be useful in improving the surroundings of our different institutions, by making them a great deal more beautiful than they are at present, and this would instil a love for order in the minds of those people.

Q.—Do you know any cases where the Government have used prison labor outside of prisons? A.—I have seen it where the prisoners, with a ball and chain attached, cut down the grass around the Government grounds.

Q.—Should the Government be directly responsible for the work done by the convicts? Should they be the parties who should arrange the work for them? A.—Yes; I think so. I don't think it should be put in the hands of private parties, because a man who can employ them at lower prices than that of honest labor will be able to market at lower prices, and thus compete with outside men, and that results in lower wages.

Q.—You have heard what Mr. Lloyd said on the subject of arbitration? A.—I did.

Q.—Do you agree with what he said? A.—I don't know if I have any objection to what he stated. I am in favor of arbitration at all times.

Q.—Do you think working people would take advantage of a Government system of arbitration? A.—Yes; I think the feelings of the working people are not in favor of strikes, but in favor of a peaceable mode of adjusting questions in dispute.

Q.—Does that feeling prevail amongst trade unions? A.—Yes; I believe it does. The method of arbitration must be resorted to before strikes are recommended.

Q.—Isn't it a standing rule of the Federated Trades Union of America that arbitration shall be decided upon if practicable? A.—Yes; it is their desire that arbitration should be resorted to before any other method is adopted.

Q.—You think a law providing for arbitration would be generally acceptable to the working classes? A.—I think it would.

Q.—Do you know if there is a desire amongst the working classes for a bureau of labor statistics? A.—I cannot say I have been talking to many men on that subject, but I have been making enquiries in different parts of the United States where they have such bureaus, and they are in favor of them. I have been receiving reports from various States from their bureaus of labor statistics, and they give full information with regard to all kinds of labor, and I would like to see the same here.

Q.—You don't generally receive many statistics here of the rate of wages paid in various parts of the United States? A.—No; I cannot say I do. The general desire there was not to strike for wages at all, but to try to limit the hours of labor, because it was held that so long as there was an idle man in the country who could not get work the hours should be curtailed, in order to get that man work somewhere.

Q.—You cannot give us, comparatively, the difference between the rates of wages in your own business in Toronto and the United States? A.—No; I could not enter upon that.

Q.—Have you given the system of technical education any thought? A.—Yes; I have thought over the subject a good deal, and at one time in Toronto I took advantage of the course when the Government furnished the old school of technology.

Q.—Did you find the knowledge obtained there was of any practical benefit to you? A.—Yes; I did.

Q.—Do you think such a knowledge as you obtained was calculated to make a man more skillful? A.—Yes; I do.

Q.—How would that end be best reached—by night schools or day schools? A.—By day schools, I think. My own opinion is that there would be a great deal gained by trying to teach them the theoretical portion of a trade, and if they learned that before they began their trade it would be an immediate and direct benefit.

Q.—You don't think it would be practicable to teach it in the public schools? A.—No; I don't think so, yet there are some things which might be taught, and are taught now, but not the practical application of them.

JAMES WARDLAW, Machinist, Galt, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How long did you work as a machinist in Galt? A.—About four and a half years.

Q.—Did you learn the trade? A.—Yes; and for six months after I was out of my time.

Q.—Are you a proper mechanical engineer? A.—Yes; I was at that time. Afterwards I worked with Goldie & McCullough, of Galt.

Q.—Have you worked at engineering at other places? A.—Yes; in Glasgow and in the East Indies.

Q.—In what part of the East Indies? A.—In the Deccan.

Q.—Are you able to tell us about the comparative wages in Canada and in Scotland? A.—When I was out of my time I worked in Galt at \$1.75 a day, and when I reached Glasgow I got 26 cents per hour.

Q.—Would that be a fair average of the wages in Glasgow? A.—It was considered so then. I was afterwards raised to 27 cents which was considered good average wages for a mechanic.

Q.—How did the hours compare as between there and here? A.—We worked sixty hours in Galt and fifty-two or fifty-seven in Glasgow, I am not sure which.

Q.—Was the class of work about the same? A.—In both cases the work was on engines; one was on marine engines and the other was on stationary engines.

Q.—Do you require the same skill? A.—Yes; the same skill.

Q.—I suppose the wages in India are much higher for engineers? A.—Yes; they make engagements before they go out there.

Q.—And the climate and other things have to be taken into account, I suppose? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think that a boy who comes to work at engineering direct from school is as well fitted to become a good engineer as if he had obtained some technical education while at school? A.—In some branches I think he would be better for it, but in others I do not think so. When I commenced my apprenticeship I had a pretty good knowledge, and I know it stood me in good stead afterwards.

Q.—Suppose a boy had some technical instruction in mechanical drawing, would it not be of some advantage to him in the trade? A.—Certainly it would be.

Q.—Would an elementary theoretical knowledge of mechanics be beneficial as well? A.—Yes; I think so; I took that in. Of course, we received that as we went along in Galt.

Q.—You received such instruction while at work at your trade? A.—Yes; they have classes every year in Galt, to enter which apprentices only pay a nominal fee, and you get your mechanical drawing, and so on, there.

Q.—Did you consider those of great benefit to you? A.—Yes; I also attended a science class in Glasgow, in a general way, which I found of great service.

Q.—With which are those science classes in Glasgow connected? A.—They are connected with the Government; they are maintained as separate classes and there is only a nominal fee charged to members.

Q.—Were you able to give good and satisfactory attention to this at night after you had performed your day's work? A.—Sometimes it was pretty hard work.

Q.—You felt fatigued at the end of a day's work? A.—Yes.

Q.—To such a degree as to divert your attention from your studies? A.—Yes. You are dirty after work, and you had to hurry in order to get through at any reasonable time at night.

Q.—Do you think, looking back at your history as an engineer, and without having any reference to your present studies, you would have been as successful as an engineer if you had not obtained that technical instruction? A.—I took rather an exceptional course. I took a university course before I went there, and I could have left out Latin and Greek. Taking a common school education, I have, I think, required it all.

By MR. HEAKES :—

Q.—You have had some experience in woollen mills, I understand? A.—Yes.

Q.—Will you please tell us how the woollen mills in Canada compare with the woollen mills in England? A.—I do not know anything about woollen mills in England, but I know about those in Scotland. Wages are considerably less for the same work in Scotland. The foremen in some of the mills get fully as well paid as they do here, but the common hands get less.

Q.—Can you give us any idea of the difference in the purchasing power of wages, say between Galt and Glasgow? A.—It cost me more to live in Glasgow than in Galt. I paid \$2.75 or \$3 per week for my board in Galt, but in Glasgow it cost me 17 shillings sterling per week.

By MR. FREED :—

Q.—Were the accommodations better in Glasgow than in Galt? A.—No; they are considerably poorer.

By MR. HEAKES :—

Q.—You would consider, then, that a mechanic, taking all things into consideration, would be just as well here as there? A.—Yes; I would say that he could make more money here and live better.

Q.—From your experience in both countries, do you consider working people in this country save as much as they do in the old country. A.—Yes; I think they do.

Q.—Take the two countries: what would be the proportion of men owning their own houses in Galt and the men owning their houses in Glasgow? A.—I never came across workmen in Glasgow who owned their own houses. They generally rent just two rooms—that is workmen. They live in flats—four families living in a flat, having two rooms each.

Q.—What proportion of men in Galt do you think own their own houses? A.—I really do not know at the present time. When I first went to the trade the majority of the mechanics had their houses; but I do not know if the number has increased much—I really do not know what the number is now.

Q.—Are the facilities for learning a trade as great in this country as in Scotland? A.—How do you mean?

Q.—Is as much attention paid to teaching boys their trade? A.—I do not know. When you go to learn a trade in other places it depends a good deal on the good will of the journeymen whether you learn it thoroughly or not.

Q.—Do you consider the present system of apprenticeship a satisfactory one; do you consider it is a system by which boys are likely to be well taught? A.—I do not know of any other; I am quite satisfied with it.

Q.—What system was there in operation in Galt? A.—I was bound with \$100 penalty to stay four years with my employer, and I gave security for that amount.

Q.—At what wages do apprentices begin—and how do they increase? A.—In the first year they receive 42 cents per day; in the second year 45 cents and the third year 55 cents, and I think 65 cents in the last year—I am not certain as to that amount.

Q.—Do you know how those rates compare with the rates paid to apprentices in the old country? A.—I really could not tell you that.

Q.—At what kind of a mill were you employed in India? A.—In a cotton mill.

Q.—What class of employes worked there? A.—We had Hindoos and Mohammedans, and different classes of workmen.

Q.—Were women employed there? A.—Yes; a great many women were employed. The foreman in the mill where I was employed was an Englishman.

Q.—Did they employ children? A.—Yes; a great many were employed.

Q.—What were the wages paid to operatives there? A.—The children were employed pretty young—they are rather cleverer than we have them here—they age more rapidly there. The children who were running frames were getting 2 rupees (\$1) a month. The women received from 2 to 6 rupees a month, the men

from 10 to 12 rupees a month. I may say that a rupee is hardly worth 2 shillings. Of course, the firemen and those working around the engine-room got up to 18 rupees per month.

Q.—Was that considered a good rate of wages in India? A.—Where I was working was outside of British territory.

Q.—Were they sufficient to support life? A.—At that time it just kept the people going. We found it was not expedient to give them more, because if they got more they would leave. They could not stand prosperity.

Q.—What could they earn at piece-work? A.—They received more; I do not know, however, what the wages were. They could not give over 15 rupees a month.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How many looms would one weaver have in India? A.—It would depend on what work they were on—they would have two or four. Out there we had to take a great many hands green from the street and break them in, and as they got along they received more wages.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you know of any places outside of Galt where those classes for technical education are held? A.—They were held in Glasgow at the science school—that is, classes for mechanical drawing. Of course, they have technical schools in Brantford and other towns.

Q.—I mean classes in connection with the mechanics' institute as they have in Galt? A.—No; I do not.

DAVID BLACK, Iron Moulder, Toronto, re-called.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—I understand you wish to make a statement to the Commission; it is in relation to a visit the last time we were here? A.—Yes; a deputation waited upon you one of the last days of your sittings and we came down on the Saturday following and you were gone. One of the deputation made a statement that the day hands' wages were \$2.25 a day; it should be \$2.40 a day. That is about all I wish to state.

Q.—You are empowered to come down here and make that statement? A.—Yes.

TORONTO, 26th January, 1888.

JAMES L. HUGHES, Public School Inspector, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—At what age are the children taken into the schools in Toronto? A.—They are taken into the regular schools at five years and into the kindergarten classes at four, if they come that early.

Q.—Does the school law of Ontario state any age up to which children shall continue to attend school, and if they shall be compelled to attend? A.—The parents are responsible for sending their children to school between the ages of seven and twelve, but the children may attend till they are sixteen years of age by law; so we are responsible for providing accommodations for them up to that age.

Q.—Do you find a desire on the part of the parents to avoid that provision of the law? A.—We do not. We have had more pupils offer themselves than we have been able to provide accommodation for, so far. Even in the case of boys who do not wish to go to school themselves, the parents, with very few exceptions, seem anxious to have them go.

Q.—Do any of the children leave school before they reach the age at which the Ontario Act says they must attend? A.—I could not answer that question definitely.

without looking up the statistics, but I can state that, of course, we have a very large percentage of pupils in the lower classes, which would indicate that they do not attend school as long as they should do. Last year, for instance, in the first book we had 8,761 pupils; in the second book, 4,746; in the third book, 3,788; in the fourth book, 2,209; in the fifth book, 809. When pupils reach the age of thirteen they leave the school in large numbers.

Q.—Would the average pupil attain to the fourth book before he reached the age of fourteen years? A.—Yes; they reach the fourth book at about thirteen.

Q.—Do those statistics cover all the public schools? A.—Yes; the public schools in Toronto.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Not separate or private schools? A.—No.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you sufficient accommodation in the public schools for all who wish to take advantage of them? A.—We have not.

Q.—Is not that a violation of the law? A.—That is partly owing to the celebrated 29th amendment introduced by Mr. Crooks, which gave control of the expenditure for buildings partly to the city council. They rejected our estimates one year, and we were not able to provide that accommodation. However, during the past thirteen years our school accommodation has increased from 67 rooms at that time to 318 at the present time; or rather, we shall have that number of rooms when those now under construction are completed.

Q.—Does that statement include the new schools for which contracts have been let, other than the alterations to old schools? A.—Yes; with the new schools the accommodation will reach 318 rooms.

Q.—Is sufficient care taken that the ventilation of the school-rooms is as perfect as it can be made? A.—Yes; I answer that question, without any hesitation, in the affirmative. During the past two years we have introduced into our schools a system of ventilation that is the only system which I believe to be perfect. I have seen the best schools in most of the cities of the United States, and which were heated by a system of direct or indirect radiation or whatever system is provided for the inlet and outlet of air, and I have not seen any that were satisfactory except the system we have now in our new schools.

Q.—Are there times when the school-rooms are over-crowded, in your estimation, through lack of accommodation? A.—Very likely; our experience in Toronto has been that we have not been able to keep up with the population. The boundaries of the city have been enlarged, the population has rapidly increased, and now all classes send their children to school; so that we have not been able to keep up as regards school accommodation, and although we are building forty-two rooms at the present time, they will not supply the immediate necessities when the buildings are completed.

Q.—In your judgment, how many pupils can a teacher do justice to in teaching? A.—In no class should a teacher have more than fifty pupils.

Q.—Are there many rooms in the schools in Toronto where a teacher has more than fifty? A.—There are at the present time not more than ten or twelve rooms in which there are less than fifty pupils to a teacher. We have nearly 3,000 pupils in our schools now more than the law allows us to have in the city of Toronto. In order to meet the difficulty, we have some of our classes conducted on the half-principle. When I say we have 3,000, I should add they are not at school all day—part are there in the forenoon and part in the afternoon.

Q.—Those will be the junior classes? A.—Yes; the junior classes.

Q.—Do you think that the public sufficiently understand the condition of affairs to be able to pass a judgment on the matter? A.—I do not want to appear as having want of confidence in the public, but I think they could not be expected to intelligently express opinions in reference to public school matters, without giving them

more study than they have given them. I find the public are always reasonable when matters are explained to them.

Q.—Do you find any difficulty among the pupils attending school for want of school books? A.—We do in some parts of the city. In regard to that question, I think we might make great improvements.

Q.—Is the cost of purchasing books very great, say for a family of five children? A.—The cost of school books is necessarily a heavy burden on a large number of the people of Toronto.

Q.—Do you think that if the books were supplied to the children either at cost price or free, many people would be benefited? A.—I am sure they would be, and I am thoroughly in sympathy with that plan. I know of no class that would not be benefited by that arrangement, except the retail book dealers, and they would naturally object. Otherwise, all parties would be benefited, and I see no reason why we should not give free books as well as give school accommodation free and school teaching free. Besides, we already supply pens, and penholders, and ink, and some other things. Wherever this plan has been tried, it has been found that the attendance of the children of the poorer people has been more regular, and, of course, the advantage to the general welfare of the city is manifest, because the school board could purchase books at wholesale prices, thus getting all the cash discounts and all the other advantages.

Q.—Do you think there is a tendency, when books are supplied free, towards pupils in the school becoming careless with them and destroying them? A.—I have not found that to be the case where I have seen the experiment tried, where the pupils were held responsible for good books carelessly or improperly handled by them.

Q.—You think, then, such a plan might be adopted with safety, so far as pupils are concerned? A.—I have no doubt it might be adopted with safety.

Q.—Have you ever given any thought in regard to the question of cost in regard to the matter? What increased cost to the general public would arise from supplying school books free? A.—To the public, as a whole, it would reduce the cost of maintenance.

Q.—The cost directly? A.—It would reduce the expenditure to the public as a whole. Tax-payers who have no children at school would suffer; but they might reasonably be expected to bear the additional burden on the general principle on which our school system is founded. I have not made up the statistics; if it would be any advantage to have such a statement, I will make it up afterwards.

Q.—What is the present tax for school purposes in Toronto? A.—I believe it was 2 mills on the dollar last year.

Q.—Would it be possible to graft on the public school system a system of technical education for young people? A.—Certainly. I have given considerable attention to that subject for some years, and I have recommended it in my report. Here is my report for last year, and I will supply you with copies of it; and in it you will find I gave several pages to recommendations with respect to manual training schools. I have visited several cities in the United States where they have manual training schools. I have not much faith in what are called in the United States manual training schools for the classes, because in a city as large as Chicago, of several hundred thousand people, they have simply one school, which is an advanced high school, attended by a comparatively small number of young men. I believe myself that the proper place for the training of the hand is, in the lower classes, in schools where all the children are attending, because at that time the hands of the children are in a condition to be moulded to almost any extent in dexterity, and, therefore, several years ago I recommended our school board to introduce the kindergarten system in Toronto, because the training of the children receive in the kindergarten has a very great influence indeed in the development of manual dexterity. I am not sure we would be able to introduce a system of teaching in the specific trades to advantage, nor would I personally recommend such to be done if we could do so. What I urge is manual or industrial training, such as the

training of the hand to make it expert, and the training of the head to make it clear and definite in controlling the hand, together with some slight training in the use of tools, which should be done without teaching any particular trade. I think that could be done efficiently, and done at a comparatively small cost. I may say that at the last meeting of our school board they unanimously adopted a resolution instructing me to prepare for them a report in reference to this matter, and I believe the board will, during the present year, take action in the matter.

Q.—For young boys who propose learning trades, do you think the instruction would be best given while attending school, or through night schools? A.—I think it ought to be done both ways, chiefly during the day. I have the statements of the masters in St. Louis and Chicago to support my assertion that the pupils who devote a portion of the day to manual work do not fall behind in their studies when compared with the pupils who do not devote any time to manual work.

Q.—What portion of what you would call technical education is now taught in the public schools, or is there any? A.—There is. For girls we have sewing; there is a programme of work as there is in regard to arithmetic or geometry, or any other subject. That we have had for some years. For all the classes we have industrial drawing.

Q.—Does that include mechanical drawing? A.—In the higher classes that would include mechanical drawing. In the lower classes we have kindergarten, and some three years before the English education department made needle work compulsory for boys as well as girls we had in Toronto been training our boys in most of our classes, at all events in the primary classes, to do needle work as well as girls, not from a utilitarian standpoint at all, but with the idea of developing manual dexterity, and training the eye and mind in what might be called executive work. Most of the systems of education fail in the executive department; they train the receptive faculties, not the constructive faculties, and it was with that view we tried several years ago that system. We also had in some of our classes, as they do in French schools, considerable whittling. The boys, by means of their jack-knives, make various articles, such as small chairs, ladders, bureaus, &c.

Q.—Do you think the kindergarten system could be so extended as to be made useful to children of older age than those who now study it? A.—Not the kindergarten system itself. No child who possesses all its faculties and is in usual health should be in the kindergarten proper after seven years of age; but the industrial principles of the kindergarten may easily be carried into classes above the kindergarten, and the underlying principles of the kindergarten may and should be carried higher than it.

Q.—Would the introduction of this industrial training you speak of necessarily discontinue any subjects included in the present curriculum in the schools? A.—I think not. We might give less attention to some studies, and if we had to do that I would recommend giving less attention to studies, such as geography, which might be taken up after the pupils leave school, so far as individuals might need to use it. When I speak of geography I mean geography and similar subjects not so directly educative in effect as instructive merely.

Q.—Do you think a course might be so arranged after pupils arrive at a certain age that it might be optional with them to take certain subjects along with industrial training? A.—It might be.

Q.—Could any portion of the present curriculum be left out without injuring the prospects of the children in any way, and industrial education substituted for these subjects omitted? A.—There is no subject now in our public school course that could be advantageously removed from it, I think. If it were necessary to make more time for industrial education I would take time from geography and from reading. It is not necessary that we should train our pupils to be elocutionists. In my opinion it would be sufficient to train them to read so as to extract knowledge from printed matter, and in geography we might also save time.

Q.—Have you ever given any thought to the subject of teaching instrumental

music in the public schools? A.—I have not given much attention to it—I cannot say I have given any thought to teaching instrumental music.

Q.—Is it done in the schools in the United States? A.—Not, I think, in any public schools I am acquainted with. I believe a piano to be necessary in the kindergarten, in order to lead the children in their games, and to aid in giving them a definite conception of rhythmical movement.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What are the actual requirements of the Ontario Act as to the attendance of children at the public schools between the ages of seven and fourteen? A.—Speaking from memory (I have not looked at the last Act) I think it provides for school attendance during eighty days in each year.

Q.—There are no requirements of the Act outside those ages, I suppose? A.—No.

Q.—What percentage of the children of school age in Toronto have actually attended the schools at some time during the year? A.—We have not definite statistics as to the exact school population of the city.

Q.—Take the municipal census as a basis? A.—We had 20,213 pupils in attendance in our public schools last year.

Q.—Do you know what was the attendance at the separate and private schools in the city? A.—I do not.

Q.—Is not five years too early an age for a child to attend at a common school? A.—I think it is.

Q.—Do the junior pupils who attend only half time make as much progress, when doing so, as if they attended full time? A.—They do not make quite as much progress. They make a great deal more than half, but not quite as much as if they attended both forenoon and afternoon. In the kindergarten classes we only allow them to go half time, and they should not be allowed to go more than half time at that age.

Q.—Would it not be better to charge a small fee and supply books than to have your present system of compelling pupils to supply their own books? A.—I think it would be much better to supply the pupils with books by means of the board, whether the board collected the amount by taxation or obtained it as is done in Hamilton by a fee from the pupils, varying according to the age of the pupils and the classes attended. I would prefer either method to the one we adopt. Where the school authorities have supplied the books, either by fee or taxation, I do not know of any case where it has been given up.

Q.—Have you commercial classes in the Toronto common schools? A.—They are all commercial classes, in one sense.

Q.—Do you teach book-keeping? A.—Yes.

Q.—As a distinct branch from the high school? A.—Yes.

Q.—Could not a system akin to that be established when imparting technical instruction? A.—Certainly. I see no difficulty in imparting technical instruction in the public schools, if by technical instruction is not meant trades. If you mean simply the training of the head and hand, so as to make more expert workmen, I thoroughly believe in it, and this morning I prepared a brief summary of my reasons, which are as follows. I urge the necessity of industrial and manual training in public schools for the following reasons:—

1. Because children should deal chiefly with real things during the first year of school life. They have been learning very rapidly before they came to school, by handling the various real things. They should continue to do so for a time when they come to school. The school should make the work systematic and definite by supplying the child with the material best calculated to develop his intellectual as well as his industrial powers.

2. Because using real things is the most certain way of exercising the child's intellectual faculties. Our intellectual powers may be divided into those that gather knowledge, those that classify knowledge and those that use knowledge. Each department of intellectual power is best trained in early years by using real things.

3. Because it is the right of every one to receive such an education as will best fit him for the proper performance of his duties, in whatever sphere he may labor. The great majority of our pupils will have to earn the means of livelihood and culture for themselves and their families by using their hands. It is therefore of the utmost importance to give them a careful and definite training calculated to develop hand skill and power. Every man, whatever his position in life, will find it to his advantage to have such a training.
4. Because the system of apprenticing has been discontinued. It was not in harmony with modern tastes or custom, and as Adam Smith long ago showed, it was opposed to the principles of political economy. He said: "It interfered with the property which every man has in his own labor, encroached on the liberty of employer and employé, restrained competition, continued for an unnecessary length of time, and failed to allow the rewards of faithful labor to be enjoyed as they are earned." Undoubtedly, the best way to make up for a lack of training by apprenticeship is by means of a comprehensive system of industrial and manual training.
5. Because improving the mechanical skill of the industrial classes must add largely to the wealth and prosperity of a nation. It does so in two ways—by saving time, and by increasing the value of the articles produced.
6. Because the great increase in the use of delicate and intricate machinery in manufacturing demands a more thorough industrial and technical training on the part of those who are to use the machines.
7. Because the number and variety of artistic manufactures are constantly increasing, and consequently the workmen and workwomen specially need skillful fingers that can adapt themselves to any work they may be called upon to perform.
8. Because the wealthy classes are calling for a higher style of ornamental woodwork in their houses, and for more artistic furniture, in construction and design. Machine-made articles are turned out in large numbers and exactly similar in design. Those who can afford to do so are trying to get special articles of which no one can procure copies or reproductions. They have to pay higher prices for them, but they gladly do so. The demand for such work is rapidly increasing. Tradesmen and machinists of all classes are compelled to vary their workmanship continually. Those who best succeed in doing so earn the most money, and earn it most easily. All workmen would be aided in doing so by systematic manual training.
9. Because it will increase the prosperity of the working classes and will elevate their social position. If a workman can, by a higher degree of skill, produce a more valuable article than he could otherwise do from a certain amount of raw material, he increases his own value to his employer and will receive higher wages.
10. Because the moral effects of such training are good. Improving a working-man's position will make him more contented and happy. It will better the relationship between master and workman, and improve the character of the work done. Success will induce a workman to make greater efforts and will enable him to surround himself and his family at home with many of the things that lead to culture and refinement. This manual training has also a direct moral influence in moulding the characters of the children. They are naturally destructive in their tendencies, but the same instinct which leads them to be destructive will, if they are properly guided, make them take delight in work of a productive character. It is a most important part of a child's moral training to make him constructive instead of destructive, and making things under the guidance of a skillful teacher is the best means of accomplishing this desirable end.
11. Because working in schools will give pupils a greater respect for work. Many children are allowed to grow up with a contempt for work. They usually become, in some way, a burden to society. Gaol statistics show that three-fourths of the young men who fall into criminal courses are unable to work at any trade. The only way to make children realize that "all labor is noble and holy" is to train them all, rich and poor alike, to be able to work with their hands. This will not necessarily make them all mechanics.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you think any improvement could be made in the present system of public school books, so that parents could obtain the books at a cheaper rate than they do at present? A.—I do not think the present system of authorising the publication of school books to be the best system, for I believe that the publication of books should be freely open to all publishers. In my opinion, we would then have more competition; in fact, the only way we can get competition among publishers is by not having them all publish the same series of books, and in order that no difficulty might follow in the case of removal from one municipality to another, I would have the books supplied by the municipality or school district, instead of being purchased by the pupils themselves. To avoid unnecessary changes in the text books, I think a county or city board should be established, consisting of leading citizens qualified for the position and also leading teachers representing the teachers' association of the county, and this board should decide once in every three or four years what text books should be used. Text books rapidly fall behind the age, and it certainly cannot be the best system for procuring good text books to compel all to use the same series and to continue to do so for a number of years. If the publication of them were thrown open to all publishers, without the restriction at present prevailing, the books certainly ought to be cheaper.

Q.—Are there women teachers in Toronto holding as high grade certificates as male teachers? A.—Many of them have the highest possible certificates.

Q.—Do they teach as high a class in the different departments? A.—No; we have one lady teaching the highest fifth book class in one of our public schools.

Q.—A lady holding as high a certificate as a man does not receive as high a salary, I believe? A.—Not necessarily.

Q.—Have they not to undergo the same strict examination? A.—They have.

Q.—Do you know any reason why they should not receive as high a salary as a male holding the same certificate? A.—Our salaries are not paid either to male or female teachers in accordance with the class taught, but in Toronto we pay the teachers according to length of service on the staff. Some of our highest-paid teachers teach in the lowest classes. That is not so at present, but it will soon be the case, and we need as good teachers in the lower classes as in the higher. The masters are paid because they are principals of the school and their salaries are on an average larger than the ladies', on account of the responsibility connected with their position. They are not paid on account of the teaching they do, but on account of the general management and supervision they have to exercise.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are there any ladies in Toronto who have charge of schools? A.—There are; only schools of four rooms or less.

Q.—Do you consider the present curriculum of study at all injurious to the pupils—the pupils in advanced classes especially? A.—I do not think the curriculum of study is injurious. The injury to the health of the pupils has come largely, in my opinion, from long continued study in badly ventilated rooms, without taking sufficient exercise. It is only during the last two or three years that there have been good and thoroughly ventilated schools any where, so far as I know.

Q.—Does not the amount of work required of a pupil—say a pupil in the senior fourth book—require him to give time to study that ought to be devoted to exercise? A.—We do not allow any of our teachers to give more than one and a-half hours per night, and we insist on a record of the work assigned being kept by the teacher in the school for inspection at any time, and if night work of more than an hour and a-half is assigned in the highest class, and reported, the teacher is always checked for it and the matter set right.

Q.—How do you judge as to the amount a child can learn in an hour and a-half? Are there not some bright and some dull pupils in school? A.—The work given is such as would not occupy a child more than an hour and a-half. We have a great

many complaints from parents that we do not give enough work in the second and third classes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You have complaints to that effect more than that you give too much work ?
 A.—We have very little complaints about giving too much work, but occasional complaints from those who think the children should have more work at home, but we are not influenced by those complaints. I do not think if a child works steadily at school for five and a-half hours he should have very much study at home. If it was not for the purpose of developing the power of study individually, which is a very important power, I would be quite willing to see a rule laid down that no home work should be assigned.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Does the school board or the teachers' association fix the rate of salary paid ?
 A.—The public school board. The association has no influence in the matter. The ladies of this city appointed a deputation to wait on the school board on one or two occasions, but merely as a deputation to respectfully urge them to do certain things. They have no direct power in the matter.

Q.—Is it necessary to have special power to increase the rate of salaries ?
 A.—The school board has the power to do that—power by the authority of the Legislature.

EDWARD TAYLOR, City Relieving Officer, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—You are in the mayor's office ?
 A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any great extent of distress in Toronto at present ?
 A.—Yes ; a great deal.

Q.—From what classes of people are applications for relief principally drawn ?
 A.—Am I to understand your question as having reference to citizens, or persons coming to the knowledge of citizens ?

Q.—All classes ; for instance, do you find many permanent applications for relief—people coming annually ?
 A.—Yes.

Q.—What proportion of those who might be called permanent applicants are there to those who are occasional ?
 A.—I should think 70 per cent.

Q.—Can you give us an idea of the chief causes of the destitution—is it lack of work ?
 A.—That is one cause, but I think the chief causes are idleness and drink. They are the two principal causes.

Q.—Do you ever meet with many cases of people who would be willing to work and only come to you as a last resort ?
 A.—Yes ; I do.

Q.—Do you think that the amount of distress in Toronto is in excess of what a large city like Toronto ought to have ?
 A.—I think it is.

Q.—At what season of the year do you have most applications ?
 A.—In the month of February.

Q.—From what cause do you think there is more distress than there should be ?
 A.—I think strikes in the summer have a great deal to do with it.

Q.—Have you many applications from people who you know were on strike last summer ?
 A.—No ; not to my knowledge.

Q.—Can you give us any statistics as your reason for believing that strikes cause the distress ?
 A.—No ; that is only an impression I have.

Q.—Is there in Toronto any place of relief supported by the corporation ?
 A.—Not entirely.

Q.—What amount does the corporation of Toronto spend annually on charitable purposes ?
 A.—I cannot tell you exactly ; there are so many charitable organizations, and the corporation makes grants to most of them. The House of Industry, I think, gets a grant of \$8,000 ; then there are the House of Providence, the Boys' Home, the Orphans' Home, and a great number of other charitable organizations.

Q.—Do you find among the applicants for relief many immigrants recently arrived? A.—Yes; a great many.

Q.—Have you any idea what percentage of the immigrants who come here are destitute? A.—I have not, but there is a considerable percentage.

Q.—What is the system pursued in Toronto in giving relief? A.—I inquire from those who apply to me as to their wants, and then I refer them to the charitable organization which would be able to meet those wants.

Q.—The combined charities? A.—The combined charities is not so much, I think, for dispensing relief as for seeing that each charity is not imposed upon. They meet together and compare notes, so that they may see that one person is not going the rounds of all the charities, and getting relief from each one of them.

Q.—About what would be the daily number of people seeking relief at the present times? A.—I suppose about twenty-five or thirty at the city hall.

Q.—Do you consider that a large number? A.—Yes.

Q.—Above the average? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there many men amongst the applicants for relief? A.—They are principally men.

Q.—Do those men express a willingness to work? A.—Many of them say: "If you give me work I will not go to the charity."

Q.—Could not the corporation of Toronto profitably provide work for those men and avoid giving them relief? A.—I think it could.

Q.—Take last winter, did you notice that when men were employed by the day on the Don improvement there were fewer applications for relief? A.—Yes; there were.

Q.—Do you think that if people were provided with work they would rather do it? A.—I am quite sure a great number of them would.

Q.—We have no chronic paupers, as we might call them? A.—Yes; we have some, but many who apply would prefer working to taking charity.

Q.—You think they are unfortunate in their circumstances rather than idle? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Did you ever ask any of those immigrants by what inducements they were led to come to this country? A.—Yes; frequently.

Q.—Can you mention some of those inducements? A.—They would say: "Constant employment, high wages and cheap living."

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Who made those representations to them? A.—I think principally the agents of the ship companies.

Q.—Are those immigrants of whom you speak mechanics or common laborers? A.—Principally common laborers.

Q.—Are any of the adults male immigrants incapable of work? A.—Frequently I find them so.

Q.—Among what nationalities? A.—I think principally Irish and English.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What is the number of immigrants who came here last year? A.—I could not say.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do any of the immigrants who apply belong to any trades? A.—Yes; at this season of the year it is a great mistake to bring them out. In winter and fall there is little chance to get work; very few have much money, and their resources are soon exhausted, and unless they get employment they are obliged to come for relief.

Q.—Do you know if these steamship agents receive a percentage for inducing parties to come out? A.—I do not know.

JOHN WALKER, Secretary-Treasurer of the Crompton Corset Company, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You represent the Crompton corset establishment. A.—Yes.

Q.—How many hands do you employ on an average? A.—About 250 now; about 230 girls and 20 men.

Q.—Must these men be skilled in their calling? A.—Yes; with the exception of one or two. There are one or two mere laborers, but the others are skilled mechanics.

Q.—What would be the earnings of a skilled hand? A.—Well, in our cutting room a skilled man can earn \$15 a week, and in our ironing-room about the same.

Q.—What would a man you call a laborer receive? A.—We pay the assistant in shipping, &c. \$10 a week, and another man we employ as assistant for nailing up cases, &c., gets \$1 per day.

Q.—Do cutters work by the day or piece? A.—Only piece work.

Q.—Is there much skill required on the part of the female laborers? A.—Yes; a stitcher may take six or eight months to become skilled; if she is smart and apt to learn she will be proficient in six months; others will never become proficient, and as a rule we ship those.

Q.—How many girls have you? A.—Two hundred and twenty-five to two hundred and thirty.

Q.—What is the lowest rate of wages you pay? A.—When we take on a little girl as help we pay her \$3.00 a week to commence with.

Q.—What wages would a girl whom you considered competent and expert receive? A.—As stitcher she will average \$1 a day. Some make \$5, others \$8 per week, depending on the class of work they are at.

Q.—Do they supply their own thread and needles? A.—No.

Q.—What hours do they work? A.—From 1st October to 1st March we run from 8 to 12 and from 1 to 6, and from 8 to 12 on Saturdays, forty-nine hours a week. From 1st March to 1st October we run from 7:30 in the morning instead of 8.

Q.—Do girls all work on piece-work? A.—Yes; with the exception of a few week hands.

Q.—Take the women help all through, what would be the average earnings per week? A.—Well, now the average would not be quite so high, because I suppose 60 per cent. of them have only just been taken on to learn the business, but as soon as they become skilled their average wage in summer time would be about \$5 a week and \$4.50 in winter.

Q.—Is there a competent hand to inspect the work when it is finished? A.—Yes; we have four inspectors of the work at different stages.

Q.—If the work is not properly done is the operator fined or is there a deduction made? A.—We have what we call repairers, and the time they occupy in adjusting mistakes and bad work is charged to the operators doing the work at the rate of 10 or 11 cents an hour. Of course, we make allowances for girls commencing the business, but after they know how to do the work, and should do it properly, then we charge for mistakes according to the time occupied in rectifying them.

Q.—When the foreman finds that a young girl is not qualified for the business, will she be discharged? A.—Yes; if we find she is occupying the place of a girl who should do better, we discharge her after a fair trial.

Q.—Do you know what time they take to find this out? A.—Sometimes we find it out in half a day or half an hour, but we do not turn them off at once. Sometimes, if they are not suitable for one department they may be for another.

Q.—Do they receive wages from the time they commence? A.—Yes; from the hour they commence.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is it your interest to keep on girls after they commence? A.—After learning the trade we do not allow them to go.

Q.—Is it your interest to try to keep them? A.—Yes; we try to make the most of them, because we might get two or three who would not do any better.

Q.—You only judge as a matter of interest? A.—Yes.

By MR. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do girls in your employ have to pay for broken needles? A.—No.

Q.—Can you tell us how many weeks in the year your hands are employed?
A.—We shut down a week at Christmas; you could safely say fifty weeks a year.

Q.—During all those fifty weeks, could they earn from \$5 to \$8 a week?
A.—Yes; if they work full time and attend to business.

Q.—Constant employment is furnished? A.—Yes; constant employment for good hands.

Q.—At what age do you take girls to work? A.—I think the youngest girl we have now is fifteen.

Q.—Do they work in the same room with the men? A.—No; the men work only by themselves.

Q.—Separate conveniences? A.—Yes

Q.—Separate entrances to the convenience? A.—Yes; it is very private.

By MR. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Did your establishment ever remove to Berlin? A.—Yes.

Q.—Had you any labor trouble there? A.—Yes.

Q.—Would you please tell us the nature of the trouble? A.—I think it was late in December when we went to Berlin and we took up about twenty or twenty-five of our expert girls to act as teachers. After we got nicely running along, so that generally the girls from Berlin were making from \$2.50 to \$3.50 and \$4 a week, one afternoon, during Mr. Crompton's absence, they walked out in a body about 5 o'clock. I was telegraphed for to come up, and next morning I went up. They came there, and as far as I could find out they wanted to be paid exactly the same as our expert hands. I thought that was altogether unreasonable, and tried to induce them to come back to work; I told them no doubt Mr. Crompton would look into the matter, and if possible to give them an advance he would do so. They would not go to work, and did not go. They kept out. Mr. Crompton saw them, and found them so unreasonable he could not do anything with them. He said he would give them ten days to re-consider the matter, but at the end of ten days they did not apparently want to lower their terms in any way; so we merely went to work and loaded up our plant and took it back to Toronto, and took on fresh hands.

Q.—They earned from \$2.50 to \$4 a week? A.—Yes.

By MR. HEAKES:—

Q.—Did those girls work any piece-work in Berlin? A.—Entirely by piece-work.

Q.—Why were they not paid the same price for piece-work as is paid in Toronto?
A.—We considered a girl earning \$4.50 in Berlin was as well off as one earning \$6 in Toronto.

Q.—They were not paid the same price as the Toronto girls you took up?
A.—You cannot pay the same price for cheap work as you can for good work; you have to break your hands in on cheap work.

Q.—Did they not do as good a class of work as you required? A.—No; but they might have done so eventually. No doubt by this time the great majority would.

Q.—At the time of the strike were not these girls experts in the work they were doing? A.—Not by any means.

Q.—Is it usual to put a girl on piece-work when she is not an expert? A.—We put them on piece-work right at the start.

Q.—Is the factory still running in Berlin? A.—No.

Q.—It has not been running since the strike? A.—No; we closed the place, took away the plant and locked it up.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—That was a loss to you? A.—Yes; it was.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—You took your factory from Toronto to Berlin? A.—We moved partly, and our intention was to move there entirely.

Q.—Were facilities greater in Berlin than in Toronto? A.—Well, we thought we could get cheaper labor in Berlin.

Q.—And because the girls would not work more cheaply you came back to Toronto? A.—Yes; we would have made concessions if they had not been so unreasonable.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you know if those girls who got \$2.50 per week paid their board or lived with their parents? A.—I could not tell.

R. IRVING WALKER, Dry-goods Merchant, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What are the average earnings of a dry-goods clerk in Toronto? A.—I can tell you the average earnings of my own clerks, what they are willing to work for. My youngest boy gets \$2 a week—the boys are from twelve to fourteen years of age.

Q.—Are they regularly apprenticed to the business? A.—We have no apprentice system.

Q.—What would that boy's services be worth, say when he had been five years at the business? A.—Our rule is to advance them \$1 a week a year in the business until they reach \$6 per week.

Q.—A salesman who would be considered a first-class man: what would he get? A.—He would earn from \$500 to \$1,000 a year, according to what brains he had and his willingness to apply them. Some have brains, but they will not make use of them.

Q.—Do you pay them all on salary? A.—We pay both ways—salary and commission. The manager of a department gets a commission on the sales of the department, as well as his salary.

Q.—Does not the employment of female clerks come largely into competition with male clerks now? A.—I do not know whether the competition is with men and women or women and men.

Q.—There are more females now employed than there were formerly, I believe? A.—Yes; I think so, in Toronto.

Q.—Have you any idea as to what those girls are paid, as a class? A.—Our girls start as the boys do, and after a little while they get \$4 a week, and the women run up to \$800 a year. A girl who is wise enough not to get married can earn \$800 a year if she sticks to the business.

Q.—Those are exceptional cases, I suppose? A.—Yes; they have to be pretty brainy girls. I have one there whom I would not lose for \$800 a year.

Q.—I suppose she knows it? A.—Yes; she knows her value. Behind the counter \$500 a year is as much as an ordinary girl can earn. In order to get high wages they must be manager or superintendent of a department.

Q.—Are the services of female clerks considered to be of equal value with those of men? A.—They are, to a certain extent. A girl who will keep attentively working at the business and leave men alone is as valuable as a man is. There is, however, all the difference among them. Up to a certain extent they are more valuable, but when they get valuable they generally get married. That is the trouble with female labor in our business.

Q.—What hours are those females employed in a store? A.—They commence about half-past eight in the morning and leave work at about six or a quarter past in the evening.

Q.—Do all the dry goods stores in Toronto, on King and Yonge streets, close at

the same time. A.—No; on Yonge street the stores do not close until about 10 o'clock at night. On King street the hour of closing is 6, except towards the market where the stores are kept open later.

Q.—Are the young girls compelled to stand on their feet the whole time? A.—No; not in our store. They are allowed to sit down whenever they can without neglecting their business. If customers come in they must, of course, be attended to. They can rest during the time there are no customers in the store.

Q.—You employ a good many people manufacturing clothing, I believe? A.—Yes; we manufacture clothing, but not much on the premises; we manufacture it outside.

Q.—Are there many young girls employed in the manufacture of this clothing? A.—Yes; a good many.

Q.—Have you any idea of the average earnings of a girl at tailoring, for a week? A.—It depends on the class of work she can do. On some classes of work they will get three times the amount of money they will get on the same kind of labor on other work. It depends on how their work is to be finished and the class of people to whom it will be sold.

Q.—What will be the average earnings of a girl on what you would call third-class work? A.—That entirely depends on what she does. If she makes coats she will make twice as much as if she makes pants, for there is much more skill required to do the work. A girl on cheap work, pants and vests and ordinary work, would earn \$2, or \$3, or \$5 a week.

Q.—And on ordered work? A.—They will get more on that.

Q.—You do not take any apprentices to teach them their trade, I understand you to say? A.—No; our clothing is all cut on the premises. The prices that I give you are those we have been paying every week.

Q.—Do you employ young boys or young girls in the store as cash boys or cash girls? A.—We employ boys, and call them cash boys.

Q.—At what age do they generally go to work? A.—From twelve to fourteen, nothing under twelve.

Q.—Occasionally you have them younger than that? A.—We do not employ them younger if we know it.

Q.—What wages do those boys generally receive? A.—Two dollars a week.

Q.—Do they go to your store with a view to learning the business? A.—Some do and some do not.

Q.—Do you consider the present system of bringing up boys, whom you call apprentices, a satisfactory one to your business? A.—That is the only way we can do in regard to it. Boys in this country do about as they please. In the old country you can manage them better.

Q.—You mean that you cannot compel them to serve a regular apprenticeship? A.—No.

Q.—Do you find those boys when they go into your employ at twelve years to be fairly educated? A.—Not fairly educated.

Q.—Not sufficiently to make business men of them? A.—No; the rule is not to admit them to the business until they are fourteen. It is only in cases when the parents are very poor that we take them any younger; fourteen is the age we generally prefer to take them.

Q.—Have you reason to believe that the women employed in other establishments are not as well paid as those employed in your establishment? A.—I have heard such is the case, but I have no definite knowledge of it.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—When the boys come to your establishment between twelve and fourteen years do they get any schooling? A.—No; we only take them to carry parcels, and so on.

Q.—They have work continuously? A.—Yes; we recommend all to go to the night school, and some have gone. We do not bind ourselves to give them any education.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—From what you have seen of the working people, do you consider they earn sufficient to keep themselves comfortable all the year? A.—Our own employés, so far as I can see, are pretty comfortable. Of course, in our business we do mantles and millinery as well as clothing. A great many of our employés only work ten months in the year. A great many of the girls would rather have a month's holidays and spend it in fixing up their clothing, and so on; a great many go home and stay with their families. Our girls are generally all away about one month at this season. With ordinary care and industry they are able to keep along, and they can save enough in the busy season to go over the whole season very comfortably; but it entirely depends on the character of the hands as to how much they make, and some make half as much more as others, because they have more ability and apply themselves to the work.

TIMOTHY EATON, Dry-goods Merchant, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You are a dry-goods merchant on Yonge street, I believe? A.—Yes.

Q.—You sell millinery? A.—Yes.

Q.—And boots and shoes? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are the wages you pay your male clerks—the highest? A.—The rate of wages runs in proportion as they are capable of taking different positions. If a boy begins at about fifteen years of age we start him at about \$3 a week. We have a lower grade, message boys; they are about twelve years old and they get less.

Q.—What wages do they receive? A.—Two dollars a week.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do the wages of your hands go on increasing? A.—They run from \$2 to \$20 a week, according to their positions in the house.

Q.—How do you increase them; is it by the year? A.—It is according to the positions they are able to fill.

Q.—What would be the increases they would receive—take a boy of sixteen or seventeen, what would he get? A.—It depends on the capacity of a boy and what he could do.

Q.—Take an average boy of seventeen, what would he get? A.—They are not paid so much by age as according to ability?

Q.—Take a boy of seventeen years, of average capacity? A.—If capable of taking charge of a department he would get a rise quickly.

Q.—What would be the average salary of a boy of seventeen years of age, of average ability? A.—It would run from \$4 to \$5 a week. When he got to know something he would rise as fast as he liked.

Q.—What is the highest salary? A.—An average salesman earns from \$10 to \$12 a week.

Q.—What age would he be? A.—A young man of twenty and upwards.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What salary would a saleswoman of ordinary ability, when competent behind the counter, receive? A.—Girls are more apt when young. They take hold more rapidly at first than boys. But boys in time exert themselves more and aim at being something and to rise higher. But with girls it is different, and the wages they receive depends entirely on how much they apply themselves to business.

Q.—What would you consider the wages of a first-class saleswoman behind the counter? A.—From \$6 to \$8 a week.

Q.—What is the rate of wages you give young girls when they first enter, and at what age do they enter? A.—That is a broad question. Some come in earlier

than others; some go in according to circumstances; others are forced in, and others do not come in until they are pretty well up in years.

Q.—Have you any girls in your employ under twelve years of age? A.—No; I do not think so.

Q.—What would be the rate of wages paid to them on entering your business first? A.—We have small girls for running messages between departments—they are generally cash or parcel girls, and get \$1.50 a week to start with. When they get accustomed to the departments they get an increase of wages.

Q.—How long does it take them to get accustomed to the departments? A.—I could not answer that; because some of the girls pick it up in a month and others will be longer.

Q.—What is the average time that young girls will remain at \$1.50 a week? A.—One dollar and fifty cents per week is merely nominal wages. They come in to show what is in them. If we can use them they are kept and advanced; if we cannot use them we let them go.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—They are there on trial? A.—Yes; that is about the way to put it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What hours do those saleswomen work? A.—We open at 8 and close at 6. In July, August and September we open till 10. In July and August we generally close at 2 on Saturdays during the slack months. We have done that for two years, and found it very beneficial to health.

Q.—How long are the hands allowed for dinner? A.—One hour.

Q.—Suppose they are not back on time, are they fined? A.—Yes; unless a reasonable excuse can be offered.

Q.—Is fining the exception or the rule in your shop? A.—We only fine them about twice.

Q.—Suppose they are late the third time, what becomes of them? A.—They chastise them. If they can give a reasonable excuse it is all wiped out.

Q.—Suppose they are late: what is the time they must be late before they are fined. Will five minutes after the regular time be sufficient? A.—I think so; I am not exactly sure. I think they have five minutes grace.

Q.—Suppose a young woman was late fifteen minutes, what would she be fined? Would she be fined one hour or two hours' time? A.—I think the fine is 10 cents. I could not answer with certainty, because I am not in that department.

Q.—You think if she was late fifteen minutes she would be fined 10 cents? A.—I do not say that, but I say it to be something about that; but if it would be of any advantage to know I could tell you subsequently.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You spoke about chastising those females: what time does this chastisement take place if they are late? A.—There is no distinction between females and males.

Q.—What time does it take? A.—One hour is the time given, and if they can offer a reasonable excuse for being late, it is accepted.

Q.—You fine them twice? A.—If I said chastise I did not mean to do so. They are simply cautioned, not chastised.

Q.—Are those girls taken into your shop with a view to teaching them the business? A.—That is the object.

Q.—How long will it take the smallest girl you have to learn the business? A.—It will take some twenty years—they will be always learning.

Q.—I mean to become a proficient and competent saleswoman, how long does it take? A.—Some girls will pick it up in three months if they are apt at their business.

Q.—Is there any difficulty for a woman who is a competent saleswoman to obtain employment in Toronto? A.—We have never found it.

Q.—Have you ever found the supply larger than the demand for shop girls? A.—Not if they are competent persons.

Q.—Do you have very many young people offering themselves as assistants, wishing to learn? A.—Sometimes there are more than others. That largely depends on circumstances. We very often have applications from persons whose home life is upset by accident or death of the father or support of the family.

Q.—Do you think there are a greater number of people applying for positions now as saleswomen than would be wanted by the demand? A.—I do not think so. We have a great deal of difficulty in getting the class of persons suitable to our business.

Q.—You say the average earnings of a saleswomen would be about \$6 a week? A.—The average would be about \$6 per week.

Q.—I suppose there are a great many who would earn less than that sum? A.—Yes; there are.

Q.—If a young girl enters to learn the business at \$1.50 a week, how long would she be before she would get a counter? A.—Sometimes they will get a counter in a month.

Q.—What will be the average time, do you think? A.—Sometimes they will never get a counter.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You send them away? A.—There are various reasons. Sometimes they go where they can do better. They get into a place where they think they can do better, and they go away from us.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are the young women required to stand on their feet the whole time they are engaged in the store? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you consider that a woman is capable of bearing the fatigue of ten hours a day? A.—We have two sets of departments. Some of the women are capable of standing during that time, and prefer it; some sit. We have a great many young girls in the office and work rooms who sit all day. Then there are the cashiers and clerks in the office.

Q.—The others are required to stand? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Could not those in the store be allowed to sit now and then, when idle? A.—Not very well. Anyone who requires to sit we remove to a place where she can sit if she desires to do so.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—How many hands do you employ? A.—We employ from 250 to 300 hands.

Q.—Have you a larger proportion of male than female help in your establishment? A.—I think they are about equally divided, as regards males and females.

Q.—Do you consider the services of the females behind the counter equally as valuable as the services of the males? A.—For certain classes of goods they are.

Q.—Are they paid equal salaries for equal work they do? A.—As nearly as we can arrange it.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—When an employé is fined 10 cents for being late, does the hand pay the money voluntarily, or do you take it from the wages at the end of the week? A.—We take it at the end of the week.

Q.—Are you aware of the amount of income derived from fines imposed on employés at the end of the week? A.—It does not amount to much. It requires fining more than twice to cause them to go away.

Q.—You say that about 250 are employed in your establishment? A.—Yes; sometimes 300.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—I suppose people are not fined unless they are repeatedly late? Take a person late once in six months: would you consider that a sufficient reason to fine

him or her? A.—No; if late once in two weeks we do not say anything about it. The object of the fining is to caution them.

Q.—There is no system of apprenticeship in the dry-goods business, I understand?
A.—No; we have not any.

Q.—Do you think you get along as well with apprentices who are not indentured? A.—We do not find any application for apprentices as such.

Q.—Is it the rule that they serve six months in one store and then go to another?
A.—They change about from one position to another as it suits themselves. We find the better class of persons do not change, that is, those who wish to get along.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you ever known establishments in Toronto where the lady clerks left the establishment in order to go into service, with a view to bettering their position? Did it ever happen in your establishment? A.—That is, to house service?

Q.—Yes? A.—I never knew it. We have had a great many applications from house servants for situations in our establishment.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Have you separate conveniences for male and female clerks? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are they absolutely separate? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are the people in your establishment permitted to take their meals on the premises? A.—We have a department for that purpose.

Q.—They need not go any distance for that purpose? A.—Any one who wishes can bring his provisions, and coffee, tea or milk is provided for them in a room up stairs.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—As an inducement to take their meals there with them? A.—There is a committee appointed from themselves and we furnish them with a room and a gas stove, and they buy their own tea and coffee and they make a nominal charge to pay themselves. We furnish them with the room. They have one room for their meals and another for a sitting room or reading room. They can spend one hour there, or they can take a walk outside, if they so desire, at the dinner hour.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you many applications for young children to go to work? A.—Rarely, unless they are accompanied by their parents.

Q.—Not many of those come under your notice, I suppose? A.—No; I do not remember of any now.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is there a disposition to keep the children away from work as long as possible? A.—Yes; if circumstances will allow it. Their disposition is to have them attend school, and we always recommend the parents to keep them at school as long as possible. Sometimes we find a woman comes and makes application to have one of her children taken into our establishment on account of having a drunken husband, or some thing of the kind, or under some such circumstances.

EDWARD GURNEY, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—You are in the foundry business? A.—Yes.

Q.—What class of foundry work do you do? A.—Stoves, and all kinds of heating and cooking goods.

Q.—How many men do you employ in your place of business? A.—In Hamilton and Toronto I should think in the neighborhood of 400.

Q.—Can you tell us what are the earnings of a moulder on stove-work per week? A.—I think the average rate on piece-work would be \$2.50 a day, and on day work the regular rate is fixed at \$2.40.

Q.—How constantly are the men engaged during the year? A.—Well, in our business they run from about 260 to 270 days; that is, unless there is a lock-out or strike, or an exceptionally bad year, or anything of that kind. I think, taking last year, a man working as steadily as he might would make about 270 days.

Q.—Then they make on an average about forty-five weeks in the year? A.—I have not any figures before me, but I anticipated that question might be asked, and I looked it up before I left.

Q.—Earning about \$14 or \$15 a week? A.—Yes.

Q.—It is not possible to spread the work over the whole year? A.—No; it would be quite impossible. At least a month has to be taken up in taking stock and in making repairs to machinery, and things of that kind. That takes a month under the best of circumstances. Then there are great changes in designs and patterns, and those goods have to have a certain amount of work done on them before they can be put in the sand or begun to be manufactured. Of late years the demand for our goods has been so great that we have run to the limit here in Toronto; in Hamilton we have not run quite so fully.

Q.—Have you ever calculated what the average earnings per day through the whole year of a moulder would be? A.—Yes; it was on that basis I gave you the figures already.

Q.—I mean spread out through the whole year? A.—I could not say. It would be easily figured.

Q.—Do you know that moulders calculate that under the present rate of wages and present system of employment they cannot earn more than \$1.40 per day throughout the whole year? A.—Well, I think those are exceptional cases and exceptional foundries. Some foundries do not run as fully as others. I do not think you have got the best—I think, perhaps, you have the worst—statement of the case as you represent it now. I could very easily, if the Commission desired, give you something specific on that. If I had known what questions would be asked I might have been more fully prepared, but anything I cannot answer now I will give you afterwards.

Q.—I would like to have the figures, if possible. We are aiming, not at individual figures, but the general conditions? A.—It is certainly to the interest of everybody that you should get at the facts. If you will delegate some one to come to my office I will give him those figures, or if you will put down any questions you want answered I will give you an answer in writing.

Q.—You think it is not possible to spread out the work and keep men employed the whole year? A.—No; I do not think so.

Q.—Do employers in the foundry business take into consideration how those men live the balance of the year? A.—Well, that depends a good deal on the disposition of the man. They are a good deal like you and me and the rest of us; most of us think chiefly of ourselves. I have heard men say they have run a foundry through the winter when they could not see where the output was to come from. I have known such cases, and I think they are more common than most working-men believe.

Q.—Do you think if more constant employment were given to the men there would be less irritation amongst them? A.—Well, I presume men fully employed would have less chance of grumbling; I think it almost goes without saying, but I do not think it is practicable to run a business such as ours continuously throughout the year. In meeting members of one of the trades employed in our business, they admitted themselves that our place here ran as fully as any one could expect. Now there are foundries in our line that have what is called only a fall business. Their business is in stoves and heating goods and it is impossible for them to run as fully as we do.

Q.—Have you ever considered the advisability of providing wash-rooms for moulders? A.—Yes; I did it once.

Q.—Did they take advantage of it? A.—No, sir.

Q.—If the men were to ask you to do it again, would you be willing to do so? A.—Well, I always feel like meeting them in a thing of that kind, but my experience was so disastrous that I lost faith in that sort of thing, and I registered a mighty oath I never would do any such foolishness as that again. When I built the present foundry I built a room (against the opinion of my father, who had more knowledge of such things than I), so that the men might have a place to wash in. I fitted it up with warm and cold water and everything of that kind. The men would not go there; they washed in the pots in the foundry, as they always had done, and as their fathers did before them. I got well laughed at, and by none more so than by the men.

Q.—Do you take many apprentices? A.—Well, in different departments we take more than in others. Our foundry is a union shop, so far as moulders are concerned, and I think they allow one apprentice for seven journeymen and one for the shop, and I think, as a rule, we keep pretty well up to that. In other departments journeymen are not so numerous, and we put in more apprentices than in the moulding-room.

Q.—Are those boys regularly indentured as apprentices? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you consider the indenture system the best system? A.—There is no well defined law on the subject of indentures, or else the law is not well understood, as I have never been able yet to get an indenture drawn so but what some lawyer would say it was good for nothing. I think it is very desirable that apprentices should be indentured, and so bound to be held to the end of their term, and punished for leaving their employment—for this reason: if a man goes into a moulding room and works for a year he will learn to make one thing; he goes out without being a tradesman at all and hires out to make that one thing. The consequence is that first-class tradesmen are not turned out now, notably in the United States, where there are no such tradesmen as we used to receive from England fifteen or twenty years ago, who could do anything in their own line. We got a class of men from the old country who, aside from a little attrition, are better than those of the United States and this country. They are generally much better than those from the United States. Gurney moulding apprentices will get a position in the western States sooner almost than any other man, because we try to teach them for the four years and give them a large experience in their trade.

Q.—Do you think the deterioration of the workingman is due to the apprentice system? A.—I think they are not careful enough, and I think bosses and men have been mutually to blame for it. One trouble has been, where strikes have occurred a shopful of half-moulders has been created; the boss has insisted on their being kept on and they have been taken into the union, and so a lot of inferior workmen has resulted.

Q.—It is not to the interest of employers to keep those half-workmen about them? A.—Well, you have to take what is going.

Q.—You prefer to have skilled men? A.—Yes.

Q.—There are cases where employers have forced a union to take those men in? A.—You can put it whatever way you like. You would likely put it one way; I would likely put it the other.

Q.—In matters of dispute between moulders and employers, what is the best method of settling them? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Would it not be a good thing if an impartial board of arbitrators were appointed to arbitrate in matters of this kind? A.—If you could show how the parties could be bound.

Q.—You think the difficulty would not be so much in coming to an agreement as in compelling the parties to keep that agreement? Have you ever tried that plan with your men? A.—Never; but I have suggested it. Last year we had a difficulty, into which I drifted here in connection with the Hamilton concern; I proposed arbitration, but the men would not consent to it at all.

Q.—Do you know that many of the moulders in this city own their own houses?
 A.—I do not think so; and right here, if it is admissible, I would remark that I think there are a certain number of workingmen who do not want to own their own houses.

Q.—Can you give us any reason for that? A.—I have done this—I have gone to a man, who is now working for me, and have suggested to him the desirability of his owning his own house. I have said: "You are getting \$2 a day and I propose to give you \$2.75 a day. I will give it to you in cash if you like, or if you will leave the 75 cents a day in my hands I will apply it towards the payment of a lot, and build a house, and I will keep on applying it until the house is paid for. I will build it as cheap as I can, and I can build it cheaper than you can. I will put the money into the house and I will give you my written guarantee that if you die your family shall have the house." I did that because when I was working on the floor of the shop this man was one of my chums. He was willing to take the 75 cents a day, but not to buy a house. That shows that there is this one difficulty which you cannot legislate out of the way. It looks to me that some men are so constituted that they prefer present advantages. I want to say, moreover, that this man had been working only as the shop ran—about 270 days in the year. I agreed that he should have 312 days employment at those wages, so there would be the difference between 270 days at \$2 a day and 312 at \$2 in his favor; he would have that for offer himself. I was to keep 75 cents a day for this specific purpose, but after taking the advantage of the money; and he has had it ever since. Now, if I had given him a house he would not have kept it.

Q.—Do you think that is a general feeling amongst workingmen? A.—Yes; for the simple reason that they have not got houses. I have men working for me who have had no better wages than those I refer to, who have not had as good wages, and whose families are as large as theirs, who have one, two, three, or four houses, and tenants for them all. There has been as much against them as against some of the others who have none.

Q.—Did they acquire that property out of their earnings as moulders? A.—Yes; out of their earnings, but not as moulders.

Q.—Would they be as constantly employed as moulders? A.—No.

Q.—Do you employ them as pattern-makers? A.—Yes; to some extent.

Q.—What would be the earnings of a pattern-maker? A.—From \$2.25 to \$2.75 a day.

Q.—Do they get any more constant employment than moulders? A.—Yes; I think they do. I may say, with reference to the remark I made a few minutes ago, if the man who was working for me had been willing to take the house, we would have had to arrange things with him so as to always keep him employed as you always can in a large establishment like ours; when you cannot employ him at his trade you can at something else, and this had its effect with the man I refer to. I have known two or three such instances where men have gathered considerable property about them out of wages which might have been earned by moulders.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Have stove manufacturers an organization? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it secret? Do they let the public in? A.—No.

Q.—Are there any fines in connection with it? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they strike a rate of prices for stoves? A.—Yes.

Q.—And any body selling under that price is fined? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—You have a branch establishment in Boston? A.—Yes.

Q.—How do wages compare in Boston with those in Toronto and Hamilton?
 A.—I think, considering the work done, taking it by the day and rate of living, the wages paid here are higher.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—How long has your business been established here? A.—The business I am running here had its foundation about fifteen years ago. It was run first by Spencer, then by McGee, and I took hold of it twenty years ago.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Can you tell us the nature of the last difficulty you had with your employés? A.—They asked for an increase of wages in Hamilton. They came to me first here in Toronto, and asked for an increase. I had, from year to year, been making wages for the Province, and the Hamilton people protested that I should consult them, so I went to Hamilton and consulted them. We went into the question of figures, and found that the increase could not take place without a corresponding increase in the price of goods, and the market did not seem as if it would stand that. I came back and told the men here, and they withdrew from the arrangement. The men in Hamilton made the same demand, and struck, but I closed down here until the trouble was settled there.

Q.—When that was arranged and the men withdrew their demands in Toronto, to settle the strike in Hamilton you closed down in Toronto, without any fault of the men? A.—Yes; without any fault of the men.

Q.—How was it settled? A.—The men first asked for a 10 per cent. advance, and subsequently 5 per cent. was proposed to them. Finally, it was settled on the basis of 5 per cent. advance, the 5 per cent. to go on in February or March next.

Q.—It was settled amicably between the foreman and the men? A.—Yes; I think so. The feeling is as good as ever it was.

Q.—Was there any expectation that more steady employment would be given? A.—Yes; that was the expectation; and I think bosses were disposed to meet it as far as they could. You must remember that this thing is entirely outside of the control of these bosses in Hamilton. An employer of labor is making a certain line of goods; he makes it right through the season, and at the same time he knows he is never going to make another of that line—he knows that its day is done. Now, an American firm is making the patterns for those goods. We do not make patterns to any extent in the stove line. He has had the convenience of the American firm. He may be a party to the whole thing in manufacturing them, but he must at least wait until the goods are ready. From the time they pass out of the hands of the wood pattern-maker to the iron pattern-maker's hands here it is a question of weeks. A foundry cannot be started and run properly until a certain reasonable portion of outfit is ready; he must wait until it is ready before he can start. I talked that matter up with the Moulders' Union in Hamilton. They understand the whole situation, and know that the whole thing is completely beyond the control of the manufacturer.

Q.—What is the rate of wages in comparison with what it was ten years ago? A.—I think wages have considerably advanced since that time, but I could give you that as a matter of fact, if desired.

Q.—Is there anything in the nature of a combine between manufacturers of the United States and those of the Dominion? A.—Not to my knowledge; and I think I have as full knowledge of that as any one. With reference to the Association of Iron Founders in this country, I may say that that institution has been in existence twenty-five years, and the purpose of it is to enable iron founders to meet and talk over and determine questions of cost. The institution was founded by my father years ago, and has made prices for the Dominion for the last twenty-five years. There are a great many people in business who make failures simply because they do not understand these questions of cost. I will give you an example of that kind with regard to the question of power. A discussion arose at one of our meetings as to the cost of power, and different gentlemen stated their views and put forward figures about it. One gentleman objected to the item, and said: "We have to have an engine any way;" showing that a great many people do not consider questions of cost. Well, competition became very keen, and many years ago the idea was

conceived of getting people together so as to discuss these questions of cost. Having arrived at the cost price of goods, the association then takes the lowest rate of advance that any man in the room wants as the basis of prices; and, having reached that result, they put fines on, just as the Moulders' Union does.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—I suppose you consider yourselves a sort of trade union? A.—Yes; I do; and as perfectly legitimate.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—If a retail dealer in stoves buys stoves from any one who is not a member of your association, will your association sell stoves to him? A.—Certainly.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Will you sell stoves to any body who you thought was wholesale? A.—Well, I can imagine such a state of affairs coming about.

Q.—For instance, would you sell stoves to Mr. Boyd and Mr. Butterworth? A.—Certainly.

Q.—Any one paying the price? A.—Yes. It sometimes happens that one man will have control of a line of goods in a town, in which case he would not sell to his competitors, but there is no agreement to prevent me doing so. Our goods are sold to any one. Nothing in the association causes us to refuse to sell our goods to any one.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Have stove manufacturers and foundry men two separate organizations? A.—Yes.

Q.—The stove manufacturers have one and the foundry men have another? A.—I understood you to say stove manufacturer and stove seller.

Q.—No; manufacturer and foundry man? A.—In the association to which I refer they are all stove founders.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Is the demand increasing all the time for nickel finished-goods? A.—I rather think it is.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—People are looking for higher class goods? A.—Yes; it would have been impossible twenty years ago to sell to rich people the stoves we are selling to-day to workingmen. Well, perhaps that is exaggerated, but thirty-five years ago the stoves we are selling to working people to-day would not have sold to people worth \$75,000 and \$150,000.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Do you think the laboring classes are in a better condition to-day than they were thirty years ago? A.—Yes.

Q.—More luxurious? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you think a dollar has as great purchasing power as it had then? A.—I think it has more. Of course, it is a matter of statistics, but so far as I have thought of it, I think a dollar is very much more powerful now.

Q.—There is not much importing of goods in your line of business? A.—No; not much.

Q.—Is that because of the increased demand for the home manufactured article? A.—Yes. I may say that since the American war there has not been any considerable quantity of American goods brought into this market. The American war gave us control of this market, and the tariffs we have had from time to time have been sufficient to keep us in control of the market for stoves, though there are other

lines of iron goods, such as steam-fittings, which depend almost entirely on the tariff. We could not hold plumbers' goods, for instance, against American competition.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Is your coal all foreign? A.—Yes.

Q.—Why do you not use Nova Scotia coal? A.—I do not know a coal man who ever came to ask for prices.

Q.—They cannot compete? A.—I know nothing about it, except what I read in the newspapers.

Q.—Does that remark apply to iron? A.—We are using a large proportion of Canadian iron. It is better iron to start with, and being better and fully as cheap, a man can be patriotic at a low price.

Q.—Is that Londonderry iron? A.—Yes.

JOHN HEWITT, Rating Clerk in the City Waterworks, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You have paid considerable attention to matters affecting the workingmen of Toronto, I believe? A.—I have.

Q.—Looking back over your experience, how does the condition of the workingmen compare with their condition, say fifteen or twenty years ago? A.—If you take it on the basis of intellectual advancement, I believe there has been a marked improvement, but in regard to the material condition of the workingmen I cannot see any improvement; I think their material condition is rather more stringent than it was years gone by.

Q.—Can you give any reason how it occurs that while the workingmen have gone forward in their intellectual capacity their condition has not advanced materially? A.—I believe the reasons rest nearly altogether upon the economical laws that rule civilized society. We find one of the most notable features of the advance of civilization, especially in new countries, is to centralize and monopolize, and centralization and monopolization are always antagonistic to the interests of the working classes, and will continue to be so.

Q.—Could you point out what direction some of those causes have taken, and what their effects have been? A.—Of course, the great questions that affect labor may be taken on two basic conditions—wealth and monopoly in land. Of course, we have not felt this as severely here, as it has been felt in the old country; but there is one thing certain, and that is, that if the conditions that have produced monopolies in land in the old countries continue to exist here they are going to produce the same results. Then I consider the accumulating of money is altogether too great. Money is the great distributor, and I think that without going into any very deep reasoning we must come to the conclusion that the portion of the products of labor that goes to capital and land is altogether controlled by the power of money to accumulate, and I think in that one particular the work of legislation should be brought to bear in the interests of the working classes, because money is altogether a legal creation, its legal powers to represent measures and exchange values, and accumulate by interest. If you take the condition of things, even in the most favored Province of the Dominion—and I happen to have considered, when my time was less occupied than it is now, many of these questions that are now under the consideration of the Commission, and I gave some thought to this question particularly—it will be found that our material wealth in the Province of Ontario, after deducting expenses of living, has increased at the rate of less than 3 per cent. per annum. In order to produce that result the united efforts of capital and labor have been put forth, and yet it has been less than 3 per cent., and yet at that very time we were paying for one of the factors, a factor that did not do the work, 6, 7, 8, 10 or 12 per cent. The simple result was that labor had to live, and to give 3, 4, 5 or 6

per cent. of the portion that ought to have gone to labor to those that held the money. Consequently, you have centralization of wealth, and you cannot have it otherwise so long as that condition of things exists.

Q.—Taking into consideration the amount of money that is created by labor and the amount that is represented by capital and manufactures, do you think that the working people obtain a fair share of that creation? A.—No; I do not; and in a less degree the same remark may be applied to the manufactures in some cases.

Q.—I say, taking into consideration the amount of capital represented by manufactures and the amount represented by the earnings of the work people do you think the work people get their share of the profit? A.—No.

Q.—This is more apparent in some cases than in others, I suppose? A.—Yes.

Q.—Where do you consider the balance of this production goes? A.—It goes to those who hold the capital. There are certain financial centres; we have one here, and we are not sorry to have it here, so long as this condition of things exists. Toronto as a financial centre furnishes money for industries not only in the city but throughout the Province.

Q.—If the producer and consumer were drawn closer together, so that the consumer would receive a larger share of the benefit, would not a larger proportion be derived by the workingman's labor? A.—My opinion is this, and always has been, that the producer ought to have a share with the manufacturer in the production, and I contend it would be better for the manufacturer, and infinitely better for the producer, if this were the case. If you could unite their interests, so as to give the producer or the laborer a certain amount or proportion of the profits, it would be beneficial to all concerned.

Q.—Have you ever thought it possible to introduce into manufactories a scheme for the distribution of the profits, so as to obviate the middlemen? A.—I believe such a condition of things will come, and it has come in a small way in some places already. Of course, we have instances in the old country, and we have some instances in this country, where that condition of things has existed to the mutual advantage of all concerned.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the difference between the cost of manufacture and the cost of distribution? A.—You can take it in any line of staple goods, and you will find it running from 25 to 33 per cent.

Q.—Do you know what the proportion of profits of capital and labor will be in the production, less the amount that goes to the trader? A.—No; I could not give you anything definite on that line. Of course, the capitalist, or so-called capitalist, who is a manufacturer, is very often a middleman, and on account of being a middleman is tightly squeezed between the man who controls the capital and the man who produces—he is bullied by the man who holds the money. Very often when we think a manufacturer is squeezing his employés very hardly, he is being squeezed harder by the man whose capital he is using.

Q.—Can the principle of co-operation be successful in manufacturing? A.—We are growing up that way. You want a plan of technical education for your people, and coupled with that a sterling morality, and if you arrive at that point I feel quite satisfied that co-operation will not only be practicable but that it will be the solution of a great many questions that now trouble the working classes.

Q.—Co-operation in manufactures would, to a large extent, remove the restlessness of the working classes, would it not? A.—It would altogether remove it if they controlled their own capital. It would give them an opportunity of participating fully in the product of their own labor.

Q.—You spoke just now of technical education; what kind of technical education do you think would be for the benefit of the mass of the people? A.—I have very defined views on that subject. I think it is the duty of the State to establish, as it has in a measure established, a common system of education for the people. The education ought to be thorough, not only in a literary sense but in a technical sense; we want the children of the State to grow up possessed not only of head knowledge but of hand knowledge, and they should obtain all the education they possibly can

obtain. But our present school system is turning out a class of men of very little use to society; their education has been neglected in other respects, either at home or at school.

Q.—At what period of life would you have technical education commence?
A.—I think it ought to commence at ten or twelve years of age.

Q.—And carry it on until when? A.—Until the time to leave school arrives, and when a pupil reaches the age of seventeen or eighteen he should be at home so far as regards possessing the theory, and a certain amount of practical knowledge in general mechanics and general work.

Q.—What effect do you think this technical education would have on mechanics?
A.—I think it would have a most beneficial effect.

Q.—You heard what the previous witness said just now about workmen deteriorating; do you think that is true in regard to mechanics at other trades as well as moulders? A.—Yes; I believe mechanics generally are deteriorating, and that fact you can trace to the causes mentioned by the previous witness. You find that all businesses are growing into great monopolies. It pays monopolies to run their men in certain lines—for example, to keep a certain number of men on stove-plate moulding or on certain classes of work, and this system is pursued in other trades in a similar way. In fact, they run the men on particular lines of work. Take the boot trade, for instance: one man works on heels during all his life, and if he got out of employment he could only take a situation in that particular branch, and never at any thing else.

Q.—How would you counteract that evil that is growing in society? A.—It is a very difficult question to deal with, but it will be dealt with, and I feel satisfied that monopolies will become so oppressive in the not distant future that the masses will rise up and wipe them out.

Q.—How would you counteract the evil effects of the present system of skilled labor—how would you counteract the deterioration of skilled workmen? A.—Where a man is a skilled workman you cannot say he is deteriorated; it is only in consequence of the imperfect training they are getting in the large monopoly concerns that such is the case. In my business I could do anything from cutting down and getting out the timber to making it up. In that trade now we have men who can do only one particular line of work. If there was not an opening in that particular line, he would have to throw himself on the charity of the world, as he would not be much good at ordinary labor, and the result is that such men become dishonest. They perhaps, take to drink and wind up in the central prison.

Q.—Would a comprehensive system of apprenticeship to any extent counteract it? A.—I believe stringent legislation in regard to apprentices would have a very beneficial effect. You could compel employers to give those young people who trust their future to their hands a thorough training in all branches of the business, and I consider that would be most advantageous for the future of mechanics in this country.

Q.—You consider, then, that the comprehensive system of apprenticeship and technical education would remove, to a great extent, the present disability of our workmen? A.—What I mean to say is this: if a man goes and learns to be a moulder, it is in the interest of society to see that he becomes a moulder, and that he becomes a competent man in his trade in all lines that are included in the term moulding. The same remark applies to carpentering and other trades.

Q.—Do you know anything of the subject of convict labor? A.—Yes; I have taken quite an interest in that subject. Convict labor, I believe, should be employed as far as possible so as not to compete with any honest industry outside. I admit that you must find employment for your convicts in some lines. It would be an outrage upon the citizens at large to allow the convicts to be idle in prison, but care should be taken that their wares should not be thrown upon the market, except at the market prices.

Q.—Who should employ this prison labor? A.—I believe the State should employ it.

Q.—And be directly responsible for the effects? A.—Yes; I believe the State should employ the labor, and it should manufacture for the State the supplies necessary. If there is a surplus of products it ought to be disposed of with the least possible injury to competing industries in the same line outside. But I think if the State employed the prison labor at its disposal for the production of such articles as the State requires they would relieve the consumers very largely of all the products of the prisons of the country.

Q.—Do you think it is possible for the Government to manufacture by convict labor all the supplies needed in prisons, asylums and such institutions? A.—It is possible to produce those articles under the convict system, and I feel satisfied that with competent managers in the different branches those goods could be produced in the prisons.

Q.—Do you think that the experiment of producing everything needed in those institutions, such, for example, as clothing, boots and shoes, and everything of that kind, ought to be attempted by the Government, even at a loss? A.—Yes; because if the commonwealth had to make up the deficiency it would not be so large, and it would bear more gently on healthy competition outside. The central prison has killed the broom trade in this city, and those engaged in that particular business have to bear the whole brunt of it. That is a loss to that portion of the community, and it is the poorer classes of the community that have to bear the loss. It would be better, therefore, if the loss were made up by being spread over the whole body of the people.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Could not that labor be employed in making tents and tent-poles used by our militia? A.—Yes; that could be done.

Q.—Are you aware of the quantity of such goods imported for the militia last year? A.—No.

Q.—Would you be surprised that \$20,000 worth were imported last year? A.—That could be made in our prison even at a loss if necessary.

Q.—Could tents for which last year the Government spent \$180,000 be successfully manufactured in the prisons? A.—I have no doubt about it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you noticed during the past fifteen years any improvement in the labor classes through the direct influence of organized labor? A.—Yes; I have always considered that organized labor, although any direct pecuniary advantage that may arise from it may be very problematical, has the effect of bringing the men into better relations with each other by means of the association.

Q.—Has it any tendency to improve the moral character of the men? A.—Yes; it has a good tendency on the moral character of the workmen; it has invariably a good tendency, so far as my experience has gone.

Q.—Do you think a man working long hours and employed on hard work has a greater temptation to use intoxicating liquor than a man who does not work such long hours? A.—Most decidedly so. I desire to say here, in addition to my first statement in regard to centralization and monopoly, that the question of short hours is an important question to-day. We are suffering to-day, not from any stringency, or from any want of anything in the line of protection. We are suffering right along the line, and have been since I have ever been connected with labor, on the surface, and the effect is that we have increased the facilities of production year by year, and I consider that the adoption of the eight-hour system would very largely remove the grievances that now exist in the ranks of labor. I am, moreover, further convinced that even with eight hours' labor we can produce a surplus, and that is one of the ways, I feel that labor can participate in some of the products it produces.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Has not the introduction of machinery cheapened production to such an extent that the hours of labor might be profitably shortened? A.—Certainly, and

that the hours of labor might be shortened every time you simplify production. To illustrate this point let me give an example: Here is a line of business requiring a given amount of labor; some genius introduces a machine into that particular business that does the work of twenty men with ten men. There are those ten men in that business crowded out by that machine, and they have to go and glut the supply in some other trade, and yet they do not at all participate in the simplification of the production in their line, simply because the hours of labor continue the same while the amount of manual labor required to produce the same results has been diminished by one-half.

Q.—Then you think the working people have not derived the benefit from the introduction of machinery that they should have done? A.—I think they have not.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you think the purchasing power of a dollar to-day is as great as it was ten years ago? A.—I believe it is—even greater, in some lines. I think with the very abundant harvest we have had this year that provisions and other products are cheaper perhaps than they were ten years ago. But you might put the question in another way. Is the power of the working classes to purchase those necessities as great as it was ten years ago? I believe it is not. I believe the volume of employment given for the production of certain results has very greatly decreased in the manual labor line, and if you have an offer of cheap provisions for \$1, and you have not \$1 with which to buy them, it would be no advantage.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you think employment was more constant for laboring men ten or fifteen years ago than it is now? A.—I do. If the same conditions continue for ten years more I think that employment is more constant now than it will be at that time.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—When did the price of labor increase? about what year? A.—I do not know that the prices of labor have increased.

Q.—Is it the same as it was twenty, thirty or forty years ago? A.—I do not know. In my particular line I can give you the particulars.

Q.—I am speaking generally? A.—I think there has been an increase in wages. Q.—Let us begin at the beginning of the century, 1800. What were the rates of wages then as compared with the rates now? A.—They were very much less. The simpler mode of living of the working classes needed very much less.

Q.—Where a man earns \$1 to-day, what would he have received at that time? A.—I do not know; I have not considered that. At that time the purchasing power of money was greater.

Q.—I am asking you, have you noticed in the beginning of the century, say 1800, what a man who is getting \$1 a day, would have then received? A.—I suppose not more than half of it, perhaps. But we would not wish to place working men to-day in the same position.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How long ago is it since workingmen were permitted to join in trades unions? A.—Since 1872. We had arrests here in 1872.

Q.—Do you know when the conspiracy laws were repealed in Great Britain? A.—Prior to that.

Q.—How long ago; tell us within a few years? A.—May be two, or three, or four years. In 1872 we simply adopted the law then in existence in England.

Q.—What was the condition of workingmen under the old conspiracy laws? A.—They could not combine.

Q.—Suppose they united with a view to increasing their wages, what would be the effect under the conspiracy laws? A.—The effect would be as it here, that they would be arrested and taken down to prison.

Q.—Is it not a matter of fact that many men were placed in prison? A.—In that particular case to which I refer, we had a number in prison here.

Q.—Previous to the repeal of the conspiracy laws in Great Britain, is it not a matter of fact that many people were imprisoned for participating in trade movements? A.—Yes.

Q.—After the repeal of the conspiracy laws, did not workingmen obtain an increase in wages? A.—Yes; there has been a very steady increase since.

Q.—It was after their freedom was given them that they were able to get the increase of pay? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think the improvement in the condition of the working people goes much farther back than the repeal of the conspiracy laws in England? A.—I think all through this century, from its commencement, there has been a steady and constant improvement in the condition of the laboring masses, chiefly through persistency in organization, and the assertion of their inalienable right to meet together and consult their own interests.

Q.—Have you noticed that the improvement has been very marked since the repeal of those laws? A.—Yes. In this city organization was commenced at that time, and I was active in promoting the establishment of the first Trades Assembly here, and I believe the first that ever existed in Canada.

—
 AUGUST EICHHORN, Merchant and Manufacturer of Cigars, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are there many men employed in the manufacture of cigars in Toronto? A.—Quite a few.

Q.—What would be the average earnings of cigar-makers in Toronto? A.—About \$8 or \$9 a week.

Q.—Do they work by the piece or day? A.—Piece-work.

Q.—Their earnings depend on their proficiency? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much per thousand are they paid? A.—The lowest we pay is \$6.50.

Q.—Do you employ any females? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you consider their work is equal to that of men? A.—We pay them the same wages.

Q.—The class of goods they manufacture is as good as that made by men? A.—Every bit.

Q.—Are there many females employed? A.—Not many here.

Q.—Do they work in the same room as the men? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you take many apprentices to the trade? A.—I have none. I have not had any for the last two or three years.

Q.—Are there many girls or boys employed in the cigar factories? A.—There are always a certain number employed to do inferior work, such as stripping tobacco.

Q.—At what age are they taken in? A.—It is according to the statutes of the country. Now they are not let in under a certain age.

Q.—Do these children come with the view of learning the trade? A.—No; I do not think so.

Q.—Have they an opportunity of learning the trade? A.—It depends on themselves. If they are adapted to it, and behave as children should behave, very likely they are put on learning the trade if they wish.

Q.—What wages do those earn? A.—From \$1.50 to \$3.

Q.—Take a boy or girl, how long would it be from the time they commence this inferior work before they are able to earn higher wages? A.—They would have to pass an apprenticeship of four years during that time.

Q.—Suppose they begin at \$1.50, how long would it be before they earn \$3? A.—It depends on themselves.

Q.—Which class of labor do you prefer, male or female? A.—Well, I have not given that question any consideration. We find they are both equally good, and I do not think we have ever preferred one to the other, as long as they do their work properly.

Q.—Do you use the domestic tobacco for manufacturing cigars? A.—No.

A.—I have not a doubt of it. It all depends on the quality, on the seeds, and on the soil where it is raised.

Q.—You have never made experiments with that domestic tobacco? A.—There is simply none in the market.

Q.—Is it raised in any part of Ontario to any extent? A.—Yes, I think about Chatham and that neighborhood it is raised.

Q.—In the manufacture of cigars you have a good deal of waste? A.—Quite a quantity.

Q.—What becomes of it? A.—It is generally shipped to Europe.

Q.—Do you ship any to Quebec? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know if there are any cigars manufactured in Toronto in private houses? A.—None that I know of.

Q.—Are separate conveniences provided for your male and female operators? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can a woman make as many cigars in a day as a man? A.—Yes; every bit.

Q.—Where do you find your principal market? A.—We find the principal market in the cities at present. In Scott Act counties there is no market at all.

Q.—The Scott Act does not agree with cigar-making? A.—No; there is no market at all, or very little, in Scott Act counties.

Q.—Has the Scott Act had an appreciable effect on the cigar trade? A.—Yes; considerable. The consumption in those counties has been reduced more than two-thirds.

Q.—What class of cigars do you find are most saleable in cities? A.—The bulk of them are those which retail at 5 cents each.

Q.—How much a thousand can those be manufactured for? A.—From \$25 to \$33.

Q.—Do you find any large demand for the better quality of cigars? A.—Yes; it is just commencing now. It takes the old stock to be run out.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Do you employ union men in your establishment? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever employed non-union men? A.—I never put that question to my hands.

Q.—Do you not think union men are more reliable than non-union men? A.—No; I do not. I do not find any difference. I never ask that question when men come to me for work. If I have work I give it without asking whether they are union or not. If a man does his work properly it does not concern me whether it is a union or non-union man.

Q.—Have the cigars and boxes the blue label on them? A.—They have, I suppose. We have all union men in the shop.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—You have not had any difficulty? A.—No; not of late years.

Q.—You do not make any difference between union and non-union men? A.—No; it would not be fair. One man has to make a living as well as another, and if a non-union man comes in and they convince him it is better to join the union I have no objection.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Is it not an advantage to have the blue label? A.—It is in the cities.

WILLIAM THURSTON, Boot and Shoe-upper Manufacturer, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q.—Is your place of business in Toronto? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Do you employ many hands? A.—Fourteen in all, with my sons.
- Q.—You confine your business entirely to the manufacture of uppers? A.—Yes.
- Q.—What wages will the men earn in that class of work? A.—I pay one of my cutters \$10.50 and another \$9 a week. I have at present only two besides my sons.
- Q.—How many hours will they work in a week? A.—Their hours are nine and a-half hours a day, and on Saturdays, in winter, from 7:30 to 4, and in summer from 7 a.m. to 12.
- Q.—This \$10.50 a week, is that the earnings of a man working until 12 o'clock on Saturday? A.—Yes; that is what I pay them. They work nine and a-half hours a day, and from 7:30 to 4 on Saturdays in winter.
- Q.—Are there any women employed in your business? A.—Yes.
- Q.—What wages can they earn? A.—Some of them from \$4 to \$7 a week ; sometimes more is earned by those who are on piece-work.
- Q.—Do they work the same number of hours as the men? A.—No; they work from 8 to 6, and from 8 to 4 on Saturdays in winter, and 8 to 12 in the summer months.
- Q.—Do they work in the same room? A.—No.
- Q.—Separate rooms? A.—Well, it is all one room, but it is divided off. The men work at one end of the room and the women at the other.
- Q.—Separate conveniences? A.—No, sir.
- Q.—Do you not consider that using the same convenience has an immoral tendency? A.—No; not in my place, because we have a key, and no two could be there while the key is here. There could be only one there at a time.
- Q.—Have you had any protests from people in your employ concerning these conveniences? A.—No.
- Q.—Do you take any young children to work? A.—No.
- Q.—Any apprentices? A.—No.
- Q.—What is chiefly the occupation of the women? A.—Running the sewing machines.
- Q.—Have you steam power? A.—No; I have a gas engine.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q.—Is \$4 to \$6 a week for young women operating sewing machines an average wage in other shops? A.—The lowest I pay is \$4, and sometimes the best hands, when we are busy, will earn as much as \$8. It is generally from \$4 to \$6.50; I do not think the average will be more than \$6.50.
- Q.—Is there a regulation bill of prices among the shoemakers in Toronto? A.—I do not know anything about the shoemakers. I am not a shoemaker, and only supply the trade with uppers.

P. FREYSING, Manufacturer and Importer of Corks, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q.—Where is your place of business? A.—On Queen street east, Toronto.
- Q.—How many hands do you employ in the manufacture of corks? A.—In the whole establishment there are twenty-five men.
- Q.—Do you manufacture all classes of corks? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Do you manufacture anything else besides corks? A.—Yes; we manufacture life-preservers—that is about the only thing additional.
- Q.—Do you employ men, boys or girls on your work? A.—Men, boys and girls.
- Q.—At what age do you take boys and girls? A.—I never take them less than fourteen years, but I think I have one at thirteen. I always make it a point to ask the age of a boy or girl.

Q.—Do those boys or girls work machines? A.—Yes; partially.
 Q.—What class of machines do they work on? A.—Those specially adapted to the business.

Q.—A machine for punching corks out? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do many of them get hurt in your shop? No; not very often.

Q.—Have accidents occurred to those children? A.—I have no children.

Q.—Do you consider a boy of thirteen a child? A.—I have only one; fourteen is our limit as to age. No accident has occurred, except cutting their fingers.

Q.—Have the accidents been such as to cut their fingers off? A.—Not yet.

Q.—What wages do those boys and girls earn? A.—There are no boys and girls who understand the business. If we take them on we have to teach them. When we take them on we give them \$3 a week. We very seldom give \$2.50. If we find them capable we keep them on, but we have a good deal of trouble in getting persons who are able to do the work. They work perhaps a year and then they get the notion to go away. We have some who have worked pretty steadily, however. As regards girls working on machines, I can take any girl of eleven or twelve and put her at the work, but I do not do so, but employ girls from eighteen up.

Q.—How long does it take a boy or a girl to become proficient at the work? A.—We use girls only for feeding machines; other girls are used on certain machines. Then I have men who have a little knowledge of the business and boys from sixteen to seventeen, who have learned their business and are working in my shop. If the boys are slow they will not stop in my shop very long.

Q.—What amount of money can a man earn? A.—Eleven dollars a week.

Q.—I suppose he has charge of the whole of the machines? A.—He has charge of his own machine.

Q.—Do the boys and girls look after their own machines? A.—My brother is superintendent of the establishment. The boys and girls are not capable of attending to their machines; it takes a practical man to do so.

Q.—How many factories are there in Toronto? A.—One.

Q.—Only your own establishment? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there many in Ontario? A.—There are two small cork mills, one in Hamilton and one in St. Catharines, but they have not the same capacity as I have in my establishment. There is a factory in Montreal.

Q.—Is the business increasing or decreasing? A.—It does not increase.

Q.—Can you give us any reason why it does not increase? A.—I cannot. There are always some people who try to invent and substitute some article for corks. In one instance they succeeded so far as regards soda-water bottles, and they ruined my business entirely with soda-water manufacturers, at all events to the extent of 90 per cent. There is competition from the other side sometimes, and it is very keen at present.

Q.—Is there any duty on American corks? A.—Yes; but all our material is free.

Q.—Is the duty not sufficient to protect the Canadian manufacturer? A.—We are satisfied with it as it is.

Q.—You think you can compete successfully with the American manufacturers? A.—Yes; so long as business is done on a good business foundation, but if they come here and throw in surplus stock, which they sell for prices that will not pay for the cost of the goods, you cannot meet that competition. There are one or two large houses that have surplus stocks made up and which they get rid of here, and it does not take a great quantity of goods in our line of business to fill up the market. Some times you can buy corks for 4½ or 5 cents a gross, and you can fill up a great many places with \$1,000 worth. Still, we do our best to keep the trade here.

Q.—Is there much business done in the manufacture of life-preservers? A.—No; very little.

Q.—Do you manufacture the life-preservers, or do you supply them from makers? A.—We manufacture life-belts for the Government life-saving stations. We began to do so last year. We have furnished six or seven stations.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Has the factory inspector been around at your place? A.—Yes; several times.

Q.—Was he satisfied with what he saw there? A.—In every respect he was satisfied.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you convert the cuttings of the cork into anything? A.—No; the refuse we burn.

Q.—Do you sell the cuttings? A.—We did once, but it was so much trouble it did not pay; we had to do so until we could build a large furnace in which to burn them.

Q.—How long has your establishment been in Toronto? A.—We came here in 1875, but we commenced to manufacture in 1880 or 1881.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you separate closets for boys and girls? A.—We have closets for the girls, closets for the men and closets for the office.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are the wages in your establishment paid weekly, fortnightly or monthly? A.—They are paid every week. The girls work on piece-work commencing at half-past eight and working till dark. Some work until 12 o'clock; the boys do not work so long. They receive \$7 per month for the work they do, but at first they are not worth anything.

GEORGE VALIANT, of Turner, Valiant & Co., Shoe Manufacturers, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How long have you been engaged in the business of shoe manufacturer? A.—A little over five years.

Q.—Do you employ many men in your establishment? A.—We employ from thirty to forty, according to the season.

Q.—Do you employ many men? A.—Yes; the hands are about equally divided into males and females.

Q.—Have the operatives a bill? A.—There was talk of that at one time, but we fixed the difficulty more satisfactorily to the operatives in our own way.

Q.—Will you tell us the wages of a first-class operative on kid work? A.—It depends entirely on the ability of the operative. The wages will range for a good operative from \$5 to \$8 a week?

Q.—Do you employ many small girls? A.—There are a few, say two or three, who assist the operatives.

Q.—In what branch of the trade are the girls employed? A.—Running sewing machines altogether.

Q.—An operative does not do the pasting? A.—No; a paster is not quite an operator.

Q.—Do the girls do the pasting? A.—Yes; and the tacking.

Q.—What wages do they earn? A.—They will earn probably \$2 or \$3 a week.

Q.—Is there a uniform bill between the factory men in all the factories in Toronto? A.—I do not know. I know we are paying what is called the union bill of wages to the men.

Q.—Are there many boots coming up in stock from other Provinces? A.—Yes; a great many are brought from the Maritime Provinces, that is, goods of special lines.

Q.—The finer goods are manufactured here, west.

Q.—Are any goods imported from the other side of the line? A.—Yes; very often goods are imported.

Q.—What kind of goods? A.—A grade of shoes not made on this side, owing to the inability of the manufacturers to buy the stock and pay the duty and compete with the American manufacturers, because the material used is all of a superior grade and comes from the other side, and on it 25 per cent. duty is charged. Under these conditions we cannot compete with the American manufacturer of those shoes, because they have the advantage in wages, and of course, they have a larger market.

Q.—Is there any understanding between factory proprietors as regards prices?
A.—In what respect?

Q.—As regards the rate of wages to be paid or the prices at which the goods shall be sold? A.—Do you mean a combination of manufacturers?

Q.—Yes. A.—There may be, but we do not know it.

Q.—Have you had any labor troubles in your establishment? A.—No; not lately—never, I think, on account of wages; we had some trouble once, and that was on a question of the arrangement of the bill of wages, not on the amount paid.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—What can a man running a sewing machine make? A.—We have not sufficient work on that machine to keep him employed. He works a machine and does other work.

Q.—Do you employ lasters? A.—Yes; the amount they earn depends on the ability of the lasters.

Q.—What do they make on an average? A.—A laster will earn from \$9 to \$10 a week.

Q.—In order to earn that sum, will they have to work ten hours a day? A.—He can spend ten hours a day in earning \$10 a week.

Q.—Do you mean ten hours in the factory? A.—They work in the factory, but they do not work ten hours a day, as a rule.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What class of goods come free from Lower Canada? A.—Heavy and common goods.

Q.—Can you manufacture shoes here to compete with them? A.—No; wages are lower there.

Q.—It that the only cause? A.—No; they have a market there,

Q.—What is the difference, or can you tell us the difference in wages between Toronto and Montreal? A.—I could not give it.

Q.—You said just now the Americans had an advantage in wages in the manufacture of fine goods. Can you tell us the difference in wages in the case here; it depends altogether on the arrangements of the manufacturers with the men—that applies specially to a certain grade of work.

Q.—If the wages in Boston were the same as in Toronto, could you manufacture that class of fine goods successfully? A.—I would not like to answer that question definitely, because in my opinion we have not the same class of workmen here, as a rule, that they have there—not the skilled workmen they have on the other side.

Q.—Do you take apprentices in your shop? A.—No.

Q.—Is it necessary for a man to be a skilled workman to work at the boot and shoe trade. A.—Not by any means; no.

Q.—Shoemaking is taught in the factories? A.—No; not in our factory. It is not taught in the factory, as a rule.

Q.—Is factory work or the demand for factory-made boots and shoes on the increase? A.—Yes; I think it is.

Q.—What class of goods are made by hand now? A.—That which is known by custom work only. They are made to order.

Q.—Is there the same quantity of that work done now as there was ten or fifteen years ago? A.—No; I think not, owing to the introduction of a machine for making a shoe similar to a custom-made shoe.

ago? Q.—Are the factories turning out a better class of work than they did ten years ago? A.—Yes; I think they are, in Canada.

Q.—Has that anything to do with the decreased demand for custom work? A.—No; I think it is more owing to the machine I have just mentioned.

Q.—Do you provide in your factory separate conveniences for men and women? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they work in separate rooms? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What do you think is the proportion of custom-made shoes sold now as compared with factory-made? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Have you any idea? A.—I have not any idea of the whole product.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are there many machines in Canada on which royalties are paid? A.—We have a number of them.

Q.—Where do they come from? A.—They come from the United States.

Q.—Are there many machines on which the royalties have expired? A.—Not that I can call to mind.

Q.—What is the difference, if there is any, between the prices paid in factories in Toronto and prices paid in Hamilton for similar classes of work? A.—I think there is very little difference.

Q.—Which has the advantage, in your opinion? A.—I think Toronto has it.

JOSEPH FIRSTBROOK, Box Manufacturer, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Your factory is in Toronto? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you employ many men? A.—We average between eighty and ninety.

Q.—Do you confine your business altogether to box-making? A.—No; we do some carpenter work and make some telegraph supplies.

Q.—Do you employ any boys? A.—Yes; some.

Q.—What work do boys principally have to do? A.—As a rule, they take away from saws, feed our nailing machines, and do such work as that.

Q.—How old would the boys be who take away from saws? A.—We have three boys between twelve and fourteen; the others are older.

Q.—Do boys between twelve and fourteen carry lumber from the saws? A.—No; they are working on nailing machines.

Q.—Does it require much skill to be proficient in box-making? A.—No; I do not think it does. We changed our staff last May, and I think a month afterwards we were doing our work as successfully as with the old staff, and since then I think we have done it more successfully and with fewer mistakes.

Q.—What wages do box-makers earn? A.—From 18 to 21 cents an hour. Some of our machine box-makers, unskilled men, get from 15 cents to 25 cents an hour.

Q.—Is there a uniform rate of wages among the box factories of Toronto? A.—I don't know about the others, but there is not in ours.

Q.—No understanding as to what manufacturers usually pay? A.—Not in our shop.

Q.—Have wages increased or decreased during the last twelve months? A.—They have decreased with us, that is, wages paid strictly to box-makers. The average of wages to our employés has not increased.

Q.—Was the decrease in wages the cause of the change in your staff? A.—No; I came from dinner one day at 1 o'clock, and I found that sixty or seventy men had left the shop without giving any reason or intimation of their action. That was the reason of the change of wages in our shop.

Y.—The hands you took on to replace those who left, you took on at lower wages?
 A.—Some we did, and to some we paid higher wages.

Q.—The wages have not increased? A.—I think the average of wages is fully as high as it was a year before we changed our hands, although it is graded more conveniently.

Q.—The box-makers of Toronto are organized into an assembly of the Knights of Labor? A.—I have heard so.

Q.—Had that anything to do with you changing your hands? A.—Yes; I presume it had. I speak from what I hear.

Q.—Do you object to your hands belonging to a labor organization?—A. Not at all; I never have.

Q.—In what way did the formation of this assembly affect your business? A.—It did not affect our business.

Q.—In what way was it responsible for your changing the hands in your factory?
 A.—About an hour after our men struck a deputation of three waited on us and said there was a non-union man working in our shop, and if we discharged that man they would come back.

Q.—Was that the only reason? A.—The only reason given to us.

Q.—Was any offer made to settle your dispute by arbitration? A.—No.

Q.—Both parties stood out? A.—I think twenty-four hours after the men went out we had their places filled.

Q.—You had no difficulty in obtaining help? A.—Not the slightest.

Q.—What wages do carpenters earn in Toronto? A.—I do not know much about carpenters. We pay 20 to 25 cents an hour to those we employ. If we took advantage of the labor strike, I suppose during the winter we could save from \$100 to \$200 a week.

Q.—Is the supply larger than the demand? A.—Yes; especially of unskilled men.

Q.—Do you find any difficulty in obtaining skilled men when you want them?
 A.—Our business does not require specially skilled men.

Q.—What wages do machine hands earn in Toronto? A.—Our hands earn from 18 to 25 cents an hour.

Q.—Do they have constant employment? A.—We are working this month forty-four hours a week.

Q.—Is the factory open all the year? A.—Yes.

Q.—In manufacturing telegraph supplies, do you require specially skilled labor?
 A.—Not to any great extent. Our machines are automatic as regards feeding.

Q.—Are they attended by men or boys? A.—Some by men and some by boys.

Q.—Have you found accidents occurring to boys working about machinery?
 A.—No.

Q.—Have you had any serious accidents? A.—We have had only one which I can think of, in which a boy was unfortunately killed, though it might have happened anywhere.

Q.—Is the machinery properly protected? A.—I judge so. When the inspectors visited the factory they noticed one place—a hole of 16 or 18 inches where we pull lumber up. We had a piece of scantling down by the hole, and Brown said we should put a trap-door on. Our experience taught us that our plan was best, but we put on a trap-door. Besides this he suggested that we should board up a place where a belt came through, and we did so. These were the only things they found fault with.

Q.—Have you known many accidents to occur through putting on belts while machinery was in motion? A.—None with us.

Q.—Is it the practice to stop machinery or slow it off when putting on belts?
 A.—It depends on the position of the belt. Of course, if it was a large belt we would slow down, but there are some small ones which slip on easily, and we do not always consider it necessary to shut down for those.

Q.—Whose duty is it to put on belts when machinery is running. Is it the duty of the men or of the boys? A.—It is the duty of the men, and the boys have so

business with it. They have strict instructions to keep away from the belts. All the accidents in our factory have been due either to carelessness or to parties interfering with machines who have no business to do so.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—When the factory inspector visited your place, did you go with him yourself?
A.—I did.

Q.—Did he come to the office for you, and tell you who he was and state what was his business? A.—I think there were three of them. They came to the office and told us their business, and I went with them through the factory.

Q.—Were they careful in examining everything? A.—They examined so minutely that they noticed this belt that I speak of, which is in an out-of-the-way place, where we do not see it once a week.

Q.—Have box manufacturers in this city any organization? A.—We have no connection with any.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Did not some of the employers request the men to organize? A.—If they did, we had nothing to do with it.

Q.—Did you ever hear that such was the case? A.—I do not think I have. When the organization was formed we were favorably impressed with the objects of the Knights of Labor, as set down in their constitution and by-laws, and while we did not directly, we did indirectly, encourage them to organize, because we certainly were sympathizers with organized labor, although we may not have that reputation now. Our experience of it in 1887 was not very favorable to that view. In fact, our experience was that organized labor was organized tyranny. It was in our case, at least.

Q.—Do the men differ in their opinion? A.—I presume they do, or they would not have organized, though many of them to-day have the opinion we have.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—At the time the men organized, were their wages raised? A.—Yes; their wages were raised. They had the whole thing in their hands in 1887; they ran our business, and we had nothing to do with it.

Q.—Was there a raise all round? A.—Only among the box-makers and sawyers. They were determined to have fifty hours a week. I was one of the parties who met the deputation, and I proposed we should give all our men, including laborers, who were not in their assembly, nine hours a day, instead of fifty hours a week all round. That did not suit them at all; they must have fifty hours a week, and the laborers could do as they liked.

Q.—What was the percentage of the raise of wages? A.—I have not looked into that.

Q.—You have no idea what the percentage of increase was? A.—I think it was between 20 and 30 per cent.—that is, taking into account the reduction of the hours.

Q.—Were union men working piece-work? A.—Some of them were.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you remember the reasons assigned by the manufacturers for requesting the men to organize? A.—No; I never heard that they did request them.

Q.—Did you hear that the reason assigned was that if the men were organized, there would be a scale of wages in every shop? A.—No; I did not. I have heard hints about it. There are several box-makers in Toronto, but box-making is only a small portion of their business, and to us, who employ a great many more box-makers than all others together, it is a matter of great importance.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—When the men were organized, did the price of boxes go up? A.—Yes; it went right up.

Q.—What did the manufacturers say was the cause of the increase? A.—The box-makers blamed the assembly of the Knights of Labor for shortened hours and raised wages, and for interfering with the running of their business. We had to be responsible to our families and creditors while they were running our business.

Q.—What reason did manufacturers give for raising the price of boxes? A.—That wages had increased.

Q.—Was anything said about the price of lumber? A.—The price of lumber went up 50 cents a thousand that year, but very little was said about that. It was owing to the advance of wages and the shortening of the hours that firms who had been dealing with us bought boxes from Montreal and other places. We could pay as high wages as anybody else on equal terms; but we cannot work fifty hours a week and compete with those who work sixty and pay less wages than we do.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—A high rate of wages does not prevail at the present time? A.—I think our average throughout the shop is quite as high as in 1887, though our wages to box-sawyers and box-makers may not be quite so high.

Q.—At the time of this trouble in May last you say the men wanted the discharge of a non-union man? A.—A man who I understood had been a Knight of Labor, and not satisfied with the way they did business, I believe, had left that society.

Q.—Has your firm ever made a practice of reducing men who were prominent in labor organizations from good to low work? A.—Not knowingly. I asked at this time if the firm had made any difference between union and non-union men, and the reply was, no. I said to this man about whom the trouble was: "Have any of the firm ever said anything to you, either directly or indirectly, that they wanted you to help them to get the Knights of Labor out of the shop." He said: "No." I said: "Have you said anything to the Knights about getting them out of the shop." He said: "No, I am perfectly willing to go before those men and say I did not say any such thing." We let ourselves right down in that trouble. We did not even take the stand we could as men have taken, because we felt the men had been misled, and their feelings had led them away.

Q.—Was there a man brought in from the country and set to work at a saw who had a portion of his finger taken off? A.—There were two men; one of them was put on a dove-tailing machine and had been working on it for some time and appeared to know all about it; he took a stick to knock some dust off, which was entirely unnecessary, and the stick caught and drew in part of his hand.

Q.—He did not know any better? A.—Yes; he did know better. He was like a good many others. We had a man killed a few years ago who had been accustomed to machinery all his life, and he did a very foolish thing. We had a belt, and when we wished to take it off we stopped the engine and turned it back, and the belt slipped off. This man was a foreman, and I presume he thought he would save time and go down stairs and pull the belt off. The foreman upstairs heard the belt striking on the floor and came down, stopping it in the usual way. He was standing on the floor running the belt and saw this man lying on the floor dead. He had gone down to take off the belt and had acted very carelessly. As for accidents occurring to inexperienced men, we have all to learn, and ever since we have watched our men. During the last eight or nine months we have had fewer accidents, the work is done better and we have no trouble. The men are better off than they were in the places they came from and our business is in more satisfactory form. We have no Knights of Labor now. We had so much trouble with them that if I were guaranteed the same amount of trouble for the next two years I would close down the shutters and go and work for somebody else.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you satisfactory work now? A.—Yes; 1887 was the best year we have had.

Q.—The accidents you have had have occurred through the carelessness of the men? A.—Most of them; though I do not think there is a wood-working shop in the city which has more than half the number of machines we have, and we have a large number of machines. Other places have had accidents, but we have not had one for months. Taking the average of last year, I do not think it was any greater than, if as great as, in former years.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is not the proper way to stop the machinery when a belt is put on? A.—Under certain circumstances it is, but in others it is quite as safe to put the belt on while the machinery is running slowly.

Q.—Have you had any other fatal accidents than the one you have mentioned? A.—The only case of a man being killed was the one I speak of.

Q.—Have you the same number of hands now as before the strike? A.—I judge about the same. Our business is larger now than it was then.

Q.—Would it surprise you if one of your old hands should make affidavit that accidents take place about twice a month? A.—I should simply say the man was a liar. I can prove it. I should not be surprised if they should say accidents occur daily, or something of that sort. I have heard of some of our former employes

saying they occurred every day, and so on. I should be surprised to hear anybody tell me that we have an average of two accidents a month, or an accident in two months, and I think when you consider the fact that we have a great many more machines than any other wood-working establishment in Toronto, you must make

some allowance for that.

The Commission then adjourned until 10 a. m. the following day.

JAMES R. BROWN, Factory Inspector, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you completed the inspection of factories in Ontario? A.—Well, we have completed what may be termed a preliminary inspection. There are certain forms required in connection with the Act, and these forms have only been got up about the latter end of the month.

Q.—Has each inspector a separate district? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is your district? A.—The central district.

Q.—Has the inspection which has just closed been an inspection such as was contemplated by the Act? A.—I may state that our instructions were to visit the larger places, with the view of ascertaining how far they were complying with the requirements of the Act.

Q.—It has not been a close scrutiny of the places, has it? A.—Well, of course, I have endeavored, as much as possible, to ascertain if everything was in accordance with the Act, as far as practicable.

Q.—What was the general condition of the factories which you have been through yourself? A.—I may say that under the Act we take a note of the time worked by the females and children, and also with reference to closet accommodation, fire-escapes, fencing of belts and gearing, and hoists and elevators. These are the principal things.

Q.—Did you find in many places where women were employed that they were working longer than the Act contemplates? A.—Not in a great number of places.

Q.—What were the longest hours for which you found women employed? A.—Sixty-six hours a week.

Q.—Did you find any opposition to shortening the hours? A.—No; in each case where I found them working that time the employers stated that they were not aware the Act had been in force, and they were waiting for some formal intimation about the matter. Of course, they stated they would comply with the Act and reduce the hours of labor, so as not to exceed sixty hours.

Q.—Did you find many factories in which women were employed where they worked less than sixty hours a week? A.—Yes; in the majority of factories women do not work as long as men, with the exception of woollen mills.

Q.—And cotton mills? A.—Yes; though I have only one cotton mill in my district.

Q.—As to separate conveniences for men and women, how did you find that? A.—The Act requires that there shall be separate closets and separate approaches, and also that closets shall be private. I think in about 10 per cent. they did not come up to the requirements of the Act, either in the closets being used promiscuously by males and females, or in having no closets, or in having the same approaches.

Q.—Did you find in many shops, where separate conveniences were provided, that men and women had to pass through the same room to them? A.—In some cases the closets they had to go to were in the basement of the building, and in some cases on the one floor, the closets being at the end of the building, and used promiscuously in some cases. I think mostly, however, that they were outside of the room in which the employes worked.

Q.—Did you find many cases where men and women might be in sight of each other in going to the closets? A.—In some of the places in Toronto women could be seen going in, but there were dressing-rooms in connection with the closets, and they required to go in there at any time to dress and undress, and wash their hands, if necessary.

Q.—Where you found that the requirements of the Act in this respect were not carried out, did you find willingness on the part of employers to meet the provisions of the Act? A.—In the larger places I did. In smaller places they thought it was rather hard. They were informed that it was in contravention of the Act and must be remedied.

Q.—Did you find many places where men and women were working together in the same rooms? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is that in contravention of the Act. A.—No.

Q.—Did you notice in those places any large percentage of children? A.—Yes; in some of them—in the cotton mills and some woollen mills, in cigar factories and knitting works, and some others.

Q.—Were there many of those children below the age designated by the Act? A.—Well, I found about forty girls under fourteen. Girls are not allowed under fourteen nor boys under twelve. I found six boys altogether nine years of age, and some few ten or eleven, but employers stated that when the Act was passed they endeavored to meet its requirements, and had discharged quite a number of them before we visited their establishments.

Q.—Did you find, where young children were working, there were any exceptional circumstances? A.—You mean with reference to parents?

Q.—Yes? A.—Well, in some cases we found orphans, and some few were under age. These were the only exceptions. In each case, however, they were a few months under age, but that is one of the difficulties necessarily connected with the working of the Act.

Q.—Did you find a general willingness on the part of employers to comply with the Act? A.—Yes; I only knew personally of one who complained about it. He said he did not think Government should interfere at all, and he had one hand nine years of age. That was the only case I found where there was any dislike to carrying out the Act.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Did he refuse to carry it out? A.—No; he did not, but he thought it was a hardship.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you any knowledge, speaking generally, of the average earnings of those children? A.—No; that is a matter we are not supposed to inquire into.

Q.—What was the general condition of the machinery in those places you visited?
 A.—Well, in planing mills I noticed that as a rule there was a great want of fencing in connection with belting. This was also the case in other wood-working shops. In many of these places, too, they have no fans to take away the shavings and dust from the machines. Some, of course, have them, but the great majority have not.

Q.—Did you find that shafting was properly protected? A.—Yes; in a great many places they have not those upright shafts.

Q.—And the gearing? A.—Well, in some places the gearing is not protected at all, but I noticed in machines lately constructed they are beginning to put covers on the gearing now.

Q.—Did you find well-holes or hoists generally protected in factories? A.—In many places they are protected simply by a bar, in others by a trap-door, and in some by sliding-doors. Some are automatic, and so on.

Q.—Which is the best protection? A.—I think the automatic sort is the best. In one of those places where they have simply doors there have been two accidents where they were used. There were youngsters looking down, and not noticing a hoist was coming down it caught them on the head. In one case it nearly resulted fatally.

Q.—Do you know if the expense of putting on automatic doors is very great? A.—I do not think it should be, but there are some older places where there might be difficulty in putting in automatic doors, on account of the construction of the hoist; but where hoists have been built recently there is no difficulty, and people are now beginning to put them in.

Q.—What was the general sanitary condition of the factories? A.—At the time we made the inspection it was in the heat of the summer, and I may say that, with reference to the closets, in some cases we found them very filthy, especially those which were outside in pits. For those we recommended the use of disinfectants. Some were automatic we found clean. However, we often found them stuffed up, the employer stating that to be in consequence of shavings or something of that kind being thrown into them.

Q.—Did you find many buildings imperfectly ventilated? A.—Our visit was in summer, and all buildings were open, as far as could be. Of course, this cold weather you cannot tell, but if you ask as to that you are told there is no complaint. There are some places where ventilators are used, as in factories where acid is employed for the purpose of carrying off the fumes.

Q.—As regards drainage, did you inquire into that? A.—No; there was only one place where I had a complaint, and that was from the employer himself. A city drain backed up water on his place and caused a very offensive smell. He said he had reported the matter himself, but could not get anything done, and he stated that he would like if I could get anything done in the matter. Of course, all we had to do with were employers, who alone are held responsible under the Act.

Q.—In making an inspection, did you inquire from employes or employers for information? A.—In some cases I have asked employes, but have found difficulty in getting them to say anything; in many cases where there was no one present; and latterly I have not taken any notice of the men. However, in several cases I have had complaints sent to me with reference to matters.

Q.—Did any of the employes state why they did not wish to give information? A.—Well, as I understood it, they did not want it known that they had said anything to me, I suppose for fear they should be discharged.

Q.—Generally speaking, and after going through the places you visited, do you think that the condition of shops is satisfactory? A.—Well, some of them are very satisfactory and others again are not—far from it.

Q.—In what proportion of those places did you find fire-escapes provided? A.—In very few. I think the whole number of fire-escapes, counting wooden ladders and all, is some twenty. The Act requires where hands are working above the second story a fire-escape to be provided, if there are no other exits. In some cases where girls

and others were working on the fourth story I found only one stair-way and no other exit. In cases of that kind I insisted upon having fire-escapes provided, but where there is more than one stair-way exit it is in the discretion of the inspector as to whether that may be considered sufficient.

Q.—Do you find willingness on the part of employers to provide fire-escapes?
A.—Well, in going round on this preliminary inspection I have not found any who made any objection, so far.

Q.—Have you found any establishment in which men and women are employed where the outer door is kept locked? A.—No; I have not.

Q.—In factories and rooms where young children are employed, did you find them working with the doors locked? A.—No.

Q.—Did you find many places where working people were compelled to eat their meals in the same room in which they worked? A.—In some cases employers provided special rooms for that purpose. In two or three cases employers have told me that girls would not go into those rooms, but preferred taking their meals where they worked. These were sewing girls, and on asking the reason why they did not make use of the rooms, they seemed to think there was some sort of caste in the matter and, at any rate, would not go.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—In what proportion of a number of places inspected, where a number of people were employed, did you find those rooms provided? A.—Not in a great many; I do not think in more than fifteen or twenty altogether—that is to say, special rooms.

Q.—Does the Ontario Act state that a room should be provided? A.—If ordered.

Q.—Discretionary powers are invested in the inspector in that matter, too?
A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you find many places that were unfit for people to work in? A.—I have seen some places where they did not seem to be what I would consider comfortable places to work in by any means, and in some moulding shops I have seen what I would consider a very unsatisfactory shelter for employes.

Q.—You mean open, drafty shops? A.—Yes; where you could see daylight through; they were not hot, by any means—what one would expect.

Q.—Do your duties charge you with the inspection of other shops and factories—such as tenement house shops? A.—There is a certain provision in the Act that in those dwelling houses where no machinery is in use we are required to get a certificate before we can go into it—even if it is a factory.

Q.—Do you, in carrying out your duties, examine those shops that are commonly known as sweat shops? A.—I should consider it my duty to inspect them if they came under the Act.

Q.—Have you found many of those sweat shops where large numbers of men and women were employed together? A.—Not many. I have been informed of one or two, but on going through I found I was powerless in the matter. They did not come under the Act.

Q.—Do you not consider that those sweat shops are more injurious than large factories? A.—Of course, that is a matter on which I can hardly give an opinion. It would be only hearsay evidence, at all events.

Q.—You have no knowledge of it? A.—Not any personal knowledge.

Q.—The Ontario Act does not cover that class of establishments? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is that not on account of the required number of hands not being employed there? A.—They have not the required number.

Q.—In your experience, is there room for a Federal Factory Act? A.—I do not know.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you know the difference of the powers of the Local and Dominion Parliament on that question? A.—I do not.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What Mr. Armstrong wants to know is, whether it would be a benefit if there was a uniform system of factory inspection for the whole Dominion? A.—I cannot give an opinion on that question.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you think a uniform Act would be better? A.—Of course, so far as the Ontario Act is concerned it would not matter.

Q.—You are asked if it would be better to have a law that would apply throughout the whole Dominion? A.—I think it would be better to have factory laws in every country in the world.

Q.—Do you consider that the same law that prevails in Ontario should be applied to the other Provinces of the Dominion? A.—I suppose it would be better if they were all under a Factory Act; I believe there should be a factory Act in each Province.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—How far west does your jurisdiction extend? A.—To the county of Peel.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—How far east does your jurisdiction extend? A.—To the county of Leeds.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you notify any of the manufacturers before you visit them that you are going to inspect their premises? A.—For the first visit we always notify them and tell them who we are. We are supposed to do that the first time, and of course if they demand a production of our certificate we have to produce it.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You think you have a right to go to the factory when you like? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Have any of the manufacturers sent any of the boys and girls home when they know the factory inspector was coming around? A.—In one case only we heard that report. It was stated to have been done in one case, where the firm had two boys under packing cases while we were going up stairs and they sent them down by the hoist.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you found any general inclination on the part of the manufacturers to avoid an inspection of their premises? A.—No; I have not found anything of the kind. Of course, there may be other places where they have hidden their work hands, but I do not know them.

Q.—How many hands does the Factory Act require to be employed in any place before the inspector may visit it? A.—You may visit any place to ascertain the number, but the Act cannot be enforced where the number is under twenty people employed.

Q.—In such a case as was mentioned to-night you would not have power to interfere, because there were only fourteen hands employed? A.—No.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Have you found a general desire on the part of the work people with whom you have come into contact for a Dominion Factory Act? A.—No.

Q.—Would you be likely to know if such a desire prevailed among work people? A.—I have heard one or two express themselves to that effect, nothing more; I never heard anything said in the shops about it.

Q.—Have you conversed sufficiently with work people to enable you to know if such a desire exists? A.—Yes; I think so. I have heard no expression from them which regard to it.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—In case you give an order to have certain alterations made in a factory, and the proprietor neglected to do so, what would be the consequence? A.—The consequence would be that he would be prosecuted.

Q.—Have you been instructed to use persuasion rather than to prosecute?
A.—I may say that—

The CHAIRMAN.—I do not know whether you have a right to ask what his instructions are from the Ontario Government.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—It is presumed that the law will be enforced, and my object in asking the question is to see if provisions are made for this enforcement. The question is, what are your instructions?

The CHAIRMAN.—I do not object to your asking a question of that kind, but if the witness does not choose to answer it, of course that ends the matter.

Mr. HEAKES to WITNESS :—

Q.—On your appointment you were given to understand that that was the law, and that the law must be enforced? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—The inspector has full power to enforce the law? A.—Yes; as I understand it.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you consider that under the law you can take proceedings against any violator of the law, without referring the case to the Government? A.—I would not care, in the first instance, to do so.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What was the general condition of the working people all through the country you visited? A.—With respect to what?

Q.—With regard to their comfort, and their means of living and existing? A.—I have not been into a great many of their houses, so that I am not prepared to give an answer to that question. Of course, we usually confine ourselves to the duties required of us, but so far as I found the people they are pretty much alike all over. I think in the lumbering places, so far as my observation goes, and from what I have seen, the people appeared to be more poorly dressed than any where else. They have log houses there. I refer to the districts where there are saw-mills, and so on. I do not know what the cause is.

A. W. WRIGHT, Journalist, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you paid some attention to labor matters? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you tell us some of the principal objects of labor organization? A.—It depends somewhat on the kind of organization. Trades unions, of course, are organized for the purpose of bettering the condition of the members, in the way of wages, better hours and better terms of employment.

Q.—Do you know if they have succeeded in accomplishing these objects to any extent? A.—They have done.

Q.—Are there not other objects for which workingmen combine than the advancement of their wages? A.—Yes; the Knights of Labor are organized partly for that object, but principally to bring about legislative reforms—reforms in the laws and in the systems of society for the benefit of the working classes.

Q.—Can you tell us any subjects embraced in this enquiry in which workingmen are particularly interested? A.—I think they take a little interest in all of them.

Q.—Will you be kind enough to give us your opinions in regard to the various questions covered by the Commission? Take the lien law, for instance? A.—So far as my observation goes, I would say that the lien law, though well intended, has been, to a great extent, a failure; that dishonest people can get round the lien law and avoid it, and do so, is true.

Q.—Do you know in what direction the lien law should be amended to afford protection to those whom it was designed to protect? A.—I think the lien law should cover all the monies received for the building, or work done, whether it comes in the way of rent or interest on mortgage.

Q.—You mean, after the completion of the building? A.—Yes; after its completion. I mean to say that the proprietor, or nominal proprietor, should not be allowed to alienate the property in any way from the workmen and deprive them of their wages.

Q.—In the event of the contractor failing and the property being mortgaged, would you consider that the first lien on the property should be the wages? A.—I do.

Q.—Should mechanics' or laborers' wages have priority over the mortgage? A.—I think so.

Q.—Does the present law contemplate such a measure of protection? A.—I do not think it does; at all events, it does not work out that way.

Q.—Do you know any instances where the lien law has failed to protect those who have been employed on buildings? A.—Yes; there was a case the other day in town here, in the eastern part of the city, and in that case the men would have lost their wages altogether except for the power of their organization, which compelled a settlement outside of the law.

Q.—The law would have been powerless to protect the men? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you given the subject of arbitration any study? A.—Yes; I have done so.

Q.—Will you give us your views on that question? A.—I think a board of arbitration, or some system of authorized arbitration, would be valuable to assist the employers and employes to come to an amicable settlement, but I cannot see how the decision of the board could be made binding.

Q.—Do you not think that in the event of the employers and employes taking advantage of the board of arbitration there would be sufficient moral influence between the parties to carry out an agreement arrived at? A.—I think where the labor organization is concerned, such as the Knights of Labor or any trades unions, the men in the organization who are not directly interested would be apt to compel the others to abide by the decision of the arbitrators, but I do not see what there would be to compel the employers to obey it, except they had some great regard for public opinion. It would be a great assistance, at all events.

Q.—Do you not think it would, to a very large extent, reduce the number of strikes that take place? A.—I think it would.

Q.—Even though it would fail in some cases? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you sufficiently acquainted with the feelings of the workingmen to know whether such a provision would be acceptable to them? A.—I think it would be acceptable.

Q.—Would a bureau of labor statistics be generally acceptable to the working classes? A.—That is one of the demands made by all labor organizations.

Q.—What benefit would it confer on the working people? A.—It would keep them informed as to the condition of their trade in different parts of the country, and it would in many ways benefit them, by giving them information that they could not get otherwise.

Q.—Then, in your opinion it would be generally acceptable by the working classes of the Dominion? A.—It would be acceptable.

Q.—Have you any knowledge as to whether the present factory laws contain all the provisions working people would like to see embodied in them? A.—I have not looked at the Factory Act for some time, but I think there are some changes that

might be necessary in it. I think when it was passed at first it was generally considered on the whole a satisfactory measure, but I think the working classes are now pretty well satisfied that the Act, so far as Ontario is concerned, has not been thoroughly satisfactory.

Q.—Have you given the subject sufficient thought to be able to tell the Commission whether a general Act for the whole Dominion or a provincial Act would give the greater satisfaction to the working classes? A.—Yes; I think it is a general demand on the part of labor organizations that there should be a Dominion Act. The labor congress meeting in Hamilton passed a resolution in that direction unanimously.

Q.—If all the local Governments passed an Act containing the same provisions, would that meet the requirements of the working classes as well as the passage of a Dominion Act? A.—I think so, if the Acts did all contain the same provisions.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the proportionate part obtained by capital and labor in industry? A.—I do not know that labor has any.

Q.—What proportion would you consider labor ought to have? A.—One hundred per cent.

Q.—Have you ever given the subject of profit-sharing any consideration? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think the principle of profit-sharing can be successfully introduced? A.—It has been successfully introduced in some places. It is a very much better system than the ordinary wage system—it is much fairer—and I think that the system of profit-sharing would be more successful than a system of co-operation. Theoretical co-operation would be a better system, but I do not think it could be carried out so successfully as a system of profit-sharing.

Q.—Can you give us any example where profit-sharing has been a success? A.—There have not been many in Canada; there are quite a number in the United States. It is not introduced to the same extent in Canada. I think the Ontario Canning Company has introduced the system to some extent.

Q.—On what basis do you consider profit-sharing can be successfully introduced? A.—I do not know that any basis could be laid down that would be equally fair in all cases. Every trial would have to be made on its own basis, and it would have to be carried out according to the circumstances.

Q.—If the system of profit-sharing were introduced, what effect would it have on the employes, both financially and as regards the interest they would take in the business? A.—I would say that financially it would better their condition, and naturally they would take a greater interest in a business in which they felt they had a personal interest. It would have the effect of giving the workmen a larger share of the profits of their labor.

Q.—It would be less wearisome? A.—Yes; and I think we would have a better quality of goods turned out.

Q.—Do you think it would have a tendency in any degree to remove the irritation between employers and employes? A.—It certainly would have a tendency to do so.

Q.—Would there not be a danger in the other direction—that if profit-sharing were introduced, the employes would become suspicious of the returns made? A.—That would be guarded against very easily, I should say, by giving them a proper insight into the working of the business, or have that done through a proper committee. Some proprietors in the United States adopted a plan of fixing a percentage that they give to each man of his wages.

Q.—Do you think working people would be willing to reduce the wages when the business was not profitable? A.—I think in every case, if employers would take workingmen into their confidence and make a frank statement, the men would be willing to stand a reduction in bad times, if they felt satisfied they would get a corresponding increase when good times came round again.

Q.—They would be willing to share the fortunes of employers in all cases? A.—Yes.

Q.—About the apprenticeship system: do you know anything about the existing state of affairs? A.—The apprenticeship system in some trades seems to work pretty fairly; in the printing trade it works pretty fairly, and in some other trades it is not so satisfactory.

Q.—Can you tell us why it is not so satisfactory in some other trades as it is in the printing trade? A.—I think it is largely because there is not the proper attention given to teaching an apprentice his trade.

Q.—Do you think, then, that if employers were bound equally to teach an apprentice his trade as the apprentice is bound to remain and learn the trade, an improvement would be effected? A.—Yes; it would be.

Q.—Do you know sufficient of the feeling among workmen on this question to state whether they would generally accept a measure in regard to apprenticeship? A.—I think they generally would accept it. I am inclined, however, to think that if we are going to keep up the standard of workmanship we will have to have

schools of technology as well as a good apprenticeship system.

Q.—And would you propose to give young boys who are learning trades a technical education? A.—I think a plan which is adopted in Montreal by the Council of Arts and Sciences is a very good one. It is a plan of having night schools, where the theoretical part of the trade is taught.

Q.—Should this technical education for the benefit of mechanics and others be supported by the State? A.—I think so.

Q.—Would you make it apply, so far as common schools are concerned? A.—I would.

Q.—Do you think any portion of that technical education should be profitable during the common school course to a boy? A.—I think our kindergarten system shows that it can be. A boy or girl is never too young to learn something that would lead up to handiwork in time.

Q.—Do you know if there is any general desire among the working classes to obtain such technical education? A.—I think among those who have given much attention to it, that is among workmen, there is that desire.

Q.—What would be the effects of this technical education, in your opinion? A.—It would improve the quality of workmanship.

Q.—Do you think workmen, generally speaking, are as well off to-day as they were fifteen years ago? A.—I think they are just about as well off to-day as they were then.

Q.—Do you think they derive the percentage of benefit from cheapened productions of machinery that they should receive? A.—No; they do not, or else they would be much better off than they were fifteen years ago.

Q.—Can you give us any reasons why the material prosperity of the working classes has not increased in the same ratio as their intellectual improvement? A.—Because all the improvements in machinery, instead of tending to the advancement of workmen, are competitors with their labor, under our system.

Q.—Do you think the introduction of machinery, while it has cheapened production materially has increased in the same ratio the employment of workmen? A.—No; it has not.

Q.—You think there are more men displaced than work has been provided for by machinery? A.—I do not think that more men have been displaced, because there is a greater production now and more men are required to carry on that production; but the benefit which the workmen receive from the improved machinery is almost nil.

Q.—Do you know what increase, or if any increase, has taken place in wages since ten years? Take the wages ten years ago and the wages to-day, and state what advance has been made in that time? A.—In some trades and callings wages have increased, in others they have not increased to any appreciable degree. In some trades that have been well organized wages have gone up. In others that are not organized

wages have not increased as they should have increased; or where men are organized, but the organization has split up into many different heads, the wages have not increased.

Q.—Do you think that the tendency to centralize capital has anything to do with the material prosperity of the working classes? A.—It has to do with their want of prosperity.

Q.—Can you give us any idea as to what means should be adopted to obtain that percentage of advantage that working people should have from the introduction of improved machinery? A.—In order to make a reply to that a long statement would be necessary. There are numerous ways in which the condition of workingmen may be improved. For instance, if we change our land system, and our system of transportation, and other systems I might name. What I mean by changing our land system is changing it so that we would give workingmen free access to the sources of wealth, and it is desirable to give them free exchange. Under the present system they have to pay to procure wealth, and then they have to pay for exchanging it. Of course, all the demands are made indirectly.

Q.—Have you any idea of the proportion of material advancement that this country has made, in say ten years, so far as the mass of the people is concerned? A.—The aggregate increase of wealth is very great.

Q.—What is the aggregate increase of wealth for the whole population? A.—When the aggregate of wealth is great and the increase of population is not so great the average increase of wealth must be great, but it does not follow that the distribution must be equitable.

Q.—Do you know any means by which the Legislature should interfere in the distribution of wealth for the benefit of the masses of the people? A.—Only by the ways I have spoken of—by doing away with those systems of monopoly—I do not mean any ordinary systems of work, because monopoly has controlled practically the circulation of the country, and the railways have controlled the distribution of the products, and then our land system is a first tax on every man's labor.

Q.—Should not all means of public conveyance be controlled by the Federal authorities—the railways, telegraph lines, and so on? A.—I think the railways and telegraph lines should be controlled by the Federal authorities, and some other things might be controlled with advantage. Monopolies, such as gas works, should be controlled by the municipalities and operated in the interests of the community, as also should be street-car lines.

Q.—Do you think that the various authorities, municipal or general, would control public conveniences on much more advantageous terms than under the present system, so far as regards advantages accruing to the people are concerned? A.—All their earnings beyond the cost of running and operating should go to the people as a reduction of their taxes.

Q.—Have you given the employment of convict labor any thought? A.—I have.

Q.—Will you give us your opinion as to the best means of employing that labor? A.—I can give my opinion as to that, although it is not generally accepted. My idea, to start with, is that the convict is sent to prison not so much for punishment as for reparation, and he should be so employed that when he leaves the prison he would be able to earn his living without having to get back again to prison, and consequently he should be taught some useful employment. But, in addition, I believe that the product of his labor should not be allowed to go into competition with free labor in the market, and the only way in which that could be done would be by employing convicts to do work for the Government, such, for instance, as making boots and shoes and other articles required by the Government. If all those articles were made by convicts there would be a great advantage. The convicts should not have the benefit of machinery, and in this way the convict would be made a better workman. Useless labor by convicts has a tendency to make them worse than when they went into prison, and the contrary would undoubtedly hold true.

Q.—Taking into consideration the opposition there is against the employment of

convict labor, do you think it would be wise for the Government to employ them in any such direction, even at a loss to the community? A.—I think it would; I am not sure it would be popular.

Q.—Speaking of the feeling among workingmen, do you think such a system would be popular among them? A.—I do not think workingmen have their minds made up as to what is the best system of employing convict labor. They feel it keenly when such labor is brought into competition with them in the market; they feel that a wrong is done to them, but as a rule they have not thought out the proper course. I know there is a great difference of opinion among them as to what is the proper remedy.

Q.—All pretty generally agree, I suppose, that placing the products of convict labor on the market is an evil? A.—That is the point on which everyone is agreed.

Q.—Supposing the Government employed those convicts in the way you have indicated and they produced a surplus of the requirements for gaols, asylums, Mounted Police and Indians, what, in your opinion, would be the best means of distributing the surplus, or to what use could you put that? A.—If there was a surplus, though I do not see any reason why there should be a surplus, because I think the Government would be able to control the production and keep it within desirable limits, but if there was a surplus I think it would be better to give it to charitable institutions than allow it to go on the market, because if not sold at a price below the product of free labor it could not be sold at all.

Q.—Have you ever given the subject of distributing the earnings of convicts among their families any consideration? A.—I have not thought much about that question. There would be a fairness in it, I suppose.

Q.—Would such a course to any extent relieve the State from the support of those unfortunate people? A.—It would, to be sure.

Q.—Have you anything you can advance to the Commission that would be of benefit, in regard to the working classes? A.—I do not know that I have anything further.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—In case of trouble with the Knights of Labor do you make it a point to resort to arbitration, with a view to the settlement of trade difficulties? A.—We always endeavor to do that.

Q.—Provided a body of men act hastily, and go out without authority, what does the law of the union say in regard to a case of that kind? A.—The rules on that matter are very distinct, and it is very generally the rule of the order—in fact, I may say it is the general rule of the order—that men cannot strike until they have tried every possible means to effect a fair settlement without a strike. The law of the union now is, that if an assembly strikes without authority it loses its charter.

Q.—Have you know the men to be ordered back to work? A.—Yes; in the case you had on to-night, they were ordered back to work.

Q.—Were they accepted in that case? A.—No.

Q.—Did the men ask for arbitration in that difficulty? A.—You mean the men in the establishment themselves? No; they struck without authority. That was before the law was passed that would have taken their charter from them.

Q.—Did they offer to go back to work and settle the matter by arbitration? A.—They were ordered to go back, and the offer was made to the firm to settle the matter by arbitration, and thus effect an amicable settlement. They would not agree on those terms. I was not myself one of the parties who waited on the firm; I only know what occurred.

Q.—The law of the union is more stringent now than it was formerly? A.—Yes.

JOSEPH FIRSTBROOK, Box Manufacturer, Toronto, again appeared before the Commission, and said he wished to make an explanation with regard to some statements which had been made in connection with the recent labor trouble in his factory.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You say a statement had been made against you which is not correct?
A.—Two or three statements have been made with reference to this case in which I am interested.

Q.—Please explain yourself? A.—It was stated that an offer was made to send the men back to work, but without an explanation of the circumstances. The offer was made at a time when we could not accept it. It was made some hours after we filled the places of those men.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Did the offer come from the men themselves? A.—It did, some time after the strike. They said if we would then discharge the obnoxious men they would come back, and after we filled their places, some hours after, it was made by representatives of the Trades Assembly. I do not think it is fair that that statement should go to the public. It would lead the public to believe that we were opposed to organized labor. I think it is a question which should not be brought before this Commission at all. It is a question with which it has nothing to do.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How long after the strike was it before you filled the places of the strikers?
A.—I think twenty-four hours.

Q.—How long after the strike took place did the men offer to return to work?
A.—About one hour. When I came from dinner I found the greater number had left, and about two o'clock a delegation of three waited on us and said if we would discharge a certain man they would return.

Q.—Did they not offer to return unconditionally? A.—Not at all; and through all this correspondence which I have here the point is made right along that we shall discharge this man.

Q.—A. W. Wright states that this is not true. The correspondence does not bear it out? A.—Well, I do not want anybody to take my word for it. It is here in black and white. Three months after the strike, I know that the statement was made by Mr. Wright that that condition was not attached, but after the strike had been made, in August. The strike was made in May, and that condition appears right along from that time. In fairness to the men, I desire to say that I am quite in sympathy with the objects of the Knights of Labor. I have no doubt that Mr. Wright acts in good faith in making his statement; the circumstances show that he does, but he has not seen all the papers, and has not as good an understanding of the case as I have.

TORONTO, 27th January, 1888.

JOHN DOTY, Manufacturer of Steam Engines and Machinery, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Is your place of business in Toronto? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you do general machine work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you make all class of work, in the way of engines? A.—Not all classes.

Q.—Do you do mill work? A.—Yes; we do some mill work. We build steam engines, cast engines, boilers, and sometimes the machinery that goes with them.

Q.—Do you employ many hands in your establishment? A.—We employ something over 100.

Q.—What wages does a good machinist earn in Toronto? A.—A good hand earns \$2.25 a day; that is what I pay.

Q.—That is to a man who is thoroughly conversant with his business, I suppose? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you have many men in your shop who may be called unskilled workmen? A.—Yes.

Q.—What wages does an unskilled workman earn in a machine shop? A.—From \$1.50 to \$2.50 a day.

Q.—It depends on the class of work he is put at, I suppose? A.—Yes; and on the experience of the man and his adaptability to the business. Of course, we have laborers whom we consider skilled, because they have worked so long at the trade. They, of course, obtain lower wages than the skilled mechanics.

Q.—What are the average hours during which the men work? A.—Fifty-seven hours per week. We work ten hours a day for five days in the week and work till 4 o'clock on Saturday at this time of the year. In summer we work till 12 o'clock on Saturday.

Q.—Does your work run all the year round? A.—Pretty nearly so. We are more busy just at this time of the year, usually, than any other time.

Q.—Do you find the demand for engines increasing? A.—It is increasing with us; whether it is all over or not I could not say.

Q.—Are there more of that class of engines being built in Canada now than formerly? A.—To answer that question would require a little consideration. There are some shops where they build that class entirely, but I think on the whole, however, that more are being built.

Q.—Is it a fact that a great many of those engines were imported in former years? A.—I think a few, a small number. They did not build the class of boiler which required that class of engine much here at that time.

Q.—As the demand for engines has increased, have you been able to meet it? A.—Yes; I think the demand can be easily filled yet.

Q.—Do you find the demand for gas engines increasing? A.—I do not see much difference in the demand.

Q.—Do you manufacture what they call gasoline engines? A.—No; it is the Otto gas engine we manufacture.

Q.—Do you take many boys in your business? A.—Not many boys.

Q.—Do they go to your shop with a view of learning the trade? A.—Those we take on usually have worked at it some time before. Occasionally we take on a new beginner, but very seldom.

Q.—Speaking of men in charge of engines: would a man in charge of an engine and boiler always be a skilled workman? A.—I do not consider it necessary that he should be skilled for what is required of him.

Q.—Do you think a man who is engaged on a boiler is a competent person to take charge? A.—No; I do not think he should be in charge, but there are men who have had a good deal of experience attending engines who never saw one built.

Q.—Would you consider them competent to take charge of engines and boilers? A.—To a certain extent; it depends on the complication of the engines and boiler.

Q.—Would you consider a person having no knowledge of the construction of a boiler, a competent person to take charge of a boiler alone—for instance, a boiler for heating a building? A.—He ought to know something about the nature of the boiler, the danger in getting the steam too high and the water too low; he ought to know what the effects will be, but I do not think it is necessary for him to know how to build a boiler.

Q.—Do you think a man in charge of a boiler or an engine should pass an examination for competency? A.—I think it would be a very good idea if this were carried out.

Q.—They would not necessarily all have to be of the first grade, I suppose? A.—No. A man attending a simple boiler would not require as high a grade certificate as one employed on a more complicated boiler and engine, or one who has two or three boilers in charge.

Q.—Do you know if there is any great demand among engineers to have a board

of examiners appointed, with a view to having certificates of competency issued?
 A.—I have heard the subject broached, but I could not say that I know of any general demand.

Q.—When boys come into your shop to learn the trade, are they regularly apprenticed to you? A.—No.

Q.—And it depends upon their good behavior if they remain in your shop?
 A.—Yes.

Q.—What wages do boys get who go to learn the engineering and machine business? A.—In learning the machinist trade it depends somewhat on their age. A boy of eighteen is worth more than a boy of fifteen, because he will learn more rapidly and he has more strength. I did make it a custom to pay boys, I think it was, 40 cents a day the first year, 60 cents the second, 80 cents the third, and \$1 the fourth—that is, boys commencing at fifteen or sixteen, but to boys who have commenced older than that, I have paid as high as 80 cents the first year and so on, up to \$1.25 a day.

Q.—Do you think it is possible for a machinist to become proficient in less than four years? A.—I have seen machinists who have worked seven years and were not good, while others who have worked about four years were good hands; it depends on the man's ability to learn, and his fitness for the business, and his industry.

Q.—Do apprentices learning the trade get a technical knowledge of engineering as well as a practical knowledge? A.—No; not generally; that is done outside.

Q.—Do you think it is necessary, in order for a man to be a skilled engineer, that he should have a technical education? A.—Yes; that is, to a certain extent. A man with a technical knowledge and who is a good mechanic is a better man than a mechanic without a technical knowledge. In many cases men who have not a technical knowledge are only equal to inferior men.

Q.—What is the best plan to impart this technical knowledge? A.—I do not know that I am capable of telling you. I would suppose the proper place would be in a school adapted for the purpose.

Q.—Would that instruction be more beneficial before or during the time the young man was serving his apprenticeship? A.—I think if they could get something of it during their apprenticeship it would be better.

Q.—Do you think that evening schools for the purpose would meet the requirement? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you known instances of mechanics who have received technical instruction taking superior positions in the trade? A.—Yes; if they were mechanics as well.

Q.—Would it improve, generally, the condition of the standard of work? A.—I should want some time to consider that question. It is not the technical part that does the work; that only relates to the designing and drawing; the actual mechanical work is different.

Q.—Do you think, then, that an artisan is more successful who has obtained this technical knowledge? A.—Yes; he is a superior mechanic.

J. J. FRANKLIN, Superintendent of the Toronto Street Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Will you kindly tell the Commission the earnings of the men employed on the street railway? A.—We have different rates. Do you want any particular rate?

Q.—We want the average earnings of the men employed on the street railway?
 A.—The conductors receive \$10 per week for six days work—they do nothing on Sunday—or at the rate of \$1.66 $\frac{2}{3}$ cents per day. Drivers for the same amount of work receive \$1.50; stablemen, \$8.50 per week. They have to attend about one and a-half hours on Sunday morning and about the same in the afternoon, and we call their work seven hours, although they work, as I have said, only about three hours on

Sunday, one and a-half in the morning and one and a-half in the afternoon, tending and watering the horses. Our laborers receive \$1.33 $\frac{1}{3}$ cents per day, or \$8 per week of six days. We have men receiving \$12, \$13 and \$15 per week in connection with the road. They are men who are above the class of conductors.

Q.—Are mechanics who work from 10 to 6 receiving as high as \$2.25 a day, \$2.50 and \$2.75? A.—Our blacksmiths in the shoeing department earn \$10 a week, and foremen \$11 and \$12. Our men, as a rule, in those departments, remain without change; they become connected with the company and stay there and seem to be satisfied. In all our departments men work six days a week with the exception, as I have said, of the stablemen on Sunday who go in the morning and afternoon to attend to the horses.

Q.—How many hours constitute a day's work for drivers and conductors? A.—They average, as near as I could get at all round, about eleven and a-half hours a day; that is about sixty-nine hours per week of six days. The sole duty of the drivers is to drive and they do not have the care of their horses after they are brought to the stable, but they simply drive them. They are on the cars about two-thirds of their time. Conductors have nothing to do with the horses, but simply attend to the collecting of the fares.

Q.—Do you think the hours can be reduced without causing any inconvenience to the public? A.—That is a question that has caused a great deal of discussion in the United States by probably more clever men than I am, and I can only repeat to you the general verdict arrived at there, that they consider that twelve hours a day for a man's work is about the accepted time. It entails a great deal of trouble when you go under that. Of course, on the other side they worked their men a great deal more than that until recently, but in this city we have always worked our men the time I have told you, never over that. No man has worked since my advent over twelve hours; always under that. In order to relieve those men a great deal of extra trouble would be caused, and I do not think the public would be as well served if you relieved the men under the present time, for you would have to get another class of men to go on the road for one hour as you would permanently. A commission sat in Brooklyn examining this matter, and the heads of a great many departments were there and they found that they could not consistently work their men under twelve hours; otherwise the public would suffer as well as the company.

Q.—Did the men in the employ of the companies give evidence before it? A.—I do not know; I did not attend. I happened to be speaking to some of the managers about it, and I gleaned my information from them. I did not attend the investigation, but I simply happened to be in the city, as I was down there for my health.

Q.—Did they claim that two shifts of men could not be used? A.—That is the way the men are employed now in a great number of cases; there are what are called short and long cars. For example, a car runs for fourteen or fifteen hours. During that fifteen hours' run the men who run over eleven and a-half or twelve hours on many lines get relieved twice, while doing their work, and for the run which occupies a certain number of hours they receive \$1.10 or \$1.15. If a man goes out with a car early in the morning he is allowed enough time to get his dinner and his tea, and the car is run along with two reliefs for probably fourteen hours, which is about the time of the car running on the street. Then we have long routes, and early and late cars. Those are always run by two shifts. Certain men take the car at a certain time at night, half-past six or seven. All the men's time is regulated by the time they commence in the morning. If a man goes on in the morning at half-past five his time commences then, and he consequently finishes earlier in the evening. Two men go on later and they perform the late service. Those men make half or two-thirds of the day's labor. We are not so particular in regard to the time allowed the men. We allow the men running on those shifts—what we call relief men—for

six trips we allow them seven trips, because they never make full time, and we never cut them close. If a man makes five trips we always consider them as six trips, and as I have said, we do not cut them close on the time—that is the extra men. In regard to our regular men who have to run overtime: we sometimes have to ask them to run an extra car at night, but they always get extra pay, and this pay is at the same rate at which the wages are paid. If a man runs one trip over time we generally allow him three-tenths of a day or three trips for two. If he makes a single trip he is allowed for two trips—that is in running overtime. In regard to our rate of wages, I find on investigating rates that are paid on the other side that our wages compare most favorably with those paid over there, that is, taking into account the hours of work and the Sunday work. The men have to work on Sunday over the line, and, of course, our men never do that here.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are the men anxious to run those extra trips, or would they prefer not to do so? A.—I never had any refusal.

Q.—Do you know if the men would rather not do so? A.—If a man does not want to do so we put another man on the car.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do the men frequently leave the service of the street railway company? A.—Yes; I do not know that they leave it frequently, but we have men who leave to better themselves, or think they may do so; but my experience is that they always want to come back.

Q.—As a rule, do the men employed on that kind of work stay any length of time at it? A.—Yes; we have men in the service who have been there for a good many years—since I came here, and I have been here seven years in the city with this company; and we have men who came here and that I took on myself after I arrived.

Q.—Are the men fined for being late, for instance? A.—No; never. We never fine any man whatever. We tell a man when we hire him: "Whenever you think you can better yourself we do not require any notice and you can go and say that you want to go. There are times and occasions when we do not want the service of men, and if you do anything that is not quite proper we will do the same by you, namely, we will tell you that we do not want you. We do not expect to receive any notice and we do not give any." We could not go on if we had to give every man notice. There might be something wrong about a man's money business, and yet we would not be justified in telling him about it. The man would think less of himself if we did so.

Q.—How often are the men paid by the company? A.—On Friday night; we never owe them a 5-cent piece.

Q.—Is there any objection on the part of the street railway company to men belonging to a secret society of any kind? A.—We have no objection to men belonging to anything except labor organizations; we do not employ men who belong to labor organizations.

Q.—Are the men in your employ required to sign a paper previous to entering your employment? A.—They are.

Q.—What is the nature of that agreement? A.—That they will not join any labor organization while in the employ of the company.

Q.—And if a man joins such an organization, what is the result? A.—It is optional with us whether we keep him on or not.

Q.—And do you consider that labor organizations have a bad influence on workmen? A.—I could only speak for the company; and I say as regards our company they have—I do not speak for anything else.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of any benefits that workmen have derived from the organizations? A.—I have not. I do not pretend to study the question outside of our own concern. I do not know enough about it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you ever had any trouble with your men? A.—Yes.

Q.—Will you tell us the nature of that trouble? A.—It was a trouble—I really could not go into the whole matter. The men saw fit to quit the service of the company. We had, as near as I can recollect, discharged several men for very good and valid reasons. We were not able to tell those men what they were dismissed for. They went about among the men, and were picked up by some people who run some of the labor organizations in Toronto, and through them dissensions were brought into the company—the men were asked to join, and all that kind of thing. The trouble began in this way and it ended in the men going out. That is the thing in a few words.

Q.—Did the men make a demand on the company for shorter hours of labor, or an increase of wages? A.—I do not think they did; in fact, they did not. In my recollection of the company we have never had any trouble, except one from a few men in a certain department about an increase of wages, and it was given. But as regards this general demand of the men for an increase of wages, I do not think there was any; in fact, I am sure there was not.

Q.—What is the average length of time, in the twenty-four hours, that a driver may be out? A.—About eleven and a-half hours, on an average. We have always aimed, and do aim, that men shall work under twelve hours; I think eleven and a-half is the average, and if he is employed for that time he is relieved, so that about eleven and a-half hours is the average time which he is employed by the company during twenty-four hours. Of course, I know there is a mistaken idea that men work fifteen and sixteen hours at one time in the company's service, but that is quite untrue.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How do they begin? A.—They begin at any hour in the day.

Q.—Supposing a man begins at half-past five o'clock, how long does he work? A.—He works eleven and a-half hours. His relief would come on then, and the man is relieved twice during the day's work; at all events, once. Our men wished to obtain one relief in the day, and we immediately gave it to them. I commenced to get those men off early at night by beginning early in the morning, and they were allowed one hour for dinner.

Q.—Do you include the dinner hour in the time you have mentioned? A.—No; I spoke of the number of hours they were constantly on the cars. The men showed a preference to have one relief, so as to get off early at night. When I spoke of eleven and a-half hours a day I referred only to the time they were on the cars.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—When the men work eleven and a-half hours a day, what time have they during which to enjoy themselves with their family and obtain mental improvement? A.—I have given that question some thought, and I have given a good deal of attention to the matter of having shorter hours. The matter is like this: we try to pay the men fair wages, and we could not very well arrange the service so as to suit public convenience in any other way than we do. The reason I have already given why we could not reduce the hours was because we would have to pay an entire set of new men on the road for one hour only.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Then it could be done by increasing the number of men employed? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you given any thought to the condition of your men? A.—Yes; and I have studied to some extent the condition of similar men on the other side, in New York, Boston, Rochester and Buffalo and Chicago; I know a great deal about those cities, and the wages that are paid there by the street car companies. I repeat that on a comparison our men are better off than the men are there.

Q.—You say the average wages are from \$8 to \$9 per week for drivers? A.—No; \$9 a week is the lowest; \$10 is the pay for a conductor.

Q.—Are there many of your men who own their own homes, who earn that rate of wages, and have paid for their homes out of their earnings? A.—We have quite a number who have bought property and who are living in their own homes, and to my certain knowledge have earned their money in our company. We have quite a few of such men that I know of.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—In very severe weather are the men relieved at all during the day? A.—Yes; they are always relieved more frequently in severe weather. I don't know whether that is done this year or not. I have been away from business for three months, until very recently, myself, and I do not know whether it has been done this winter; but I have always made it a rule to relieve the men more frequently in severe weather. Last year we relieved the men right along, and the year before, during severe weather. Whether they have done so this year or not I am not able to say. We have about 600 men in the employ of the company, and it is very difficult to get them all relieved in the same day; but I am speaking of the majority of the men when I say we have not had any trouble with them, and I think they consider themselves fairly treated. Of course, it is a very peculiar business to conduct. There are things about it that are commonplace sometimes, but that is not the end of it.

Q.—After a man puts in a square, honest day's work to your satisfaction, do you think that you should tamper with his liberty in regard to saying whether he should belong to a society or not? A.—We never thought so until we had it proved to us. When this was unmistakably proven we made up our minds that we would not interfere with labor organizations so long as they interfered simply with the men's rights, but when they interfered with the company's rights that was a different question altogether.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—You say that before the trouble, a year ago, the company agreed well with its men. Can you give the Commission any idea as to how long the men remain in your employ—conductors and drivers? A.—We had men two, three and four years. I could not give you a general idea, but we have a record of all those men in our books, most complete records of everything done during the last four or five years, and I can certainly say that we have men who have been in the service a long time, and I thought a good deal about that.

Q.—Was there, during those years, any discontent on the part of the men? A.—I do not remember any discontent having arisen, except on one occasion some years before that, and it was of very short duration. The trouble commenced about four or five months previous to the men going out. I may tell you this, and I tell you it with perfect truth, the company has never had any trouble, except from discharged men. I say that from knowledge and knowing it to be a fact. Unfortunately the labor people do not understand the distinction between those men and men in the company's employ, and they take discharged men up and hear what they have to say without hearing the other side.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You say you discharge them for cause? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—You do not want that cause to be known? A.—I always felt that it is rather an injustice to the men if it is known. If a man is not the man you want it is unnecessary to brand him before the public as being a man of a certain class. I always endeavored to put the matter as quietly as possible with a man; that he is unfit and that it is not wise for him to know what the reason for his discharge is, and the company must have credit, for I never discharge men for doing nothing.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Has the company ever discharged a man on suspicion that he was a labor agitator? A.—No; never.

Q.—When the men have petitioned the company with a view to ventilating their grievances, in what spirit have they been met? A.—I do not know that they have ever been met. I know the company has been approached by outside people, but I do not know that the men ever approached the company.

Q.—Had they ever petitioned the company in regard to certain grievances immediately previous to the last strike? A.—I do not know of my actual knowledge. I have the company's records, but I could not tell you; but I do not remember before the trouble commenced of anything of that kind happening.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—If it came to your knowledge that a good man, who has been in your employ for some time, belonged to a labor organization, would you discharge him? A.—No; not simply for that fact—not until he brought the organization business into the affairs of the company, and began to work to promote the organization. Then I do not say what I would do. If there is a man in the company's employ, and I know him to be a member of a labor organization, but he works along quietly and minds his own business, I do not think we would interfere with him. I am the man who has charge of those matters, and I would do nothing to him.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What house rent would a man with three or four of a family pay in a respectable locality? A.—I do not know the average. I know some of our conductors who pay from \$6 to \$7.50 per month. I know of some who pay more, but do not think they depend entirely on their earnings to pay their rent. I know of some men who rent larger and better houses, but they rent rooms; but the average man who lives with his family and pays his rent from his earnings pays for house rent from \$6 to \$7 or \$7.50 a month.

Q.—Will you tell us the street in this city where a man can obtain a house with five rooms for \$6 dollars a month? A.—You can get houses at the east end of King, off Sackville. I have in mind one of our timekeepers who is living in a very nice house on Oak street, off Sackville street, who is paying \$7.50 or \$8. A new lot of houses has been built on the north side. I asked him what rent he paid, as it is a very nice, comfortable place, and he has three children, wife and himself, and he told me the rent was \$7.50 or \$8 a month. There are such houses to be got on Sumach and Sackville, and I know one of our men who is living on George street. He has a clean, nice house, sufficient for himself and his wife and family, and I do not think he is paying over \$7 a month.

Q.—Between Duchess and Queen, on the west side, do you think that is a respectable locality? A.—He is a respectable man, and I have no reason to expect otherwise.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you think he would live in a locality that was not respectable? A.—No; I do not think he would.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—He lives there in order to be near his work, I suppose? A.—Yes; but from my knowledge of the man he would not live there if he knew it was not in a good locality. I do not know that it is a bad locality. I have seen people the worse of liquor around there, but nothing more, and I pass there frequently. I know at the east end, on different streets, there are houses to be got at about those rents. Of course, this a question that I have not gone into very much, and I would not like you to take my opinion in regard to it.

Q.—In regard to those houses on Sackville street and Oak street—renting at \$6 a month? A.—I say the rents are between \$6 and \$7.50 a month, about that figure.

Q.—Is there a double frontage to the lot? A.—They are in front. I have a clerk down there. Some people would not like it, but I lived at one time in no better house; he has a nice house, and he is not paying over \$7—it is off Oak street, a kind of wide lane runs back. There are some rough-cast houses there—and they are neat, perfectly good, and comfortably built there.

Q.—Is that Maple street? A.—Yes. I was in his house when his wife was sick. He has it very warm and nice, and I was astonished that it was only heated by a cook stove. He can afford to pay more rent, if necessary, for he receives \$12 a week. He is, however, very comfortable there and he does not pay more than \$7 a month.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How much a week do you pay your saddlers? A.—Ten dollars.

Q.—Are they paid by the week or by piece-work? A.—By the week. We have no men employed on piece-work; all are employed on regular wages—our carpenters and mechanics of all classes.

Q.—What are the weekly wages of a carpenter in the employ of the company? A.—They receive from \$1.66 to \$2.75 a day. The men are graded according to their ability.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—If a man, at the end of his day's work, or in the course of work, rode on the company's cars, would he ride free? A.—Yes.

Q.—Before this strike of which you have spoken, did the men themselves make any demands on the company? A.—I do not think they did before the strike. I have no recollection of it.

Q.—Had the men themselves at any previous time made demands upon the company? A.—I think, if I recollect rightly, about three years ago there was a demand made, and at that time the wages received were \$8.50 per week for conductors and \$8 for drivers. There was a demand made, I think, and I also believe the demand was acceded to then, or shortly after the demand was made. We graded our men then; we gave men who had been in the service a certain time higher wages than others.

Q.—Were any of the men discharged shortly after the demand was made? A.—I do not remember the company being called upon by any of the regular men in their employ. I remember one of the strikers coming there, or heard he did so, but he was not in the employ of the company.

Q.—Has it been the practice of the company to discharge men who have made themselves officious in getting shorter hours and higher wages? A.—Not unless they neglected their work, or were disseminators of trouble.

Q.—Even after so doing he did not neglect this work? A.—That would be a question for the company to decide; it is quite questionable what the company might think; if the company thought so, of course it would be satisfactory.

Q.—What were the demands made on the company at the time of the strike? A.—I do not know of any demands being made.

Q.—Were not any demands formulated to your knowledge? A.—I do not really know.

Q.—Do you not know what the men struck for? A.—I do not think a great many of themselves knew. I think it was a kind of a forced arrangement all the way through. I think a great many of the men who went out did not know themselves why they went out. I was told so by the men. They were called out by the authorities, and had to go out.

Q.—Did any of the men who struck finally return to the service of the company? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you able to tell us what proportion of the men came back? A.—I do not think more than, probably, fifteen or twenty were taken back.

Q.—Had you filled their places? A.—Yes.

Q.—Had you any difficulty in getting men? A.—None whatever.

Q.—Have you any difficulty now in getting men? No; the difficulty is the other way. It is the hardest part of my work to say "No" to the men who come in and ask for work.

Q.—Is that the case in summer as well as in winter? A.—Not as much in summer as in winter; but there is always a large demand on the part of men who want to get into the company's service.

Q.—Are you able to say whether any mechanics apply to you for work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you mean in the employ of the company this winter? A.—I mean employed generally? A.—Yes; we have quite a few mechanics working on the cars now.

Q.—Do any mechanics apply to you for positions as drivers? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How many men were out of employment at the time of the labor difficulty; or was the service stopped altogether? A.—No; it was not stopped altogether, but the service was very inadequate. You refer now, I suppose, to the last big trouble?

Q.—To the trouble in March of last year? A.—The service was stopped one day or two days on account of the trouble in the streets, but after that the service was never stopped entirely.

Q.—Do you know the number of hands you took back after the strike as compared with the number of applications for work made by those in the employment of the company? A.—I think we took back fifteen or twenty.

Q.—And how many returned after the first difficulty? A.—They all came back then, but there was a misapprehension about it at that time.

Q.—Was there a written agreement between the company and the men? A.—I do not know about that.

Q.—That was a matter between Mr. Smith and the men? A.—Yes; I did not know anything about it.

JAMES MORRISON, Manufacturer of Brass Goods, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What class of brass work do you principally do? A.—All kinds; engineers and plumbers' brass goods, and so forth.

Q.—Do you do anything in mathematical instruments? A.—No.

Q.—Are there many men employed in brass work in this city? A.—We employ something like 110 or 115 hands. I could not say how many other shops employ.

Q.—What wages do brass-finishers get? A.—\$2.00 and \$2.50 a day.

Q.—Do they have steady employment at that rate? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you keep your establishment open all the year round? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you take on many apprentices? A.—There will be about two men to each apprentice. We have now seventy men on the roll, and thirty boys.

Q.—Do those boys all come with the view of learning the trade? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any regular style of apprenticeship? A.—We do not bind them.

Q.—And he stays as long as he likes? A.—Yes; of course we do not bind him. We leave ourselves free to discharge boys if they are not suitable or capable for business.

Q.—What proportion of the boys are turned out finished workmen? A.—That is difficult to answer. Some boys give up business after being there a month or two, but I think in our trade about 50 per cent. serve their time.

Q.—Is the demand for brass-finishers in excess of the supply? A.—For skilled labor it is.

Q.—Do you find that this large number of apprentices does not keep up the supply? A.—Not in our city.

Q.—Do you know if many of the men go from this city to others to get better wages? A.—There would be no object in their doing so.

Q.—Do you employ any women or girls? A.—We employ three girls, and sometimes more.

Q.—At what work? A.—Making sand cores for the moulders.

Q.—What age are they? A.—I do not know whether they are girls or women. They will be from eighteen to twenty-five.

Q.—What can a female earn at that kind of work? A.—Two of them make \$5 a week, the other makes \$4.

Q.—It depends on their ability? A.—Yes; on their skill. They do not work piece-work, but we watch about what they can do, and if they are quick at their work they are paid accordingly.

R. C. WINLOW, Manager for J. D. King & Co., Manufacturers of Boots and Shoes, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You are engaged in the boot and shoe manufacture? A.—Yes; the firm are for which I am manager.

Q.—Do you manufacture all classes of boots and shoes? A.—Not the very cheapest. We manufacture about all kinds made in Toronto, but the cheapest kind are not made in Toronto.

Q.—Where do the cheapest class come from? A.—Quebec and Montreal.

Q.—Can you not manufacture as cheaply in Toronto as they can there? A.—No.

Q.—Do you find the competition in Quebec is very keen? A.—Wages are higher here. The competition is so keen in certain classes that we could not get cost price for them. We do not make them at all.

Q.—How many hands are employed in your establishment? A.—About seventy-five females, about 120 or 125 men and a few boys—about a dozen boys altogether.

Q.—What would be the average earnings of the female help? A.—The average earnings would be \$5 a week for every one in the place—for fifty or fifty-one weeks in the year. We stop for one week—between Christmas and New Year's, and for a few days afterwards there is not much doing, so it would make fifty full weeks in the year.

Q.—Is there a regular bill of wages? A.—Nearly all are on piece-work; perhaps half-a-dozen girls and thirty men are working by the day or week. The rest are all on piece-work.

Q.—Does the same rate of wages prevail in all shoe factories in Toronto? A.—The same rate of piece-work wages prevails.

Q.—What will a beginner amongst the females earn the first six months? A.—We do not have beginners. They must be experienced machine operators before we employ them. There are a few others, but shoe factories have been going on so long in Toronto that we never take on inexperienced female hands at all.

Q.—Do you take any apprentices? A.—No.

Q.—What would be the average earnings of the men? A.—There are so many different classes of work it would be difficult to say. I am hardly qualified to say, but probably from \$7 to \$15 a week.

Q.—Fifteen dollars a week would be the wages of a foreman? A.—No; one that runs a machine; some very experienced and very well qualified workmen would earn that, but of course there are very few who earn \$15 a week.

Q.—How many men does it take to make a boot now-a-days? A.—I suppose it takes about fifty, men and women.

Q.—Does the same article pass through fifty hands? A.—Yes; I should say so.

Q.—There is no chance for a boy to learn to be a shoemaker? A.—Not the slightest.

- Q.—Have you separate conveniences for men and women? A.—Yes.
- Q.—In separate apartments? A.—Yes; we have them on separate floors. We have the women on one flat by themselves, and the conveniences for them.
- Q.—Are the outside doors of these buildings locked or unlocked during the day? A.—We have two means of exit from the factory; one goes down from the warehouse to the front door, and the other to the side door. The hands all come in at the side door, which is opened by a spring latch. It opens outwards, and is closed from the inside, so nobody can get through, unless some one opens the door.
- Q.—Do doors in these large factories open outwards? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Is the lock of such construction that it can be easily opened? A.—Yes; the lock is one which you twist and open from the inside; no key is required.
- Q.—Is there any system of fining employed? A.—If operators damage work they are charged with the cost of the new material required to replace it.
- Q.—Are they charged for broken needles? A.—No; just for the material; and, of course, if a man damages a shoe when it is nearly finished he is obliged to take a pair, and he is charged with the price of them.
- Q.—Do you consider that is a fair practice, to make him pay for two shoes when only one is spoiled? A.—Well, it would be better than making him take the one.
- Q.—Do you charge him the cost of the stock in the shoe or the cost of the shoe manufactured? A.—The cost of the shoe manufactured, including all wages upon it, all the way through from the beginning to the man himself.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q.—If a young woman destroys a kid boot or blemishes it, is she fined? A.—She would have to take the pair of boots. That occurs very seldom. I do not remember such a thing happening with girls. Of course, it is only in the shop where the uppers are handled that the girls sew the shoes.
- Q.—Do the more skilled operators do basting on the boots? A.—Some women and girls do that alone, but they are not machine operators, of course.
- Q.—What wages do you pay a girl doing basting? A.—I think probably the lowest wages we pay are to errand girls, who earn from \$1.75 to \$2 a week, and then I think we have some basters whose wages run from \$3 to \$5 a week.
- Q.—What age are these young errand girls? A.—Well, I cannot say; but we have none under the limit named in the Factory Act; they are all over fourteen years of age.
- Q.—At what hour in the morning are the young women required to be there? A.—At 8 o'clock in the winter, and for a short time during the year at 7:30. For eight months in the year they come at 8 o'clock in the morning.
- Q.—Do you give many minutes' grace before the door is locked? A.—We give them five or ten minutes, but if they find that is not enough all they have to do is to walk in through the warehouse. I often see them walking in through the warehouse, and nobody objects.
- Q.—Is the party who locks the door a responsible man? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Does he hang up the key of the side door in the office? A.—There are two or three keys; one is kept in the warehouse, and we all know where it is, and one assistant foreman has a key in his pocket.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q.—Is that door kept locked all day? A.—Yes; except during the dinner hour.
- Q.—What is the use of locking it? A.—We have drunken men coming in all the time. One of these men came up one day and got his nose hurt on a machine.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q.—Have you known young women to come down in winter time with a lunch-basket five minutes after eight, and find the door locked, and have to go home? A.—It may have happened, though I never heard of it. It might be five minutes past eight by somebody's clock.

Q.—Have you known of an accident in your establishment when the door was locked, and when the young women made a rush for the stairs they could not get out? A.—I do not know of such a thing. There was a false alarm some years ago when the girls ran down. The first thing I heard was a good deal of noise from the girls in the street. I think half of them must have got there. We had two doors in use, one through the warehouse and one through the other way.

Q.—Are there any fire-escapes in your building? A.—Yes; and sprinklers all over the place.

Q.—Are highly-skilled female operators, those who work on kid-work, scarce in Toronto? A.—No; I do not think so.

Q.—Have you known many of them, within the last twelve months, go to the other side and receive higher wages? A.—We have had a couple go there. I do not know of any, but there may be an average of two a year who go.

Q.—Is the bill of pay to the women higher in Toronto than on the other side, or lower? A.—I have been informed that it is not lower. I believe it is the same for some things, but really I am not well qualified to speak on this point. Of course, it is understood there are no wages any where ahead of Toronto. We have had strikes in the business, of course.

Q.—When did you have the last strike? A.—The last one was with females in 1882.

Q.—You have had no difficulty in the trade since? A.—We had with the machine men, who struck once for twenty-four hours and went back.

Q.—Tell us the nature of the difficulty you had six years ago? A.—The females made a demand for higher wages, to which the employers would not accede, and they struck, and remained on strike about three or four weeks, and then came back to work at the old wages.

Q.—Did they go back to work on the promise that the employers would make a uniform bill of wages? A.—Yes.

Q.—With a slight advance? A.—No; there was no promise of that kind at all.

Q.—Would you be convinced if Mr. King and Mr. Charlesworth said they promised that advance? A.—Certainly.

Q.—Do you know how long the operators were kept waiting for the uniform bill of wages after it was promised? A.—I am not sure, but I think it was nearly a year. The employers commenced almost immediately to prepare it, but they found it a good deal heavier undertaking than they imagined. They worked a good many hours at night in order to prepare it.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Is the factory inspector satisfied with the sanitary condition of your factory? A.—Yes; he says he is.

GARRETT F. FRANKLAND, Cattle Exporter, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You are engaged in the cattle trade? A.—Yes.

Q.—How does the cattle trade at the present time compare with four years ago? A.—Well, prices are not so good in Great Britain to-day as they were four years ago.

Q.—Do you find that since the exportation of cattle from Canada to England began the farmers are paying more attention to the grade of stock they keep? A.—Much more. Probably it would be as well for me just to make a general statement. In the year 1870 it was becoming recognized in Canada that if our agriculture was to prosper and increase we would have to seek some other market than the United States, as that country was growing a sufficient number of cattle for the demands of all their large cities. For some twenty years I did business with Albany, New York, Boston, and some other smaller places in the United States, but I found there were a great many horses, sheep and pigs being sent to these cities, in such numbers that

we were being undersold to some extent. Then, again, according to their usual custom, the Americans imposed this duty of 20 per cent. and it became evident that we in Canada would have to seek another market. We in Canada knew that for many years there had been a great scarcity of animal food in the great centres of population in Great Britain. It was not possible that more than 65 per cent. of the people should get money enough to purchase it. For eight years I went over there with animal food in barrels and sacks in large quantities, but it was not a paying business. In 1874 I found Englishmen, Irishmen and Scotchmen were short of their usual number of fat cattle, on account of contagious diseases, and they were in want of large numbers. I came back and looked around through our own Province; I knew pretty well what they had down in the Maritime Provinces and the Province of Quebec, and, comparatively speaking, I found I could not have got 10,000 head of cattle of sufficient quality to meet the demands of the export trade. As many of you know, we were feeding down at Gooderham & Worts' large yard a large number of cattle, as we have been doing every year during the last twenty years, and we have turned out the best cattle there to be found anywhere, by means of careful selection. A man in Glasgow had taken some thirty or forty over to the old country, but not having placed them in good steamers his venture was not a success. I made an arrangement with the Allan Company to put 200 head on board the "Waldensian." However, there was not near enough space, and I took another vessel. We were paying about \$4.50 per head for the accommodation. We paid no insurance, because the insurance companies did not seem to understand it, and in fact the steamship owners did not understand how we could put so many on board. We lost one animal, and we realized what you may consider the outrageous profit of about \$30 a head, after paying all charges. I spread that fact through the press, and ever since I have worked on the principle that we in Canada can raise beef cattle and horses equal to any part of the world, and a little cheaper than any other part of the world. Canada has been improving ever since then, but since 1874 the Veterinary Department of the Privy Council of Great Britain has been working at cattle diseases, and to a certain extent has got them under control. As a consequence, they are raising more cattle now in Britain themselves. Denmark went more heavily into the business in 1876, and then the United States thought this thing would continue, and they have overdone it and gone beyond themselves. As a result, these ranches and feeders have broken themselves and some of the banks, and still Canada has been and is the most successful country in the trade.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Can cattle be shipped to England at a profit at present prices? A.—Well, they are not losing anything. In May, June and July of last year we shipped 2,000 head. They went over in eight steamers. When I began I was making about \$3 a head. The last four steamers lost me \$3 a head, and on the 2,000 cattle I lost \$2,800. This was the worst year we have had. From 1874 to 1881 it was profitable, though not so profitable as at the beginning. Since then the markets have fluctuated, and we cannot very well gauge what prices will be there. We may have the idea that we are going to make a fortune in the trade; the ship may not get there in time, steamers from other parts may get in, and as cattle must be immediately slaughtered, you cannot bring back the bloom to them. You must sell them at market prices.

Q.—Does the law require them to be immediately slaughtered? A.—Canada has a clean bill of health. We have to undergo twelve hours of quarantine and are examined by veterinary surgeons for contagious diseases, and after passing that examination the cattle can usually go to any part of the United Kingdom. American cattle must be slaughtered at the point of debarkation.

Q.—Is the regulation and restriction of the transit of cattle from the United States through Canada of advantage to the Canadian farmer? A.—I have always been against that traffic, and I do not think it should be permitted. They are so particular in England about this pleuro-pneumonia, which I know exists in the States,

that when we have gone into a place where American cattle were we have had to go into a small room and be fumigated before coming away. If so, cars passing through our country with cattle from the States are a danger to Canadian farmers.

Q.—Are the restrictions with regard to American cattle coming through Canada sufficiently strict. A.—I would not have them come at all. We have no desire in the cattle trade to have any truck with them at all.

Q.—Can you afford to pay Canadian farmers such prices as to warrant them in continuing to raise beef cattle? A.—The answer to that question is of so great importance that every farmer should understand it. It is necessary to raise cattle that there may be sufficient manure to go back to the land. No farmer can be successful without raising a certain number of cattle. If the farmer in this country would realise how much one animal gives him back for the food he gives it, he would consider that as long as he got paid by feeding that animal just what the food costs, without profit at all, he would have the manure as profit. In England the droppings of an animal during feeding time are valued at 8 sovereigns. If Canadian farmers looked at the matter in that light they would consider it more properly. As bad as English markets have been of late, from the inception of the trade up to the present time, England has enabled exporters to give larger prices than those buyers who purchase for home consumption in Canada.

Q.—Do you pay those large prices because you take the pick of the cattle? A.—No; we do not take the best; we take the heaviest and those in best form for shipping. We want heifers to weigh 1,200 or 1,400 pounds, whereas cattle for home consumption weigh 1,000 or 1,200 pounds. Montreal used to be a great market, but Quebec opened up her resources and will be able to supply this trade. We used to send cattle to St. John, but it has all been worked up by this oxen trade.

Q.—Have you had any cattle from the North-West? A.—We had some at Christmas and some last spring. They were very fine cattle, raised on prairie grass. I do not know what the future of that trade will be, but I think it will be extraordinary.

Q.—How do cattle from the Canadian North-West compare with cattle you have seen from the western parts of the United States? A.—Well, fifteen years ago we considered Illinois cattle the best that could be produced on earth. They generally selected their steers, and not tying them up as we do, they developed more bone and muscle and became larger. I found on examining those cattle from the North-West that they had been raised in the same way of wandering round and getting on grass. Nothing expands them so much. They develop something like western cattle. They develop as much bone and muscle in the Canadian North-West as anywhere else.

Q.—Is not that due, to some extent, to the fact that they have taken cattle into our North-West with a mixture of the Texas quality in them. A.—I would not consider that the Texan quality would be an improvement.

Q.—Does it not make them more hardy? A.—Well, they may be more hardy, but I would prefer having nothing to do with that old low breed of cattle. We used to think short-horned cattle could not bear cold because of their fine breed, but that idea is done away with altogether. These beautiful, shapely cattle can endure more than any other class of cattle we have, except Polled Angus.

Q.—Do you know anything of the experiment of crossing the buffalo with native cattle? A.—No; I do not. I have simply read accounts of it, but I imagine it can be done.

Q.—Can cattle raising be carried on with the view of seeking either the production of beef or the production of milk and butter, or can mixed cattle-raising be carried on to advantage. Can cattle be raised with a view to beef and dairy products or must one or the other be followed alone? A.—I have been under the impression for thirty years, after studying the matter carefully, that all farmers must have stock, though there will be certain parts of the country where the idea cannot be carried out. I am under the impression that mixed farming is the best and most likely to be successful. You require to feed say, three or four cattle; you have three or four cattle for milking, and so on. I would like to make the remark that if the Dominion

Government desire to benefit this trade they should be particular to see that ships have proper room and get a proper inspection at Montreal. The Government has an inspector, who is supposed to see that no cattle are placed on the ship that have not sufficient room for standing and lying down. That work has not been perfectly done, and I would like to impress on the Commissioners one point, and hope they will make representation about it, and that is this; there are some 60,000 head of cattle put on board steamers at Montreal on wharves where it would be a disgrace to drive a lot of Newfoundland dogs over. There are coal and bales of goods lying round, and there are diabolical carts and waggons that would frighten anything. The cattle get into a perspiration and they are put on board ship for a voyage of 3,000 miles in a very unprepared state. We represented about it to the Government, but of course it was only one voice to the contrary. If they would spend a few thousand dollars and give people a quiet place where cattle could be put on board after coal and other freight was taken on, the cattle would be rested when they got on, and the loss would not amount to one cent.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you remember last year, or the year when a steamer lost a great number of cattle? A.—Yes; they were put on board in a beastly state of perspiration, and the ventilators were imperfect and the vessel was blazing hot.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do distillery-fed cattle bear the ocean voyage as well as those coming off the grass? A.—They bear it better than any cattle we have. We generally find about anything goes wrong it is due to the ventilation. The regular heat of the ship is about the same as that of our stables. We make ventilation a study. We have 700 head in one of our stables, and they are sometimes four or five hours at the same heat. What we want is an even heat, and we can get that on board ship.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Does the exportation of cattle from the Argentine Republic affect the Canadian cattle trade in England? A.—It does. You know they come over dead in refrigerators from there. The first year it was not successful. The carcasses I examined were imperfect; the meat was a little sour, and it was not a success. I would not say that they made any money, but they did not lose any, and last year they did well. That trade is going to continue, no doubt. Let it continue. The success of our Dominion lies in having the best cattle, and I claim this is the most suitable country to grow beef on earth, and we can grow it a little cheaper than in any other part of the world I know of.

Q.—Will \$3 per head, which that Republic is giving, be an inducement to export cattle? A.—They will never grow cattle for the express purpose of exportation.

Q.—Are there any exported on hoof? A.—No; none. Australia has sent them on hoof, but has been more successful with mutton.

JAMES MASSEY, Warden, Central Prison, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Will you please give the Commission your views as to the best method of employing convict labor, so as not to bring it into competition with outside labor, or to as small a degree as possible? A.—I think no convict labor can be employed without going into competition more or less with outside labor. There is nothing at which you can employ convicts but they must come into competition with outside labor.

Q.—What kind of employment would you recommend for convicts—what lines of work? A.—On that subject there are great differences of opinion even among philanthropists who have given the matter a great deal of study. Some hold the

opinion that convicts should be employed at hand labor only; that there should be no machinery introduced; others, again, express views the very opposite, that if the work of reformation is to be an object in the management of penal institutions then you must adapt them to the period in which they live, and make them accustomed to the use of machinery. So that upon that subject there is a great deal of diversity among prison managers themselves.

Q.—Do you think the Government of the day would be able to utilize convict labor successfully without loss? A.—So far as I am aware, no State in the Union, and from there I have drawn my information largely, has been able to employ her convicts successfully upon State account. That is to say, from a provincial point of view there is always a loss.

Q.—Do you think if convicts were employed in manufacturing supplies for gaols, prisons, asylums, and so on, and for the Mounted Police, there would be sufficient employment given to them to keep them employed—all classes of supplies, I mean? A.—In the Central Prison we manufacture clothing and boots and shoes required for all the gaols throughout Ontario, but it employs very few men.

Q.—Suppose you were to engage in the manufacture of blankets, cottons and such like goods, what do you think would be the result? A.—I suppose we could do that if the terms of sentence were sufficiently long, but the average term of sentence in the Central Prison is only about six months; that means, of course, that a great many are under thirty days, and a large number under two years, so that we have not the convicts long enough to make them skilled workmen in a great variety of employment. We get sometimes skilled men. If a man is known to be a hardened criminal the judge is very likely to send him where his imprisonment will have the best possible effect on him. One instance will illustrate that: A man in a neighboring county committed an offence. The judge did not wish to send him to Kingston, but to place him under discipline in the Central Prison, and gave him twenty months on each of the three commitments, so that he received a term of five years. But that, of course, was a very rare case.

Q.—Where prisoners are sentenced for more than two years, is it possible to employ them in the line indicated? A.—I think it is. You take our proficient cracksmen, and they are generally pretty shrewd, clever fellows. You can teach them anything if they are willing to be taught.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What employment do you think would do for a penitentiary? A.—Perhaps I may be mistaken in the idea I have stated in regard to the question of prison management. I had the idea that our prison institutions should not only be places of punishment, for the purpose of deterring others from entering the criminal class, but they should be reform schools, to adapt men to honest work in life, and therefore to accomplish that work it is necessary to have a variety of labor in our penal institutions, so that you may have something that will be suitable to each man's ability.

Q.—What are the principal lines of business carried on the Central Prison now? A.—We have wood-working, broom-making, tailoring, shoemaking, and we have a number—a few—of machinists.

Q.—Do all those lines come into competition with outside labor? A.—We might say that they all do, with the exception, of perhaps, tailoring and shoemaking.

Q.—Is the labor in the Central Prison let out by contract? A.—Principally.

Q.—Are the prisoners themselves let out? A.—The contractor has all the varieties of labor under contract, for which we receive so much per day.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How many men are let out as laboring men to the contractors? A.—They are let out at so much per day. The average would be about seventy all the year round.

Q.—At what branches of business are they principally engaged? A.—They are engaged at making wooden goods, from a brush down to a little toy-waggon, and playthings of that kind used by children.

Q.—Is it proposed to continue the system of letting the prison labor out by contract? A.—No; our contract expires in May, 1889, and it will be discontinued after that.

Q.—Has the Government or yourself thought of any scheme of employing those prisoners after the contract has expired? A.—We have not arrived at any conclusion. We have been consulting about the matter, but merely consulting, so far.

Q.—Do you think it is possible to find employment for those men within prison walls without competing with outside labor? A.—I do not think so. I think on that question there is, perhaps, if I am permitted to say so, not only a great diversity of opinion, but I think there are a great many mistaken ideas held with respect to it. For instance, take a man in either the Central Prison or the jail. If he was out and at liberty he would either have to work for a living or some one would have to keep him, because he would otherwise steal. So his competition in prison is less against free labor than it would be outside, because no convict will do a full day's work in prison.

Q.—How is it that you find under the conditions that you state that convict labor has driven free labor out of the market in the trades in which convicts are employed? A.—That had not been the case in Canada.

Q.—Has it not been the case in the broom-making industry? A.—That has not been the case, I think, in Canada.

Q.—Do you think there are as many broom-makers in Toronto to-day as there were ten years ago? A.—I should think there are as many to-day as there were then.

Q.—Would you be surprised to hear that there are not one-tenth of the number here to-day? A.—Ten years ago I do not think there were many men employed at broom-making in Toronto—that is, free labor. I was in business then and I was not able to buy brooms in Toronto; I always bought them in Montreal.

Q.—Taking into consideration the different facts, do you believe it would be possible for the Government to employ prisoners if they cannot compete with free labor in the manufacture of the same lines of goods at a profit? A.—I suppose the Government could manufacture at a profit. I believe that could be done, provided the Government would enter into the same economical system of managing the labor as employers do outside, but they cannot compete with free labor with convicts. The expense of maintaining the institution and the small amount of work the convicts do makes free labor more profitable.

Q.—If it pays a contractor, could not the Government make it pay? A.—There are not many contractors who make money out of the convict labor.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How many years has this contracting system for convict labor been in force? A.—It has been in force about twelve years.

Q.—Is the labor of all the convicts rented to one man? A.—It is all rented to the same contractors—there are two firms.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do the prisoners in that shop run circular-saws and machinery? A.—Yes; wood-working machinery.

Q.—Have any accidents occurred? A.—Not many; sometimes men have cut their fingers off.

Q.—Suppose a man has cut his fingers off, does the Government recompense him? A.—In what way?

Q.—By recompensing him? A.—In some cases it is done on purpose. For instance, I had a man in the broom-shop who was determined not to do any work. He had served terms in prison, and not done anything. I was determined that if he would not work neither would he eat. I made him saw brooms, and took a great deal of trouble to teach him. He went out of prison at the end of his term, and he returned. He went to the knife and cut off the first two fingers of his right hand at the first joint, so that he could not work. We gave him no compensation.

Q.—What would the compensation amount to given by the Government if all

his fingers had been taken off? A.—I am not in a position to give that information, as those matters are settled by the Government outside of my department.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—It would depend on the man a good deal? A.—Yes; very largely.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What would be the consequence, provided all convict work was stamped as such when it was sent out? A.—I do not think that would have any effect upon it; it would still be convict work?

Q.—People would know they were buying convict work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Would it have any effect on the sale? A.—They would get over that. In the State of Pennsylvania they are obliged to stamp everything that is manufactured in the prison as convict work, but they get over that very beautifully.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you think that if machinery was done away with a prisoner would be more competent and perfect in the trade, if not using machinery, in hand-work when he was released? A.—With us we could teach them very little. You must recollect that if the work had to be done by hand, and we had no machinery on which to employ them, they would not accomplish the same amount of work. Let me illustrate this: You put a man who has not been accustomed to mechanics' tools, and who is on a sentence of six months, to manufacture some article, and all his work will be botched. If you put him to a machine he gets not only accustomed to the machine, but an adept at it, and he becomes master of it and turns out perfect work. On leaving the prison he will seek employment at the same line of trade.

Q.—Do you think that in prisons contract work has a beneficial effect on them? A.—It depends on how the contract is conducted. For instance, it is injurious if you hand over the convicts to the contractor, as is done in the Southern States, and let him be the judge in regard to their work. The system was for the State to sell the convicts' work at so much per head, and place them under the absolute control of the contractors. That, of course, was slavery in the very worst form. I have visited the convicts in some of those States, and I found it was the very worst condition of slavery. If you lease the labor of the convicts to the contractor and give him equal control over the convict, and he is employed there—as is done in the Central Prison, where the contractor has nothing to do with the convicts except buying their work and instructing them—there can be no objection to the system.

Q.—Who supplies the foremen for the convicts in the prison? A.—The contractors do.

Q.—Is a convict not forced to do a certain amount of work in prison when the work is immediately under the control of the prison authorities? A.—That is not our experience. The trouble, if we have any, has been in not being able to get the shoemaking work down to a task. Most of the prisoners prefer to work to a task. In the broom-shop each one does a task, and after they have done it they can go on and do extra work, for which they get paid.

Q.—Is the broom contract for a long time? A.—They will expire both about the same time.

Q.—When there are not enough prisoners at the Central Prison is it not a common thing to send to the common gaols for prisoners? A.—By our Act of incorporation we are at liberty to bring prisoners from any other prisons, prisoners who are under sentence for fourteen days and upwards at hard labor.

Q.—Is that frequently done as between the Central Prison and the gaol? A.—More than two-thirds of the prisoners are from the county gaol.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Who pays the fares when they are transported for this purpose? A.—The Government does.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Is it your experience that a criminal, unless he becomes so by mere accident, will be a criminal all his days, no matter what laws there are to prevent him? A.—If he abandons himself to a life of crime there is nothing I have ever yet been able to discover to stop him till he has run his course.

Q.—And he naturally becomes looked on with suspicion? A.—Yes.

Q.—Often, if such men are imprisoned for long terms could not their services be successfully utilized in manufacturing goods for the use of the Government? A.—That could be done if the men were imprisoned on long terms.

Q.—Take, for instance, the manufacture of militia tents and tent materials, could not this be done in Kingston, when the prisoners are there on long terms? Could not mail bags be also manufactured there? A.—I could not speak on that subject.

Q.—I am asking your opinion, based on your experience in the Central Prison. I understand you see a difficulty on account of the short term of imprisonment? A.—Yes. There is no difficulty in teaching anything if you have the men to apply it.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Are your prisoners on the whole of more than average intelligence? A.—We are supposed not to work any unfit for hard labor.

Q.—On an average, do you consider they are more intelligent than the average men outside? A.—Not so much.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—What do the contractors pay the Government for these prisoners a day? A.—The rate they have been paying is 40 cents for ten hours.

Q.—Does the Government provide the contractors with all machinery, excepting engines and boilers? A.—No; we find only the power. We find boilers and engines and the main line of shafting, and they find everything else.

Q.—Do you find them a house? A.—Yes; the prison.

Q.—They do not have to pay any taxes for that? A.—No.

Q.—They pay no rent? A.—No rent.

Q.—Do you find any ground on which they are allowed to store lumber? A.—Yes; we have space sufficient for what they require within the walls.

Q.—Is there a drying kiln included? A.—Yes.

Q.—All that accommodation is there? A.—Yes; the drying kiln was erected at the opening of the prison when the work was let out to the Canada Car Company.

Q.—Has the factory inspector been through your machine shops in the Central Prison? A.—I think not.

Q.—Would not that come under control of the factory inspector? A.—I think not. Of course, we are willing to have him come around and go through.

Q.—Do you think the factory inspector should inspect that factory as much as any other factory? A.—As I say, I would not express any opinion in regard to that matter. I have no objection to his coming through because the shops will bear inspection at any time.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you ever calculated what the accommodation, power, ground room, and so on, are worth? A.—I have not.

Q.—Have you any idea what those facilities would be worth to the contractor? A.—No; I have no idea.

Q.—You say he pays 40 cents a day for ten hours work? A.—And he has not made much out of it so far.

Q.—But he likes to hang on to it? A.—I think they are very anxious to sell out.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Would it not be possible to employ the prisoners in producing goods that might be exported and sold elsewhere, and not interfere with our native mechanics?

A.—I have heard that spoken of, but I do not know whether you could find a market for prison-manufactured goods. I have heard of goods being manufactured in the Central Prison and sent to England. But why should England be made a dumping ground for our prison-made goods? I see nothing in that, because we cannot manufacture as cheaply as they do in Germany.

Q.—Is a profit among the first considerations in conducting operations in a prison? A.—Not with us.

Q.—Is it among the first considerations in the employment of the labor of the prisoners? A.—No.

Q.—The first consideration, I suppose, is the reformation of the prisoner? A.—Yes; our first duty is the safety of the prisoner and then to work upon his reformation.

Q.—You are aware that even if prisoners make only an unappreciable percentage of the article it may have a very disturbing influence on the market, and thereby a serious effect on free labor? A.—I never found it so. It is not the experience of men who have given the matter a great deal of thought on the other side. For instance, take a boot and shoe maker in New York State, or a hollowware casting shop in New York State. When an Albany prison took up the hollowware casting, it was only one-fortieth of 1 per cent.

Q.—But this disturbing influence being thrown on the market, does it not depreciate the whole labor of the country in that line of trade? A.—I do not think so.

Q.—Were not the shoemakers in Canada injured when shoes were made in the Kingston Penitentiary? A.—You have more competition in Montreal than you ever had in the Kingston Penitentiary, I believe.

Q.—Take an illustration. If sugar were sold at 6 cents per pound, and some one were to sell 1,000 pounds in Toronto at 4 cents, would it not disturb the market? A.—Only to a very limited extent.

Q.—If those limited quantities of woodenware and like goods are thrown into the market has not that a disturbing influence on the free labor employed at the trade? A.—It would be if the goods were sold under their value.

Q.—Are they not sold under their value? A.—They are not.

Q.—You say they are not? A.—To my certain knowledge they are not. I know the contractors have often refused to execute contracts at prices paid to outside labor.

Q.—Are you aware that prison-made brooms are sold in Hamilton at 10 cents each? A.—We manufacture some brooms. There will not be much over, perhaps, one pound of corn, hardly costing less than 1 cent per pound. You may take the figures as they are for corn, and 1 cent for handling and 2 cents for making the broom. You can get brooms made cheaper in Quebec than the contractor here is paying to have it done.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—The makers in Quebec furnish their own workshop and power? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do not the contractors give the men rewards for good conduct, and interfere with the discipline of the prison in that manner? A.—No; we never allow that to be done.

Q.—Can it be done, in spite of your protests? A.—If that were attempted it would simply mean the expulsion of the man who did it. Only a short time ago I had occasion to turn two men out who had been the means of conveying articles to the prisoners, and whenever I discover such actions going on, no matter what position the employé might occupy, in connection with the prison, or the contractor, he has to go.

Q.—From your experience, are the prisoners able to earn a little money towards laying by a little pile at the expiration of their term? A.—In some cases we have had married men who have made quite a little money in the broom shop, and we

have paid it to support their families, and in some cases single men have gathered together a little money.

Q.—Do they get any share of the regular money which the contractors pay for their services? A.—No; no part of it.

Q.—Not at any time? A.—No; I hold that no contractor has anything to do with the prison life, and no influence on it in any shape or form.

Q.—The two parties who have the contract keep the machinery and tools in order, do they not? A.—Only to the extent of giving out work, instructing them in the use of the machinery and keeping the tools in order—not beyond that.

Q.—Have not prisoners been punished for not performing their allotted tasks? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is not that task sometimes more, considering the experience of the prisoner, than a man should be called upon to perform? A.—No.

Q.—Who fixes the task? A.—I do. In the broom-shop we take what an average workman—not a first-class, nor a poor workman—is able to do; the first-class man, who has served with us two or three terms, will make a good deal over; others never reach the stint. A tramp who would rather lay off from work, even if he were hungry, or would, perhaps, steal his children's clothing in order to get drink, would do nothing unless he had a task to perform.

Q.—If a prisoner fails to perform his task, what do you do? A.—We have to be governed by the mental or physical capacity of the man. If he is mentally or physically weak the facts are considered. If he possesses proper mental and physical qualities we determine the task for him and see that he does it.

Miss HELEN GURNETT, Dressmaker, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Will you please tell the Commission the average weekly wages of a first-class milliner or dressmaker, or are both trades combined? A.—They are separate.

Q.—Take, then, a first class dressmaker; please state what would be her average wages? A.—I have never been in anyone else's workroom besides my own, and I run only a small business. My best hands receive \$5, \$6, or \$7; \$7 is the outside a week.

Q.—How many hours will a woman work per day for those wages? A.—From 8 until 6, with one hour at noon.

Q.—Take young girls going to learn the business; are they apprenticed? A.—Usually they are.

Q.—How many years have they to serve before they become experienced hands? A.—They think it dreadful if they have to serve six months.

Q.—What do they generally receive per week when they first go to the business? A.—They are supposed to serve six months without receiving anything. They are usually little girls who come right out of school. We have to teach them to sew; they cannot even so much as use a needle. My experience has been that sometimes a girl can be very useful in two months, but then she has been taught to sew at home.

Q.—Then you would consider a young girl who has some knowledge of sewing much more useful in the business than a young girl who has never been taught that branch? A.—Certainly.

Q.—Are there many dressmakers idle in Toronto at the present time, to your knowledge? A.—I could not say; there are none of mine idle; this is what we call the dull season.

Q.—What would be the average wages of a first-class milliner, to your knowledge? A.—I used to work at the millinery myself, and the wages—of course it is difficult to give you the average, but the best wages were about \$8 or \$9 a week. That, however, lasts a very short time; it would only be about four months in the year.

Q.—Are they employed a larger part of the year at less wages? A.—Yes; we

keep on the cheap hands and teach them while business is dull, because we have more time ourselves to show them how we want the work done.

Q.—Is there any idle season in the year with dressmakers when they are completely idle, and have nothing whatever to do, and if so, how long is that season? A.—I have been in business in Toronto for about seven years—not for myself, but altogether. We have never been obliged to close down for want of work, but I have usually given from two to three weeks in August to the girls for rest. I think we all need a rest. I do, I know, for I get worn out.

Q.—Could you tell us the difference between the wages for a first-class dressmaker in Toronto and the wages paid to a similar hand in the United States? A.—Yes; I have known girls who were working at \$4 a week to get \$7 there; and I have known others working here at \$2 a week, or \$2.50, to be paid \$5 or \$6 there. Those are the wages of two girls who have worked for me who have gone there and tried it and come back again.

Q.—You think, considering all things, that a young girl working at the dress-making business in Toronto will, after taking all things into consideration and other expenses, be as well off here as in a similar city on the other side of the lines? A.—Living is cheaper here. A skilled hand can get higher wages in the United States and does not have to pay much more for board.

Q.—Do you think the millinery business is interfered with much from immigration from the old country? A.—They do not bring out any one who can do the work, except they are taught after coming here.

Q.—It is a new business here to them? A.—It is very different. We have old country girls who work for us, but we have to teach them their business over again. The first-class hands do not come out here. Occasionally an experienced hand comes out with a family, but as a rule they do not come out, except with a family.

Q.—You have to teach them, I presume, the styles, and there are more changes here than in the old country? A.—Yes; there is a quite different way of making dresses here.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You have mentioned the rate of wages paid by yourself. Do you think that the general rate paid will be about the same as that you have mentioned? A.—There are more fashionable places than mine where the hands will obtain larger wages, and establishments that keep more hands and do a more select business, although in larger places they do piece-work.

Q.—Do you think that which you have given us would be a fair average of a dressmaker's wages, say \$5 per week? A.—I have girls to whom I give more than that, but the trouble is with girls that they are always looking to getting married; they do not make a business of dressmaking. I do not know why it is, but you can very seldom get young women to make up their minds that they are going to spend their lives in this business. They do not take enough interest in it, the interest in it they might take. The trouble is in the girls themselves, and of course with most of my good girls the trouble is they get married just when I get them where I want them. They leave me and I have to begin again.

Q.—They all believe in the principles of union? A.—Yes.

Miss M. J. WATSON, Dressmaker, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You are a dressmaker. A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you agree with the evidence of the last witness? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know of anything of interest in connection with people engaged in a dressmaking which has not been spoken of? A.—Well, of course the subject of wages. I think girls would be better paid if they were more competent. The

trouble is, we cannot get competent people. I think that comes from the want of an apprentice system. My experience has been, in fifteen years we have not had an apprentice inside of the house.

Q.—How long should a young person serve at dressmaking before becoming competent? A.—I don't think they could be first-class without serving three years; but, as it is, they come without any knowledge at all, and they are supposed capable right from the first. We have to look after our own interests, and, of course, they are not taught.

Q.—Doesn't it frequently happen that young people, taken on as improvers during the busy season, are discharged after the busy season is over? A.—Not if they are competent.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you know anything of the position of young women employed behind counters as clerks in stores of the cities? A.—Only from hearsay.

RICHARD WILKINS, Dry-goods Salesman, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What are the average hours dry-goods salesmen are employed in Toronto? A.—I could not say the average. I work about ten hours.

Q.—Is there any difference between Yonge and Queen streets? A.—Yes; Queen street works longer hours. I use to work an average of thirteen hours a day. Now they consider ten short.

Q.—How much longer have salesmen on Yonge street to remain at business than those on King street? A.—Their stores are open all hours in the evening. It would bring it to an average of thirteen hours a day.

Q.—Have salesmen in Toronto ever made an effort to shorten hours? A.—Yes; but there are circumstances, such as difference in ability, which prevent them from combining, the same as in other work. There is a vast difference in the ability and experience, and employers make a difference.

Q.—Why should difference in ability prevent salesmen from combining for the common purpose of shortening hours? A.—Well, they don't generally combine on short hours; they combine on things such as wages.

Q.—Do you think if all stores closed at 6 o'clock you would be able to meet the requirements of the customers? A.—Certainly. I think it is only justice to those who do close that others should remain closed.

Q.—What percentage of the retail merchants in Toronto do close? A.—Taking numbers, I don't suppose more than one-third close at reasonable hours; but taking the amount of capital, perhaps one-half the capital would close at reasonable hours.

Q.—Will you tell us, please, what class of people buy in stores kept open after 6 o'clock? A.—To a great extent those who have all their time at their disposal and could go in their carriage, and go any hour of the day. Taking first-class establishments, we find people of wealth shopping after hours. We find a great many more so than of the laboring classes.

Q.—What is the system of apprenticeship in the dry-goods business? A.—There is none. A young man spending six months in a general store in business comes to the city, and competes with a man who has eighteen or twenty years' experience, and that man is supposed to coach him. It is a hindrance to the good men. I know a young man twenty years of age working for \$3, and other men are supposed to coach him on, which is to their hindrance in every way.

Q.—What would be the average wages of the salesmen in Toronto? A.—I suppose about \$8 is the average.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What age would that be? A.—Married men, if they are any good, get, say, \$9 to \$10 on an average. Heads of departments get higher than that.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Does it depend on the department that a man is employed in or on his own good business qualities? A.—To a certain extent on both. There are departments better paid than others, but of course ability has something to do with it.

Q.—Do you know if a salesman gets out of employment is there difficulty in finding employment? A.—Yes; there is great injustice in dismissing at the end of the season. For instance, at the 1st of January trade is comparatively over, and if a man is discharged he has trouble almost to find employment until April.

Q.—How long are engagements made for, as a rule? A.—For a year; you have to sign a paper that it terminates at one day's notice. The salary is stated to be for one year.

Q.—Is it generally the practice to dismiss salesmen in that way? A.—A great deal of it is done.

Q.—At what age do young men generally go to the business? A.—A great many of them start in stores as parcel boys.

Q.—Do you know what wages the young fellows get who start at the bottom? A.—About \$2 a week. He works a full day, and then has to carry parcels after that, because it is too tiring on the horse.

Q.—How much would his pay increase after that? A.—He might get \$2 the next year or \$2.50, but it increases very slowly.

Q.—Do you have much difficulty with young fellows going into a store on one street in Toronto and then staying for a while, and then moving to another? A.—No; unless he can hold his situation he is not thought much of, compared with a man who has held his situation for any length of time, though there are some who are thrown off at the end of the season.

Q.—Do you know what wages qualified hands who are females receive? A.—They get from \$3 to \$6, and a girl who gets \$6 a week holds her head as high as a millionaire's daughter, and dresses as well.

Q.—At what salary do they commence? A.—I believe they go to the millinery department without anything for six months and from that go behind the counter.

Q.—Do you know an establishment in Toronto where girls behind the counter seldom get more than \$4 a week? A.—No; I have not heard of that positively.

Q.—Is there such a supply of that class of labor that it is always possible to fill a store with beginners each six months for nothing? A.—Yes; I am speaking of going into the millinery department.

Q.—Are those girls permitted to sit down? A.—It is not looked upon very favorably. It is not so long ago that they would be told they were wearing out their clothes.

Q.—Taking into consideration the way that girls have to dress, do you think they receive sufficient pay? A.—No; I do not. I think if they do the work as well as men they should receive the same pay, but there are a few exceptional cases where they do, just where they settle down to the business and make it a life work, but as a rule they don't do that.

Q.—They look upon it as a stepping-stone or halting-place between that and another position? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have the salaries of salesmen increased or decreased in the last ten years on an average? A.—I don't think they have decreased, but I am hardly competent to judge. I think living is higher and I don't think they have increased according to the higher living.

Q.—Has the employment of female clerks in stores a depreciating effect? A.—Certainly. It throws men out of employment. More are employed, and yet employers can get two or three girls for the price of one man. I know of an instance where the father of a family was discharged on account of the dulness of trade. He had two daughters behind the counter. He was thrown out on account of the times, but they were retained at lower salaries.

Q.—Do you know if separate conveniences are always supplied for male and female clerks? A.—I think that is generally done. They are rather a respectable class of girls.

Dr. W. B. NESBITT, Toronto, called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Will you please give the Commission your opinion in regard to foods?
 A.—In my opinion, in the first place, the people of the present time are eating a great deal more than is good for them or than there is any necessity for eating; in the second place, they are paying a great deal more for the amount of nutriment they obtain than there is any necessity to pay; and in the third place, they would be able to do better work and be in much better health if they obtained their foods on a better system, and ate less. The principal difficulty is that people, as a rule, know nothing about the constituents of foods, and what they really require as food, and how to cook them; they know much less about that matter than about other subjects. Experiments, and the general run of that sort of work by a great many experimenters, have shown that living is very, very cheap.

Q.—Do not the French people live more cheaply than the English? A.—Yes.
 Q.—And they live well? A.—They live better than the English people in some classes. They buy their foods better, and combine their foods better, so as to obtain a proper amount of nutriment from them. You take an ordinary meal of beef and potatoes and analyze that meat and potatoes, and also take an equal quantity of beans and peas and analyze their constituents, and you will find that there is more nutriment in the beans and peas. In the same way, take nitrogenous foods, and you will get more of every class of nutriment from them, and especially more of what is especially required.

Q.—What will be the difference in the cost between the beef and potatoes and the beans and peas? A.—Rumford, as far back as 1795, got out some tables on this subject, and looking over them and applying them to the cost of living here I find that the cost of a good meal for a hard-working man will be about three-quarters of a cent. That is the cost of a good, palatable meal, and a man would be able to do more work on it than on meat and potatoes.

Q.—Is it not a fact that in Manchester and London there are dinners provided for children at 1 cent each? A.—Yes; that is the case.

Q.—The meal, I understand, consists of bread and soup? A.—This that I have mentioned is Rumford's soup. There have been quite a number of different kinds prepared.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What would constitute a meal costing three-quarters of a cent? A.—In this one there would be about five pounds of barley, five pounds of cornmeal, four red herrings and some salt and seasoning. The cost of the whole, together with water sufficient to make a meal for sixty-four persons, averages about three-quarters of a cent, and gives about a quart of soup each.

Q.—Did that include the cost of fire and attendance? A.—There were more extensive investigations made, in which it was found that meals could be furnished at about a farthing, about a quarter of a cent each, including fire and attendance—two servants included.

Q.—Is it not a fact that given the same amount of animal food the French people can make much better use of it than the English? A.—I could give you striking instances of how little people know. If a boarding house mistress makes soup she generally throws out the meat afterwards, on the principle that all the good was boiled out of it, when, as a matter of fact, only one-third of the good is taken out of the meat when it is boiled.

Q.—Would you consider barley, indian meal and red herrings sufficient for a laboring man to do a day's work on in this country? A.—Yes; amply sufficient.

Q.—Would you like to do it yourself? A.—Yes; this is no hearsay, this is an actual fact.

Q.—You will never make the people believe it. A.—Perhaps not.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do not the Scotch Highlanders work on oatmeal, which they eat three times a day? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you know for a fact that the Scotch have nothing but oatmeal porridge to live on? A.—Scotchmen have milk with their meal in some instances; they have it but very seldom. It is principally porridge they live on.

Q.—Do you know they live on it, and do a day's work on it? A.—Yes; it is the same way with the Irishmen living on potatoes and buttermilk. It is an actual fact that they do it; they have the nutriments and constituents of food in the proper proportions. Some of the people in New England live on fish and beans.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Has that style of food anything to do with the destitution of the Irish people? A.—I think that is due to want of work—they have nothing to do. The system of lands there and the action of England have thrown them out of work. They have got no work to do. It does not matter whether people live on potatoes and buttermilk or on oatmeal porridge.

Q.—Do you know the amount of food furnished to a soldier in the English army? A.—I do not know the exact rations. I was looking over the tables and it is a bad system—it is not adequate. The best statement we have is that for American laborers; and, as I have said, we have tables respecting the German laborers, and I may say that the Germans have done more in this class of work than any other experimenters. The American table gives 125 grammes of proteins, 125 grammes of phosphates, and 400 grammes of carbo-hydrates. For hard work add 25 grammes of phosphates and 25 grammes of proteins.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you know of what pemican, which is consumed by people in the North West, is composed? A.—It is dried buffalo meat and fat. They take the meat and dry it, pound it in a mortar, mix some berries with it and put it in bags.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you consider a soldier in the British army is over-fed? A.—I think he could do the work with less food.

Q.—Do you know what it costs to feed a soldier in Canada—how much a day? A.—I could not say.

Q.—Would you be surprised to learn that it is in the neighborhood of 23 cents? A.—I should not be surprised if it were in the neighborhood of 50 cents.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What did it cost to feed a German soldier by the day during the war with France? A.—I do not know. The most extensive experiments were made, as I have said, by Rumford; the result was, as I have stated, that each meal cost three quarters of a cent. The principal difficulty is that people do not know what they require and do not know how to buy.

Q.—May not others besides workingmen be placed in the same category? A.—We found, as a matter of fact, that the working classes will buy the best; for instance, they buy sirloin, when they would get just as much nutriment from the neck, and for the latter they would pay about one-third of the price.

Q.—They do not know the commercial value? A.—They do not know the respective properties.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Taking into consideration what a man has to pay for house rent and clothing for his family, say of six people, and taking his wages at \$1 a day, how much money can he afford to pay for sirloin steak? A.—It is not what he can afford but what he does spend.

Q.—What has he got to spend for sirloin steak after he has paid for fuel, clothing, house rent, and so on? A.—I will tell you as a fact, and it is the result arrived at by those who have made the most extensive investigations, that a man skrimps more on his clothing and house rent than he does on his meals.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Who, then, buys the poor qualities of meat? A.—The people in comfortable circumstances buy cheaper meats than many poor people who are less able to afford it.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is it because these people in comfortable circumstances know the quality of the different parts of meat? A.—I think they know the value of it more than the others. Some men pride themselves on saying that they get for their families the best beef, flour and vegetables. Now, if you take the best flour, the whitest flour, the nicest looking flour, as a matter of fact, it is not the best flour; there is less nutriment in it than in other flour.

Q.—Is it not a fact that they do not buy that flour, for it is pastry flour? A.—I do not mean the pastry flour, but what they call the best flour. If you take flour such as that used to make brown bread you find the workmen do not buy it.

Q.—As a matter of fact, a man could not eat it and live on it. A.—All right. Your knowledge does not tally with experimental work.

Q.—Is it not a fact that different climates require different foods? A.—Yes.

Q.—Men in winter time, I suppose, could not live on brown bread? A.—No; you cannot live on that alone.

Q.—Do not the Germans live on blackbread and other things? A.—This is the way in which experiments are made. They put an animal in a glass case and analyze all the food given to him, and measure the amount of air that goes in and that the animal has taken so much and given out so much. From the data they arrive at the quantity of food an animal can live on. Experiments have also been made by feeding animals on one kind of food. The best portion of our foods is the proteins, on which we can do the most work. That class of food is present in lean meat, but an animal would starve soon after he used up all the fat in his body.

Q.—Are not these experiments made to show the effects of different foods? A.—Yes; and I may say these similar experiments have been made on animals and men. They put a man in a chamber in the same kind of way as an animal and feed him in like manner.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—We are talking about men who are working for a living: what have you got to say in regard to them? A.—Experimenters find that men require so much food when they are doing nothing, and when they are at work they require so much more. There is what is called potential energy in physics, which is the latent energy of a piece of meat, and represents the amount of work that can be done from it. Experimenters can calculate the relative amount of work that can be obtained from different foods, and the relative amount of foods required for different purposes. For instance, in cold climates a man has to keep warm and you have to give him something to furnish heat—that is to say, oils.

Q.—This is a different climate from that of France and Germany, I believe? A.—All you have to do is to supply the heat.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Are not some parts of Germany pretty cold? A.—Yes; different foods give different amounts of heat, bulk for bulk. Take 100 parts of fat, and in order to obtain the same amount of heat you must take 240 parts of lean meat or 250 parts of sugar. By a knowledge of these facts you can arrive at the amount of the different consti-

tments of food required for laboring men. When a man knows what gives heat and what gives energy he can buy the foods that give him heat and energy, just the same as he can buy a suit of clothes. At present he buys an ordinary suit for every day wear and an extra suit for Sunday wear.

Q.—If men possessed this knowledge it would be a great benefit to them, would it not? A.—We have the knowledge, but the knowledge requires to be extended.

CHARLES ROGERS, Cabinet Manufacturer, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—You are engaged in business in Toronto? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you manufacture all class of cabinet-work? A.—The finer kinds of it.

Q.—Is there more demand at the present time for a better grade of furniture than there was ten years ago? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can a better grade of furniture be produced to-day cheaper than an inferior kind ten years ago? A.—I don't know. I would not like to say.

Q.—Don't you think the extensive introduction of machinery has cheapened production to such an extent that good furniture can be produced as cheaply as inexpensive furniture could formerly? A.—There is a medium class which can, but I think when you come to the expensive furniture there is not much difference.

Q.—Can first-class furniture be manufactured by machinery? A.—Yes; assisted by machinery.

Q.—What wages do cabinet makers earn in Toronto? A.—Most of our men earn \$12 a week.

Q.—Piece or day's work? A.—Day's work. Our upholsterers, I think—skilled men—have \$14, \$15 and \$16.

Q.—Would that be the average rate in Toronto? A.—No; I can only speak for my own place. I don't think the average would come up to that.

Q.—Do cabinet-makers as a rule have employment steadily all the year around? A.—That is one point for our men. Carpenters are paid more perhaps, but they don't work in the winter season.

Q.—You cannot tell us what the general rate of wages is for cabinet-makers in Toronto? A.—No; but I should think it would be \$10 to \$10.50. I don't speak from a perfect knowledge of it. I think in my own shop there are few under \$12. I think perhaps the average of our place would be \$11 to \$11.50.

Q.—Has the introduction of machinery in your business made more work, or has it displaced men? A.—I think the tendency of machinery is to displace men. You turn out more work with the same number of men; as long as you have the demand it is all right, but when the demand ceases it is wrong.

Q.—What has been the increase on the wages of cabinet-makers during the last fifteen years? A.—Well, if you go back thirty years I could tell you more. When I came here thirty-five years ago a first-class cabinet-maker would get \$9 a week, and \$1.25 a day was a fair wage at what time.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What would be his price to-day? A.—Two dollars, a day.

Q.—Taking into consideration the cost of living thirty-five years ago and the cost of living to-day is the mechanic better off to-day? A.—In some case he has much improved. He will pay higher for some things and less for others. I think altogether he is better.

Q.—During those thirty-five years almost all machinery has been introduced into business? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then the operatives have not reaped the benefit of the introduction of machinery? A.—Well, you might look at that in two ways. For instance, at the present time there are so many engaged in business. There is scarcely a little town or

village in Canada but has a cabinet factory with power going. Those men are not making money. If they were to make money of course they would have a larger proportion than the mechanic would, but that is not the case. The fact of those auction sales here has proved that the market is not sufficient to keep all those factories in a healthy state of operation.

Q.—Thirty-five years ago, how many hours a day did the men work? A.—Ten.

Q.—And to-day? A.—Ten hours.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Men have been displaced; they work the same hours; they are no better off materially?

The CHAIRMAN.—The witness stated quite the contrary.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—I will put it in another way. If they worked ten hours twenty-five years ago and they do the same to-day, if there are fewer men in the business, of what benefit has been machinery? A.—I did not say there are fewer men in business.

Q.—I understood you to say machinery had displaced men? A.—That is the tendency, I said.

Q.—Have the men derived a benefit from the introduction of machinery? A.—Well, in regard to some things—for instance, food—I think they pay dearer, but in regard to clothing and furniture I think they get them cheaper—that is the better class.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is there much furniture imported into Toronto to-day? A.—Yes; there is a good deal imported that is, in the way of introducing newer goods.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Those are principally patterns? A.—Certainly.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What class of furniture do those patterns belong to? A.—Household furniture.

Q.—Is there as much imported to-day as there was ten years ago? A.—I could not say, but there is a good deal imported, and I know it is for that purpose. I don't think that in Canada we have got into that systematic way of getting up furniture that they have on the other side on account of our limited market; but there, where they devote attention to special classes, they get up very handsome furniture.

Q.—Are there more furniture manufactories in the Province of Ontario at the present time than ten years ago? A.—I should think so, though I have no figures.

Q.—Then there is more demand for Canadian furniture? A.—Yes; the population has been increasing; for instance, in Toronto the population has increased.

Q.—Where do you find your market principally? A.—Chiefly in Toronto and among people well-to-do round about.

Q.—Is the market in outside towns increasing in volume? A.—Well, I do not know about that—just special customers.

Q.—Taking raw materials, for instance, is it Canadian-made which is principally used? A.—Yes; principally, but walnut lumber does not exist in Canada, and I have to import it from the other side. Veneers are all imported, too.

Q.—How long will it take a boy going into the business to learn cabinet-making properly? A.—I have had a good deal of experience with regard to apprentices.

Altogether, I have been for the last fifty years in the business. I have had command of men and boys in the old country and here. Seven years was the apprentice term in the old country, and five years was the period in Hay & Co.'s, and that is about the time. As far as my own establishment is concerned, we have only one or two and none under indentures.

Q.—As regards apprentices, do you think it would be beneficial to a boy and his employer that he should be indentured? A.—Yes; I think so. Unless apprentices

are well looked after and well trained it is no use. In Hay & Co.'s we had a very good system, and if followed by others would be beneficial. If an apprentice was taken on, he was taken on approval. No articles were taken until about two months, to learn whether he was adapted to the business and liked it, and if he was then indentures were made out. For a considerable time when a boy got to be one or two years at the business he cleared off to the other side, and any benefit which the firm got from training him was lost, because the first year or two almost nothing was made out of him; so they regulated wages to have a check upon that. They commenced with, I think, \$2. Five and a-half years was the time. They rose up by small advances, until the last eighteen months they got \$3.50. There was \$100 kept back, and if they served out their apprenticeship in a proper way they got a present of this \$100.

Q.—That accrued out of their wages? A.—No; it was not part of their wages, but was given as a bonus as a reason why they should fulfil their time. I never knew a case of a boy being refused it where he did as he should have done.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—A man at \$2 a day, if he is sober and industrious, is he placed in as good a position as his employer, as far as making money is concerned, the way business is cut up at the present time? A.—Yes.

Q.—Supposing you were placed in the same position, at \$2 a day, wouldn't you as readily take it as to go into business? A.—I can tell you some of my own experience, and I think you are not far off the mark. When I commenced business here three years ago I did so for the purpose of making an opening for my family. The first year I took nothing out of the business, and my sons worked for half pay. In fact, if I had started business, and said to a man, "Now, I am starting to give you custom," it would have been about the same thing, because we made nothing, and came out in debt. I was putting in capital and employing men, and giving them good wages for nothing. I don't know how it will be for the second year; we are taking stock. Those men have lived respectably and, I think for \$2 a day, have lived comfortably.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Isn't the manufactured stock worth anything? A.—Certainly it is.

Q.—Does not the employer make the stock he has at the end of the year? A.—Well, if I put in \$50,000, and at the end of the year I find I have covered the whole thing, I have made nothing, but lost the interest of my money.

Q.—And the man who made \$2 a day, how much has he made? A.—Well, they were in ease to myself, and had comfort in working as they did. There is no comparison in the comfort. I would not for anything change positions in that respect. They have nothing to do but attend to their work, and it is not hard upon them.

Q.—I wonder, with your opinions, you ever went outside a day's work? A.—How?

Q.—You are so fond of praising up the workingman's position? A.—You asked me if a man getting \$2 a day was not as good as his employer, with regard to his living and happiness. Now, taking the number of dollars a man is sacrificing, I don't think they can have much peace of mind. I don't think they can have any comfort.

Q.—In this advanced age, would it be possible for you to compete without the latest improved machinery? A.—No; we like to have the best. We have got the best.

Q.—It is necessary to have it? A.—Yes; if the working classes really want to benefit themselves there is a way of doing it without commencing strikes. Why don't they form a company on the co-operative principle?

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you believe in profit-sharing? A.—Well, if I was a rich man I would try it in one way—that is, each man would attend to his own duty.

Q.—You believe in the principles of profit-sharing? A.—Yes.

W. MILLICHAMP, Manufacturer of Showcases, General Store Fittings and Cabinet Work, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You are a silver-plate and fancy case manufacturer? A.—I am now engaged practically in the manufacture of cabinet work and store-fittings, and show cases only. I have changed my business.

Q.—Is there an increased demand in your class of goods? A.—Yes; we find it so.

Q.—Where do you principally find your markets? A.—Well, our trade extends throughout the Dominion—Upper Canada and the other Provinces.

Q.—How do you account for the increased demand for that class of goods? Has the purchasing power of the people increased, the population, or what? A.—Well, the increase of population builds up trade in different branches, but there is a desire on the part of storekeepers to make their stores more attractive than they used to be.

Q.—Is there much of that class of goods imported from the United States? A.—Not a great deal at the present time; there is some, principally in the Lower Provinces and Upper Canada. This arises from the difference in freight. Freight in Canada is much higher than in the United States, and that is the greatest drawback in our case. We could do well in New Brunswick, except for freight.

Q.—The high tariff placed on imported goods has been the means of increasing the volume of the manufactured article in Canada? A.—I don't think there can be any dispute about that point, for the National Policy has increased the manufacture of all classes of goods.

Q.—What would be the weekly wages of first-class men, highly-skilled men? A.—I pay for highly-skilled men as high as \$23 and \$24 a week. The next grade is \$18, and some get \$12 in our shop.

Q.—Have wages increased during the last five years in Toronto or Ontario? A.—Yes; they have materially increased since the introduction of the National Policy with the higher grade of workmen.

Q.—Where do you get your raw material from? A.—Principally from the United States. The reason we import from the United States is simply there is a great deal more consumed there, and they have a better mode of turning it out.

Q.—How long would it take an intelligent boy to learn the silver-plating business? A.—I think a young man going to that should serve five years, for his own interest, to make him a thoroughly competent man, to be able to take a good position in another establishment; and, in the case of such a man, his employer would be pleased to retain him after he was through with his time. I do not say they cannot learn it in much less time, because that depends on their ability and intelligence; but, taking it as a rule, I think if you take apprentices in at all, in the first place they should have an opportunity of seeing the trade for six or eight months to decide whether they can follow it. I don't think the principle of giving \$1.50 or \$2 a week, and so on, with a regular rise, is sufficient, because in two or three years they often become as efficient as some men; so I think it would be better, even if they are under indentures, by giving them an appreciation of the future in the way of holding out a special inducement.

Q.—What is the number of hours that constitute a day's work in your business? A.—Well, ten hours constitute a day's work, but we allow the man to work any hours they think proper.

Q.—Do they work on piece-work? A.—No; they work by the day, but we are supposed to open at seven and close at six. We pay for the number of hours the men work. We pay our men on Friday.

Q.—Do the men prefer Friday? A.—Yes; it enables their wives to go out to market on Saturday mornings, and they can go with their husbands if they wish.

Miss BURNETT, Milliner and Dressmaker, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How many hands do you employ in your establishment? A.—I never employ more than twenty-five.

Q.—What, to the best of your knowledge, is the average weekly wages of a first-class milliner? A.—A first-class milliner receives about \$40 a month.

Q.—Take a young girl going to the millinery business, who has an adaptability to the business—how long would it take her to become a good hand? A.—As a general rule, it would take her three or four years.

Q.—Could you inform the Commission the age a young woman should go to the business, in order to be most serviceable to herself and her employer? A.—I think about fourteen or fifteen years.

Q.—You have had some experience with apprentices, I suppose? A.—I take very few apprentices.

Q.—Do you find any difficulty with young women going to the business first who have no knowledge of needlework? A.—Yes; that is one reason why I do not like to take apprentices, because we likely have to teach them needlework. That is a great want in the schools now, that the girls are not taught what is really the most useful thing for a young woman to know, a knowledge of needlework.

Q.—Is there any surplus of unemployed milliners or dressmakers in this city? A.—Yes; I think there are a great many unemployed milliners. Some of those hands are taken into the warehouses. Some of the shops take more apprentices than there are positions to fill. The result is, that those hands get a trifling knowledge of the business, not sufficient to enable them to fill positions well, and the consequence is, there are a great many going around idle looking for situations.

Q.—I presume it depends upon the custom of the establishment as regards the amount of work they receive in a season or a year; or are there dull and busy seasons in the trade? A.—There are just two seasons the year; the spring season is by far the best for millinery, particularly. It commences about March and lasts from March to the end of June. The seasons are short and a great many of the milliners employed get employment only for the seasons—they get about six months' wages during the year.

Q.—Do you think those women of the millinery business who only receive six months' wages in the year receive sufficient during those six months to keep them for the other six months when they are not employed? A.—I do not think an average milliner would. Their wages are only small, they do not get large wages, that is for a season hand. They are generally not very good hands. In most shops there are only two good milliners, and they retain their situations the year round. The others are season hands, who are there three or four months, and who are then out of employment, and if they have not homes to go to they are in rather a bad position.

Q.—Can you speak from a practical knowledge of the business in the United States or Great Britain as compared with the business in Canada? A.—I do not know very much about Great Britain now. I go home to buy, but I do not as much as formerly. I have not been there for fifteen years, except going to buy.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Can you suggest any means by which continuous employment can be given to those girls? A.—There seems to be really more to fill the positions than there are positions for. I think too many girls go to learn the business. There is a class of girls who go to learn millinery and dressmaking in this country who, in the old country, would be in domestic services, which, indeed, they are far better adapted to than they are for the positions which they are endeavoring to fill now. If they depend on their own earnings while they are employed in filling situations of this kind they must live very poorly indeed.

Q.—Can you give any reason why a young woman in this country objects to go into domestic service so much? Have you ever thought of this subject? A.—I have often wondered why they do object so much, and I suppose it is because sometimes they do not get a good mistress. I dare say a great many of the girls have a hard time in service, and they like to have their evenings to themselves—I suppose that is the real reason.

Q.—Do you think that the system of education pursued in our public schools has anything to do with diverting the minds of the pupils from such work as domestic service? A.—I do not know very much about the system of education pursued in the public schools. Generally, farmers' daughters who come here to go to service, and the daughters of mechanics, who would make very good servants and fill those positions well, seem to be a little above this kind of work. I do not know whether it is the character of the education or what it is that causes this feeling.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you know, in addition to girls in stores having their evenings to themselves, there is this fact, that the girls look upon domestic service as being somewhat menial? A.—Yes; I think so, but in reality it is not so, because taking into consideration the homes some girls have who are operatives and filling situations in factories, taking the home life they have in the boarding houses in which they live, it would be far more respectable to be in domestic service, if they only knew it. But the difficulty is to make them believe it.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of young girls serving as clerks in dry-goods stores? A.—I have in my store four girls.

Q.—In those large establishments on King and Yonge streets, what is the number of hours they work per day? A.—There is a great variety of times: in large places on Yonge street the hours are very long, but in the higher-class places there are shorter hours; in fact, the higher class the store is the shorter are the hours.

Q.—Generally speaking, is it optional for a young girl, when there are no customers in the store, to sit down and take a rest, or is it compulsory to stand? A.—I do not know. I think in all respectable shops the girls can sit down if they are not working. I know there are some shops—Eaton's, and places like that—where there is a constant run of customers—where, if a girl is seen sitting down I dare say she will be dismissed; but I think where there is not a very great rush of customers, the girls could generally sit down.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Is it necessary for the girls to stand all day in the store? A.—There should be seats in the shops, and no girl should be required to stand all day. They could easily have small seats at the back of the counter where, when the girl is not actually serving, she could sit down. It is injurious to a girl to be kept standing all the time; it injures her health very much.

W. H. WILLIAMSON, Gentlemen's Tie Manufacturer, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you confine your business wholly to the manufacture of scarfs and ties? A.—Yes.

Q.—What class of labor do you principally employ in your business? A.—We employ principally girls.

Q.—Of what age are the girls you employ? A.—They run from fifteen years up. We employ nothing younger than that.

Q.—What is the class of their occupation, and is it machine work? A.—No; not machine work, it is principally hand work.

Q.—Do they make these ties by the piece? A.—Yes; it is all piece-work.

Q.—Are there various prices paid in your business? A.—No; there is a uniform price.

Q.—For all classes of ties? A.—Yes; for bows and scarfs.

Q.—How much per day do the girls get? A.—They receive 50 cents per dozen on scarfs, and 15 cents and 15½ cents on bows.

Q.—What would be the average weekly wages of, say, an average girl? A.—Three dollars to four dollars a week.

Q.—And how many hours in the day would she be required to work in order to obtain that sum? A.—She will have to work eight hours, from 8:30 to 5:30. When we are busy the hours are longer.

Q.—Do you give your hands constant employment all the year? A.—We employ them about eleven months. Of course, we have slack seasons, the same as any other business.

Q.—What may be the highest amount a girl can earn in your business? A.—Some girls earn as high as \$6.50 to \$7 a week—that is, working overtime. We allow them to take work home and put in extra time in that way. Four dollars is the highest sum they receive for day work.

Q.—What is the lowest sum they reach? A.—Some cannot make more than \$2 per week. If a girl works faster she makes so much more money, of course.

Q.—I suppose that sum is paid to girls when they first go to the business? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you find any difficulty in getting girls to fill your shop? A.—During some seasons of the year we do.

CAMPBELL MACKENZIE, Cartage Agent of the Grand Trunk Railway Company, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you do all the cartage of the Grand Trunk? A.—No; we do not do it all just now. There is another firm, the Hendrie & Co., and Sheddon, who do part of it.

Q.—How many men are employed in this carting business? A.—The Sheddon Company employ about ninety men in Toronto.

Q.—What hours do these men work in a day, from the time they go on in the mornig till they get through at night? A.—They would average about ten hours a day, but in the very busy time they have to work longer hours.

Q.—Do they have to feed and clean their own horses? A.—They clean their horses, but they do not feed them.

Q.—Have they their own time after their day's work is done. A.—Yes.

Q.—What time do they get out in the morning? A.—Seven o'clock.

Q.—And what time are they through at night? A.—That time varies, but the average in the busy time would be about a quarter past six. In the slack time they get off earlier.

Q.—That would include the time occupied in feeding their horses, I suppose? A.—Yes.

Q.—What wages do teamsters receive? A.—We have three grades of wages. They begin at \$31 per calendar month, and after six months they are raised to \$33.50, and after a year they get \$36.

Q.—Do you furnish employment the year round to the number of men you have stated? A.—Yes; except in January, when we have some of them go off by turns. We commence with the single men and lay off about ten of them. When they come back we lay off another ten, the men taking turns until about the end of January or the first of February, when we are able to give them all work. In this way we do not discharge any men.

Q.—The object is to retain them in your employment and give them all some thing to do? A.—Yes.

Q.—Under the present system of cartage, can outsiders deliver and take freight from the sheds? A.—No.

Q.—Is there any regulation that would prevent other carters than the Sheddon or Hendrie Companies doing this cartage? A.—Yes; a merchant could do it, but he would not have any allowance made to him for it.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—The Grand Trunk does not charge cartage, I believe? A.—No; it is included in the rates.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—The cost of cartage is included in the freight rate. Do you do it for nothing? A.—They do not do it for nothing.

Q.—Is that the only regulation that would prevent independent carters delivering or receiving freight? A.—Yes; I suppose it is.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You do not know of any other causes? A.—No.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you know if there are any obstacles thrown in the way of independent carters delivering freight? Supposing a carter took a load from a store to the station, would they receive it at once or would they delay it? A.—I never knew them to delay it on purpose.

Q.—If an independent carter took a load down, would they receive it in turn? A.—Yes.

Q.—You do not know of any regulation in the law that prevents independent carters from carrying or delivering freight? A.—No; I do not know of any.

Q.—You never heard of any special legislation in the interest of the Grand Trunk on this matter? A.—No.

JOHN D. NASMITH, Baker, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—You have been in the business for some time, I believe? A.—I have been in the business about seventeen years.

Q.—During the time you have been in the business for yourself has the condition of the men employed in the baking trade improved or otherwise? A.—I think it has improved in this city.

Q.—In what respects do you think the men have gained? A.—They work better hours and shorter hours.

Q.—Has the pay of the men increased? A.—Yes; it has increased.

Q.—What wages do bakers earn in Toronto now? A.—Bakers in this city receive about \$10 a week.

Q.—Would that be the average in your opinion? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many hours do they work? A.—They generally work about nine hours.

Q.—Formerly they were accustomed to working a great deal longer, I believe? A.—Yes; there were longer hours formerly. The men worked more hours formerly; there were periods between the time they started work and the time they quit when the work, as regards the men, was stopped, for they were simply waiting the different stages.

Q.—Has the shortness of hours been brought about by the introduction of machinery and improved conveniences? A.—Not to any great extent.

Q.—What have been the chief features in bringing about this reduction of hours? A.—The combination among the men.

Q.—Do they do the same amount of work equally well in the reduced number of hours as they formerly did in the longer hours? A.—I do not think they did quite

the same amount of work—of course, I only speak with regard to my own shop—but in my own shop the change has not been at all in the same proportion as it is in many other shops, because we always worked by day's work.

Q.—Did the shortening of hours have any effect in the direction of increasing the wages? A.—I do not think it did. The two work concurrently; they were brought about together.

Q.—Did it become necessary to employ more men when the hours were shortened? A.—I do not think it did, in most cases.

Q.—It was, then, just a re-arrangement of the hours of work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you have different grades of wages for bakers? A.—Only for foremen and other hands.

Q.—Do you take many apprentices to the baking business? A.—That has been, of late, the method.

Q.—Are those apprentices regularly indentured to your business? A.—I have only had, I think, two apprentices regularly indentured.

Q.—What system do you think is most satisfactory, the indenturing system or taking a boy to teach him his trade without any agreement being entered into? A.—I think the indenturing system is decidedly preferable.

Q.—Have you had any experience with flour made from wheat grown in the North-West? A.—I have used a good deal of it at one time and another.

Q.—How does that flour compare with Ontario flour? A.—A comparison of flour is a pretty ticklish business.

Q.—Do you find it satisfactory? A.—The flour from there is, as a rule, what we call strong flour; but a large proportion of it is not as fine or suitable for a good portion of our work as is the flour we get here.

Q.—Can you give us any idea of the difference of the cost of flour from the North-West and flour manufactured here? A.—No difference for the same quality.

WILLIAM CARLYLE, Baker, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Did you hear the evidence of the last witness (Nasmith)? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you corroborate what Mr. Nasmith said? A.—Not altogether.

Q.—Will you please state the points respecting which you differ from him? A.—I differ from him on one point. He said he did not think there had been more employment given since the hours of labor were shortened. I do not think there are two opinions in regard to that. We cannot get men to do the work in nine hours that they did in twelve.

Q.—I think he spoke principally of his own business—he pays by day work. What difference do you think it has made in the employment? A.—I think there are one-fourth more men employed now.

Q.—Previous to the time the hours were shortened was there any surplus of labor in the baking trade? A.—Yes.

Q.—And since the hours have been shortened, in what relation is the supply to the demand? A.—I believe there is a surplus at all times; because the country supplied us with more help than we really required.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You mean the country parts? A.—Yes; they come from the country parts to the city.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you find the men who come in from the surrounding districts are as competent as the men turned out in the city? A.—No.

Q.—Do they command the same rate of wages as city men? A.—So far as my

own shop is concerned they would have to do so, because I have none there but men belonging to organized labor.

Q.—You have to pay the same rate of wages to all your men? A.—Yes; to all men.

Q.—That is one of the rules of organized labor? A.—Yes; it is one of the rules of organized labor.

Q.—Do you find that that rule works disastrously to your business? A.—No; I cannot say it does.

Q.—Do you think that since the men have been organized you have been able to deal with them any better than you were able to deal with them before? A.—I never have had any trouble in dealing with men in any way or at any time—I know of no difficulty.

Q.—What proportion has the increase of wages been in the baking trade during the last five years? A.—To answer that question properly you must take into consideration the difference in the hours of work now and formerly. We have reduced the hours from twelve to nine, and we give the men the same wages now. The wages are practically the same as they were five years ago, but the hours are one-fourth less.

Q.—The men, then, have been gainers in the number of hours they have to work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you noticed any difference since the hours were shortened in the reliability of the men to do their work? A.—I cannot say that I have noticed much; but I think, as a natural consequence, a man working nine hours must be more fresh the next morning than a man who has worked twelve or fourteen hours; it is reasonable to expect that.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you think the shortening of the hours of labor has a tendency to keep men sober; or rather is not a man more liable after working long and hard to drink than one who has not put in such long and tedious hours? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are the boss bakers organized in Toronto? A.—Not so far as their employes are concerned. They have an organization.

Q.—Will you please state to the Commission the object of the organization of employing bakers? A.—The organization is for mutual protection.

Q.—Does the association discuss or fix the price of bread? A.—Yes; we have a fixed price for bread.

Q.—Did the price of bread go up when the hours were decreased by the men? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are all employing bakers in connection with the organization? A.—No; not all.

Q.—Suppose a member of your organization should sell bread under the price fixed by the organization, would he continue to be a member, or would he be expelled or would he be punished in any way? A.—No; we have no way we could punish him.

Q.—Would he still continue to be a member of your organization? A.—Yes.

Q.—You have no objection to hiring organized labor? A.—No; none whatever.

Q.—Do you think organization has a tendency to make a man steady and more careful in his habits around the shop? A.—I do not think it. My personal opinion, so far as my own bread is concerned, and in connection with my men, is, that organized labor has been a benefit to our trade all through.

F. P. BIRLEY, Manufacturer of Paper Boxes, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What kind of paper boxes do you manufacture? A.—I manufacture all kinds of hardware, dry-goods and other boxes, also confectioners' boxes, and every class.

Q.—What class of help do you employ in your establishment? A.—I employ girls, principally.

Q.—At what age do you take those girls into your employ? A.—I take them about sixteen; that is about the youngest we care to take them.

Q.—Do they work day-work or piece-work? A.—They work pretty much all piece-work.

Q.—What can a girl earn in a week? A.—That depends very much on the girl. One girl will earn \$3 and another, employed at the same work, will earn from \$6.50 to \$7. It is very light work, and a girl requires to be very active with her fingers. Of course, the more active with her fingers she is the more work she can turn out.

Q.—Then you think the lowest wages you pay would be \$3? A.—No; there are some lower than that sum. For the first two or three months after they start work they do not actually earn more than \$1 a week; in fact, for the first week or two they spoil more than they make.

Q.—How long does it take to become proficient at the paper box making business? A.—It very much depends on the girl. Some girls become very clever at it inside of a couple of years, and other girls require to work at it five or six years to become tolerably proficient; in fact, to become proficient at the very finest work it takes six or seven years—that, of course, applies only to the fine work.

Q.—Take the average girl; how long will it be before she can earn, say, \$3 per week? A.—You might say three months, probably less than that.

Q.—Do those girls remain long in your employment? A.—Yes; as a rule they do. I have had them working for me ever since we started up, which is seven or eight years ago.

Q.—Do you have any difficulty in keeping up the supply of hands? A.—Some times; hands are very scarce at times. In the summer time such is the case more than in the winter, and that is the time, generally, when we have the most business—in the summer time.

Q.—At what hour do the girls go to work in the morning, and what time do they leave at night? A.—They work from eight to six, and on Saturdays they go on at eight and quit at twelve, noon.

Q.—Do they sit at their work? A.—Sometimes they sit and sometimes they stand. It depends on the class of work at which they are employed. There is some work at which they must stand and cannot sit. Some girls do not sit at all but prefer to stand.

Q.—Are the girls fined if they spoil work in your establishment? A.—No.

Q.—And if they are late in the morning, are they fined? A.—We have a system of locking the door. We allow them so long to arrive, and we have to adopt this system, because a year ago we would let them come in when they chose, and some of them did not come until nine o'clock. There were certain hands who came late every morning, so we put up a notice that the door would be closed at a certain hour, and if they were not there they must stop out till noon, which notice has had very good results.

Q.—How long is the outside door of the establishment kept locked after it is fastened in the morning? A.—It is kept locked until noon, as a rule.

Q.—Is the key left in the door? A.—Yes; I think it is.

Q.—In the event of any excitement taking place in the factory, do you consider it safe to have the outside door locked? A.—Of course, there is more than one door to the factory; there is a back door, and one leading from the office to the factory; so there is only one locked out of the three doors.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—What is the lowest wages you pay in your factory to any of the hands ?
A.—I could not tell you that at the moment. I think we allow some hands for the first week's work \$1.50.

Q.—Have you many hands working at \$1.50 ? A.—No ; I do not suppose there are any at present.

Q.—What is the highest rate of wages you pay in your establishment ? A.—Our work is principally piece-work. We have a few girls on day work, and they receive 75 cents a day. The first week a girl comes to work she will spoil three or four dollars' worth of work, as this business is so very different from any other business.

Q.—How long have you been at the business yourselves ? A.—About nine years.

Q.—Is your business increasing ? A.—Yes it is. It is, comparatively speaking, a new business, and is in its infancy.

Q.—Do you find any American competition ? A.—Yes ; in what we call knock-down boxes there is quite a competition. There is some duty imposed on the boxes as there is on the material out of which they are made, and on boxes costing \$10 a thousand there will be \$7 stock and the balance, \$3, will be made up in the shape of wages. So we are actually protected to the extent of 25 per cent., the difference between the raw material and the made up stock.

Q.—If the duty were taken off would it affect your trade as regards American boxes ? A.—What about the raw material ? Almost all our straw-board is brought from the other side.

Q.—Yes ; and manufacture the boxes here ? A.—Yes ; I think it would benefit us a little here—that is to have both duties taken off. In some lines it would give us considerable benefit. As regards paper boxes, the freight in some classes is more than the boxes are worth, on account of there being so much bulk.

Q.—If the duty on American boxes was taken off would it be any benefit to you ? A.—No ; it would not be any benefit to us.

Q.—Would it be any injury to you ? A.—Yes ; unless something was done with regard to the raw material.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you get all your raw material from the United States ? A.—We get our raw material from the United States, Germany and England.

Q.—Is not the raw material manufactured in Canada ? A.—There is some in Canada ; some lines are manufactured here.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Are there many establishments in this city that carry on this business ?
A.—There are three or four.

Q.—How many people are employed in your establishment ? A.—At present about eighty.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are there many of your young women who earn from \$2 to \$3 a week and have to board themselves out of it ? A.—No ; they principally board at home. Not many of my hands earn from \$2 to \$3 ; the majority earn from \$3 to \$6.

Q.—Have you any men employed in your establishment ? A.—Yes ; we have men to do the cutting, and such like ; and boys also do the cutting.

Q.—Are there separate conveniences in the factory for the different sexes ? A.—Yes.

Q.—The men work by the piece, I presume ? A.—They work at what we call the cutting machines.

Q.—How much do they earn per week ? A.—What we call cutters earn about \$2 a day, or \$12 a week.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—In regard to this raw material, did I understand you do say that it is made in Canada? A.—Some of it is manufactured here. There is some straw-board made in the country.

Q.—Do you use any Canadian-manufactured raw material? A.—No; not much, because we can buy the other a little cheaper, even with the duty on it, because it gives us a better result. Of course we get the raw material where we can get the best value for our money.

GEORGE HARRIS, Painter, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You are a journeyman painter, I believe? A.—Yes; I am.

Q.—How long have you worked as a journeyman at your trade in Toronto? A.—I have worked at my trade in Toronto twenty years.

Q.—Are there different grades in your trade here? A.—There are different grades, but we do not recognize the grades at all.

Q.—How much per hour is the scale of wages among journeymen in your trade? A.—The minimum rate is 20 cents per hour.

Q.—How many hours constitute a day's work? A.—At the present time ten hours per day, and five hours on Saturday, and this applies to three months in the season, June, July and August. So far as the city is concerned, some of the shops have that work all the year round. Some shops only have it in the summer time. I am speaking now of my own shop.

Q.—Have the wages of painters increased during the past five years in Toronto? A.—They have increased during that time.

Q.—Have the painters received a shortening of hours also? A.—No.

Q.—Does your organization recognize apprentices? A.—We recognize the system of apprenticeship.

Q.—Do you believe that apprentices to the painting trade should be indentured? A.—I believe so.

Q.—What would you call a proper term for an active boy to serve in order to properly learn the trade of painting? A.—He should serve four years.

Q.—Do you find your organization has been of any benefit to the painters? A.—Undoubtedly so.

Q.—What is your opinion in regard to the settlement of labor difficulties, or rather, do you believe in the principle of arbitration in the settlement of disputes between employer and employés? A.—Yes; to this extent: that in order to avoid a strike if possible, it is desirable on every occasion that arbitration should be resorted to. Of course, I will admit that sometimes a strike is necessary, as a last resort.

Q.—Have you been connected with painters' organizations on the other side? A.—I have been connected with the International society.

Q.—What benefit does that do to the workingmen? A.—We have a certain benefit connected with our International society. It must be remembered that we are young yet. The first inception of the International society here was on the 15th of last March, and Toronto took a prominent part in introducing the International body there. We simply met. There were very few met last summer in Toronto, but those that did meet established an International body. We were scarcely in a position to do that at that time.

Q.—And you have found that a benefit? A.—Undoubtedly; we have been successful from that time to this, so far as the business organization is concerned.

Q.—As regards the painters in Toronto: are they paid, as a general rule, weekly, fortnightly or monthly? A.—As a body, we are engaged by the hour. Our rate is per hour. Our minimum rate is 20 cents per hour for journeymen.

Q.—How are the men paid—at the end of every week or at the end of every fortnight? A.—Some men are paid fortnightly; some men are paid weekly. Those that are paid weekly are paid on Friday; those that are paid fortnightly are paid every other Friday. Outside of that, I am unable to give you any information.

Q.—Do you think if the men were paid weekly it would be a benefit to them? A.—Undoubtedly so.

JOHN ROONEY, Painter, Toronto, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You are also a journeyman painter, I believe? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you approve of the evidence given by the last witness, Harris? A.—Yes; I corroborate every word Mr. Harris said. So far as the wages question is concerned, I think most of the shops in the city pay weekly, that is with the exception of one or two.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What is the average number of days that painters work in Toronto? A.—That I can hardly say, but I can give you pretty nearly the average wages.

Q.—Will you please give to the Commission the average earnings of a painter in a year in this city? A.—The average wages of a painter in Toronto are something about \$400 a year.

Q.—Do you think many of them go over \$400 a year? A.—There are very few who do. There are over three months in the year when there is hardly anything doing; there are only six months when there is practically anything to do that you can talk about.

By Mr. CARSON:—

In case you were going to indenture yourself, would you be satisfied to become indentured for four years? A.—Yes; I had to be indentured for five years.

Q.—Were you indentured in this country? A.—No; I was indentured in the old country.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Did you ever work in the United States? A.—No; this is the only place I have worked. The painters are favorable to shorter hours than ten hours per day.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—How do your wages here compare with the wages paid in the old country? A.—It depends on what city you work in when you are in the old country. It does not vary but very little here from the prices paid in London.

Q.—Take a city of the same size as Toronto, in the old country, and how do the wages compare as between here and there? A.—Take Manchester, for instance, and there is a large difference between the wages.

Q.—Are you in as good a position in this country as a painter is in Manchester? A.—Yes; I know nothing to complain of, except that we are not making enough money. There is so very much time lost in this country that it takes a painter all his time to pull through. If he keeps out of debt during the winter it takes him all his time; he has got to be pretty steady during the summer in order to be able to get through the year.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you find many painters coming from the old country to Toronto? A.—Yes; a great many here.

Q.—Have they a tendency to work under the pay that Canadian painters receive? A.—They have that tendency when they first come out, but there are exceptions where they stick to that tendency right through.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you not find the same conditions prevailing to a considerable extent among the native workmen here? A.—That is the great trouble.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—What class of work do you work at? A.—House work.

Q.—Could a painter on carriages have full time? A.—I cannot answer for that. We are representing the house-painters, not the carriage-painters.

WINDSOR, Tuesday, 6th December, 1887.

The Commission assembled in the Government buildings at 10 o'clock a.m.

The CHAIRMAN read the following letter:—

(Translation.)

“ ARCHBISHOP'S PALACE,

“ QUEBEC, 25th November, 1887.

“ A. W. BLACKBEY, Esq.,

“ *Secretary of the Royal Labor Commission, Ottawa.*

“ SIR,—In compliance with the desire you have expressed to me of having my opinion upon certain questions concerning the object of the Royal Commission, of which you are the Secretary, I will give my views upon some of these questions.

“ I. *Child Labor.*

“ II. *Female Labor.*

“ I write these two points, for they are to a certain extent intimately connected. “ 1st. It is necessary to provide means for the protection of morals in the factories, and outside of them, before entering and after going out. It also sometimes happens that employers make an abuse of their authority, and the law ought to be severe.

“ 2nd. The work exacted from children and persons belonging to the other sex should be neither too long nor too continuous. A short rest in the morning, and another in the afternoon, would spare many miseries and sicknesses, and would be easily compensated for by the owners of the factories, for the workmen having had a rest would work better.

“ III. *Sanitary arrangements of Factories.*

“ I have often heard parish priests of my diocese say that the majority of persons, and specially of girls, who leave their families to go and work in factories, return broken down by work, and consumptive, for the want of ventilation in factories. The atmosphere is vitiated by the bad smell of oils, by the dust caused by the machinery in operation, as well as by the workmen themselves; the lungs become incapable of fulfilling their functions. On the other hand, ventilation itself, if it is not made according to the rules of hygiene, may cause many accidents.

“ IV. *Arbitration.*

“ V. *Strikes and their results.*

“ Strikes are one of the great dangers of society, for they too often degenerate into deplorable disorders. It seems to me that it would be useful to establish a court of arbitration, whose members should be absolutely independent of the interested parties, to settle the difficulties which give rise to strikes.

“ His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons, who, as everybody knows, takes much interest in the labor question, is very desirous of seeing this measure adopted in the United States.

“ A law upon this question undoubtedly offers many difficulties, but time and experience could improve it.

“ Accept, Mr. Secretary, the assurance of my distinguished consideration.

“ E. A., CARD. TASCHEREAU,
“ *Arch. of Quebec.*”

WILLIAM BENSON, Collector of Customs, Windsor, called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How long have you resided here? A.—A little more than nineteen years.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Have you been collector in Windsor during those nineteen years? A.—Yes.

Q.—During this time I suppose you have been pretty familiar with the nature of the traffic crossing the river between Windsor and Detroit in both directions? A.—Yes.

Q.—Especially in this direction? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there a good deal of illicit traffic? A.—Yes; there is.

Q.—And attempts which were frustrated, I suppose? A.—And attempts which were frustrated.

Q.—Now, is this illicit traffic mostly on the part of the residents of the two cities to get goods for ordinary use, or is it for transportation inland? A.—Both, Sir.

Q.—In which direction do you think is the largest body of illicit traffic? A.—It would be difficult for me to answer that question, but I should say there was almost an equal amount. If there is a difference, it is that there would be more brought into Canada than there is taken out of it.

Q.—Of course, where goods are smuggled or attempted to be smuggled, it is because they are dearer in the country to which they are taken than in the country where they are bought? A.—Yes; that of course would be the object of the party's fault, although sometimes they are mistaken in that, and we find occasionally that they would go and purchase articles on the other side which they can really get as cheap here.

Q.—What class of goods, for the most part, do you find brought from Detroit into Windsor, whether regularly through the Customs or irregularly? A.—Dry-goods, hardware, rubber goods and clothing.

Q.—These are cheaper in Detroit than in Windsor? A.—These would be considered cheaper there than here, and these are the articles which are particularly brought over in an illicit way.

Q.—What articles in your knowledge are for the most part purchased in Windsor for use in Detroit? A.—Silks, velvets, ribbons and gloves; these are the articles particularly taken from here, I think, and clothing of a certain class—the better class of clothing.

Q.—Better class clothing is cheaper in Windsor than in Detroit? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What do you mean by the better class; do you mean higher priced? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How about cottons—such as shirtings and sheetings? A.—We have had very little of that brought over recently; there was a time when that formed a considerable article of smuggled goods, but now it does not. I do not think we have made a seizure of a piece of cotton for the last two years. Cotton can be bought cheaper here than it can there, factory cotton especially.

Q.—Did you speak of boots and shoes? A.—I did not, but occasionally they would form another article of smuggled goods, but not to any considerable extent.

Q.—Would they be cheaper in Detroit than in Windsor? A.—Yes.

Q.—Ordinary articles of family consumption, say meat, for example, how is that? A.—That is an article about which I could scarcely give an answer. It can be bought cheaper on the other side than here, and occasionally a butcher will bring it over, paying the duty on what he brings, but that does not enter very largely into articles we import; salt meats, too, are cheaper on the other side—salt pork, for instance, and that is brought over in considerable quantities.

Q.—Are you able to speak of the prices charged by butchers in the two cities?
A.—24

A.—No; I can speak of the prices here, of course, but I could not speak positively as to the prices on the other side.

Q.—What would be the prices for roasts and first-class steaks in Windsor?

A.—A York shilling for the choice cuts, and from that downward.

Q.—Is much beef sold here by the carcase or the quarter? A.—Not a great deal, I should judge; in going to the market I do not see it brought in very largely.

Q.—What is lamb worth? A.—Lamb is worth a York shilling a pound.

Q.—And veal? A.—Ten cents to a York shilling.

Q.—You are speaking of retail prices at butcher's stalls? A.—Yes.

A.—We can get some kinds of vegetables for family use compare in the two cities? part vegetables are cheaper in Detroit.

Q.—Taking the ordinary articles in common use, can as much be purchased with an equal amount of money in Windsor as in Detroit? A.—Well, if I ventured to answer that it would be at a guess; I could not pretend to say positively.

Q.—How are rents in the two cities? A.—Rents are cheaper here.

Q.—Do many persons live in Windsor who are employed in Detroit? A.—Yes: a good many.

Q.—Do many business men who do business in Detroit live in Windsor? A.—No; there are a number living in Windsor who are employed in different places in Detroit, but not many men established in business; in fact, I do not at present know of any.

Q.—Do any live in Detroit who work or do business in Windsor? A.—A few.

Q.—Not many? A.—No; not so many as the other way; I mean that we have, I think, a greater number of people doing business in Windsor and living in Detroit than the other way. We have a number of firms the heads of which reside in Detroit.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—They have branch houses here? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What is the duty paid on live stock taken from Canada into the United States? A.—I think it is twenty per cent.; it is twenty per cent. on this side.

Q.—A gentleman tells me he saw some cows taken over alive; do they pay duty? A.—No; I think not. I think, too, there is provision for undressed fowl going in free; poultry of all kinds undressed, if I recollect aright, goes in free, but when dressed it pays duty. Eggs, too, go in free.

Q.—Animals coming into Canada from the United States alive pay what duty? A.—Twenty per cent.

Q.—And fowl? A.—The same; fowl are classed with other animals, except when coming in for breeding purposes, and then they are free.

Q.—Rents are considerably higher in Detroit than in Windsor? A.—Yes; considerably.

Q.—If it were not for the duty do you think there would be a large flow of provisions—vegetables, meats, &c., from and to Canada? A.—I think there would be an increased flow both ways.

Q.—Would the flow be mostly this way or the other? A.—Perhaps it would be more this way than the other; in this particular locality I am pretty well satisfied it would.

Q.—These things are produced more cheaply in Michigan than in Western Ontario? A.—Yes.

Q.—There is not a large manufacturing industry in Windsor? A.—Not very large, but it is largely increasing. We have a number of branches of firms that have come to remain, and quite a number have been established in the last three or four years.

Q.—Who established them, generally? A.—Generally, people from the other side.

Q.—The Detroit firms establish branch manufactories in Windsor? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Do manufacturers from other places start establishments here? A.—I am not aware of any.

Q.—These firms you spoke of established them here so as to get the benefit of our markets without paying any duty? A.—That I suppose to be the reason. I should have mentioned that there is one firm recently established here—a candy manufacturer; he is not a Detroit man.

Q.—Are you able to speak of the rates of wages prevailing in Windsor and Detroit? A.—No; I could not be prepared to do that.

Q.—Some little time ago an attempt was made to prevent workingmen who live in Windsor from crossing the river to labor in Detroit? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Are you familiar with the circumstances? A.—Tolerably so.
 Q.—Will you tell us, if you please, what you know about it? A.—In a general way?

Q.—Yes; such particulars as you think would be of interest? A.—The attempt was made on the other side, and it was enforced for a time, but upon consideration it was done away with. I had occasion to go over the river and interview the collector of customs there and some other parties, with one of the inspectors who was sent here by our Government to make inquiries on that particular subject. I accompanied him when he went to seek his information. I am aware that a number had been thrown out of employment for a time, but the greater number of them were re-employed on the other side again. The attempt had been made more by being forced upon the Government there than by any voluntary act of theirs, as I understood. The collector was disposed to look upon the matter leniently, but that was not the case westward, especially in Port Huron, where they were very particular. In Buffalo and other cities they were disposed to look upon it more leniently. It was agreed after some consideration, after it had been in force for some time, forced upon the employers as I understood by the Knights of Labor—it was agreed to make a test case and submit it to the supreme courts of the United States for decision. No decision, I believe, was ever arrived at, and things lapsed back into the old channel. The attempt was made to enforce against Canadians the law with regard to foreign labor contracts.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are there any medicines illicitly taken over from Windsor to Detroit? A.—I could not say that.

Q.—Do you know what percentage of increase there is in house rents in Detroit over Windsor? A.—I could not answer that definitely, but I should imagine it was quite one-third.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Considering their respective distance from business? A.—In the business parts of the city rents are double as much.

Q.—Could you give us any reason why vegetables should be dearer here than in Detroit? A.—I should say that from the description of the country around Detroit and the nature of the soil, and from the comparative sameness of the cost of labor, they would be able to produce them there cheaper.

Q.—The soil is better there? A.—Yes; in many parts it is; I am speaking of this particular locality, and not of Ontario.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—I suppose the farmers outside of Detroit make more of a specialty of raising vegetables for the market? A.—Yes; they do.

ROBERT KERR, Foundryman and Machinist, Walkerville, called and sworn.

By MR. FREED:—

Q.—How long have you resided at Walkerville? A.—About ten years.

Q.—What particular line of work do you carry on in your foundry? A.—We build engines, do general mill work, construct marine engines, and all class of iron and brass work, machine pumps, etc.

Q.—If it were not for the duties imposed, if there were perfect freedom of intercourse between Canada and the United States, would you be at a disadvantage as compared with the Detroit foundryman, or would you have an advantage over him? A.—I do not think we could stand at all unless we had protective duties on certain articles. There are a great many things against us, but there are more for us than there are against us.

Q.—How about the labor you employ; does it cost as much? A.—Our labor, I think, costs a little more than in Detroit. Being so close to Detroit you cannot keep good men unless you pay them high wages, and we have to keep first class labor. Such mechanics are anxious to get into the large cities, where there is more chance for a job than where there is only one shop.

Q.—How about the price of iron; are you in a position to answer as to that? A.—Our position at this end of the county makes iron higher to us; it is higher than if we were in Toronto. We have the extra freights to pay; then we are the only large foundry in this part of the county that can turn out very heavy forgings. At the present time we have an order in Scotland for large shafts, cranks and connecting rods; at Buffalo we have an order for steel castings, which will pay thirty per cent. duty. These we cannot get in the country.

Q.—Do you use pig iron? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it not cheaper here than in Detroit? A.—About the same; there is very little difference. If we had to bring it from Detroit we would have to pay a little more.

Q.—If there were no duty on the iron coming into the country, would you be able to use the iron of the United States? A.—Yes; but we prefer Scotch iron for our particular use.

Q.—Is it bar iron, for example; what iron do you use? A.—We use all sizes.

Q.—I mean what makes? A.—Mostly Scotch iron. We get some from the United States, which we buy in case of need; but we order principally through firms in Montreal, Hamilton and Toronto.

Q.—Do you use the higher grades of iron, like South Staffordshire? A.—No; we may use a little bar iron. We use steel whenever we want a high class of material, and for general purposes we use just common iron.

Q.—Do you get Bessemer steel from England or from the United States? A.—Mostly from England, through Canadian dealers. We do not buy steel in very large quantities, and we get it through the dealers in the country. Sometimes we go to the United States, but as a rule we buy little there.

Q.—How are the prices of Bessemer steel? A.—We could buy it cheaper in the United States, but after paying duties we can obtain it cheaper from the old country.

Q.—How about crucible steel; do you make use of it? A.—Yes; that is what we are using now. We cannot always get it, unless we send to England for it, and it is a little cheaper, it not being exactly crucible steel but cast steel. We also get a high grade of cast steel, which is strong enough for our purpose, from Buffalo.

Q.—What cast steel do you get that is not crucible steel? A.—It goes through a special process; it is furnace steel.

Q.—It is open hearth steel? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then it is more like Bessemer than crucible? A.—Yes.

Q.—As to the prices of your product, how do they compare with Detroit prices? Do you sell as cheap as the foundrymen in Detroit? A.—Certainly we do with the same class of goods. Anything we make a specialty of we are fully as cheap as they are; but anything we do not make a specialty of, and which the Americans do make a specialty of in their large factories, we cannot compete in the price.

Q.—They have a large market, and consequently can carry on operations on a larger scale than you can? A.—Just so. In our peculiar situation we have to do everything. We are about the only foundry of any consequence here, and as such we are required to do a great variety of work, and consequently we cannot do it as cheaply as if we were doing more work of a special class.

Q.—Are you in a position to use machinery as largely or as much improved machinery as the foundries in Detroit? A.—If we were doing large quantities of special kinds of work we could do so. We have special machinery for what we make a specialty of, but that is all we can do.

Q.—Do I understand you to live at Walkerville? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the tobacco grown at Walkerville? A.—I know there is tobacco grown by Mr. Walker, of Walkerville.

Q.—Have you any special knowledge as to whether he has succeeded in that enterprise or not? A.—I can only repeat what I have heard from hearsay; I cannot state positively. I understand the crop has been better every year, owing to the improved cultivation of the land.

Q.—Are you aware of any particular theory he has in growing tobacco? A.—I am not.

Q.—Do you know anything as to whether tobacco grows better by cultivation on the same soil? A.—That is what I have been led to understand.

Q.—And it is supposed that in course of time when the soil gets in proper condition we may be able to grow as good tobacco in Ontario as in Virginia? A.—I suppose it would do better with a suitable climate as well as cultivation.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are your employes organized? A.—Yes.

Q.—In the Knights of Labor or a trades union? A.—No.

Q.—Do the hands in your foundry belong to organized labor? A.—A few of them do.

Q.—Do they belong to organized labor on this side or in Detroit? A.—On this side.

Q.—How many hours a day do they work? A.—Ten hours.

Q.—Sixty hours per week? A.—Yes; they make up sixty hours now and get off earlier on Saturday.

Q.—Are they employed on piece-work or by the week? A.—On piece-work.

Q.—Have you a graded scale of wages? A.—No. We pay a man just what we think he is worth; the wages vary very much.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you ever given the subject of arbitration for the settlement of disputes between capital and labor any thought? A.—I have never had any occasion to do so, because I never had any trouble whatever with my men; not a word of trouble. We have always had peace and quietness.

Q.—Perhaps you will favor the Commission with your idea as to the best method of settling disputes in your or any other business? A.—I certainly would have arbitration.

Q.—Arbitration, you think, would be better than any other system? A.—In the event of any differences arising between employers and their men I certainly would be in favor of arbitration.

Q.—Do you think, taking into consideration the loss both of time and capital owing to strikes, the Government would be justified in interfering and making arbitration compulsory? A.—I do not think so. I think if workmen had a better idea of business and the prices obtained they would better understand the course they should adopt than they do now. The great trouble is that they really think there is more profit in the business than they receive their share of. I do not think so myself.

Q.—Have you ever given the subject of industrial education any consideration? A.—No.

Q.—Would a school in which the principles of mechanics were taught be of any benefit to men in your business? A.—Yes, it would.

Q.—Have you any regular system of apprenticeship? A.—Yes; we engage boys of fifteen years to serve four years, and pay them a certain rate of wages, increasing every year.

Q.—Are the boys indentured? A.—No.

Q.—Do you think it would be better both for the boys and the employers if the apprentices were indentured? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—One ground of complaint in Toronto was that boys indentured would run away? A.—They do run away sometimes, after much trouble has been expended on them.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you think those boys would make better mechanics if they had some technical training in schools? A.—Yes; instruction in drawing and rudimentary matters would be a great help.

Q.—You have nothing of that nature here? A.—No; in Detroit I suppose they have; one great drawback to the trade is, that boys having served their time are not protected afterwards. I mean to say this, that an apprentice after serving his time should be protected in the same way as the school teacher, or the lawyer, or anybody else is protected. He should not be allowed to work at his trade unless he has served his apprenticeship.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are your men paid weekly or fortnightly? A.—Weekly.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—I understand a number of American manufacturers are establishing branches in Windsor or this neighborhood? A.—There are a few in Windsor and one in Walkerville.

Q.—What manufactures are carried on in these places? A.—Drugs, a branch house having been established by a firm in Detroit, and another Detroit company have established a branch in Walkerville in another branch of business.

Q.—Any in your line of business? A.—No.

Q.—Have they any motive in coming here, except to overcome the difficulty they have in regard to the duties? A.—I fancy that was the main thing that brought them here, to avoid the duties? The great trouble in these branch establishments is, that the establishment will not be running for two or three days, and then they will bring over some workmen from Detroit and do a certain quantity of work. After that is completed they will return again.

Q.—Did you ever hear of the Knights of Labor of Detroit objecting to the laboring men coming here and working in Canada when they lived in Detroit? A.—I have heard of that, but I never paid much heed to it.

Q.—Do they object to men living in Detroit coming and working in these branch shops? A.—I never heard of that.

Q.—It is the other way? A.—Yes; the other way.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You say that the apprentice system is a protection to the boy? A.—I say that when a boy has served an apprenticeship he ought to be protected in his trade. There are a great many who get a little knowledge of the trade by being around a machine shop; they leave that shop and try to do something else, and get advanced in that way, and soon come out as mechanics, without having served their time at the trade. They never become really practical men, but they fill up places.

Q.—Are the employes more in favor of the apprentice system than the employers? A.—I favor the system of indenturing apprentices, although we have never enforced it.

Q.—The men are in favor of having the apprentices indentured, but the employers are careless about it; is that so? A.—No; I never heard of the question being raised, but I would prefer that there should be indentures made out on taking on a boy at the trade.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you think your opinion is shared by other employers? A.—I think so. It is, however, not customary in this country.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—You were speaking of apprentices being protected; would the indenture system, assisted by technical education, really protect them? Would an apprentice be so skilled in his work that unskilled labor could not compete with him? A.—In mechanical trades there are classes of work of all kinds. There is, however, a standard of work.

Q.—Practically, what would be unskilled labor performed by men who would not hire as skilled mechanics? A.—There are plenty of mechanics not first-class, who have served an apprenticeship at certain classes of work.

Q.—And you grade the labor? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do the men receive their wages in cash? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is there any truck system here whatever? A.—I do not think there is much of it; there is no doubt a little of it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—On what day of the week are the men paid? A.—On Monday afternoon.

Q.—Do they prefer that day to any other day in the week? A.—We adopted it, and always kept it up. We thought that if the men were paid on Monday there would be no opportunity for them to spend their wages on Saturday night, and in that way they would be able to keep their money longer during the week.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Has the general condition of the men improved during the last ten years? A.—Yes; they are better off; they are better off in every respect, I think. I think he is a better mechanic to-day in every respect than he was ten years ago, both intellectually and morally. His intellectual capacity is better, and if a man tries to do right he is taken more notice of than he was ten years ago.

Q.—Do you think a mechanic is able to save much money, taking one year with another? A.—Our average wages are \$2.50 a day. We pay as high as \$3 and as low as \$2.00. But I think a man (it depends, of course, greatly upon his family, and the way they live) could save a little money.

Q.—Taking the average number of months a man is employed, the average wages and an average family, do you think a mechanic is able to save money? A.—They cannot save much money, because there is not steady employment all the time.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you think the shortening of the hours of labor has a tendency to improve the mechanic's mind? A.—Certainly. I would be in favor of shortening the hours of labor so long as all were governed by the same law in that regard. I think it would be better in every respect. Since improved machinery has come in it has cut down a great deal of labor.

Q.—A man must have a little time for his own pleasure, and for enjoying himself with his family if he works ten hours a day. A.—He would not have much.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do many of your men own the houses in which they live? A.—We live

at Walkerville and they all belong to one party. A couple of my men own houses of their own in Windsor. Most of them live in Windsor, a few in Detroit, and some in Walkerville.

Q.—Do many mechanics in Windsor own their houses? A.—Two of mine do.

Q.—Do many others? A.—I think a good many. A good many have built houses through associations and one thing and another of that kind. They acquire houses in that way.

Q.—Do you know anything about those associations? A.—Nothing further. If you buy a lot they advance money for the building of a house, and you pay off the amount in rent.

Q.—Are they mutual associations or loan associations? A.—Loan associations.

Q.—The parties make monthly payments? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know if they meet the payments pretty promptly or do they fall into arrear, and lose their properties? A.—I have not heard of any people losing their properties. No doubt a few years ago a great deal of property fell back into the hands of the company through failure to meet payments.

Q.—How long ago was that? A.—Seven or eight years ago, during the panic, when there was so much financial trouble.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Provided your men are not exactly on time at their work, is there any system by which fines are imposed? A.—We do not fine anybody. We dock the time if a man is half an hour late in the morning.

Q.—You dock them half an hour, if half an hour late? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Are you acquainted with the working of the Ontario Factory Act? A.—I know something of it; not very much.

Q.—Has your place been inspected? A.—Yes; we had a party here last week. He examined it all over, and said it was all right.

Q.—In regard to the inspection, was the officer strict in his inspection? A.—I do not think anything more was required.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Did the inspector do his duty in your opinion? A.—He went through everything; I went with him; he examined all the place. He did not see anything that was dangerous.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Do you think from the nature of his examination that he was a practical man, judged from a mechanical point of view? A.—I should think so.

Q.—For what rent could you get a comfortable mechanic's house in Windsor? A.—A house with five rooms would rent for \$6.00 a month; one with seven rooms for \$8.00.

Q.—Suppose a man was to rent a similar house in the suburb of Detroit, what rent would he pay? A.—I engaged a man the other day from Detroit, what house in Windsor at \$7.50 a month, and he said he was paying for a house with five rooms in Detroit \$14.00 a month. So he was paying double rent, and he had to go a long way out of the city to get a house.

Q.—You pay from \$2.50 to \$3.00 to good men? A.—Yes.

Q.—How does that rate compare with Detroit? A.—It is a little higher. We have a good many different departments, and must have a certain number of first-class men in each department; consequently, it brings our average up a little higher.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You explain that rate of wages by the fact that mechanics prefer to live in cities? A.—Yes; where there is a better chance of obtaining work in case of being thrown out of employment.

M. H. MILLER, Manager of the Grape Sugar Refining Company and Dominion Starch Company, Walkerville, called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—How long have you resided in Walkerville? A.—I have been there nearly two years.

Q.—How long have you been established there? A.—That is more than I can tell.

Q.—Several years? A.—They ran under the old management I think four or five years, and then previous to that they ran under other management several years.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You use corn wholly? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many men do you employ? A.—Forty.

Q.—Where do you get your corn? A.—Some of it we get right here and some we import.

Q.—Do you find any difference in the prices? A.—We have to pay the same price here as for the foreign corn, with duty added.

Q.—Is there any difference in the quality for your purposes? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the difference? A.—The American corn gives a better yield of starch—on the average, about seven pounds to the bushel.

Q.—Do you have any commercial product besides glucose? A.—Starch, corn syrup and dextrine.

Q.—You manufacture the glucose into syrup for daily use by adding sugar? A.—By adding cane syrups.

Q.—Where do you find your market? A.—All over the Dominion; we have shipped a little to British Columbia and we ship to Halifax and St. John.

Q.—What is the glucose used for? A.—It is used by confectioners in manufacturing candies.

Q.—What becomes of the refuse material? A.—That is a feed. The greater part of that is exported back to the United States. We haven't a sale for it here, but we expect to shortly; we are arranging to dry it and sell it here.

Q.—Do you sell it undried? A.—Yes; the water is only pressed out of it; there is seventy per cent. of water in it, but now we intend to make it perfectly dry.

Q.—Is it fed to cattle or hogs? A.—To cattle mostly.

Q.—What wages do you pay? A.—The wages vary from \$3.00 to \$1.25 a day.

Q.—Do you require much skilled labor? A.—Yes; about one-half of it—such as millers and engineers.

Q.—Where do you get the acids you use? A.—Most of them come from the United States; but we get some here.

Q.—Some are manufactured in Canada? A.—Yes.

Q.—Where in Canada? A.—London and Brockville.

Q.—What are they made from—pyrites? A.—From pure sulphur.

Q.—They are not manufactured from pyrites? A.—No; we cannot use pyrites; it has to be perfectly clear, and that is contaminated with arsenic, which would turn our goods green, and we could not sell them at all. It must be perfectly clear, so we can neutralize the acids.

Q.—Glucose, I understand, takes the place of sugar in confectionery? A.—No; if they use sugar they must convert it into glucose, else the candy would granulate. They must use the acids to cut the crystals.

Q.—You consider the glucose is purer, and that there is less danger of the presence of acid in a free form than sugar, so you convert it into grape sugar by the use of acids? A.—There is no trace of acid in our sugar or syrup; I defy a chemist to find any.

Q.—Is it not true that glucose is frequently mixed with a small quantity of sugar and sold for cane sugar or syrups? A.—No; I don't think so; corn syrups are higher priced than sugar.

Q.—Is not Californian honey sometimes made from glucose? A.—Well, I can not tell; I have never made any.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How many hands did you employ, did you say? A.—Forty.

Q.—Are there any women employed? A.—No.

Q.—Any boys? A.—Well, there are two you might call boys; one is, I think, about 16 and the other 17, or perhaps they are 15 and 16. The others are men, all the way from 18 to old men.

Q.—What wages are paid the engineers in your employ? A.—Well, at present we are paying \$1.65.

Q.—What do you pay the millers? A.—Fifty-five dollars a month.

Q.—How many hours a day do they work? A.—You might say nine or nine and a-half; the machinery is kept running through the noon hour; we run from 7 a. m. till 5.30 p. m., and of course the miller takes his dinner there; the firemen have to work, because the machinery runs right along.

Q.—That would be nine and a-half hours a day? A.—Well, hardly that just now; we have to run until we get through our business. We may get through at 5 o'clock or a quarter to five, or they may be later.

Q.—So much to do each day? A.—Yes; we have a certain amount we must run through; sometimes it takes us to 6 o'clock, especially in the glucose department, and sometimes they get through at half-past four.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—When you have 40 hands, what is the average wage per week? A.—In fact I never looked into the matter, but I should judge \$1.50 to \$1.60. I think we have some men to whom we pay \$3, some \$2.50, some \$2 and \$2.15.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—And some \$1? A.—No.

Q.—One dollar and twenty-five cents? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you your own cooerage in connection with the establishment. A.—No; not yet, but we expect to.

Q.—I suppose the material used for making barrels is plentiful here? A.—Yes, we manufacture our own boxes and we intend to get our timber and lumber here; we have been getting it up north by Barrie; we use basswood and whitewood.

Q.—And the barrels are made of what? A.—Basswood; and there is plenty of it here.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you use many barrels? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you your own coopers? A.—No; we use about 30 to 35 barrels a day.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Is it a healthy business for men to work in? A.—Yes; I have heard no complaint; they are there every day.

Q.—I know there is a very unpleasant smell about some parts of the process in Toronto? A.—Yes; but you get used to it; but if they use the old process of steeping it is very offensive.

Q.—Is that smell unhealthy? A.—No; it is not unhealthy, but it is very disagreeable. In that plan of steeping you leave the corn in hot water for seven days.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Does the waste from your establishment run into the river? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it not calculated to contaminate the water and make it unfit for drinking? A.—I do not think there is enough of it.

Q.—Are not the acids mixed with the waste? A.—The acids are neutralised,

and besides that does not run into the river. We use the sulphate of lime to neutralize the acids, and that we manufacture into a fertilizer, so it does not get into the river. The sulphate of lime is converted into a carbonate of lime, and that is not unhealthy in itself.

Q.—You use sulphuric acid, I believe? A.—Yes; but we use so little of it that even if it did get into the water, I don't think there is enough to contaminate. The only way we can get it out of the liquor is to neutralize it.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you know of many men living in Windsor who work in the United States? A.—No; I don't know of many; I know of several.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you any difficulty in getting men for your business? A.—No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Where does your skilled help come from? A.—They are all living in Windsor.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Were they Americans or Canadians? A.—Canadians mostly—men we brought with us from Edwardsburg Starch Works.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Where do you sell the starch? A.—All over the Dominion, from Winnipeg to St. John.

Q.—What protection have you on it? Two cents a pound.

Q.—And on glucose? A.—The same.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you anything you could suggest to us? A.—No; everything suits us so far. Of course the duty is offset, we might say, by the duty on corn, fuel, and their supplies.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You would prefer to get corn free? A.—Well, we are not finding any fault.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How would the removal of the duty affect your business? A.—Well, just now I think it would affect us unfavorably.

Q.—Commercial Union for example? A.—I think Commercial Union would.

Q.—In what way? A.—We are really building up a business here, and in a year or two from now I do not think it would affect us—or four or five years, say—but at present it would. It is an infant industry, but in the course of time we would be able, I think, to compete with the Americans on the other side. Of course we have a little advantage in the duty, but there is not such a great deal.

WINDSOR, December 7th, 1887.

DANIEL MELOCHE, Fisherman, Sandwich West, called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—How long have you resided in Sandwich West? A.—I was born and raised there. I am sixty-seven years old, and I have been fishing for forty-five years.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you fish on your own account? A.—I do.

Q.—Do you employ anybody to work for you? A.—I do.

Q.—Where are your fisheries? A.—The only fishery I keep now is in front of my own place.

Q.—On the river? A.—Yes, on the Detroit River.

Q.—What fish do you catch there? A.—For the last few years we have been catching some herring and a few whitefish—very few.

Q.—Where do you mostly sell those fish? A.—Generally in Detroit; sometimes in Detroit, and sometimes we ship them to the New York market. I ship some there, but most of the time I sell them in Detroit to a party to supply daily consumption.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—That is fresh fish? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Have you to pay duty on sending fish to New York? A.—Yes.

Q.—When you sell them in Detroit do you pay duty? A.—We have paid duty on herrings for the last few years.

Q.—When sold for immediate consumption? A.—Yes; they have made us pay duty; I have paid as much as \$9 in one day on a waggon load of fish.

Q.—If you take whitefish into Detroit have you to pay duty on them? A.—No.

Q.—Only on herrings? A.—Yes; and on sturgeon.

Q.—Do you know any reason why you pay duty on herrings and not on white fish? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is it? A.—They tell me they have made a law that all fish going into pack, to be salted or smoked, have to pay duty. I offered to swear that I was taking fish for daily consumption, and not to be salted or smoked, but they would not take my oath, and they made me pay duty, not on whitefish, but on herrings.

Q.—Do you know whether the fish are used in a fresh state or whether they are cured? A.—I think they are used for what is called daily consumption, because I do not take much fish at a time. I take them to Detroit central fish market. There it is distributed among the hawkers in small quantities. I am satisfied they are not used for smoking, that is to say all the whitefish I took there, except one load I took for smoking.

Q.—Can you get better prices in Detroit than you can in Windsor? A.—Yes; in fact we could not sell a waggon load of fish in Windsor.

Q.—The market is not large enough? A.—Just so. We may be able to sell two or three tubs, but that is the most we can consume in Windsor at a time. I am not the only party who sells fish here, and on any day other parties may be sending fish here.

Q.—Do you ship any to points in Canada? A.—I used to ship herrings to Woodstock, and I think some to London a few years ago.

Q.—Does any go as far as Toronto? A.—No.

Q.—Do you fish mostly from boats, or do you haul the nets ashore? A.—I fish with what we call seines: we have them out in the river in a boat, and we haul them ashore with horses.

Q.—Have you ever been interested in any lake fisheries? A.—Yes.

Q.—In what part of the lakes? A.—I have been interested in and have had pounds in Lake St. Claire.

Q.—What fish do you catch there? A.—I caught some herring, whitefish and a few sturgeon.

Q.—Are there as many fish as there were formerly in these waters? A.—No, they have been diminishing every year, except this year, which has been a little better than last, but it has been on the decrease for the last fifteen years to my knowledge.

Q.—What reason do you assign for the decrease in fish? A.—I think the decrease in fish is due to pound nets, with long extended leaders, which are miles

long. Since these pound nets have been in the lake the number of fish in Detroit river has kept on decreasing every year.

Q.—You think the fish are taken more rapidly than they increase? A.—I think it is natural for the whitefish to come and spawn in Detroit River in the fall, and for their eggs to remain there all winter and hatch in March or April, then drift down with the current. The pound nets with long leaders stop the fish from spawning in the river, for part of them are caught in these nets, and the others are kept back and spawn in the lake, and the great winds of October and November destroy all these eggs. That is my opinion, and I have spoken to other fishermen who seem to agree with me. These eggs should remain in the river all winter so as to hatch in March, and, as I have said, the rough winds will destroy the eggs if deposited in the lake. The spawning season is from about the 25th of October to the 10th of November. It is natural for the fish, as I have said, to come up into the river, but they are kept back by those leaders. A few will be caught here and there, but they will be small ones, too small for the market. The fishermen in the lakes sell the large ones and throw away the small ones; that is what has been done during the past few years, according to what I have been told. I never catch any small fish in Detroit River—that is as small as herrings. Small fish stay in the lake and they get caught in the pound nets.

Q.—Do you catch the fish during the spawning season? A.—Yes; during the spawning season. Some years ago there was a close season, and I was compelled to stop. I have caught fish from the 10th of October to the 25th of November.

Q.—There is a close season? A.—Yes; but it is not put in force. They fish all the time; there is really no close season.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is there a close season on the American side? A.—I am told there is; but for all that they fish all that time.

Q.—And on the Canadian side? A.—Yes; for the last two or three years. The Government used to be very strict on this side of the river, but not on the other.

Q.—Do you think if the close season were strictly enforced on both sides of the river there would be more fish? A.—There would be a little more, no doubt, but the main thing would be to stop the long leaders. From the moment the long leaders were used in the lake we saw the decrease of the fish; that happened the first year.

Q.—If all the fishing was stopped during the close season, would not the fish come up the river to spawn? A.—Yes; but I do not think seine fishing will hurt, because we formerly caught plenty of fish when we were fishing on both sides of the river. At that time every fishing ground was occupied, but now they are all deserted, because they do not pay. The pound nets stopped the fish from coming into the river, and the fishermen have been losing money trying to fish with seines, while the pound nets catch all the fish.

Q.—You think, then that if these pound nets were removed there would be more fish? A.—Yes; there can be no doubt of that. I felt the damage done right away; the first year the fish decreased in number.

Q.—Do the fishermen on the other side use pound nets also? A.—Yes; lots of them. There are more on the other side than on this side—a great many more.

Q.—Are there large numbers of fishermen in this district? A.—Yes; there used to be lots of money made in fishing in this county, but for the last three or four years it has been worth nothing.

Q.—You cannot make a good living out of it? A.—For my part I sold five of my fishing grounds, and only kept one, and that was because it was in front of my residence; and the party who bought them has been losing money. I had a pound net ground on Clare River, and I sold it, and out of three or four fishing grounds on Detroit River I sold three and kept one.

Q.—You sold them because they were no longer valuable? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know anything about Lake Huron fisheries? A.—I never fished in Lake Huron, but I have in Lake Michigan.

Q.—Are Canadians in the habit of fishing in Lake Michigan? A.—No; I was fishing there for an American fisherman at the time, when I was a young man, about forty-five years ago.

Q.—Fishing is pretty hard work, is it not? A.—It is kind of cold work in cold weather.

Q.—Is it not dangerous? A.—No. It is dangerous if you fish with gill nets in the lake. A great many have lost their lives at the work, because they have to go five, six or ten miles out, and sometimes they meet a storm and get drowned. But in the river I do not think it is dangerous. Three men were drowned at Belle Isle from a steamboat running them down, but that was an accident. Fishing is not dangerous in the river.

Q.—What wages do you pay to the men you employ? A.—I paid from \$30 to \$40 a month, and as high as \$50 for men to oversee.

Q.—Are fishermen employed the whole year round? A.—No.

Q.—How long? A.—What we call the fall fishing lasts from the 1st of September to 25th of November, about two and a-half months.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Then I suppose there is the spring fishing? A.—Yes; there is the spring fishing, but it does not last more than a month. Generally we fish for small fish, such as perch, and small pickerel and sunfish? We generally fish in weirs at that time.

Q.—The men work at other occupations when they are not fishing? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are they employed at farming? A.—Yes; and when they are not busy they go and fish.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How much do you get for your fish in Detroit; take whitefish and herring? A.—I contract to deliver white fish at from \$15 to \$25 per hundred.

Q.—About how much would they weigh? A.—About two and a quarter pounds, some two and a-half pounds, and even a little more. Sometimes they are a little larger than at other times; but the most I sell would run from two and a-quarter to two and a-half on an average.

Q.—Then what do you get for the herring? A.—From \$1.00 to \$3.00 a hundred, according to the supply. If the fish are plentiful we sell them at perhaps 50 cents a hundred, and if they are scarce we get \$1.50, \$1.75, or \$2.00.

Q.—About how much would herring weigh? A.—I used to put 300 herrings in a barrel, and the barrel would weigh about 200 pounds, so that they would weigh from one-half to three-quarters of a pound each. Herrings, like whitefish are some times larger and sometimes smaller. The first run in September is big herring, but when the heavy run comes they are all small.

Q.—Do you cure any of them in Canada? A.—Not for sale.

Q.—Is there any curing establishment near here? A.—Not that I know of.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Is not shore fishing more destructive to the fish than fishing with seines? A.—What we call shore fishing is fishing on shore. What injures fishing is fishing with pound nets, to which long leaders are attached.

Q.—Do you not fish with gill nets in the river? A.—No; because they cannot stand it. The current is too strong, and they have to be used in the lakes, where there is no current. You cannot put pound nets in the river but in the lakes; the men put them near the mouth of the river, so as to stop the fish from coming up the river.

Q.—Do you not catch a great many small fish in these seines which you draw ashore? A.—No; no small white fish. The fish are pretty much of the same size; a trifle small sometimes, but they average about the same every year.

Q.—Do the fishermen favor a close season? A.—Some of the fishermen do,

although I do not think I do, because a close season with us would be just when we could catch the most fish.

Q.—And when you destroy most of the eggs? A.—I do not know about that. I do not think I ever saw pickerel spawn during the close season, unless it was the very last days of the season. They do not commence to spawn before the 15th or 30th of May.

Q.—Whitefish will spawn in October and November, I understand? A.—Yes, from 25th October to 10th November.

Q.—If fishing were prohibited during those dates, I suppose there would be more fish? A.—Yes; that would help it.

Q.—It would then be in the interest of fishermen to stop fishing during that time? A.—Yes; unless they could put the fish in pounds, and keep them there to spawn, when the eggs would be as well there as any place else in the river.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you think it would be wise for the Government to establish official hatcheries for the fish, and official spawning places? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Then the two Governments would have to act together? A.—Of course that is providing the two Governments will do the same thing, because this river is narrow, and the fish have no regard for boundaries; they go from one side of the river to the other, according to the wind. We cannot catch the fish—for they always go against the current—if the wind is off shore, but if the wind changes to north-east or south we would catch more; and at the same time they would not catch any on the other side. As the fish go from one side of the river to the other, it would be no use for one Government to make laws unless the other Government made similar laws.

Q.—If in fishing you go over to the American side a little are you punished or are you driven back? A.—The river is so wide we do not require to go more than half way across; we do not go more than one-third or one-quarter of the distance across, because the river is about a mile wide where we fish. Besides, it would not be wise for us to have seines too long, for they would be difficult to draw on shore.

Q.—As a rule, I suppose they do not allow you to fish on the American side? A.—I have fished on the American side, and they have not stopped me. They say they have a law to stop it, but I never was stopped. I was selling my fish there at the time, and they never tried to stop me in any way.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How many men do you think are employed in the fisheries in your district? Take Lake St. Clare and the River Detroit, on the Canadian side? A.—There are not many now, because as I have said the fishing grounds are pretty much all vacant. Twenty years ago more than one hundred men were employed; I do not think there are more than twenty-five or thirty men now.

Q.—Does that include the men who own the limits, and the men who work in them? A.—Yes. There are only two fishing grounds on the Canadian side of the Detroit River being fished this fall.

Q.—How many are fishing in Lake Erie? A.—There are half a dozen pound nets below Amherstburg and in that section, covering a distance of many miles. It is at the entrance of the river where they have these pound nets, with long leaders that prevent the fish going in to the Detroit River.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is there a good deal of fishing done by people for themselves in the river and the lake? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Is there anything else you wish to tell the Commission which has not been

covered by the questions asked? A.—The main object I have had for the last two years has been to stop pound fishing, because as an old fisherman I have felt the damage done by it. I even felt it the first and the second years. The fish have kept on decreasing ever since, except this fall. I am told that a law has been passed on the other side, compelling them to shorten the length of the leaders. Some good will be done by it, and at all events we have had a little more fish this season than last. That fact convinces me that if these pound nets were removed or the leaders taken off we might have during the next five years as many fish as we had twenty five years ago.

DANIEL ANTAYA, Fisherman, Sandwich West, called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You have heard the evidence of Mr. Meloche; what have you to say in addition? A.—The only thing I want to say is, that the Government have stopped us catching fish, that is pickerel, at the very time when we ought to have the privilege of doing so, that is in the spring of the year.

Q.—Do you mean during the close season? A.—Yes, during the close season, in the spring of the year.

Q.—You do not fish during the close season? A.—We do catch pickerel during the close season. It would be a good thing for the close season to start from the 15th of March.

Q.—And when should it close? A.—The close season might run from the 15th of March to the 15th of May.

Q.—You admit that you ought to be prevented from fishing when the fish are spawning? A.—Yes.

Q.—When do they spawn? A.—From the 15th of May to the last of May.

Q.—In that time you can fish according to law? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You approve of the general testimony given by the previous witness? A.—Yes; I think he has given all the information necessary, and we have been fishing together many years.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You think if there was a close season for pickerel carried out, it would be better for the fishing? A.—Yes; if it were fixed from the 15th of May to the last of May it would be better for us.

Q.—And for the fish? A.—It would be better for the fish, for it would be during their spawning time. As the law now stands it stops us fishing when we could catch the most fish, without injuring the fish, as regards the spawning season.

Dr. JOHN COVENTRY, Medical Health Officer of the Town of Windsor, and President of the Medical Health Officers of Ontario, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of Windsor at present? A.—It is very good at present.

Q.—Have you a sewer system here? A.—Yes; a very extensive one.

Q.—Do you drain into Detroit River? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are most of the houses connected with the sewers? A.—Unfortunately they are not.

Q.—How long have you had sewers? A.—Since 1878; that is, we began in 1878, and we have been steadily adding every year since. They are brick sewers.

There are some sewers that were built before that time, but we do not count them now. They are wooden sewers.

Q.—What water supply system have you? A.—The water is taken from Detroit River. The system is a modification of the Holly system. The water is pumped all over the town; we have not twenty wells in use in the city.

Q.—How many of the old cess-pools remain? We are endeavoring to do away with them as rapidly as possible. I hope next year we will do away entirely with vaults. We have condemned wells wherever we can find them; they are still used by a few, who have an idea that the water from the river is scarcely good because it has not the old well flavor attached to it.

Q.—Do you find much difficulty in persuading people that river water is better than well water? A.—No.

Q.—Have you had many diseases, such as diphtheria, or scarlet fever, or typhoid fever, prevailing here? A.—Very few this year or last year; very few of any of these diseases since we adopted our present system of dealing with contagious diseases.

Q.—Do you find that contagious disease grows less as you improve the sanitary condition of the town? A.—Yes; and enforced quarantine as between infected and non-infected; we enforce that very strictly. We proclaim diphtheria, scarlet fever and small-pox. Every case is reported within twenty-four hours of its being discovered, and connections cut off from the house, except where it is necessary to carry supplies. If the head of the house is working where there are children he is stopped from working. In this matter we are assisted by all the manufacturers in the place, and the railways, which will not employ men who have contagious diseases in the house. When it is necessary to feed the family, and they have not means at their disposal, we do that at the public expense.

Q.—How is it as to children attending school? A.—Any children in a house where there is contagious disease are immediately prevented from going to school. The teacher is informed by the secretary of the Board of Health as soon as the existence of the disease in the house is reported to him.

Q.—Is plumbing properly inspected? A.—No, sir.

Q.—What is the condition of the plumbing, as far as you know? A.—Very bad.

Q.—In what respect is it bad? A.—In every respect; there is no redeeming feature in it—the construction of the drain, the trapping of the drain, the method of putting the pipes down, and the pipes used—everything is defective.

Q.—Are there ventilating pipes? A.—Very few, and wherever unearthed, they are found to be in a horrible condition.

Q.—Are the drains leading from the house to the sewer mostly pipe drains? A.—Yes; there are no woodenbox drains.

Q.—When they are dug up, do you frequently find them broken? A.—Not often broken, but badly connected, and filled with substances that should not get into them. An illustration of that occurred last week. I saw the Mayor with a man who was having a house drain taken up and inspected. The drain was found to be blocked; they put in a large iron rod and pulled out a painter's suit of clothes, which had stuck down the drain. You will find drains blocked with all sorts of things.

Q.—Do you find, as a consequence of the pipes being badly laid, that they sometimes sink down and open the joints? A.—Yes; but in a clay soil like ours it does not matter much; there is not much trouble from that source. In a gravelly or sandy soil it would be much worse, but here it is a very solid, hard clay, and it does not make much difference whether the joints are badly connected, especially in these drains. The sewers here are very deep—all the way from ten to twenty feet below the surface, and several of them are tunnelled.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you require to make them that depth, owing to the nature of the ground? A.—No; it is to get the proper levels, so as to have a sufficient fall.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Have you inspected the factories and workshops of Windsor? A.—I have made no regular tour, but I am frequently in them; when there is any report of any unsanitary condition I go, of course; but it is very seldom. This is not a manufacturing centre; they are not crowded at all. The buildings are new, well-ventilated, and their closets are tolerably well constructed.

Q.—Where male and female operators are employed in the same shop, have they separate conveniences? A.—I think so, but I cannot speak positively.

Q.—Are you familiar with the conditions of the homes of the working classes in and near Windsor? A.—Yes.

Q.—What condition are they in? A.—In fair condition—not what could be desired, but much better than in most places. We have only about three landlords in the town who systematically keep their houses and premises in an untenable condition—certainly not more than four.

Q.—How do you try to deal with these? A.—Well, at the present time we are dealing with one or two of them, and, on an appeal to the Council, they appointed an engineer, who, in conjunction with myself, made a report to the Council of how the premises should be dealt with. A sewer should be put down, connections made with that sewer to drain the premises, and the cost of it charged up against the property fronting on and benefited by the new works. The report is now before the Council and they are ready to deal with it.

Q.—Do you know whether many of the working people own the houses in which they live, or are they mostly tenants? A.—There are a large number of owners; I think there are a larger proportion of people who are owners of their premises than in other places that I know of. A great many people here are employed on the railways, the Grand Trunk and the Canada Southern, and most of them own their houses.

Q.—Windsor has made great progress within the last few years? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you find that the working people keep pace with the merchants and manufacturers in building their own houses? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you flush your sewers frequently? A.—They are flushed of course by the floods; we have the single system of sewerage, not the double system; the rain-falls and the house drains all empty into the one sewer, and the rain-fall is the only flushing that has been adopted so far. This report from the engineer of which I spoke deals with that matter also. It is recommended that they be flushed every two weeks from the waterworks or from tanks constructed at the end of each sewer, taking a section of ten or twenty feet at the end, filling that with water and opening the flood-gate and allowing it to go down. That would probably be done every two weeks, unless there are thunder storms or heavy rain-falls in the meantime.

Q.—Do you find that such contagious diseases as diphtheria and malarial fever follow the line of the sewers? A.—No, sir.

Q.—I supposed that gases from the sewers would produce those diseases if they were not kept reasonably clean? A.—If the discharges from those diseases entered into the sewer, and there was a defective house drain, that would undoubtedly convey disease into the house.

Q.—Is there much diphtheria in Windsor? A.—Very little. We have a great many points of attack, but it rarely gets beyond the house in which it appears or one or two visiting friends beyond it. We have hardly a case of typhoid fever; we have not seen a case for a year. I look upon the reason for that as being that the whole supply of water is from the river, and as they have had a large number of cases of the disease in other cities and towns in Canada, this season, it would seem to show that the well water supply is a source of the disease, because we would have had just as much as other places if we had not depended entirely upon a purer supply of water.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—You spoke about never going in places, except factories, and said that you had visited a few factories to enquire into their sanitary condition. Will you tell us why you were sent for in any one case; what were the cases complained of? A.—I have visited tailor shops where there were cases of illness from gas being given off from their apparatus for heating irons. Carbonic acid gas given off from the charcoal was making the operators ill or keeping them in a debilitated condition; or they were feeling languid, faint or weak.

Q.—Do you find these shops large enough for the number of people working in them? A.—Large enough if a little expenditure of money was made to carry off these gases, enough, for instance, to place a funnel over the apparatus used for heating the iron. None of them was crowded in regard to the proportion of air space.

Q.—Was there any factory you visited in which the air space was deficient or the sanitary condition was not good? A.—No; none.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you find employers ready to adopt your suggestions? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What are the sanitary conditions of the school houses? A.—Not good.

Q.—Are they large enough? A.—No; there are too many children to the number of schools and to the air space. The High School is very bad.

Q.—Is the river water as pure as that of the lower lakes—Lake Ontario for example? A.—Well it is muddier. In passing through Lake St. Clair that lake seems to be a sort of settling basin, and the water changes in passing through it from Lake Huron. It comes down from that lake laden with minerals; these muddy lake, and it takes them up as a mixture, in the form of mud, not as a perfect solution. The water is not as clear as it is coming down the St. Clair.

Q.—Does it take up any organic matter? A.—Yes; a good deal.

Q.—Vegetable organic matter? A.—Yes; and clay.

Q.—Clay does no harm, I believe? A.—No; I think not; I know of no disease that seems to prevail on account of it.

Q.—Do you consider the water reasonably wholesome? A.—Yes; but in danger of contamination pretty extensively. The village of Walkerville is now adopting a large perfect system of sewerage. It will carry into the river rapidly a contaminated amount of sewage, and as our intake is below their main, our water will be contaminated by it.

Q.—And the remedy would be to carry the supply pipe further up. Mr. Walker, who owns nearly the whole of Walkerville, has been ready for some time past to join with us in taking our supply pipe further up the river.

Q.—What kind of gas do you use in Windsor? A.—The ordinary gas, with the perfected machinery, so I understand.

Q.—Coal gas? A.—Yes.

Q.—Not water gas? A.—No; there are a few places, perhaps, like the convent, where they manufacture and use their own gas, but I do not know what process they adopt.

Q.—The gas supplied to the public is pure coal gas? A.—Yes, and fairly good I think it is of better quality than the average.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—I suppose the water here has been subjected to analysis? A.—Not to an exhaustive analysis, but such an analysis as would show ordinary contamination.

Q.—And there is nothing deleterious in it? A.—Nothing specially deleterious. The danger is, that if there should be a disease like typhoid fever or cholera in Walkerville, the emptying of their sewer into the river would contaminate our water supplies.

So far, we have had nothing we could trace to the water supply.

Q.—Have you any idea that the school board are aware of the condition of the schools? A.—Yes, they are quite aware of it. The school has been condemned by the provincial inspector, and they are now taking steps to get a suitable site for a building. They had made an appropriation, or I believe are about to make an appropriation, with the intention of purchasing a site this year and erecting a new school building next year. The other schools are very much crowded. We find no difficulty in getting the public or employers of labor, or the people themselves, to act upon any reasonable suggestion in regard to health. We had a good breaking in in that respect for them. We had the small-pox here, and there was some little opposition to the measures we took at first, but it was met pretty promptly, and the people were so well convinced that our measures were for the best that I have every reason to feel thankful for the assistance I got from nearly everyone.

Q.—Is vaccination carried out? A.—It is pretty well carried out. We have no compulsory vaccination law, other than the provincial one, but we have very little opposition to vaccination. We appoint public vaccinators whenever there are any cases in the neighborhood. All parties may come and be vaccinated; those who can pay are supposed to pay a small fee sufficient to cover expenses, while those who say they cannot afford to pay are vaccinated free.

Q.—I suppose that in all cases the work is done by experienced practitioners and the lymph used is good? A.—We always get it from a reliable source, and it is always bovine virus that we use; we never use virus from other children.

FREDERICK S. EVANS, of the Barnum Wire and Iron Works Co., Windsor, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How long has your business been established in Windsor? A.—Three years.

Q.—Is it an independent industry? A.—Yes.

Q.—Not connected with any other establishment? A.—No.

Q.—Where do you find your market principally? A.—Throughout the whole Dominion.

Q.—What kind of work do you make? A.—We make altogether ornamental wire work, counter railings for banks, iron fences, metal work of all kinds.

Q.—Do you make steel iron, or steel wire? A.—No; we only manufacture goods from wire.

Q.—Do you use both iron and steel wire? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you use much copper wire? A.—Not very much copper wire; we have no special use for it.

Q.—Do you import your wire in the state in which you use it? A.—Yes.

Q.—You do not draw your wires yourself? A.—No.

Q.—From what country do you import wire? A.—Most of it now from Montreal; it is Canadian made. Previous to Montreal firms manufacturing wire on the present system we got it from the United States; but in Montreal they are using American patents, and are making as good a wire as in the States.

Q.—Do you know what kind of iron they use? A.—Mostly all the iron wire made; what we call bright wire, which we principally use, is made from old steel rails, and it is really steel wire.

Q.—It is Bessemer steel? A.—Yes.

Q.—This makes a stronger and better wire? A.—Yes, it makes a tougher wire than anything else. In fact, the common, or what we call soft wire, would not answer in our business. We could not use it; it is not tough enough, and would not stand the strain.

Q.—Do you use any imported wire now? A.—Yes; in the fancy grades we get our wire from the other side of the line.

Q.—That is from the United States? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you import any from Europe? No; American wire is better than European.

Q.—How do the prices in Montreal compare with the prices you formerly paid when you imported wire? A.—We are paying now about the same prices in Canada we would have to pay in the United States.

Q.—Do you mean you pay about the same price you would have paid for American wire delivered here? A.—Yes, with duty and freight paid. I figured it out a short time ago, and I made out two per cent. in favor of Canadian wire; the difference was very small.

Q.—What is the duty on wire? A.—Thirty per cent. now. Up to the last session of Parliament it was twenty-five per cent., but it was raised to thirty per cent.

Q.—Do you know whether the price on the other side has been rising, falling or remaining stationary? A.—It has advanced a little over there within the last year.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is that from speculation? A.—I do not know what the cause has been.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Would it be because American manufacturers are making nails from Bessemer and old rails? A.—It might be from the scarcity of stock from which these goods are manufactured.

Q.—They are using Bessemer rails, I believe, for such purposes? A.—Yes; a great many old Bessemer rails are being manufactured into nails and other products.

Q.—Do you export any of your goods? A.—No; our trade is entirely in Canada.

Q.—Are such goods as you import brought into Canada? A.—Yes.

Q.—From what country are they imported? A.—Altogether from the United States, so far as I know.

Q.—Can the imported articles undersell you? A.—The duty on the wirework and the raw wire is just the same, and the difference in the labor and the amount they can manufacture is against us, which makes the price about equal. So we are not protected at all, except so far as labor is concerned on the other side.

Q.—Your labor is protected? A.—Yes, of course; if they bring wirework here, wire counter railing, for example, they have to pay thirty per cent., the duties being precisely the same.

Q.—Have the Americans large manufactories in which they can manufacture more economically than you can? A.—Yes; for instance, in Detroit there is a concern which employs five hundred hands.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How many men do you employ? A.—Twenty-five or fifty at this season of the year; never less than twenty-five.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you know of any under-valuation of wirework coming into Canada? A.—No, I have never investigated anything of the kind.

Q.—You have never heard complaints of that sort? A.—No.

Q.—How do the wages you pay compare with the wages paid in Detroit in your trade? A.—We pay just the same wages.

Q.—And you get all the men you want? A.—Yes.

Q.—Where do you get them? From Canada or the other side? A.—Mostly from the other side, but they live in Canada. There are only two men employed by us who live on the other side.

Q.—They settle here and become good citizens? A.—Just so. Of course, we do a fine class of work. It is mostly American work from American ideas, and we have to bring American workmen to carry it out.

Q.—How far east do you sell your goods? A.—As far as Cape Breton. We sent

over \$2,000.00 worth of goods to Cape Breton this season, and we have also sent to Montreal, Halifax, and Nova Scotia, and all the way down; and also to Vancouver, British Columbia, on the west.

Q.—Have you made any application to the Government within the last year or two to have the duties on wire increased? A.—No.

Q.—You are not aware of the petition that went to Ottawa within a year or two, with a view of having the duties on wire or wirework changed? A.—No.

Q.—Do you think a change in the duties is desirable? A.—On such wire as Canadian manufacturers are prepared to make I do not think there should be any change, because they are making just as good wire as they are on the other side. I think the industry should be fostered the same as any other.

Q.—They have the same right to protection for their industry as you have for yours? A.—Yes. On such lines as they do not propose to make, and for which the demand is not sufficient to guarantee them a return, the duties should be reduced or abolished, and such wire brought in free.

Q.—How can you tell what class of wire they do not propose to make; or are you judging by actual results? A.—I am judging by the actual demand for this special class of goods. There is very little demand for some class of wire and very little of it used. If a manufacturer was prepared to make it, he could make enough in a week to last the country a year.

Q.—Would it not be a very expensive thing to make? A.—Very expensive plant would be required.

Q.—Different machinery from that ordinarily used? A.—Yes, in the manufacture of flat wire. Take, for instance, the wires used for brooms and brushes. We can import \$500.00 worth of flat wire and make all the brushes wanted in a year. It is subject to thirty per cent. duty. That wire cannot be made here, and it should be allowed to come in free, or made subject to a revenue duty only. The Commission will see that this places the Canadian manufacturer in a condition in which he is little better off than the American. He has to pay the duty on the wire, but the American manufacturer can under-sell him, because he can make a large quantity, whereas there is not the demand in this country.

By MR. CARSON :—

Q.—What gauges of wire do you principally use? A.—We run from 2:0 to 14.

Q.—And with round steel wire? A.—About the same gauges. We do not use much of anything less than 14.

Q.—Do you find the Montreal wire is as durable as the Cleveland wire? A.—Yes, we have put it to a severe test.

Q.—In what way was it tested? A.—By twisting it.

Q.—Are you aware that the Cleveland wire on being twisted is more apt to break than the Montreal wire? A.—I do not think that it is more apt to do so.

Q.—Are you aware that they make for a special purpose what they call spring steel wire; that they recommend their wire for a special purpose; that they claim that unless a twist breaks once in five turns it is not up to the standard? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you aware that unless the Cleveland wire breaks once in five turns it is not considered up to the standard? A.—I have never heard so; I never heard that they claimed that.

Q.—Do you know anything about the manufacture of springs? A.—No; we do not manufacture them.

Q.—That is what I had reference to. Do you find the Montreal wire as hard as the American wire? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you find that the coppering is done as well? A.—No.

Q.—Take copper wire, for instance Nos. 9 and 10; have you used those numbers? A.—We use very little of that kind of wire. It does not come into ornamental work. We use very little copper wire of any kind.

Q.—Was the duty on that increased last year to thirty per cent.? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is No. 12 copper wire? A.—It is thirty per cent. now. It has been at that rate during the last year; it was twenty-five per cent. before that.

Q.—There is a certain clause in the Act permitting certain manufactures to be brought in free? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Do you employ all men? A.—All men and boys.

Q.—What age do you take the boys? A.—Seventeen or eighteen.

Q.—Have you any very young children employed? A.—No; it is all very heavy work.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What wages do you pay? A.—From \$5 a week to \$3 a day; our best men receive \$3 a day.

Q.—To whom do you pay \$5 a week? A.—To boys from seventeen to eighteen, who are learning the trade.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do they work sixty hours per week? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are they paid weekly? A.—Every two weeks.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you have apprentices? A.—No; we do not bind any boys.

Q.—Do they generally remain with you until they learn the trade? A.—If they do their wages are raised according as they become more useful.

Q.—Are many tempted to leave you and go to the other side? A.—I never had any do that. We have five men who receive \$2 and \$2.50 a day who learned their trade with us and are not twenty-one yet. One of our former apprentices now receives \$3 a day, and is one of the best men in the shop.

Q.—How long is required to learn the trade? A.—About two years.

Q.—Is the trade unhealthy in any way? A.—I do not think so.

Q.—Is the sanitary condition of the shop pretty good? A.—As good as it possibly can be. We have every convenience.

Q.—Is there much iron or steel dust or filings around? A.—More or less of it, not much; most of our iron is used with oil, and there is not much dust.

Q.—Is there any particular disease to which wire-workers are subject? A.—None that I ever heard. They are a pretty healthy set of men, taking them all round.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—There are not many days lost by them? A.—There is very little broken time.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Is your business increasing, or otherwise? A.—Our business has increased steadily ever since we started.

T. M. WHITE, Windsor, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What is your occupation? A.—A publisher and printer.

Q.—How long have you been in business in Windsor? A.—About six years.

Q.—You publish a weekly paper? A.—Yes.

Q.—What wages do you pay in Windsor in the printing business as compared with Detroit? A.—Slightly lower.

Q.—Is there any employment in Detroit exactly corresponding to that which you give your men? A.—No; I don't think there is. Any man I employ is supposed to work either on the paper or at job printing, or anything required in the office, and of course in Detroit they have them separate.

Q.—Do you employ your men by the piece or by the week? A.—Sometimes the one and sometimes the other. As a rule, by the week.

Q.—Do your men live in Windsor? A.—Yes. The business here fluctuates considerably and we have to employ outside help very often—or occasional help—which we get from Detroit.

Q.—Do your men pay lower rents in Windsor than they would pay in Detroit? A.—Well, I don't know about that; I don't think they do a great deal, though there are some lower. Workingmen's houses I don't think are much lower than in Detroit, as far as I have been able to see.

Q.—Can the workingmen get as low rents as near to the centre of business in Detroit as they would in Windsor? A.—No, they cannot.

Q.—They would get as low rents by going out for a considerable distance in the outskirts. A.—I think they would get as low rents about an equal distance from Detroit city hall.

Q.—But not as near to Detroit city offices as they would to yours? A.—No.

Q.—Then if they go a greater distance to their houses that means a loss of time and money for car fare? A.—Yes; car fare certainly.

Q.—Can you speak as to the cost of living in the two cities, other than rents? A.—I don't think there is much difference; I fancy if anything it will average a little more in this city from what I hear.

Q.—You are not prepared to speak positively? A.—No; not with any knowledge of my own, but simply from what I have heard people say who have lived on both sides.

Q.—Windsor has been improving very much in the last few years? A.—Yes; a great deal since I came here.

Q.—To what is this improvement mainly attributable? A.—Well, I think it is the National Policy.

Q.—In what way does the National Policy work? A.—Well, it has caused the establishment of several industries here and they have assisted real estate.

Q.—And given employment to many men? A.—Yes; to quite a number.

Q.—And this, of course, has caused more business to be done by merchants and others? A.—All; I don't know that our mercantile business is very large here; we have only two or three stores of any importance in the town.

Q.—People buy largely in Detroit? A.—Yes; an enormous amount of smuggling is done here.

Q.—Most of the goods are smuggled across? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do any of the small purchases pass through the custom house? A.—Well, I don't know as to that; I don't think a great many do.

Q.—That is an injury to the merchants of Windsor? A.—O, yes; it is an injury to the town.

Q.—Are the manufacturing establishments which have started here profitable? A.—Yes, I think they are; as far as I can see they are.

Q.—Are you well acquainted with the organizations existing among workingmen in Windsor? A.—No; I cannot say that I am.

Q.—Are the men pretty well organized? A.—I think they are; they have two or three assemblies of the Knights of Labor.

Q.—Have they the old fashioned trades union as well? A.—No; I don't think they have, but I am not certain.

Q.—Have any efforts been made to shorten the hours of labor here? A.—Yes; there was a threatened strike this summer in the building trade, but it was averted I think, by a compromise; it was threatened also in one of the cognate industries—the lumber, sash, and door establishments.

Q.—Did they shorten the hours of labor at all? A.—Yes; a compromise was effected.

Q.—Did the wages come down in proportion to the shortening of the time? A.—No.

- Q.—They receive the same wages? A.—Yes.
- A.—I think so.
- Q.—You have heard no great fault found with it? A.—No.
- Q.—Do the men seem to know how to use the additional time that they have on their hands pretty well? A.—I could not answer as to that.
- Q.—Do you think there has been more drunkenness than before? A.—I could not say, but I don't think there is; the workingmen around Windsor do not appear to be a drunken people at all.
- Q.—They seem to be able to dispose of their surplus time as well as other people? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Do you know any reason why a workingman should get drunk as soon as he gets an hour's time on his hands? A.—No.
- Q.—Do you know to what extent workingmen in Windsor own the houses in which they live? A.—Well, a large proportion of them own their houses.
- Q.—Do you know of any of them saving money in addition to living? Q.—Yes; a workingman in Windsor can save money if he has constant employment.
- Q.—Are there any female compositors in Windsor? A.—There are some.
- Q.—Do you employ any? A.—No; but I have employed some; I don't now.
- Q.—Did they give you satisfaction? A.—Not altogether.
- Q.—Did you give them for the same work the same wages you would have given men? A.—No; not quite; they are not as good as men, and cannot make themselves as useful. If they had nothing to do but set type they would be all right, but they have not the endurance of men, and that is another drawback.
- Q.—Are workingmen able to get land on which to build on pretty reasonable terms? A.—Yes; they can get a lot within reasonable distance for about from \$200 to \$400.
- Q.—What sized lot would that be? A.—Say fifty feet front by one hundred deep.
- Q.—What distance would they have to go from the business centre? Would it be not a mile? A.—Possibly a little more.
- By Mr. McLEAN:—
- Q.—A mile? A.—No; I don't think so.
- By Mr. FREED—
- Q.—Have you any apprentices in your office? A.—I have two.
- Q.—Are they apprentices, or are they boys just learning the trade, and free to go when they please? A.—Just learning.
- Q.—Do you approve of an apprentice system? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Do you think it would turn out better workmen? A.—Yes.
- Q.—What is the reason that boys are not apprentices to the printing now? A.—Simply because it is not the custom; that is the only reason I see.
- Q.—Would the boys themselves be willing to be apprenticed? A.—Some would, and some object; some of them think of course that it is an old fogy idea.
- Q.—How do wages in Windsor compare at the present time with the wages when you came. A.—There is not a great deal of difference.
- Q.—What is the value of money now as compared with then; will it purchase more or less? Will a dollar go further or less far in buying the ordinary supplies of life, clothing, food and rent? A.—It would average about the same; some things are dearer and others cheaper; I don't think there would be much difference.
- Q.—Do you notice any difference in the steadiness of work which mechanics in Windsor have as compared with former years. Are they more steadily employed, or less? A.—I could hardly say as to that.
- Q.—Are the factories and shops busier? A.—Yes, I think they are; there is more general work being done in Windsor now than there was six years ago.
- Q.—When this strike was threatened, how was a solution arrived at, by arbitra-

tion or just by conciliation? A.—I think it was merely by the friends of the parties getting together and settling it for them; that is my recollection of it.

Q.—There was no time lost? A.—Yes, there was a little time lost—a few days.

Q.—Do you know of any co-operation amongst the men in Windsor? A.—No.

Q.—Either in production or distribution? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know of any co-operative building societies? A.—No.

Q.—When a workingman undertakes to build a house does he save means sufficient to do so, or does he borrow from a building society? A.—They usually have enough to pay an instalment down, and then they borrow from a building society or secure the money in some other way.

Q.—Do many Windsor people work in Detroit? A.—Yes; a great many.

Q.—When they go there to work do they retain their homes in Windsor or gradually drift over there for homes? A.—They mostly stay here.

Q.—On account of the cheaper rents? A.—Well, partly on account of the cheaper rents, and also on account of their families and connections being here; their associations are here.

Q.—Do many Detroit people work in Windsor? A.—Some—not a great many, as far as I know; there may be more than I am aware of.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What are the wages a compositor would work for by the week in Windsor—as a printer by the week? A.—From ten dollars to thirteen.

Q.—Are there any compositors in Windsor to-day receiving that? A.—Yes, I think so—that is general printers.

Q.—What are the standard wages for the same kind of a printer in Detroit? A.—I think they are fourteen dollars.

Q.—Is that the union scale there? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much per thousand does a compositor set for in Windsor? A.—Well, about twenty-five cents.

Q.—And what is the rate on piece work on an evening or morning paper in Detroit? A.—I am not sure.

Q.—Have you compositors working by the piece in Windsor? A.—Yes.

Q.—And they receive twenty-five cents per thousand? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you give them the "fat" of the paper—the advertisements? A.—No.

Q.—I suppose they get that shared in Detroit? A.—Yes, I think so.

Q.—How many apprentices have you got? A.—I have three.

Q.—How many journeymen? A.—Three.

Q.—Do they belong to the Knights of Labor or a trades union, or any organization? A.—It is pretty hard for me to say.

Q.—Are they union men? A.—There is no union here.

Q.—They might be union men and belong to the union in Detroit? A.—No, I don't think so.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What are the rents in Windsor at the present time for the average workman's house? A.—From eight to ten dollars—perhaps up to twelve dollars.

Q.—And I suppose the cost of rent, fuel, clothing, vegetables and so on, would be just about the same as in other places of the Dominion? A.—I think a little higher than in other places in the Dominion; I think it costs more to live here than in some other places.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are your apprentices working by the piece or by the week? A.—By the week.

Q.—How much do they get? A.—Two dollars and upwards, according to the length of time they have been working.

Q.—You commence at \$2? A.—Yes.

- Q.—They serve five years? A.—No; three years is what they are supposed to serve.
- Q.—Is that the standard time that a boy serves his apprenticeship in Canada? A.—Well, I don't know about that. The custom varies. In some places it is five years, but they are not many.
- Q.—Five years is the standard by union law? A.—Well, it may be in cities, but in towns I think they compromise at four years as a rule.
- Q.—Do you prefer an indenture system? A.—Yes; it would be more satisfactory.
- Q.—I suppose your apprentices are indentured? A.—No.
- Q.—Are the journeymen opposed to the indenture system? A.—I have no idea.
- Q.—Do you have many changes among your apprentices? Do they leave your office and go to other places where they can better themselves? Have you many changes in that respect? A.—Not a great many.
- Q.—How many journeymen printers are there in Windsor? A.—I don't know.
- Q.—If it costs \$300 to buy a lot, how long would it take a workingman, supposing he gets ten dollars a week, to purchase a lot and build a house? A.—I don't know how long.
- Q.—Could he do it in ten years? A.—It would depend on the size of his family and his expenses.
- Q.—Say a family of three? A.—Yes, I think so.
- Q.—He would save money enough in ten years? A.—Yes; I think a careful man could.

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ALEXANDER HENDERSON, Carpenter, Detroit, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

- Q.—How long have you lived in Detroit? A.—A little over three years.
- Q.—You have worked during that time at your trade? A.—Yes.
- Q.—What rate of wages are paid in your trade in Detroit? A.—They average from \$1.80 to \$3.00 a day.
- Q.—You work altogether by the day or hour? A.—By the hour now.
- Q.—How many hours a day now? A.—Nine hours.
- Q.—How do your rates run by the hour? A.—Some of our men will be paid \$1.98 a day, that is 22 cents an hour. I have known lots of men to leave work in Detroit through this 22 cents; they would not accept a cent less than \$2.00 a day.
- Q.—What are about the highest wages paid? A.—The highest wages paid in Detroit to good men are \$3.00 a day; that is paid to stairbuilders.
- Q.—How do these rates compare with the rates paid in your trade in Windsor? A.—The men in Windsor receive from \$1.75 to \$2.00 a day; that would be the price from about the last of May; they get those wages for nine hours here.
- Q.—There would be no reduction in the wages on account of the nine hours? A.—No.
- Q.—Have they a union in Windsor? A.—They have a Knights of Labor Assembly—a mixed assembly.
- Q.—Do those Knights who belong to the assembly work with those who do not? A.—Last May we had a meeting in Detroit, it was on the 1st. We had previously exchanged working cards with the mixed assembly of Windsor, and we notified them that unless they carried the nine hours a day, and raised their initiation fee to \$5.00 we would not recognize their cards. That forced on them the nine hours a day, for otherwise we could not recognize them, and accept their cards in Detroit.
- Q.—Do those carpenters in Windsor who are Knights of Labor work in the same shop, or do the same work with carpenters who are not Knights of Labor? A.—Yes, if they have a working card.
- Q.—Can they get a working card if they are not Knights of Labor? A.—No.
- Q.—Then if a man has not a working card the Knights of Labor will not work with him? A.—No; not unless he has a brotherhood card.

Q.—What is a brotherhood card? A.—The brotherhood is a society of carpenters on one side, and the Knights of Labor is the society on the other.

Q.—The brotherhood is in Detroit? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you able to tell us anything about the differences in the rents in Windsor and Detroit? A.—I have not live in Windsor, and I do not know the rents there. You can get a nice cottage in Detroit for from \$7.00 to \$10.00 a month.

Q.—How far from the centre of the city can you get such a cottage? A.—About one mile and a-quarter.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What do houses rent for near where you live? A.—They rent very low; some \$6.00; some \$7.00; and \$8.00 and \$10.00.

Q.—For a whole house? A.—Yes, my rent is \$8.00.

Q.—Are there two families in your house? A.—That is \$8.00 for both.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you say that the Knights of Labor went over to Detroit, and worked at lower wages than the Brotherhood of Carpenters? A.—No, I was not referring to Knights of Labor, but to a class of men who come in and work ten hours a day, while our laws lay down nine hours as a day's work.

Q.—These men did not belong to any organization? A.—No.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Can you give us any idea of what will be the average earnings of a carpenter in Detroit in the year? A.—If I take my own average for twelve months I put it down at \$13.00 a week.

Q.—That is over \$600.00 a year? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think the trade averages that all through? A.—There are some, perhaps, who are not capable of doing the work I do, and as soon as a job is finished they are less quick to get another job.

Q.—I want to arrive at the average time a man would work, and what he would earn. How many days would a man work in Detroit as a carpenter? A.—It has been calculated at about two hundred and eighty-six days—that is outside work.

Q.—That is if he works every day? A.—Yes.

Q.—But what would be the average? A.—That would be about the average.

Q.—Does a carpenter work on Saturday afternoons? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does it not seem to be a pretty high average? A.—It was the average last year; we had an exceedingly good winter last year. All our men were in the car shops, and could work outside nearly all last winter. I worked outside all last winter, except two days.

Q.—I suppose carpenters in Detroit, with reasonable care, are able to save money? A.—They do, I believe.

Q.—If you have any suggestions in regard to the labor question will you give the Commission the benefit of them? A.—I will give you my opinion as an Englishman by birth, and one who has lived in Canada and the United States. For prosperity I take the United States; for familiarity I like Canada; and for home comforts I like home. I think it a pity or a shame to see a branch of my country like Canada, with its vast resources, not more prosperous.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How are the men paid in your trade in Detroit? A.—Weekly and fortnightly.

Q.—Are they paid in cash? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any apprentice system in connection with your trade in Detroit? A.—We have just started an apprentice system, but we wish it to be a binding agreement, and we cannot accomplish this unless the Legislature passes a law to that effect. We have sent petitions from Detroit to Lansing to get the Legislature to pass an apprentice law.

Q.—You mean a compulsory indenture system? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you an industrial school on Grand River street? A.—Yes.

Q.—What do they teach there? A.—They teach different trades there; but there is nothing much springs out of it. It is just to give youths some insight into business.

Q.—Is it intended for mechanics? A.—No.

Q.—Have you night classes for workingmen? A.—We have night classes at the high school for workingmen; the fee is \$20.00 a winter term, of six months, which is too high a fee for workingmen to pay.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Have you any free schools of that kind in the United States? A.—No night school.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What reason do you give for union men refusing to work with non-union men? A.—We have great reason for not doing so. We have non-union men who are working ten hours a day while the union men are working nine hours. It is not right that a non-union man should work ten hours for an employer for whom I am working only nine hours. I do not see that it is right that we should be compelled to work with him, and we will not do so.

Q.—Why has not a man a right to work ten hours if he chooses? A.—He does what he likes in a free country. We at the same time ask the right to work with him or not as we choose; while at the same time he can work ten hours if he chooses to do so.

Q.—Do you ask the employer to discharge him or you will quit work? A.—If he will not discharge him we will leave.

Q.—You ask that they be discharged? A.—We ask the men for their cards. If they have not their cards the union men go away, and the employer comes around and asks what is up, and he discharges them.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—As a rule, do non-union men take any wages offered? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Before any stringent measures are resorted to, I suppose you ask them to join the union? A.—Yes.

Q.—There is a difference between being a non-union man and a union man who violates the laws of the union? A.—Yes.

Q.—Your union makes a difference between men who have never belonged to a union and those who violate the laws of the union? A.—We make a great difference. We give a non-union man up to pay time to decide whether he will join the union or not, but we have not much difficulty in getting them to join.

Q.—You do not meet many men who refuse to join among those who never belonged to a labor organization before? A.—We have had considerable trouble with men from Windsor in getting them to join our organization.

Q.—What I mean is, do you find much difficulty with men coming from Canada before they belonged to the carpenter's union? A.—No.

Q.—The men to whom you refer do not belong to any labor organization to your knowledge? A.—No.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Can you tell us the price of land per foot in your neighborhood? A.—There are three lots next to me which could be bought together for \$1,500. They have thirty feet frontage, and one hundred feet depth, each lot.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How far is that from the centre of Detroit? A.—Just within one mile and one-eighth radius of the city hall. There are cheaper and dearer lots than those.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Does the American Brotherhood of Carpenters believe in the principles of arbitration? A.—They believe in them; that is the effect of one of the petitions we have sent to Congress; it is in favor of an arbitration law.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you ask for enforced arbitration? A.—We ask Congress to enforce an arbitration law.

Q.—Do you ask that it shall be compulsory? A.—Yes.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Do you mean that the Government shall establish a court, or that there shall be arbitration between the parties themselves, or that the Government by a judge or other officials shall decide disputes between the parties? A.—It is that when a dispute arises between employers and employed, the employer shall appoint six, and the employes a like number of disinterested persons, and they shall appoint a chairman, and give a decision, which shall be final.

Q.—That is not compulsory arbitration? A.—Their decision shall be final.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—During your experience as a union man, have you ever known a union man to refuse to work with a non-union man at the same rate of pay per day and nine hours? A.—Yes.

Q.—Simply because he was a non-union man? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Why did he refuse to work; do you think it was simply on the ground that he was a non-union man? A.—We have established nine hours as a day's work.

Q.—But if a non-union man works only nine hours also? A.—We wish them to come in and support our brotherhood and our cause. If they will not support our cause and belong to our brotherhood we wish to force them into it.

Q.—You wish to coerce non-union men into belonging to the union or you will drive them from the work, and have their place filled by union men? A.—If we cannot establish our cause without coercion we have to use coercion.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Did you ever find in the United States or England shops controlled by non-union men object to the presence of union men? A.—There are some shops in London that would not employ union men.

Q.—Did you ever know a shop filled by non-union men which objected to the presence of men on the ground of their being union men? A.—No.

Q.—Never in the United States or in England? A.—No.

RICHARD SOMERVILLE, cooper, Windsor, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How long have you lived here? A.—Seven years.

Q.—You have been working as a cooper all this time? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are the wages that coopers receive in Windsor? A.—They work by the piece, and their wages in my shop, which is the only one in Windsor, will not amount in the year to over a dollar a day.

Q.—Is it tight work? A.—Both tight and slack work.

Q.—Is there as much coopering done in Windsor now as there was when you commenced business first? A.—About the same.

Q.—What season of the year are you most employed in loose work, such as flour barrels, &c.? A.—All our work is about equal; from the 1st November till the 1st March is the busy time.

- Q.—Is the tight work as much done now as formerly? A.—Yes; a little more since the sugar house started.
- Q.—What is the tight work generally used for? A.—Principally for syrups, and a few oil barrels and a few potash barrels.
- Q.—If the syrup factory was not in existence there would be little tight work done? A.—Work for about four men.
- Q.—Are there many journeymen working at the trade in Windsor? A.—About ten, I think.
- Q.—Have you a uniform rate of wages? A.—Yes.
- Q.—What is the scale for loose work? A.—Six cents a barrel.
- Q.—Do you get six cents a barrel for apple barrels as well as flour barrels? A.—We get five cents for apple barrels, but there are not over one hundred of them made in the year.
- Q.—Are the coopers all organized in Windsor? A.—They are mostly organized; most of them belong to an organization on the other side. Those working here don't belong to any society.
- Q.—Are there any objections raised as between organized and unorganized men? A.—Not in our shop.
- Q.—The men are paid weekly? A.—Yes; every Saturday night.
- Q.—A dollar a day the year round? A.—Yes; they average that the year round, but in spring they are not doing much.
- Q.—And they work solely at the coopering business for a living? A.—They generally go from here to the other side in summer time; they are going back and forward all the time.
- Q.—Is there much difference in the prices for work in Windsor and Detroit? A.—They pay Detroit prices in many things here; we are paid Detroit prices on beer work and little kegs.
- Q.—Are there many beer kegs made in Windsor? A.—We make for about two breweries—small beer kegs.
- Q.—Of course you have a scale according to the size of the kegs? A.—Yes.
- Q.—How are the men paid—weekly, fortnightly or monthly? A.—They are paid every Saturday.
- Q.—Do the men prefer Saturday as a pay day? A.—Yes; there is no doubt about that; our boss is very punctual in paying them.
- Q.—How many hours per week do they work—sixty hours? A.—Some are there from four o'clock in the morning till ten o'clock at night.
- Q.—Particularly the piece hands? A.—All the piece hands, but very few.
- Q.—Is it necessary that they should commence so early, or is it their own choice? A.—It is their own choice.
- Q.—Don't you think that piece work is injurious to the coopering business? A.—Certainly it is injurious.
- Q.—Have you any labor troubles in your trade? A.—No.
- Q.—Have you had any. A.—No.
- Q.—How many shops are there in Windsor? A.—Only one.
- Q.—Are there any apprentices? A.—No apprentices.
- Q.—The work is very heavy work? A.—Yes, extra heavy.
- Q.—In making flour barrels, what would be the average day's work on piece work? A.—By work being done as men should do it, fifteen would be quite sufficient for any man to work; if he does any more than that he hurts himself. That is one reason why a man works hard, and accumulates perhaps twelve dollars a week, and the next week perhaps he cannot work at all. They get tired out, perhaps, and don't work Monday or Tuesday, and they will not make more than five dollars, and perhaps less.
- Q.—How many days in the year could a cooper resident in Windsor, not one of the migrating crowd, get work? A.—I could not rightly tell, because they are going back and forward all the time, and a few years ago when the sugar house shut down

there were only ten men in the shop, and if it shut down to-morrow there would be only one or two men. It has recently started, and it shuts down every summer and commences every fall.

Q.—What are the sanitary conditions of the shop? A.—Pretty good.

Q.—I mean as to cleanliness and ventilation? A.—Well, there is lots of ventilation, because you can see the snow drifting in.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Are the shops comfortable enough for you to work in? A.—No.

Q.—Has there ever been any complaint made to the employers? A.—Yes; there has; I never saw it yet where the snow was drifting in but there would be a complaint.

Q.—Don't you think it would be to the advantage of the employers to improve it? A.—That is where the advantage is; they don't want to put repairs on.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Do you think working coopers are paid a fair day's pay for the work they do? A.—They are in the branch called beer work; they get Detroit prices on that.

Q.—You can make good wages on that? A.—Well, not extra good wages. These two or three men that I mentioned cannot average more than a dollar a day in and out, taking the year through. Some weeks they make ten dollars, but in others they don't go near that.

Q.—And the men working on beer work make more than the men on flour barrels, and so on? A.—No; about the average run. The other is lighter work and you don't get flour barrel work constantly; no flour barrel shop in Canada will give steady work more than six months, from Montreal to Windsor.

Q.—There is no steady work the year round? A.—Not in flour barrels. There might be for an odd hand, but on the average they are generally discharged, and in the spring they are idle.

Q.—How do you put in the lost time? A.—Coopers put it in on the railway cars mostly; they are on the track all the time.

Q.—You have a pretty hard road to travel, taking it all round? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you formed any idea what would be beneficial to journeymen coopers or coopers in general? A.—A day's work, like any other mechanic's.

Q.—Abolish piece and have regular prices for day's work? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is the making of flour barrels reduced in Canada the last few years? A.—Yes, most of the mills are bagging the flour; they manufacture the bags on the Welland Canal and ship them all over Canada.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—It is found to be cheaper? A.—Yes; cheaper and handier to put it in small packages.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Where are the flour bags mostly made? A.—Mostly on the Welland and Lachine Canals.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Are you speaking of paper bags or linen bags? A.—I am speaking of both. Paper bags are for the local trade and the linen bags are sent to Europe.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What effect has machinery had on the cooper trade? A.—It has killed it.

Q.—In what way? A.—They have machinery to windlass the barrels, to joint the staves and do mostly every thing excepting putting on the hoops.

Q.—What effect has the introduction of machinery had on wages? A.—It has had a great deal of effect, because it has put more men in the field and they have to work cheaper to get employment.

Q.—It has almost driven the trade out of existence? A.—It has mostly.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Why do coopers have to go to work at four o'clock in the morning? A.—To try to make a living.

Q.—Do they have to do it? A.—Well, they have not, but a great many do it. You find men in Chatham who, in the fall, work almost all night, and in summer they have hardly anything to do, and then they can send barrels down here and undermine us. They make flour barrels there for 22 cents.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Are you aware that apple barrels are sold on the market for 12½ cents? A.—I am not; I have heard of it.

Q.—Does convict labor interfere with you? A.—I could not say; I believe it does around Kingston and Toronto.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Do you use machinery in your work? A.—Yes; we have a stave mill for cutting out staves, and we joint them on a foot-jointer.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do boys go to work in coopers' shops to learn the trade? A.—No.

Q.—It does not attract them? A.—No; I don't think there is a man in the world would send his son to be a cooper.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Have you any idea what would remedy that matter? A.—Yes; day's work.

Q.—Anything else but that? A.—No; nothing else. Piece work is ruin-
ation to all branches of trade, but particularly to ours, because our work is scattered.
A man puts an advertisement in the paper to hire one or two men, and then in a few weeks he has to get rid of them.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Could not these men make some legitimate complaint, or have arbitra-
tion between the employers and the men with regard to a legitimate day's wages?

A.—They had arbitration over the river at certain times, but they were beaten out of it; the bosses broke it again. They had no trouble with our boss; they never asked him, nor did he ask them.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Is the Coopers' International Union in existence? A.—No; it has gone up, there is nothing but the Knights of Labor now.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Are the Knights of Labor a benefit to you? A.—Yes; only for organized labor we would be worse off still.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is the doing away with piece work the only remedy you would suggest?
A.—That would be the safest guide between bosses and men.

CHARLES SIMPKINS, Laborer, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What is your business? A.—I am a general laborer now. I did learn the carpentering trade first, but I had to leave that and do anything I could to earn a living. I now do general laboring work, and I have been so employed for about twenty years.

Q.—Was any question raised to you on account of your color, when you were in the carpentering trade? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—How long did you say you lived in Windsor? A.—About twenty years. Ever since the close of the Civil War.

Q.—Had you been in the South before that? A.—Yes.

Q.—What part of the South? A.—South Carolina.

Q.—And Uncle Sam set you free? A.—Yes.

Q.—What do you earn as a day laborer? A.—I average, I suppose, during the year, about \$1.12½ a day.

Q.—You get pretty constant work? A.—I have this summer, better than I have for many summers before. I have worked all summer since April at the rate of 12½ cents an hour.

Q.—How many hours a day do you work? A.—I am putting in nine now, and I only get nine shillings; when I put in ten hours I get ten shillings.

Q.—Have you pretty constant work in the winter time? A.—No; I am shut off in the winter. I get eight or nine months in the year, according to the weather, and whether the season is early or late. From the 1st of April to the 1st of December is what we can depend on; work is going on a little later this season than usual, and I am working yet.

Q.—What rent do you pay? A.—I am trying to build, and avoid paying rent. Last winter I paid \$7 a month rent.

Q.—Are you able to save enough money to buy a house? A.—I have undertaken it, and I am trying to get through with it.

Q.—What family have you? A.—Four children; I have had eight and have buried four.

Q.—Are you more fortunate or less fortunate than other men who do work as general laborers. A.—I could not say whether I am more or less so. I have been fortunate enough to get work whenever there has been any to be had.

Q.—Does a man who is industrious and steady get about all he wants to do? A.—Yes; in the summer time, when the work is to be done, I can get work whenever anybody else can—that is, laboring work.

Q.—Have you any union? A.—I belong to the Knights of Labor.

Q.—Do you fix any rates of wages for unskilled labor? A.—No; we have not got to that yet.

Q.—You get what wages you can obtain? A.—The laborers in our societies have not been attending to that part of the business.

Q.—What advantage have you in belonging to the Knights of Labor? A.—One advantage I have is that it has helped to keep me in employment.

Q.—Do you think it gives you employment where you would not get it if you did not belong to the Knights of Labor? A.—Yes, I think so.

Q.—How does it do that? A.—The brotherhood aids me to find work. I have been trying, and I am trying now in the assembly to get the time regulated the same as mechanics have got—that is, nine hours' work and ten hours' pay, but I do not know whether we will succeed or not.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Would you rather work nine hours a day for nine hours' pay than ten hours a day for ten hours' pay? A.—It is the money I want. If I can get ten hours' pay for nine hours' work I would prefer that, but if not I would prefer to put in ten hours; for I want money.

Q.—Would it be a benefit to you to work only nine hours? A.—If I could get ten hours' pay for that time I would make good use of the other hour.

Q.—Of your four children, how many are going to school? Two are going to school and two are not old enough.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Do you consider a man working hard as a day laborer here is as good a position as a day laborer on the other side? A.—As a day laborer I do not know but that I am. Laborers get a little more wages on the other side, I am informed, but there are more of them.

FRANK ROLPH, Cabinet-maker, Windsor, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q.—You work in Windsor? A.—Yes.
- Q.—How long have you lived here? A.—Four years last April.
- Q.—Is there much cabinet work done in Windsor? A.—There is only one shop.
- Q.—Is it a large shop? A.—It employs eight men.
- Q.—You don't manufacture on a large scale or do a regular manufacturing business? A.—No; it all belongs to the same firm pretty much.
- Q.—What wages are paid to cabinet-makers in Windsor? A.—As a rule, about \$10 a week.
- Q.—Do you work by the day, or the week, or the hour? A.—We all work by the day, excepting one man.
- Q.—Do you have pretty constant work the year round? A.—Well, we do here.
- Q.—You don't lose much time? A.—No, sir.
- Q.—Is your trade organized? A.—I am really not posted on that; I have been trying to find out whether they were organized throughout the Dominion or not.
- Q.—Here in Windsor have you a cabinet-makers union? A.—No.
- Q.—Do you belong to the Knights of Labor? A.—Some do and some do not.
- Q.—Those who belong to the Knights of Labor will work in the same shop with those who don't? A.—They have so far; last year we got them all into the union, excepting two men.
- Q.—Do many cabinet-makers own the houses in which they live? A.—I don't know but one, and I think that even in that case it is his son who owns the place.
- Q.—How many hours a day do you work? A.—Ten hours.
- Q.—Sixty hours a week? A.—Yes.
- Q.—How frequently are you paid? A.—Every Saturday morning.
- Q.—Cash? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Is the sanitary condition of the shop pretty good? A.—Well, it is not any of the best.
- Q.—In what respect is it defective? A.—Well, the shop in which I work has a barn on one side and closets on the other, and down under the building it is nothing but a quagmire, covered with water almost the year round. This last summer it was too dry, but we have had occasion once or twice to go under the shop to brace it up, and we had to crawl in on planks.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Do you think that state of things would be deleterious to health? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q.—What wages do cabinet-makers get in Detroit? A.—I could not say; never worked in Detroit, though I have worked in other places in the States.
- Q.—What did you get in Michigan? A.—I worked there by the piece.
- Q.—Did you get less or more than you get here? A.—A good deal less than here. My work was not steady when I worked by the piece; I work by the day here. On the average, if I had good steady work I could make \$2 a day, but I did not have work more than half the time; that was about four years ago, and prices are not so good now.
- Q.—That was in Michigan? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

- Q.—Have you much machinery in your place? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Is it properly protected? A.—Not in all cases.
- Q.—In what cases is it not protected? A.—The belting, for one thing; it is all done from overhead, and to any person unaccustomed to machinery it is very dangerous.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

- Q.—Have you had a visit from the factory inspector? A.—I never saw one yet.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Are there many boys working in the shop? A.—No; they are all of age, excepting one.

Q.—What do you mean by being of age. A.—Twenty-one years.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you consider that piece work is injurious to the working man? A.—Yes.

Q.—That it reduces wages? A.—Yes.

Q.—And you have to work harder? A.—Yes.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Has any accident occurred from any machinery or belting being unprotected, or from the condition of the saws, or anything of that kind? A.—Yes.

Q.—In the establishment in which you are now working? A.—Yes.

Q.—Many of them? A.—I have known of five, but they have not resulted seriously. One of the men now is off work with mangled fingers.

Q.—Would that be the result of carelessness on the part of the man or the unprotected state of the machinery? Was the man competent to work at the machinery? A.—I must say candidly that it was a little carelessness on his part in not protecting the machines he was working on.

Q.—But if the machine was properly protected do you think the accident would have occurred? A.—It would on the work he was doing at that time.

Q.—So you think there was part carelessness on his part? A.—There was, in not protecting the machine at the time.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—What machine was it? A.—The shaver.

Q.—Do you know that that is the most dangerous machine in the business? A.—Yes.

Q.—How could it be protected? A.—By putting a hood over the head.

Q.—Was it possible on that occasion? A.—No; not on that particular one.

Q.—Generally speaking, is it possible, situated as you are, for the belts to run up instead of running down? From what I understood you to say about the underpinning of your building they could not put a line of shafting under? A.—They could not now, without some extra expense, but for any person who is building a shop it is a very easy thing to put the building up from four to five feet and have the belting below.

Q.—Have there been any accidents from saws? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there guards on the backs of the saws? A.—No; there are not; last week there was a man got knocked over by the saw, and there had been four cases of that same thing done in that shop this summer.

Q.—Have you known, during your experience, of men being disabled for life by accidents of that kind, a piece flying from a saw? A.—No; not in my own knowledge.

Q.—You have known them to be seriously wounded? A.—Yes; I have known them to be hurt pretty badly.

RICHARD D. WALKER, Laborer, Windsor, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What is your business? A.—I am a laborer, and have been a night watchman.

Q.—For a factory? A.—No; for a steamboat plying between Windsor and Detroit, the steamer "Victoria."

Q.—Are many men employed as watchmen on the boats? A.—The company have about five watchmen during the summer months, one watchman on each boat; the company have five boats.

Q.—Is there a watchmen on board each boat while it is laid up? A.—Yes; he goes on at six o'clock in the evening, and goes off at seven in the morning.

Q.—What pay do these men get? A.—They get \$1.25 a night.

Q.—How long does work last? A.—Two watchmen are kept on all winter and kept constantly going all the year round. On the "Victoria" I had constant work the year round.

Q.—I believe you are not doing night work just now? A.—No; I am keeping a grocery. It is very wearing work on the steamer, and for that reason I was unable to do it any longer.

Q.—Do you make the grocery business successful? I cannot say; I have not been long enough in it.

Q.—Can you save any money on \$1.25 a day? A.—It is pretty close work.

Q.—Have you any family? A.—There are only my wife and I. She is a very economical woman, but a man at that class of work has to eat three meals a day, and something through the night.

Q.—Could you save enough money to start the grocery business? A.—I did not make it by working for the ferry company. My wife helped me a little in the matter.

Q.—Did you ever do any laboring work about the city? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you get pretty good pay for that? A.—Not very much. It is not very easy work to get employment in this town.

Q.—You have heard the testimony of the last witness? A.—Yes; but he was speaking of a later date.

Q.—Do you approve of all he said? A.—Yes. I may say in regard to the work on the steamer that the watchmen have too long hours.

Q.—How many hours do they work? A.—A watchman goes on at seven o'clock in the evening every other night, and he leaves at six o'clock in the morning; and the other evening he goes on at twelve o'clock. Some of the other men on the railway ferry have to come on at five o'clock at night, and stay till seven in the morning. They are found with constant work, but they are hardly able to stand it.

Q.—Cannot they take a nap during these hours? A.—Occasionally they drop off to sleep during the winter.

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JAMES WREN, Tailor, Windsor, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What is your business? A.—I am a journeyman tailor.

Q.—Custom work? A. Yes.

Q.—Are many tailors employed here? A.—About twenty-five.

Q.—What would be the average wages received by journeymen tailors in Windsor? A.—Twenty-five cents per hour.

Q.—Is that universal, or is it only paid to some? A.—It is paid to all journey-men tailors throughout the city.

Q.—How does that compare with prices paid in Detroit? A.—Detroit is a good deal higher.

Q.—How much? A.—One-third higher.

Q.—Then they get twenty-six and two-thirds cents per hour? A.—In some shops; they have not a regular price in all shops.

Q.—Do you get pretty constant work? A.—About six months in the year.

Q.—And the other six months is broken time? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much could a man earn in the course of a year who is industrious and works as much as he can? A.—The average would be about \$9 a week.

Q.—You find it pretty hard to maintain a family on that, don't you? A.—Well, I don't know; I have not got any.

Q.—Do you try to work as constantly as those who have? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any clothing made in Windsor that quietly slips across the river to the other side? A.—Yes.

Q.—That ought to make business pretty good in Windsor? A.—Yes; that is the only thing that keeps us alive here.

Q.—Does any clothing come from Detroit to this side in the same way? A.—Well, in ladies' wear I expect there is.

Q.—And how about ready-made clothing? A.—It is cheaper in Detroit than in Windsor.

Q.—And custom clothing is cheaper here? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you a tailors' union? A.—Most of us belong to the Knights of Labor.

Q.—How many hours do you work? A.—From ten to sixteen.

Q.—Pretty long hours? A.—Yes.

Q.—That is when you are busy? A.—Yes.

Q.—At other times you don't get ten hours? A.—Sometimes we don't get two.

Q.—Is it possible to make any amendment in those hours? A.—I believe not.

Q.—In the busy season the work must be done? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—About holiday time you have to work very hard? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—The journeymen themselves would not like other men to come in and shorten those hours when they are busy? A.—Well, in that case they would have nothing to do in the slack times.

Q.—Do many tailors own the houses in which they live in Windsor? A.—Yes; quite a few.

Q.—Have they managed to save some money? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you lived as a journeyman in other places besides Windsor? A.—Yes.

Q.—In Canada? A.—In the United States and Canada both.

Q.—Are there many young women work in the tailoring here in Windsor? A.—Yes; about fifteen.

Q.—They work principally on pants and vests? A.—Yes.

Q.—By the piece or by the week? A.—They work by the piece.

Q.—How much would a young woman get for making a vest of tweed, say? A.—One dollar to \$1.25, according to the kind of work.

Q.—What kind of a vest would that be? A.—Fine tweed and cloth are just about the same price.

Q.—Will she make a vest a day? A.—Yes.

Q.—And a tweed pair of pants? A.—\$1.25.

Q.—What is the difference between prices in the same work in Windsor and Detroit? A.—I think workmen in Windsor at the tailoring get as good pay as in Detroit.

Q.—Are you troubled with the apprentice question? A.—We have only had three boys in six years.

Q.—Does your order believe in indenturing apprentices in all trades? A.—No; they do not.

Q.—I mean the Order of the Knights of Labor? A.—I do not know whether they do.

Q.—Have you had any labor troubles in the tailoring business in Windsor? A.—No.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—How many hours a day have the girls to work? A.—Well, those working by the day work about nine hours.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—They mostly take the work to their homes? A.—No; practically all the work is done on the premises.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—When girls do piece work on vests and pants how long do they work in the shop? A.—They generally go to work about 8 o'clock in the morning and, on piece work, remain until 8 in the evening.

Q.—Do they take work home, then, too? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How is the sanitary condition of the shops? A.—Pretty good.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Where there are men and women employed in the same establishments, have they separate water-closets and all that sort of thing? A.—Well, in some of our workshops we have not got any water closets.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—None at all? A.—No.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Are there any establishments employing both ladies and gentlemen in which there are separate closets? A.—There is only one.

Q.—How many establishments of that kind are there in the city employing male and female labor? A.—Five.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What is the largest number of hands they employ in any one shop at one time? A.—At different times they may have ten or twelve in the one shop.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you ever hear the hands complain for the want of those conveniences? A.—Yes.

FRANKLIN THORNTON, Stone-cutter, Windsor, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You are a stone-cutter by trade? A.—Yes; I have worked for over forty years at the trade.

Q.—How long have you worked at the trade in Windsor? A.—The first work I did here was on the custom house, about ten years ago.

Q.—Are there many stone-cutters in Windsor? A.—Not for buildings. There are a few marble shops here, and they generally do building work too.

Q.—Do any of them do stone-mason's work also? A.—Yes.

Q.—In the stone-cutting trade what stone is most used, Ohio or Credit Valley, or Pelee Island? A.—Ohio stone.

Q.—Do the stone-cutters prefer Ohio stone to cut? A.—I think they do. The stone used here is principally brought from Detroit, and is generally Ohio or Cleveland stone.

Q.—Have you worked in Canada, outside of Windsor? A.—I have worked in Detroit at the trade.

Q.—Is there much Credit Valley stone coming in here for use? A.—Not here. I have worked in all the shops here, and I never knew any of it to come in here. It is generally Cleveland stone we use.

Q.—Are you paid by the week? A.—I work by the day, principally, and I do a great deal of piece work.

Q.—How much per day do stone-cutters receive? A.—The stone-cutting business in this place is as vacillating and uncertain as anything you can strike upon. No one establishment can make a living out of it. At the marble works they cannot make a living at the marble business, and so they mix the other with it, and that keeps up a continual warfare. Builders think that marble-cutters should not travel outside of the marble business, and the scale of prices is regulated by Detroit.

Q.—Are stone-cutters receiving Detroit wages? A.—They are receiving just the same.

Q.—How much is that? A.—For a stone-cutter the highest wage is \$3.50 a day; next highest is \$3.00. Here let me say that business comes on with a rush. The masters have got to have men a certain length of time, and they pay high wages, because high wages are paid in the trade in Detroit.

Q.—Are stone-cutters organized by themselves as a body in this city? A.—They are not. A great many belong to the Stone-cutters' Union on the other side, but they live here. With masons it is the same. A great many of the stonecutters are good masons.

Q.—The stone-cutter in Windsor also works as a marble worker and a stone-mason? A.—Yes, they work at the three branches.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Is there any difference in the wages of a man working as a stone-mason and cutting stone, and are the wages of a stone-mason the same as a stone-cutter? A.—They are not so high.

Q.—When you go to work at stone-masonry you work for less than if you were stone-cutting? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it a general thing for stone-cutters to work at mason's work? A.—Not as a general thing. Stone-cutters' and brick-layers' wages run about the same; they are the highest-paid mechanics in the building trade. They command higher wages than any other artisans in that trade.

Q.—Do brick-layers get more than stone-masons in Windsor, as a rule? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do brick-layers get more than stone-masons in Detroit? A.—They do.

Q.—Do they, as a general rule, in the United States? A.—Yes. I have been acquainted with the trade in the leading cities of the United States for many years. I served my time in Pittsburg.

Q.—In the building trade, do masons do plastering? A.—Not as a general rule.

Q.—Do bricklayers? A.—Not as a general rule.

Q.—Do they work at it at all? A.—A few work at it, but not as a general rule. There is a class of mechanics who exclusively work at plastering here.

Q.—But would they have any objection to stone-masons or brick-layers working at it, if they were competent? A.—I think not.

Q.—You have some slated buildings here? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you slaters here as a separate trade, or what kind of workmen do slating? A.—They bring in artisans from abroad. I think there is not a slater in this place; I do not know of any.

Q.—So that slating is part of the mason's trade with you. No; I never so understood it. It is only within a few years that we have had a slated roof in the place.

Q.—With respect to the finishing of buildings—cornices and centre decorations—have you plasterers to do the work and make the moulds? A.—No; we have not. There is no regular establishment, but a few individuals do that kind of thing. I was on a building yesterday, where they were putting up a cornice and centre-piece which they brought from Detroit.

Q.—Do they put the centre-pieces up in blocks, or do they run them into a mould? The centre-pieces are made in moulds and are afterwards put up.

Q.—Do you know of any establishment in Canada which makes centre-pieces or any of these decorations? A.—No. There is no establishment in Windsor. They

charge for a centre-piece put up here \$4.50. You can buy them in Detroit, ready to put up, for \$1.00 each, and then there is a trifle to be added for the material used in putting them up. I notice that a man who put up four the other day charged \$18.00.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How long does it take a man to put up a centre-piece? A.—It will take a man, with his scaffolding all ready, about thirty minutes.

Q.—The centre-piece costs \$1.00 and the man charges \$3.00 for putting it up, although it only occupies him thirty minutes, and fifty cents additional? A.—There is the cost of a little material to come out.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Thirty minutes does not represent all the time occupied? A.—No; I mean it will take thirty minutes after the scaffold is put up.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Where do you get slates, when they are put on roofs here? Do they come from the United States, or are they obtained in Canada? A.—I do not know whether they come from the United States or not.

WINDSOR, December 8th, 1887.

JERRY BUCKLEY, Detroit, called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What is your occupation? A.—I am President of the Seamen's Union, and have been a sailor for eleven years previous to this.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Please, in your own way, tell us what disadvantages the seamen are under on the lakes and what remedies you propose? A.—In the first place, vessels do not carry crew enough to enable them to do the work required.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You are on the American side, but I understand your remarks apply to both sides. When they do not, just please tell us when they apply to the one or to the other? A.—I will tell you in regard to both of them. In the first place they do not carry crew enough to handle them, and in the second place they do not have places fit for men to sleep in. They generally sleep down below the forecabin, and the clothes are put in in the spring and never taken out during the season; they are left all winter, and not one in ten is washed in spring. They load the vessels to the top and put in all they can get in them.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you any laws in the United States about the protection of vessels in the way of loading them? A.—No, sir. The Seamen's Union has spent thousands of dollars in Washington trying to get a law. There is a law but it is not in force.

Q.—When was it passed? It was passed a good many years ago.

Q.—You say it is not enforced? A.—No, sir; it is not.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Is it enforced on Canadian vessels? A.—No; not on any vessels.

Q.—You are speaking of deck loads? A.—Yes; they carry deck loads, as much as they can pile on to them, on both sides.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—The Seamen's Union is an international body, is it not? A.—Yes.

Q.—You have headquarters in Chicago, with branches throughout Canada and the United States? A.—Yes.

Q.—You ship as frequently on Canadian vessels as on American bottoms?
 A.—Yes, sir. In the summer time there is quite a few Canadian vessels trading between Detroit, Chicago, Milwaukee and Toledo.

Q.—And a man may ship from here to Buffalo on an American and come back on a Canadian vessel? A.—Yes; often that is the case.

Q.—Sometimes you ship down from here to Kingston on a Canadian vessel and come back on an American?

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—By American law, what part of the seamen must be American? A.—The American law claims that two-thirds of the seamen should be American citizens, and all the officers, but they do not enforce that. It is a by-gone thing, and often they are all foreigners.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Is there such a thing as hull inspection on sailing vessels? A.—Yes, sir; they inspect the hulls every season.

Q.—Is there a law in Canada compelling the inspection of hulls in sailing vessels? A.—I believe there is.

Q.—Do you know if it is carried out? A.—I think it is; I am not positive. It must be carried out, because a vessel which does not weight up cannot carry grain.

Q.—Are the officers, such as the captains and mates, obliged to pass an examination? A.—They are in Canada, but not in the United States.

Q.—How far does the examination for a certificate go? Is it a certificate of competency? A.—No, sir; it should be a certificate of competency, but it is not in all cases; influence has a great deal to do on both sides; it goes a great deal further on both sides than competency.

Q.—And men incompetent to handle a vessel frequently get certificates through favor. A.—Yes, through favors.

Q.—What sort of an examination do they put them through in Canada?
 A.—Well, sir, I do not know.

Q.—Is there any law limiting or guiding the way of loading sailing vessels?
 A.—No, sir; that is, if there is, it is not carried out.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You say that vessels are loaded as if there were no law? A.—Yes; just as they like.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—As much as they can pile on? A.—Yes. For instance if her tonnage registers 275 they frequently put 650 to 700 tons in her. That is, a full sized canal vessel registering 275 to 350 they put that amount in her.

Q.—Taking an ordinary sailing vessel, carrying grain and coal—how much free room should she have? A.—For instance, a vessel carrying 20,000 should have a carrying capacity of water for 150 tons. Very often a vessel founders by being overloaded, and they should have a carrying capacity above the average to carry this much above their register. In the fall of the year the vessels ice up a great deal, and it does not take much ice to make 100 tons. I have come down the river on a vessel with the covering board away under water.

Q.—Is it a frequent occurrence to load a vessel so heavy that her deck is just above the water? A.—Yes; it is done every day.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You are talking of vessels on the lakes? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Vessels sailing Lakes Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario? A.—Yes.

Q.—Now, if a vessel was properly loaded, say that she had space in her hold of

the capacity you mention for water, what would be the difference in the risk of that vessel and one loaded so that her deck was almost flush with the water? A.—There would be considerable difference, because a vessel which was not fully loaded would be so much lighter in the water, it would be just the same as loading a man. If you put 100 lbs. upon a man and that is all he can carry and then you put 50 lbs. more and you make him carry it, he cannot go far, and if he has a rough road to travel he cannot go at all.

Q.—Do you know what proportion of the vessels which are wrecked are over-loaded? A.—The _____ which was wrecked at White Fish Point, Lake Superior, in a squall was overloaded; the _____ which was wrecked this fall was over-loaded; the City of _____ was also over-loaded.

Q.—Can you mention any Canadian vessels? A.—That Canadian vessel wrecked up on the Straits was overloaded, the _____ I mean.

Q.—Do you know anything about the _____ which foundered two miles out of Port Dalhousie? A.—No; I could not speak as to her.

Q.—And you could not speak as to the crew which was on board of her? A.—No; I never heard anything about her in particular, only that she was lost, and I saw that in the newspapers.

Q.—What would you consider the proper crew for a vessel to have a sufficient number for all purposes?

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—They are generally masted schooners, are they not? A.—They are generally canal schooners, registering from 300 to 350, and they should have four men—an ordinary seaman and two mates, and the captain and cook. Those four men should be competent seamen.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are all men who ship as sailors competent seamen? A.—No, sir; they are not.

Q.—They take a great many green hands? A.—Yes, frequently; they will not pay the salaries to get sailors, and the sailors will not go on the vessels in the fall, so they ship anybody they can get for deck hands—farmers, for instance, or anybody who will go and take the job.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Take one of those large three-masted schooners, and what should be the crew? A.—Those that carry a register of 700 to 800 tons should have at least eight or nine men before the mast, but none of them do it. The men they carry cannot handle them in really bad weather; if they are caught out in a gale of wind they cannot handle the canvas.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do vessels frequently leave port under-manned? A.—Yes; often.

Q.—Is it the practice? A.—It is done quite frequently. A vessel gets loaded and if a man leaves them they will not wait a minute to get one. If the tug is alongside they will go right out a man short. It is done frequently, every day almost, in the summer time. They do not do it so much in the fall, because they cannot get along very well without them then; they carry too short a crew even as it is in the summer.

Q.—Are vessels lost from having defective gear? A.—Very often; old canvas and bad halyards.

Q.—Is there law or custom compelling the inspection of the gear of a vessel? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do you think the gear should be inspected with the hull? A.—I think it should.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—When the hull is inspected is not the gear inspected as part of it? A.—Yes

it is; the gear is the principal part, but they do not inspect the canvas or the gear; just the hull, and nothing else.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How long will an ordinary Manilla rope last on a vessel? A.—When there is a good deal of chafing it would not last more than a season, such as the halyards, for instance. Sometimes they splice them and keep them patched, and by using the new end above and the old end down below they sometimes use them for two seasons.

Q.—Do you know of any vessels being lost from incompetency by taking a trick at the wheel? A.—Yes it is often the case that an incompetent man would be at the wheel, the vessel gibes and the boom is carried away, or sometimes the canvas; a vessel often founders in that way.

Q.—Do owners of vessels put green hands at the wheel? A.—They have a man in Cleveland called Rumsey, who ships men for vessel owners, and sometimes he ships a whole crowd of men and puts them on board. They have gone out on vessels when there was nobody could steer her but the captain and mate. This frequently occurred with large vessels going out of Cleveland.

Q.—Should not all men who ship as sailors be able to steer a vessel by the compass? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Can they do it? A.—All sailors can, but not all can who are employed on vessels.

Q.—Are many men shipped on the lakes who cannot steer by the compass? A.—Yes; about one-third—that is on sailing vessels. There are two-thirds of them on steamboats and barges that could not steer by compass.

Q.—Do not steamboats ship pilots in addition—don't they always carry them? A.—No; only on narrow passages, such as steamboats coming down through the Lime Kiln Crossings, but as a general thing they are all acquainted with the navigation through the rivers.

Q.—Do ordinary deck hands take the wheel on steamboats and barges? A.—They do on barges—the crews they ship are supposed to take the wheel, but lots of them do not know anything about it; about two-thirds of the men on barges do not know enough about sailing to steer.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Is not the navigation of Georgian Bay very dangerous? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do incompetent men take the wheel on vessels in Georgian Bay? A.—I have not been up there much, but of the class of men who sail up there, as a general rule, about one-half of them are pretty fair seamen.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Could you suggest to us some remedy to prevent the shipping of green hands? A.—Well, sir, I do not know of any remedy to prevent the shipping of green hands, any more than if it was made the law for a vessel to carry so many competent men and to put a heavy fine on vessels that did not carry such men.

Q.—Would it not be necessary to have some form of certificate for competent sailors? A.—Well, it would be necessary.

Q.—That is what I mean. If a vessel had to carry so many competent men according to her size, it would be necessary for these men to produce a certificate at every port they cleared from? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Would that meet the requirements? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—If a man navigated for a certain time, would you consider him competent? A.—No; not in all cases. Some men are thick-headed and cannot learn.

Q.—Would you fix any time by which a man could qualify? A.—Well, if a man was a sailor—

Q.—I am speaking of an average man; I want to know if you could fix a time each that if a man had sailed for that time he would be a competent man in your view? A.—Well, any kind of a man would be competent in three or four seasons.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Could you overcome the difficulty by forming a close union of competent men and refusing to ship on vessels under-manned? A.—We could not overcome it, unless the Government would help us and sustain us in it.

Q.—If you once sign with a vessel and you found before leaving port that she was under-manned, could you be punished for deserting her? A.—Well, I do not think they would punish a man for doing it, but they have done this—vessels are loaded at Escanaba to the very top with iron ore; they have got the officers and they have obliged them to do it through the influence of money and by bribing the officers in those places. The same thing has been done in L'Ance.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Do you know that to have been done of your own knowledge? A.—Yes; I do.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Did you ever know that of any Canadian vessels? A.—No; they never go to Escanaba for iron ore.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Have you seen any Canadian vessels on which sailors were obliged to go, even when they were overloaded? A.—Not that I know of.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Has the Seamen's Union ever to your knowledge made an attempt to prevent the shipping of green hands? A.—Yes; we have.

Q.—You have done what you could to remedy the evil?

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is that in the United States? A.—Yes; down at Washington. Mr. Powers was down there three different winters trying to get a law passed to prevent the shipping of incompetent men and prevent the overloading of vessels, and also about the sleeping accommodation in forecastles.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Mr. Powers is president of the Chicago union? A.—Yes.

Q.—And he thought that a law should be passed to prevent the overloading of sailing vessels and steamboats? A.—Yes.

Q.—That competent seamen should be protected by certificates against green hands, that each vessel should carry so many competent seamen to her tonnage, and that the gear and sails should be inspected with the hulls? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there any other points you could give us? A.—I do not know of any particularly, except with regard to the forecastles.

Q.—That they are not kept in a clean condition? A.—They are not kept in any condition at all. The decks leak and often the water runs down as freely as it would any place.

By Mr. FREED:—

How about the food the sailors get? A.—The food, as a general thing, is good. We cannot say anything against that.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—With regard to those vessels which were lost, was it said they were overmasted—that the masts were too high? A.—No; none were wrecked from being too lofty, that I know of.

Q.—Is there any talk about vessels being overmasted? A.—What makes these vessels cranky as a general thing and makes them roll over, is they take a big load

of lumber and pile on too much, and if the vessel is cranky and gets struck by a squall, the cargo being top heavy, this rolls her over. They often put on a vessel which would carry 200,000 feet of lumber in the hold about 150,000 on the deck, and that makes a pile eight or nine feet above the deck.

Q.—Do they come through the lakes with such a deck load as that? A.—Yes, and sometimes eight, or ten, or twelve, or fifteen feet on the deck.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are vessels ever lost in consequence of the cargo not being properly stowed away, so that it shifts? A.—Well, there is no chance for a cargo shifting inside, with iron ore, which will not shift; when it is grain and ore they pile them so full that there is no chance for shifting.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What provision is made on board sailing vessels to save life? A.—There is nothing but the yawl boat.

Q.—And if it is washed away there are no life-preservers? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Is that a proper state of affairs? A.—No; there should be life-preservers for every man on the vessel, but I never saw one on board a sailing vessel in my life.

Q.—Do you know anything of the steamer——? A.—Yes.

Q.—When was she lost? A.—This fall, on Lake Michigan.

Q.—Did you ever hear what kind of life-preservers she had? A.—The papers said they were very poor, and that she had 150 tons more cargo in her than she ever had before.

Q.—Did you ever hear that her life-preservers instead of being made of cork were simply made of weeds and sawdust covered with canvas? A.—Yes; I have heard that, and it was stated in the papers.

Q.—Is that a usual occurrence, do you think? A.—It may be; I do not know, but it has never leaked out before.

Q.—Do you think that if the law respecting steamboats and their supplies were properly administered they would be able to carry such life-preservers? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do you think the law is properly administered? A.—No, sir; it is not.

Q.—Do you think of any other points which you would like to mention? A.—Nothing more than this, that Canadian vessels going up on the lake shore loading square timber work their men for eighteen and sometimes twenty hours loading timber and standing in the water. Then they have to get away, and sometimes they are caught in the night on a lee shore, and the men are often kept out forty-eight to fifty hours.

Q.—Without a change of watch? A.—Yes; they work from daylight to dark in summer, and this is eighteen or twenty hours.

Q.—On sailing vessels, would it not be necessary to change the watch frequently? A.—Well, the men should get watch and watch. On a sailing vessel a man works twelve hours a day if he gets watch and watch immediately, but they never get it.

Q.—Don't they carry sufficient men to change the watch every four hours? A.—We do in fine weather but not in bad weather. They could carry men enough, but they don't, and the men are kept up sometimes forty-eight to fifty hours in bad weather without any rest.

Q.—How many men would it require to handle one of these three-masted schooners in a wind? A.—Three men and the officers would handle her.

Q.—That would be sufficient? A.—Yes; three men, the mate, captain and second mate.

Q.—Would not they require nine competent seamen and four officers to handle them? A.—No; six competent seamen—three officers.

Q.—You would change the watch every four hours and then go on again? A.—The captain, as a general thing, is only an ornament, anyway. He does not do anything.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You spoke of the bad condition of the fore-castle awhile ago? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do vermin get into them? A.—I do not think vermin could live there.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Is there any ventilation in the fore-castles? A.—Nothing but the scuttle, two feet square, where the men get down.

Q.—No port holes? A.—No ventilation of any description, except the scuttle and the space for the stovepipe.

Q.—Have you ever known the men called to go up on the decks to sleep? A.—Yes; they do so in summer; the men cannot sleep there at all. They would be suffocated.

Q.—Is the inspection of boilers any better than of hulls? A.—That is something I do not know anything about. In the United States they inspect the boilers every spring.

THOMAS MULHALL, Seaman, Detroit, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—How long have you been a sailor on the lakes? A.—Thirty-eight years past.

Q.—You have had a good deal of experience of the kind of vessels that sail the lakes and the way they are handled? A.—Yes.

Q.—Will you tell us any grievances you have to complain of? A.—Well, there is one grievance of late years. In former years they were all competent captains and mates of vessels; I lived in Kingston nearly twenty years and some of the oldest captains are very competent, but of late years, although we have grand exceptions, they have been replaced by younger men and cheaper men.

Q.—Do you think it pays to hire an incompetent captain on a small salary rather than a good officer at a good salary? A.—I am confident it does not.

Q.—Don't you think that an incompetent captain or officer of any kind would allow a vessel to depreciate? A.—I know of incompetent men who have taken charge of vessels, and I have been "nurse" myself for over five or six; they hold the position on account of running the vessel cheap, but they let the gear rot out in the first place and let the vessel run down, and when that happens, the next thing is that she goes to pieces.

Q.—Don't you think a good many officers on vessels, in order to keep their positions, try to save as much that way as possible; wouldn't they starve a vessel? A.—I have know that to be the fact at least ten times.

Q.—No competent man would stand at the expense in order to keep his vessel in trim? A.—No, sir; you always know a good, competent man by his vessel; his vessel is always clean and trim.

Q.—Can you suggest anything to us in the way of a remedy? A.—Some years ago I was in Canada when the new law came out, and I saw the young men who passed for captains, and though the examiners or inspectors, Mr. Harbottle, Mr. McLaren and Captain Taylor, were pretty strict men, I know there were young men who passed who were not fit for the position. I know the inspectors personally, but I know that some of the men got certificates who I know were not competent. I happened to be there when the first inspection was made, four years ago.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—You consider that all these three men were competent to judge and examine? A.—I do, sir; I speak for the whole three of them.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you know what the examination consisted of? A.—No, I do not; I

haven't been on a Canadian vessel for a great many years, though I was when I first came out.

Q.—Do you know if they examined the men in seamanship and navigation? A.—I don't know, but I don't believe they do.

Q.—I think they just examine them for color-blindness? A.—Yes; and for being pilots on the lake and otherwise.

Q.—Now, in view of your statement that you have confidence in the Board of Examiners, do you think the examination itself is a proper one? A.—Well, that is a question I could not answer, because I do not know what it is.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Were you ever on any foreign voyage outside the lakes? A.—Yes; for years and years; I began my career on the lakes and was off the lakes for six or seven years afterwards. I have been in China, Australia, France and on the Mediterranean and Black Seas.

Q.—In your experience, is it as dangerous on these lakes as when you were on foreign voyages? A.—Fifty per cent. worse.

Q.—You consider that under all the circumstances a man should be as thoroughbred a sailor to take charge on the lakes as he should be on a foreign voyage? A.—More so. I have been very nearly two years on one trip, and it was mere play to us compared with the lakes.

Q.—And these short voyages around shore are always the most dangerous? A.—Yes; and another thing, on a short voyage they will work you almost to death if you are in at port, and perhaps they will get under weigh after sixteen or seventeen hours, and sometimes twenty hours—they will get under weigh at night, and I have often been a mate on such vessels, and I would find every man asleep after such hours.

Q.—And you could not blame them? A.—No; I have had to move around myself, so that I would not go to sleep. I have been in the timber trade for a number of years.

Q.—That work you speak of was stowing cargo? A.—Yes; loading timber.

Q.—You think that lake navigation, under all circumstances, is more dangerous than foreign, and that men require, if anything, to be more competent seamen than for foreign voyages? A.—I do. It is only a pleasure to go on a southern voyage. I have often been on ships on such voyages, when we would hardly know when it was our watch to go below; we would sleep on deck, and be too lazy to go below to sleep.

Q.—There is another thing: If anything was wrong on board of your vessel, so that you wanted to make repairs, or anything of that kind, on a short voyage here, you had less time to do it in than if anything went wrong on a foreign voyage? A.—Certainly.

Q.—You found it more difficult if anything gave out suddenly to renovate it here than on a foreign voyage. A.—Yes.

Q.—So under all circumstances navigation and everything connected with sailing is more difficult here than on a foreign voyage? A.—Yes; and even here on the lakes it is only once in a while that we will have two men able to do anything if anything does give out. We may have a couple of men, and sometimes only one man able to do it.

Q.—Are men, as a rule, as able to handle themselves with regard to splicing sails and matters of that kind as on a foreign voyage? A.—Yes; our sailors are. We have both in Kingston and Toronto a union, and when a man has joined three of the oldest heads like myself will examine him to know if he is competent before we take him in.

Q.—Why is not that rule carried out here? A.—It is carried out in St. Catharines, Kingston and Toronto.

Q.—It is not carried out here? A.—No; in the small ports it is not carried out.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How is it in Detroit? A.—Yes, we carry it out in Detroit. There are only a few vessels on the lower lakes under the union; more of them are running wild; they will ship anything they can get.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are sailors paid by the trip or by the month? A.—By the day.

Q.—Is it the practice to discharge sailors when they reach port? A.—On the United States side you only sign articles to a port.

Q.—And as soon as she is laid up you are clear? A.—As soon as she arrives, and the decks are clear, they call you aft, and give you your money; they only sign from one port to another, but if you are going the Lake Superior way you have to sign to come back.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—How is the men's food? A.—As a general thing, we never complain much of the food, though sometimes I believe they leave port short of grub.

Q.—You consider that what the other witness stated with regard to bedding and the bad ventilation in the fore-castle is true; you endorse all he said? A.—Yes; I do, and I would suggest another thing. Years ago, when I came on the lakes first, though the vessels were smaller their fore-castles were larger than they are on the larger vessels now, and they were kept cleaner.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Instead of growing larger they are growing smaller? A.—The vessels are growing larger; they can carry more cargo but they are getting smaller for our places. I used to sail a good deal from the State of Maine and in the winters I used to go down to New Orleans or to England or Havre and back; I have been in ten or eleven of these large ships in Maine, and their fore-castles are certified to be so many feet for so many men.

Q.—Did these boats carry passengers? A.—No; though I have been on some of the old class of ships which used to carry passengers.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Do you find that otherwise than knocking a great deal of work out of you and sailing with bad gear, are the officers generally kind to the men? A.—As a general thing we have no complaint on that score, and of course if you find that the officers are disagreeable the trips are short and you can jump him.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What benefit is a shifting board on a cargo of grain? A.—On one occasion, seven or eight years ago, I left as mate on a certain schooner from Kingston, bound for Chicago with a load of salt for Chicago, where we were to take in a cargo of barley. The owner was a man who wanted to be cheap; we had no shifting board and I asked him for 500 feet of lumber to put one in, but he would not consent, and the result was that on the trip we shifted our cargo and it was only by good luck that we got into Milwaukee.

Q.—They don't take up much space? A.—Very little space.

Q.—Should they always be carried with grain cargoes? A.—Yes.

Q.—Whether a vessel is loaded full or not? A.—Yes; it is worse when they are not loaded full. There are many vessels which have a bad steering gear and ground tackle. For instance, I was up nearly five months trying to get a vessel off in Georgian Bay. She had no anchors and her chains and shackles never were out from the day the vessel was built, and it often happens that if a vessel has her shackles so that they will slip it may be the means of saving her. For instance, on one vessel I was on loaded from Chicago to Buffalo we saved the vessel by slipping our chain. Very often the windlass is never looked after from the day the vessel is built until she is old.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—And when the shackles are not tried, you find when you want them in a hurry that you cannot avail yourself of them? A.—No; you cannot. There are many times when, if a vessel gets into a little difficulty and happens to slip her anchor you may save lives and property in that way.

Q.—But if your steering gear does not answer? A.—Then you are done up totally.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—That would all be covered by an inspection if it were properly carried out?
A.—Yes.

EDWARD KEHOE, Seaman, Detroit, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Will you please tell us about these barges on the lakes?

The CHAIRMAN—Do you intend to refer to the United States or to Canada, or to both?

The WITNESS—Yes; to both. There are a good many barges which are not capable of taking care of themselves on account of having only one mast and one sail. All vessels should have at least two masts and two sails, a foresail and a mainsail so as to be able to take care of themselves. These boats often go out in a tow, they break loose in gales, and the wind and the sea get so heavy that they cannot be picked up.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—And if they do break away they cannot help themselves? A.—No; they cannot navigate.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are they sufficiently manned to handle sails if they had them? A.—No.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you know of any case of a barge being lost from being undermanned or breaking away, as you say? A.—I have known a few; I have been on vessels and coming along in daylight we have picked up the crews of barges which had no canvas at all, and of course we took up the crews and let the barges go. I was on one vessel this fall; she was over-loaded with lumber, her gear was bad and finally it gave way. The mainsail went away and finally we got out on Lake Huron and were driven around for thirty-six hours in a gale. Finally, we drifted over to Goderich and let go our anchor and that was all that saved us.

Q.—Was that an American vessel? A.—Yes.

Q.—What sails would be absolutely necessary to handle a barge when dropped by a steamer? A.—A mainsail and foresail, with one jib or two jibs accordingly; she ought to have as much or more than a sailing vessel. If she is large enough to have a mizzen she should have one. You cannot handle her with a headsail unless she has a mainsail only when going before the wind, and if on a lee shore if you haven't enough canvas to work her off she would get on the beach and be apt to go to pieces. Many of these vessels run for ten or fifteen years and they never think of overhauling their eyes or rigging.

Q.—Are the spars frequently carried away from defective standing gear? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many seasons would an ordinary standing gear of wire rope last? A.—Well, if it is well parcelled up it should go ten years anyway.

Q.—You don't always get it well parcelled? A.—No. Then in regard to rigging there are a good many vessels have turnbuckles instead of deadeyes and lanyards, and there is no give to a turnbuckle. A good many get dismantled that way; they roll pretty heavy and away goes the mast, and in winter time the traction of the rigging will snap it.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

When is navigation over here on the lakes? A.—It is over now; it is considered closed about the 1st of December.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—What is the regular season? A.—About from the 1st of April to the 1st of December.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do many boats run before the 1st of April or after the 1st of December?
A.—They have left on the 28th of March, but they are not insured before the 1st of April.

By Mr. FREED :—

When does insurance end in the fall? A.—The regular season is to the 15th of November, but there is a special insurance to the 1st of December. There is another thing I would mention, though: sailing vessels which have no steam have women cooks, and that is the reason that a good many of them go ashore. The captains go below; they have a crowd of green hands and they don't know where they are; the captain goes below with the cook while the hands are on deck.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You would do away with women cooks; you would not have them on board?
A.—No; I wouldn't have them on board. Then it is generally the case that in heavy weather the cook cannot get around and the men have to go and get the grub for themselves. A good many of these vessels carry yawls, which are not fit for use; they are leaky and rotten and will hardly hold themselves together, so that when you put them in the water they fill up, and a good many of them don't carry thole-pins and oars enough, or they may carry broken oars. Many of these yawls are left on the upper deck until they are dry-rotted and no use; they are never touched for ten years.

Q.—Wouldn't the metallic yawls be better? A.—Yes.

Q.—Wouldn't they be as suitable for a schooner as for a steambot? A.—I don't see why they shouldn't. Then I think all schooners should carry two life-boats—one on deck and one on the davits. Sometimes when a vessel is out at sea the yawls get full of water and are carried away when the sea breaks over them. Then with regard to the pumps, they don't overhaul them in the spring as they should. I have been on board a vessel this fall; she had bad pumps; they were old and had not been overhauled for four or five years and we had quite a job to keep them free. A good many are the same way, and this is all because they try to run these vessels cheap; they hate to buy things. All vessels should carry at least two sets of pump valves, so that if one set gave out they would have others to put in their place. It is easy for a pump box leather to be carried away; they break off quite easily. Now, with regard to lake charts, a good many vessels don't carry them at all; the vessel I was in this fall didn't carry one and the captain got out on Lake Huron and didn't know where he was.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—I was going to ask if they were, as a general rule, able to read the charts?
A.—As a rule they do, but not all of them. There are lots of captains cannot read their own names, and I don't see how they could read or handle charts.

WINDSOR, Thursday, December 8th, 1887.

The Commission met at 2 o'clock p. m.

WILLIAM BENSON, Collector of Customs, Windsor, recalled.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—I understand that you wish to make a correction or an addition to your former evidence? A.—Yes; in speaking of the manufactures here I said that with one exception they were either branches of American houses or started by American capital. I find that there was one other recently established, a box factory, started by Mr. Stephens, of Chatham. Again, in speaking about the export of vegetables I forgot one rather important vegetable for which this neighborhood is rather famous, that is the article of radishes, of which there is a very large exportation from this place.

Q.—They require a peculiar soil, which you have got here? A.—Yes. I find on reference to the exports for May and June last that on that article alone they amounted to within a fraction of \$5,000, and I have seen as many as ten waggon loads going over on the ferry in the morning. There are two or three grades of them raised, and it is quite a sight to see them when they are in full crop. Many devote their whole time to that crop, and they make more off an acre of them than they do off the whole of the rest of their land.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Do many carry on market gardening here? A.—No; that is almost the only article they raise in that way.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What soil is the best for radishes? A.—An alluvial soil, loamy on the top; sand will not do.

Q.—Sand makes the radishes knotty and woody? A.—Yes.

EDWARD H. FOSTER, Carpenter, Windsor, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you been living here long? A.—Five years the last of next March.

Q.—What is the general condition of the carpentering trade in Windsor? A.—It has been very good lately. The wages, taken the year round, would be \$1.50 at the outside.

Q.—Are many men working in Windsor for that sum? A.—Take the year round we only work—that is outside work—seven months on an average. The men usually get \$1.75, some \$2.00 a day; they do not get above \$2.00.

Q.—What do you do the rest of the year? A.—We have got to do the best we can.

Q.—Do you work on the other side? A.—Some do. On the other side it is the same as here; there is nothing to do during some months. They have enough carpenters there to supply the demand, and there is other work to be done during the summer season. Men in Detroit have about the same wages as here.

Q.—What hours do you work in Windsor? A.—Nine hours.

Q.—Is that the general rule? A.—It was this summer.

Q.—Is it the same in Detroit? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the rate of wages in Detroit? A.—The same as here.

Q.—One dollar and fifty cents or \$2.00 per day? A.—In Detroit some stair-builders will find work at \$2.25 a day.

Q.—What is the rate for average workmen? A.—The same as here. Detroit rules Windsor in regard to wages, because we have men working there, and the trade has to look after men and keep up prices.

- Q.—Is the trade organized in Windsor? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Have you any difficulty with men on the other side? A.—No; not good union men.
- Q.—You work together in that respect? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Has the condition of the carpentering trade improved since you have been here? A.—I do not think it has, except the shortening of hours has improved it this last year by taking men off the market.
- Q.—You think the men are better off now than they were five years ago? A.—Yes; they are.
- Q.—Then the trade has improved? A.—Yes; I say it has improved by shortening hours.
- Q.—Have you ever given the subject of industrial education any thought? A.—I think I have.
- Q.—Do you think apprentices who have the benefit of some industrial training would be better journeymen? A.—Certainly. That is the only thing that troubles us now. There is a difficulty in keeping out green hands who can just saw off a straight strip; we have a good many here who do not belong to the union. We have had men working who have been brought from farms and do not belong to the union.
- Q.—Are there many apprentices in your business? A.—We do not have any if we can help it; we do not want any for some time.
- Q.—Does your union object to apprentices? A.—No.
- Q.—What is the reason that you do not want apprentices? A.—We have lots of carpenters now in the market. If we had a law passed by Parliament by which boys, when they got out of their apprenticeship, received a certificate that they had served an apprenticeship we would be satisfied—that is a certificate saying that they had worked as long as they had been indentured for.
- Q.—Then you believe in the system of indenturing apprentices? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Does machinery come much into competition with you? A.—Yes; quite a bit.
- Q.—Has it had the effect of reducing wages? A.—Certainly.
- Q.—Does it reduce wages? A.—Yes; in all cases.
- Q.—Do you think machinery has been a benefit in the long run to the trade? A.—I do not see where it has; it has been a benefit in this way: we have to have more machinery to keep the shops going. Stop emigration and you would want no more machinery.
- Q.—Do you not think that the use of machinery has cheapened the production to such an extent that more work is now done than formerly? A.—Yes; more work is done.
- Q.—It has made more work? A.—No; I do not think it has made more work.
- Q.—Do the employers in Windsor pay the men partly in cash and partly in trade? A.—We will not take any store trade; not now. We want our money.
- Q.—How long is it since it has been done away? A.—Only about a year and a-half or two years; it has been done away because the men would not receive store trade.
- Q.—Then there is no truck system now? A.—No; the men will not have it.
- Q.—Have you given the question of arbitration in disputes between employers and their men any consideration? A.—I have not, to any extent.
- Q.—Do you think arbitration a fair means of settling disputes? A.—Yes; certainly.
- Q.—Would you be in favor of a law compelling arbitration? A.—Certainly; that is what we want.

By Mr. FREED:—

- Q.—What proportion of the carpenters in Windsor are not at work? A.—I think we have about one hundred and forty in our assembly.
- Q.—All carpenters? A.—We include about twenty machinists in it.

Q.—How many are engaged at the present time and how many are idle? A.—I could not say; a good many are out of employment, I think.

Q.—Are a good many finishing up buildings? A.—Yes; they generally close up about Christmas.

Q.—When do they begin in the spring? A.—We begin late in spring.

Q.—About the 1st of April? A.—Later than that, the last or the middle of April; most of the men get work about that time.

Q.—Between the holidays and the opening of the building operations in the spring, what work do carpenters get? A.—Not very much.

Q.—There is a great deal of inside work, is there not? A.—I do not know where it is to be got; there is no inside work here. I work myself in a shop, but we are laid off a couple of months in the winter. We will improve the trade here by carrying out the nine-hour system. I am out of work about three months, but there is a spurt in the trade all through the summer season.

Q.—In summer you are as busy as you can be? A.—Yes.

Q.—And you get a little work during the winter? A.—Only a little; the average of the men is something like ten months. The mill has to shut down a month or six weeks for repairs.

Q.—Do many carpenters own the houses in which they live? A.—Yes, quite a few own them. I used to own one myself.

Q.—About what rent would a carpenter expect to pay for a house in Windsor? A.—The rents are from \$8 to \$40 a month; the rents for cottages are from \$10 to \$12 a month.

Q.—Have you worked in Detroit? A.—No, never on the other side.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are proper facilities given to carpenters for scaffolding? A.—It is all included in the day's work.

Q.—Are you allowed to put up scaffolds in a safe manner always? A.—Sometimes the foreman does not like you to do so. You are told to put in a couple of nails, that they are enough, and that you had better save the nails.

Q.—Do you know of any accidents that have resulted from defective scaffolds? A.—Not in the last three years. Neither the foreman or anyone else can now stop the men from driving the nails they want for scaffolds.

Q.—Is there anything else in connection with the trade that you want to state to the Commission? A.—No.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Have any journeymen carpenters co-operated and taken work on their own account, independent of the bosses? A.—Not that I know of. There is one man who takes jobs around—jobbing and repairing. Most of the boss carpenters do repairing also; but the work done by that man I refer to does not amount to anything.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of your workshop? A.—It is very good; last summer it was not. In regard to machinery, there was a rip-saw that was not properly protected, and a child got near it one day and nearly got its head crushed. On the sand-papering machine there is no blower or anything to take the dust away. There should be a fan attached to draw off the dust, but at present the men have to inhale it all.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Has the factory inspector been at your shop? A.—Not that I am aware of. After running that machine of which I spoke I am covered with dust all over my face, except two holes for my eyes and one hole through which I breathe. No doubt bellows should be attached to take away the dust from the man working it. A doctor once said to me that it was very hard on the lungs, and I know it is. I have been sick three or four days after running that machine, which is one that should not be used in its present condition.

THOMAS McNALLY, Woodwork Machine-hand, Windsor, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You are a general woodworking machinist? A.—Yes, I claim to be a matching hand.

Q.—In the trade at Windsor are the machines run at a proper rate of speed? A.—According to my knowledge they are.

Q.—The gearing is arranged properly? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is the gearing, shafting and belting machinery properly protected? A.—I have a machine which is not very well protected.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Has the inspector been at your place? A.—No; I have not heard tell of him in town.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are many men employed at woodworking machines in this town? A.—There are about eight or nine, that is general woodworking hands, in town.

Q.—What machines have you principally in the shop in which you work? A.—We do all kinds of factory work.

Q.—What machines have you? A.—Surfacer, planer, rip-saw, matching machine, hand-saw, scroll-saw, laster and shaper.

Q.—How are those machines, so far as protection is concerned? A.—We have a rip-saw and there is no loose pulley to shift the belt so as to stop the engine.

Q.—Is the belting always stopped when you shift the belting? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are accidents a frequent occurrence? A.—In working the rip-saw you may get the planks right in, and have to tell the man to shut down in order to get them out.

Q.—So an accident may occur? A.—No, there are no accidents; we are all very cautious.

Q.—Are you employed pretty much all the year round? A.—No; in the winter season we do not calculate to do much of anything.

Q.—About how many months in the year are you employed? A.—About seven or eight months; not that some years.

Q.—What wages are you paid? A.—One dollar and seventy-five cents per day.

Q.—Is the man who works eight months in the year capable of living the year on what he earns, in Windsor? A.—He has got to live pretty carefully, but he cannot save much out of it.

Q.—You have heard what the witnesses have said about house rent? A.—We get a house for \$6 a month, but it is pretty small—about two bed rooms, small at that, one kitchen, one front room and a sitting room.

Q.—What would a similar cottage rent for in Detroit? A.—It would depend on how far back it was.

Q.—About one mile from the centre of the city? A.—It would be a higher rent.

Q.—Can provisions be bought cheaper in Windsor or Detroit? A.—You can buy groceries and such like cheaper in Detroit.

Q.—How do prices generally compare in Windsor and Detroit? A.—There is not much difference; there might be in some lines, but not in general goods.

Q.—Do you know any employer in Windsor who pays partly in cash and partly in trade? A.—I do not.

Q.—Have you given the subject of arbitration in the settlement of disputes between capital and labor any thought? A.—Yes; I think that is the right way to get over any difficulty.

Q.—Are you speaking for yourself, or do you represent an assembly? A.—I am speaking for myself.

Q.—Would you favor a law that would make arbitration compulsory in all cases? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are the shops closed for four months in the year in Windsor? A.—For about that time. We shut down about holiday time, and not much is done before April or May, even later some years.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Can you specify any articles of living that are dearer here than in Detroit? A.—Meat, for instance; also sugar.

Q.—What do you pay for sugar? A.—About one York shilling a pound; there are different grades.

Q.—What kind of sugar do you get for 12½ cents per pound? A.—Light colored sugar, granulated.

Q.—What is the price of tea? A.—About 50 cents a pound.

Q.—What are the prices in the United States? A.—Granulated sugar is seven cents or eight cents; I could not tell you the price of tea. Meat is cheaper.

Q.—What about bread and flour? A.—They are about the same.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do the working people go to Detroit to purchase meat? A.—I do not myself; I know a lot of them do so.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How many pounds of granulated sugar do you get for \$1.00 in Windsor? A.—Ten pounds.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Do boys or others go near the machines to work them besides those practically acquainted with their working? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have any accidents occurred on that account? A.—No.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are boys set to work at the machines? A.—I have charge of two or three, and I have a boy there. I set the machine and start the boy running it. I have had about a dozen boys the last three or four months; the one I have now is about nineteen years old.

Q.—Boys are cheaper than machine hands? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much pay does a good boy receive? A.—About \$4.00 or \$4.50 a week.

Q.—And I suppose a man from \$9.00 to \$10.00 a week? A.—Yes.

GEORGE M. JENKINS, Carpenter, Windsor, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are you a machine or a bench hand? A.—I am a bench hand.

Q.—Are you employed inside or outside? A.—Outside.

Q.—How do you find work generally in this town? A.—During this summer it has been pretty good.

Q.—Better this year than before? A.—It has been the best summer I have had since I have been in the country.

Q.—How long have you been in Windsor? A.—Going on five years.

Q.—What average time does a man make in the year? A.—Some eight or nine months, some seven months.

Q.—None of you make full time? A.—No. There is not a man in Windsor with whom I am acquainted who makes full time.

Q.—Have you anything you want to suggest to the Commission? A.—I should like to see an arbitration law put in force.

Q.—You would prefer a law compelling arbitration to the present loose system? A.—Yes, I would like the Government to pass a law that eight hours constitute a legal

day's work in all Government works, and if a contractor should employ a man and no time be specified, eight hours should constitute a day's work.

Q.—Is that system in operation in any other place? A.—In Australia, I believe they only work eight hours.

Q.—You do not know if it is in operation in the United States. A.—No; I do not.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Do you know if it is in operation in New South Wales and Australia—that there is an understanding between employers and employés that they have to work eight hours? A.—Not always so.

Q.—Do you know it of your own knowledge? A.—I have heard it on good authority from men who have been there and come back again.

Q.—Have you any other information to give to the Commission? A.—I may say that the average earnings of carpenters in this city reach about \$1.00 a day all the year round—sometimes a little less.

Q.—How would you propose to remedy that state of things? A.—To reduce hours and cause a demand for labor.

Q.—Does not that remedy lie in your hands? A.—It does to a great extent, if we could only get the workmen to organize and stick by each other.

Q.—What are the hours of labor in Detroit? A.—Some work nine and others ten hours.

Q.—Do they work all day Saturday. A.—Yes.

Q.—I suppose you will be bound largely by Detroit in that matter? A.—No, we are not; we are not governed by Detroit at all. We were before we were organized; but since we have become organized in Windsor we are able to stand on our own feet.

Q.—How are you going to do in the case of the people of Lower Canada, who work ten or eleven hours a day, and are quite satisfied to do so? How could you prevent them from working those hours? What will you do if men from Lower Canada come here and are willing to work ten or eleven hours a day. Will you stop them? A.—We try to use legitimate means, for we do not desire to use force.

Q.—But if they are determined to work that number of hours, what are you going to do? A.—We will do the other thing: we will put our own power to work.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Can the carpenters here get any occupation of any sort while the shops are idle? A.—Not in this city. We do not do anything.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Where did you work before you came to Windsor? A.—At Torquay, in England.

Q.—Is the condition of the workingmen better in England than it is in this country? A.—In England the wages are not so high, and the rents also are not so high as here. The men are able to work a little longer in the year; the seasons are not so severe or so long.

Q.—Does the carpenter in England live any better than he does in this country? A.—It is just about the same thing. Articles are cheaper in England than here—clothes and groceries. One shilling in the old country will go nearly as far in the old country as one dollar will here.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Then you would be glad to go back there? A.—No; I would not like to go back.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you given the subject of industrial education any thought? A.—No.

Q.—Have you given the apprentice system any thought? A.—Yes.

Q.—Would you favor an indenture system as applied to apprentices? A.—Yes; I served seven years to the trade myself; I, however, think that seven years is too long for a man to be bound down.

Q.—Do you think better mechanics would be turned out if apprentices were bound to serve a term of years? A.—I am sure there would be. A green hand with an axe and a saw will employ himself as a carpenter and keep good mechanics out of employment. That is the evil in this country.

Q.—Is it the practice in Windsor to set an inferior man to work with a skilled man? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have they what they call a leading man, and they set anybody else under him? A.—Yes; that is the rule here, and in Detroit it is the same. They will employ one good man and three or four poor men to do the other part of the work, and the good man is to superintend and look after them.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Would you have inferior workmen turned off work at the carpentering trade? A.—Yes; I would.

Q.—What would become of them? A.—There would be something else for them to do.

Q.—Would they be shutting out workmen from something else? A.—Certainly.

Q.—From what? A.—There are plenty of other things to do, laboring and working on the streets and in the factories, and one thing and another.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are those men whom you call unskilled men persons who have served an apprenticeship? A.—Those I have been acquainted with are.

Q.—Would it be proper that a man who had served his apprenticeship should not be allowed to work at his business? A.—Yes; it would be rather hard.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—What particular work would such men not be able to do at the trade? A.—Finishing work in a building.

Q.—Have those men who have served a term of years done so in the old country or here? A.—In the old country.

Q.—And they are not able to do finishing work. Those men are not called good mechanics, surely, if they are not able to do that? A.—Hundreds and thousands cannot do it.

Q.—After having served their term at the trade? A.—Some of those cannot. I have known apprentices who have served seven years and could not put up a moulding, could not cut a mitre, and could not make a mitre box. Do you think such men are fit to go to work to make a scaffold that is not fit for a cat to stand on? Another thing I would like the Government to do, and it is this: to compel contractors for buildings to erect scaffolds that are strong enough for the men to walk on. The way this is done in this country is a great piece of folly; I have known many accidents to happen here through poor scaffolds that men have been obliged to go to work on, and after a little time they have broken down and accidents have occurred.

Q.—Have you, yourself, known accidents to occur through that cause? A.—Yes.

Q.—Was anyone hurt? A.—Yes; I know that one man fell a distance of twenty feet, and that was enough to break an arm, or a leg, or kill him.

Q.—What was the cause? A.—The contractors were in such a hurry that they would not give the man time to build a scaffold in a proper manner.

Q.—Do the workmen never remonstrate with them? A.—Yes; they do. There was an accident over in Detroit not so very long ago, when I was doing some work over there, on a large building.

Q.—Is that the general practice of bosses or foremen in this country, not to allow their men to make the scaffolding strong enough to bear them? A.—It is often done. I have noticed it many a time, and have spoken about it.

HENRY GNOSILL, Windsor, called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What is your occupation? A.—I am a brass-finisher in Barnum's Wire Works. I work in Windsor, and have been there two years next month.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you many men employed in the wire works here? A.—About forty altogether, men and boys.

Q.—Is it the principal industry here? A.—Yes; and it is getting larger every year; since I have been here it is nearly as large again.

Q.—Do they give employment all the year round? A.—Yes.

Q.—What would be the average pay? A.—Different prices; there is no regular price. They pay a man according to what he is worth—blacksmiths, and finishers, and wire workers, and other men.

Q.—What is your part? A.—Brass and iron finishing and polishing.

Q.—What are the general wages of brass-finishers? A.—Two dollars is about the smallest; from that to \$2.25.

Q.—Are you employed all the year round? A.—When they get a man who is always what he ought to be he gets regular employment.

Q.—A good brass-finisher in the works would earn in the neighborhood of \$600 a year? A.—Two dollars and fifty cents a day.

Q.—Does it require much skill? A.—If he was not pretty smart he would not get \$2.50. It requires skill to be a brass-finisher.

Q.—I was speaking of the wire works particularly? A.—Well, it requires skill, too.

Q.—Do they employ many brass-finishers? A.—There are about five of us there now.

Q.—Do they employ many boys in these works? A.—Quite a few boys.

Q.—Of about what ages? A.—They take them on about 15 or 16, I suppose.

Q.—Do boys serve a regular apprenticeship to learn the business? A.—No; they do not serve an apprenticeship, but they have to learn. They have to stay two or three years, or that, before they let them learn. A boy has to show he is willing before they teach him.

Q.—And how long would he take to learn? A.—Two or three years.

Q.—So that he would have to stay at least five years to learn? A.—Yes; about five.

Q.—What amount would one of them earn in a week? A.—At first \$2.50 and \$3.00, and as they improve they raise them.

Q.—Do the boys do the work of men after being there a few months? A.—No, they do not.

Q.—They help the men? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you use machinery to any extent? A.—Yes; quite a lot of it.

Q.—Is it well protected? A.—Yes; they look after the machinery pretty well, I am working on the most dangerous machine, I suppose, that is in polishing; it goes 3,000 revolutions a minute.

Q.—And there are not many accidents, then, from the machinery? A.—No. Sometimes they get a knock, but no one has got much hurt since I have been there.

Q.—Do the men design any of their own work, or are the designs furnished them? A.—They are furnished.

Q.—If there was technical education would it assist the wire-worker to learn his trade? A.—Yes; it would, because, of course, everything he gets is something different in wire work. He hardly ever gets two pieces alike.

Q.—If he had a knowledge of drawing and designing it would be a help to him? A.—Yes; it would, and he needs it, too. He cannot get along very well without it.

Q.—You think some kind of industrial education would benefit the boys who go

to the trade? A.—Yes; I think it would, that is what they need, but they do not take any notice of that.

Q.—Would it be a benefit if there was a regular apprentice system in the business? A.—I believe in apprentices.

Q.—Would it be a benefit to the boys? A.—Yes; it would, I think.

Q.—So that they could learn their trade better? A.—Yes; they would.

Q.—Have you anything you could suggest to the Commission which would better the condition of the workingmen? A.—Not that I know of. Working people within the last year and a-half have been improving as to wages since the Knights of Labor took it up. We have got on wonderfully better.

Q.—You believe in organization? A.—Yes; I do, to a certain extent, though I do not belong to any, but I thought a good many times that I would. I believe in it.

Q.—You think they have improved in condition? A.—Yes; indeed they have.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Where did you work before coming here? A.—In Cincinnati, Ohio.

Q.—How do wages in Canada compare with those in the United States? A.—Well, wages are not quite so good here as there. I have worked in Toronto for a year, and I was born in England.

Q.—How do wages compare in Canada with those in Great Britain? A.—Well, they are not so good.

Q.—Is the workingman in your business better off here than in Great Britain or the United States? A.—Yes, a little better here, he makes a better use of his money, and, of course, that is his own matter.

Q.—How is it in the old county? A.—They do not get so good pay, but they can live cheaper, and rents are cheaper.

Q.—Have rents increased lately in this town? A.—Yes; wonderfully within these last two years.

Q.—How much have they increased? A.—They have increased one-third or over—well, they have increased one-third on the small tenement houses.

Q.—Workingmen's houses? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have wages increased that much? A.—Well, they have increased, but not one-third.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How much can a brass-finisher earn in Cincinnati? A.—About \$3.00 a day.

Q.—Do they have constant employment? A.—That is according to what kind of man he is. A good man can always have constant employment; I always believe in that; I always did myself, and I find that good men are never out of work. I never was out of work myself.

Q.—What wages would a brass-finisher get in England? A.—Four shillings and six pence and five shillings a day.

Q.—Would he have steady employment there? A.—Yes; more steady than here. I worked thirteen years in one place, and I suppose if I had stayed in England I might have been in the same place to-day. I know lots of men who have been there for thirty years.

Q.—You think a man can live better in England on five shillings than he can on \$2.50 here? A.—No; I do not; a man can live better here because he gets more pay; and taking things all round, I suppose they are as cheap. Some things are cheaper there and some are cheaper here. Rents are cheaper there and I suppose groceries, but meat, I suppose, is dearer.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Clothing is cheaper there? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Did you ever work in Detroit? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you able to give us any idea of the comparative prices of food, &c., in Windsor and Detroit? A.—Yes; as good as any man in this town, because we have been selling food for ten years, and I have gone over and bought lots of it.

Q.—What articles are dearer in Windsor than in Detroit? A.—Sugar.

Q.—What do you pay here for sugar? A.—You can get granulated at 8, 8½ and 9 cents, and light brown for 7 cents.

Q.—What would granulated sugar be worth in Detroit? A.—If it is 9 cents here it is generally 1½ cents less over there. That is the general thing, because I have been in the business.

Q.—How is meat? A.—It is generally the same.

Q.—A little dearer in Windsor? A.—No; it is about the same, and if there is any difference it is a little cheaper there, about half a cent a pound.

Q.—What about vegetables? A.—When they come in season they are as cheap here as there, but over there they are shipped earlier from southern places, and most people buying early vegetables go to Detroit.

Q.—How about general groceries? A.—Almost all the canned goods are cheaper there.

Q.—How about butter? A.—It is as cheap here as there, and eggs are as cheap, if not cheaper. Milk is about the same price.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is not milk cheaper here in winter? A.—Well, I do not know much about milk. If it goes up to 6 cents here it is as high as it goes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How is bread? A.—It is about the same here as there.

Q.—And clothing? A.—Cheap clothing is a little cheaper there and good clothing is a little cheaper here. A great many come here to buy good clothing, and many go there to buy cheap clothing.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do I understand you to say that granulated sugar is 8 cents per pound retail? A.—Eight and a-half and 9 cents for granulated.

Q.—That is the retail price? A.—Yes; you can buy any amount for 9 cents.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How many pounds do you get for the dollar?—A.—They do not make much out of it, because they claim they are selling at cost for the purpose of competing with those people across the river. Many people come over here from the other side to buy sugar.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Does immigration interfere with your business to any extent in this part?—A.—Not much.

Q.—Immigrants coming from any country? A.—Not much. There was a great deal about stopping the working classes from coming across the river to work; that was four or five months ago, but it all stopped. They were counting up the people, and they found one-half as many came from that side as went from this.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Are there many mechanics live on this side who go to work in Detroit? A.—Yes; most of them are mechanics, carpenters, machinists, and so on, who do business backwards and forwards, and work.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—What I mean by immigration is people coming from the old country? A.—Not many come to Windsor.

Q.—Do they interfere in any way with your business or trade? A.—No; I think not.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You would not have liked if you had been shipped back to England the moment you landed in Canada? A.—Well, I am not particular where I go as long as I make a living.

Q.—You would not have approved of it? A.—No; I would not have approved.

Q.—You think you have a right to Canada as much as any Canadian born? A.—Yes; I think so.

Q.—You are a British subject? A.—Yes.

Q.—You think every British subject has a right to British territory? A.—Yes; I do.

THOMAS CROWLEY, Journeyman Shoemaker, Windsor, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What is the condition of the shoe business in Windsor? A.—It is in a very poor condition, and has been for some time.

Q.—What has been the cause of that? A.—In a great measure, machinery. I am now speaking of custom shoemaking.

Q.—Does machinery interfere with custom work? A.—Materially.

Q.—What machines particularly do you speak of? A.—Well, there is the sewing machine, the riveting machine, and almost all kinds of machines.

Q.—All coming into competition with custom work? A.—Yes.

Q.—There is no hand-sewed work in Windsor now? A.—There is not the twentieth part of what there was ten years ago.

Q.—Hand-pegged work? A.—It is not so far behind, but I suppose it is fifty per cent. less than it was ten years ago.

A.—Are there many boots and shoes shipped in here from outside. A.—Of manufactured ones, yes—a number from factories in the east.

Q.—Can they be brought in here and sold cheaper than boots and shoes can be made in Windsor? A.—Decidedly, because they are made by machinery, and ours are made by hand.

Q.—Where are they principally brought from? A.—Toronto, Montreal and Quebec; in fact, everywhere where they are manufactured.

Q.—Have you any shoe factories in Windsor? A.—No; there are not any.

Q.—No slipper factories? A.—Nothing of the kind.

Q.—No factories in the shoe trade at all? A.—None at all.

Q.—How many shoemakers would there be employed as journeymen in Windsor? A.—I think there are about ten at present—that is counting all branches—sewed, pegged and repairing. In my memory there were over thirty.

Q.—What can a shoemaker earn in a week here, taking one week with another? A.—If I were to give the average of all branches of shoemakers it would not reach a dollar a day.

Q.—Take your own branch? A.—My own happens to be the best paid branch. I am a sewed shoemaker. If I were fully employed and able to work I could make about two dollars a day.

Q.—And as it is? A.—My average wages do not reach one dollar a day in the twelve months.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You do not get very constant employment? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Are there many fine custom shoes made here? A.—I believe only what I make myself.

Q.—They are principally all brought in? A.—Yes.

Q.—If it were not for repairing there would be little to do? A.—Little to do, except heavy pegged boots for agricultural use.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do the farmers wear a different class from the mechanics? A.—Yes; they use heavy kip boots, but of course they use calf for Sundays, or some of them do.

Q.—What do these boots cost, factory made? A.—I am not acquainted with the factory prices.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What would a long pair of hand-pegged boots cost in Windsor? A.—Calf boots, \$5.50 to \$6.00.

Q.—And kip? A.—Four dollars and fifty cents to \$5.00.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You mean hand-made? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—They did not cost so much as that fifteen years ago? A.—No.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are not hand-made boots really cheaper in the end than factory boots? A.—They are over 50 per cent. cheaper.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Better stock in them? A.—Yes; and of course the workmanship is better.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—And of course they are more comfortable? A.—Yes, they fit the foot.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Does prison labor come in competition with you? A.—Not in my own branch, but I believe it does in a great measure in other branches.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What prison makes shoes for sale? Are you aware of any? A.—I understand they are made in Kingston, but it is only hearsay, and I cannot testify to the truth of it.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you ever given the subject of arbitration any thought? A.—I have.

Q.—Will you give us the benefit of your ideas? A.—I think it is something which is absolutely necessary to create peace and harmony between employer and employed.

Q.—Would you favor a law compelling arbitration? A.—Most decidedly.

Q.—Do these disputes between capital and labor originate more with workmen than with employers? A.—I believe they originate with the workingmen, for this reason: in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the man of capital crushes the man who has only his labor; a great number, not satisfied with just gains, wish to get what is not just. That is my experience in forty years.

Q.—Do you know any employer in your line who pays partly in cash and partly in store goods? A.—I do not.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you work by the week or by the piece? A.—By the piece.

Q.—Do you think that piece-work has a bad effect upon your business? A.—I never knew it to be anything else than piece-work, but I believe if it were day's work it would benefit the workingman.

Q.—I suppose piece-work has been the rule in your business? A.—It has since I knew the business, and I believe long before.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—There are very few boys learning the trade now? A.—No, sir; no one is attempting to learn it.

Q.—I suppose in a short time shoemaking will die out? A.—Well, the present race of shoemakers will die out.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you know if they make hand-sewed work in factories? A.—Yes; not in Windsor, but they do in Detroit. It is team work, where one man makes one portion and another man another.

Q.—They do not make the whole shoe? A.—No; perhaps it takes six or seven to make a shoe. I am speaking about the upper portion and not the bottoms.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—How many men does it take to make a shoe in the factory? A.—From six to seven.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—I suppose the condition of the shoemakers is due to the fact that there has been a revolution in the trade? A.—Yes; in a great measure.

Q.—Machinery has wholly revolutionized it? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—And people generally use a cheaper article than formerly? A.—Yes; a less priced article.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Whether it is a cheaper article is another question? A.—Yes; I doubt that.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you any suggestion you could give us that we have not asked you for? A.—In respect to my own business, I scarcely have any, for the reason that I believe that, in common parlance, it is a played-out business.

Q.—Have you anything to say in relation to the labor question generally? A.—I believe that the present system of immigration is one of the greatest injuries that can be inflicted upon Canada. I am speaking of immigration as I understand it—aided and assisted by the funds from the Dominion and Provincial Governments, it is immaterial which.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—If those men came of their own accord, would you object to it? A.—Decidedly not.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What class of immigration does the Federal or Provincial Government help? A.—I am only speaking a belief and not a positive knowledge at present, though I could have told some years back. Now I believe it is agricultural laborers, but under that head there are numbers of mechanics, and I know it from personal observation.

Q.—Do you think it would be a benefit to the farmers of Canada that there should be no agricultural laborers assisted? They are an important portion of the community. You think it does them no good that agricultural laborers should be encouraged by the Dominion? A.—I consider it an injury to the agricultural laborers at present in the country, because they are not fully employed now.

Q.—Not about Windsor? A.—I speak of Windsor.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—On what ground do you object to immigrants being encouraged to come to Canada? A.—On these grounds: there is sufficient labor, and there has been to my certain knowledge within the last seventeen years that I have resided in Canada.

Q.—Don't you think it desirable to get immigrants to take up the land that remains idle in Canada. A.—Well, sir, there is some reason in that, provided those immigrants were in a condition to take it up.

Q.—Is it within your knowledge that they are not? A.—Decidedly.

Q.—Have you seen the immigrants as they land? A.—I have seen them without a ten-cent piece in their pockets.

Q.—Where? A.—In Quebec.

Q.—How long ago? A.—Seventeen years ago.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How many of these have you followed up? A.—It was not my business to follow them.

Q.—I am asking a plain question. Please answer, yes or no. A.—I have never followed any man.

Q.—Then you cannot tell how many of these ten-cent immigrants that you saw in Quebec seventeen years ago are well-to-do people now—some of them rich?

A.—There are some, I have no doubt, but they caused some others to be poor at the time they came by competing in the labor market.

Q.—At the same time you do not know how many became rich? A.—Of course, I have no personal knowledge.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you know what proportion of the immigrants landing in Canada are mechanics and what proportion are agriculturists or common laborers? A.—I could not tell at the present time.

Q.—Did it ever occur to you that the number of immigrants who are not mechanics gives more employment to the mechanics than the mechanics who come with them can supply? A.—I cannot see how these men can give employment, when they have not means themselves.

Q.—Do you think that immigrants that come do not use clothing, boots and shoes, or that they do not live in houses? A.—As soon as they earn sufficient money to get it, they do.

Q.—At first, when they arrive, they do not wear clothing, or use boots and shoes or live in houses? A.—They do not come in a nude condition, I suppose.

Q.—And they eat food? A.—When they can get it.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—They do not all turn out employers of labor? A.—To my knowledge, few do, and I have always found that they compete with labor.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Do you think that Canada or America would be as prosperous as it is to-day if a law prevailed excluding those men who do not happen to be wealthy when they come to the country? A.—I do not mean being wealthy; I do not imply that.

Q.—I say, without being wealthy? A.—Provided he has a sufficiency to enable him to remain and keep him a short time independent, that he may not throw himself into the labor market and compete at lower prices than the existing prices which are paid.

Q.—That does not meet the question fairly, because perhaps two dollars would make all the difference in the world to that man and would keep him until he was earning more than would keep him independent. A.—That is so.

Q.—Do you think that this country, taken as a whole, would be as forward as it is to-day had immigration been stopped 25 years ago, say? A.—I think it would. I am speaking of assisted immigration; I do not think it ever was beneficial to any country.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You were speaking of men coming here as agricultural laborers who were really mechanics. When did that take place? A.—In 1870, to my knowledge.

Q.—Do you know whether it takes place now or not? A.—No; I do not.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Don't you think that would have been a great hardship if it had been exercised towards yourself when you came here? A.—No; it would not; it would not be the first time I was on this continent.

Q.—There was a distinguished countryman of yours, who is a high authority on economy and matters of that kind, the late Thomas D'Arcy McGee, who said in his economic history, that every healthy adult landed in America is worth \$1,000 to the country if he had not a cent in his pocket? A.—I understand the point you allude to, and they may in a sense, but from my own personal knowledge I can only say that they make the rich richer and the poor poorer.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you say that the poor of this country have become poorer? A.—I swear positively that I believe the competition—

Q.—I am asking you a simple question—yes or no? Do you say the people of this country are poorer now than they were 10 or 15, or 20 years ago? It is a simple question? A.—Taking the general class of all workingmen, I say yes.

SHERMAN R. MILLER, Seed Merchant, Detroit, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—I understand you are connected with the house of D. M. Ferry & Co. Detroit. A.—Yes.

Q.—You have a branch establishment in Windsor, I believe. A.—Yes.

Q.—How long has this branch been established? A.—It was established in 1879.

Q.—Why did you establish a branch here? A.—On account of the double duties we had to pay in order to do business here.

Q.—You do a considerable business in Canada? A.—Yes.

Q.—You found it unprofitable after the duties were imposed to conduct the Canadian business from Detroit? A.—Yes.

Q.—I suppose the seeds you import are brought from various countries? A.—Yes.

Q.—From what country, for the most part, do they come? A.—From England.

Q.—Do you import some seeds from the United States? A.—Yes.

Q.—What would they mostly be—clover? A.—No. There are certain classes of seeds we consider better American-grown than foreign-grown.

Q.—Where do you get your clover seed? A.—It depends upon the market; largely in Canada.

Q.—You get as good and cheap clover seed in Canada as in the United States? A.—Yes. It depends altogether on the crop. We do not buy any Canadian timothy. The lands in the western States are entirely free from foul weeds, and consequently we draw all our timothy from the west.

Q.—Do you do anything in flower seeds, bulbs and so on? A.—Yes.

Q.—Where do they come from? A.—The flower seeds and bulbs come almost entirely from Germany, and lately from France.

Q.—And the bulbs from Belgium and Holland, I suppose? A.—Bulbous roots from Holland more particularly.

Q.—If you continued to conduct the business from Detroit you would have to pay duty on those in the United States, and also the duty from the United States into Canada? A.—Yes.

Q.—So you established your Windsor branch in order that you might pay only one duty? A.—Yes.

Q.—I suppose the experiment proved a success? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is Windsor your only agency in Canada? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have your travelling agents out? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—How many hands are employed in the Windsor branch? A.—The number varies; in the busy season it will be in the neighborhood of fifty.

Q.—Male or female? A.—Female.

Q.—Do you employ many young girls? A.—No; very few.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Yours is a light occupation, I believe? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Principally sorting? A.—Sorting, making bags, etc.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—And you find female labor more suitable than male? A.—Yes.

Q.—You pay the female labor more than male? A.—Yes; we have girls to whom we pay more than men.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do your hands go from Windsor to Detroit, or from Detroit to Windsor as need may require? A.—No; there is scarcely any American help employed on this side.

Q.—Most of the hands you employ in Windsor are permanently employed here, the same as your hands on the other side are permanently employed in Detroit? A.—Yes; we do not bring over help from the other side.

Q.—If there is a temporary slackness here do you find employment for the hands in Detroit? A.—We do not ourselves; they may go over. It is, however, the same for the hands on both sides, for when we are slack here they are slack in Detroit.

Q.—As manager of the business here you do not concern yourself with the Detroit business at all? A.—Not about the help; we neither take nor give.

CHATHAM, December 9th, 1887.

ROBERT G. FLEMING, Secretary-Treasurer Chatham Harvester Company, called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—How long have you been in Chatham? A.—About 16 years.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What class of agricultural implements do you make? A.—Self-binders, reapers and mowers.

Q.—In what part of Canada do you find a market? A.—Mostly in Ontario, but we do considerable in Quebec.

Q.—Do you send any to the North-West? A.—We have not since 1883, when we sent a car load.

Q.—Have you any competition from the United States? A.—None that we know of—very little, I think.

Q.—Have you had any in former years? A.—Not since we commenced that line of trade in 1883. We made reapers and mowers in 1880-81, but 1883 was the first year we turned out binders.

Q.—How do the prices of agricultural implements compare with the prices in the United States? A.—I think they are nearly the same, as far as I can find out.

Q.—You do not know of any material difference? A.—Very little. I have been over there considerably and I find the prices are the same for the same kind of article.

Q.—Can you speak of the quality of the implements made in the two countries? They are very similar; they go ahead and we follow up by getting the patterns and then making our own improvements necessary for our own country.

Q.—Is the material used in Canada as good as that used in the States? A.—I think so; some of our material comes from there.

Q.—What materials do you get from the United States? A.—The cutter bars and the cutting apparatus come from the United States through a firm in St. Catharines.

Q.—Is not the Canadian market large enough to have them made in Canada? A.—I do not know. We have never had the rolling apparatus to get them in proper shape.

Q.—What kind of steel is used in cutter bars? A.—I do not know the name, but it is considered a very good class.

Q.—A good, high grade of steel? A.—Yes.

Q.—Bessemer steel or steel of that class would not do? A.—I could not answer as for that, but we always order a good steel and we find it most satisfactory.

Q.—Steel similar to that which would be used in saws, for example? A.—No; not so good as that, excepting the cutting bars; the knives, of course, are a fine grade of steel.

Q.—Are many men employed in Chatham in this business? A.—Our average, I presume, would be probably 65 employed directly in the factory. Then we have four or five general agents outside on salary, and probably 30 or 40 on commission throughout the country in different parts.

Q.—Are there any other establishments in the same line in Chatham? A.—No; not the same.

Q.—About what wages are paid in this business in Chatham? A.—Well, for skilled mechanics, lathe hands, moulders and regular tradesmen, we pay probably \$1.50, \$1.75 or \$2 a day; it depends on the man a good deal.

Q.—Then you have some inferior labor—not highly skilled—haven't you? A.—Yes.

Q.—What do they get? Q.—It depends altogether on the men, but they get from \$1 to \$1.50 per day. We usually take a raw hand in and work him until we get him handy, and as he gets up his wages are raised according to his value.

Q.—Are you able to make a comparison of wages with any point in the United States—say, not a large city, but one about as large as Chatham? A.—No; nothing definite, but I think they usually pay higher than we do.

Q.—Do you think that the raw material, that is all material that comes to you for manufacture, is as cheap, or cheaper, or dearer in Canada than the United States? A.—I think the greater portion would be dearer, especially since this late change in the tariff.

Q.—What articles would be dearer? A.—I think common iron, ordinary steel, cotton duck and carriage bolts.

Q.—Do you think pig iron is dearer in Chatham than it would be in corresponding points in the United States? A.—No; I think it would be a little cheaper, because I think their pig iron is a little higher grade than ours and would cost more.

Q.—What kinds do you use? A.—We prefer a mixture of two kinds of Scotch iron.

Q.—Which brands of Scotch iron do you use? A.—No. 1 Gartsherry, or No. 3 Harrington and Hematite, about two proportions of the former to one of the latter, and we mix it with scrap.

Q.—The scrap you pick up in Canada? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you use much bar iron? A.—Yes, considerable.

Q.—Where does it come from? A.—Mostly from England.

Q.—Is it Staffordshire or Welsh? A.—A good deal is from England, I think; we buy from the wholesale houses.

Q.—Do you buy Canadian rolled iron? A.—Some.

- Q.—Where from? A.—Hamilton.
- Q.—Is it good quality? A.—Not nearly so good as the English we think. We only buy it for a make-shift when we cannot get the other.
- Q.—For what reason is it inferior to the English? A.—It is not rolled nearly so correctly, and it is inclined to be seamy.
- Q.—In consequence of being made of scrap iron, I suppose? A.—I do not know the cause, but I do not think they have as good appliances for rolling. It is very crooked and not nearly so true to measure as the other, and we do not like it at all.
- Q.—About what rent would a good average mechanic pay in Chatham? A.—Well, of course it depends on the house. He could get a house with probably three rooms and three bedrooms for \$5 to \$7 a month.
- Q.—These are about such houses as the average mechanic rents? A.—Yes; I think so; I do not think it would exceed \$8.
- Q.—Can you give us much of an idea of the prices of ordinary articles for family consumption—provisions, groceries and so on, in Chatham? A.—Well, I don't know; I think there are others better posted. Our family is small and I do not do much of the buying.
- Q.—Has there been any considerable increase in the rents within the past few years in Chatham? A.—No; there has been a decrease. I know there is in outside houses, but I do not know how it is in stores. I think there is a decrease there.
- Q.—Apart from the business part of the town? A.—Yes; and I think even in that.
- Q.—The town has been growing in population, has it not? A.—Slowly. It has been growing in wealth considerably, and the class of buildings is better.
- Q.—Are you able to speak of the condition of the working people in Chatham, whether it is better or worse, or has remained stationary within your time? A.—Well, I could not say anything really definite; I think probably it is just about the same. Good men have always been able to get good wages and steady employment. It depends on the individual man.
- Q.—Have you any idea whether the working people save money or not? A.—I think the majority do not. There may be a few who do, but the majority do not.
- Q.—If they do not save money is it because they cannot get steady employment, or cannot earn large enough wages, or because they live up to their means? A.—I think because they live up to their means more than anything else.
- Q.—You think there is room for further economy, so that they could save money? A.—I think so.
- Q.—What is the principal fuel here? A.—Wood and coal.
- Q.—Is much coal used? A.—Yes; most houses, I think, use coal for heating purposes.
- Q.—What do you pay for anthracite coal? A.—Six dollars this year for what we call nut coal.
- Q.—What is good No. 1 hard wood worth? A.—About \$3.50 a cord. Soft wood is worth about \$2. We use that mostly for steaming.
- Q.—What do you include in soft wood? A.—Elm and soft ash and basswood—all kinds nearly.
- Q.—Any pine to speak of? A.—No; we have no pine here.
- Q.—Do you know if the workmen have trade organizations in Chatham? A.—I think so.
- Q.—What form do they take—trades unions or Knights of Labor? A.—Knights of Labor. I think there is no other. I think, however, there is a Moulder's Union.
- Q.—Have there been any labor strikes here lately? A.—There were last summer.
- Q.—What was the cause? A.—It was more particularly on account of the hours.
- Q.—They wanted shorter hours? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Did they succeed? A.—No; they did not.
- Q.—How long were they out of work? A.—There were only one or two factories that had trouble of that kind, and I think they were out of work two or three weeks.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—It was not general? A.—No; our men did not go out. We arranged matters with them without trouble.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You talked the matter over with them? A.—Yes; they sent a committee down, and we told them what we could do, and there was no trouble. We acted as arbitrators and used our influence for the other people, and in opposition to the men there was the Business Men's Association formed, and they kind of worked together.

Q.—Is there a good understanding between employers and men? A.—We have no trouble with our men; I do not know how others get on, but I think they are all right.

Q.—What are the usual periods of payment in Chatham in the manufacturing industries? We pay weekly, on Friday night. We pay up to Thursday night, and then they have the money for marketing on Saturday.

Q.—That is the reason for making it pay-day? A.—Yes.

Q.—The Scott Act prevails in this county, I believe? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it enforced? A.—I do not think so altogether; I imagine they are doing the best they can, but I know very little about it, as I am very seldom around those places.

Q.—Then you do not make Friday pay-day in order that it may have its effect in keeping the men out of saloons on Saturday night? A.—No; our idea was that our families would have the benefit of Saturday morning's market. However, I do not think we have a man about the place that drinks anything in the way of intoxicating liquors, as far as I know.

Q.—Are the working people of Chatham generally paid in cash? A.—I think so; I know of none paid any other way.

Q.—Do you know of any co-operation amongst the men, either in production or distribution? A.—No.

Q.—Have there been co-operative enterprises of any sort? A.—Nothing outside the joint stock companies.

Q.—I think you spoke to me of a biscuit or cracker manufactory? A.—That was co-operative, but it lasted a very short time.

Q.—Do you know what was the cause of failure? A.—Lack of capital.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you know of any particular houses which have not increased in rent? A.—I have one of my own that I rent to a tenant. Six years ago I got \$6.50 to \$7 a month and now I get \$4, and the house has been kept in pretty nearly as good repair.

Q.—It is in good order? A.—Yes; just as good as then. There has been a decrease, but there are more houses than there used to be.

Q.—And a better style of houses? A.—Yes; more comfortable, I think.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You say that the labor trouble was for a reduction of hours of labor? A.—That was the principal trouble, I think.

Q.—From 10 to 9 hours? A.—It arose about quitting on Saturday night about 5 o'clock. We have always adopted the system of quitting at 5:30 on Saturday nights. The trouble did not arise in our factory at all, but in others. They wanted one hour, but they refused it.

Q.—Did any of the employes of the factory ask it as a body? A.—No; not as a body, but they did individually, and we told them we could not concede it, and it dropped at that.

Q.—The men then work 60 hours a week? A.—Fifty-nine and a-half hours.

Q.—You say the employers of labor have organized themselves into a body? A.—They did.

Q.—Is your firm a member? A.—I am individually.

Q.—Will you tell us the objects of it? A.—The object was to counteract any influence which might be combined in the other way.

Q.—Did the men attempt to settle the matter by arbitration? A.—They sent a deputation amongst themselves down to the manufacturers and the matter was talked over and arranged in that way. It was a kind of mutual understanding between the manufacturers and laborers.

Q.—That they would get the half hour? A.—That they would divide up and take the half hour, and in the meantime some factories gave the whole hour.

Q.—Was there a deputation sent from the District Assembly of the Knights of Labor to the manufacturers? A.—I think there was, but they did not call on us.

Q.—Did they call on the Manufacturers' Association? A.—No; it was not then formed, I think. It was formed afterwards.

Q.—A high-skilled mechanic in your branch of industry would receive about \$10.50 a week. A.—That would be a good ordinary mechanic. Our foremen get a good deal more, and then they are graded down. The foremen get \$3, others \$2.50, and from that down. An ordinary man working at moulding, or a lathe hand, or a vice hand, gets probably \$10.50 to \$11 a week.

Q.—Provided an ordinary mechanic receiving \$10.50 a week, with four of a family, paying \$7 a month for rent and living in an ordinary way, how much do you think he could save in a month out of his wages? A.—I do not know; I think it all depends on how the household is conducted. Views on economy on these questions differ a great deal.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How many days in a year can mechanics in your establishment work? A.—Well, they will work between ten and eleven months. Some of them will be continuously with us, and then those men may go and do what they can outside. We usually shut down about six weeks.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you work full time all the time you are working? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you any overtime? A.—Often we have, and then we pay a time and a-quarter.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—When do you shut down? A.—About the middle of August.

Q.—At that time men are in demand? A.—Yes; they can get plenty of work if they want to. Then we keep probably twelve or so of our best men around us making changes in patterns, and things of that kind.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Does this Employers' Association meet often? A.—No; it is almost defunct now.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—It gets together when there is a labor trouble? A.—There has been only one. We met awhile ago and gave up the rooms; we held together just temporarily.

By Mr. McLEAN ;—

Q.—Do you take all kinds of bosses into it? A.—Anybody who is an employer of labor.

Q.—No matter how small? A.—No; it does not matter. There are only probably about 12 to 15 altogether, and it usually winds up with an oyster supper, or something of that sort, and all go home.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you invite employés to these suppers? A.—We are very friendly with

the employés. There really is no object for the association now; it was just during that time that it was organized.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—There is too good feeling to require it? A.—There is no disturbance in any line that I know of.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do workmen in Chatham remain pretty constantly here, or they are going and coming? A.—They remain pretty constantly.

Q.—Do many of them own the houses in which they live? A.—I would think about one in four or five that we have.

Q.—You cannot speak of the others? A.—No; I do not come in contact much with them.

Q.—Of those working for you who do not own their houses, are many of them married men? A.—Yes; the majority I think.

Q.—The majority of those who do not own their houses are married men? A.—Yes; we have always adopted the principle in the town, that if we have a good man and he is a married man we like him to stay in the town, and we give him the preference.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Are there any unmarried men that build houses? A.—Not that I know of—not laboring men or mechanics.

Q.—Do you know anything about the other towns about here? Is there a floating mechanic population—people who come and go if they think they can better themselves elsewhere? A.—I could not give you information about that. A good many of our own men have been with us 10, or 12, or 14 years.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is there a public library in the town? A.—There is a Mechanics' Institute, to which mechanics can belong for \$1 a year; others pay \$2.

Q.—Is it appreciated much by the working classes? A.—I do not think it is as much as it should be.

Q.—Do you think if they had Saturday afternoons to themselves they would make a better use of it? A.—I do not think they would; that is my impression: I think extra time on their hands would not be used to their advantage.

Q.—A man working 59½ hours in a week, and supposed to go to bed about ten o'clock at night, will not have much time to devote to the pleasure of his family, or for excursions, or for going out to the green fields or parks in the evenings, except after night? A.—Well, he can have from 7 till nearly 9 in the summer.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Why do you assume that if the workmen had more time they would not use it to their advantage? A.—The only reason I have is that if you take any holiday, if there is any drinking it goes on then. We have no men now who drink, but we used to have them, and they always came back used up the next day after a holiday—possibly because they had a holiday; I don't know.

Q.—Is it not because they had so little time that it is a novelty to them? A.—Well, I don't know; but I always put in every day a good long time and never felt the worse but the better for it.

Q.—As the hours of labor grow shorter do you find that dissipation among the working men increases? A.—Well, there has been no change here, so I could not speak as to that.

Q.—If it were true that the workingman does not know how to take advantage of the time he has, would it not be better to extend the hours of labor? A.—Well, I presume there is a limit in all things; I would not like to say what the right limit is.

Q.—Is it not true that a workingman may be tempted to drink sometimes

because he is overworked and overfatigued? A.—Well, I can only speak for ourselves, and I do not think we have a man of that kind.

Q.—Are not the men pretty tired at night? A.—We expect and exact a fair day's work, but I do not think we have anything unreasonable; it is mostly left to the foremen.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—How long have you been connected with workingmen? A.—About 16 years; we employ more than we used to.

Q.—Before that time, were you a workingman? A.—Yes; I was on a farm and I taught school.

Q.—How long did you work on the farm? A.—15 or 16 hours a day when necessary.

Q.—You were often tired at night? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you ever work by moonlight? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—There would be four months in the year you would do nothing but feed cattle? A.—No; we used to lumber, and it is hard work getting up at 4 o'clock in the morning to get the teams ready and go five or six miles to draw a load of saw-logs.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you think it absolutely necessary to have overtime? A.—Yes; it is a necessity sometimes. We get a press of work repairing, for instance; we cannot guard against it, as it comes in harvest time.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You prefer not working overtime? A.—Certainly; it is more satisfactory not working overtime.

HUGH NEILSON, of Coltart & Neilson, Furniture Manufacturers, Chatham, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Are you manufacturing on a large scale? A.—Not very.

Q.—Do you manufacture for the local market or the general market? A.—Well, we retail a little and we sell wholesale, but not a great deal.

Q.—How far do you send goods? A.—About as far east as London and as far west as Windsor.

Q.—Is there much of an industry of that nature carried on in Chatham? A.—No; not very much; we are the only ones that do much in that line.

Q.—What rates of wages do men receive in that business in Chatham? A.—Do you mean the average rate.

Q.—What would a good, fair skilled mechanic get? A.—About \$10 to \$12 a week, or else by piece-work.

Q.—Do those who work by the piece earn as much as those who work by the week? A.—Some of them do and some of them do not; that depends. Most of our present men are working by the day.

Q.—Do the men prefer working by the day or by the piece? A.—Most of them would like to work by the day best.

Q.—Have you had any trouble with your men of late—any strikes? A.—Not lately; we had just about a year ago this time.

Q.—What was the cause of that difference? A.—It was a question of short hours.

Q.—Was any concession made to them? A.—A little; not much. They wanted an hour on Saturdays and we gave them half an hour.

Q.—That was conceded? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long were they out? A.—Our men were out two or three weeks altogether. They struck two or three different times. It originated with the Knights of Labor.

Q.—And except for the half hour on Saturday the strike failed? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do your men stay with you pretty steadily, or are they roving? A.—Most of them stay with us steadily.

Q.—Do they get ahead in the world and buy houses for themselves? A.—Not many of them; they do not seem able to save a great deal, but a few of them do.

Q.—Have you any apprentices? A.—We have three.

Q.—Do they stay with you until they learn their trade? A.—Well, we have been nearly 15 years now in business and I do not think we have had more than two in all that time who stayed until the trade was learned.

Q.—They work a while and then go off elsewhere? A.—Yes; some of them get over a dollar a day somewhere, and they think that is big wages and they start off.

Q.—Can you get all the help you want? A.—Yes.

Q.—No difficulty in finding as many men as you require? A.—No.

Q.—Does much furniture come in from the United States? A.—There is none comes in, except occasionally some one from here goes down there, and sees something which takes his fancy, and does not mind the price.

Q.—How do the prices of furniture compare with those in the United States? A.—In lines which are manufactured extensively here, they are just as cheap here as on the other side.

Q.—Is there as good workmanship put into them? A.—Yes; just as good.

Q.—And as much taste? A.—People always think we have the best taste. They have large factories on the other side employing skilled men for designing. Their small factory it does not pay to do that. The way we do, when we want a design, we buy something, and take a design of it; we do not keep a designer.

Q.—Do you employ much skilled labor? A.—No; very little.

Q.—Do you employ any men, who are partially skilled, at low wages? A.—A few on running machines; that is all.

Q.—If you employ only partially skilled men running machines, are not they liable to accident from ignorance of the machines? A.—Well, I don't know as they are. We don't find that they cut their hands any more than the skilled ones, and sometimes the skilled ones get careless.

Q.—Are your machines properly protected against accidents? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are the pulleys enclosed? A.—Not all of them.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Did you have an inspector along to see your factory? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Have you seen any factory inspector? A.—Not that I am aware of; if he was there, I did not know it.

Q.—Do you employ any very young boys? A.—We have got none under about fifteen or sixteen. There are a few working in the shop younger than that, perhaps, in the finishing room. We have one man who takes the contract to do the finishing, and we pay him by the piece, and he hires his own help. He has some boys, but I don't know any who are younger than fourteen. I do not include them as apprentices. They are apprentices to him, but they do not work directly for us.

Q.—Do you think the system of farming out the work is a good one? A.—Well, I think it is. We find it so in that one line. We know just exactly what it costs to finish a piece of goods.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Do you find that the furniture trade of this country is cut up, and that the margins are low for the employers of labor? A.—They are at present.

- Q.—Owing to the competition of trade in our own country? A.—Yes.
- Q.—And you find it is necessary to save yourself by employing cheaper labor when it can be utilized? A.—That is what we have to do to compete with others.
- Q.—Do you consider also, that a man, in order to make money out of the furniture trade, has to extend his business as well in that as in any other industry? A.—Yes; he has.
- Q.—Do you indenture your apprentice boys? A.—No; we never have done so.
- Q.—Do you object to doing so? A.—No.
- Q.—Supposing you should indenture a boy, don't you think that if a boy did not wish to remain he could make things so unpleasant for you that you would be glad to let him go? A.—That is the way we look at it. We have had boys who really did not seem as if they wanted to leave on their own account, but they made it so unpleasant that we had to let them go.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q.—How many hands have you got? A.—About thirty.
- Q.—What are the average weekly wages of the thirty men? A.—I do not think that they will average more than \$1.37½ a day.
- Q.—Is your firm capable of teaching a boy the trade thoroughly? A.—Yes.
- Q.—In all its branches? A.—In all its branches.
- Q.—Are the men in favor of the firm indenturing apprentices? A.—I never heard them express an opinion on that at all.
- Q.—You say that the labor trouble some time ago was an application on the part of the men for a shortening of the hours of labor? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Did the employers of Chatham form themselves into an association to counteract that movement on the part of the men? A.—Yes.
- Q.—They were successful in doing so? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Are there any married men earning \$1.37½? A.—Yes; as a rule they earn more than that.
- Q.—That would be the average? A.—I think that would be the average; it is not under that, any way.
- Q.—Don't you think it is very difficult for a man to save money and raise four or five of a family and pay house rent on those wages? A.—He cannot save much. I do not think I could, anyway.
- Q.—They work 59½ hours a week? Yes.
- Q.—Are the houses in which mechanics live in the outskirts of the town or in the centre? A.—They are pretty well towards the centre; they do not go very far to their work, any of them.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

- Q.—What is the sanitary condition of workingmen's houses? A.—I guess they are all pretty good, as far as I know.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q.—How is the sanitary condition of your factory? A.—It is good.
- Q.—It will pass inspection? A.—I don't know what the inspection would be.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

- Q.—Why would your men rather work by the day than by the piece? A.—I suppose they would not have to work so hard.
- Q.—To make \$1.37½ a day? A.—Of course a good many of these men earning low wages are working some of them on machinery. A few of them came to work for us and did not serve their time, and are not what we call expert workmen. We have not really good men working for less than \$1.50 to \$1.75 a day.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

- Q.—What proportion of married men have you? A.—I think two-thirds of them are married.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you had many accidents happen in the factory during the last year?
A.—I don't remember many, excepting one man who was laid off three weeks; he cut his finger on a cross-cut saw.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Did not the saw have a guard on it? A.—No.

Q.—Do you make a practice of having your circular saws with guards on them?
A.—No; there is no guard on any of them.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—If the boys who come to work for you had some technical education before they entered the shop it would be an advantage to them in learning the trade? A.—Yes; I think it would be a great advantage.

Q.—Is anything done in Chatham to give technical instruction to boys before they go to work? A.—Not that I know of; I don't think so.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—It would be a benefit to you as well if the boys were taught in that way before they went to work? A.—It would to us and it would to them.

DAVID WILSON, Farmer, Chatham, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You live in the neighborhood of Chatham, I believe? A.—I do.

Q.—How long have you lived here? A.—Forty-eight years past.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Did you open out your farm? A.—Yes; and I have worked it.

Q.—Were you then in the woods? A.—Yes; at that time it was all woods around here.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you employ any labor? A.—I do.

Q.—What wages do you pay for ordinary farm hands? A.—At the present time \$15.00 and board.

Q.—Do you pay that all the year round, or only during the busy season? A.—I pay more than that during the busy time.

Q.—If you employ a man the year round you pay him \$15.00 a month and board? A.—I cannot hire a man for that, not a good, skilled laborer the year round.

Q.—If you employ a man all the year round, what wages do you pay him? A.—I would not get him much short of \$18.00 a month and board. He must then be a good one.

Q.—You do not need to employ hands so much as you used to do, I suppose?
A.—As we enlarge a farm we are obliged to keep more hands than we used to do.

Q.—Do you have more machinery now than formerly? A.—Yes; but that increases our capacity to work more.

Q.—You get more land as you get more machinery? A.—Yes.

Q.—I suppose, as you make money out of the farm you buy more land? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then that shows a prosperous condition on the part of the farmers? A.—If the farmers would work as they could, we would have a very prosperous people.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You are not afraid of work? A.—No; I never was ashamed to work. I was as poor as anybody once, but I am not now, thank God?

Q.—Where did you come from to this country? A.—From near Dublin, in Ireland.

Q.—Did you bring much money with you? A.—I had \$1,000 which my father left me. I came to this country in December, 1839.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Are agricultural laborers scarce in this part of the country? A.—Good ones are.

By Mr. McLEAN:

Q.—What would you call a good one? A.—One who is willing to get up at five o'clock in the morning, attend to the team, and see to everything till eight o'clock at night.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Those are pretty long hours, are they not? A.—Those are the hours I work myself; sometimes I work more. You will find me to-morrow morning at that hour among my cattle. I will be sixty-eight soon.

Q.—What products do you raise mostly in this county? A.—Taking an average, beans, cattle, clover seed and wheat.

Q.—Can you make money at even the present prices of wheat? A.—Yes; decidedly I can.

Q.—Did you ever calculate what it cost to raise cattle? A.—Yes.

Q.—For what price do you think you can raise them? A.—I think I can raise them for \$10 a year.

Q.—Would you sell them at three years old? A.—Yes; never younger.

Q.—About what would they weigh then? A.—Close on 1,400 pounds a piece for the market.

Q.—Do you not think they would cost you more than \$30 a piece? A.—No; not when you consider the benefit of the manure to the farm. That is the way I put it. There is an income in that way.

Q.—Have you seen any letters or statements recently published to the effect that cattle cannot be sold on the hoof for less than five cents per pound, live weight? A.—I have not, but I do not believe anything of the kind.

Q.—You think you can raise them for less money? A.—I am confident I can. I have one hundred and twelve head of cattle on my farm now.

Q.—Do you raise large quantities of beans? A.—We raise beans; I have nearly two hundred acres on my farm, and I have two other farms besides.

Q.—Do you raise much corn? A.—We do.

Q.—As fodder for cattle? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you raise fodder corn? A.—Sometimes fodder corn, but as a rule we feed the cattle with corn in the ear. I have fed cattle on ground meal also.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you feed corn in the ear to pigs? A.—You will take a number of cattle, and I will take a number. You feed them on ground meal and tie them up, and do what you can for them. I will take the same number and feed them with corn in the ear, and I will warrant I will bring mine to maturity quicker than you will yours, because the corn in the ear keeps continually forming saliva in their mouths, and this assists their digestion. I have seen cattle fed on meal take so much in one day that they were off their feed for three days afterwards. I have come to the conclusion that feeding cattle with corn in the ear is the way to do it.

Q.—Do you do anything in dairying? A.—Very little; we do not like to work our women too hard.

Q.—You think the chief work should fall on the men? A.—Most decidedly.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you not think the majority of people think the other way? A.—I do not know; I am an Irishman. The Commissioners must remember that they are in a county that differs widely from any other part. They are in a county that possesses

the most productive soil on the earth ; I have heard that admitted by men who have travelled a great deal ; but the Commission are also in a flat country that perhaps eastern men would dislike, but if they once settled here and obtained the crops we raise they would not leave. It is the crops we raise here that attracts us.

Q.—How many farmers about here have made their own fortunes ? A.—A good many of them have, and sometimes the second generation spends them ; that is unfortunately the situation of our country.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Is there a tendency on the part of young people raised on farms to drift into cities ? A.—There was a good deal more than there is now ; they are taking more interest now in their fathers' farms. There is a good feeling in that way spreading abroad. I have three sons ; we live within a stone's throw of them, and I have never heard one express a wish to go away.

Q.—Are the farmers in this county generally prosperous ? A.—As a rule they were, until the family grew up and became extravagant.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—I suppose they do not like to work like their fathers ? A.—Yes ; that is it

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do many farmer's sons take advantage of the Agricultural College ? A.—We do not look upon it as of any great value to us.

Q.—Why ? A.—As regards my family, I would be very sorry to send a son of mine there.

Q.—Do you think they do not get proper training there ? A.—I have seen them there with kid gloves on in hot weather. I thought that was not like the occupation of a farmer ; I like to see mud on their hands.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You think a farmer does better plowing not wearing kid gloves ? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think the farmers of Kent require Commercial Union with the United States to make them prosperous ? A.—You would need to show me Commercial Union in a different light from the way I see it to convince me. Looking at it in the way I do, I consider it madness to get up and talk about it.

Q.—Have you ever calculated what it cost to raise a bushel of wheat, taking one year with another ? A.—No ; I never went minutely into it. I will give you an idea of what two acres produced within the last two seasons. It was manured and plowed for beans, fourteen acres.

Q.—What did that cost you ? A.—The manuring and tilling would cost us from \$80 to \$100. We will put in that same manure, and everything else connected with it for a crop of beans. The beans brought me \$360. We will put the two seasons together, for the land is now in clover seed. We take off these beans the cost of the bean straw. The straw paid for the harvest, for it is fully better than hay for cattle. Then we plowed with three horses on a three-forked plow. We did the plowing in three days, and put in about twenty bushels of seed wheat. We harvested that field with one of the Chatham company's champion machines, and we threshed thirty-four bushels of wheat to the acre. If you put the two crops together and make a conclusion, you will find there was a good result.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is it a light soil ? A.—It is a good strong clay loam.

Q.—Do you find it suitable for beans ? A.—Yes ; and for all other crops. We give it a plowing in the spring, and the crop is never a failure, even during a dry season, such as last. I could show you a field of forty-one acres that I had in, half in beans and half in corn. I fed the corn to the cattle and sold the beans at \$1.75 a bushel ; they were white beans. That crop gave me \$1,000. I have now twenty acres in wheat, and twenty acres ready for barley.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—I think you are a better farmer than Mr. Valency Fuller? A.—He has too much capital; he was born too rich.

Q.—Do you raise much hay? A.—Yes; I cut close upon one hundred acres of hay.

Q.—Where do you sell that mostly? A.—We do not sell it.

Q.—You turn it into beef? A.—Yes; I use it on the farm.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—I believe your farm is only one mile from town? A.—Only one mile; every child here knows me.

FRANCIS W. WILSON, Chatham, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You are in the nursery business, I believe? A.—I run a general line of nursery business, and over three hundred acres of farm land.

Q.—Do you raise fruit, or only fruit trees? A.—I grow trees as a business, but I am going extensively into fruit.

Q.—What fruit flourish in this part of the country? A.—Any fruit that will grow in any part of Canada.

Q.—Peaches? A.—They do pretty well; we had a heavy crop this year. Small fruits of almost all kinds, all that will grow in Canada, do well here.

Q.—What kind of grapes do you grow? A.—Concord has been the leading variety; Niagara and Empire State are coming to the front.

Q.—Are they better grapes? A.—Yes; and they will sell for a better price. Empire State is a much better grape.

Q.—Do you grow the Catawbas here at all? A.—No; not much. The Catawba grape is grown on Pelee Island.

Q.—Is it too cold for it here? A.—It is not very safe here. It's a little late. The lake shore seems to suit it better. Peaches also do a little better on the lake shore than they do here. I have been growing large quantities of raspberries, which I have shipped to Montreal, where I have found a splendid market for them.

Q.—Where do you find the principal market for your fruits? A.—Of my crop of 4,686 barrels of apples I shipped about two-thirds to Chicago, about one-quarter to Montreal, and two car loads to Montana, one car load to Dakota and 200 barrels were sent by boat up the lakes. I have tried the Liverpool market, but I do not think it is as good a market now as the American.

Q.—There is too much danger, I suppose, of damaging the fruit on the passage? A.—There is no particular danger in that way, but there are so many dues and percentages, and so much stealing, that there is not much left for the grower. There is an agent's commission of 8 per cent.

Q.—Do you not lose many apples on the voyage? A.—No; I hardly lost any.

Q.—The shrinkage is altogether in the charges? A.—Yes. I think the loss is principally from the gouging of your commission men. I always sell my apples here free on board, and I will not take any order except for cash.

Q.—You have heard stories about apples getting damaged by the rolling of the barrels? A.—Yes; but we are too well experienced not to know how to pack them in order to prevent that.

Q.—Is apple growing a profitable industry? A.—It is the most profitable industry in Kent. It is undoubtedly much the most profitable.

Q.—How often do you calculate to lose a crop? A.—In my own experience, I have not lost a crop during the last twenty-three years; there has been a crop every year with me. My land is well adapted for fruits.

Q.—Do you give good shelter to your fruit trees? A.—Fruit trees will pay a

great deal better when they are protected with rows of evergreens. The land seems to do better and the trees are more natural, and the wind does not blow down the fruit.

Q.—Then you plant wind-breaks of evergreens? A.—I plant wind-breaks of Norway spruce, three feet apart which are a protection as well as an ornament. I claim that rows, three feet apart, do not take up more room on a farm than one row of twenty feet, and they grow very much more timber, and are better in every way.

Q.—Is the timber of any value? A.—It is now acknowledged in Scotland and other countries, to be one of the best. They grow till they are forty years old, and then they decrease on growth. I have on the north end of my farm four rows, six feet by four feet apart.

Q.—What fruit would you place next to the apples for profit? A.—Pears.

Q.—Where do you have your market for pears? A.—I have never shipped many pears; there are not many shipped from here. I intend trying it next year. I think Montreal would be our best market; the western market is not very good for pears.

Q.—Do pears stand shipment as well as apples? A.—No; not nearly as well. The winter varieties, however, would do well. You can hardly pick pears in time to get them on the market and sold before they perish.

Q.—You combine general agriculture with fruit raising? A.—Yes; I farm three hundred acres. I set out this year twenty-five acres of apple orchard. I had a special object in putting them in. I put the trees twenty-one by thirty feet apart, and I calculate after about twenty years to cut out every other one. I expect to get the best fruit from the trees about that time—eighteen or twenty years—and the trees will have room after that to grow.

Q.—Do you employ much help? A.—Yes; I employ a great deal of help most of the time. I have now in my employ about sixteen men, no boys. I have not employed any boys lately.

Q.—Do you take green hands or those familiar with the nursery business? A.—I have had a man this summer who is pretty well experienced, but as a general rule the experienced nurserymen—journeymen—we can get are a very poor class. They are all talk and do not do any work. They are pretty good to stand round, and tell you what they have done, but they do not work themselves. I find in my trade that good common sense is worth as much as a knowledge of the trade.

Q.—Then education does not unfit a man for the nursery business? A.—No; I have let good men go for lack of education.

Q.—Have you met any men who have passed through the Agricultural College at Guelph? A.—I have had conversations with such men. I think well of the college; and I differ with my uncle, the previous witness, in regard to that matter. I think the college is a good establishment. If I had boys old enough to go to it, the only reason I would not send them would be, because I have heard bad accounts of the conduct and character of young men going there—very bad accounts. So far as regards a man who has not his hands covered with mud not being a farmer, I do not think that is necessary.

Q.—What wages do you pay the men employed in your nursery? A.—I paid during the summer months, when I hired that way, about \$16.00 a month, and board and washing. I am paying at this time of the year \$12.00 for individual months, and I am paying one man \$200.00 and his board and washing. I have engaged that man for next year. I had him engaged this year at \$190.00, and board and washing; he is the best man I ever had as a laborer. Some of my men save as much as \$100.00.

Q.—Can you get all the help you want? A.—Yes. Last year I had much less trouble than formerly in getting help. We have had good men this summer, no boys. I think it is a good thing not to employ boys in such work as mine. When you want good work done you cannot get it done by boys.

Q.—Do you find men looking for work and unable to get it? A.—No. There is no need of that occurring; I employ any one who comes along who has any idea of

work. I engage them and they go to work, and if they are no good I dismiss them. I have now a lot of men chopping, and I give them 50 cents for soft and 75 cents for hard wood by the cord; they board themselves.

Q.—Do you think money is made off the land in Kent? A.—As I have said, I think apples are best; they do very well. Outside of that crop I think hay pays best.

Q.—Do you raise any stock? A.—Yes. I can, however, buy cattle at two years cheaper than I can raise them.

Q.—You buy cattle at two years and sell them at three? A.—Yes; I buy cattle at any age; I prefer them at about two years. I can make them fat more quickly. If I were to buy them all ready I would have too much opposition. I have shipped a good many car loads of cattle.

Q.—Have you ever calculated what it cost to put beef on the bones of these cattle you buy? A.—I never calculated it that way. I never had a good scales for weighing them, so as to be able to see how much they regularly gained. It costs me 25 cents per head a day for food, counting the manure equal in value to the work.

Q.—You consider that the manure is only equal to the work of caring for them? A.—Yes.

Q.—And you think they cost you 25 cents a day per head? A.—Yes; with the corn and hay we give them.

Q.—Do you keep them but one year? A.—No; that is the cost only for the winter.

Q.—What is the cost in the summer, when they are grazing? A.—Such cattle can be fed well for 5 cents a day on good grass, all they can eat.

Q.—Do you calculate to feed them half the year? A.—No; we do not feed them half the year. My cattle are running on grass now; I have a lot of cattle out. There is lots of grass in the field, and the cattle are getting better every day. We never feed over five months in the year.

Q.—What increase of price can you get after keeping an animal all year? A.—It varies very much. It depends more on the buying than anything else. If they are bought right, and the market keeps right, we generally make money. I always think it costs nearly \$1.00 a month in summer and \$2.00 a month in winter to keep cattle. I keep them well; it does not pay to keep them badly.

Q.—The cost, then, is \$18.00 a year? A.—About \$17.00. We calculate five months' winter here.

Q.—You calculate that the manure pays you for all the labor, and this amount of \$17.00 is the actual outlay? A.—It is the cost of feed at market prices. I calculate the feed at what it would sell for.

Q.—Then over and above what you expend, what increase of price would you get after keeping an animal a year? A.—That varies very much, according to whether they thrive. Our breed of stock in this country is poor, and if we were not very careful we do not make much. If we have been pretty careful and have a nice lot together, we sometimes make \$15.00 in three months, but I have sometimes kept animals a year and have not made anything. I could not tell you what the average we get is.

Q.—You principally depend on your fruit and the nursery? A.—Yes; I have seventy acres of wheat in, and it looks well.

Q.—Does it pay to raise wheat at the present prices? A.—It pays somewhat, but I can make more at other things. I think that if a farmer keeps his land protected by evergreens, and well manured, he can produce wheat at five York shillings a bushel. There is one point I would like to have the Commission note, and that is, that we, as farmers, have a very poor chance of knowing whether laboring men who offer themselves are any good or not. We can only judge of them after they have got into our employment. We cannot always depend on what a man says. I think there should be a law to compel every farmer to give a man who leaves his employment an honest recommendation, but not to say that he is worse or

better than he really is, but to give a thoroughly honest recommendation as to his merits, and the farmer should be very severely punished if this is not done. If such a law were passed and thoroughly enforced, then, when a laboring man comes to you he could show his papers from his last employer, and you could tell honestly what he is worth.

Q.—Do you think the Government could satisfactorily enforce such a law? A.—Yes. Several laws now in existence are just as awkward to enforce as this one would be. If employers knew that there was a severe penalty for failing to observe it, they would, for their own sake, carry it out. If I take a good man, I would sooner pay double the wages than lose him.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Could not farmers' granges carry out such a plan themselves? A.—I belong to the grange, but it is very difficult to run the grange here. They have about all died out. No; I do not think this law could be carried out as well by the granges as by the Government.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Have you any other suggestion to offer to the Commission? A.—I would like to say that I think it would be a benefit to the country if the government were to allow some sort of bonus or make some definite enactment for setting out timber. I have figured it out myself, and I think to grow timber pays better than to grow almost any kind of crop. A person could plant black ash, white ash, walnut, and commence cutting black ash for poles after four or five years, and work from then till they were fifteen years old, and white ash and walnut would follow on.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Walnut has pretty well disappeared from here, I believe? A.—Yes; but there is still a good deal left of it. There are sufficient woods still throughout the country to obtain a supply of seed. I set them out for my nursery purposes.

Q.—How far north will walnut grow? A.—It will grow up near Lake Simcoe.

By Mr. FREED:—

Y.—I think there was no walnut in the original forests there? A.—Not further north than London and Niagara Falls, I believe.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Is it a rapidly growing tree? A.—Yes, the most rapid in the world; it is one of the most rapid I know of, and I grow a great many kinds.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—In how many years would a walnut tree, under ordinary circumstances, reach the diameter of one foot. A.—I do not remember to have noticed it. I think two feet in thirty years.

Q.—That is an extraordinary growth. A.—That would be under good surroundings. Our land here is naturally adapted for trees. The principal timber in the natural state of our forests here is walnut; it seems to be naturally walnut land. I have seen it grow six feet high in two years from the time of planting the nut. I can show trees that have run that high in that time.

Q.—In planting walnut with the idea of making timber, do you plant close together, so as to get straight trees? A.—Yes; and thin them out. Probably I sell them in my business after the first two years.

Q.—If they are isolated they branch out too much? A.—Yes; and do not make good straight logs. It is a comparatively clean timber, and is easy to run up straight. I may say that beans are a good paying crop with us.

Q.—You heard the testimony on that point given by your uncle, the previous witness? A.—Yes; I may say that his calculation is pretty far astray.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How many bushels do you get to the acre? A.—More bushels than of wheat. I have grown forty bushels to the acre, but that is a very large crop.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Is there not a great deal more labor in raising beans than wheat? A.—Yes; but we get more money for them, and we get the ground ready for wheat. The bean crop will leave the ground in good order and clear for wheat. If the land is cleared, all that is required is spring-harrowing, and everything is ready to drill in wheat.

Q.—Did you hear your uncle's answer, that bean straw is good fodder for cattle? A.—No.

Q.—You think that is rather exaggerated? A.—Yes.

Q.—Still it does make good fodder? A.—Yes; but it will physic cattle very badly. It has to be fed alternately with other food.

Q.—Are cattle fond of bean straw? A.—No; they will rather eat hay or corn fodder; but they will eat bean straw.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—You said you belonged to the grange? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it a co-operative affair? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you ever receive any benefit from the co-operative grange? A.—Yes.

Q.—What benefit did you receive? A.—At the time we had it in pretty good running order here, we got a great reduction on our machinery.

Q.—Any reduction on groceries? A.—I have bought groceries, but I got no benefit from them. It did not amount to anything. All those small lines should never have been taken up.

Q.—Did the grange organization have a tendency to reduce the price of groceries? A.—I think it reduced the price of everything the farmers bought.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is not the organization continued in Toronto? A.—It is still in force in some of the back townships, but there is no grange lodge near the town. I cannot go to one without driving many miles. I went five miles regularly until the lodge broke up. I believe in farmers' unions. We need them as much or more than any other producers.

Q.—For the purpose of keeping up the prices of your produce? A.—To defend our own interests in every way—to get the legislation in Parliament we need. I do not think there are a sufficient number of farmers in Parliament to represent the farmers' interest. Who runs asks anything, and they generally get it, but the farmers do not send anybody to ask, and therefore we are left.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Then you believe that farmers would represent you better than professional men? A.—Yes, they would know our feelings better. We do not want more than we have a right to obtain, but we do not like to see all other business interests represented by members of Parliament, and the farmers not properly represented. Some man from town comes along at election time, and we raise a "hurrah," think he is a good fellow, and vote for him. But his interests have preference to ours.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Would not higher education remove the difficulty? A.—Yes; I think it would. In our country schools there are wrong studies taught altogether. They should teach in our common schools only those branches that are really necessary to a laboring man, and those subjects that every child ought to know and understand.

Q.—You believe in children gaining a thorough knowledge of everything taught? A.—Yes. For instance, I do not believe in teaching a child grammar, and compelling him to remember what a particular rule is, as I had to do, but to use

grammar in common talk. I think the Trustees' Society, lately established, will probably be a good thing in defending the interests of the pupils against so many branches of education being taught in the common schools, subjects for which there is no need.

Q.—You think too many subjects are taught? A.—If the Trustees' Union, at present being established, carries out its object—I do not know in detail what it is—we shall have a better common school educational system. If a person wants to give his child anything beyond the necessary branches of a common education he ought to pay for it. Our high schools should be charged at full rates, and our common School should be as free as the air we breathe. I do not care, even if we went so far as to furnish books free, and I believe in enforcing the attendance of children at the Common Schools. But, if parents intend their children to learn a profession, if they desire them to attend the high schools, and afterwards to pursue the study of law or a profession, they ought to pay for the instruction.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You believe in the State providing books for the children free? A.—I would not be opposed to it. I believe in making the common school system as free as possible. I believe, on the other hand, that higher education should be fully paid for.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Education you think would promote a better knowledge of agriculture? A.—One of the troubles is that all humanity seems to be wanting a change, seems to be wanting something new. Whatever business a man is engaged in, he seems to be wanting to go into something else. We all think we have a harder life than any one else.

CHATHAM, December 10th, 1837.

JOSEPH E. SMITH, Painter, Chatham, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How long have you lived in Chatham? A.—About five years this last time; I lived here eighteen or twenty years ago; then I was away four or five years.

Q.—Are you a house painter or decorator? A.—A house painter.

Q.—What are the wages of a house painter in Chatham? They vary from \$1.50 up to as high as \$2 a day.

Q.—How many months in the year do you suppose you work on an average? A.—About eight months. There may be some exceptions to the rule, some who have inside work, but that is very scarce here.

Q.—If there is an open winter I suppose work goes on longer? A.—Yes; some what, but not very much.

Q.—Are many painters employed in Chatham? A.—There are a good many. I could not tell the number, because it is customary in the busy season to employ any one who can swing a brush. There are not so many who have been trained to the business.

Q.—Are there many apprentices at the business? A.—Not to my knowledge; I do not know as to that. I never apprenticed—not here.

Q.—Do you know if apprentices are indentured to the trade? A.—I do not.

Q.—Do journeymen prefer the indenture system with apprentices, that is, that a boy should be obliged to serve four or five years at the trade with the same employer and that the boss should teach him the trade. A.—I do not know of any boys employed that way. There may be some who go in to learn the trades; I do not know whether boys stay long enough to do so.

Q.—Are painters paid weekly, fortnightly, or monthly? A.—Weekly.

Q.—Do you prefer any special day as that on which to receive your pay? What day are you paid? A.—It is the general rule to pay on Saturday night.

Q.—Do the men prefer that day? A.—I do not know whether it is the men's choice or the bosses' choice.

Q.—Are the men paid in cash? A.—Yes; so far as I know.

Q.—How many hours constitute a week's work in your trade? A.—Ten hours a day, and six days.

Q.—Has there been any difficulty of late with the employers? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—Did the men ever make any demand for shorter hours of labor since you have been here? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—In case of labor troubles arising between employers and employed, would you prefer a system of arbitration; and if you would, what kind of arbitration would you prefer? A.—I would prefer arbitration; but I do not know whether I rightly understand you as to the kind of arbitration.

Q.—Would you prefer disinterested parties being asked by both sides to interfere and settle the dispute amicably without a strike: do you believe in such a system of settling trade troubles? A.—Yes; I do, if it is possible to do so.

Q.—Or would you think it better that the Government should form a standing board of arbitration to settle the difficulty? A.—I think if you could establish it as a rule that disputes should be settled by arbitration it would be better.

Q.—By the Government? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any profit-sharing with painters over and above their wages? A.—No; nothing more than what is agreed upon as wages.

Q.—Do you think it would have a good moral tendency on them to have Saturday afternoon holiday or shortened hours of labor? A.—That is a question. With a certain class it might be an advantage; with another class it might be a detriment. There is a certain class who so soon as they draw their wages would be off spending it in drink; another class would make the best use of the time they had. So that is an undecided question with me.

Q.—Do you not think that long hours and hard work have a tendency to cause men to drink more than they otherwise would? A.—Perhaps it might; I am not prepared to answer definitely that question. So far as my own experience goes, I know how it would be with myself.

Q.—In purchasing the necessaries of life, do men's wages go as far as they did five or ten years ago to the best of your knowledge? A.—I cannot see a great deal of difference with respect to the purchasing power of a dollar in eatables. Clothing is now cheaper than it was then.

Q.—Has house rent increased during the past five years? A.—Not to speak of.

Q.—Has there been any improvement in wages? A.—No.

Q.—Are the painters in Chatham organized? A.—No; not as a union.

Q.—Do you think that organized labor on the part of the working classes has a tendency to better their condition? A.—I could not answer that question, not having had any experience of organized labor; I never belonged to a union.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Are the painters more or less constantly employed than they were in former years? A.—I could not answer as to that in this place, on account of there being more men employed than formerly. There used to be more men employed the year round than now, because, as I have stated, anybody can paint now-a-days, and contractors rush in then and get the work off their hands in as short a time as possible. If they employed mechanics the work would occupy a longer time and the men would be more constantly employed. Now they generally wind up before the frost comes on.

Q.—That is as regards house-painters? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know how it is with painters employed in the agricultural implement and waggon work? A.—They run about eight months in the year and then shut down. They do not run at all during the winter season.

Q.—Is there any other employment to be had when these mechanics are not

employed at their trade? A.—Some of them go to work on the streets, and some take up a hammer and saw and go to work as a carpenter, and others go to bucking wood. I am employed at the waggon works; I am not a permanent hand, but I work there when painting is slack, but I do not work in the painting department. The works run about eight months; that is the term they ran last year. Then they are idle, and the men get what work they can in the warehouses or elsewhere, for the painting business is shut down. It is the same with the harvesters; they run a little longer, commencing earlier in the spring, but they shut down a month or two in winter when there is nothing doing.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What is the condition of workmen in Chatham generally; are they generally comfortable. A.—Some of them are pretty close run.

Q.—Do you think many save money out of their wages? A.—I do not think any of them do. The laboring classes do not; I do not save anything.

Q.—Do you think the mechanics have about all they can do to live? A.—Yes; that is unless they are contractors. What they may make out of the men may carry them through the winter. I know the laboring men are not able to save anything—at least I cannot. Whether I am the exception or not I cannot tell, but I cannot make enough through the summer to carry me through the winter. I could do so if I had steady employment. I had three months of steady work the first part of the season, but I have been on my own resources since, taking jobs and working by the day for others.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Is much capital required to start in the painting business? A.—No; not a great deal.

Q.—Could a journeyman or several journeymen together take contracts for house painting on their own account, and do work instead of being employed by an employer? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they do that at all? A.—There are three or four shops of that kind in this town.

Q.—In which journeymen co-operate to do the work? A.—Two journeymen go together as partners; they buy their material from the wholesale dealer and hire men; but there is no co-operative system more than a couple of journeymen joining together.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Is there much first-class painting, graining or decorating done here? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there a large number of men capable of doing that work? A.—No.

Q.—They must be men, generally, who have served an apprenticeship to it? A.—Yes; men who have served their time. There are only, to my knowledge, three or four first-class decorators in the place.

Q.—All those decorators are grainers, too? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there much work here in summer, or is there much finishing or painting inside of houses in the winter? A.—There might be two or three, perhaps, who have winter work, and they are heavy contractors who have it. The papering, painting and graining are generally done in the spring, during the cleaning time. The painters rush the work through and then there is a slack time until the busy time again comes round. Work has been unusually dull here this season, as no new buildings have gone up; most of the work has been renovating old buildings.

Q.—Is there anything you can recommend as a means of benefiting the trade, or are there any objections you can state to the present system? A.—I think if there was less of boys' labor it would be an advantage. The men take little boys and put them to the business, and of course they deprive men of a certain amount of work. An employer will take a couple of boys and put them in a man's place, giving them

three or four dollars a week; they will do a man's work, whereas there should be one man employed and perhaps one boy learning the trade. A firm should not be allowed more than one apprentice.

Q.—What ages are the boys? A.—Eleven, twelve, thirteen or fourteen.

Q.—As young as eleven or twelve? A.—Yes; but this is not in painting alone; it is the same in other businesses as well. The firm had two boys, one fifteen years, and I do not know the age of the other; but in a small firm like that one boy should do.

Q.—Do you think the apprentice system, when carried out thoroughly, tends to make better workmen and at the same time gives a better chance to the workingmen than the present system? A.—I think it would. Then an apprentice would commence at the bottom of the ladder and work to the top; now a boy goes ahead and picks up what he can, and never becomes a proficient hand.

JAMES W. BLAKE, Painter, Chatham, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are you an employer of labor? A.—No.

Q.—Are you a journeyman painter? A.—Yes.

Q.—You have heard what the last witness stated about the condition of trade; do you agree with him? A.—I do in regard to the apprentice system.

Q.—Do you in regard to the general condition of trade in Chatham? A.—Yes; I think I do.

Q.—What do you suppose to be the average earnings of a painter here? A.—The average earnings of a painter will be one dollar and a-half a day. That would be his average for four and a-half days in the week. He would run on that way for about seven months and then he would be thrown out; and if he could make twenty dollars or even fifteen dollars a month by cutting ice or working on the street, or anything else, he was doing first rate.

Q.—Then you cannot get employment at your trade all the year round? A.—No.

Q.—Very few painters I suppose, own their own houses? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know any painters in Chatham who own their own houses? A.—I could not say. A great many claim to own their houses, but whether they have a clear title to them I cannot say.

Q.—Do you know if they have accounts at the savings bank? A.—No.

Q.—You think they have not much to put in? A.—No.

Q.—What would it cost to rent a comfortable mechanic's house? A.—About four dollars a month.

Q.—A house with how many rooms? A.—The last house I rented contained a front room, dining-room, kitchen and two bed rooms upstairs, and a closet and pantry, woodshed, cistern and water. I paid four dollars a month rent.

Q.—Was that in the centre of the town? A.—No; it was towards Victoria Park.

Q.—How far from the centre of the town? A.—About ten minutes' walk. I was living in a row, not in a detached house.

Q.—Have you ever given the subject of industrial education any thought, such education as teaching boys the rudiments of their trade? A.—No; I have not.

Q.—Or giving them a skilled training in night schools after they have gone to a trade? A.—No.

Q.—Do you think it would benefit mechanics if there was such education open to them? A.—Yes; I do.

Q.—They would be able to perfect themselves in their business having been taught those branches? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever given the question of the settlement of disputes by arbitration any thought? A.—Yes; I have.

Q.—Would you believe in a law providing compulsory^o arbitration in all cases?
A.—Yes; I would.

Q.—Have you ever had any labor disputes in Chatham? A.—Yes.

Q.—How have you settled them? A.—I was working for a merchant in the town. It was understood that the Knights of Labor would quit work on Saturday afternoon at five o'clock; the ringing of the market bell was to be the hour for leaving. So I went to my boss and said: The Knights of Labor propose to quit at five o'clock on Saturday night, and I would like to quit at that time; the carpenters and plasterers are also quitting at that time. He said: You can act at your own option. I said: I will quit then. I went to get my pay, and he said: You need not come back on Monday morning. I said: Why not? He said: If you think more of the Knights of Labor than for the man for whom you have been working, you had better look to the Knights of Labor for work. I said: all right. Next Monday morning at eleven o'clock he was up to the house after me to get me back to work. He got kind of scared at the Knights of Labor. To-day he is one of our ablest supporters in the Knights of Labor.

Q.—It did him good? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you succeed here in establishing nine hours as a day's work on Saturday?
A.—Yes; we have got it.

Q.—Is it generally adopted? A.—It is the custom. All connected with the building trade are supposed to quit at five o'clock on Saturday night. In factories and such shops the hands quit at half-past five.

Q.—Do you think the shortening the hours of labor is a benefit? A.—Yes; I do.

Q.—In what way? A.—In this way, that if the hours were shorter there would be more men employed to carry on the work. The best part of the year is in the spring, when paper-hanging, painting, decorating and cleaning up is all going on. If young men come along who have worked in a factory for two or three months and can use a brush, they are taken on, instead of employing mechanics to do the work. Such hands as I have mentioned are got for five dollars a week. They can put on the first and probably the second coat, but it requires the heads of the firm to finish up the work.

Q.—Do you know any other benefit accruing to workmen from shortening the hours of labor? A.—I do not know any.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Do workmen improve the time at their disposal in improving themselves?
A.—A certain class will always do so, but another class, to my mind, will use their time in debauchery.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—In speaking of the average workmen, do you think if there were shorter hours they would use the time in dissipation? A.—No; I do not think they would; not the majority of them.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Do you think if schools for technical education were established here that the young men, who would naturally be most interested in them, would attend; do you think they would be glad for such an opportunity, from what you know of them? A.—Yes. I know we have a night school which gives the common education, and mechanics, young men and boys, attend it. I suppose there are about thirty-five attending that school. If they attend that school to get a common education, I think that anything affecting the interests of their trade would more particularly obtain their attention.

Q.—Do you consider it would be a great advantage to many young men to give them the opportunity of perfecting themselves in their trade? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think it would benefit the trade generally? A.—Yes; it would.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Mechanics, as a rule, have their evenings to themselves now? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they make pretty good use of that time? A.—I know that so far as I am concerned I try to put it to the best use possible.

Q.—Do you think it would be put to any worse use if that evening was lengthened by one hour? A.—I could not say.

Q.—Is there any reason to suppose it would be? A.—No; I do not think it would be.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Before the strike for nine hours took place in your shop, did you send a deputation from the men to the bosses to endeavor to settle the trouble before a strike was resorted to? A.—No. I went and told a certain number of young men who were Knights of Labor. They got round at different parts of the corner and began to talk about it. I suppose the boss overheard the conversation and thought that the boys would be kind of giving the block to him, and he thought the best thing was to take me on again. So I was out only half a day.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You work ten hours now except on Saturday? A.—Yes. In our trade at this time of the year we do not get in more than eight hours a day. I may say that during the year I earned about five hundred dollars, according to my time book. I did some contracting, taking little jobs in the city on my own account. I thought I would do that if I could not get more than \$1.50 a day. Accordingly I started a little shop of my own and began contracting. I paid out for stock and trade \$1,400. My rent was \$50; wood and coal, \$25; I put my grocery bill at \$150; clothing \$50; furniture and such small things, \$40; doctor's bill, \$35; meat bill for the year, \$50; and vegetables \$25. On the whole year's work I went behind \$65 and worked all the time I could get any work to do.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Your total receipts were only \$500? A.—Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How many have you in family? A.—Three—wife and two children.

RYNARD W. BRICKMAN, Carpenter, Chatham, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What is the condition of the carpentering trade in Chatham? A.—I never worked a full year at the trade; I could not find anything to do.

Q.—What do you work at now? A.—I sometimes work on the railway, and here and there, and anywhere I can get a job.

Q.—Nothing very constant? A.—No.

Q.—Is it difficult to get constant employment here? A.—Yes.

Q.—How do you account for that? A.—I do not know how it is. There are some men who give you a job, and after you have been at it for a week or two they think you have done well enough, and they take on another man, so that a man gets only enough to live.

Q.—Do you think an ordinary workingman can live and pay all his expenses and be comfortable in Chatham? A.—Not on the wages he gets.

Q.—If a man were constantly employed in Chatham could he live comfortably? A.—I do not think it.

Q.—Is a man in Chatham always paid in cash? A.—I have been; I do not know how the rest have been.

Q.—You do not know of any store pay? A.—No.

Q.—You cannot tell us how many carpenters are engaged here? A.—I do not know.

Q.—What are their wages? A.—I could not tell that. But I know I was paid \$1.25 a day for three or four days when I worked.

Q.—I suppose there is not a great deal doing in that line now? A.—I do not know.

RALPH GOSSETT, Painter, Chatham, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What branch of working do you work at? A.—I work at the carriage works at present.

Q.—Do they employ many men? A.—On an average, sixty-five?

Q.—Do they keep them going constantly? A.—They have this last twelve months, in this last season.

Q.—How many months in the year do they generally work? A.—This year we ran from the end of January to the end of September.

Q.—Is that considered a year's work? A.—It is a season's work.

Q.—Do they close down then? A.—Yes.

Q.—What do the hands then do? A.—They do the best they can; they shift for themselves.

Q.—Can a man employed at the carriage works during a season earn enough to keep him during the winter? A.—It would be pretty close.

Q.—How are they paid? A.—By day work.

Q.—About what wages does a reasonably good man earn during a season at painting? A.—My earnings were \$281.95 for the season. Out of that I had to pay back debts amounting to \$87, leaving \$194 with which to get through twelve months.

Q.—To keep you the whole season? A.—Yes.

Q.—They turn out a good deal of work there, I believe. A.—They turned out three hundred waggons this last season, besides extra work.

Q.—What is the reason the works are closed down? A.—I consider it is for want of storage.

Q.—Are they always closed down in the winter? A.—It has been the rule.

Q.—Can a man working a full season at full wages earn sufficient to keep himself out of debt? A.—I could.

Q.—Do you think many men in Chatham earn enough during the season to keep them the full year? A.—I think so. I may say that \$2.50 a day is the highest pay.

Q.—Can you tell us whether industrial education would be a benefit to the mechanic? A.—I think it would be.

Q.—In what way? A.—It would improve their minds, and make them able to lay out their money well when they got it.

Q.—I suppose it would turn out better workmen? A.—And better workmen, too.

Q.—In the settlement of disputes between capital and labor, how would you proceed? A.—By arbitration.

Q.—Would you favor a law making arbitration compulsory? A.—Yes; I would.

Q.—Is there much child labor employed in Chatham? A.—I do not know of any.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Are boys employed in your concern? A.—About three are.

Q.—How many grades of men are there at your business; they are not all, I suppose, first-class workmen? A.—On an average they are good workmen.

Q.—In carriage-making there are some men superior to others, I suppose? A.—In our paint shop they take on as brush hands anybody who comes along; but if they have men who can do their work they keep them in preference to strangers.

Q.—Is there any difference in the rate of wages paid? A.—No; they are paid alike, except strippers; they are paid extra.

Q.—How much do the stripers get? A.—Two dollars a day is their pay. Wood workers also get \$2.

Q.—Do you think, as a general rule, that the painting trade would be in favor of having an apprentice system? A.—An apprentice system is quite correct. I think it makes steady men.

Q.—Do you think it is better for the employer? A.—Yes; and for the workman, because boys will jump in under the present system and put men on one side.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Did you ever work at painting in the old country? A.—Yes.

Q.—How do the wages compare there and here in a town of this size? A.—A man would receive thirty-five shillings throughout the year, and would have nearly steady employment throughout the year.

Q.—His wages, then, would be better. Do you think the position of a painter is better in England than in this country? A.—Yes; a man in a painter's shop does not expect to be discharged at the end of the season, but to be kept on so long as he keeps himself correct. Besides, they do not work there in the same way. We have to rush and push to get the work out of our hands, but in England, when you are sent to do a day's work you are not asked to rush it. This makes work last longer.

Q.—Is the cost of living here higher than in the old country? A.—Meat is dearer there.

Q.—How is house rent? A.—About equal.

Q.—Is there ever any overwork time in Chatham? A.—I do not know of any; I only once got over-time.

Q.—It is absolutely necessary, on account of the demand for turning out work, that these rushes should take place? A.—It seems to be the system. You have got to fight against it.

Q.—Do you think if the work was done in an easier fashion it would be better for the trade? A.—It would better both for the trade and the men generally.

Q.—Do you think that could be done without any injury being inflicted on the employer? A.—I do not think it would injure him, because he could get his price, and at the same time meet the demand.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Could you overcome the difficulty by shortening the hours of labor? A.—That would give more employment, and it would enable us to take on the surplus labor.

Q.—Have you ever made any effort to have the hours shortened? We tried to have the hours shortened. We signed a petition in favor of it, but we did not get it granted.

Q.—You did not succeed? A.—No.

Q.—Have you anything in connection with the labor question that you would like to state to the Commission? A.—I do not know that I have anything.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Do you consider the condition of the workingman of this country at the wages he receives as good as the condition of a workingman in the old country with thirty-five shilling a week? A.—I do.

Q.—Do you consider as a general rule, the status or character of the workingman is as good here as in England? A.—I do not doubt it is, and it might be better if the men had more time in which to do their work. They do not get sufficient time here.

Q.—There is more rush here than in England? A.—I am sure of it. They employ men by the day here, and when the work is done the men are out of a job.

Q.—Have you any piece work in your establishment? A.—Not in the workshop. We are paid day's work; but we have a certain amount to get out. It is as good as piece work at day's pay.

Q.—The firm understand what a man should do in a day? A.—There is no time to stand still.

Q.—Are you the only waggon shop here? A.—The only waggon shop of any size.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—If you do not do a certain amount of work in a day is your pay docked? A.—We would hear of it; we have a certain quantity to do every day.

Q.—A man is not fined if he fails to do it? A.—No. He would not stand a fine, because the firm have their remedy by being able to put him on one side.

Q.—I suppose if a man did not do what the company considered a full day's work he would stand a chance of losing his job? A.—Of course he would. He would have to get outside.

Q.—And a man, in order to do that amount of work, will sometimes do inferior work to get the quantity done? A.—When you get used to your work you can put it through quicker than an ordinary hand could do.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Yours is a large establishment? A.—We had seventy-three hands up to the end of August. Then they made a reduction.

Q.—Is it a healthy shop? A.—Yes.

Q.—Painting is not a healthy trade, I suppose? A.—Not healthy.

Q.—I have your good ventilation and water-closets, and so on? A.—Our water-closets are not as they should be. Our water is not as it should be; nor is the ventilation right. The paint shop is left closed up all night, and in the morning the atmosphere is fit to choke you.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Were these facts reported to the factory inspector on his round? A.—I have not seen him. There is a steam pipe in the paint shop to keep it all right in cold weather, and when you enter the shop the atmosphere is enough to take away your breath.

Q.—Have you reported that fact to your employers, or have you found fault with it? A.—We have complained from one to another, but not to our employer. He knows it as well as we do.

Q.—Are your water-closets kept properly clean? A.—I have never seen them cleaned out yet.

WILLIAM PARTRIDGE, Laborer, Chatham, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You are a laborer, I understand? A.—Yes; now I am. I learned the trade of spring-maker.

Q.—Do you get steady employment? A.—Not all the time.

Q.—What are the wages you receive per day as a laborer? A.—Sometimes ten York shillings, sometimes twelve York shillings. But I do not get more than \$1.25 a day. I think a laboring man should have more than that.

Q.—Have you worked for the corporation, and for private contractors? A.—I have not worked for the corporation.

Q.—What is the nature of your work—digging out cellars? A.—Yes, digging out cellars, mixing mortar, and carrying hods—anything that comes handy.

Q.—Do you think the rate of wages paid laborers is sufficient to support a laboring man with a wife and family? A.—Twelve York shilling a day. I think, would be, has to pay his rent and provisions, and so on.

Q.—You cannot possibly save anything? A.—No; the way provisions are now; wood is pretty dear and things are high.

Q.—Have the wages of laborers increased during the last five year? A.—No; not much; you do not get more than twelve York shillings a day as a hodcarrier.

Q.—Then wages for the past five years have been at a standstill? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has the price of the necessaries of life increased? A.—They have in some cases.

Q.—In what articles? A.—Meat and flour. The way they have got flour and bread now is fearful. In London we can get it cheaper.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What size are the loaves? A.—About two pounds.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Has the price of cordwood increased? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has the price of coal increased? A.—Yes; in some cases it has increased.

Q.—What do you pay a ton for coal in Chatham to-day? A.—I do not use coal, only cordwood.

Q.—Are there many laboring men in Chatham? A.—Yes; quite a few. Many good mechanics have to do laboring work, for they cannot get employment at their trade. I know when we slated the Catholic church there was a good mechanic helped with the slating.

Q.—Has this season been a prosperous one with you? A.—No; not very prosperous; I have seen better.

Q.—Can you give us any reason why this season has been dull? A.—They say it was on account of the Government we have, but I do not think that is the cause, for taking it all through it might be the same with another. There is a crisis over the whole universe now.

Q.—What do laborers do when there is not any of their regular work? A.—They do anything that turns up. Next week I am going to cut logs. I will be paid from 75 to 85 cents per thousand, and have to board myself.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you generally buy bread or flour? A.—We buy both; sometimes we get two two-pound loaves for nine cents.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—What did you formerly pay for these loaves? A.—The average price before was about four cents.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Of course, there is no work at your old trade of spring-making? A.—No, I have not done anything at it for eighteen years. I was taken sick with typhoid fever, and gave it up. Afterwards I served an apprenticeship on the Grand Trunk at Hamilton. I afterwards went to work in London, where my father carried on business.

GEORGE S. HOPE, General Wood-worker, Chatham, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How long have you been working in Chatham at carriage wood-work? A.—I have been at Chatham for the last seven years; but I have only followed wood-working steadily for three years.

Q.—Are there many engaged in Chatham at your industry? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are the wages paid to a good hand? A.—They run from \$1.50 to \$2.00 a day; I rather think they would average about \$1.60. There are a few men, an odd man or so, who get \$2.00 a day, but more of them get \$1.50.

Q.—How many months in the year do your work, as a rule? A.—About nine months.

Q.—Then there are three months in which you are comparatively idle? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Can you give any reason for that idleness? A.—I can give one reason: in the busy season the men who are doing business in that line put on an extra number of men and rush through the work, even working overtime in order to get through the rush. I think that is the cause of the slackness in the winter season—partially so, at all events.

Q.—There is a good deal of machinery used in your trade? A.—Yes.

Y.—Has it a tendency to do away with manual labor, and cause a certain number of men in your trade to be idle? A.—Yes; certainly it has.

Q.—Are there many apprentices at the trade? A.—Not that I know of; there is not a regular apprentice in this town in my trade.

Q.—Are there young boys working the machines? A.—Yes.

Q.—A good deal? A.—Yes; boys take the place of men.

Q.—When the men are employed, how long do they work for a week's work?
 A.—Fifty-nine hours in the shop I am working in at the present time.

Q.—Are the men paid weekly, fortnightly or monthly? A.—Weekly, in the shop I work.

Q.—Are you paid in cash? A.—Yes.

Q.—On what day are you paid? A.—Saturday.

Q.—Do you prefer Saturday to any other day? A.—I would prefer Friday.

Q.—Why? A.—So as to have money to use on Saturday, which is the best market day in the week.

Q.—Are you aware of any truck system going on in Chatham with workmen?
 A.—No; I am not.

Q.—Have you had any labor difficulties lately? A.—There was one about a year ago.

Q.—What was it about? A.—The workmen of the town, as a body, asked the employers to give them a reduction of one hour a week, and they objected. The consequence was that the workmen stood out for the hour and insisted on having it, and the employers said they would not give it. For that reason the employers locked us out, and we were locked out for one week.

Q.—I take it from your statement that the workmen sent a committee to represent the workmen of Chatham to the employers before they at last resorted to a strike? A.—Yes.

Q.—Their request was refused? A.—Yes. There was no strike, remember; it was a general lock-out. I suppose you would call it a boycott on one of the firms in town. The workmen refused to buy goods of that firm because they would not give the one hour a week. Their hands had been working sixty hours a week, and we asked them to give their hands one hour a week off. They refused to buy their goods the workmen refused to buy their goods. Then, because we refused to buy their goods the business men of the town joined in a body in what they called the Business Men's Association, for their own protection, and as one man they locked us out, and would not give us employment until we had lifted the boycott from that firm. We did not lift it, and the lock-out took place, and during that time a committee of the Business-men's Association and a committee of the workmen agreed on a settlement.

Q.—There was no organization of the employers before this demand for the decrease in the number of hours of labor took place? A.—Not that I know of, in this town.

Q.—This movement on their part was to counteract the effect of the workmen's demands in that respect? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think that association is in existence still? A.—I am satisfied it is.

Q.—That lock-out was not a complete success? A.—No; it was not a complete success.

Q.—In some cases did they arbitrate on the matter and settle the difficulties?
 A.—Yes. The firm I worked for gave the hour without any hesitation whatever.

There was no trouble on their part; but they joined the Business-men's Association for all that, and assisted in helping the masters in keeping out their hands.

Q.—I presume, when the matter was settled many of the old hands went back to the old employers? A.—Most of them did. A few were left out.

Q.—Did the bosses when they went back re-engage and ask them to sign any iron-clad document, pledging themselves not to belong to any labor organization? A.—I could not say positively as to that. I do not know it for a fact.

Q.—Do you know if there was any iron-clad document? A.—I do not know any that was signed; I know one was got out.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Were you asked to sign it? A.—No. I may say there is no better employer in Canada than mine to day.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you believe in arbitration in the settlement of disputes in labor difficulties? A.—I do.

Q.—You believe that is one of the strong planks in the platform of the Knights of Labor? A.—Yes; one of our strong planks.

Q.—Would it be better for difficulties to be settled by arbitrators selected by employers and employés, or would you like to see a Government board selected for that purpose? A.—I do not know whether I can answer that question positively.

For my own part, I consider that a plan by which both parties would agree on an arbitrator would be the best.

Q.—Provided there was some hitch, and both parties could not agree, would you like an arbitration to be made, appointed by the Government, to step in and settle the matter by law without respecting either party? A.—Yes; if it could be done in that way.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Would you favor compulsory arbitration? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—There is no Sunday labor in your business? A.—No.

Q.—There is a busy and rushing time in your trade? A.—Yes.

A.—No; I do not.

Q.—Do you think if the work were to go on more smoothly, so as to extend it over a long time during the year, it would be more beneficial to the employés, and not injurious to the employers? A.—I do.

Q.—Why is it otherwise? A.—The only reason I can give is in the words of my own employer. He said he would be investing his capital to buy stock to keep the men working during the winter season, with which to turn out products that he could not sell until the spring, and he would lose the interest on the money during that time—three or four months.

Q.—Do you not think the men would be more likely to save money if they had more steady work all the year round? A.—I do.

Q.—Do you think if the men had Saturday afternoon to themselves they would abuse that privilege, and not devote that time to their improvement, and to their families? A.—I think the majority of them would devote it to a useful purpose for their own good, while there might be a few who would probably be injured by it. I know, for my own part, that I would use it to good advantage.

Q.—Do you think the shortening of the hours of labor would have a tendency to improve the morality of the working classes. A.—I do.

Q.—You think that a man, when he is working ten hours a day, would be very much fatigued, and on returning home would be more likely to take a glass of intoxicating liquor, than if he worked a shorter number of hours and was not so much exhausted? A.—Yes; I believe that; I know it.

Q.—Do you think the formation of a Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics would be beneficial to the working class throughout the Dominion? A.—I do.

Q.—You have heard of the formation of one in Washington? A.—Yes.

Q.—From your own knowledge of that fact, do you think it would be beneficial if a Federal Bureau were established here? A.—I do.

Q.—Can you tell us anything as to the sanitary condition of the houses of the working classes in Chatham? A.—I do not think I have any reason to find fault, not to my own knowledge.

Q.—Is the purchasing power of a man's wages as great now as it was five, or more than five years ago? A.—No; it is not.

Q.—Can you tell us in what respect? A.—Wood and coal cost more now than they did five years ago.

Q.—Have rents during the past five years increased or decreased? A.—I think rents have staid about the same, nearly at an average.

Q.—Taking the wages of the working classes all round in this city, have they during the last five years increased or decreased or remained stationary? A.—They are pretty much at a standstill. There have been increases in some lines, and decreases in others.

Q.—Do you consider labor organizations are beneficial to working men? A.—I do.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do people in Chatham buy their vegetables, butter and eggs, from the farmers direct?—A. Perhaps not.

Q.—And Saturday is the best market day? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do the farmers come in early in the morning? A.—From ten to twelve o'clock is the best time.

Q.—So if a man is not paid till Saturday night he is placed at a great disadvantage? A.—Yes; in that regard.

Q.—You suffer to a considerable extent from the shutting down of the works during the winter season. Would the men be willing during the winter season only to take less wages, provided they got work? A.—Certainly they would be for a length of time rather than be idle. I have done so myself.

Q.—So if employers had to invest their money in material, and of course in labor, that reduced rate of wages would make it even for them? A.—I think it would.

Q.—Do you think the men would be willing to make such an arrangement? A.—I am fully convinced they would.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You say that machinery takes away work from the workingmen; would you not have machinery used? A.—No.

Q.—What are you going to substitute for it? A.—I do not know what substitute you could have, unless you placed mechanics at the bench, as formerly.

Q.—Is there not much work that cannot be done without machinery? A.—Yes; a certain amount, with as good a profit to the employer as the work can be done by hand.

Q.—But by an expense being involved, that would make such work very unproductive? A.—Yes; some kinds of work.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You think that to shorten the hours of labor would be a good step, so that every workman might be employed? A.—Certainly, that would balance the evil better.

Q.—Take the articles principally made by machinery in your business: do they sell dearer or cheaper than when made by hand, or does machinery not cheapen production? A.—Not at all. The same article that was sold twenty or twenty-five years ago sells to-day for the same price, and yet it is got up to day at much less cost of production.

By Mr. FRED :—

Q.—Can you speak of that by experience? A.—For that length of time I cannot, but from what I know of actual experience during the last few years I can. I am satisfied that a fanning mill which sold twenty-five years ago for \$30, will sell to-day for the same price.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Is not the article better, and much improved? A.—It is improved to a certain extent, but the cost of the improvement is much less than the difference in the cost of production.

By Mr. FRED :—

Q.—Are you able to make any comparison between the wages received by a workman who made fanning mills thirty years ago, and the wages paid to such workman to-day? A.—Not for that length of time; but I have it from workmen beside me who have worked twelve or fourteen years in the same shop, that they made more money at that time than they do now; that they got better paid then for their labor than they do now.

Q.—You were making a comparison between what we will call the pre-machine day and the present. What I want to get at is a comparison of the wages then and now in that trade. You are not able to give the figures? A.—From what I hear from mechanics who work in the shop beside me, it seems that a man had better wages twelve or fourteen years ago than he has to-day.

Q.—What were the prices? A.—The same prices as now.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Are all the machines in your shop thoroughly protected? A.—They are reasonably well protected; I have no reason to find fault.

Q.—Are boys set to work at them without having been previously taught? A.—Yes; there is that trouble. There are green hands taken on and put at machines, whereby mechanics are sometimes put in great danger—such as putting a boy at a rip-saw, and probably he may cause the saw to come back on the man who is working it.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of accidents in your shop? A.—Slight accidents, but nothing fatal.

Q.—Has the factory inspector been around at your place? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did he notice those things you have mentioned? A.—He did not notice them; no one complained.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Perhaps the men had not good reason to complain? A.—What I have reference to is, when a green hand is brought in—a boy, say—and is put behind a rip-saw, and he places both himself in danger and those working in the shop.

JOSEPH E. SMITH, recalled.

I want to say something with regard to the machine I work when I work in the blacksmith shop: it is a large shears punch. The big driving wheel has a cog-wheel and the cog-wheel works into that wheel. They are both exposed, and they work right into each other, about the height of a man. If a man happened to throw up his arm or his hand in passing he might be carried up into the machinery and be torn to pieces.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Have you to pass it frequently? A.—We are walking past it every few minutes. I have been cutting off a piece of bar iron, and the end has got caught in the cogs, and been brought right into the machine before I could get it out of the way. A man's clothing might be caught in a similar way. I have spoken about it and wanted it guarded. I put up a temporary protection myself. I merely put up a piece of wood, so as not to leave the cog-wheel exposed, but they have torn it down.

Q.—Was that protection in the way of anything? A.—No.

Q.—It was just for protection from that wheel? A.—Yes. Again, in the wood shop they have a rounder, heads which rotate, and they are full of knives. They used to have a guard rail, so that a man could not shove his hand right into the knives, but the man in charge has got so used to it that he thought he could work it without the guard. It was therefore removed, but last season a helper got his arm caught, and literally torn to pieces from the top of it down to the wrist. That guard has not been replaced. The man in charge thinks he is capable of running the machine without a guard. I merely speak of this because reference has been made to the Factory Act, and the inspector, if he has ever been around, has either not had this matter pointed out to him, or he has not noticed it, because the machine is still running in that way.

Q.—Does one man always work at that machine? A.—Yes; with a helper, and it was the helper that got hurt.

Q.—If the guard had been there the helper would not have been hurt? A.—Quite likely he would not, because the guard would have kept the man's hand out.

Q.—Would the guard prove an impediment to work? A.—No; because you could shift it and lift it up and down.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Has the helper ever charge of that machine? A.—Sometimes one, and sometimes another.

Q.—Is the helper as much exposed as the man who works the machine. A.—Not quite so much. He will be further away from the machine, and has merely to hold the long timbers, and the man in charge works his hands right around the knives.

Q.—Do you know whether the factory inspector has been at your factory or not? A.—No. Neither that machine nor the one I am using is guarded.

EDWARD FITZTHOMAS, Chatham, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How long have you lived in Chatham? A.—About five years.

Q.—How long have you been working as a skilled laborer? A.—Just about that time. I started to work when I came.

Q.—Explain the nature of your work? A.—I am working at agricultural work. When I started there I was on as vice hand, and I have worked at that same work for five years, about seven months in each year.

Q.—How much do you earn per week? A.—I have been earning \$8 per week for the last two years.

Q.—That is an increase on what you were receiving? A.—Yes; I started at \$1 a day.

Q.—Are you a married man with a family? A.—Yes.

Q.—A tenant? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many hours per week do you work? A.—Fifty-nine and a-half.

Q.—You have half an hour on Saturdays? A.—Yes.

Q.—You do not consider that that is an extravagant amount to earn? A.—No.

Q.—Can you save any money from your wages? A.—No, sir.

Q.—How many men in that industry are employed in Chatham? A.—When they are running fully I should say between 60 and 70 hands.

Q.—What would the highest wages be? A.—Well, I think there are two or three men who get from \$2 to \$2.25 per day; those would be foremen, and one or two first-class workmen.

Q.—Are you employed the whole year round? A.—No.

Q.—How many months are you employed? A.—About seven months; between seven and eight months.

- Q.—During your idle time you pick up anything you can do? A.—Yes; I have to take any work I can get.
- Q.—Are the men belonging to your industry organized? A.—Well, they were, and they are to a certain extent now.
- Q.—You think it would have a tendency to raise their wages? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Do you think it would be a benefit if you were organized? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Do you think you are working too many hours in working 59½ hours per week? A.—Yes; I do.
- Q.—You think it would be a benefit to the working classes if they would work shorter hours, as far as their intellect is concerned, and their improvement? A.—Yes; I do.
- Q.—Has your branch of industry any labor troubles? A.—Yes; they had some here.
- Q.—Do you believe in arbitration in settling labor troubles? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Do you in compulsory arbitration, which might be instituted by the Government or by law? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Are you under the impression that labor organizations are beneficial to the working classes? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Are there any apprentices in your business? A.—Only about two, I think.
- Q.—Are they indentured. A.—No, sir.
- Q.—Do you believe in an indenture system. A.—Yes.
- Q.—Can you tell us the reason why? A.—Well, because we have apprentices there every year.
- Q.—Do you think a boy would learn his business more completely if he was indentured? A.—Yes.
- Q.—You are under the impression that the employer would be compelled to teach him his business? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Does anyone in your shop take contracts from the firm and then get men to do the work? A.—No; I do not think so—not that I know of.
- Q.—There is no sub-contract system existing? A.—Not that I know of.
- Q.—Have your employers any objection to their workmen belonging to labor organizations? A.—They have never said anything contrary to it.
- Q.—How are the men paid—weekly, fortnightly or monthly? A.—Weekly.
- Q.—On what day of the week? A.—On Friday nights now this season, Saturdays before.
- Q.—Do you prefer Friday nights? A.—Yes.—
- Q.—For what reason? A.—Well, it gives the women folks a chance to spend their money on Saturday morning.
- Q.—What would be the average rental for a house in a respectable locality for men in your business? A.—They run from \$5 to \$6 a month, and some higher.
- Q.—How many rooms would be in a house of that kind? A.—Well, generally about five rooms, and a woodshed and summer kitchen.
- Q.—Can you inform us of the sanitary condition of the workingmen's houses in Chatham? Are they good, fair or middling? A.—A great many of them are very bad.
- Q.—You know of no truck system as regards the payment of wages in Chatham? A.—No.
- Q.—Is there much machinery used in your shop? A.—Yes; quite a bit.
- Q.—Is it properly protected against accidents? A.—Yes; I think it is.
- Q.—Any overtime? A.—Well, they do work overtime sometimes.
- Q.—Do the men get extra for that? A.—Yes; they get work from 6.30 to 10 o'clock, and they get half a day.
- Q.—Would the men prefer that overtime should be done away with? A.—I think so.
- Q.—Do you think it could be done away with to the benefit of the men without injury to the employers? A.—Yes; I do.
- Q.—Is there any profit-sharing between employers and men? A.—No.

Q.—During your time in Chatham has the cost of living increased? A.—Well, I do not think it has; I think it has kept about the same since I came here.

Q.—Have wages increased? A.—Of course they have with me, but as a general thing I think they have decreased.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You say you work about seven months in the year. What are those months? A.—We start about the 1st of November and we expect to go on to about June.

Q.—And when do you begin again? A.—Not until November again, and some times later on. The very old hands start before that time.

Q.—That is the general run—from November to June? A.—Yes, generally.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Were you a skilled workman when you began work here? A.—No, sir.

Q.—A green hand entirely? A.—No; I had a trade of my own. I am a plater by trade, and I was useful in that way when I started. I was a great deal handier than a common laborer.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have the workingmen of Chatham any co-operation? A.—No; they have not.

EDWARD S. SPASHETT, Chatham, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What is your business? A.—A bender of waggon and buggy material.

Q.—Are you engaged in the waggon works here? A.—Yes; I work at the waggon factory.

Q.—Do the waggon works run all the year? A.—No.

Q.—How long are they in operation each year? From what time to what time? A.—Well, some years eight months and some years nine months.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—From what time to what time? A.—They start about the middle of January and sometime they close down in September and sometimes in October.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Working the whole season in the shop at full rates of pay, can a man in that business earn sufficient to keep him for the year? A.—Yes; if they would run the whole year around.

Q.—I mean just working for the season? A.—No; he would have to have something else to do.

Q.—Then for three months of the year you depend on some other occupation? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it easy to obtain such work here? A.—Not very easy.

Q.—Is there good demand for labor in your slack time? A.—No; very little demand in our slack time. The three months we are out of work is a very dull time in Chatham.

Q.—As a rule, are the mechanics of Chatham comfortably settled and well off? A.—Just middling.

Q.—Do they manage to make ends meet? A.—Yes; I presume so.

Q.—What is the general condition of the workingmen here? A.—In what way? complain much.

Q.—As regards prosperity? Are they comfortable? A.—I guess they cannot

Q.—Have there been any disputes between employers and men in your establishment? A.—Nothing to amount to much.

Q.—Any strikes? A.—No.

Q.—In the event of difficulty taking place between your employers and yourself, how would you prefer to have it settled; which do you think would be the easiest way of settling it? A.—When I say we had no strikes, I should have said that we had no strikes that would trouble them much. We had a little strike once, and we gave them to understand that if our demands were not met we would strike, and they were met right away. As a general thing, I rather think I would approve of arbitration.

Q.—You would prefer arbitration? A.—Yes; I do not believe in strikes.

Q.—Do you think that a law compelling the parties to a dispute to appoint arbitrators would be acceptable? A.—I think so.

Q.—It would be a fair means all round, in your estimation would it? A.—Yes; in my estimation.

Q.—Does it require a great deal of skill in your business? A.—Yes; quite a bit.

Q.—Do you take apprentices? A.—No; no apprentices.

Q.—Do you think if the men had an opportunity of improving their knowledge of the trade by a school of industry they would avail themselves of it? A.—Well, probably some might.

Q.—Do you think it would be a benefit to obtain a knowledge of drawing, designing machinery, &c.? A.—Yes; I think it would be a great benefit.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Do you think that in your work the workman receives a fair share of the products of his labor? A.—I hardly know. I think that they receive a fair share, but if their hours were shortened I think it would be an improvement.

Q.—You think the masters pay as much as they reasonably can out of the product? A.—Yes; I think they do.

Q.—Machinery having reduced the cost of producing, has it been a benefit to you as a workman? A.—Yes.

Q.—Reducing the cost of production has raised your wages? A.—Machinery has been a benefit to the employer.

Q.—It has reduced the cost of production, but has that been a benefit to you, do you receive a share of the extra profit? A.—Yes; I think we do, I think the machine hands receive very good wages. The wages of the laboring class around here are the same common wages in town, \$1.25 a day.

Q.—Are there any sub-contracts in your establishment? A.—Nothing to amount to anything. There is one contractor, and he takes the contract for making waggons from the firm. There is nothing let to amount to anything outside of that.

Q.—In that case, there has got to be two profits? A.—Yes.

Q.—Before the producer, or the workman, can receive his share? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is not that a detriment to the workman? A.—I should judge it is.

Q.—If the work were carried on directly under the supervision of the proprietors they ought to be able to pay a larger wage to the wage-earner? A.—I should judge so.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Can you suggest anything to us which would benefit the working people? A.—I don't know.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you know of any class of trade where they have apprentices indentured in any part of Ontario? A.—No; I have seen nothing of the kind in my travels.

Q.—You have been over part of Ontario? A.—Yes.

Q.—You work by day's work under the sub-contractor? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is your general run of wages while working? A.—Two dollars per day.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Does your firm take any work and let it out to contractors? A.—When they first started up they had a superintendent, and the superintendent now takes the work of building the waggons at so much per waggon.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—He does not receive pay as a superintendent, but as a contractor? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—That is on the principle of sub-contracting for the work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think that if the firm would do the whole work themselves the men would be better paid? A.—I do not know as they would be any better paid, but it is quite evident that if they were not, the contract would be of more benefit to the company.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Do you import any material used in the construction of your waggons from the United States or elsewhere? A.—No.

Q.—Is not this bending you speak of imported from the United States and other sources—the bending used in making wagons, sleighs, &c.? A.—No; we do all our own business.

Q.—Is it not common in other places to have the bending imported from the United States? A.—No; there are bending works almost over the whole of Canada.

EDWIN CRAFT, Chatham, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You have heard the evidence of the last witness? A.—Yes.

Q.—Was there anything in it that does not accord with your own ideas? A.—No, I think not.

Q.—Have you any new suggestion in that branch of trade? A.—No; I do not know of any.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Are you in the same branch of business as the former witness? A.—No.

Q.—What is your branch? A.—I work in the wood shop, where they make waggons—generally I am driving spokes.

Q.—That is work in the wheelwright's shop, &c.? A.—Yes, I work in the wheelwright's shop.

Q.—What are the wages paid in that department? A.—From \$10 to \$10.50 a week.

Q.—Is there a sub-contract in that department? A.—Yes.

Q.—The whole thing is let by sub-contract? A.—Yes.

Q.—You have to work pretty hard to make that much money? A.—Yes; pretty hard.

Q.—Wouldn't it be better if your firm would reduce the number of waggons they make in a day and extend the time—make the same number, but run it over twelve months instead of eight? A.—I think so.

Q.—And it would be just as well for the proprietors? A.—Well, I don't know that it would be just as well for the proprietors, but it would be better for the workmen.

Q.—If they got out the same number of waggons, all the difference would be the difference in the time of paying the money, would it not? They would not have to carry any more plant? A.—No; I don't think it would make a very great deal of difference.

Q.—Wouldn't it make a great deal of difference to you? A.—Yes; in one way. The previous witness, EDWARD S. SPASHETT, hereupon made the following statement:—The reason they do not run twelve months in the year is that the season commences in the spring and ends in September, and if they worked the whole year around they would have such an abundance of them over that they would not know where to put them, and they have not capital enough to keep many in stock. Therefore, they run a certain time to fill their orders.

(Examination of Edwin Craft resumed.)

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are there any waggons coming into Chatham from the United States? A.—No; I think not.

Q.—Did they used to come in here? A.—No; I think there were no waggons came in here from the United States at all; there have been buggies.

Q.—You don't manufacture buggies at all? A.—No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you make every part of the waggon in your shop? A.—Yes.

Q.—Hubs and everything? A.—Yes.

Q.—Where do you get the wood? A.—In the surrounding country; around here.

Q.—Is there plenty of it of good quality? A.—Yes.

Q.—Under the sub-contract system are the men driven more severely than they used to be when you worked directly for the company? A.—Well, I think about the same.

Q.—Is there any difference in the wages? A.—Well, I think there is a slight difference.

Q.—In what direction? A.—Downward.

Q.—You think the sub-contractor tries to make a little out of the men? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know whether the company sell for cash or on credit? A.—I do not know.

JOSEPH K. DICKSON, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What is your business? A.—I am now engaged in real estate. For three years before that I was Street Commissioner, and before that I was for fifteen years in the lumber trade in this county.

Q.—Is real estate in good demand in Chatham? A.—No; I cannot say that it is.

Q.—There not many sales? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—There is no boom here? A.—No; unless it is downward.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—About what is the value of a lot, say twenty feet frontage with one hundred depth, within a reasonable distance of the post office? A.—It depends a good deal on the locality, somewhere from \$1.00 to \$10.00 a foot frontage.

Q.—Where would a lot of the value of \$10.00 a foot frontage be situated? A.—From one hundred to one hundred and fifty rods from the market.

Q.—Do the working people own their homes here? A.—A portion of them do. The greater portion do not, so far as my knowledge goes.

Q.—Cannot a workman easily get himself a home in Chatham? A.—No; not at present wages; not an ordinary laboring man.

Q.—Supposing a man should purchase a lot, could he borrow money to build? A.—Not on the lot, but he might by getting somebody to put up a house, and giving a mortgage on the house and the lot—he might get some friend to do so. I do not think loan societies would take the risk.

Q.—They would not take the mortgage on the lot and advance money as the house progresses? A.—No such cases have come within my knowledge.

Q.—Then it is a difficult matter for a workingman to put a house up? A.—Rather so.

Q.—Is there as much lumbering done here now as formerly? A.—Not so much as ten or fifteen years ago.

Q.—What is the timber principally got out? A.—Timber is disappearing to a greater or less extent. We get white and red oak, white and black ash, a little sycamore, elm and basswood.

Q.—No hickory? A.—Not much hickory in this immediate neighborhood; you have to go a long distance to get much hickory.

Q.—How is walnut in this district now? A.—Very scarce, and what you get here is of an inferior class.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is any one planting forests? A.—Not that I am aware of.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—About what would be the cost of lumber per thousand in Chatham? A.—From about \$8.00 to \$25.00 or \$30.00 per thousand, leaving out walnut and cherry.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Have you much cherry? A.—Not now. We used to have a large quantity but it is disappearing with the other varieties of timber from the forests.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Where do you get your pine for building purposes? A.—It principally comes from Georgian Bay territory.

Q.—What would be the price delivered here? I do not know. I have never handled pine to any extent, either buying or selling. Wages, moreover, are not so good to a laboring man now, so he cannot so easily get a home for himself as he could some years ago.

Q.—Wages have been going down? A.—Yes; I can remember when men received \$1.50 and \$1.75 a day, when they now receive \$1.25.

Q.—Are the men anxious to get employment at that rate? A.—Yes; there are more men than there is employment for.

Q.—Can you suggest anything that would benefit the working class in this neighborhood? A.—The first suggestion that I would like to give to Parliament is to pass a law prohibiting the manufacture of any machine for the next twenty years.

Q.—You think there is a sufficient supply now? A.—And a law providing that for the next fifty years no patents should go through the patent office. The over-production of machinery has caused a great many men to be thrown out of work. I know they have one machine in the waggon shop here that takes the place of about twenty men.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Would you suggest that no more electric lights be made, so that the people might burn petroleum? A.—Unless they make great improvement in them.

Q.—Would you suggest that there be no more electric lights made? A.—I would suggest that the electric light be done away with, because I think it is injurious to the eyes, and prevents labor from getting employment.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you think that with the machinery and facilities now possessed for manufacturing goods, workmen are paid in proportion to the profits the manufacturers can make? A.—The manufacturers or proprietors are making greater profits out of the number of machines turned out, be they waggons or farm implements, than they were doing when they had less machinery.

Q.—Do you not think that in view of the perfect machinery now possessed that the workmen should derive some benefit from it? A.—Certainly. If you supersede them with machinery they should receive benefit to a certain extent.

Q.—Either in the shortening of the hours or in the pay? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think shortening the hours would create a better demand for men? A.—If men worked eight hours instead of ten hours a day you would want one-fifth more men to do the same work.

- Q.—Would that take the surplus labor of the market here? A.—Hardly.
- Q.—Is there a tendency among young men living in the country to drift into the towns? A.—There is a tendency, from what I can learn, to seek clerkships.
- Q.—Do you mean by young men on farms? A.—Yes; and if their health is not very good.
- Q.—Has our educational system anything to do with that? A.—I do not know that I can give you a definite opinion on that point, for I have not studied it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—If a man borrowed money to build here, what interest would he have to pay if his security were good? A.—It depends on whom he borrows from—six, seven or eleven per cent.

Q.—Do you know of as high interest as eleven per cent. being paid? A.—I was informed by a man who borrowed money a year ago that he had to pay nine or eleven per cent.

Q.—Was his security good? A.—It was real estate.

Q.—Are many workingmen's houses in Chatham mortgaged, or do you know anything about it? A.—I do not know. I did not enquire into their private affairs, and therefore am not informed.

Q.—The elm of which you spoke, is it rock elm? A.—No; not in this western part.

Q.—Have you rock elm? A.—We have something called rock elm. It is between a rock and a smooth elm. It is termed by some here white elm.

Q.—Is that elm cut here, or shipped in logs? A.—There is a portion shipped to the American market, rafted over there, principally from the river Sydenham; not much from the Thames.

Q.—What has caused this surplus of labor in Chatham of which we hear so much? A.—One cause is the over-production of machinery. As machinery has increased the production of waggons and implements has not increased correspondingly. We have had a larger quantity of wagons made during the last few years than formerly in Chatham.

Q.—And a larger number of agricultural implements? A.—I think there has been. It is only a few years ago since they commenced making binders here,—I do not think over seven years.

Q.—Has there been any influx of labor during those years? A.—A few people have come in, but not enough to cause the present over-crowding of the labor market.

Q.—You think the surplus is due wholly to the introduction of machinery? A.—Principally to the introduction of so much machinery.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do all the waggons manufactured go out of the country, or are some kept for local use? A.—The waggons manufactured go to the North-West. A great many have been shipped to Manitoba and the North-West, but a great many are also used here.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you remember when there was not as much machinery as there is now? A.—I do.

Q.—Did the men at that time work over ten hours? A.—I do not remember that they worked over ten hours.

Q.—They worked ten hours then, and they work that number of hours now? A.—The law gave them ten hours for a day's work. I remember when the sawmills here had to run day and night.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you think if it was not for the North-West there would be any more waggons made in Chatham. A.—Our home consumption would not require as many.

Q.—Would as many be manufactured? A.—Not unless they had some other market in which they could sell them. You could not dispose of them here.

GEORGE S. HOPE, recalled.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You are acquainted, I believe, with the sub-contract system that prevails to some extent in Chatham? A.—Yes; in my own line of trade.

Q.—Do you think it would be better if the employer himself would do the work, that he would receive more profit, and that the men would receive more work, if the sub-contract system were done away with? A.—I believe that the employer would receive greater benefit from his work, and better wages would be paid the men.

Q.—Then both would be benefited? A.—Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Is there much sub-contracting done here? A.—I do not know that it is carried on to any considerable extent. This year the work in our shop, that is in the fanning mill business, has been done by sub-contract. I know that the men have worked harder. One of the contractors was the foreman last year, and he has two other men with him, and the foreman who worked there for a number of years is one of the sub-contractors. I say that the same foreman has worked the men harder, less wages have been paid, a cheaper class of men have been employed, and he has made a large profit, the proprietor paying him the same rate per fanning mill as the mills cost him last year, when he did the work by day work. The foreman, who, I say, is one of the sub-contractors, has made better wages for himself, and a large profit, besides, out of the labor of the men under him.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you consider that the system of sub-contracting is not beneficial to the employer or the workmen engaged? A.—I consider the system is a very bad one.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Where are those mills mostly sold? A.—They are sold the world over; a number go to England; others go to the North-West; they are sold throughout the Dominion; a few have also gone to France; a few to Australia; but none are sold in the United States.

Q.—Have you any idea what proportion go to the North-West? A.—I should judge about one-quarter of the out-put.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Are you speaking of this year? A.—We have manufactured about 2,800 mills, and about 500 have gone to the North-West.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Has the price of the machine decreased? A.—No.

Q.—Then the extra profit that the foreman has made under the sub-contract has been made out of the men? A.—Yes.

Q.—The foreman gets the same price, and the sub-contractor makes a profit out of the men? A.—Which ought to go to the men.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Is the article turned out by the sub-contractor as good as that turned out when the work was done by the proprietor employing the men directly? A.—The greater part of it is; it is as a general rule, for the simple reason that most of the work is done by machinery, and where the contractors make their profit is by working the men a little harder, and getting a cheaper class of men—getting laborers who have no trade whatever to take the place of mechanics on work that really ought to be done by mechanics.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Is there a tendency to displace mechanics and put in unskilled labor? A.—There is a greater tendency to do that under the sub-contract system than otherwise.

Q.—You think the sub-contract system fosters the employment of unskilled labor? A.—Yes; it does.

CHATHAM, Monday, December 12th, 1887.

T. H. TAYLOR, Chatham, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You are manager of the woollen mill here? A.—Yes; owner.

Q.—How long have you been conducting it? A.—Thirty-one years.

Q.—Do you employ a large number of hands? A.—Between twenty-five and thirty all the time.

Q.—How many of these are skilled workmen? A.—Well, I cannot answer that exactly, six or seven or eight, somewhere about that.

Q.—Does it require much skill to carry on these operations? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long do boys serve at your trade before becoming expert? A.—It will take them three or four years for each part of the business.

Q.—How many departments have you? A.—Carding, spinning, weaving, fulling, dyeing and finishing.

Q.—And the men who work in one department do not work in the others? A.—Only a few of them can.

Q.—What are your principal products? A.—Cloths, flannels, yarns and blankets.

Q.—Where do you find your market? A.—It is principally local; we do some all over the Province pretty much, but our trade is principally local.

Q.—What rates of wages do skilled men earn in your mill? A.—From \$12 to \$15 a week.

Q.—These are men who have served a long time and understand the business thoroughly? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they get pretty constant work? A.—Yes.

Q.—How constant? A.—Well, we have not shut down for these three years. We sometimes shut down a month or two in winter when business is slack.

Q.—What do unskilled laborers earn? A.—That would be boys and young help—\$6 to \$8 a week.

Q.—Do the boys earn as much as that? A.—The boys get only from \$2.50 to \$3.50.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—What age are the boys? A.—Twelve to fifteen; we have not any under that.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Has your business been growing, or decreasing or stationary? A.—It varies very much. Of course, we have been increasing it since I have been in the business until the last three years, when we have not increased it very much.

Q.—What classes of wool do you use? A.—Most of it is local wool, with a good deal of imported fine wool.

Q.—Do you use much coarse Leicester wools? A.—Yes.

Q.—Mixed with the fine wools, or for a separate class of goods? A.—Yes; for separate classes of goods.

Q.—Have you used any native Southdown wools? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they take the place of imported wools at all? A.—Only partially; we have to mix fine imported wool along with it.

Q.—The native wools are too short? A.—No; it is not that but the quality is not there.

Q.—You require to have the Merino wools? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Where do you get them? A.—Mostly from the Cape and some from Australia.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—None from the United States? A.—No; the duties are too high.

Q.—It would affect you seriously if there were a duty on fine wools? A.—We cannot get it in the States; they can pay as much as we can.

Q.—It would affect you seriously if there were a duty on fine imported wools? A.—Certainly.

Q.—Do you think a duty on coarse wools makes any difference in the prices of them? A.—The duties coming here?

Q.—Yes? A.—We never import any from the United States; there is a great deal of it exported; we sell quite a lot to go there every year.

Q.—There is sufficient coarse wool to supply the market and leave a surplus for export in Canada? A.—Yes; as far as I know.

Q.—Have wages risen, or decreased, or have they been stationary? A.—They have been stationary with us.

Q.—For how long? A.—For four or five years.

Q.—Before that did they rise or fall? A.—They rose about that time.

Q.—Rose to a certain point and reached that point four years ago and they have remained stationary ever since? A.—Yes.

Q.—The number of your hands has been increasing pretty steadily until within three years? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you find any market in the North West? A.—Well, not much. We have sent a few bales there, that is all.

Q.—Has the venture been satisfactory? A.—Yes, very; and I think we shall try it next year.

Q.—What hours do you work? A.—Sixty hours a week, from 7 to 6 o'clock, and we quit on Saturday night at 5:30.

Q.—Has any application been made to you to shorten the hours of work? A.—Yes; but not by my own employés.

Q.—How was that request settled? A.—Well, we merely shut down; they boycotted us and we shut down, and they came to time. I want you to understand that there was not one of my employés dissatisfied. I called them all into the office when the committee waited on me to ask them if they had anything to do with it and they said no; they were perfectly satisfied, and they sent a document to that effect.

Q.—If you had been left to deal altogether with your own men you would have had no trouble? A.—Not a bit in the world.

Q.—How have prices for your products been ranging? A.—Well, as for local trade it is very fair, but for wholesale trade it has been cut very close—in fact, there is nothing in it. I would rather shut down than run for the wholesale trade at present.

Q.—Does that answer cover all your products—blankets, flannels, yarns and cloths? A.—Yes, that is the woollens.

Q.—By yarns you mean knitting yarns? A.—Yes; I am in the flour business as well.

Q.—We will come to that presently. Can fine yarns, such as Berlin wools and yarns of that class, be made in Canada? A.—Yes; we make fine yarns.

Q.—Fine wools, such as they call Berlin? A.—Not exactly made that way, but they take the place of them.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you make fingering yarn? A.—We call it fingering yarn, but it is not exactly like the imported.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Is it as good? A.—Yes.

Q.—As soft a wool and as fine? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you give any reason for the continued import of such large quantities of this Berlin wool? A.—No; I cannot give any reason.

Q.—If the people would only use the Canadian article you think they would have just as good an article? A.—Those who do are as well satisfied.

Q.—And it is very much cheaper? A.—Yes; in fact, I have sold ladies our yarn to go to the other side; I do not know whether they paid the duty or not.

Q.—Perhaps they think that imported wools are better there and we think that imported wools are better here? A.—That may be. They told me that they could buy them cheaper from me, and the same way in flannels and blankets on the other side.

Q.—Canadian blankets have a high reputation abroad, have they not? A.—Yes; I think they have.

Q.—Do you notice any change in the wool product of this district of late years? A.—Yes.

Q.—From Leicester to Down? A.—No; but the difference is in quantity. It is not one-quarter what it was five or six years ago in this county.

Q.—Do you find any change from the coarse Leicester wools to the finer wools? A.—Very little; I think if they would stick to the pure Leicester they would do well enough, but they introduce the Cotswold, which hurts the Leicester very much. It is too coarse and it has hurt the sale of it.

Q.—Can you tell us anything about the effect on wool of the change in fashion from woollens made of coarse wools to those made of the finer wools? A.—I do not know as I understand you.

Q.—Do you know that the fashion has changed from woollens made of coarse wools to those made of fine wools, from the Leicester to the Southdown, or anything of that nature? A.—I do not know; we have always been manufacturing both kinds here. We have more sale for wool made into fine flannels than we used to have, of course, and fine tweeds are higher than coarse, but we do not sell quite as much.

Q.—Are those made of coarse wools very durable? A.—In one way they are; for rough use they are, because the fine tears more easily than the coarse wool.

Q.—Is your sale of tweeds increasing? A.—Well, not this year, because it has been a bad year.

Q.—As a rule, do you think Canadian tweeds are coming more into use? A.—Yes; I think so; they are giving better satisfaction, I think.

Q.—And the manufacturers are learning to make them better? A.—Yes. In our case we use nothing for the local market but pure wool; we use no shoddy; but for the wholesale market we have to use it or we cannot stay in the market; the prices are cut so.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Or are you suffering from any difficulty in the matter of your trade? A.—No; I don't think so. I think the dull sales this season are owing to nothing but the weather.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Is there any accumulation of woollen goods? A.—Yes; they are accumulating in this kind of weather; it is too mild, and that affects it very much.

Q.—For the whole season through are stocks accumulating through the country? A.—No; I don't think they have this year—not till lately.

Q.—Would it be any advantage to you if statistics of the trade were published annually throughout the whole Dominion by some Dominion authority? A.—Well, I could not answer that; I don't see that it would do us any harm and it might be of importance.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Wouldn't it always be a ready means of ascertaining the state of the market? A.—Yes; I believe it would.

Q.—You could see how to place your goods better? A.—Yes; it would be in that way an advantage.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—At the time this labor trouble happened to you, had you a competitor in the town? A.—No.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—When you take boys into the mill what work are they generally put at?
A.—They are under the boss carder and picker.

Q.—Do they run the picker and carder machines? A.—Yes.

Q.—And make the same hours as men? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you take these boys with a view of teaching them the business? A.—
No; not always; you can scarcely ever get a boy to stay with you long enough to
learn.

Q.—Do you ever have apprentices? A.—I never had one long enough.

Q.—Do you employ any women? A.—Yes; for weavers.

Q.—Do they work the same hours as others? A.—Yes; piece-work mostly; they
make \$3.50 to \$6 a week.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Are they girls or grown women? A.—They mostly run from fifteen to
twenty, and some are older.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—They just simply run the machines—the loom,—and tend to the weaving?
A.—Yes; and then there is a boss weaver over them.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Does one girl run more than one loom? A.—No.

Q.—Is that done at all in the trade? A.—No; very seldom.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—It is not possible? A.—No; I don't think it is; it is not in my work.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—What are the special kinds of cloth you manufacture? A.—All kinds of
tweeds pretty nearly, and all sorts of dress goods, shirtings and so on.

Q.—Where do your orders generally come from? A.—Montreal, Toronto,
Hamilton and London, sometimes. We sent quite a quantity of horse blankets to
London.

Q.—Any further down east than Montreal?—A.—No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You are interested also in a flour mill? A.—Yes.

Q.—What grinding process do you use? A.—Rollers.

Q.—Altogether? A.—Yes; well, we have stones in the mill for grinding
middlings; all the roller mills will have to come to have stones for middlings.

Q.—What wheat do you use? A.—Well, we have the white and red wheat.

Q.—Grown here? A.—Yes; mostly.

Q.—Do you get any North-western wheat? A.—We haven't had any yet;
freights have been so high that we couldn't handle it. I am negotiating with the
Grand Trunk people; the C. P. R. people haven't a station here and we have to
handle it over two roads.

Q.—Can't you fetch in down by water from Port Arthur? A.—You would have
to bring a cargo—more than we would want at one time.

Q.—You cannot handle a cargo? A.—No.

Q.—What sort of vessels come to Chatham? A.—I have seen them with
10,000 bushels.

Q.—How do the prices of wheat in Chatham compare with those in Toronto?
A.—They come very close together;—we pay 82 cents, and 84 cents is the price in
Toronto.

Q.—You have to pay for local consumption more than the Toronto price, less the
freight? A.—Yes, we have done it all fall.

Q.—When did this state of things begin—the local market ruling higher than the
export market? A.—I think Chatham has been doing that for a long time.

Q.—Seven or eight years? A.—Yes.

Q.—Was it so before 1878? A.—I could not answer that without looking at my books.

Q.—Were you in the business before 1878? A.—Yes; I have been in business over twenty-five years.

Q.—How many hands do you employ in the mill? A.—They average about ten when we are running night and day.

Q.—It does not require a full staff at night, does it? A.—No.

Q.—Where do you find the principal market for flour? A.—The Maritime Provinces altogether.

Q.—Do you mean Nova Scotia and New Brunswick? A.—Yes.

Q.—How does it reach there? A.—Sometimes by rail and sometimes *viâ* Boston; there is ten cents difference in it between the all-rail route and *viâ* Boston.

Q.—It would not pay to ship it all the way round by water? A.—No; I don't think so.

Q.—Has it been tried? A.—Yes; it has; I never did it, but I don't think it would pay.

Q.—For the reason that large enough vessels cannot come to Chatham? A.—Yes; and then you would have to have a large cargo, which means a great deal of money.

Q.—And you want to get rid of the flour about as fast as you manufacture? A.—Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—It is ten cents dearer by the all-rail route? Yes; and it was fifteen two weeks ago.

Q.—They have reduced it to ten? A.—I think it is ten now.

Q.—Ten cents to what place? A.—To Halifax from here.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Where do you find a market for your bran and middlings? A.—I wish we could supply all the demand now.

Q.—Where is the demand? A.—It is all over the Province, and a great deal is sold locally.

Q.—For what purpose? A.—For feeding cattle.

Q.—Is the number of cattle being fed in this district increasing, then? A.—I could not answer that; I don't know; but there is a great demand for shipping.

Q.—To what points? A.—St. John, Halifax and all over the Maritime Provinces. We often ship mixed cargoes of flour, bran and shorts.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What does the bran sell for? A.—Fourteen dollars per ton of 2,000 pounds. I never saw it so high here before.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you barrel your flour or put it up in bags? A.—We barrel it mostly all for shipping; but, of course, we have a large local trade, and we barrel very little for that.

Q.—You put that in paper bags? A.—Yes; paper bags and sacks.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you manufacture your own barrels? A.—No.

Q.—You don't know anything about the condition of the coopers? A.—No; I don't; they work by the piece, I believe.

Q.—Generally speaking, are the men in your employ comfortable in circumstances? A.—Yes; if they take care of their means, every one of them is comfortable. Most of them are buying property—those who are capable men—or using the money as they can.

Q.—You think that the laborers engaged in both your businesses earn sufficient to keep them all the year round and a little over? A.—Yes; that is the way it has been with our people; those who take care of their means always have a little over and are buying places for themselves.

Q.—Do you run the flour mill all the year round? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you much competition in this town in flour mills? A.—O, yes.

Q.—Are any mills exempt from taxation? A.—Yes.

Q.—Don't you think that is kind of handicapping you? A.—I think it is a fraud, not only to me but to the public generally; poor people are paying the rich men's taxes.

Q.—How did the exemption take place in the first instance? A.—It is pretty hard for me to answer. I don't think the man would ever have left town if he hadn't got it.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Was it a bonus, or how? A.—The Kent mills were burned out and the owner claimed he would not rebuild them unless he got exemption for ten years. I don't think he would have left, but he got it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Would his taxation at a casual estimate be \$1,000 a year. A.—I don't know what he values it at, but I think it would reach from \$800 to \$1,000.

Q.—He could afford, then, if he chose, to sell his flour a little lower than those who are not exempt? A.—Yes; I think he might. I don't look at the evil that way; I consider if a man is free from taxation in that way some poor man is paying his taxes. I wouldn't ask it.

Q.—Did the labor trouble which happened in your woollen mills happen also in the flour mills? A.—When they shut down on me they interfered with the flour mill business altogether; it did not interfere with the other.

Q.—Were the other flouring mills interfered with? A.—No.

Q.—Do you pay at the same rate of wages as others? A.—Yes.

Q.—I guess you are not a member of the body which was spoken of? A.—No.

By Mr. HEAKES:—
Q.—Has there ever been an effort among the workingmen of Chatham in regard to co-operation in business? A.—Not that I am aware of.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Can you give us an opinion with regard to the sanitary condition of Chatham: is it good, bad or indifferent? A.—No; I cannot just now.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Have you any waterworks? A.—No.

Q.—You depend altogether on wells? A.—Yes; and we want waterworks, there is no question about that.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Can you get a supply of pure water in the neighborhood? A.—Yes; about twelve miles off we could strike the Chenal Ecarté, which is the best of water.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Is there head enough to give you power? A.—My own plan would be to sink a pretty good sized pipe, and then let it flow it over and pump it up here.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Are not many of the wells too near the refuse of the town? A.—Yes; they are.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you public wells here? A.—They are boring them some now—one on the market, I think.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you think it would be pure water they would get from near the market place? A.—It would be so low down that the surface water would not affect it; they are now down 72 feet, I think.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you any system of sewerage here? A.—Yes; they have the town pretty well drained; there is a large sewer down King street, and several to the creek and river at different places.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Do the houses connect with that system of sewers? A.—Some of them do.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Have you had any epidemics here? A.—We have had typhoid fever a good deal.

Q.—And diphtheria? A.—Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Is Chatham extending itself or getting materially better from all points of view? Is it improving? A.—Yes; it is improving; it has very much improved in drainage, too; it is nothing like what it was when I came here.

Q.—What do you consider the general state of business? Is it holding its own, compared with other places? A.—It is, as far as I know; there are a great many complaints, but I think you will find that everywhere.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Are there many demands upon charity, especially during the season when some of the factories are closed? A.—Well, I don't think there are many demands upon the city officials for relief, not that I am aware of, but I couldn't answer that positively, because I haven't anything to do with it.

Q.—Is there any organized charitable body in the town? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know whether the national societies have any serious demands upon them for benevolence? A.—I am not aware of it.

WILLIAM E. HAMILTON, B.A., T.C.D., Chatham, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You are connected with the *Planet* newspaper? A.—Yes; I am editor at present.

Q.—You also publish a small paper called the *Market Guide*? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long have you been in journalism in Chatham? A.—Ever since I came here, in 1880.

Q.—Are you pretty familiar with the prices of general products in the market here? A.—Yes, I take them every week for my own paper and the *Planet*.

Q.—Can you give us some idea of the prices ruling at present in the more common articles of meats and vegetables, and so on? A.—I have here a table covering the period from 1879, to 1887 inclusive.

Q.—You have made a comparison of those different years? A.—Yes; the figures are as follows:

EXTRACT FROM CHATHAM "PLANET," 1879-1887, INCLUSIVE—PRICES OF GRAIN.

DATE.		WHEAT.		OATS.	BARLEY.	CORN.	REMARKS.
1879, Dec. 10.....	Red.....	\$1.20 to	\$1.26	30c to 37c	per 100 lbs. 90cto \$1.05	35c to 40c	Wheat is not closely graded in this market and practically there is little difference in figures for white and red. Chatham is the greatest bean centre in Ontario.
	White.....	1.20	1.21				
1880 " 8.....	Red.....	1.00	1.03	32c " 34c	65 " 1.00	50c " 55c	
1881 " 8.....	White.....	1.18	1.21	38c " 40c	\$1.65 " 1.70	50c " 60c	
	Red.....	1.18	1.20				
1882 " 11.....	Red.....	88	90	38c " 40c	80 " 1.20	48c " 50c	
	White.....	75	85				
1883 " 7.....	Red.....	1.05	1.00	36c " 37c	70 " 75	Not given	
	White.....	95	1.00				
1884 " 11.....	Red.....	70	72	25c " 26c	90 " 1.05	35c " 36c	
	White.....	70	72				
1885 " 10.....	Red.....	80	81	28c " 30c	80 " 1.15	35c " 38c	
	White.....	80	81				
1886 " 8.....	Red.....	75	76	26c " 27c	75 " 1.00	40c " 42c	
	White.....	75	76				
1887 "	Red.....	80	82	30c " 31c		45c " 50c	
	White.....	80	82				

Extracted by

W. E. HAMILTON, B.A., T.C.D.

Q.—Have you made any comparison in regard to other articles? A.—I have the prices here from my paper, for December 10, 1887.

Q.—They were gathered by yourself? A.—Yes; they are as follows:—

CHATHAM, December 10th, 1887.

Wheat, red winter.....	\$0 82 @ \$0 82
Wheat, white.....	0 82
Flour, per 100 lbs.....	2 00
Oats.....	0 30
Barley, per 100 lbs.....	1 10
Peas.....	0 40
Corn.....	0 45
Beans.....	1 25
Dressed hogs, per cwt.....	6 00
Potatoes, per bag.....	0 85
Butter, per lb.....	0 18
Eggs, per doz.....	0 18
Beef, by the quarter, per lb.....	0 04
Lamb, per lb, by the quarter.....	0 06
Mutton, by the quarter.....	0 06
Tallow (rendered).....	0 04
Hides, per lb.....	0 05
Sheep skins.....	0 50
Hay, per ton.....	7 00
Wood, hard.....	3 50
Timothy seed.....	1 75
Clover seed.....	4 50
Wool.....	0 20

Q.—Can you tell us the price of bread in Chatham? A.—I think six cents for a two pound loaf.

Q.—Can you tell us what bread was worth in 1879 or 1880, when wheat was dearer. A.—I cannot.

Q.—Do you know whether bread was any dearer then than now? A.—I know that bakers sometimes kept the prices up after flour had dropped.

Q.—There is no necessary connection between the price of flour and the price of bread? A.—Bakers ignore a drop in the price of flour, but they are very sensitive to a raise.

Q.—Are you familiar with the condition of the working classes in Chatham? A.—From personal acquaintance, with some of them. I have never, however, made any special enquiry.

Q.—Are you able to answer this question: are the artisan classes of Chatham as a rule struggling for existence, or are they able to save money? A.—I think in many cases they are tolerably comfortable. When they have good health and are economical they could save a certain amount of money.

Q.—Are there not a good many out of work during a considerable part of the year? A.—Yes; of certain classes. For instance, the season for bricklayers and masons is limited by the climate.

Q.—Are not some factories shut down during a considerable part of the year? A.—Yes.

Q.—And those men are idle then? A.—Certainly, the Chatham manufacturers having shut down.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do the men work elsewhere at that time? A.—It just depends whether they think the factory is going to be shut down for any considerable time or not. If they think it will be closed for a long time they will leave; if not, they will wait here.

Q.—Is there a relieving officer here? A.—We have a charity committee, and a home for the friendless to assist the permanent poor.

Q.—That is those who are disabled for work, or something of that kind? A.—Yes. The charity committee frequently called upon to give aid to persons who are able to work? A.—Not to my knowledge; there are exceptional cases, of course.

Q.—Could there be such a state of things without your knowing it? A.—If there was anything like marked destitution in town I would know it. We had a case the other day where a miller became injured through an accident. He shot himself in Detroit. He was taken charge of by the charity committee.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do people temporarily out of work frequently demand assistance from the town authorities? A.—I have not heard of many cases of that kind. It happens occasionally, of course.

Q.—What national societies are in existence in Chatham? A.—The only one I know is St. Andrew's.

Q.—Does it distribute much money in charity? A.—I do not think so.

Q.—Then there is no St. Patrick's or St. George's Society here? A.—I think there were at one time, but so far as I know they are not in active existence.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you know of any charitable institution connected with the Catholic Church? A.—There is the Y. M. B. A.

Q.—That is an assurance association, is it not? A.—Yes; I think it is. Whether they undertake charitable work or not in addition I could not say.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do not the church authorities themselves distribute considerable sums to charity in connection with the Catholic Church? A.—I believe they do.

Q.—Will that be given to persons suffering from affliction, or to persons out of work? A.—I should think that would lie in the discretion of the resident priest.

Q.—You do not know as to the fact? A.—No.

Q.—Can you tell us anything about Mechanics' Institutes? A.—The Mechanics' Institute was founded about 1873, and has about two hundred and fifty members now. The main foundation of the society is the library and the reading room. There are about four thousand volumes in the library. Among these, there

are several of a scientific character, such as the Encyclopædia Britannica, and the Americana; the works of Tyndall, and so on. The *Scientific American* is taken, and also a technical paper, called *Iron*, published in England. The president last year, Mr. Riddell, is a working blacksmith, a master blacksmith; he employs men, and works himself; the present vice-president is a working carpenter. We have no free public library here. The subscription to the Institute is \$2.00 a year. With respect to the drawing classes—

Q.—Those are in connection with the Mechanics' Institute? A.—Yes; they are. They were established this fall, under the provisions of the Ontario Act, 1886. The expense is borne by a Government grant, \$3.00 a member up to twenty-five members, and above twenty-five members of \$1.00 a member, so that the total grant shall not exceed \$100.00. The teacher must hold a certificate of the Ontario Department in this particular branch, that is in drawing. The course consists of twenty-five lessons of two hours each, and in order for a candidate to qualify at the examination held at the end of the course, he must have taken twenty lessons at least. In May each year the Government appoints an examiner, who conducts the examination of the pupils here. Their work is then sent down to Toronto. The successful candidates receive certificates of standing, which are recognized in the high schools and art schools of the Province as equal to a certificate received from a high school or collegiate institute, so far as that branch is concerned. The course consists of mechanical, architectural and free-hand drawing. The object of the institution is to reach those engaged in the mechanical arts, where a knowledge of drawing is required. Forty one students have entered the class. The average attendance is thirty-five; the teacher is Mr. William Judson, of London. Some of the pupils are women; as regards sex, they are divided about half and half. Mechanics' of all trades are well represented, not only by actual mechanics, but by young men entering into mechanical business. In the case of the young women, the idea is to teach them the various branches of design, so far as they depend on drawing. Dr. May, the General Inspector of Mechanics' Institutes, says that young women who have passed through similar classes elsewhere have developed wonderful talent in designing work, and are employed at salaries ranging from \$600.00 to \$1,500.00 a year in large manufacturing establishments in the States. The institute pays the teacher \$75.00 a year for the course, and the fee is \$3.00 for each pupil. The institute has brought sets of designs from New York; I do not know the exact cost of them. The expense, taking the debtor and credit accounts, so far as the institute is concerned, outside of the Government grant, will show the institute to be a little behind, or the accounts will about balance. There is another educational agency in the shape of the McCaulay Club. It was established in 1883, with a membership of fifty. Mr. Patterson, the first president, is a manufacturer. It is the intention of the Mechanics' Institute to establish a course in book-keeping and English. The reading-room of the institute is open from nine in the morning to twelve, and from two to six, and from half-past seven every week day. The average number of readers is sixty each day.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Is that the circulating library? A.—Yes. There are estimated to be about fifty mechanics members. We have also a literary and scientific society in town which is very largely supported by mechanics. The president is Mr. Ed. Jones, a machinist, who was called to Toronto as an expert by Judge McDougal in the water-works investigation. We have forty-five members, and mechanics of the following trades are represented: Machinists, cabinetmakers and blacksmiths.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—I understand the yearly fee of mechanics is reduced to \$1 in the Mechanics' Institute? A.—I could not say about that; but I have heard that it was done through the employers.

Q.—What is the yearly fee for the McCaulay Club? A.—One dollar a year. One dollar a year is also the fee in the Literary and Scientific Society and it covers everything.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You have said that mechanics could live somewhat comfortably and save a little money? A.—Yes; I think so, if the mechanic has the good luck to have his health.

Q.—Provided a mechanic has four of a family, and he lives economically, but comfortably, and saves a little money, how much wages should he receive? A.—I suppose about \$14 a week.

Q.—How many journeymen mechanics in Chatham receive \$14 a week? A.—I could not say.

Q.—Are there ten? A.—I think there are more than that number, but I really could not say. Of course, I have never made special enquiry into the matter.

Q.—Does a journeyman, such as a carpenter, a tailor, a waggon-maker, a blacksmith or a bricklayer average \$9 a week in Chatham all the year round? A.—At a rough guess I should think about that. Of course, bricklayers get higher wages in the season.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are you in a position to speak from your own knowledge of the cost of living in Chatham, and of maintaining a family here? A.—No; I cannot say that I am; I am not a married man myself.

Q.—When you said a man should get about \$14 a week you were making a rough estimate? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Are there any trade combinations in town? A.—In the printing business some of the men belong to the Typographical Union, but there is no union in town.

Q.—Is there any among the employers? A.—I believe there is.

Q.—What is it? A.—I think there is an employers' society. I do not know what its name is.

Q.—Is it an employers' union? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it in existence now? A.—Yes; I think it is; it was at one time.

Q.—Is there any combination among the farmers to keep up the price of their products? A.—I think there are some granges existing yet.

Q.—Is there any combination among farmers to fix the price of their produce? A.—Not that I know of. They all try to get what they can.

Q.—You know there is an electric car running at Windsor. Have you heard of any combination among the farmers against that, the combination stating that the company ought to use horses, so as to eat hay and oats? A.—I never heard of it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are you a practical printer? A.—No; I am not.

Q.—Do you know much about business in Chatham? A.—Just what I have picked up. My business is editing and reporting. You cannot help picking up a little by being in a newspaper office.

Q.—How are printers paid in Chatham? A.—By the week.

Q.—Are there any men on piece-work? A.—Not in our office, so far as I know.

Q.—How much per thousand ems do they receive? A.—I think 25 cents. I cannot speak positively; that is when they are on piece work very often.

Q.—How much per week do the week hands receive? A.—The rate varies very much. I should think about \$8.00 or \$9.00. The foreman, I think, gets \$12.00. Of course, Mr. Stevenson could tell you more accurately than I could.

Q.—You have reference to the *Planet* office? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many hands are employed there? A.—About eighteen altogether.

Q.—How many of them are boys? A.—The number I have given is exclusive of the publication bindery; they have a bindery in addition. I think they have about seven boys.

Q.—How much do the boys receive per week? A.—I could not say.
 Q.—Are they indentured? A.—I do not think so.
 Q.—How long have they got to serve before they become journeymen? A.—I think five years; I am not sure. Of course, all matters connected with the office are out of my department.

H. A. PATTERSON, Chatham, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You are Mayor of the town? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Are there many persons seeking relief from the city charities? A.—Very few.
 Q.—Are those who do seek relief mostly persons able to work or those that are not? A.—They are mostly men that are trying to go from one part of the country to another; they are mostly asking for passage and very seldom for anything else.
 Q.—They are not permanent residents of Chatham? A.—No.
 Q.—Is there much actual poverty among the permanent residents of the town? A.—I don't think so; of course, we have a home for the friendless, for persons in misfortune.

Q.—What increase in population has there been in Chatham within the past few years? A.—Well, I'm not prepared to say.

Q.—Perhaps you would send us a memorandum of that? A.—Yes; I will have the clerk of the city send you that.

Q.—Can you give us any indication of the increase of trade? A.—Have you a Board of Trade? A.—We have recently formed a Board of trade.

Q.—You could not give us any comparative figures? A.—No; it has only been organized a few days.

Q.—Your are engaged in the planing business? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the character of the work principally? A.—The manufacture of windows, doors and blinds.

Q.—Do you employ many men? A.—Not a great many; in the busy season we employ a good many on the docks and in handling lumber.

Q.—Do they get permanent employment? A.—No.

Q.—How much do they get during the year? A.—The men who do the handling on the wharf are hired by the hour at 20 to 25 cents.

Q.—How constantly are your skilled hands employed? A.—Well, I have always kept my mill running all the year round.

Q.—What wages do skilled men get? A.—From \$9 to \$11 a week for constant employment.

Q.—Those who are unskilled and working in the shop get how much? A.—One dollar and a-quarter a day.

Q.—Is employment with you considered much more desirable than with any other shops in the city? A.—I don't know.

Q.—Have you a superabundance of help seeking work? A.—No; I cannot say we have. During 1883 we paid higher wages than now, as high as \$12 and in one case \$13 per week.

Q.—Do many of your men own their houses? A.—Not many.

Q.—Do many of them save money. A.—Not many of them.

Q.—How long have you been in business in Chatham? A.—I have lived in Chatham since 1879.

Q.—Do you notice any improvement, or the reverse, in the condition of the working people since that time? A.—I think the position of the laboring men is just about the same.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What proportion of married and unmarried men have you got in your employ? A.—I think they are mostly all married, with one or two exceptions; in fact, I cannot remember of any unmarried, excepting one boy.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do they remain pretty constantly with you? A.—Yes; I have men in the shop who have been with me five years.

Q.—Is machinery in your shop pretty well protected? A.—As well protected as I can get it.

Q.—Was it protected to the satisfaction of the inspector when he was round? A.—When the inspector was there I did not see him, but I heard of no complaint and I would have heard if there had been any.

Q.—Are accidents in connection with the machinery frequent? A.—I have never had an accident.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you know anything about the sanitary condition of Chatham? A.—It is in a very unsatisfactory state.

Q.—What is the cause? A.—The prime cause is that we have no system of waterworks here, and the point from which we would derive a supply is so distant that the town hesitates to issue debentures to a sufficient extent to get in a supply, although, I think, it would be money economically spent, even from a business standpoint.

Q.—Is the drainage of the town good? A.—It is very imperfect, from the fact that for years no system of drainage was pursued. A piece of drain would be put down, and if continued to the end of the street it would probably be four feet in the air, and the next street would be drained in another direction; there were no proper levels taken. We have in the corporation an assessment of over a million of dollars, and I think it would pay to employ a competent engineer, under whose supervision all this work should be done, and every drain put down should be put down as part of a system.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Was any proper line ever established for sewers? There was years and years ago, but some of them are in bad condition.

Q.—They are not built to that line? A.—No; not in many places.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you a health inspector? A.—Yes.

Q.—Permanently employed from year to year? A.—Yes.

Q.—And you have an engineer the same? A.—Yes; but when I speak of an engineer I mean one who is consulted in reference to any particular public work which may be going on, and not the engineer under whose direction the drains should be put down.

Q.—How many industries in Chatham, if any, are exempt from taxation? A.—Very few; not worth mentioning.

Q.—Do any of these industries compete with those that are not exempt? A.—Yes; I think so, in some cases.

ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL, Chatham, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You are engaged in the milling business? A.—Yes.

Q.—What wheat do you use mostly? A.—Red winter, principally.

Q.—Is it grown in this neighborhood? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you mix it with any North-West wheat? We are trying that now. We have recently got a lot of No 1. hard, from Manitoba, and we are trying a mixture of that with our wheat here. We think it will improve the quality of the flour and make a stronger flour.

Q.—Where do you find your market? A.—Our market is in the Maritime Provinces, in Newfoundland and in the old country. We ship a great deal to Glasgow and Liverpool.

Q.—On your own account? A.—Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Do you send a great deal of flour to Newfoundland? A.—Considerable. The trade, however, has only lately started. We have been shipping, possibly, one thousand bushels a year there, and perhaps we sent that quantity this year.

Q.—Do you find that trade increasing or otherwise? A.—It is increasing. We have only been sending flour there within the last two years.

Q.—To what house do your particularly ship? A.—To Messrs. West & Reedall, in St. John, and to Harvey, Harvey & Outerney, of New York, who have a branch in Newfoundland.

Q.—Do you know whether the flour sent to Newfoundland sells for cash, or does Newfoundland produce come back in exchange? A.—I presume it is all sold for cash. We always draw at ten days.

Q.—You make drafts rather than exchange? A.—Yes. We draw at ten days with the document attached. It takes a longer time than that before flour gets there. That is, however, the general way of doing business.

Q.—Where do you sell your bran and middlings? A.—We have been selling it this last season almost altogether in the eastern States—Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York.

Q.—Does it bring a better price there? A.—Decidedly.

Q.—Does it pay duty? A.—Yes. The present duty will be about \$2.60; of course it is higher now; \$2.20 is what we have paid all along until recently.

Q.—It pays you better to ship it to the eastern States than to sell it to local men? A.—Decidedly.

Q.—Do you sell much here? A.—We do not try; we can do better there. I have just received an order for three cars at \$23.00 a ton, delivered in Boston. Taking the duty from that, it is much better than we can do here.

Q.—Do you send any to Montreal? A.—Yes; we have sent some there.

Q.—What price do you get there? A.—We cannot realize anything like the price in Montreal we can in the eastern States. We have only sent altogether ten cars to Montreal since last harvest.

Q.—What will the cost of carriage to Montreal be per ton? A.—Four dollars a ton.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You use rollers in your mill? A.—Yes.

Q.—What wages do you pay—take a skilled miller? A.—Skilled millers receive from \$9 to \$10 a week. The head miller, of course, gets a good deal more than that. The second miller receives \$10 and the others \$9.

Q.—What hours do they work? A.—Ten hours a day when we are running night and day; that is full time. Now we are running only half time. When we are running full time we work ten hours a day, except on Saturdays, when we shut down at five o'clock.

Q.—Is this constant, active, work, or are they simply watching the machinery? A.—They are just watching the machinery. They have nothing to do except to do that, and to keep the machinery oiled, and everything in running order.

Q.—Men are not engaged during these long hours in actual manual labor? A.—No; they have nothing of that kind to do.

Q.—What wages do the unskilled hands you employ receive? A.—\$1.25 to \$1.50 a day.

Q.—What hours do they work? A.—Ten hours, and nine hours on Saturday.

Q.—Is it an ordinary day's labor? A.—Yes.

Q.—None of them work at night? A.—No; some of them have to work at night also.

Q.—Do you pay them extra? A.—No. During the busy season when the mill is running twenty-four hours a day, the men change off. One man will take from twelve in the day till twelve at night and alternate that time with another. We leave it a good deal to themselves to arrange that matter. Some prefer to work one week all night, and then take day time for the next week, and so on.

Q.—Have you a cooper shop? A.—Yes.

Q.—What wages do the men earn? A.—They work altogether by the piece. It depends on themselves how much they earn. Some coopers make from \$15 to \$18 a week.

Q.—How many hours have they to work in order to earn that sum? A.—Not more than ten hours, or possibly eleven hours a day.

Q.—What is the least amount any of them earn? A.—The lowest would not be less than \$10.

Q.—Do you think any earn less than \$10? A.—No; I think not where they have steady work. Sometimes if business is slack coopers are limited to so many barrels a week. Then, of course, they cannot make so much money.

Q.—Are they employed the year round, more or less? A.—No; not all of them.

Q.—At what period of the year will they be absolutely idle? A.—Usually from about the middle of November or the 1st of December until the 1st of July or possibly June. Of course, some coopers have to be laid off altogether.

Q.—From this period to next July? A.—Yes. During the winter and early spring the mills, as a rule, are not running so strongly as in the fall. From 1st July to 1st December the mills are running very strongly, and the apple crop has to be taken care of, which makes a very great demand for barrels. There have to be a great many men employed then who cannot obtain employment for the rest of the year. So a good many have always to be laid off about the 1st of December.

Q.—And from that time there is no work for the cooper until July? A.—Probably not until June or July. They usually turn their hand to something else, whatever they can find to do.

Q.—Is it usual for them to get employment at something else? A.—No; not in Chatham.

Q.—Have you any idea as to what will be the yearly earnings of a cooper here? A.—In our shop we keep, I think, about six or seven hands constantly, the old stand-bys; they are kept constantly the whole year round. Then during the busy season other temporary hands are employed, men who are picked up because they can make a barrel. The regular hands will make \$9 or \$10 a week the year round.

Q.—And the others? A.—I am sure they will do that, because in the busy season they are at full liberty to make all they can. I am sure their yearly wages will average \$10 a week.

Q.—To what number are they limited at the present time? A.—I do not know, because we furnish the material and give the contract for the making of the barrels.

Q.—To a foreman? A.—Yes. We furnish the material, and he makes the barrels.

Q.—Does he supply the capital required? A.—Yes; it requires a large stock; it requires a man's whole time to look after that business. A large stock of headings, staves and hoops are needed, and the material must all be dry and well seasoned. We thought that party would do it better than we could. We have enough business otherwise to look after.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Do you furnish the machinery? A.—There is hardly any machinery required.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Is there not much machinery in a cooper shop? A.—No; except the jointer. Every cooper furnishes his own kit, as he calls it.

Q.—So, substantially barrels are made by hand? A.—Yes; all made by hand. He

buys the stuff all ready. The staves have to be jointed, and the barrels are afterwards set right up in the shop. So, no machinery of any account is required in a cooper shop.

Q.—Do many of your hands own the houses in which they live? A.—No; not many of them; a few do.

Q.—Are they not able to save enough money to buy houses? A.—Some of them would be, I suppose, but it is pretty hard for a man with a wife and family to do so. It takes about all he can do to maintain his family, and educate and clothe them.

Q.—Then Chatham is rather a dear place to live in? A.—No; I do not know that it is dearer than other places. The average wage is about \$7.50 a week, I think.

Q.—And what is obtained by skilled labor? A.—Those who have higher wages, \$9 or \$10 a week, are practical millers and engineers. Two of our men, I think, own the houses in which they live. With the introduction of roller mills, and improved machinery, we do not require so many skilled men. An ordinary intelligent mechanic, or an intelligent man, is soon able to run a roller mill as well as a skilled miller could do. When there were stones to be dressed, under the old system of grinding, a man required to have served a long apprenticeship to the business, and have a great deal of practice, but now machinery has changed all that.

Q.—Do you not require great skill, so as to be able to mix wheat to make particular brands of flour? A.—Our wheat here is about all the same; there is very little mixture. The Manitoba wheat is about the first mixture we have made.

Q.—Does your flour run pretty uniform? A.—Yes; it must when the wheat is about all the same here.

Q.—Does it not vary from season to season? A.—I mean that each season's wheat will run about the same. One season may vary from another, but the wheat will be about uniform all through.

Q.—Where do you get your rollers? A.—The rollers come from Lowell, Mass., I think.

Q.—Did you not get any of them in Canada? A.—We have two mills, one at St. Thomas and another here. The machinery of the St. Thomas mill is all made in Canada, the rollers as well.

Q.—Where did you get the rollers? A.—From Goldie & McCullough, of Galt.

Q.—Are they as good as the imported article? A.—We hardly think the rollers are. We like the rollers here a little better, perhaps. That is owing to what we call corrugation, the cut in the rollers. We think they do a little better work, perhaps, than the others do. That, however, might be changed. It is, perhaps, owing to the system they have got into.

Q.—Is there any difference in the hardness? A.—No; they can make them as good in Canada as elsewhere.

Q.—They are all chilled iron? A.—Yes. One thing is, that on the other side they make so many rollers; they have been longer in the business, and they, perhaps, have got a little better up in the way of chilling them.

Q.—Is there any difference in the price between Canadian and imported rollers? A.—No; I think not much. The Canadian roller is, I think, a little cheaper.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—At large mills, such as Minneapolis, do they run regularly all the time, or do they work night and day during certain periods, and afterwards much shorter hours? A.—That is the way all the mills do.

Q.—You cannot run a mill regularly? A.—Some years are better than others; last year was a much better year than the previous one. The mills throughout Canada run pretty regularly all the year round. I think for twenty months our mill never stopped running, night or day.

Q.—That would be much better for the workmen? A.—Yes; a great deal better. This year the wheat is very poor throughout Canada; we have not a supply of wheat. It would be utterly impossible for a mill to run twenty-four hours a day, unless we could get in a supply of wheat.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You mean the harvest was deficient? A.—Yes.

Q.—Not poor in quality? A.—It is poor in quality and deficient in quantity. The quantity is very short as compared with other years.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—What will be the difference in price on the wheat you get from the North-West and the wheat produced in this neighborhood? A.—The difference in price is about 5 cents per bushel, that is, 5 cents more for the North-West No. 1 hard wheat.

Q.—That includes freight and everything else? A.—Yes; delivered here. I am of the opinion that it is the cheaper wheat of the two, but we have not tried it sufficiently yet to judge; in fact, we only got it in the other day, so I could not speak definitely about it.

Q.—You think the product will be better from it than from your own wheat? A.—I am sure it will be better; it makes stronger flour.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You buy it delivered here? A.—Yes; it costs us 5 cents a bushel more.

Q.—You get the best quality? A.—No. 1 hard.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Can you give the Commission any information in regard to the relations existing between capital and labor? A.—In what way?

Q.—For the general benefit of the working classes. A.—I do not know. That is a very complicated question.

Q.—What about the question of arbitration? A.—I think a board of arbitrators should be established. I think that would be a good thing.

Q.—Do you approve of compulsory arbitration? A.—Yes. A board might be established, so that when these unfortunate disputes arise, which are constantly arising, there might be some way of settling them, not involving the laboring man in such a tremendous loss as at present. A strike may result to that in the end; it may be beneficial to the working classes; but that result is obtained at a tremendous cost. The men are thrown out of employment for a long time, and in a good many cases they fail altogether. I think if the Government established a board of arbitrators, so that those disputes could be referred to them, and they could take them into consideration and settle them, it would be an advantage to both parties.

Q.—As an employer of labor, you would favor that plan? A.—Yes; I would favor it.

Q.—Have you ever given the subject of industrial education for mechanics any thought? A.—Yes; I have.

Q.—Give us the benefit of your ideas on the subject. A.—You mean in regard to night schools?

Q.—Either instruction in the public schools or in night schools, to teach the theory of the different trades to mechanics? A.—It would be difficult, I think, to have that taught in our public schools; the teachers would be unable to impart the information. It would be better to have night schools for that purpose.

Q.—Do you think mechanics would be benefited if they were instructed in the general principles underlying their trade? A.—No doubt of it. I think, too, there should be some law by which an apprentice would have to serve a certain length of time. Our really skilled mechanics are placed at a great disadvantage. Boys will come into a shop, and in a year or so they will pick up a sort of trade, and start out thinking they are skilled mechanics.

Q.—And I suppose they take any wages they can get? A.—Yes. But if the skilled men were protected by making apprentices serve a certain length of time, the same as is done everywhere else, that would be an advantage to mechanics.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Would it not also be an advantage to employers? A.—No doubt it would. We suffer a great deal from having unskilled men, men not fitted for their duties. You have got to trust certain things to them, and they learn at your expense.

Q.—If apprentices received a certificate of character and ability from their former employers, would not that be a good guarantee as to their ability? A.—Yes; that would be a good guarantee. In our business it is like this: when the busy season comes along there is a great demand for millers. An employer wants to secure first-class men; he employs the first man who comes along. Perhaps he does not know much about the business, but you have to put up with him.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—There is a great complaint made that employers rob one another of the boys who are employed. If a boy, engaged by one man, has partially learned the business, a rival employer offers him higher wages? A.—That is about the way.

Q.—How would you remedy that? You may say by indenturing apprentices, but how would that work, supposing a boy goes to another establishment? A.—You would have to get his father or guardian to go as security; that would stop the trouble.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Would there not be another guarantee? If he was indentured in one place and went away, any employer to whom he applied would ask if he was indentured? A.—Yes.

Q.—And if he could not produce his indentures the master would not give him work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Would the establishment of a Bureau of Statistics be a benefit to the manufacturers of the Dominion? A.—No doubt it would. It is by statistics and comparisons we obtain our data, and such statistics as you refer to, if they were reliable, would be of advantage. If we could not depend on the data they would not be good for anything.

MANSON CAMPBELL, Manufacturer of Fanning Mills. Chatham, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How long have you been in business? A.—Since February, 1880, I have been running for myself.

Q.—What wages do skilled men who work for you earn? A.—From \$1.75 to \$2 a day.

Q.—And unskilled? A.—About \$1.25 a day.

Q.—Those are the wages they earn when at work? A.—Yes; and they would be for ten hours a day.

Q.—Do they get off an hour on Saturday? A.—We have given them one hour on Saturday, so they work fifty nine hours a week.

Q.—What proportion of the year would they be employed? A.—Nearly all the year. They were idle this year only one month, or two months at the outside. Last year they were idle, I think, not much more than one month; I forget the time exactly.

Q.—Taking one year with another you think your men would average more than ten months? A.—No; I do not suppose they would.

Q.—Do they average less than ten months? A.—No; about ten months.

Q.—What other work do they get employment at when the factory is closed? A.—When my factory is closed it is hard for them to get work, for it is at the wrong season.

Q.—Do they seek other employment? A.—I do not think, as a general rule, they do.

Q.—Do you think they earn sufficient money during ten months to support them the other two? A.—They could if they took sufficient care of it.

Q.—Do they not take pretty good care of it? A.—Some take very good care, and others take very poor care.

Q.—Is it not necessary for them to be very prudent to live? A.—Not what I would call very prudent.

Q.—Do any of them own the houses in which they live? A.—I think four hands I have own their houses.

Q.—Then it is possible for a man to save enough money out of his wages to buy a house? A.—Some of my men have saved enough to buy two or three houses.

Q.—They have earned this by their labor? A.—Yes; I know in one case a man has earned it by his labor.

Q.—Do you know anything about the interest men pay if they borrow money for building purposes? A.—No; I do not.

Q.—Have you any idea that the rates of interest are higher in Chatham than in other places? A.—No; I did not know they were any higher.

Q.—We have been told, for example, that a workman who borrows money to build a house is compelled to pay sometimes as high as eleven per cent. for his money. Can you speak as to that? A.—He would not be, provided the security was good.

Q.—Is your business increasing or decreasing, or is it stationary? A.—It is increasing from year to year.

Q.—Where do you find your market? A.—I find it altogether in Canada, but principally in Ontario.

Q.—Do you send your machines to the North-West? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is the trade increasing or otherwise? A.—I cannot say that it has increased for the last three years; it has been nearly the same for that time.

Q.—Are any fanning mills imported from the United States? A.—I do not think there are; if there are, there are very few.

Q.—Can you tell us the prices prevailing in the United States compared with those prevailing here? A.—I could not; I have no information whatever about their prices over there.

Q.—Can you tell us the prices prevailing now compared with those prevailing five years ago in Ontario? A.—We get a considerably less price than we did five years ago.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—For what are you now selling one of your machines? A.—Five years ago our average price per mill was \$27.00; now it is \$22.00.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How will a comparison show as compared with ten years ago? A.—There will not be so much difference between ten years. I do not think the average price would be much more than \$27.00. There is not much difference between ten and five years, but the great difference has been during the last five years, since 1882.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the price of fanning mills, say twenty-five or thirty years ago? A.—No; I have not.

Q.—Your memory cannot go back to that time? A.—No; I am only thirty-two years old.

Q.—Can you say what it was fifteen years ago? A.—Yes; I can give you a good idea.

Q.—What was the average price then? A.—Fanning mills are sold at different prices. When a man sells a fanning mill for \$30.00, even as long ago as fifteen years, he would give six months for the payment of the first \$10.00, a year for the payment of the second \$10.00, and a year for the payment of the other \$10.00.

Q.—Have the credits been shortened since then? A.—No; they are very much the same. There is a larger amount of cash got, but there are a good deal smaller profits.

Q.—Has the cost of manufacturing fanning mills been reduced? A.—Yes.

Q.—In consequence of the introduction of machinery? A.—Yes; somewhat on that account.

Q.—And for what other reasons? A.—My mill is made cheaper principally on account of the difference in construction.

Q.—Has the cost of labor been reduced? A.—No; it has not been reduced.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Has the price of materials changed; is the price of lumber the same as it was ten years ago? A.—It is very much the same.

Q.—And what about cordwood? A.—Cordwood has increased in price. I suppose six or seven years ago softwood was worth \$1.50 a cord, and good hard \$2.75 to \$3.00, while now good hardwood is worth \$3.50 to \$4.00, and soft \$2.00.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Has the cost of making fanning mills been reduced in proportion to the reduction on the selling price? A.—No; I do not think so.

Q.—Do you think there is a narrower margin of profit now than there was five years ago? A.—Yes.

Q.—And if you are doing as well as then, it is in consequence of the increase in the trade? A.—Yes; I consider I would have to make one thousand mills to obtain the profit I would have made out of seven hundred mills at that time.

Q.—Then you have more employment to give to the men? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you give more constant employment than you did, or is it wholly an increase of hands? A.—It will just be by an increase of hands. We could never run the year round.

Q.—Has the iron work used in manufacturing mills increased considerably in cost? A.—The iron of the mill would not be increased unless you take the wire cloth into consideration. There is a great deal of wire cloth and perforated zinc used. If you take these together they form a large proportion of the cost.

Q.—Are they cheaper or dearer than they were formerly? A.—There is very little difference. Perforated zinc is a little cheaper.

Q.—Do all your men work directly for you, or do you let out the work to sub-contractors? A.—They have always worked for me up to this year, when I let the work out by the piece.

Q.—Do the men earn as much as formerly when they worked for you directly? A.—Yes; I think they do.

Q.—Have you heard any complaints from them that the foreman was making profits out of them? A.—No; not particularly.

Q.—You have considerable machinery in the shop? A.—Yes; quite a bit.

Q.—Have there been many accidents from it? A.—There have been none to speak of; last year there were none.

Q.—Was the factory inspector satisfied with the protection given to the machinery when he was around at your place? A.—I was not at home the day he was around, but he called, the foreman told me, and looked over the premises, and was satisfied with everything except one place, and that was not in regard to a machine, but because the opening in the elevator was unprotected. Since then we have put a protection around it, and if he called now he would say it was just as he wanted it. That was the only suggestion he left, and we complied with it.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You say that the sub-contractor hires the men? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you have the same profit on the machines as when you made them yourself? A.—Yes; just about the same.

Q.—The sub-contractor makes a profit out of the men? A.—The profit that the sub-contractor made was by looking after matters, and working the men a little harder, and looking after his own interest sharper than he would look after mine.

Q.—He makes a profit? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then there are two profits made before the laborer gets his money? A.—Yes. them to work harder? A.—That would be a hard matter to get at.

Q.—Do you mean profit sharing with the men? A.—I do not say that, but in this particular case it would be a hard matter.

Q.—Do you think the workman receives his proper proportion when there are two profits taken out of the work first? A.—I do not know. The way we came to enter into this arrangement was this: I know what the machines cost to make in 1886 when I hired the men myself, and had the same foreman. For 1887 I let the work to him for the same price as I had paid the year before.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—So you make no extra profit? A.—No; but I get the work done for precisely the same price as I paid the season before.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Supposing you let the work to the men directly, do you not think you would get the work as well and cheaply done? A.—I should have to stay there all the time myself.

Q.—If you give the men the same interest as you give this foreman, do you not think they would work as hard? A.—I would have much trouble to do that, for I would have to deal with twenty men instead of one.

Q.—Could not the men form a co-operative society among themselves to take the work from you? A.—I do not think so; in fact, I think they could not.

Q.—You think co-operation would be a failure? A.—Yes; because I gave some work to two men this year, and they could not agree. If I gave this work to twenty men I am sure that number could not.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Does this foreman make very large profits? Have you any idea what his income is? A.—No; I have not a very good idea.

Q.—Does he work himself? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think his wages are doubled by reason of his taking this contract? A.—I am quite sure they are not.

Q.—Would he get \$10.00 a week additional by reason of taking the contract? A.—I do not think so.

Q.—Would he get \$5.00 a week extra? A.—Probably he would.

Q.—Would that be a fair estimate, do you think? A.—Yes.

Q.—You have twenty hands employed? A.—In the summer season, when busy, we had about twenty hands, I think.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—I suppose this man who has the contract assumes a certain responsibility? A.—He is responsible for building the machines for that figure, whether they cost him more or not.

Q.—And whether the wages increase or not? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—
Q.—Would 25 cents or 50 cents per week represent the sum the contractor makes of each man employed under him, independent of what he earns by his own labor? A.—No; I do not think as high as that.

Q.—Then this extra 25 cents or 50 cents or whatever sum it may be, is obtained, I suppose, by the men working harder than they used to work, and by good generalship? A.—He gets it from two sources, from being there all the time, and by looking sharper after the work, he taking more interest in it.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Would you give that sub-contract to any man, unless he were a capable man, and one in whom you have every confidence? A.—No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do the men who work for the sub-contractor give more services for the money they receive than when they were in your employ? A.—He gets more work out of them for the money than I did the year before.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Then he works more faithfully for himself than he did for you? A.—You can put it in that way if you like.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you think that when this middle man was not in existence as such that the men were working pretty faithfully for you during the fifty-nine hours per week? A.—I had no reason to complain.

Q.—Supposing this man to get his profit, must they not work harder for him than they did for you, if you receive the same profit on the machines? A.—There is another way in which he has made a large profit, more than what the difference in the men's wages would come to. The machine was not the same, and by getting the casting turned out in a different shape there would not be the same amount of work to do. So there are different ways by which the foreman could save money.

Q.—Does the sub-contractor invest any money of his own in carrying on his contract? A.—No; no money whatever.

CALEB WHEELER, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What is your business? A.—I am a cattle dealer and butcher.

Q.—How long have you been in business in Chatham? A.—I have been established myself for twenty-five years.

Q.—Had you any knowledge of it before that? A.—I am forty-five years old, and I have been at it in this town since I was ten or twelve years old.

Q.—Where do you buy your cattle principally? A.—Close to town, within a circuit of twenty miles.

Q.—Have you a local trade only, or do you ship cattle abroad? A.—We ship cattle to the old country.

Q.—How long have you been shipping cattle to the old country? A.—About five years.

Q.—And you are still in the business? A.—Perhaps we have got about enough of it?

Q.—There is not much money in it just now? A.—It is very bad.

Q.—For the local trade, does the demand remain about the same as it has been? A.—If you mean the consumption of fresh meat, it is increasing in Chatham and in the country. The farmers are giving up the use of so much pork, and are buying from the butchers. They are selling their hogs alive to the Ontario packing factories at Aylmer, Ingersoll, Toronto and other places, and buying more fresh meat; they have altered their style of living in that respect very much.

Q.—And better facilities are afforded them for getting meat? A.—Yes; they come to town oftener, and are changing their mode of living in that way.

Q.—Is the larger part of the meat which is sold on Chatham market retailed by butchers, or sold in quarters by farmers and others? A.—From November until about March, when it begins to get scarce, there is a large proportion sold by the quarter.

Q.—What is meat by the quarter worth just now—good average quality and condition? A.—Carcases, first quality, averaging 500 to 600 pounds dressed, are worth 5 cents a pound by the carcass; of course, it has to be the best to be worth that.

Q.—What would a hind quarter fetch? A.—Perhaps between 5 and 6 cents.

Q.—And a fore quarter? A.—A little over 4 cents; in fact, you might say 4 cents for the best.

Q.—Is much mutton bought by the carcass? A.—Very little; there is a little bought by the quarter; this is not much of a mutton-eating part of the country?

Q.—What would the beef which you say sells for 6, or below 6 cents for the hind quarter cost at retail at the butcher's stall? A.—Ten cents a pound for the choicest cuts.

Q.—Are you familiar with the retail trade? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do the mechanics of Chatham get inferior and cheaper pieces of meat? A.—No, sir; they don't, for this reason—that the best is the cheapest.

Q.—And when they go to market they want the best? A.—The man who saws wood for a living in this town buys sirloin steak, and it is cheaper. Although I have been all my life in the business I cannot venture to give the reason, but perhaps it is that there are not many rich men here, and consequently the competition for the choicest cuts is not very great—that is, men who will have them at any price. We lack here customers who don't stick for prices, and that, perhaps, will make it plain to you that the choice cuts may be comparatively low, and coarse cuts about as dear as they are in Toronto, or any other city in Ontario.

Q.—When there are bargains in meat, or fowl, or vegetables, or other articles sold in the market, don't the working people, as a rule, watch out for them and snap them up? A.—To some extent they do, but peddlers and middlemen are the sharks in that business; they get the lion's share of the bargain.

Q.—How do the prices of meat by the quarter and the retail prices of meat compare with former years—say five or ten years ago, or as far back as you can remember? A.—I think they are quite as cheap now as they ever were within my recollection. Well, I would not like to say twenty-five years ago, but certainly within fifteen. Of course, twenty-five years ago it was very cheap once in a while, and strange to say, it used to be very dear once in a while in those old times. I know when I was a little boy, thirty years ago, a yoke of oxen sold for more money in the spring of the year than they will now to export to the old country, simply because there were hardly any in the country. The only time I knew beef to sell for 15 cents a pound in Chatham was twenty-five years ago, but it would only last for a week or two in the spring at the scarce time.

Q.—Wasn't that at a time when there was a great demand for cattle in the United States? A.—No; it was when feed was very scarce and there were no cattle within miles of the town.

Q.—How do the prices which you pay for cattle compare with the prices paid in former years? A.—They are cheaper now than they have been for fifteen years.

Q.—You pay less prices for them to the farmers? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Are they not superior cattle to what they were fifteen years ago? A.—Generally they are better.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Can you account for the lowness of the price just now? A.—It is a general depression all over; it is caused nearly altogether by the depression in England.

Q.—The demand in England has fallen off? A.—The prices there are very miserable and the trade is very discouraging; we cannot get along with it at all; it is almost too bad to talk about. We are satisfied there is not a particle of honesty in the business at all. We have proved all that, too, but perhaps the wisest course is to stop the trade to a great extent.

Q.—Is the cheapness of cattle caused to any extent by the dryness of the season and the want of fodder? A.—No; not here. We felt it a little in August, but the rains came in nice time in the fall, and there is such an abundance of pasture here towards the fall after the crops are taken off, the soil is so rich, and the feed comes so quick, that people forget all about it and the cattle come up again.

Q.—Do you ship cattle out to any market now? A.—To Toronto and Montreal.
 Q.—For local consumption there? A.—Yes; of course they pick some of the best for shipping.

Q.—After they leave your hands you don't know particularly what becomes of them? A.—Yes; we know they are sold to the butchers in Montreal and Toronto and the best picked out for export. We have returns from two carloads to-day.

Q.—Do you do anything in hogs? A.—Yes; we do a great business in hogs.
 Q.—Where do you sell them? A.—A great many to Grant & Co., of Ingersoll, who pack them for the old country market. They butcher them in the old country way; they singe them. They buy all nice light hogs, such a hog as any sensible man would want for family use, not too heavy or too fat.

Q.—What are hogs fed on mostly? A.—Corn and barley.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What weight of hogs do you speak of? A.—The perfection of a hog for the old county trade is one from 180 to 200 pounds live weight; they are all sold alive.

Q.—Not more than that? A.—No; from 180 to 200 pounds—a young hog and a nicely built one.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What breed of hog seems to give the best satisfaction? A.—The Berkshire.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—About eight months old? A.—Younger than that if he has been fed well—seven or eight months.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—They sell them out as soon as the frost comes? A.—The trade is changing very much. It used to be that nobody sold them alive, but kept them to this time of the year feeding them as much corn as they could eat until they were very fat. This raising of live hogs is comparatively a new industry, and now they are inducing them if possible to raise more hogs and sell them before feeding them so much valuable grain. These hogs when in nice family condition are fed on grass and refuse grain, soft corn, early pease and stubble, with a little clover, slops, &c., and that makes the kind of pork which is most valuable now, so that the great rush of dressed hogs which used to come in is not so noticeable now.

Q.—Do you consider corn makes as good pork as pease? A.—Very much better—at least it is better looking.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is it as sweet? A.—Well, I don't know; I could not say, but I should think by cutting it that pea-fed pork is a little the juiciest. I can tell by cutting a piece whether it is good pork or not, because practice makes perfect in that respect; but for beauty, and firmness and color, and all shipping qualities after they are dressed, nothing can compare with corn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Corn is mostly grown around here for feeding to hogs? A.—Yes.

Q.—You raise more corn in Kent and Essex than in any other part of Canada?
 A.—Yes; than in all other parts.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—They feed all portions of the corn when it is green? A.—No; they depend on pease right after harvest time and then they begin feeding corn. They set the boys at husking small quantities until the regular husking time comes round.

Q.—Do they feed the corn in the ear? A.—Almost altogether.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What price do live hogs bring? A.—They are worth 5 cents a pound now.

Q.—Pound for pound, can you raise pork cheaper than beef? A.—Yes; you can, because the time comes into the calculation—eight months' time, which is very different from thirty-two months. The best cattle men sell the cattle at two years old past, but we haven't many of that kind, so it generally takes our men about a year longer than first-class men.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—That would be four times as long as hogs? A.—They can have pigs coming in the spring, and by sticking the feed into them they can have them ready by the fall; frequently we have them from 200 to 250 pounds this time of the year.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What do cattle on hoof bring now? A.—They vary. We are shipping a lot of cattle on Thursday; they are to be offered for sale into Toronto, and if not satisfactory they go on to Montreal. We have two markets in that way; we stop in Toronto first and then if we cannot sell there we go to Montreal and we have to sell there. This carload of cattle was fed by one of the leading farmers close to town here, and they will average between 1,300 and 1,400 pounds. They are very fine cattle; they only lacked the finish that the eastern men would give them, and they bring in 3½ cents a pound. That is the price paid.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Are there pork-packing establishments around here? Do they kill and cure hogs around here? A.—No; strange to say, it is the opinion of experts that this is not a good place for pork-packing; the establishment at Ingersoll is the closest one; it is a very large establishment.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do they make bacon at Ingersoll? A.—They have it arranged in this way: they have men, like ourselves, after the hogs and they look sharply after the kind we send them. Then they have butchers who cut up the hogs in such a way as to satisfy the Glasgow, London, Liverpool and Belfast markets.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Do they send bacon to Belfast now? A.—So I understand.

Q.—Are the hogs which are fed for eight months on grass and slops in the way you mentioned suitable for making good bacon? A.—I don't think there is better pork in the world.

Q.—Is it good to continue this grass-feeding up to the time they are killed? A.—We find by experience that the hog which is raised to trot round the farm, up and down the pasture-field, and at the same time is fed nicely, never suffers for water and is never fed too much, is a healthy, good-feeling fellow; he will come to town and go on board the car and travel to the slaughter house in first class condition. But a hog that has been penned up in the sty and over-fed, when he gets into the cars he lies down and you cannot get him to move, and when he gets to the slaughter house he is in bad condition.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—He does not enjoy his opportunities for travelling? A.—No; he does not travel with any pleasure at all.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—You are in the habit of travelling about the country a great deal. What do you think is the general condition of the farmers in your part of the country? Is their condition now an improvement on what it was five, or ten, or fifteen years ago—their circumstances and their way of living? A.—Their way of living, keeping house, their modes of coming to town, their dress and the dress of their families, the furniture of their houses, and all that sort of thing, have immensely improved; there is no doubt of it at all. There is a wonderful improvement in that respect and I think there is in their wealth, too.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Their houses are more comfortable? A.—Very much more comfortable.

Q.—And their stock is more valuable? A.—Yes; but they have not made their money in stock. This is a wheat-growing county and they are wheat crazy; they are just commencing to get over it, and they would not get over it now if they hadn't to. Wheat at 75 cents a bushel this year has done more for the stock interest than all the printing and preaching ever did before.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What is the best breed of cattle for foreign market? A.—Short-horn grades are the best.

Q.—And the easiest fed? A.—They are the best for all purposes.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—As beef cattle? A.—Yes; the short-horn bull crossed on a good healthy native cow produces a splendid animal.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Is this much of a dairying country? A.—Well, there are a good many dairies, but it is not carried on to so great an extent as down east. It is notoriously a bad place for butter.

Q.—What is the cause for that? A.—I think it is lack of spring water, and of nice facilities round the house for dairying, which they have down east. They do very well with cheese, but for some cause they have not had big success with butter. They are trying to establish creameries, and there is one south of us on Lake Erie.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Where there is a lack of pure spring water they have poor success in butter-making? A.—Yes; I have noticed that. I may say that the houses which farmers are building now are good houses, and they are also improving their grounds. They are also beginning to see the evil of growing grain altogether. The great drawback of the country is the growing of grain year after year. The temptation has been great to put a great number of acres of our nice level land into fall wheat, and get it off at once, but they have found their mistake in paying a great amount of money for their machinery.

Q.—Following up your idea, would be a bad thing for the makers of reapers and mowers? A.—Yes; but most of them have reapers and mowers now; and it has been a great drain to them to buy machinery. There are drills, harrows, mowing machines, cutting-boxes, threshing machines and steam engines, and the figures of the cost are something enormous. Besides that, some of the farmers are very wasteful of their machines by leaving them out in fence corners, and places of that kind.

Q.—What is the reason for the falling off in the market for export cattle? A.—The reason is this: Five or six years ago the English trade started; it started with big prices and a rush, and everybody went into the cattle trade with the expectation that good cattle, at any rate were always going to stay up at a good price. That big price means 5 cents or 5½ cents a pound in the Ontario pastures. That has tumbled down until now cattle are selling for 4 cents a pound in England, which is a tremendous difference. That has caused the present low prices.

Q.—Is there an overplus of cattle here at the present time? A.—Of our common cattle?

Q.—Yes? A.—Yes; there is, but we seem to have got over the worst of it. We send over hundreds and thousands of cattle in a year which are a disgrace to any person to send away; we send them over to Buffalo for anything we can get; they are sold there to farmers in New York State, who feed them till the next spring, turning them out on the grass, and then selling them at cities in the interior of the State, such as Syracuse, Rochester, Schenectady, and other places up and down the New York Central. There is an enormous trade done in Canada stockers in that way.

Q.—Have you any local market around here at all for cattle? Does any one ever come from Windsor to buy cattle? A.—Yes; the distillers.

Q.—Are they inclined to pay good prices? A.—Of course, they give just as little as possible, and they want the best cattle for tying-up purposes. They thoroughly understand their business; they know that if they buy a nice, thrifty two-year-old steer, and feed him on distillery slop, he will get fat quick, and of course a young, fat animal is the perfection of a killing beast now-a-days.

Q.—Is that kind of feed equal to the ordinary feed on a farm? A.—If I take an animal out of a distillery he is a splendid looking animal; I don't think any expert would wish a finer. But he is delicate; he has been fed and pampered on this warm hog stuff, so that when you put him on the cars to take him to Montreal he is like the hog I spoke of—he is no good. You must get him to market as quickly as possible. You ship him alongside of a good, squarely built, healthy, naturally developed animal, and one will arrive in England in the best shape while the other will be a regular wreck.

The Commission then adjourned, to meet at St. Thomas.

ST. THOMAS, December 13th, 1887.

Dr. JOHN B. TWEEDALE, Physician to the Board of Health at St. Thomas, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of St. Thomas just now? A.—It is very good at the present time.

Q.—Have you a good sewerage system? A.—We have had it extended very largely during the last few years.

Q.—Are the residences generally connected with the sewers? A.—Not to a very large extent.

Q.—Do you know what kind of plumbing is done in residences generally? A.—We have not had much complaint in regard to that matter.

Q.—Are you aware whether plumbing generally conforms to the requirements of the Ontario Act? A.—I think it does.

Q.—Are the ventilating pipes, as a rule, carried above the roof? A.—Yes.

Q.—And are the traps satisfactorily fixed, so that sewer gas is not forced up into the houses? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are the sanitary conditions of the school-houses? A.—They are very good.

Q.—Are the water-closets in the school-houses separated from them? A.—They are away from them.

Q.—Are they connected with the sewers? A.—No.

Q.—They have the old-fashioned privy vaults? A.—Yes.

Q.—What system of waterworks have they? A.—We have no system, except from the creek, but we make use of no water from there for household purposes.

Q.—You get water for household purposes from wells? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do those wells give sufficiently pure water? A.—No; not all of them.

Q.—Are they contaminated by surface water and by water which may filter through the soil? A.—They are, more or less so.

Q.—Has this impure water caused any epidemic? A.—I think not.

Q.—Or any disease which may not have risen to the dignity of an epidemic? A.—No.

Q.—Scarlet fever, for instance? A.—We have had no scarlet fever.

Q.—Or diphtheria? A.—Not to any extent; a few weeks ago it was acting as an epidemic in one locality, but I think it was caused by the effects of contagion in the school-houses; we then closed the school and stamped out the disease in the course of a few weeks.

Q.—Prompt action was taken? A.—Yes. The school-houses were closed and the Sabbath schools also, and the disease was stamped out in that section of the city.

Q.—Are you pretty well acquainted with the sanitary condition of factories in St. Thomas? A.—I have visited them all; we have no factories here to any extent.

Q.—Did you visit them in company with the provincial inspector? A.—I did not.

Q.—Do you know what the report on factories here was? A.—No; I do not know that he has visited St. Thomas.

Q.—You have not seen him? A.—We have not had any gentlemen connected with the Provincial Board in St. Thomas for two or three years.

Q.—Are you sufficiently acquainted with the factories to know whether the machinery is properly protected? A.—I would say it is not properly protected in some places.

Q.—Do you know whether any representation to that effect has been made to the proprietors? A.—I think not, that I am aware of.

Q.—You think further protection might be provided for that machinery as a precaution against accidents? A.—I do.

Q.—Would it come within your province to make such representations? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know the character of the milk sold in St. Thomas? A.—I have had no complaint in regard to it. There has not, however, been any chemical examination of it.

Q.—Is there any inspection of milk? A.—No.

Q.—Is there any inspection of food sold on the market? A.—Yes; I visit there every Saturday, more or less.

Q.—In your official capacity? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you frequently have to condemn produce as unfit for food? A.—No; it is a very rare case, and it is now only in case of butter—in fact, I have not found any cases; one or two cases have been found by the chief of police when he has been making an inspection.

Q.—Are the persons punished in such cases? I think the butter was taken from them. There have been only one or two cases, I think, for several years.

Q.—Has there been nothing abnormal in the death rate of this city? A.—No; it is very trifling compared with what it has been in former years.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you knowledge of any accidents occurring through this machinery not being properly protected? A.—I cannot say that I have, because the cases have not come under my observation when they have occurred.

Q.—Accidents have occurred? A.—Yes; I do not know the particulars, because I have not been called in professionally and have not made the necessary inquiries. In fact, it is almost out of my line of duty.

Q.—Do you know of any young children employed in factories here. A.—No.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—How far are the water-closets from the wells in the school grounds? A.—Quite a distance; I have not measured it, but it must be from 60 to 100 feet. In the case of one school the distance must be more than that.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you think they are a sufficient distance to keep the water pure? A.—I do not think the water is pure.

Q.—The water from those closets travels a greater distance in some soils than in others, will it not? A.—Yes; more so in some soils than in others.

Q.—Is the soil in St. Thomas of a nature to favor that? A.—Some portion of it is. Some portion has a clay subsoil and another portion is gravel. The gravel allows the water to become more contaminated than the clay.

Q.—Has there been any case of sickness among children attending school that could be attributed to the water? A.—No; I cannot say there has been.

- Q.—I suppose they do not use a sufficient quantity to injure them? A.—No.
 The water used in the schools is not pure; I have examined some of it.
 Q.—Does your jurisdiction extend beyond the city? A.—No.

JOHN ANDREWS, Farmer, Southwold, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How long have you been a farmer in this district? A.—I was born in this city, and I have lived in sight of it ever since. I now live outside of it about two miles and a-half.

Q.—What are the principal crops raised in this neighborhood? A.—Fall wheat, oats, peas, corn, hay.

Q.—Do you do much in root crops? A.—Not very extensively; not so much as formerly.

Q.—Do you raise many cattle? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you raise cattle for the neighborhood's consumption or for export? A.—Both.

Q.—Do you export very many cattle just now? A.—Not many. I never exported any myself; we sell to exporters.

Q.—Do you know whether the raising of cattle just now is profitable at the prices now ruling? A.—It is not.

Q.—What prices rule at present? A.—Stock cattle are probably not worth over from 2 cents to 2½ cents per pound; fat cattle from 3 cents to 3½ cents, and in the case of some very extra animals perhaps 4 cents.

Q.—What are the principal causes of the extremely low prices now prevailing? A.—They seem to be mainly on account of the depression in the old country markets.

Q.—Are farmers forced to part with their cattle on account of scarcity of fodder? A.—Some are; as a general rule I do not think they are.

Q.—Is the scarcity felt to any great extent in this district? A.—No; I think not.

Q.—What prices are paid for wheat here in St. Thomas? A.—The top price I last heard of was 83 cents.

Q.—That is for local consumption? A.—Chiefly so, I think; that is at the mills here, where the grain is milled.

Q.—Do you get the same prices from dealers to buy it in shipments? A.—Since the mills have been started here there has been very little bought for shipment.

Q.—The mills take nearly the whole supply? Yes.

Q.—Where do you find your market for corn? A.—We feed it, as a general thing.

Q.—To cattle or hogs? A.—To both.

Q.—Are many hogs raised here? A.—They are not very extensively raised here, though they are considerably.

Q.—Where do you find your market for hogs? A.—There is a home market here; there is a packing house at Aylmer and one at St. Thomas.

Q.—And they take pretty much the whole of the local supply? A.—Yes. Some are brought in fat, and they are taken, some to Montreal and some to Ingersoll.

Q.—I believe there is a large packing house at Ingersoll? A.—So I understand.

Q.—What prices are paid for hogs just now? A.—About 4 cents, I think, on foot.

Q.—Do you consider that hogs at 4 cents a pound are more profitable than cattle at the ruling prices? A.—I think they are.

Q.—What breeds are mostly in demand? A.—The improved Berkshire and the Suffolk—the smaller breeds. They mature more quickly.

Q.—And they are preferred by the packers? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you raise many potatoes in this section? A.—We do not raise them very extensively.

Q.—Do you raise any for export? Not in this locality, I think.

Q.—What kind of a fruit country is this? A.—Very good.

Q.—What varieties of fruit do you raise? A.—Apples, pears and peaches; plums have failed these last two years.

Q.—Owing to what? A.—The curculio.

Q.—Cannot you protect them against that disease? A.—We have not succeeded, so far, to any extent.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is not that the enemy of the plum everywhere? A.—It seems to be so.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What wages do you pay to farm laborers? A.—I had two hired men last summer; to one I paid \$16 a month, with board and washing, and to another \$15 a month. The latter was a young man.

Q.—Do you employ them the year round? A.—No; just six months.

Q.—Is it usual to hire them just for the summer season? A.—It has been the habit of late years, more so than formerly. I have always liked to hire my help by the year, and I would do so at any time sooner than hire them for six months.

Q.—Do the men themselves prefer to hire for only six months? A.—Yes; a great many do.

Q.—Why do they prefer it? A.—I can hardly tell you why.

Q.—Do those men get work at other places in the country? A.—No; a great many men get very little to do in winter and they expect to obtain very large wages in summer.

Q.—If you employed them by the year would you give them smaller wages? A.—Usually we give from \$130 to \$170 a year, with board and washing.

Q.—And they would rather take contracts for the summer months than take permanent places for the year round? A.—Of late years they appear to be of that opinion.

Q.—You do not employ as many men as formerly? A.—No; from the fact that I had a new farm and I was getting out the wood.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do farmers, as a general rule, employ as many hands as formerly? A.—No; not so many hands.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Has the introduction of farm machinery made you more independent of laborers? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you find any surplus of farm laborers on the average? A.—No; there is a scarcity of good farm laborers.

Q.—Is there much dairying done in this section of the country? A.—Considerable, but not just around here. If you go out a distance of a few miles you will find a number of cheese factories.

Q.—Any butter factories? A.—No; they have not been introduced here yet.

Q.—Are you able to speak on the relative profit on cheese and butter? A.—We always considered, when we were patronizing the factory, the price to be better from the cheese factory than would be obtained by making butter.

Q.—That is, by making butter yourself? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Are you able to tell us how it is between the cheese and butter factory system? A.—I am not prepared to speak on that point.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do cheese factories give dividends at the end of the year, or do they pay you a fixed sum for the milk? A.—It is done both ways, but as a general thing there is a dividend made when a sale is made.

- Q.—Whatever the milk has realized they pay it to the farmers? A.—Yes.
- Q.—What does that average, taking one year with another? A.—I think the last year we sent to the factory we realized 10 cents per pound, to the best of my recollection.
- Q.—How would that compare as regards a gallon of milk? A.—We reckon that it took 10 61-100ths to make one pound of cheese.
- Q.—Then a little more than one imperial gallon of milk is required for one pound of cheese. A.—Yes.
- Q.—How much has to be deducted to pay the running expenses of the factory? A.—They charge $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound for gathering and making.
- Q.—That would leave you about $7\frac{1}{2}$ cents for your milk? A.—Most of it that year was sold for about $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents. We got something near 10 cents a gallon, I think, for our milk.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

- Q.—Is not that a very high price? A.—Yes; that would be about six or seven years ago.
- Q.—How many months would the factory run? A.—I think that year we commenced sending about the 1st June and finished the first week in November.
- Q.—That is about six months? A.—About five months.
- Q.—Were you able to turn the milk to good account after the factory closed? A.—At that time we were raising cattle in the winter and making butter. It involves more labor, a good deal, but I did not consider it quite so profitable.
- Q.—If you were to send your milk to butter factories and got the skimmed milk back, would that prove advantageous to the farmer? A.—Yes; it would. In localities where that has been done they speak highly of the system; it is done throughout Waterloo.
- Q.—What is the price of milk in St. Thomas generally? A.—Five cents a quart, delivered. We are in the business.
- Q.—Is that all the year round? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Has it never been higher? A.—Not for any length of time during recent years.

By Mr. FREED:—

- Q.—Have you ever made any calculations as to the cost of cultivating an acre in fall wheat? A.—Not very particularly.
- Q.—Have you studied the subject, so as to be able to give us an estimate, or would your opinion be formed on purely guess work? A.—I could not give an answer without a little consideration.
- Q.—What is the paying price for wheat? A.—We can raise wheat for \$1 a bushel; that is when there is a fair crop.
- Q.—There has not been a fair crop for some time? A.—No.
- Q.—Do you still continue to raise wheat? A.—Not so extensively as formerly.
- Q.—What takes the place of it? A.—The stock business has taken the place of it to a very large extent.
- Q.—Have you ever calculated what it costs you to make one pound of beef? A.—Not very accurately.
- Q.—Farmers, as a rule, I believe, do not study their business so closely as to know what the various products cost them? A.—Not a great many of them.
- Q.—They hardly know when they are selling at a profit and when they are not doing so? A.—A great many do not. We know that wheat does not pay at present prices; that is the reason we are not growing as much as formerly.
- Q.—Do you know, or do you only think so? A.—We are satisfied as to that.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q.—You spoke of the scarcity of agricultural labor. Can you give us any instance

of that scarcity? A.—There has been a great stimulus given to manufacturing, and many men have gone to the towns and cities.

Q.—Do they get better pay in town and cities? A.—I presume they think so.

Q.—Is it more steady employment? A.—The railway companies employ a great many men here, and they get steady employment. The factories, as a general thing, shut down occasionally. I do not think they have improved their condition very much by their removal; some are beginning to admit that fact.

Q.—Are there many married men among the farm laborers? A.—There are some.

Q.—As a rule, they are single men? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you give a preference to single men on a farm? A.—We do where we have not tenement houses for married men to go into.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—If you had tenement houses would you prefer married men? A.—I would.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do many farmers in this neighborhood keep their hands all the year round? A.—Not a great many; it is not done so much as it ought to be.

Q.—What is the average length of time for which men are engaged in this district? A.—From three to six months.

Q.—Do you not think that has something to do with the scarcity of agricultural labor? A.—No doubt it has.

Q.—Have the farmers in this neighborhood gone into raising horses? A.—Yes; they have considerably.

Q.—What is a good horse worth here at three years old? A.—At that age they will run from \$80 to \$130.

Q.—Do you think it pays to raise horses? A.—Yes; I think so.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you think the general condition of the farmer has improved during the last eight, ten or twelve years? A.—I think so.

Q.—As regards dress—in artistic ideas round the house, and so on? A.—Yes; and as regards building.

Q.—Do you find many agricultural immigrants in this section? A.—A few of them; one of those I employed last summer was an immigrant.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Does the stream of immigration come here? A.—Not a great deal.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—When they come, do they generally find work? A.—Yes; they do. I was very hard to get them there. Whenever a lot came in they were taken up directly.

Q.—What is the name of the immigrant agent to whom you went in Toronto? A.—Mr. Donaldson.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you think the farms in this neighborhood are largely mortgaged? A.—There are a good many, no doubt.

Q.—Do you know whether the mortgages have been increased or have been diminished? A.—I think they are increasing.

Q.—For what reason? A.—Very largely owing to the depression in the prices of grain from what has usually been obtained, and also in the value of stock.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you think the present kind of farm work is as hard as the old variety? A.—No; I do not.

Q.—Did you or your father open out the farm? A.—We did.

Q.—You know what working was in those days? A.—I was born here in 1831, and my father moved into the woods, then two and a-half miles north, and I was reared there.

Q.—How far had you to go to the mill? A.—At that time about four miles.

Q.—You know that some had a great deal further to go? A.—Yes; and they had to travel over very bad roads to reach them.

Q.—Have you heard of any combination of farmers to raise the price of milk or any other product because they thought they did not sell at a sufficient high price? A.—There was a combination formed here in the city.

Q.—Of farmers? A.—No.

Q.—Have you ever heard of a combination made by farmers to settle the price of a product, with a view to obtain full payment for their labor? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—When laborers leave here at the close of the season do you find that they return next season? A.—Sometimes they do.

Q.—Is it a general rule or the exception? A.—It is the exception.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do many of them take farms for themselves afterwards? A.—Quite a number do.

Q.—They either rent or buy cheap places? A.—They rent, chiefly.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Is there any grange in this section? A.—I think there is.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you belong to it? A.—No.

Q.—Did you never belong to it? A.—I did for a short time, some years ago—eight or nine years ago. I could not see any benefit in it.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Could you not obtain some articles cheaper through it? A.—My chief reason for leaving it was because they were sending to a distance for what they wanted, and leaving their own town, which they should patronize, and I did not believe in that. In fact, I showed them that they could get what they were buying as cheap in St. Thomas.

WILLIAM H. ANDERSON, Manufacturer of Carriage Woodwork, St. Thomas, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What is your business? A.—I am a member of the firm of John Heard & Co., manufacturers of carriage woodwork.

Q.—Have you been long in business in St. Thomas? A.—We have but recently started; we have been running about three months.

Q.—How many hands do you employ? A.—Twenty-five altogether.

Q.—What do you manufacture in your particular branch of carriage woodwork? A.—Spokes, rims, shafts, poles. We propose going into wheels as soon as we can get the machinery in.

Q.—Where do you get your timber for that class of lumber? A.—Altogether in Canada.

Q.—Is it as good as American lumber? A.—I think, as a general rule, it is quite as good. While I say that, I am aware that there seem to be in some places in the United States large quantities of second growth; but I do not think it is any better than our own wood.

Q.—Is it any better? A.—I do not think so, but there is more of it. We have some as good as they have, but our supply is more limited.

Q.—Is a carriage made from Canadian wood as durable an article as if made from American wood? A.—Equally as durable.

Q.—Do you do anything in carriage hardware? A.—No; woodwork entirely.

Q.—What are the average wages of the men in your business here? A.—Taking our pay-roll, the average may be placed at \$1.25 a day. Some of our men are, however, paid very much higher wages—\$1.75.

Q.—What hours do they work? A.—Ten hours a day and six days a week.

Q.—Do you propose to keep your industry running all the year round? A.—Yes; with the exception of sometimes we will shut down for one or two weeks in the cold weather and fix up a little; in a general way, we expect to run the year round.

Q.—Then you do not intend to have a short season and afterwards shut down for three or four months? A.—No; we calculate to keep running regularly.

Q.—Do you find sufficient market for your manufactured goods? A.—Yes; we have had a sufficient market so far. Of course, we could increase our capacity with the same machinery by employing more hands, and thus turn out more work.

Q.—Where do you principally sell your goods? A.—Altogether in Canada; a great deal goes to the Maritime Provinces—in fact, the principal part. Perhaps I am wrong in saying that, for as much goes to Ontario. We sell our goods in all the Provinces, more or less.

Q. From your knowledge of the business, do you think the Canadian manufacturers are justified in going to the United States for the same class of machinery and work as are produced here; that is, those who put the buggies together? A.—No; except in this way: occasionally there are job lots sold in the States at cheap rates. I think, taking it on an average, anyone can purchase the similar article in quality here as in the United States. The prices are low.

Q.—It is the general rule I want to get at? A.—I have had several conversations with the buyer of one of the largest firms in Detroit. The last conversation I had with him was a year ago, and on making a comparison of prices, he agreed that our prices were a little lower than those of the United States. He said their firm was paying as much money for their goods as we were selling them for. I imagine our prices are about the same as the American prices for the same grade.

Q.—We have been told that American goods are much better than Canadian? A.—There are certain lines of goods in which they excel, but the material in the American goods is not so good as ours—that is, in oak stuff. I am comparing the quality of goods there and here.

Q.—Do you employ boys in your shop? A.—We employ boys, perhaps sixteen years old or something like that. We can only employ a few.

Q.—Are they apprentices? A.—No.

Q.—They are simply helpers? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have they any opportunity of learning the trade? A.—No; it is no trade to them, farther than their working at a job, and when they become experienced at it they are able to undertake heavier jobs the same as men do. It can hardly be called a trade, because we take men who have not been at it before and put them to work not at full wages, but when they can earn full wages we give them.

Q.—Is there a great deal of work turned out by machinery in the trade? A.—It is entirely so.

Q.—I suppose it has come into competition very largely with hand-work? A.—So far as our trade is concerned, it could not be done otherwise. Spokes were formerly made by hand, but it was an everlasting job; the only successful way of conducting the trade is with the aid of machinery.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is it very expensive work if done by hand? A.—It could hardly be done by hand and carry on the trade. Rims used to be sawn out and put in short pieces instead of being bent in one piece.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you think the introduction of machinery in the carriage business has cheapened production to the consumer? A.—Yes; decidedly; that is to say, that a carriage of the same quality brought a much higher price before the introduction of machinery.

Q.—Do you think the cheapening of production by machinery has lowered the cost of labor in building carriages? A.—No; I think men of the same capacity get as good wages as they did before.

Q.—Do you think the workingman, taking into account the considerable advantages arising from the introduction of machinery, receive a proper share of that advantage in his wages? A.—Of course that is a question that requires a good deal of consideration; I am not prepared to speak positively with regard to it. The cost of the whole article is much cheapened by the use of machinery, and I think the workingman gets per day as much as he did before, when he worked by hand and worked the same number of hours.

Q.—Then he practically reaps no benefit from the introduction of machinery? A.—I do not know that he does. I am not prepared to speak definitely on that point. It might be questionable whether he does or not.

Q.—Do you think the introduction of machinery has made more work for the men? A.—It has diverted labor into different channels. There are not so many hands required in carriage shops now as formerly.

Q.—There are not so many employed? A.—No; not exactly in carriage shops, but they are employed somewhere else in making machinery to be used in producing carriages and other products.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do your men live comfortably and save money? A.—Yes; a man who is sober and steady can live comfortably.

Q.—Are your men married men? A.—Most of them are married—the majority of them.

Q.—What rent would a mechanic with a family of four or five, or say three, pay for a house in a respectable locality in this city? A.—The rent men pay is from \$5 to \$8 a month; I think \$5 is the lowest.

Q.—What is the average amount of wages in your shop? A.—One dollar and twenty-five cents a day. The rent the men pay is, of course, in proportion to the wages they get.

Q.—Do you think a man who has a family can pay as much money on \$1.25 a day? A.—He cannot pay much money.

Q.—Do you think the purchasing power of wages is as great to-day as it was five years ago in this locality? A.—I could not say.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Have you been here five years? A.—No; only a few months.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Was your business in existence before you came here? A.—Yes. We carried it on at Amherstburg for several years. I was there for six years, and my partners were there for nine years, and they were in business at Lambeth for several years before that time. They were burnt out there.

Q.—Then it is a purely Canadian industry? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does this average wage of \$1.25 a day include the boys employed? A.—It includes every one employed. The men, of course, average more.

Q.—What is the highest pay to a skilled mechanic who is not a foreman? A.—We have men to whom we paid \$1.75 a day, who take the place of foremen, but we ourselves are merely the foremen and, take charge of the establishment ourselves.

Q.—What is the lowest wages you pay to an unskilled man? A.—A dollar a day.

Q.—Boys still less? A.—Boys, of course, are less, according to what they may be doing.

Q.—Are there more waggons used than formerly? A.—I believe so.
 Q.—Do you think that considering the machinery actually employed in making carriages and the men employed in the manufacture of machinery used in the making of carriages, there are fewer or more men employed than there were before machinery was introduced into carriage manufacturing? A.—That is something I could hardly speak definitely on; I could not say.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—We had a witness before us the other day who says that Government should pass a law to prohibit the manufacture of any more machinery for twenty-five years. How would it have been if such a law had been passed twenty-five years ago? A.—It would have been a bad thing for the country, I think.

Q.—Where would have been our manufactories if there had been no machinery used except that which was in use twenty-five years ago? A.—It would have been very detrimental to our manufactures.

Q.—Would there have been any manufactures? A.—I do not know how the manufacturers could have worked; they could not have worked without machines.

Q.—What was the experience of the people at large in regard to carriage or other manufactured products; have they been increased in price? A.—The cost of carriages, years ago, when they were principally made by hand, was at least 20 per cent. more, and I think considerably more than that, than they are to-day of the same class.

Q.—What would a reaper cost; were there any reapers twenty-five years ago? A.—That is out of my line; I could not say how long they have been manufactured.

Q.—You think that other manufactures produced by machinery during the last twenty-five years have been reduced in cost from 25 to 50 per cent? A.—If there were no machinery everything would be increased in that proportion; carriages would be, and I think they could be made by hand as much as anything else.

Q.—You think manufactures are from 25 to 50 per cent. cheaper? A.—Yes; the production of manufactures by hand would certainly increase the cost that much.

Q.—So that if machinery were abandoned the country would be paying a tax of from 25 to 50 per cent. on the cost of these products? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Where there is so much machinery used in the carriage trade, do you not think the shortening of the hours would employ the surplus labor, or do you approve of the shortening of the hours of labor when machinery has so largely taken the place of manual labor? A.—No; I do not see there would be much advantage in it. I think ten hours are not too long. I have noticed that men with shorter hours invariably waste the balance of the time.

Q.—Is that your experience? A.—I have noticed that is my experience.

Q.—When a man works ten hours a day what time has he to devote to his family, to take them out for an airing and enjoyment, and to do the necessary jobs for himself? A.—The other two hours, I think, would hardly answer that purpose, a day in the week or half a day would be much better, if either was to be done.

Q.—Do your men get half a day a week when they ask for it? A.—They lose their own time.

Q.—You dock it out of their wages? A.—Yes; certainly.

Q.—Then the workingman goes out at his own expense? A.—Yes.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Are more carriages made now than there were ten or fifteen years ago? A.—I think there are a great many more.

Q.—The introduction of machinery has in some measure caused that increase? A.—Of course, the demand first of all caused the introduction of the machinery, but the work could not be done without the machinery.

Q.—Do you think that the increased number of carriages made at the present time is anything equal to the amount of labor that the machine takes from the men?

The proportion of waggons made now, you say, is more than before; would that proportion be equal to the amount of work the machinery takes from the men, if the waggons were made by hand? A.—I cannot understand the question. Do you mean that if machinery was not employed, in order to make the same number of carriages more men would be required than when made by machinery.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—The commissioner wants to know whether, supposing there were no improvements in machinery, more men would be employed to-day? A.—Yes; to make the same number of carriages.

Q.—Would the same number of carriages be made if no machinery had been introduced? A.—I do not know.

Q.—The men are paid the same wages at the present time as they were paid before? A.—About the same.

Q.—They get the same work as they did before? A.—They are employed as regularly.

Q.—Does an employer get more for his part of the labor now than he would if men were employed in place of using machinery. Does he receive more profits by using machinery now than before there was any used? A.—Do you refer to the manufacture of carriages? Our business is only connected with the woodwork, and that in a crude state, which we sell to dealers, and it goes into the manufacture of the carriages.

Q.—From what you have to do with the woodwork do you think employers make any more, say out of the woodwork, than they would if all the work was done by hand? A.—They do not make any more per cent. out of the article, but there is much more manufactured in each establishment, and consequently the aggregate product might be better than in establishments of the same kind working by hand. In our particular line it is somewhat problematical, because the work is never done by hand; and when you come to consider the question of the manufacture of carriages in carriage shops that is out of my line, and I cannot speak definitely in regard to it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—The profits on each body come in more frequently with the aid of machinery? A.—We do not make bodies.

Q.—Do not the profits come in more frequently when the different parts are made by machinery? A.—They would certainly do so.

Q.—Then the manufacturer is better off to-day, on the whole, than he was before machinery came into use? A.—His profits, of course, are finer on individual things, yet putting the whole together he is probably as well off. Certainly, it is somewhat problematical, because I am not sufficiently conversant with the carriage trade, that is as regards finished carriages.

JOHN HEARD, Carriage Woodwork Manufacturer, St. Thomas, called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Have you anything to add to what has been stated by the last witness; do you agree with what has been said by your partner? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—At the risk of a little repetition I would like to ask your opinion respecting Canadian wood, hickory especially, for carriage wood as compared with that imported from the United States? A.—I think it is equally as good. I have seen considerable from the other side and our Canadian wood is as good, and I have had to do with it for twenty years.

Q.—Do you find any difficulty in selling your woodwork? A.—Sometimes there is a drug in the market, but it is not on account of the wood.

Q.—You do not think you are placed at any disadvantage in that respect as compared with the manufacturers who use wood from the other side? A.—Sometimes it might be a little more expensive in getting it here; I do not know about it.

Q.—Is it the material here that is more expensive than that brought from the other side? A.—The material here.

Q.—Do carriage builders ever ask you where your wood comes from? A.—We do not deal with carriage makers generally; it is the hardware men we deal with.

Q.—Do they know when they pick up a hub or a spoke whether it is Canadian wood or wood from the other side? A.—I do not think they could tell; I could not tell.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—As hickory grows and increases in size does it become tougher or does it deteriorate? A.—It deteriorates somewhat after it gets a certain size.

Q.—You prefer the small timber? A.—The small, young timber.

Q.—Is there much of that in this country now? A.—We get all we need at present.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you get all the oak you need of first class quality? A.—It is getting very scarce now; we have to pay a higher price for it.

Q.—Is it the same whether you import it or use Canadian oak? A.—It is Canadian oak we are using.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—How far have you to go for it? A.—About sixty miles; from that distance to 100 miles.

Q.—There is plenty of that around here? A.—Yes.

Q.—A first-class quality? A.—Yes; I should judge so; but we use soft elm.

Q.—That is very tough? A.—Yes; it is very tough.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Do your men work when they are working as if they took a pride in what they were doing, or do they work just to put in the day? A.—I have no fault to find with the men; they generally work pretty faithfully.

Q.—They generally work as if they took a pride in it? A.—I think they are satisfied with the work.

Q.—Do you think that education would assist in inculcating a love of the trade? A.—I do not know.

Q.—You never thought of it? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Did not men work as well before there were public schools as they do to day, and did they not do as much? A.—I think they worked pretty nearly as well; yes; I think they are getting a little careless now.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Did you ever notice whether the men work more energetically, say in the first hour in the morning, between seven and eight o'clock, or the hour between five and six in the evening? A.—I have never seen any difference in that respect.

Q.—They work just as well during the last hour of the day as during the first? A.—Sometimes I think they work better, especially if it is a little cold in the morning.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—It is not hard work? A.—It is not.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—The men are not bodily fatigued when they quit work? A.—No.

Q.—Do you think ten hours is too long for them to work? A.—I do not think it is.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you not think the men should have a little time to improve their mental faculties? A.—Probably it would be better for them; I do not know whether it would benefit some of them; I do not think it would. If they have any time, I do not think they improve themselves much.

Q.—Do you not think that after working ten hours a man is more liable to take a glass of beer than if he were working nine hours, and had a little elasticity left in his legs? A.—I do not know.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Do you not think the glass of beer would give him elasticity in his legs? A.—I do not know.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Have you been a long time at the business? A.—Twenty years in the manufacturing business.

Q.—Are the men at the present time equal in all respects to the men you knew twenty years ago; are the workmen improving? A.—We have some very good hands and some who do not do very well.

Q.—Do you think that if the boys were indentured, in the event of their showing an aptitude for the trade, it would be in the interest of the boys and of the employers? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think the system is a good one or bad one? A.—I think if it was carried out it would be a good one.

Q.—Perhaps in our days, when education is advancing and all methods of labor are being improved, boys need not serve so long at their trade; but would it not give them a better standing before the community or where they were known, if they served an apprenticeship and afterwards obtained a certificate from their employer; would not that be an improvement to the trade? A.—I think it would be. I think the way it is now boys only get half the knowledge of the trade; they never get it fully, for they do not put in full time.

Q.—Then you really think that if the boys were regularly indentured—I do not mean every boy, but those who, after a time, show an aptitude for the trade—it would be better? A.—I think it would be better for them.

Q.—Is a man, after ten hours' work now, when he has machinery to help him in doing the heavy work of a trade, as tired as he was working the same number of hours twenty years ago? A.—The work is easier on the men.

* * * Conductor on Grand Trunk Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You are employed as a railway conductor? A.—Yes.

Q.—What hours are conductors required to work? A.—The system we work on in train is first in and first out. That applies to any railway in Canada—I can speak for both roads represented by our association—that through trip conductors work first in and first out. They have to stand out on duty until they have finished that trip.

Q.—How long do the trips last? A.—They are liable to last any where from six to twelve hours as a usual trip. In case of delay or accident it would be longer.

Q.—What would be considered an average trip? A.—An average trip, taking the two roads into consideration, would be about ten hours.

Q.—After one of those trips, how long on an average would you lie off before being called on again? A.—The company will give you the right to book for eight hours' rest. That is the average on our road. On the Grand Trunk we have a right to book for twelve hours; but if you do so they think you are overdoing it. On the Michigan Central eight hours is the average rest allowed.

Q.—Do you mean to say that your average employment would be ten hours on and eight hours off duty? A.—It would be very hard to get an average in that way for on the Grand Trunk, especially since the amalgamation, we are running in such a shape that it is sometimes necessary to keep on running, and then we have a long rest. It depends on the state of the freight traffic. If there is plenty of freight we run hard; if the freight is slack we lie in here perhaps three days. So it would be hard to say that we are on duty ten hours and off duty eight hours, because sometimes we have ten or twenty hours' work on the round trip and then have three days' rest. We have to do that, not that we want to do it, owing to the state of the freight traffic.

Q.—What wages are paid to freight conductors? A.—On the Grand Trunk they have a classification of pay. When a man first starts running as a conductor he receives \$1.75 per day, that is for the first year; the second, third and fourth year he receives \$1.90 a day, and after that \$2.15, which is continued so long as he runs a freight train.

Q.—When he is promoted to be a passenger conductor, what will he receive? A.—When he is promoted to be a passenger conductor he gets into a shape that it would be pretty hard for me to tell you what he gets. Since the amalgamation the company have never made any standard rate of pay, and those conductors are liable to get anywhere from a brakeman's pay to what would be considered a decent pay for a passenger conductor. They are liable to go from a freight, where they would make by hard running \$80, \$85, or \$90 per month to a run on which they would not make more than \$55. Such is the state of affairs on the Grand Trunk. But speaking for the loop line division here, I may say that when a man goes on a mixed run, which is the next step in promotion, he receives \$2.15 per day, and if it is purely passenger and no freight, that is not a mixed train, he gets \$2.30 a day. After that a passenger conductor gets \$2.50 a day, which is the highest rate paid on the Great Western division between Buffalo and Windsor.

Q.—Has a freight conductor the responsibility of picking up cars at way stations? A.—Yes.

Q.—If he makes a mistake what is the penalty? A.—That altogether rests in the hands of the superintendent. He may lay you off for a month; he may fine you, or inflict what other penalty he sees fit.

Q.—If it is a serious offence he discharges you? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are conductors ever employed such long hours that they lack proper rest and are too fatigued to attend to their duties properly? A.—Very often.

Q.—Do mistakes happen in consequence of that? A.—I cannot say that I could prove it from the record, but I believe accidents could be traced to that cause. I would like, in connection with this matter, to make this statement: Owing to the low rate of pay here, and owing to the fact that if we get the right kind of trips and work sufficiently long, we may make a very fair rate of wages—there has been \$100 per month, losing rest—a man has to make 45 or 50 days in order to get \$100 per month, and to do this he has to run in and out. He may in that time not have time to get sufficient sleep, or barely so, and I do not think it is right that a conductor should run that time, but it has been done, and so far as I know no accidents has been traced to conductors having run so many hours and lost sleep. But he has made that big pay by running without taking what a man who is not accustomed to that kind of life would consider a proper amount of sleep.

Q.—Do conductors ever snatch a little sleep on the train? A.—That is rather a leading question. Yes; they do.

Q.—That is when they are overworked? A.—There are cases of it. You see that a train is sometimes put on a side track where everything is safe, and you may lie there one, two, or three hours, waiting for another train to pass. In that time a conductor may snatch a little sleep, which will refresh him.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Without incurring danger? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—If a conductor is discharged for any oversight or neglect, is it easy for him to obtain employment with other companies? A.—A good deal depends on the state of feeling of your superintendent. If the superintendent himself considers that you have been a little hardly dealt with, and will furnish you with a recommendation, it may not be hard. But at present we have no way of going to another road and claiming a similar position to that we left.

Q.—What is the ordinary crew of a freight train? A.—Two brakemen and one conductor.

Q.—And on the locomotive? A.—Driver and fireman.

Q.—How many loaded cars are hauled, as a rule, over the air line? A.—Twenty-eight loaded cars is our load; that is according to the schedules.

Q.—Within what distance can you bring up a train? A.—That will depend entirely upon where you are.

Q.—Say on the level? A.—A good brakeman will stop a train in five train lengths—about half a mile.

Q.—When you are running and everything is straight the conductor and brakeman are in the caboose? A.—One is on the engine and one is in the caboose with the conductor.

Q.—And if danger is seen at an unexpected place can they jump promptly to their work? A.—They are supposed to do.

Q.—The brakeman in the caboose has to run out and climb up to the roof before he can settle the brake? A.—Yes.

Q.—And run from car to car along the roof? A.—Yes.

Q.—How does the engineer signal the conductor when he wants to signal him to put brakes on? A.—By shutting off steam and by whistling. Sometimes shutting off steam will not attract your attention.

Q.—Are there any bell cords on freight trains? A.—Yes; on the Grand Trunk all the cars have bell cords.

Q.—That is to enable the conductor to signal the engineer? A.—Yes.

Q.—That is an improvement on the old plan? A.—I do not consider it so.

Q.—Is it not necessary? A.—The bell cord is a thing which is unworkable.

Q.—Why? A.—It is impossible, as you will plainly see, with the deck of one freight car lower than another, with the running boards at different elevations, to get a bell cord to work round so many corners. It will not ring the gong with that length of pull. It is so liable to stick that it cannot be depended on. It is the last thing I would resort to if I were trying to stop my driver.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—How long does the Grand Trunk make those bell cords last? Does the company have a specified time which a bell cord has to last? A.—Not to my knowledge. I have never had any difficulty in getting my supply renewed.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Suppose there was no bell cord, how would you signal the engineer? A.—I would send my brakeman on the top and set brakes in the rear. On the old Great Western system, where I believe we carried no bell cords, our system of stopping in an emergency was to set the brake until we attracted the driver's attention. He would feel the increased weight the engine was pulling, and he would look round to see what was the matter, and while the brakeman was up setting brakes the conductor would be giving the signal to his driver.

Q.—Do those bell cords have any other ill effect than that of being unworkable? A.—I would like to leave that question to the brakemen. I think I have heard them say that they have caused loss of life.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Is there any such thing as black-listing on the railways? A.—I believe there is.

Q.—Have you heard of men being black-listed from one road to another? A.—Yes, I have heard of it.

Q.—Are the men fined frequently for offences? A.—Quite frequently.

Q.—Are those fines imposed for trivial offences? A.—Yes; very trivial in a great many cases.

Q.—Do the men lose much of their pay through that system of fining? A.—It altogether depends on the class of man he is, and on the luck he has.

Q.—It depends a good deal on the luck? A.—Yes; on what we term luck.

Q.—Have you known of cases where wages have been affected to any extent by fines? A.—Yes; I can name my own case.

Q.—What proportion of a month's pay would a man lose by fines before he was suspended? A.—There is no rule governing it on any road I know of. It is altogether at the option of the superintendent.

Q.—Is there any law in this country governing running boards on cars? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—Do they vary much? A.—Yes.

Q.—How wide would you consider the running board ought to be for safety? A.—At least 3 feet.

Q.—What is the usual width of them? A.—There is no usual width; they run any where from 4 to 6 inches and up to 3 feet.

Q.—Are accidents frequently caused through those running boards? A.—They are.

Q.—Is there any protection for brakemen on the roof of a car? A.—None whatever.

Q.—Have brakemen ever asked for any protection? A.—I believe they have taken steps to do so.

Q.—Do the running boards project at the ends of the cars? A.—Only in some cases.

Q.—I suppose all roads are not alike in that respect? A.—No. I would like to say that the new cars on all the roads are having extending running boards.

Q.—Are the running boards on the new cars wider than on the old ones? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are they of uniform width? A.—Pretty nearly so; they are a very good width.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What width? A.—They run about an average of 3 feet.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Is it the purpose of the railways in Ontario to adopt that wide running board? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—Have they taken steps to do it? A.—I have not heard anything of it if they have. I do not think that they have taken any steps to make a uniform standing.

Q.—You say that loss of life has frequently taken place from the narrow width of the running boards? A.—Yes; I think so. It is one of the principal dangers we have—the narrow running board and the absence of protection on the top of these cars.

Q.—Do brakemen more frequently get injured by falling between the cars or off the sides? A.—I can hardly tell; they both happen too frequently.

Q.—In case of accidents of that kind, and the brakeman losing his life, or being injured from falling between the cars or off the cars, has the brakeman any claim against the company? A.—In regard to the Grand Trunk, if the Employers' Liability Bill had gone into effect as regards that company, they would have a claim, I believe. But the Ontario Legislature saw fit to exempt the Grand Trunk, owing to the fact of their having already an insurance and provident society in existence, which they claimed were sufficient to meet all cases of disability or death of the men in the employ of the company, although the men themselves pay the fees which support the society.

Q.—Does this law apply to the Michigan Central in Canada? A.—I could hardly say. I have a copy of the Bill here.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Is there much loss of life caused by the uneven height of the cars? A.—It is a source of danger. I cannot say whether there is much loss of life entirely due to that one feature, but certainly it increases the danger, of having to leap from one height to another on the slippery deck of a car.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you think the men are sufficiently protected by their benefit society? A.—So far as I am able to judge, decidedly not.

Q.—I suppose it is a voluntary act on their part whether they connect themselves with the society or not? A.—No; it is compulsory.

Q.—Do they pay assessments, or are they charged so much per month? A.—So much is kept out of their pay each month.

Q.—There is no option in the matter? A.—There is this option——

Q.—Explain it. A.—The option is this: At the time of the amalgamation of the Great Western and Grand Trunk Railways it was optional with the employés whether they would connect themselves with the society or not; but those who have entered the service of the company since that date, or any one who has connected himself with that society, cannot leave it but is compelled to stick to it.

By the CHAIRMAN:—I observe by the Act that the clause applies to every company that will do what the Grand Trunk has done in regard to a provident or insurance society. (Clause read):—

“It is hereby enacted that where any railway company or employer has, in accordance with the provisions of any Act of the Parliament of Canada or otherwise, established an insurance and provident society or association, of which at least two-thirds of the employés of said company or employer shall have become members, and which society or association shall provide for its members aid in case of sickness, accident or death, to at least the extent and amount provided and secured in that respect by the Insurance and Provident Society or Association now established by the Grand Trunk Railway Company of Canada, in accordance with the provisions of certain Acts of the Parliaments of Canada, then and in every such case this Act shall not, until after 1st April, 1888, apply to any such railway company or employer.”

WITNESS:—The fact is the Grand Trunk is the only company which had at that time such a society, and it has been in existence for many years. A select committee of the Local Legislature considered the question last session, and debated whether the Grand Trunk should be permanently exempted or not. Since then each of the members has had sent him a series of questions by the committee, asking whether he would approve of the exemption or not.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Have you received with that circular any notice from the Grand Trunk, or do you know of any having been received? A.—There are notices publicly posted wherever employés are likely to receive those questions from the Local Legislature. They contain a statement of Mr. Hickson's opinion, that in case the employés decided to answer those questions against the views of the Grand Trunk (that is the substance of the matter, but I can no doubt find a copy of the circular for the information of the Commission) he believes, so far as he knows, that the directors will consider it to be against their interest to continue the provident society, thus making a direct threat to the employés that if they signed those questions asked by the Government in a manner opposed to the Grand Trunk the men must abide by their actions and the providence society may be discontinued. In that case the men who belonged to the society for a large number of years will have paid in their money for nothing, that is to the insurance fund at least, because when they paid in they looked for some benefit, and if the Society were dropped their money would go to nothing.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are the men compelled to sign any papers absolving the company from all responsibility in case of accident? A.—They are.

Q.—The men who are in the employment of the company sign such a contract? A.—They did.

Q.—That was one of the conditions of service? A.—I could not say as to that. When the amalgamation took place there was a little contract provided which each man had to sign. There was a great deal of feeling among employes at the time. We took the opinion of men who were supposed to know, and we signed it under protest.

Q.—Will the Grand Trunk employ men who will not sign the contract?

The CHAIRMAN :—The law has provided for that. There must be some other consideration apart from the engagement. The Act says (clause read) : “No contract or agreement made or entered into by a workman shall be a bar or constitute any defence to an action for the recovery under this Act of compensation for any injury, (1) Unless for such workmen entering into or making such contract or agreement there was other consideration than that of his being taken into or continued in the employment of the defendant; nor (2) unless such other consideration was, in the opinion of the court or judge before whom such action was tried, ample and adequate; nor (3) unless in the opinion of said court or judge such contract or agreement, in view of such other consideration, was not on the part of the workmen improvident, but was just and reasonable.” Under the law as it stands now a man may sign that engagement and it amounts to nothing.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—For what amount does the Grand Trunk insure conductors' lives? A.—The scheme of insurance is arranged in six classes, known as A, B, C, D, E, F. The highest amount an employe is supposed to insure for is \$2,000; class B, \$1,500; class C, \$1,000; class D, \$750; class E, \$500; class F, \$250.

Q.—Is it optional with you what class you insure in? A.—It is.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are there many covered bridges on the road? A.—Overhead bridges, you mean?—yes.

Q.—Is there a law in existence governing their height? A.—Not that I am aware of.

Q.—Have you heard of any accident within the last year from men being struck by the bridges? A.—No; I cannot say that I have.

Q.—Are any offences ever overlooked by the Grand Trunk? A.—No; I do not think they are.

Q.—Do the men prefer that the portion of the Employers' Liability Act should be applied to the Grand Trunk Company, or that they should be exempted on account of the provident society? A.—They would prefer to take the Act pure and simple.

Q.—When these notices were sent round by the Government, were they sent to the private addresses of the men, or to their postoffices or shops? A.—Speaking of myself, my letters have always been addressed to me, care of Grand Trunk. In coming through Stratford, last Sunday evening, I saw a pile of them in the company's telegraph office.

Q.—What were the directions on them? Conductor So-and-So, Grand Trunk Railway, Stratford.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you know if under the terms of this benefit society of the Grand Trunk Railway a man would get an allowance, even if the accident were his own fault? A.—Yes; in any case of injury.

Q.—Whether it was his own fault or not? A.—Yes; in all cases, except diseases from immoral causes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you know any men who will refrain from signing those Government questions, through fear of the Company? A.—Yes; I believe, I do.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What is the limit of age, at which a man can become a member of the provident association? A.—It is limited to forty years, I think.

Q.—They must be sound of limb? A.—Yes; they must pass medical examination.

Q.—You cannot work for the company unless you belong to this provident association? A.—No. I would like to qualify that remark, by saying that you are not considered on the permanent staff unless you are a member of it. Men have been employed although they were not members of the provident society, but they are on what is called the temporary staff; they are not permanent members of the staff, and cannot call themselves on the line of promotion.

Q.—Are they as competent as the men otherwise engaged in similar work? A.—To the best of my knowledge they are. The only case that has come to my knowledge is that of a porter; he is a perfectly reliable man.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You consider there is a difference between temporary and permanent employes? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Does this temporary hand get as much wages? A.—Yes; as other men do in the same class of work.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You said that the company had a black-list? A.—That is not the way the question was put. I said I had heard of such a thing as the black-list.

Q.—Have you heard that they publish a black-list every month? A.—If you term it so.

Q.—Have you seen it? A.—The company publish month by month a list of punishments. It is put out in this shape: it is a double sheet; on the front sheet there is a list of renewables and appointments, with a few instructions to agents and servants of the company; on the other sheet there is a list of offences and punishments attached. They term it the punishment sheet.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What do they charge for the provident society? A.—It is 50 cents per month in the provident society. It is distinct from the insurance society. The insurance levy is according to the class you are in and the amount for which you are insured. The amounts to be paid for the provident society are: 40 cents per month for the ordinary class; for the hazardous, which includes conductors, firemen, brakeman and so on, the fee is 50 cents per month.

Q.—What percentage do they charge for the insurance? Q.—The \$250 class pay 5 cents a call.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Have you compared the charges with those of other insurance companies? A.—No; I cannot say that I have.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Supposing you were to go to work for the Grand Trunk in the middle of the month, as, for example, in the middle of this month, when would you get your pay? A.—In the middle of next month. The date of pay ranges over the system from the 10th to the 18th.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—When a death occurs, say in the \$250 class, how many men will be assessed? A.—Everyone.

Q.—Every man on the road? A.—Every man in the insurance society. Suppose a death occurs in class F, \$250, each man on the fund will pay 5 cents.

Q.—How many men would be paying that 5 cents? A.—The whole number. That is the lowest fee they can pay.

Q.—Suppose a death occurs in class A, what would those insured in class F pay? A.—Five cents.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Sometimes, I suppose, there is a surplus? A.—I am not sure of that; I believe there is.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you know what becomes of the money derived from fines? A.—I have not the slightest idea.

Q.—Are the conductors formed into a brotherhood of their own? A.—Yes.

Q.—And it has a life insurance plan? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are the fees paid up promptly? A.—They have to be.

Q.—They prefer that system to any other? A.—It speaks for itself. I joined it, notwithstanding that I am compelled to join the other. We thus have our own insurance, and we believe it to be the best plan.

Q.—Do they consider it one of the best systems of life insurance? A.—We are proud of it, and we think it the best.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What is the largest fine you know of as having been imposed on any employé of the company—that is, a money fine? A.—I know of one at \$60.

Q.—What was the salary of that man? A.—He was an engine-driver.

Q.—Are any double-headed trains run on this road? A.—Occasionally.

Q.—Not as a rule? A.—No; they have not been latterly.

Q.—What offence had this man committed, to be fined \$60? A.—I forget; it was something connected with a breakage on his engine.

Q.—What class of offences are generally punished by fine? A.—There is no class. The question of punishment on the Grand Trunk is entirely at the option of the superintendent. I would like to explain how they deal with serious offences. In case of a simple offence, such a little thing as carrying a car without a bill, which would detain a car until the bill caught up with it; that would be heard by the assistant superintendent. He would decide the question of fining the offender a day's pay, or whether he would let the offence pass with a caution. If anything occurs of a more serious nature it goes to the general superintendent of your division. He hears the case and decides the punishment; the amount is at his own option. If the case is of considerable importance, if there has been a wreck, or anything of that kind, it first comes before the divisional superintendent, who takes all the evidence in the case, and it is forwarded by him to a board of investigation, which sits in Montreal, and is composed of the heads of the department, and this board meets once a month. They adjudicate upon the case and decide what punishment is necessary to bring you into line again.

Q.—What kind of couplings are used for freight cars? A.—We get every kind; I do not know of any class of couplings we do not have to handle. In Canada we are fed by all the American roads, and of late years, since there has been a movement to get better couplings, one road will take up some improvement and another road will try another new coupling.

Q.—Are men frequently injured in the act of coupling cars? A.—Yes.

Q.—Could those accidents be avoided by any couplings now in use? A.—Yes; I believe to a great extent they could be.

Q.—Can cars be coupled safely and quickly by men who stand entirely outside the cars and not between them? A.—I have read about that being done, but I have never seen the test made, and I would hardly like to say.

Q.—What is the best coupling, to your knowledge, in use? A.—I would hardly like to give an opinion, for I have never seen a sufficient number of trials of them.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—There are many different varieties? A.—Yes. The master car-builders, in convention, could not decide which was the best coupling, and it would be rather presumptuous for me to give an opinion.

Q.—You consider some more unsafe than others? A.—Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Do you consider them all unsafe? A.—I do. I also consider that they can hardly be made safe, so long as coupling is done.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Are there many bridges on the line under which a man cannot pass standing on the top of a car? A.—There are none on our railway at present; they have all been raised.

Q.—You are speaking of the loop line of the Grand Trunk? A.—Yes.

Q.—So there is no practical objection with respect to the bridges on this line? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Formerly you had to dodge them? A.—Yes; you had to bow to them when you met them.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Are accidents frequent by men getting their feet in frogs, or any part of the switches on the line, and being run down by locomotives? A.—Yes; they are frequent; but not so much so on our own line. I must say that of late years they have been a little more careful. The Act here provides for it.

Q.—Has any change been made in the frogs since that Act was passed? A.—Speaking for the Grand Trunk, they have been more careful than most roads in filling their frogs.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are you acquainted with the couplings used on the D. L. & W.? What is your opinion in regard to them? A.—I think they are brutal.

Q.—Do you think that those cars should be prevented from passing through the Dominion? A.—Yes; I would like to have them stopped. The matter of which we complained is not so much the couplings as the deadwoods, the buffers. The deadwood is about 2 feet. The actual drawhead, where the link is entered and the pin holds it, is about 6 or 8 inches.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Why do they couple them that way? A.—I cannot tell.

Q.—Is there anything gained by it? A.—I think they claim that in case of accident the two deadwoods coming together solidly save the body of the car.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—They do not care anything about the body of the man? A.—Not a particle.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are the couplings on passenger cars safe? A.—Yes; I think they are perfectly safe.

Q.—Is it not possible to apply the same principle to a freight car? A.—I should judge so, but it would be a very great expense.

Q.—Could you not have a lever at the top of the car and couple them from the top? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there deadwoods at the sides of the car? A.—Occasionally you meet one, but it is very rarely.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How is the coupling on the Lehigh Valley and West Shore cars? A.—It is just as bad as the D. L. & W.; the West Shore is not so bad.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—It is not necessary for a man to go between the passenger cars to couple them? A.—No; not with the Miller coupling.

Q.—If that same system was adopted for freight cars would it not do away with all danger? A.—Yes; entirely.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How is it on the other roads—Buffalo, New York and Pennsylvania? A.—They are the same; that is all the eastern roads. On some of the cars they have no deadwoods. Any road that has cars with deadwoods does an injury to the men who couple them, as they are in danger of their lives. When cars having that amount of deadwood come together you have to enter the links into the drawheads and withdraw your hand and arm sufficiently quickly to prevent being caught when they come together again.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Has there been any legislation in New York State on the question? A.—A railway commission has been appointed, but whether anything has been done I don't know.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Is the garnisheeing of wages frequent on this line? A.—It is quite frequent.

Q.—Is there any penalty attaching to men whose wages are garnisheed? A.—They are liable to dismissal at the option of the superintendent.

Q.—If they are not dismissed, is any other punishment imposed? A.—It is at the option of the superintendent whether he dismisses such a man or what penalty he will inflict.

Q.—How many members are there in this insurance society of the company? A.—I cannot give you the actual figures, but the society issues a list each month of those in the different classes, and the total number will run up somewhere in the neighborhood of eleven thousand.

Q.—That is in the whole of the classes? A.—I am not sure as to the number.

Q.—Each man in each class pays 5 cents at every death? A.—If a death occurs in class A all the members in that class pay 50 cents; in class B, 25 cents, and so on down to 5 cents.

Q.—Do the payments by the month equal the payments made on account of death? A.—No.

Q.—Is there a surplus? A.—No; there is a deficit. In class A, although in that class a payment of \$2,000 is supposed to be paid, the amount paid has never averaged more than, say \$1,100, because there are not enough members insured in that high class to meet the call. This is an argument to show that the men were not in favor of insurance, when there are 5,000 in class F and only a few hundred in class A.

Q.—So, as a matter of fact, so far as this insurance is concerned, it relieves the company from responsibility and compels the men to insure themselves against accident? A.—Yes; it does.

Q.—And the accidents may be caused by the company's neglect or by the men's own carelessness? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does the company pay anything whatever towards this insurance? A.—They pay \$10,000 a year.

Q.—Would that \$10,000 a year equal the claims probable on account of accidents? A.—I do not think so. I am not in a position to say how much their liability for accidents is, but I would certainly say that a few cases of neglect on their part would cost more than \$10,000 to the company.

Q.—If fines are imposed by an inferior authority, or by a division superintendent, can they be remitted on application to the general superintendent or general manager? A.—I presume they could be, but I have never heard of anything of the sort. As to the insurance matter and the payment by the company of \$10,000 a year, let me say this: You ask whether that sum would cover the liabilities of the company for damages; that, in case the company had not this provident society, which provides and pays doctors at certain points, the company would, in case of an accident, have had to pay doctor's full fees, whereas the provident society now pays them a stated salary, and the company gets the benefit of this. Probably over a very large system, such as the Grand Trunk is, with the number of accidents occurring, both to their own employés and the travelling public, if the company had to pay doctor's full fees more than \$10,000 would be required to provide medical attendance for injured persons.

Q.—The provident society just covers injuries? A.—It provides for the attendance of a doctor and a payment of \$3 a week in case of sickness or injury. It does not matter what the sickness is caused by, provided it is not from your own misconduct.

Q.—If a man is injured from causes over which he has no control, does the company continue to pay his wages while he is laid up? A.—No.

Q.—All he gets is the indemnity from the provident society? A.—For twenty-six weeks.

Q.—And that he pays for himself? A.—And that he pays for himself.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Does the company never help an employé under such circumstances? A.—I never heard of their doing so, and I have been sixteen years in the employ of the company.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you ever heard of a man being paid off with \$100 in order to get him off the provident society? It seems to be a little scheme on the part of the provident society, which they are sometimes able to take advantage of. Have you ever heard of it? A.—In the provident society there is a provision in the rules that, after a man has been twenty-six weeks on the fund, the medical man shall examine him and state whether he is incurable or not. After that he can continue another twenty-six weeks, which gives him one year on the fund. Then another examination is held, and if he is pronounced incurable he is given \$100 and dropped off the fund. If a man thinks he is going to remain incurable, but still holds life in his body for some time, \$100 may be better to him than the chance of not being able to pay the assessments on the insurance, and if he thinks he would prefer to take \$100 down and drop the insurance he has a right to do so.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Will you tell us in your own way how the officers of the provident society are elected, how the constitution is drawn up, and by whom? A.—I will try to do so. As near as I can recollect—I forget the actual number of the committee, but one-half of the number consist of officials of the company elected by the company. For example, Mr. Hickson, General Manager of the Grand Trunk, will be president of the provident and insurance society, and the company itself has the right to elect (it claimed this right owing to their having been generous enough to give \$10,000 a year to support the society) half of the committee. At each election of officers the employés who are members of the society have a right to elect the other half. Proxy votes are given to slips are used on which the names of seven or eight men who are thought suitable to serve on the committee are placed there, and you have the right to mark your ballot on that paper or add any name you see fit. In that way the next thing we hear is an announcement that certain men have been elected by the votes of the employés as committee-men. Of course the members of the Commission can see for

themselves in a moment how impossible it is for the men to elect anyone they desire, as the line covers many thousand miles of territory, and if we should agree at one point to unite on a man, believing that he will do everything we wanted, to have wrongs redressed and do his best to act as a representative of the men, it is still impossible to elect him. It is impossible to get our choice in any case. So year after year the same men hold office, and they act right in the company's interest, according to the best of my knowledge.

Q.—Have the proxies been tampered with? A.—Not to my knowledge; I could not say.

Q.—Have you ever heard of their being tampered with.

The CHAIRMAN :—This is a very serious charge.

WITNESS :—I have heard complaints of that kind from the men.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Does this provident association cover all the company's line either in Canada or out of it? A.—Only in Canada, I believe. I believe the lines in Michigan and Maine are worked only under the company's control, and the provident society does not extend to them.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—If a man is discharged from the company's service or leaves the service of the company, can he still remain a member? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—In regard to the P. & L. and D. L. & W. cars passing through Canada, how far would the men have to jump in passing from one car to another when the cars are running? A.—At least 4 feet—4 feet on an average; I have seen them longer and I have seen them shorter.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are the running boards sometimes covered with ice and snow in winter? A.—Quite frequently.

Q.—And if a train is running at a pretty good speed, and there is a wind blowing and the boards are pretty slippery, does not a man run considerable danger of being blown off? A.—Yes, especially when the train goes round a curve. Remembering what it is like on an icy sidewalk, you can judge what it is like on the top of a slippery freight car, even if there were not narrow running boards.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—To go back to the question of the frogs. What danger is there in the frogs not being blocked? A.—The danger to a man is that he may get one of his feet stuck in them.

Q.—Can you tell us about these frogs? A.—When a man is working at switching cars he has not time to watch very closely where he is going and his feet are very apt to stick fast in the frogs, because it is narrow, so that a man's foot is liable to go under the rail, it being hollow, with a key on top. That is the way a great many men have lost their lives.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Then if a locomotive is not ready to stop in time the man is run down? A.—Yes; unless he twist his body so as to lose his leg only.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Can you suggest anything that will improve the condition of railway employes running freight trains and make their employment safer and better? A.—Yes; I would suggest the railing on the top of the cars for the brakemen, so that in case of ice they might have it for purposes of protection. An extension of the width of the running board would also be an improvement, and deadwoods on cars should be abolished. The railing on the top would, of course, be for the brakemen to cling to if necessary.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Would there be any objections to the railing, except on the ground of expense? A.—Not that I know of. I believe there might possibly be this objection, that in some cases a railing on the top of the cars would prevent ingress to some grain warehouse and elevators, and possibly the railing might scrape the bottom of some overhead structure.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Could not the railing be made so as to be taken off in such cases? A.—I would prefer to see it fixed.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Could it not be sufficiently low that while it would prevent men falling off it still would not be in the way? A.—I think it could be.

Q.—Could there be any objection to the extended running boards coming closer together than 4 feet? A.—I cannot see any objection, except that of additional expense. That can be the only objection; but I may say that on the new cars they are adopting extended running boards in every case.

Q.—Lengthways as well as in width? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Is there anything you would like to say to the Commission that has not been covered by the questions asked? A.—I would like to state that the organization I have the honor of representing here this afternoon has one proposal it would like to see become the law in Canada, and that is the licensing of conductors.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—That is, that conductors should pass an examination and afterwards receive papers? A.—Yes. I will hand to the Commission a copy of a Bill which has been drawn up by our organization, and when it has been altered sufficiently to meet the requirements in Canada it will be presented to the Legislature. The object of that Bill is to secure the licensing of conductors. (Witness handed in draft of proposed Bill).

* * * , Conductor on the Canadian Division of the Michigan Central Railway; called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You have heard the testimony given by the preceding witness? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you approve of it thoroughly? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you add anything for the information of the Commission? A.—Of course, as far as the provident association is concerned, I know nothing of it. It has not any effect with us on the Michigan Central road.

Q.—If a man in the employ of the Michigan Central meets with an accident, does he receive any indemnity? A.—Not from the railway company, that I am aware of.

Q.—What do they do. Have they to grin and bear it? A.—Yes; if they have no insurance on their lives.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Would not the Employers Liability Act apply to them if they were in Canada? A.—Yes; if it was fixed in such a shape that they could get anything.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Are the men at a disadvantage in suing the company for indemnity? A.—It seems so.

Q.—Do you know of any who have suffered from accident for causes over which they had no control? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know cases in which they did not get any indemnity from the com-

pany? A.—I do not know any cases in which they did get any indemnity. I have never heard of a man receiving indemnity from the company.

Q.—Do you know anything about the Odbert case? A.—I know the circumstances of the case.

Q.—What were they? A.—There was a collision. You want to know, I suppose, how it was settled. I do not know anything in regard to the matter. It has been covered up.

Q.—How did the accident occur? A.—It occurred through the operator at Springfield failing to display the green signal. The east bound train which should have been held there was not held, but proceeded and met the west bound train $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles further on. Both trains were running at about 25 miles an hour; they struck, and the brakemen on the trains endeavored to get on the top, and were killed. They had a brakeman on each train.

Q.—Was any indemnity paid the relatives of these men? A.—I have heard that Mrs. Odbert received \$1,000 from the Michigan Central.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Did the accident occur in the United States? A.—No; in Canada, at Springfield, 13 miles east of St. Thomas.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you mean that the widow received \$1,000 to settle the matter? A.—I have heard that she settled with the company for \$1,000.

Q.—Do you approve of the licensing of conductors? A.—I have not given the matter much attention, but it seems to be the feeling of the conductors generally.

Q.—What do you think would be the results gained by so doing? Would the men be thereby placed in a better position? A.—The men who understand their business thoroughly would get employment in preference to those who do not understand their business. It would have a tendency to employ good, sober, steady men, I think, as their licenses would be liable to be taken away from them if they were not that kind of men.

Q.—Do you know of cases in which an improper length of time has occurred before they were investigated? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has this occurred to any great extent? A.—Yes; it is a frequent occurrence.

Q.—Is it to an unreasonable extent? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do the men complain about the delay? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does your superintendent, when train men go before him for investigation, extend to them that courtesy that should be extended by one man to another in the ordinary walks of life: in other words, are they treated courteously? A.—No; he is not a very courteous sort of a man; sometimes he is, and sometimes he is not.

Q.—Do you consider those men receive what you would call a fair trial? A.—Sometimes I do, and sometimes I do not. There are times when I consider the decision is not just.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—That, of course, arises in all cases in courts, and elsewhere? A.—Yes; the decision, so far as evidence is taken, may be all right.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Do you think that the hours which conductors or brakemen, or any other hands connected with the railway management work, are excessive? A.—Yes; I do.

Q.—Will you give the Commission a statement from what you know of the position the men are placed in, and how many hours they are obliged, or are asked, to work? A.—We are expected to help the company all the time; that is what is the matter. We are expected to do what they want us to do. We are often on duty thirty-six straight hours.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Under what circumstances? A.—I have been thirty-six hours going from here to Windsor.

Q.—That is in a snow storm, I suppose? A.—With a heavy train. This may occur also when there are a great many trains on the road. It is an exceptional case.

Q.—What remuneration do you receive when you are placed in such a position, and when there is such a strain on your energies? A.—We get just the same amount of money for that as if we had done the trip in six hours.

Q.—Nothing extra? A.—No.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you mean that if a trip occupies thirty-six hours you get the same pay as if it lasted only six hours? A.—Yes; we are paid by the trip. They pay the conductors on the Canada division of the Michigan Central \$2.75 for the trip from here to Windsor. We get \$2.75 if we are only seven hours going. We do not get any more if we are fifteen hours. It often occurs that we are fourteen or fifteen hours; sixteen or seventeen hours and even twenty hours have occurred.

Q.—What would be the reason for taking twenty hours on the trip? A.—It would be on account of trains breaking down ahead of us, or on account of some little accident having occurred, or from the road being blocked by freight—from there being more trains on the road than they could possibly handle, and the despatchers properly move.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Have you been detained by snow storms? A.—We are not troubled very much by snow; we are troubled much more by there being too much traffic for one track.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Then I understand you to say that if you are double or treble the specified time in running that distance you would not be made any allowance whatever for it? A.—We would not be allowed anything. It has been going that way for the past four or five years; previous to that we were made allowance.

Q.—Has the weather anything to do with the delay? A.—It has a great deal to do with it. It often makes a small train a heavy one, owing to the rails becoming frosty and slippery, so that the wheels will not bite. The oil gets frozen and the cars do not run so easily.

Q.—Do you approve of the system existing on the road at present, or can you name any system by which the condition of affairs would be improved? A.—Yes; if the company would get us over the road in a little better shape, and give us a train we could handle and get there more rapidly, it would be better.

Q.—Is there any way by which a conductor going out with a train can know that it is not in accordance with the law; if he makes any objection, and points out anything wrong, is there any way of obtaining a remedy? A.—It is not for him to say.

Q.—So he has to go upon any kind of train given him? A.—There are certain rules specified to go by; he is supposed to take the train given him; you have either to take the train or lose the job.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are trains run wholly by telegraph? A.—All the extra and wild trains are run by telegraph.

Q.—How are the regular trains run? A.—They now run by time cards, and the extra trains have to keep out of the way.

Q.—When they lose time are they run wholly by telegraph? A.—No; they have to be a certain number of hours late before they lose their right of way.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Is there a certain number of cars specified to a train? A.—Different engines draw different numbers of cars.

Q.—Do they attach more cars than an engine is capable of drawing. A.—Yes; it occurs sometimes. If the superintendent gives orders to pick up cars, the conductor has to do so.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—I suppose that is only in case of necessity? A.—I do not know the necessity where there are so many trains—a train every hour or so.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Does that fall to the lot of every freight train? A.—Yes; I suppose it does; not always; it is an exceptional case. It frequently occurs that we take more cars than engines are rated for.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—How many cars are generally drawn? A.—We pull from thirty-five to seventy-five on the Canada Southern.

Q.—How many empty cars? A.—We have drawn seventy-five empty cars.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How many loaded cars are considered to make a train? A.—Forty-four loaded cars is the highest drawn by any of our engines.

Q.—What is the heaviest grade on the road? A.—I do not know exactly. There are no grades of any account.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Do the men, as a general rule, approve of the rules, and the manner in which the Michigan Central is governed here? A.—The men vary in opinion in regard to that.

Q.—Are any of the men in favor of the present system? A.—I have heard men speak favorably of it, and I have heard men speak against it.

Q.—Did you hear any other people speak against it? A.—More speak against it than for it.

Q.—What system would you prefer, or do you know of any system by which the difficulties might be removed? A.—I think both trains should have a meeting order, instead of holding one train by the green signal.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—According to the statute, how many cars is a brakeman supposed to have charge of? A.—I am not aware as to that; I have heard that the number is ten cars.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Are you speaking of the Dominion law? A.—I do not know what law; I have merely heard it.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—How many cars do you think would be the right thing for one man to have charge of in order to make it absolutely safe for all connected with the train? A.—It depends on whether it is necessary to make a quick stop.

Q.—Are ten sufficient for one brakeman? A.—Yes.

Q.—With any degree of safety? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are all the signal lights what they should be on this road; do the men approve of the signal lights? A.—No.

Q.—What is the matter with them? A.—I do not approve of our order signal, stronger light, a light we can see farther.

Q.—What color would you prefer? A.—I would prefer a red light.

Q.—Would not that make much more confusion; is there not a red light already used for a danger signal? A.—But they could place that high enough so that we can see distinctly what it is.

Q.—What particular lights are used now? A.—There is a green light used for the telegraph system. White and red lights are used for the switch lights.

Q.—Would any other light be necessary for a switch light? A.—A green light would be better, in my opinion.

Q.—Would it not be confused with the other green light in any way? A.—It would be necessary to make a telegraph signal a red light if the switch light were changed.

Q.—How would you prevent confusion? A.—The ordinary light would have to be placed a certain height, so as to distinguish it from other lights. It is not owing to the necessity of making the ordinary light a red light, but it is in order to make it a clearer light—one that can be seen a sufficient distance to stop a train.

Q.—You would prefer some color different from the present one? A.—It would do if it were made larger, and placed where it could always be seen.

Q.—Have any of these lights been used in the manner you indicate on any other road? A.—They are used on the Michigan Central between Chicago and Buffalo.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What time is required to set ten brakes, under ordinary circumstances? A.—Three or four minutes.

Q.—If you were running with forty loaded cars, and the signal for brakes was given, in what time could that train be stopped to a dead halt? A.—For a brakeman to hold a train of forty loaded cars it would depend on the rate of speed, the weather and the train. Some of the forty cars would be a great deal heavier than others. Some trains could be stopped in half a mile; some in less. Sometimes it would take a mile, working hard, to get the train brought to a stop.

Q.—Under ordinary circumstances, if the danger signal were shown, except on a long stretch of straight line, the train would be apt to be upon the danger before it could be stopped. Suppose a danger signal were given that the train had broken down, and the train of which you were in charge was running at full speed with forty loaded cars, would you, under ordinary circumstances, see that light in time to brake up before you ran into the train? A.—Under ordinary circumstances, yes. When we are following trains that way, and the weather is clear, we can stop a train all right; but sometimes we need the aid of the engine to stop it—often, in fact.

Q.—How would it be if the track is not straight? A.—There would be some danger.

Q.—Is there any reason why the air brake cannot be applied to freight trains? A.—No, except the money they cost.

Q.—Then a freight train could be stopped nearly as quickly as a passenger train? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Would not the weight of the train carry it a little further? A.—It would depend on the weight of the train.

Q.—A freight train is heavier than a passenger train? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Is an ordinary loaded freight car much heavier than an ordinary passenger car? A.—Not so heavy.

Q.—I mean, including passengers? A.—Not so heavy.

Q.—Why could it not be governed by its own brake, then? A.—Yes.

A.—Of course, it would depend on the weight of the passenger train as to how quickly it could be stopped. Passenger trains are shorter than freight trains. A loaded passenger coach is considered equal to three box cars.

Q.—If air brakes were attached to freight trains, and there was a brake on each car, could not a freight train be brought to a standstill within the same distance as a passenger train? A.—I think not.

Q.—Why does the length of train make a difference? A.—It is the weight of the train that makes the difference.

Q.—Would not each car be governed by its own distance? A.—We can stop one car quicker than another; we can stop some cars in half the distance we can stop others.

Q.—You have told us that a loaded freight car is not as heavy as a passenger car? A.—It is not.

Q.—Then why cannot a freight car be brought to a stand in the same distance? A.—There are so many more cars.

Q.—But has not each car its own brake? A.—Yes.

Q.—And does not each brake stop its own car? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then what extra weight is to be stopped? A.—That is something we do not know anything about; it is something that has never been tried on forty cars yet. We will know when we have had a little experience with it, and will be then better able to tell you. The engines carry only a certain pressure of air, and that will release the brakes on only a certain number of cars.

Q.—Are there not two classes of air brakes? A.—Yes; there is the air, and the automatic.

Q.—If automatic brakes were attached, then the moment the pressure is taken off, what happens? A.—The air brake would go on.

Q.—Then the engine could not hold the brakes, if there were too many cars for the pressure? A.—No.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—How many hours should a man work in order to be able to do his work properly, both to the work and to himself? A.—Not more than ten hours.

Q.—Do you think that if railway men work more than that number of hours they should receive extra pay? A.—Yes.

JOHN WADDELL, St. Thomas, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What is your business? A.—I am foreman in J. M. Green's house-furnishing factory—the woodwork department, sashes, doors and blinds. We do regular building contract work and I am one of the foremen.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—How long have you been employed in that particular business? A.—Some where about eight years.

Q.—What kind of work do you generally get out. A.—We get out furnishings for just such houses as are built around this district of country.

Q.—Do you use much machinery? A.—Yes; we have a full set of machinery for all sorts of work.

Q.—How many hands do you employ? A.—At the present time we have about twelve or fourteen; when times were a little busier we had eighteen or twenty.

Q.—Do you keep running the whole year? A.—Well, pretty much. Last winter we shut down for about three months and the winter before something in the neighborhood of a month or six weeks or perhaps a little longer; I did not exactly keep track of the time.

Q.—Was it for want of employment you shut down or for the purpose of repairs? A.—For want of employment.

Q.—According to your own knowledge of the business for the length of time you have been connected with the establishment, is trade increasing or decreasing? A.—Well, it is decreasing at the present time, that is, within the last two years.

Q.—You mean to say that you have less work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you get work for more houses four or five years ago than now? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is the building trade here apparently at a stand? A.—It is pretty well at a standstill just at the present time; it has been so for the last eighteen months.

Q.—What wages are paid in the concern? A.—From \$1.50 to \$2, and foremen get a little over that.

Q.—You have no uniform rate of wages for any number? A.—No.

Q.—What proportion of the men are getting \$2 a day? A.—About four out of twelve, or about one-third.

Q.—And what is the next rate of wages below \$2? A.—One dollar and seventy-five cents.

Q.—How many are getting that, do you suppose? A.—Well, about one-half.

Q.—That is one-half of the remaining portion? A.—One-half of the whole.

Q.—What are the lowest wages paid to any skilled workman? A.—One dollar and fifty cents for skilled work.

Q.—Do you employ any other hands besides skilled workmen? A.—Well, we have what you would term apprentices, or young men serving their time; they don't exactly serve their time but they are working like under instructions, or working themselves up.

Q.—How many of those have you in your establishment? A.—We have three at the present time.

Q.—Has there ever been any of these young men regularly indentured? A.—No.

Q.—Is there any reason for that? A.—Not that I know of; I never heard of any reason.

Q.—At what age do you take on these young men? A.—About from fifteen to sixteen.

Q.—I suppose that being a foreman you feel yourself under some obligation to give these young men instructions in the business as they progress? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think it would be better for all concerned if young men of that description, after showing some adaptability as regards the trade, or a likelihood of their learning it efficiently, should be regularly apprenticed? A.—I do; most decidedly.

Q.—What advantage do you think it would be to them? A.—It would be an advantage to both parties that they should be indentured, because we would take more interest in them. If you take a young boy who indentures himself down for a time, it becomes a duty, as well as a saving of money, to shove him forward as fast as you can, and get all you can out of him; so it helps the employer and the young fellow at the same time.

Q.—I suppose that it would be better for labor generally if practical young men, after serving a time, were sent out to the world to look for employment, rather than sending out men who were, perhaps, not finished workmen. A.—Of course; by all means.

Q.—If apprentices, after serving a time and showing a good character—if they had their indentures to show as being fully carried out, and a letter of character from their employer, wouldn't they be a good recommendation to any man to employ them? A.—Not under our present rule of things around here; I would not place much reliance in them. Of course, I never got any of them, but I would not place any week's or two weeks' trial, and then I would know what he is. Of course, recommendations would help him.

Q.—You think that really would be better than to take young men as they are at present? A.—Yes; because if you take a young man in now, you do not know the minute he is going to get saucy and leave you, after you have shoved him along a bit; and, perhaps, you cannot feel justified in shoving him along further than his present wages will allow you, because you have nothing to look forward to in the future.

Q.—In using so much machinery, are they in all cases skilled hands that you send to work at these machines. A.—Oh, no.

Q.—Whom do you send to work them? A.—Some skilled men and some boys after they have been there a while. I always made it a rule in the machine department when there is a good stout boy pretty well adapted to the work to give him charge of the machine for six or nine months, or sometimes a year; it depends upon the position I have for him.

Q.—I suppose you begin on the lower scale, with planing, flooring or matching stuff, or something of that kind? A.—Yes.

Q.—And then by degrees you give him a sash machine? A.—Yes; I give him door and sash to make.

Q.—I suppose you have a shaper also? A.—Yes.

Q.—And a buzz-planer? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is the condition of your workshop such as you would like? A.—It is a good building for men to work in?

Q.—Are they well protected from the weather, and is it healthy to work in? A.—Well, our shop is pretty well under the weather; it has pretty nearly gone; it is an old building, and our employers have been promising for the last year or two to rebuild on a more extensive scale, but the present building is a poor one.

Q.—Have you any system of drainage there at all? A.—Yes; there is one drain under it.

Q.—Are there any water-closets? A.—There is a drain goes through under the shop.

Q.—Are there water-closets near to the shop? A.—No; they are pretty well to the back end of the shop.

Q.—Are they kept in a clean condition? A.—Yes; our sanitary inspector looks after them pretty well.

Q.—Does the Government inspector ever come to your building? A.—I have never made his acquaintance.

Q.—You don't know of his having been there? A.—No.

Q.—Has any accident from machinery occurred in your establishment? A.—No; we haven't had any serious accidents at all; there have been slight cuts, but there have been no limbs lost, nor anything of that sort.

Q.—Can you give any special reason why work is slacker now than it has been for the last year or two? A.—Well, there is nothing going on in the city to demand it; the town is built up for the number of people in it and there is no demand for building.

Q.—Are the workmen in this city of your trade, generally speaking, a good class of skilled workmen as far as you know? A.—There are a great many poor workmen in our trade here.

Q.—Have you any idea of the wages paid outside of your immediate business in your mill? A.—Well, they range from \$1.25 to \$1.75, and odd men get \$2.

Q.—Is there any system of organized labor here? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you had any labor troubles here? A.—No.

Q.—In what condition is the organization? A.—Well, about one-half of the carpenters in the city belong to the organization that I belong to.

Q.—Has any difference arisen between them and their masters at any time? A.—No.

Q.—Suppose that differences did arise, what system do you think would be the best for settling matters between you? A.—Arbitration.

Q.—What kind of arbitration would you advise? A.—In which way do you mean?

Q.—What kind of arbitration would you advise—compulsory arbitrators appointed by the Government or arbitrators chosen by the two parties interested.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Would you favor a law compelling both parties to go to arbitration? A.—Yes; I would.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—If those parties could not agree, what would you advise? A.—Let them call in a third.

Q.—Who should that third party be? Would it do to have one appointed by the Government, who would be outside the interests of either of those people, or one chosen by themselves? Which would you prefer? A.—He ought to be a disinterested party.

- Q.—Chosen by these two? A.—Yes.
- Q.—In speaking of the want of activity in your employment, do you think that the building trade here is overdone at the present time? A.—Well, I don't know that it is overdone, but it is at a standstill.
- Q.—And you think the cause is not in the present condition of the trade, but that they have covered the requirements of the town? A.—Yes; for the amount of people that are here.
- Q.—Are the workmen here, as a rule, pretty well off in their circumstances? A.—They are in fair living circumstances as mechanics.
- Q.—Comfortable? A.—Yes; but they have to be pretty saving.
- Q.—Are any of them saving any money? A.—Not that I know of; I never heard any of them say that they were saving any.
- Q.—Do you know if any of them own their houses? A.—Yes.
- Q.—And the houses they live in, I suppose, are pretty comfortable for working-men's houses? A.—Yes; they are comfortable houses.
- Q.—What is the average rent that a workingman pays? A.—From \$8 to \$10.
- Q.—What accommodation does he get for that? A.—Well, he gets a house worth in the neighborhood of \$800 or \$900.
- Q.—How many apartments will there be? A.—Seven or eight rooms.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q.—Is yours a purely local trade in sashes, doors, &c.? A.—Purely local.
- Q.—You don't ship to outside points? A.—Not to any distance; just the surrounding country.
- Q.—Are those boys you take in thoroughly taught the trade in all its branches? A.—No; they generally leave before they get taught.
- Q.—How long do you keep them on each machine? A.—That depends a great deal on circumstances. Sometimes they want to go through longer, sometimes they leave, and at other times there is no opening for them to be advanced.
- Q.—You don't turn boys out finished workmen at the end of their time? A.—We don't have them for any time.
- Q.—Do none of them stay with you? A.—Yes; we have turned out some.
- Q.—What proportion of the number of apprentices are finished workmen when they leave your establishment? A.—We have only turned out some two or three in eight years.
- Q.—You say that the workmen about here are poor workmen; can you account for it in any way? A.—I account for it by the system here; the contract system is here, to a great extent.
- Q.—What do you mean by the contract system? A.—That is, every Tom, Dick and Harry round the country is taking contracts.
- Q.—Do you mean sub-contracts or piece-work? A.—There is some odd sub-contracting, but I mean contracting right from headquarters.
- Q.—Then you think that none but employers of a large number of men should contract for buildings? A.—No; I think none but responsible men should contract for buildings, I don't care how many men they employ. They should be responsible men.
- Q.—Might not your apprentice system be responsible for the poor class of workmen in the neighborhood? A.—It assists it.
- Q.—Do you think that if industrial education were introduced, so that those boys might study the theory of their business, as well as the practical part, better workmen would be turned out? Supposing they were taught architectural drawing, Euclid, mensuration, vulgar fractions, and so on, do you think it would assist them to be better workmen? A.—There would be another consideration—to see whether you could get them to take it up. There are facilities enough for those studies, except architectural drawing, in our common schools.
- Q.—Supposing that boys were taught these elementary principles of mechanics, do you think it would improve them? A.—Yes; of course it would.

Q.—Would you favor some kind of industrial training for apprentices? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What benefit do you derive from the organization to which you belong?
A.—Well, we derive a benefit by being able to consult with one another on the modes of our trade, and the way trade is done. We won't allow any into it except those who can earn a certain rate of wages, and we keep ourselves more together. We are trying to work our ends, if we possibly can, to get a little more advantage in future time. We haven't been very long organized yet, in order to go ahead and do anything, and we are not very strong here.

Q.—Is there any sick benefit attached to it? A.—There is a death benefit but no sick benefit.

Q.—Nothing for accidents? A.—No.

Q.—Do you find any accidents occur from scaffolding not being put up properly?
A.—I haven't known of any accidents in this city for seven, or eight or nine years.

Q.—Is scaffolding, as a general thing, put up pretty securely? A.—I don't know anything about that; I don't know the outside work at all.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Do you know if your labor organization is looked upon by employers in any way as being against their interests? A.—Not that I have heard; we have some employers belonging to it, and I have not heard any employer say anything detrimental to it yet.

Q.—Have the employers themselves an organization here? A.—Not that I know of.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you expect that your factory will close down for any time this winter?
A.—I could not say; we have work enough to keep us nicely going now.

Q.—Would these lads, of whom you speak, accept lower wages as a consideration for getting better instruction? A.—Well, I never conversed with them on that point.

Q.—Do they show any desire to get any better instruction? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any desire to teach them? A.—Well, we shove them along just as far as we can, that is, to get out of them what we can and make them pay their way, because we are not sure of them to-morrow. They are liable to leave us at any time.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you remember the time when apprentices were indentured? A.—Yes.

Q.—When was that? A.—I was indentured myself twenty years ago.

Q.—In this country? A.—Yes.

Q.—When did the system go out of vogue? A.—My indenture was the last one that was written in the shop I served my time in.

Q.—That was twenty years ago? A.—Yes; over twenty years ago.

Q.—Are there any other shops in which you have heard of indentures? A.—No; I have not heard of indentures being written since my own were written.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you think the fact that you were regularly indentured, and served your time in the regular manner, made you a better workman than those turned out now-a-days? A.—Well, there were more pains taken with me in the first two years of my apprenticeship than there are with the generality of boys now.

Q.—Then you think that because these extra pains were taken with you, and because you became a superior workman, it enabled you to become a foreman? A.—Yes; I got on to be a foreman, inside of a year and a-half after I was through my indentures, and I have been foreman or had charge of work ever since.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—What kinds of wood do you generally work up here? A.—Pine, oak, and all the kinds of woods to be found in this part of the country.

Q.—Do you send any men out of the factory to put up work at all? A.—
Sometimes.

Q.—Do you take contracts in the mill for finishing houses outside? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know of any system of co-operation here between employés and employers, in regard to division of profits, or anything of that kind? A.—There is nothing here of that kind, to my knowledge.

Q.—Do you think such a system would be advantageous or otherwise? A.—
No; I don't think it would be advantageous.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Don't you know that by an indenture system an employer of labor would be compelled by law to teach a boy his trade properly? A.—I don't think it would work in this country.

Q.—For what reason? A.—Boys are too independent; they are likely to run away if their employer does not suit them.

Q.—In that case, his parents can be punished for the boy? A.—Well, you cannot hold parents responsible for boys now-a-days; a great many of the boys that we have don't stop with their parents at all.

Q.—Are the journeymen more in favor of the indenture system than employers of labor in St. Thomas? A.—Well, I never heard the employers express an opinion.

Q.—Did you ever hear the employés? A.—I have, and they are in favor of it.

Q.—Don't you believe that there is a hesitancy on the part of an employer which makes him shun a law which would compel him to teach a boy his trade, and that also makes him display carelessness about indenturing his apprentices? A.—
No; I don't.

G. R. HOLDER, St. Thomas, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What is your business? A.—I run a factory here called the featherbone factory.

Q.—How long has it been in existence here? A.—It was started last January, but it has been running on the other side for about two years.

Q.—Is this a branch of the establishment on the other side? A.—No; it is not a branch. I got up the business on the other side; I own half the patents on the both sides; so when I started the factory there and got it running I brought the patents here and started a factory here.

Q.—Couldn't you supply this market from the other side? A.—By paying the duties we could.

Q.—You came here on account of the duties? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you a pretty large industry? A.—I should say we have about thirty-five or forty hands; we have had as high as eighty-five, but trade is very dull now.

Q.—This featherbone is a substitute for whalebone? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it largely replacing whalebone? A.—In the United States it is, but not so much here; we are doing a good business in the States.

Q.—Do you find a market for all you can make here? A.—No; not here. It is hard to introduce it here; for some reason they don't take hold of it; perhaps we haven't advertised it enough. People are a little backward of taking hold of a new thing anyway.

Q.—What class of persons work for you? Are they unskilled laborers? A.—No; we haven't any in the featherbone line; we have skilled laborers, carpenters and others, in connection with it.

Q.—In connection with it? A.—Yes, we have to keep machinists, carpenters, and so on.

Q.—For the featherbone work itself, what class of people do you use? A.—Of

course, we have three foremen, then we have a forelady, and the rest are girls, and boys and women.

Q.—Do they require much skill? A.—Well, yes; they do, but of course they had all to be taught; I had to teach them everything in that line.

Q.—Within what time can they acquire skill to work at it? A.—I should suppose about six months in order to do our work in good shape.

Q.—After they have become skilled what can the women earn? A.—Some of our best ones make \$6 and \$7 a week, and from that down to \$2 according to how smart they are, the poorer ones doing the poorest class of work.

Q.—Do they work by the piece? A.—Nearly all of them do, except the foreladies.

Q.—How many hours do they work? A.—Ten hours a day and six days a week.

Q.—Is the work pretty constant? A.—Well, it generally is or should be. We have laid off some of our hands now on account of the dull times; we have considerable stock on hand.

Q.—Do you sell your goods wholly within the Dominion? A.—Yes.

Q.—How wide is your market? A.—Well we have men in Montreal now, and we have sent some goods up to Manitoba, but practically it is Ontario that we reach so far.

Q.—You are still working up your trade? A.—Yes; we have five men on the road, I think.

Q.—Do you use much machinery? A.—Yes; all the machinery in the featherbone line I invented myself and we use lathes, drills and so on.

Q.—Did you make the machinery in your own factory? A.—Yes; we do everything but casting.

Q.—You employ skilled workmen, of course, in making these machines? A.—I generally have made my own machines, excepting since I came here, but I have had so much to do and, my health being poor I have had a machinist until lately, but now my boy does the work on the lathe.

Q.—Do you require special machinery to make your machines with? A.—No; I just make them on common lathes, drills, shaping machines, and the like of that.

Q.—The machinery is not of peculiar construction; it is the ordinary iron machinery? A.—Yes; some of it is bought here and some is bought in the United States. Of course, I am from the other side and I bought all my machinery on the other side, and I brought over some drills and lathes with me.

Q.—Cannot you get it as good in Canada? A.—Yes; I have bought a better lathe here than I ever bought there. I got a lathe from London and a shaper from Hamilton better than I could have bought at home for the money.

Q.—Are they as substantial machines? A.—Yes. The last lathe was one for manufacturing an electric motor, which we are making as a side show, and it is a better lathe than any we could have got.

Q.—Then you have overcome your original idea that no good thing could come out of Nazareth? A.—Well, I never thought that, but I thought our machinery was better than yours; but I have got over that little prejudice.

Q.—Are the sanitary conditions of your factory pretty good? A.—I think they are pretty fair; I try to keep them pretty good. Of course, there is no sewer there, but our outhouses are nicely put up. I had a nice vault dug and had it heavily cemented.

Q.—Has the sanitary inspector visited it? A.—Yes; a good many times.

Q.—Have you separate closets for male and female employes? A.—Yes.

Q.—The provincial factory inspector approved of all your works? A.—He was there, I believe, but I was away. I think our secretary was there, but I don't know what the inspector said.

Q.—He ordered no changes? A.—No.

Q.—If it is not a trade secret, will you tell us how you make this featherbone? A.—I got up a machine, in the first place, through which the feathers are run, to take

the plumage off on both sides. After the plumage is taken off it is run through a machine, which splits it in halves, and then through another, which takes the pith all out of it. The quill is cut, but the top is just the same, and then I run it through another fine knife, which cuts it as fine as thread. Then it goes through a machine which winds it in around cord, with the thread round it. In another machine the four cords are wound into one, and next it goes through a sewing machine, which sews between each pair of cords, making the proper tension for use as bone in dresses and some of it for corsets. It is all covered by patents.

Q.—Is it much cheaper than whalebone? A.—Yes; I should say it was; and depend on the catch of the whale.

Q.—And the whalers cannot exhaust the supply of quills? A.—No.

Q.—The goose has come to stay with us? A.—That's what's the matter. Q.—How did you come to think you could use Canadian machines as well as United States machines in your industry? A.—In the first place, I paid so many duties that I got sick of it. I began to look around, to see if I could not strike something here. I am a pretty close buyer, and I figured the thing down pretty fine. I wrote to a man in Toronto, and he came to see me; and I went to London, looked through the works there, and bought a lathe and a shaper. Then I went to the exhibition at Toronto and stayed two weeks. I took a look through the Canadian machinery, and being a pretty good mechanic, I made up my mind that your machines were just as good as ours, besides being able to save the duties.

Q.—Did this exhibition in Toronto compare with those you have on the other side? A.—Well, in Toronto I was very busy; we had twelve hands there all the time.

Q.—You had an exhibit of your own? A.—Yes. We manufactured all our goods there, except the pithers. Mr. Chamberlain, State Senator for Michigan, and one of the leading men in connection with the prison at Jackson, who lives where our other factory is, was at the Toronto fair. I had always known him, and he is uncle to my partner in this business, and when I met him he said: "I have been all." He is a leading man among the State fairs on the other side; he has been to all such places, and I thought that if he said that was the best, he knew what he was talking about. Again, we had an exhibit on the other side from our factory there, where we make whips as well; we had whip-making machines of all kinds, and I went over to see it. They had a nice display, and I took it all in, but it did not begin to compare with Toronto.

Q.—I think you are becoming a pretty good Canadian? A.—Well, my business lies in Canada, but I think I manage to tell it just as it is. I think nobody could find fault with the Toronto exhibit.

By Mr. CLARK:—

Q.—How old is the invention? A.—It is five years since I started to invent the machinery. I was a little over a year in making the machine for the first time; I started fifty-six miles this side of Chicago, at Michigan City, Ind. I lived there twenty-two years.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Independently of your line of business, are those fairs calculated to do good throughout the country? A.—I should say they were; I wouldn't take \$1,000 for the good Toronto fair did me. Of course, it cost me a good deal to go, but I shall be there next fall.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—In what articles of dress is featherbone used? A.—In corsets and stays, for dresses where whalebones are used; there is where we sell largely. At home we sold last month \$8,500 worth of that bone. They are working over 200 hands there.

Q.—Is it used in coats at all? A.—No; they talked about putting it up and down the sides of pants, but whether they did or not I could not say.

Q.—It would make good backbone for invertebrate politicians? A.—Well, I have some of it up my backbone, although I am not a politician. I almost killed myself by making these machine by foot power in the first place.

Q.—Do you know of any reason why trade is dull now? Is the market supplied for the present time? A.—I lay it to the fact of the money market being so close; I think if money was a little plentier we would have the same trade as before. I find when we send out statements or drafts to merchants who are rated pretty fair they ask for longer time, and so on; so I judge money is pretty close through the country as well as in St. Thomas. I attribute it to that and to nothing else.

J. M. GREEN, St. Thomas, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What is your business? A.—Manufacturer, builder and contractor.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—What is the nature of your contracts? Do you include mason work &c., in a general tender? A.—Yes; usually; that has been my system, to take the whole work.

Q.—You take the whole building? A.—Sub-letting the different trades, mason work, plastering, &c.

Q.—You take the responsibility for all concerned? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is that system generally carried out here? A.—Well, until these last two years I think it has been the system, with a few exceptions.

Q.—Do you ever superintend the mason work and plastering yourself? A.—Yes; as contractor for the building, unless there is an architect, I take the superintendence and the whole responsibility.

Q.—Your particular work is carpenter work? A.—Yes; that is my particular work.

Q.—How many men do you employ? A.—Well, it varies a great deal, but I think the average of the last ten years would be about thirty men.

Q.—How do you find trade at the present time? A.—Well, trade is generally dull in the building line. I carry on a lumber business in connection with the factory.

Q.—Do you mean lumber in a raw state? A.—Yes; a wholesale and retail lumber yard.

Q.—Can you give any reason why trade is duller now than it has been for some years past? A.—Well, just referring to this place alone, it would be owing to the very rapid growth of this city. The city was remarkable for the rapidity with which it was built up, and two years ago it seemed to have a check, and it has remained just in that way, just a slow progress.

Q.—Do you think it is about equal to its requirements at the present time? A.—Yes; I think so.

Q.—What is the outlook for the future? Do you think matters will remain stagnant or will they improve? A.—I think they are on the eve of improving; I think things have turned, and my own private opinion is that the city will have substantial growth.

Q.—What wages do you generally pay to your carpenters? A.—For carpenters I always pay by the hour—17½, 18 and 20 cents.

Q.—Is there any labor organization here among the men? A.—Well, there is, or there has been.

Q.—Has there been any trouble between them and the employers? A.—Nothing here, I believe.

Q.—As an employer, in case of trouble, or anything of that kind, what way do you think would be the best way to settle it or avoid it? A.—Well, an amicable settlement between the parties interested is, I think, the best.

Q.—You mean arbitration? A.—No; I don't mean that.

Q.—What way then? A.—Between the employer and the men.

Q.—Without calling outside aid at all? A.—Yes; I don't think you can practically work outside aid in an adjustment; the cases will be so different, and if adjusted in that way, so unsatisfactory, that I have come to the conclusion that it is not practicable.

Q.—Have you stone-masons apart from bricklayers, or do they work all together?

A.—They are separate trades.

Q.—What would be the wages of stone-masons and what has been the range for the last five years? A.—Well, I could only approximate, because I haven't had much to do with that labor. I think \$2.50 a day is about the ruling price for bricklayers, and stone-masons are 50 or 25 cents per day higher. That is my recollection of the wages.

Q.—Do bricklayers or masons work at plaster work, or are they separate trades?

A.—Plastering is a separate trade. While a bricklayer by trade may take a contract for the masonry work, including the stonework and the brickwork, and also the plastering, yet he has separate gangs of men; each trade runs on its own basis.

Q.—What is the rate of wages for plasterers as a separate trade? A.—I think about \$2.50.

Q.—Do any of these trades undertake slating? A.—No.

Q.—That is a different trade again? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do men in putting on slates work by the day or by the hundred? A.—Any that I have had any knowledge of have always been by the day, and I think that is generally done.

Q.—What was the usual price paid? A.—The contract price was about \$8 to \$8.50 a square; that is what we pay. In making an estimate of a building I would estimate \$8.25 to \$8.50 a square, expecting to let it at \$8 to \$8.25. A square is 100 superficial feet or 10 feet square.

Q.—Do you use any machinery in your carpenter work? A.—Yes; I have a full line of machinery.

Q.—All that is necessary for carrying on your trade? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you manufacture or ship any to outside places? A.—Yes; I distributed quite a large trade within the last two or three years.

Q.—Do you go outside of your own immediate circuit? A.—A few years ago I sent quite a number of houses to Winnipeg and up in that section, and as far as supplying manufactured material, I go as far as Burford, where I furnished five this year; also a church in Petrolia and a couple of houses up the line.

Q.—Was your venture in Winnipeg fortunate; was it one you would like to continue? A.—No; I just got through in time to make it lucky for me.

Q.—Then your venture was successful? A.—Yes; it was successful as far as it went.

Q.—With regard to lumber, what is the price of merchantable pine? A.—The retail price is \$15 for all common. Then, coming down to common boards, it is \$10 or \$12, and bill stuff, for the construction of buildings, is \$15 at retail.

Q.—Do you have far to go for that lumber now? A.—We ship it all from the Georgian Bay section.

Q.—Have you no heavy timber in this vicinity? A.—None but hardwood.

Q.—What do you use hardwood for? A.—In my business we don't use any hardwood, except occasionally for house finishings and that sort of thing.

Q.—Do you use much hardwood for finishing? A.—No; a small proportion of it; it is limited to a very few houses.

Q.—Have the houses you have had to do with been finished in good style—a high finish? A.—Yes; very good; they would compare with an yplace I know of.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you favor arbitration, if the arbitrators could be chosen from the

parties to a dispute? A.—Yes; I would favor arbitration in preference to turmoil, or strikes, and loss to all parties concerned.

Q.—That is if parties who understood the business could be selected. A.—Yes; I only said before, that my view was that it was not very practicable to do that. I never had any difficulty with men that I could not adjust myself.

Q.—Unfortunately, difficulties may arise, which may be prevented if we had some system? A.—Well, in some cases there are, I suppose.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—I forgot to ask you about apprentices. What is your idea about a system of apprenticeship? A.—Well, for sixteen years I have had apprentices during all that time, and my idea of apprentices has always been what I have done myself. I never have an apprentice bound. I take a boy, and say that I will give him a month's trial; I will give him an apprentice's wages, and as he improves I will increase his wages, if I keep him for a certain time. That is the usual bargain I make. I have had apprentices who became journeymen in three years, and sometimes a little less, but they are smart, active fellows. I have found for a system satisfactory. In cases where I have made a bargain, and arranged for a definite time, I did not think that the boys were so satisfied as those who were engaged in the way I have referred to.

Q.—How long did you keep those boys under apprentice's wages, even when you raised them year by year? A.—Generally about six months, and then gave them a raise, and perhaps in nine months another raise, and they get up to, perhaps, an average of about \$1 a day, after the first year. But those are specially good boys.

Q.—Did any of these apprentices remain with you for any length of time after becoming competent journeymen? A.—Yes; I have one young man who has gone to Petrolia for a short time. He started as an apprentice, and he has been working eight years; I think he is one of the best workmen in Canada; he is a carpenter. I have a brother of his in the same way; I think the second year he worked he got \$1.25 a day, and while he is not equal to the other as a workman, he is the best manager of men, and the best to run a job that I know of.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Can you teach a carpenter his trade in two years? A.—I don't say that, but I say the way I have handled apprentices I have tried to push them along, and if it was in them they had an opportunity of developing it—that is, I have never tried to keep them on one thing, but have tried to make them general hands.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—You say you have those boys a month on trial; do they generally get paid for that month? A.—Always.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Would it be an advantage to boys learning the trade if, under the present system of education, or by carrying it a little further, some technical education were given them, so as to give them an idea of mensuration, the drawing of lines and things of that description? A.—A very great advantage.

Q.—Would it be a great advantage to boys if they had a knowledge of freehand drawing, so that by giving them a pencil they would be able to dissect a plan, for instance? A.—Yes. Training of that kind, when a boy comes to be a mechanic and requires to use it, would be very valuable.

Q.—From your experience in the trade you must know that such a thing is a great want among carpenters? A.—Very great, especially mensuration and the other things you have spoken of.

Q.—Have you freehand drawing in your high school here? A.—Well, I am not familiar with that.

Q.—But you think it would be an advantage? A.—Yes; I do.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—When boys of your trade of fifteen or sixteen years are treated civilly by employers do you find them civil, obedient and willing to learn? A.—Yes, always. Of course there is a great deal in studying the disposition of the boy. Last spring I took in a boy at \$3.50 a week and I said, if I think you will suit and will make anything of yourself, and will be a benefit to me, I will keep you on and raise your wages. He was not there very long until I raised him 50 cents a week. In my judgment, if a boy sees you appreciate him it encourages him to do better work and to do it more willingly and cheerfully. Perhaps about the end of six months I would raise his wages to \$5 a week. That boy is still there, and I am very well satisfied and I think he is.

By Mr. MCLEAN:—

Q.—How many hours a day do your men work? A.—Ten hours during most of the summer. For the last six weeks we have been working eight hours, with a view of keeping the same number of hands on.

Q.—You pay them 17 cents an hour the year round? A.—Yes; the wages are the same per hour.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are the men paid weekly? A.—On Friday, every two weeks.

Q.—Do they prefer that day to any other? A.—Well, I could not say, I think they do. When I adopted it I thought it was to their advantage to have that pay on Friday, and it is just as convenient for me. I have always paid that way; I pay in full in cash.

Q.—Have you found that the most favorable day? A.—I think it is an advantage of 10 per cent. to the men's families to have the money to use on Saturday's market, and suiting my own convenience, Friday is just as easy as it would be Saturday, or better. Saturday is a short bank day, and there is generally a little more business doing.

By Mr. MCLEAN:—

Q.—What age should a boy be before beginning to learn his trade? A.—Fourteen or fifteen years; I don't like to take them younger than that.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Have many manufacturing industries been bonussed in St. Thomas? A.—Well, no; only one or two.

Q.—Has the effect been good to the city? A.—There have been two bonuses, and I think the results ought to be satisfactory, although I do not understand why our city should require to give bonuses to a manufacturing concern. The only reason I can give is that it is becoming fashionable the past few years.

Q.—One city bidding against another? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—And it is expensive to the tax-payer? A.—Yes. Above all places that I know of for manufactures, I never could see why St. Thomas should give a bonus.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You think the natural attractions are sufficient? A.—I think so.

Q.—Has there been any complaint among tax-payers against bonusing these industries? A.—Yes; there has. It has always been a pretty close call to carry them, and in fact one bonus was voted down the second time this year. It was tried and lost, and then tried the second time and lost.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Did bonusing these two give them undue advantages over others? A.—Well, in one case there were other factories in the same line, but in the second case it would not interfere with anything here.

Q.—The complaint, then, would be that it was giving one industry an unfair advantage over others? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Was it a sash and door mill? A.—No, it was a flour mill. I think, on the other hand, it benefited the place by making it a grain market.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—A benefit to the place, but an injustice to those who were in the business? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CLARK:—

Q.—What kind of timber do you use for scantling in frame stuff? A.—All pine, with occasionally a small amount of hemlock and chestnut.

Q.—Is there no spruce? A.—No.

Q.—Would you use it, if you had it? A.—I haven't much knowledge of it.

Q.—You know that it is a stronger wood than pine? A.—I didn't know it.

Q.—How far is this place from Georgian Bay, and what is the rate of freight per thousand? A.—Three dollars and sixty cents per thousand, or 15 cents a hundred.

Q.—Have you ever made inquiries whether you could land spruce from New Brunswick at a lower rate than that? A.—No; but we have lumber here which we bring from Ottawa.

Q.—Is there spruce in the Georgian Bay region? A.—I don't know as to that.

Q.—It was pine lumber you got from Ottawa? A.—Yes; and it was not a good quality either.

Q.—This \$15 stuff you speak of is all merchantable? A.—Yes; all sound, first-class bill stuff, with barn boards and stock boards.

Q.—Would the objection to spruce be that it is harder to work than pine? A.—I cannot say; I hardly know what spruce is.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—It is white pine, but harder in its nature—a looser wood? A.—In the Georgian Bay section there is a spruce manufactured into flooring; I have handled a carload or two some two or three years ago.

By Mr. CLARK:—

Q.—Don't you find it far more lasting than pine? A.—Well, it is harder, but it does not take as well here for flooring.

Q.—Do you use any of the hard Southern pine for flooring? A.—No.

Q.—You use the soft pine altogether? A.—Yes. The spruce we handle only came a little cheaper than pine; it was \$10.50 on board the cars, which would make about \$1 difference in the cost at the mill.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—You handled it in the rough state at \$10.50? A.—Yes.

Q.—And prepared it yourself afterwards? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—In bonusing industries, are the parties who receive the bonus compelled by law to employ a certain number of men, under the penalty of forfeiting the bonus? A.—Yes; that is the case here under the conditions under which the bonus was given; it is a matter of contract.

Q.—Are there any who have violated that law here? A.—There are only two industries working under that contract, and there was a rumor that there was one factory which didn't comply with the conditions of the contract, but after investigation I believe they were exonerated from that insinuation.

* * * St. Thomas, called.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What is your profession? A.—A locomotive engineer.

Q.—On what road? A.—On the Grand Trunk Railway.

Q.—Will you tell us any disabilities that engineers labor under that occur to you?

A.—On the Grand Trunk railway I am not aware that we are laboring under any disabilities at the present time, except it may be one, and that one is that if I am discharged

from this road and go to seek employment on another road, by the laws of the organization known as the superintendent society, they require a certificate of ability and good

conduct from the last road employing, and it is optional with my present superintendent whether he gives me that certificate or not.

Q.—How long hours do locomotive engineers generally work? A.—Our day is

supposed to be eight hours, or a hundred miles, on an average of fifteen miles an hour.

Q.—You are frequently called upon to labor longer? A.—Yes; we are frequently

called upon to do twenty-four hours.

Q.—When a man has been on twenty-four or twenty hours can he exercise that

vigilance which is necessary for the safety of himself and the locomotive and train? A.—No; he cannot.

Q.—Is there any way of avoiding these long hours? A.—With us on the Grand

Trunk, after being on duty twelve hours we can demand eight hours' rest. All you

require to do is to write: "I require eight hours rest," and you get it.

Q.—Do you suffer any inconvenience under that arrangement? A.—No; we are

allowed the eight hours but the minute the time is up you are called on.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—With regard to these certificates for engineers, can you suggest any mode of

obtaining them? A.—None; unless it was made obligatory by law that they should be

furnished with them—made obligatory as to engineers and all classes of trainmen who

labor under the same difficulty. My remedy would be to make it obligatory on all the

railway corporations to furnish such men with certificates of ability, services and

conduct.

Q.—Would you require engineers to pass an examination? A.—Yes.

Q.—And if he passed you would require that the Government could compel a certi-

cate to be issued? A.—No; I would compel the corporation that he was last employed

with when dispensing with his services to give him a certificate of his services, a record

of his good conduct and his physical and mental abilities for the position he has held.

Q.—Have you ever known of a case where an engineer could not obtain that certi-

cate? A.—Yes; in this city.

Q.—When charges are brought against railway employes; who enquires into

these charges or to whom are they referred? A.—I can only speak of the Grand

Trunk in that connection. An engineer being reported for any damage or accident—

crime you may call it—he has, together with his immediate officer over him, to make a

report to the superintendent of that department, who, with the superintendents of

the other two or three departments form a council before which he is tried.

Q.—Are these superintendents always practical railway men? A.—Nearly always;

there are some exceptions.

Q.—Are men discharged through the ignorance of superintendents regarding a

railwayman's duties? A.—There may have been such cases, but there are very few

now. Men in my capacity don't allow them to discharge us now through their igno-

rance. The organization to which I belong has sufficient control and influence to

demand a fair, impartial hearing, and to reinstate a man if he has not been justly dealt

with.

Q.—If you had not such an organization do you think you would succeed as well?

A.—O, no.

Q.—Can you give us any information with regard to the insurance scheme

of your railway? A.—Yes; the Grand Trunk insurance scheme is one which is

excelled by none in the Dominion.

Q.—What proportion of the amount received at death are you assessed for?
 A.—I pay 25 cents a death; I am not very heavily insured.

Q.—What class are you in? A.—Class D.

Q.—What amount do they pay in that class? A.—Seven hundred and fifty dollars.

Q.—In the event of a death in class D are all the members of the organization assessed for that in all the other classes? A.—Yes; to the amount of their classes.

Q.—Does the assessment cover the amount required? A.—Invariably so, with a surplus.

Q.—Have you ever known of a case where it didn't? A.—Only in the higher classes, when there is not a sufficient number in the two highest grades; I think they have never reached the \$2,000.

Q.—In the case of a death in the higher class, are the men assessed to the full amount? A.—They are merely assessed for the amount of the class in which they are insured.

Q.—The full amount of that class? A.—Yes.

Q.—And they don't receive the amount for which they are assessed in the higher classes? A.—They receive all that was really coming.

Q.—They don't receive the amount they are assessed? A.—They don't receive the amount of \$2,000.

Q.—Do you consider it a fair scheme, which assesses a man on the basis of a \$2,000 assessment, and then will not pay the amount? A.—In the manner in which they are assessed I consider it fair, because they only pay for what they receive.

Q.—Don't they pay 50 cents per death in the highest class? A.—Yes; I think they do. All in class A pay 50 cents if a death occurs in that class, and it runs down as low as 5 cents in class F.

Q.—How many members are there in this insurance plan? A.—I could not say at present—something over 10,000.

Q.—We were told this afternoon 11,000; is that near the figure? A.—Very near; it may be a little over.

Q.—In case of death in class F they assess for \$550 on 11,000 members; what becomes of that assessment? A.—The surplus goes to the next assessment.

Q.—Do you receive credit on the next? A.—Yes.

Q.—You pay less for the next? A.—Yes; if there is a surplus sufficient to pay the next there is no assessment issued.

Q.—Is it compulsory with the engineers on the road to join this benefit society? A.—I believe it is now; I think it is made a condition of service, but all who were employes at the time this was organized were not compelled to join. It was voluntary with them, but with those joining the road since it is made a condition of their service, provided they can pass the doctor's examination.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Don't you feel a little more independent in your position than the other hands on the road on account of the powerful organization to which you belong—the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers? A.—Well, I don't know; there are other organizations probably that feel as independent as we do; I don't know whether they do, not having been in the position, but judging from the results of the many investigations, I think they don't wield that influence which we do.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you ever known a case of a man in the employ of the Grand Trunk Railway being unable to obtain a certificate from the superintendent on account of personal dislike? A.—As I said before, it is voluntary with them whether they would give one or not, but it would be hard for me to say why a superintendent might refuse one—whether it was personal dislike or from other causes.

Q.—If the superintendent had a personal dislike to a man would it be difficult to get one? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does the Government require the Grand Trunk Railway to deposit a certain guarantee sum for this insurance? A.—I don't know as to that.

Q.—Have you any means for recovering from the railway, outside of this insurance company, in case of accident? A.—No.

Q.—Are you compelled to sign a paper saying that you haven't any claim against the company? A.—Only as far as signing the rule book, that is one of the conditions. It is one of the conditions of service; you cannot occupy the position of an engineer, conductor, brakeman or baggageman, without passing the rule-book and time-card in which this is contained.

Q.—Are the road-beds of Canadian railways in so complete a state as to render them absolutely safe for trains? A.—That would be a hard question to answer. Generally speaking they are, but there may be exceptional spots which are not.

Q.—Do you know of any accidents, within the last two or three years, resulting from the road-bed not being in first-class condition? A.—No; I don't know as I do.

Q.—Are engineers compelled to pass an examination for color blindness? A.—Not on our road—well, they pass an examination for locomotive engineers promoted from firemen, in which you are tested on colors then, but not afterwards; there is a color test that you go through in the superintendent's office.

Q.—Is it a rigid test? A.—Not very.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is it sufficiently rigid for the protection of the people? A.—Yes; I think it doesn't go into a thousand shades, but it gives you a sufficient number to ascertain that you have the knowledge required. I refer to that because in the State of Alabama there is a color test in which they have about a hundred different shades—so many that a milliner would hardly be able to tell them. That would not be a fair test.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you think that the signing of this book of rules deprives you of any rights under the law of the land as against the company for damages? A.—I think it does, because it makes it so difficult to recover that you might as well be without it.

Q.—Has your society ever taken any step to have that law withdrawn? A.—No. These rule books have passed through the Privy Council and have been sanctioned; it is the law then, and it would require the Privy Council to abrogate them before we could do anything with them.

Q.—Are you aware that Mr. Bell, the solicitor of the Grand Trunk, holds a different opinion? A.—My superintendent has told me differently, but I am not aware for myself. I raised some objections some years ago, when I was sent for at Hamilton to sign that paper when the Grand Trunk fused with the Great Western, and Mr. Domville, my superintendent, said it was only a matter of form; he said, "You need not get your back up; Mr. Bell says this doesn't deprive you of any rights under the law."

Q.—When a train is on the road, who is responsible for that train? A.—The engineer and conductor.

Q.—Who is responsible in chief, or is it a joint responsibility? A.—It is a joint responsibility in certain things; still the engineer is under the direction of the conductor, but both are equally responsible if anything happens.

Q.—When the engineer wishes to communicate with the conductor what way does he use? A.—He opens the whistle two or three times in a particular way; we use a succession or series of sounds on the whistle. Or he might go back to him if he was at a station or siding; otherwise, he would sound the whistle several times and then signal them forward.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Is the inspection of locomotive boilers pretty rigid? A.—As to that I could not say. They are washed out and examined here periodically, but the examination at these outside stations is not so rigid as it is at a head station like Hamilton.

Q.—Are explosions of locomotive boilers frequent in Canada? A.—Not in this western part. I never knew of one real explosion on the Great Western division of the Grand Trunk, and I have been on it nineteen years.

Q.—Do you approve of engineers running over more than one division? A.—No.

Q.—Is it customary to cause them to do so? A.—It is on the Great Western division of the Grand Trunk.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Do accidents occur from engineers being sent out on roads they are not acquainted with? A.—Till they are acquainted with them they are usually furnished with a pilot, but there is not that degree of safety that there would be if they were confined to one division.

Q.—Have you known of an accident occurring from that cause? A.—None that I could positively attribute to that cause, although that might be a factor in an accident.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you known of an engineer going out on a road for the first time without a pilot? A.—No; not with a train; they may have gone with an engine, though I am not sure that I remember that.

Q.—Do you remember the Humber disaster? A.—Yes.

Q.—Was not the engineer on the train comparatively a new man on that division? A.—The engineer on the one which struck?

Q.—Yes? A.—I don't know; but I think he had been on a sufficient length of time to understand it.

Q.—It was given in evidence that he had never received a pilot, and he was on his second trip? A.—It might be so, but I am not positive.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are round crown sheets on locomotive engines more dangerous than flat ones? A.—They are in one sense and not in another. The round ones are not liable to corrode; they will not hold the deposit on them as much as on the flat ones; the water has a greater motion all through—it keeps up a continual motion. Where there is any degree of danger in them it is by reason of their less water space—that is all. Otherwise they are strong, and I believe more safe as far as mud goes. There is danger in the flat one of the mud depositing where the fire strikes it, preventing the water from getting to the plate, and the plate becomes crystallized as a matter of course.

By Mr. CLARK:—

Q.—By whom is the inspection of boilers made? Is it made by men in the service of the company or the regular insurance inspector? A.—By men in the service of the company. There is a practical boiler-maker at every locomotive station for the purpose of repairing and examining.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are engines ever sent out with the tubes leaking? A.—They may occasionally, but that is optional with the engineer himself. I need not go out with an engine if I have reported work to be done on her, and if I do, I go on my own responsibility.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Would the mechanical superintendent allow you to take out a defective engine? A.—Not if he knew it.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Is an engineer confined pretty much to one engine, or does he change?
 A.—Well, since the Grand Trunk got us we have been changing round. There is one man to one engine, but he has generally to lie off and let another take his engine, so there is not an engine for each man. On the Great Western each man had his engine but on the Grand Trunk there is a limited supply of locomotives to do the same mileage.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Is there anything you could suggest which would improve the condition of railway engineers—anything in the matter of signals, for instance? A.—Yes; I think the present system of station signals is defective. My idea is that no white light should be exhibited on the main line but the white light of the head-lamp, the hand-lamp of course.

Q.—Are accidents frequently caused by confusing signals in that way?
 A.—Well, there was one not long ago on the Canada Southern, which in my judgment was directly attributable to white lights.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How was that? A.—It was down between Brownsville and Springfield. According to the evidence of both engineers that was the cause of it. There is a system of using corrugated lights both for semaphores and switches; they are white, and at a distance they look almost head-lamps.

By Mr HEAKES :—

Q.—What kind of light would you prefer for semaphores, switch lights and order boards? A.—For switches I would prefer green, for semaphores red, and for order boards white and red. Still the order board might be white, but that was the system I was accustomed to on the old Great Western, and it will be borne out by all here that we had the best system of station signals in Canada.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—That was altered when you went on the Grand Trunk? A.—Yes; when we assimilated with the Grand Trunk.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Is there any voluntary statement you would like to make? A.—As I said before, a system of black-listing has been pursued, and still affects not only locomotive engineers but all other classes of employés. All superintendents demand that we bring with us a certificate of our qualities for the position we seek to assume. It is not like the position of a carpenter, a tailor or a blacksmith; we are placed in charge of a number of lives, and it is necessary that superintendents should know that we have those qualities which will enable us to conduct a train to its terminus; without that certificate we are powerless; they will not hire us, and we are placed in an unenviable position, for we cannot compel the superintendent to give us one. He may, through personal spite or other reason, withhold that certificate from us. That state of things applies to engineers, and I believe to conductors and brakemen as well. To-day there is walking on the streets of St. Thomas a man who had a position, and has another position offered to him, but the local superintendent of the Michigan Central refuses to give him a recommendation.

By Mr. CLARK :—

Q.—Have you had any trouble with strikes? A.—Well, we had on the Grand Trunk some years ago, before we amalgamated with the Western, and, of course, as members of this organization we were in sympathy with them, and supported them.

JOHN NOBLE, St. Thomas, called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What is your line of business? A.—An engineer and blacksmith.

Q.—In what shops? A.—In the Michigan Central at present.

Q.—Here at St. Thomas? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you any special information to volunteer respecting the condition of the men in those shops? A.—I don't think of anything just now respecting the shops, but I would prefer giving information in another direction.

Q.—Please give us that? A.—I would like to see abolished the system of granting bonuses to manufacturers, and exemption from taxation in a great measure, with the exception, probably, of church property—that is the property the churches stand on—and school property. We are all pretty much equally interested in those, and no party would be placed in a much more advantageous position than the other by abolishing exemptions from taxation on these portions of property. With regard to the system of bonusing, it places the careful workingman, who saves a little money, and would like to go into business on his own account, at a great disadvantage. He has to compete, not only against the accumulated capital of other capitalists, but he has to compete against public money as well, and it places him in a bad position. He has to pay a portion of those taxes that the bonus has created by giving to others to compete against him. If I am manufacturing boots and shoes in St. Thomas, with my own capital, or the accumulated capital belonging to several of my fellow-workmen, and a large capitalist is granted a bonus of \$10,000, or \$15,000 or \$20,000, he is placed in a very advantageous position over me. It is not to be supposed that I can compete with my own capital, or with a co-operative capital of \$3,000 or \$4,000, against some one who boasts a capital of \$20,000 or \$30,000, with the addition of a bonus of \$10,000, \$15,000 or \$20,000.

The CHAIRMAN.—In this inquiry we have to deal with facts, and we cannot enter into all those general questions, or there would be no end of them. You can tell us facts with regard to the injurious effect of particular bonuses being given, but you must not enter into all these matters, like an essay written on the subject.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You believe that the system of bonuses is injurious to the workingman? A.—Yes, sir; it seems next to impossible to establish co-operative manufactures as long as it is in vogue.

Q.—Supposing a bonus were given to a co-operative establishment? A.—I never knew of such a thing.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You don't believe in exemption from taxation? A.—No.

Q.—You think it should be done away with? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you believe in the principle, in St. Thomas, of publishing the assessment roll, so that every person may see whether he is properly assessed or not? A.—Yes; I do.

Q.—Are there any kinds of property you would like to see exempt? A.—There are none I would like to see exempt, but I would not object to see property on which churches or public schools stand exempted.

Q.—You would not like to see graveyards exempt? A.—Well, I would not object to that.

The Commission then adjourned until 2 o'clock on Wednesday.

ST. THOMAS, Wednesday, December 14th, 1887.

WILLIAM RISDON, Manager of the Erie Iron Works, St. Thomas, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What are the principal products of your works? A.—Small implements, plows, cultivators, harrows, general castings and foundry work.

Q.—Mostly agricultural implements? A.—Yes; and general jobbing.

Q.—How long have you been in operation in St. Thomas? A.—Just four years in December or January.

Q.—Is it an original industry, or was it moved from another place? A.—It is an original industry as far as St. Thomas is concerned, but it was run about two years in St. Thomas before we took hold of it.

Q.—Is your trade increasing or decreasing, or is it stationary? A.—Well, it is increasing.

Q.—Do you employ a large number of hands? A.—Not many; we employ from twelve to fifteen men the year round.

Q.—What rates of wages do you pay to skilled workmen? A.—We pay \$1.50 to \$1.75 as the regular rate of wages to skilled men.

Q.—You employ some unskilled men? A.—We do at certain seasons of the year.

Q.—What do you pay them? A.—As a rule, \$1 a day, or \$6 a week.

Q.—Do you employ any boys? A.—We have none at present, but we have had them; we have had one or two boys about half the time we have been here.

Q.—Do they learn any branch of the business thoroughly? A.—Yes.

Q.—And go out skilled workmen? A.—Well, I can't say that we turned out many; we have been there only four years, and now we have none at all.

Q.—Do you know whether any of your men save money and buy property? A.—Some of our men own their own homes here in town. Some of them, too, save money from the wages they get, as far as we can judge. I don't know it for a fact that they do; I only judge from appearances.

Q.—You know that some of them own the houses in which they live? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is their employment pretty constant the year round? A.—Yes; the men we have there now we employ the year round—that is the number we have at present.

Q.—Occasionally you have extra hands? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is your machinery well protected? A.—Fairly so.

Q.—When the inspector of factories was round did he find any fault with the machinery? A.—None that I know of.

Q.—Or with the sanitary condition of the shop? A.—He reported none to us.

Q.—He was there and made a visit? A.—Really I don't know; I do the travelling myself, and he may have been there when I was away, but I don't remember. He has not been there to my knowledge.

Q.—I suppose that would be the best answer you can give, that he had not been there to your knowledge? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—Where do you get the wood you use in these implements? A.—We get the wood all in our immediate neighborhood, with the exception that when we want first-class plow handles we import from Ohio.

Q.—Why? A.—Simply because they have a style of handle we require when farmers ask for a certain kind of plow.

Q.—Because the wood is better or because they know better how to put it into shape? A.—I think the wood is better, as far as I can judge. We have been running four years, and we have only imported 500 pairs, so that is not a very large quantity.

Q.—Are you able to say whether this wood lasts longer or gives better satisfaction than the Canadian wood? A.—Well, I think it does, as far as I can judge. I wouldn't like to say there is not just as good timber, but the oak timber we have had from there has given good satisfaction.

Q.—Is it pure white oak? A.—Yes; well, we call it swamp oak, but it is good and tough and has a good grain to it, so that the handles we get from there we don't paint at all; we just varnish them.

Q.—What iron do you use? A.—Principally Canadian iron for the last year.

Q.—Londonderry iron? A.—No; it is made at the Hamilton, Ont., rolling mills.

Q.—But the pig iron? A.—We use Scotch pig iron.

Q.—Unmixed Scotch? A.—Unmixed Scotch.

Q.—Do you mix different brands? A.—Yes; Summerlee and Calder; our wrought iron we did import until last year from England.

Q.—Do you use steel or chilled iron in plows? A.—Steel for mould boards and beams.

Q.—Where do you get the steel? A.—From England. We have had one or two consignments from New Glasgow, N. S., but principally English steel.

Q.—Does Nova Scotian steel gives as good satisfaction as English? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it dearer or cheaper? A.—Dearer.

Q.—Would you use it altogether if you could get it at the same price? A.—I think so, as far as I can judge.

Q.—From which of the rolling mills at Hamilton do you get iron? A.—The Ontario Rolling Mills; and we have had one car from the Hamilton Forging Company.

Q.—This Hamilton iron is good iron? A.—Yes; for our purposes it answers well.

Q.—Have you had any labor troubles in your factory? A.—No.

Q.—Any demands upon you for increased pay, shorter hours, or anything of that sort? A.—We have had some demands for increased pay.

Q.—How were they settled? A.—We generally gave them what they asked for, or compromised with them as well as we could.

Q.—You met your own men and discussed the matter with them? A.—Yes.

Q.—Were the discussions carried on in a friendly manner? A.—Always.

Q.—Was it an even dicker between you? A.—We generally split the difference—that was the way.

Q.—I mean that the men were just as free to make a good bargain as you were? A.—O, yes; we never had them come in a body; sometimes one would say that he wanted an increase of pay, and so far we have given it to them.

Q.—Did you ever dismiss a man for being too energetic in pressing demands? A.—No, sir.

Q.—What hours do your men work? A.—Ten hours a day, or sixty hours a week.

Q.—Has there been any general demand in St. Thomas for shorter hours of labor? A.—There was rather a spurt, about two years ago, when the Knights of Labor started. I heard a little talk of our shop; they wanted eight hours a day, and the answer I made was: "If you want it I am ready for you, but of course we will make the pay accordingly." The matter died away, and I didn't hear anything more about it.

Q.—How did they look upon that answer? A.—They didn't look upon it very favorably; but they thought they would rather work ten hours and get the full pay. I have a standing agreement with our men to work nine hours a day, but those that we pay \$2 a day to are to have 20 cents an hour, but we haven't done it this winter, so far.

Q.—They didn't press that demand? A.—No; they preferred working ten hours as long as we didn't object.

By Mr. CLARK:—

Q.—You don't think ten hours are too long for a man to work in your business? A.—No; I think it would be time wasted if it was lost. Our blacksmith's fires burn better in the evening; they can see as well what they are doing with the aid of a lamp, and if they are using furnaces there is that much heat lost entirely in the evening. They don't object to it, and I don't.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Don't you think when a man works ten long hours and goes home and gets his supper and cleans himself—and he is generally supposed to be in bed at ten o'clock in order to give his employer a good day's work the next day—don't you think that he has very little time to improve his mind and enjoy himself with his family? A.—Well, I do think that. Of course I have to work myself and I feel that I haven't very much time to enjoy myself. I don't leave the shop until six o'clock, and I feel that it is rather cramping on a man's time to work regularly from seven till six—that he hasn't much time for social improvement or enjoyment. Then again, on the other hand, there is so much trouble with men in the use of liquor, and one way and another, and so many of them use that time for gratifying their own personal desires, that they don't take the time with their families which they might.

Q.—Is that your opinion regarding the working classes of St. Thomas? A.—No, I am only taking exceptional cases; I don't think it is the rule; I think it is the exception. We have many railroad men in St. Thomas and there is a great deal of that kind of thing going on; they are away from home so much when they could go home if they liked and have a good time. There is more or less of that done.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you a free library here? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it generally used by the working people? A.—It is.

Q.—Do they take considerable advantage of it? A.—Well, I don't know about working people; I have attended, and I find a great many young people there, children of working people, and I have talked with the manager of the library, and he says books are being taken rapidly and that he has all his time occupied in distributing books.

Q.—Have you any idea what proportion of the books in the library are taken by workmen to their homes? A.—No; I have not; I have no means of knowing particularly, not having looked into the matter, but I think the free library is well patronized.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Don't you think it would be more patronized if the working classes had a few hours to themselves on Saturday afternoons? A.—Yes; I think it would. Then again we must remember that these workmen have a society of their own and they look out pretty well for that; there is a good deal of time taken up in these societies. Mind you, I am speaking now on general principles. My own men, as far as they are concerned, I am satisfied would rather work ten hours than be cut off, but still the eight-hour system would be good if the extra two hours were only used for mental improvement, or used as they should be.

Q.—Do you consider that the working classes, during the past five years are more intelligent than they were the previous five years? A.—I certainly do.

Q.—Then it stands to reason that when the shortening of hours takes place workmen do, as a general rule, improve their intellects? A.—Yes; to a great extent; that is my opinion.

J. B. MORFORD, St. Thomas, Division Superintendent of the Michigan Central Railway, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You are manager of the company? A.—No; I am Division Superintendent of the Canada division of the Michigan Central, between river and river.

Q.—That is the old Canada Southern? A.—Yes; the Canada Southern division.

Q.—You employ a great many men? A.—Yes; we have a considerable number.

Q.—And do a large traffic? A.—A very large.

Q.—What do engineers on this line earn? A.—Our engineers run upon a mileage basis. We pay them 3 cents and $3\frac{1}{2}$ cents a mile—passenger men have $3\frac{1}{2}$ cents and freight men 3 cents, and if they make full months they make from \$100 to \$140 a month.

Q.—How many make full months? A.—I think nearly all our passenger men and, I should judge, very many of our freight men for the last several months. That is a matter I could not very well answer correctly, because their time and mileage is kept in the mechanical department, under Mr. Flynn, and I only give an opinion from what I judge from the train sheets on which these men run.

Q.—You are familiar with the train sheets? A.—Yes; I consult them frequently. Often we send for drivers and firemen to go out, and they claim that they haven't rest enough, and, of course, we do not exact it if it is rest they want. If we find them off eighteen or twenty-four hours and don't take rest, we don't generally take that as an excuse.

Q.—Are not the trips sometimes lengthened out by storms, or delays, or accidents of various kinds? A.—In the winter time we have delays, but in four years we haven't had but two collisions causing delay to any extent.

Q.—Are not freight trains especially delayed frequently at side stations; are they not side-tracked? A.—Not usually so. The through time figured up within a month for a freight train, including coarse freight, as we call coal and common merchandise, such as salt, in comparison with a stock train, would be four and a-half to five or six hours on road freight, and taking the whole thing through the average would be nine hours and thirty minutes to a trip.

Q.—The trip is from St. Thomas to Windsor? A.—From Windsor to St. Thomas, and from St. Thomas to Mount Rose or Victoria, Niagara River. The distance to Windsor is 109 2-10 miles; the distance to Mount Rose, is 111 and the distance I think to Victoria is 118 miles. The average time made with a man during several months was about nine hours and thirty minutes train time, from the time they reported at the station for duty and the time they got into the terminus.

Q.—Aren't they sometimes delayed very greatly beyond these hours? A.—Occasionally in foggy weather. In such weather we use the block system. We hold one train at a station until the other passes the preceding station, which makes a delay of perhaps an hour more on the division. Sometimes an engineer starts out with a coal run, dead freight of heavy tonnage; the rails are in bad shape, like last night, and the engine may be twelve, or thirteen, or fourteen hours on the road, but for such services we pay our men. We pay our engineers for labor over, I think, ten hours or twelve.

Q.—If delayed beyond ten or twelve hours they get paid extra? A.—Yes; over twelve hours they get so much an hour; we have agreed with conductors and brakemen in the same way.

Q.—Have you known a train to be twenty-four hours on the road? A.—Yes; last winter when we had the blockades of snow and when trains were tied up on the eastern division.

Q.—Could the men get sleep? A.—Yes; they were instructed to get rest, and arrangements were made to call them when needed. I would appoint one of the oldest of the crew, say at Waterford, and tell him to take charge and to see that the men got rest until we called for them.

Q.—Is it not sometimes the fact that these trainmen are required to be on duty for eighteen, twenty or twenty-four hours without the possibility of getting sleep? A.—No sir; I don't think there is a case on record where one of our men has been on duty eighteen hours; there may be, possibly, but I don't know when it was. You understand that St. Thomas is the home for about nine-tenths of our employés on the road; our men live here, and if they are ten hours going to Windsor, and they are called to return, they are ready to return as soon as

they have got their breakfasts, or their way-car fixed up, so as to get here and get a rest. I have never asked a conductor or brakeman to go out without sufficient rest; and we have what we call a report of engineers' rest—that is engineers and firemen.

Q.—Is each engineer confined to his own engine for the time being? A.—No, sir; we run double crews, when business requires it, rather than have that amount of rolling stock or engine power in the round house idle.

Q.—You are now speaking of your own road? A.—Yes; I know nothing of anybody elses; it is about all I can do to take care of myself, and do it safely.

Q.—What sized freight trains do you run—say of loaded cars? A.—That is according to the engine; they are allotted according to the number of cars—twenty-five to fifty-two cars. Our average train will be about thirty-five cars.

Q.—When you run a train of, say forty cars and upwards, what would be the crew? A.—A conductor and two brakemen.

Q.—In case anything is seen on the track, or anything happens which necessitates the stopping of one of these trains, within what distance is it possible to brake train; up? A.—That depends altogether on the quality of the brakes on the train; some are easier than others, and a coal train, for instance, would take longer.

Q.—You have no control over the brakes? A.—No; we are running everybody's car.

Q.—And, to a large extent, cars which are foreign to your road? A.—Yes; we run many on which the brakes are not quite as good as our own, but we pay as much attention to our freight equipment, with regard to brakes, as we do to passenger equipment.

Q.—If a bridge should be down, or any accident occur, or any obstacle in the way, requiring that signal should be given, and the engineer signals, "brakes on," within what distance could a train be stopped to avoid collision or other accident?

A.—If the signal is given according to our instructions, no train would ever get into that broken bridge. We require every man who goes back with a danger signal to go back twenty-five telegraph poles, and if it is a curve, we compel him to go back around until he can see ten telegraph poles, and there are no trains, I think, at the speed we run, which could not be stopped within three-quarters of a mile, if the brakemen are in their places.

Q.—What kind of running boards are on the freight cars which pass through here? A.—They are about the same as on other freight car equipment.

Q.—What width are they? A.—I think about 20 inches, but I could not answer that question exactly, because there are different kinds of cars and different kinds of running boards on foreign cars.

Q.—Would it be difficult to place guards on either side of the running boards, so that the men may protect themselves in running along them? A.—No, sir; guards could be placed on cars very readily and not at a very great expense, but to do that we would have to unite with the American railroads and have them do it, because if not it would be more dangerous than now. The men would depend more on the guard and be less careful than they would if there were not any.

Q.—If one road were to introduce them would not other roads see it was a good thing and copy the example? A.—I cannot answer that question. If other railroads in Canada or the United States will adopt any system of safety to trainmen we will be the first to go in with them for it.

Q.—Would not greater safety be reached by widening the running board? A.—I don't know that it would. Personally, I know something about that by experience, as I travelled the running board for six or seven years, and I don't know that I ever made a mis-step, and they were very much narrower then than they are now-a-days.

Q.—Are accidents frequent from men falling from the top of cars? A.—Yes, sir; but not where the men are looking where they are going. There may be cases, of course, where trains pull apart at the time that a brakeman is crossing and then he

will probably go down. Last winter there was one man who came to town and bought a pair of new boots; he had been wearing shoes, and in going along he tumbled over against the next car and fell down and was killed. I have seen brakemen who, instead of following the running board as they should, would jump from the end of one car on to the other, and of course there is always danger in frosty or slippery weather; a man's feet are liable to go from under him and throw him off the car. But I claim that where men take the responsibility on themselves the railway companies are not to blame.

Q.—Isn't there always a disposition on the part of officials to try to lay the blame for an accident on the men? A.—No, sir; and I will tell you what I have done last winter right along. When we have had sleet storms and when I knew the decks of freight cars were in bad condition and unsafe for the men to go over, I have telegraphed to the conductor and engineer to run their trains with special caution, as we did not want the men on deck on such nights. We have done that in several instances.

Q.—Is that the custom with you? A.—Yes; more or less since I have been connected with the road. If it is a bad night I tell my dispatcher by telephone to tell the men on the road to be careful; the men will say that; they cannot say anything else. We do everything with the appliances we have for their safety.

Q.—Are accidents frequent to men when coupling cars? A.—We have such accidents.

Q.—From what do they arise? A.—A portion of them from carelessness.

Q.—And the other portion? A.—Well, it sometimes occurs that the dead-woods on the cars may be decayed, and if a man goes in to couple he may be injured if he is not careful. I don't know that I can call a case of that kind to mind, but there are such cases.

Q.—Is it not possible to use a coupler by which the cars can be coupled without making it necessary for the men to pass between? A.—Yes, sir; and I am happy to say that our people are adopting that kind of a coupler, and as soon as it is decided by managers what coupling or draw-head will be used it will be universally adopted. We have several hundreds of the Ames coupler, which do not require the men to go between the cars. We have not decided whether to adopt the Ames or the Janey, but either the one or the other will, I think, be adopted universally by the various lines, and I would not be surprised if it was the Janey.

Q.—If railway men who understand this question can make up their minds which would be the best and safest coupler, would you consider it to be a subject for legislation to make it compulsory on the roads to use such a coupler? A.—I think the roads will adopt it without legislation. Last week I directed my train master to get the views of conductors and brakemen running freight trains on this division with regard to the Ames and the Janey—which they consider is the best and safest—which is decidedly safe and which they would recommend, and their opinion will have much to do with the kind of coupler we shall adopt.

Q.—Your railway experience extends over a number of years? A.—About thirty-six years.

Q.—Are you sufficiently familiar with the views and feelings of railway men in Canada and the Northern States to enable you to say whether the roads would study economy at the expense of human life, or would they spend large sums of money to prevent accidents and save life? A.—I don't know much about the managers of Canadian railways; I haven't much to do with them and don't come in contact with them, but I do with the managers of the United States railways. We have twice a year in New York a time convention meeting, where these subjects are brought up, and I know there is not a manager that is doing a business where they are earning fixed charges to-day who is not ready and willing to adopt anything—not for economy's sake but for life's sake—anything which will be beneficial to life or will save life.

Q.—Save life and prevent accidents to employés of the road? A.—Yes; we are now studying the air brake question, and within a year probably we shall be fully equipped with air brakes to be used by engineers.

Q.—You mean the application of air brakes to freight trains? A.—Yes; we have agitated that right along and our people are taking it up. Westinghouse has a train which he has had in Chicago, Buffalo, Boston and other places. He has made several tests and he has proven that a train running thirty miles an hour can be stopped in 560 feet with thirty cars.

Q.—To how long a train can the air brake be applied? A.—To every car in a train, if it is 100.

Q.—There will be sufficient power in a locomotive to control 100 brakes? A.—If the air works you can control 100 as readily and as quickly as you can one.

Q.—What is the cause of the indisposition on the part of companies and managers to adopt that brake for freight trains? A.—It is universally talked of as something which will be done inside of a year.

Q.—Will the expense be great? A.—About \$25 a car, I think.

Q.—Has the question of expense delayed action in this matter? A.—No, sir; the only cause of delay is to get what we consider is the best and most efficient device for the purpose.

Q.—The air brake was applied to passenger trains how long ago? A.—I think about fifteen years ago.

Q.—Has there been any substantial reason why it has not been applied to freight trains before now? A.—I don't know that there has. Yes; one reason was that until the last three or four years 18 miles an hour used to be considered fast time for freight trains, and it was not then considered necessary to put on air brakes as long as there were careful brakemen. Then one trunk line started fast time trains; its competitors said they could do as well as it could, and another said, "We will do better than both," and now they have got to 30 and sometimes 35 miles an hour, and now it is necessary to get air brakes to protect their business and for safety.

Q.—Is the increased speed of freight trains consistent with economy? A.—No; I don't think the increased speed of freight trains is economy by any means.

Q.—There is a certain speed which is the most economical, and to fall below or go beyond it is not economy? A.—I made a test with two trains last summer which satisfied me. We have what we call the limited express, No. 5, which leaves here at 10 o'clock in the morning for New-York. It is seven cars all told, including the baggage car, coaches and sleepers. We have another, the Atlantic express, consisting of ten cars. The Atlantic express speed was figured at 27 miles an hour while the limited express, No. 5, ran an average of 53 miles an hour, and on the distance to Windsor, 110 8-10 with the seven cars running 53 miles an hour, we used five tons of coal and with the ten cars running 27 miles an hour we used 2½ tons, showing a saving of over 65 per cent. against fast time.

Q.—Are there other items of expense besides the consumption of coal? A.—Yes; it is very expensive in the wear and tear of machinery and to equipment to run fast trains. We would not like to do it if other roads didn't do it.

Q.—I was speaking more particularly of the increased speed of freight trains. A.—Of course in order to do a large business you must have a certain rate of speed. Now with steel rails heavier locomotives and longer trains have been possible.

Q.—Can this increased speed be attained without great waste of fuel and great wear and tear? A.—No; I don't think so.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you think there is a great increase of fuel? A.—Of course there is in fast time; I should say there might be a saving of 50 per cent. as against fast time.

Q.—On freight? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Why, then, do you increase the speed of freight trains? A.—We are obliged to; competition alone obliges us to do it. We wouldn't have a railway man in St. Thomas if we didn't compete with the North Shore and other lines.

Q.—Are accidents on freight trains more frequent than on passenger trains?

A.—No; I don't think so; I think the statistics for the last year will show an increase of accidents on passenger trains as against freight trains.

Q.—More lives of employés lost? A.—Yes; and more passengers—more people lost.

Q.—Have you had any labor difficulties with your men? A.—No, sir. I am glad to say that I think our men and their managers are harmonious; I don't think there is a grievance of any kind. I must refer to Mr. Jones here, who is pretty well posted, and perhaps knows my men more than I do and hears more what they say; as they would not say much to me. There has never been a case of a grievance brought up by brakemen, or engineers, or trainmen of any kind, which has not been satisfactorily adjusted.

Q.—Have you had demands for increase of pay? A.—Only yesterday we settled the matter with the trainmen and they are satisfied.

Q.—Settled by simply discussing the matter among yourselves? A.—The conductors appointed two conductors, and the brakemen appointed two brakemen, and they wrote me after investigation with the general superintendent at Detroit, asking my presence, thinking perhaps I would help them out, which I did a little. We had a meeting and we agreed on a certain basis of pay. They came back here, called a meeting of the balance of the men, and they disagreed. They wanted other concessions and they called for another meeting. We granted it and the day before yesterday we settled it satisfactorily to everybody.

Q.—In discussing these labor questions or any question which may arise between the company and the men, do the men stand on the same footing that you stand on? Do you stand right up face to face like men in any other commercial transaction? A.—Yes, sir. If I hear there is any trouble going on I send for a certain portion of them and hear what the trouble is, and before going out of my office it is generally fixed up.

Q.—They are as free as you are? A.—They are as free to come to my office as you are; I never turn the key against any man.

Thomas Jones here stepped forward and said: I would like to corroborate everything which Mr. Morford has said. He has always been ready to meet any committee we have sent and to give us a fair, impartial hearing. I do not work on his line, but we always found that to be the case and his own employés say the same thing. I am glad to be able to say so.

The WITNESS.—Mr. Jones has been chairman of the committee perhaps half a dozen different times with my men, and that is the reason I refer to him.

Q.—If any man makes himself conspicuous as a leader among the workingmen, or if he is prominent in demanding concessions for them—shorter hours or increase of pay, or anything of that kind, is he not sometimes discharged? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Is he not sometimes given a discharge for other reasons when this is the real reason? A.—No, sir; I have never to my knowledge since I have been in Canada discharged or suspended a man except for a just cause—either for drinking intoxicating liquors to excess or direct violation of the time-card rules. I don't hold anything against a man in that way. Any man on our road has a right to his opinion; we don't care what his religious principles or his politics are, or what association he belongs to, as long as he conducts himself in a mannerly way, so as not to disgrace the officers of the company who employ him.

Q.—Pardon me if I press this matter a little closely. I hold that a workman in selling his labor should have the same right and stand exactly on the same footing as the man who employs that labor? A.—I hold the same opinion; I would not vary from you a bit.

Q.—In view of the whole situation, you tell us frankly and positively that the men in the employ of your company here stand on a perfect equality with their employers in selling their labor, in making their arrangements or demanding rates of wages? A.—Yes; as far as I know.

Q.—And in speaking out for what they consider they should have? A.—Yes, sir; and they generally get what they ask for if it is within reason.

Q.—When men are killed or injured while in the discharge of duty, what indemnity do they get from the company? A.—Do you mean the family?

Q.—The family, if he is killed, and the man if he is injured? A.—If the man is injured and belongs to what we call here the railroad hospital, of which he can be a member by paying 50 cents a month, he can, if he wishes, be taken into the hospital and furnished with medical attendance and his board until he is discharged by the physician.

Q.—Does his pay go on? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Whether the accident arises from his own carelessness or not? A.—No; circumstances sometimes alter cases. Say we had a collision and through that collision an employé was injured—I think our company would protect him and pay him a portion if not all his pay.

Q.—Do they do so? A.—We have had cases where we have done so.

Q.—It is not general? A.—No, sir; because we haven't hurt very many people. We sometimes cut a finger off or have an injury of that kind which confines a man to the hospital or to his home for three or five weeks, and they never expect compensation. Of course, it is done in the discharge of duty, but I guess they don't do so on any railroad. If we kill a man we do what no other railroad does, I think. If a man is killed while on duty we furnish the funeral attendance, hearse and so many carriages and we pay for such services; we don't ask the widow or children of that employé to pay that expense.

Q.—Do you give any compensation to the widow? A.—No, sir.

Q.—You consider that railway men get such remuneration as to cover the liability to accident and death? A.—I think that as a general thing railroad employés are paid better salaries than any other business that is done in this country where there is as much risk of danger as there is on railways. We pay them just what they have asked; they certainly ought to be satisfied, and if not it is not the fault of the railway company.

Q.—They ask just the rates that are going? A.—No; they ask more; we are paying much heavier wages for our train service than any other railroad in Canada is paying.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are the men in the employ of the Michigan Central required to sign any document before commencing service? A.—We require our men going on duty on freight trains to sign an agreement that the company will not be held responsible or liable in case of accident to their person while on duty, in regard to coupling cars. We tender to every man who is employed on a train to couple a safe, made on purpose to reach in and take hold of the coupling and raise it up and enter it into the next drawhead, so that the man himself will not have to go in between, and in that case to compel him to sign an agreement that he will not hold the company liable in case he is hurt in such-and-such duties.

Q.—Is that agreement signed by the Michigan Central Railway Company or by some guarantee company? A.—It is signed by the employé himself.

Q.—Is it furnished by the Michigan Central? A.—Yes; and witnessed by the employing officer.

Q.—Isn't there a certificate required from some guarantee company? A.—Not except when they handle the company's money.

Q.—Freight conductors and brakemen are not required to have it? A.—No, sir.

Q.—If a man is discharged for cause, could he obtain employment on a railroad without a certificate from a guarantee company? A.—If a man employed on the road is discharged for cause and that cause is violation of the rules, to which all men are sometimes liable, we will give him a letter stating the time he was first employed, what he was first engaged at, when he was promoted from his first employment to a

better position and when he was discharged. I don't go even so far as to say that I had discharged him for so-and-so. I sign it and tell the man that is the best I can give him. I say, "I give you more than you had when you came; you are discharged for cause, but you look for employment and say to the man you apply to that you refer him to me." We don't ask our men to go away without a letter of some kind, except he is discharged for drunkenness, and in that case I give him nothing, except a letter saying that he was discharged for getting drunk.

Q.—Will conductors on your road be allowed to take out trains without having a certificate from a guarantee company? A.—On freight trains we don't ask it but on passenger trains we do. The conductors don't pay for it and the other officers of the company furnish it for themselves. The company bind these men through the guarantee company.

Q.—A conductor without a certificate from a guarantee company could not obtain employment? A.—He could not obtain employment on this railroad of ours if he had forty certificates, unless he had worked himself up from a brakeman.

Q.—Would you call that black-listing the conductor? A.—No; it is our system; we make our own men. When we hire a brakeman we give him to understand that if he is all right and straight and conducts himself well, when his time comes he will be made a conductor, first on a freight train, and so on along as vacancies occur, and the same with the engineers and firemen.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—It is the same as not making a man captain of a vessel until he has been mate? A.—That is it exactly. We know we have better service by making our own conductors and engineers than by taking them from another road.

Q.—You don't take other railway men if they offer? A.—No; because we haven't any use for them.

By Mr. CLARK :—

Q.—Could you give us some idea of your system of signals—whether you have any suggestion to make which would improve them or whether you think they could be improved? A.—We have adopted a system of signals which was universally adopted by the time convention of railroad managers—the most experienced and able men in the United States and Canada. It has been thoroughly ventilated and gone over meeting after meeting and year after year. The code of signals on our road is the code adopted by that convention. I don't think the Grand Trunk have adopted it.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You don't think the Grand Trunk use them? A.—I don't think so.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you know, if a conductor is discharged from a passenger train for cause, whether he can get a certificate from a guarantee company? A.—If he is discharged from our passenger trains for taking money——

Q.—Or any cause? A.—He cannot get a certificate from the guarantee company, because our auditor's business is to notify the company that he has misplaced the trust with the company.

Q.—He is practically black-listed? A.—Not any more than a clerk would be in a bank.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Or a man convicted of obtaining money under false pretences? A.—Yes. Supposing you are doing a large business and you have a book-keeper in your employment in whom you have confidence, and some night he robs your safe and goes to another State, and after a while you find him and arrest him, would you turn around and give him a certificate and say that he would be a man who would serve you well?

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—That is not a fair way or putting it ; I didn't ask you about a man being discharged for stealing money—I said for any cause ? A.—You must state the cause.

Q.—There are many causes ? A.—Yes ; there are many causes that men are discharged for, but if a man was discharged for stealing or for intoxication he would not get another certificate.

Q.—Are those the only two reasons ? A.—Yes, sir ; if a man came to my office and abused me to-morrow, and asked me for a letter, if he had served so many years on the road, I would give him the letter.

Q.—Upon what evidence do you generally depend to prove charges against conductors on passenger cars ? A.—That is a question you will have to ask the manager. He takes up all those things and then directs me what action to take when the matter is investigated. Thank heaven, I don't have to do that part.

Q.—You don't have to put the spotters on ? A.—I don't have to do that part.

Q.—Do you think it is possible for a man to be discharged wrongfully through ill-will by these spotters ? A.—I believe there are many cases where they have got the wrong men, but I think when a man has shown to the company that he has been libelled or that the man was mistaken he is reinstated. I have known many such cases.

Q.—They always get an opportunity of clearing themselves ? A.—Yes ; I haven't had occasion to discharge but one passenger conductor on my road for four years until last week. I discharged him for running on the time of another passenger train thirty minutes on the New York Central track.

Q.—That would not prevent him getting a certificate ? A.—I gave him a letter or reference stating how long employed, when he was dismissed, but I don't think I would even tell what he was dismissed for. They could refer to me if they wanted to and then I would have to tell them, probably, what I discharged him for. I don't say that because a brakeman, conductor or engineer violates the time-card rules he should not get a job somewhere else ; and I do say that I am obliged to discharge many of our men for cause, and that if I was transferred to-morrow to a trunk line and many of these men came to me for a position I would hire them, because I know the men ; I know them as well as if I had brought them up, as far as ability is concerned. I have given many letters to the effect that Mr. So-and-so left our service at such a time for cause ; during his time of service he did his work faithfully and well, and so on. I have gone further, and said that if I were in the position of employing railroad men I would not hesitate to employ him ; and every man has got a place somewhere, I guess. That is more than a great many men do.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are men generally suspended before their case comes up for investigation ? A.—Yes ; they have to be.

Q.—Is there an unnecessary time elapses between the time of suspension and the time of trial ? A.—Our rules now are that we suspend the man at the time of the accident. Of course, it sometimes occurs that we have to take both crews if it is a head collision or a rear collision ; we must have the evidence before us before we can decide, and in that case we suspend all hands that we think are implicated or that we want as witnesses. If we find that we have suspended an engineer, or a conductor, or a fireman, or a brakeman for investigation, or we want him as a witness, when we know he is not guilty we pay him for his lost time. If we find that we have taken a man off and at the end of the investigation circumstances are such that we consider that it is one of those things that is perhaps liable to happen, or we decide that it might have been worse, we turn to the man's record and see what it is, and if it is good I tell him to go to work, and I pay him for the time. If it is a case that demands decided action and the man is guilty, he is suspended for ten days or thirty days, or longer, as the case may be, and he is notified of the time of suspension, and if he doesn't want to take that he has the privilege of taking a place somewhere else.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Will the use of air brakes do away with the services of any brakemen? A.—No; we shall require the same number, because if they fail to work we have no help.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—The law requires you to keep so many brakemen? A.—On passenger trains it does, but it does not specify freight.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How many loaded cars on a freight train do you think a brakeman should be able to handle in case of accident? A.—Four to six if he is on deck, but there are men that don't go on deck often. The head brakeman we allow to ride on the engine, except passing through stations or at railway crossings, and so on, and the rear brakeman with the conductor on the caboose, and when it is on a descending grade they have to go to their places until it is passed. We do not ask our men to be on deck except in such cases. In my time we had to ride out in storms and everything else.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You have no side ladders now? A.—We have a few cars with them but they are not used to go up, except in switching.

BYRON J. WADE, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What is your business? A.—A farmer.

Q.—You live in this neighborhood? A.—Yes; five miles west of here.

Q.—How long have you lived there? A.—All my life.

Q.—How much land do you farm? A.—I have only seventy-five acres.

Q.—Do you make a pretty good living off that?— A.—Yes.

Q.—What crops do you raise principally? A.—Wheat, oats, barley, corn and hay.

Q.—Any cattle? A.—Yes; cattle, sheep and horses.

Q.—Do you produce more milk than you consume? A.—Yes; we make it into butter and cheese.

Q.—Do you sell any milk to factories? A.—We have not for the last ten years.

Q.—Did you formerly. A.—Yes.

Q.—What can you get for milk from the cheese factories? A.—I forget now what it was; I have sold for ten years to a cheese factory.

A.—Well, it was profitable then in our factory; I do not know whether it was because of the factory, but I think it was as much as any other.

Q.—Do you produce much fruit? A.—Not a great deal.

Q.—This is a pretty good fruit country? A.—I think it is an average fruit country.

Q.—What do you get for beef cattle? A.—It depends a good deal on the quality.

Q.—Say good fat steers, three or four years old? A.—Good fat cattle will average from \$35 to \$45.

Q.—How much would that be a pound? A.—About 3½ to 4 cents live weight, I should judge.

Q.—Do you consider that a fair price? A.—Well, cattle are very low at the present time. Of course these have got to be first quality to bring these prices.

Q.—If prices remained at 4 cents a pound live weight for good fat cattle would you feel encouraged to go on raising them? A.—Yes; I think so; that is in connection with other branches.

Q.—Is it profitable to raise wheat at present prices? A.—Well, we could barely make a living out of it; that is all.

Q.—Have you ever made a close calculation of the cost of cultivating an acre of wheat? A.—No; I have never put it in plain figures.

Q.—You would not be able to give us any figures without studying the question out pretty carefully? A.—No; not without figuring it up.

Q.—What does wheat average just now? A.—Something over 80 cents, I think. There is a little advance in the price just now.

Q.—Is this a pretty good wheat country? A.—Yes; very good.

Q.—What do you consider an average yield of winter wheat? A.—It would be about twenty bushels—sometimes more and sometimes less; this year it was considerable less.

Q.—This was an exceptionally bad year? A.—Yes.

Q.—And of spring wheat? A.—There is not much spring wheat raised around here; I cannot say anything about it.

Q.—Do you know if the farmers in this neighborhood are getting into debt, or are they paying off their mortgages, or simply keeping out of debt, or how? A.—I can hardly say; I think the majority of them are holding their own at least.

Q.—Do you think many of the farms in this neighborhood are mortgaged? A.—That I could not tell you.

Q.—Do you think that with reasonable economy and prudence, and judgment, a farmer in this county, at the present time, can make a fair living at present prices?

A.—At present prices they can make a living, but they have to use a great deal of economy.

Q.—With plenty of hard work? A.—Yes. Of course, we had prosperous times for a while, and they helped to tide over the hard times.

Q.—The railroads made a great improvement in this county, didn't they? A.—Yes; a great improvement.

Q.—They secured better prices for the farmers? A.—Yes; and opened up the country better.

Q.—Is there much timber left in the country here? A.—Yes; there is considerable timber, but it has got pretty well run over.

Q.—As a rule, do the farmers have more wood on their farms than is necessary to provide them in fuel? A.—Well, a great many are selling. It is getting close for it.

Q.—What do you get for good No. 1 wood in St. Thomas? A.—I do not know; I haven't sold any for a long time, but I presume about \$4 a cord.

Q.—What wages do you pay for good farm hands? A.—Do you mean by the day or by the month?

Q.—How do you generally employ them? A.—Wages generally run in our neighborhood this year about 1\$ a day for good farm hands, or \$18 a month and board.

Q.—Are they employed, as a rule, all the year round, or only for the season? A.—Some employ them the year round, but the majority, I think, only for the summer season.

Q.—Is there a surplus of farm labor? A.—No; there does not seem to be a surplus; in fact, in summer time it was pretty well picked up.

Q.—Do you farmers, in this neighborhood, live as comfortably as you did fifteen, twenty or twenty-five years ago? A.—Yes; I think so.

Q.—More comfortably? A.—Yes; I think they have more luxuries.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—They live more expensively? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Have farm buildings improved or deteriorated? A.—Improved.

Q.—Better houses and barns? A.—Yes.

Q.—More farm machinery? A.—Yes; of course, buildings on some places have got more dilapidated, but on the whole they are better.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—When the agricultural laborer is not employed the whole year round, what becomes of him? A.—Well, I can hardly tell you. They seek employment in other places.

Q.—Does he migrate toward the labor centres? A.—Well, in our neighborhood there are several I am acquainted with who are farmers' sons themselves, working out and of course, they go home in winter, and those who are not farmers' sons probably cut wood, or do something of that sort.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Any lumbering? A.—No; there is not much lumbering here.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—The ones I speak of are those who came out to this country—not native Canadians? A.—I do not know where they go to, I am sure; sometimes, I suppose, they get jobs in towns and other places.

Q.—Do they generally go back again to the farm or remain in the city, to the best of your knowledge? A.—Well, I cannot tell you; I cannot keep track of them.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do they often come back to you for relief in winter? A.—No; I never saw any of them.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do any of them settle down and become farmers on small holdings? A.—Well, I haven't known any of them personally.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What is the reason farmers do not employ laborers all the year round? A.—They do not need them.

Q.—Then when it is said there is a great demand for agricultural laborers in this country it is not true? A.—Of course there is at certain times. A farmer's is not like many other kinds of business; there is a rush of work at certain seasons and at others there is not any.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What would become of your crops if you could not get labor in summer time? A.—I suppose they would have to go into the ground again if we could not do it ourselves.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you think farm laborers would be scarce if they could get employment all the year round. A.—I do not know as that would make any difference.

Q.—Don't you think that constant labor would keep them in the country? A.—Of course, if a man was employed he would not leave the country.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—In what you call the busy season, how many hours a day do the farm laborers work? What do you think a day's work mean? A.—It depends greatly on what work you are doing. In harvest you cannot commence work for binding or cutting much before eight or nine o'clock, on account of the dew, and this is the same with drawing in; of course, if there is not a heavy dew you can commence it earlier and work from that time, sometimes not until sundown, and sometimes till sundown.

By Mr. CLARK :—

Q.—That would be until eight or nine o'clock in summer? A.—It is very seldom we work until that time, though some will.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How may farm laborers is a self-binder supposed to take the place of?

A.—With the reaper we calculate for four men to bind, besides the driver, and the one who sets up; they would make a good gang to go into a field. Now, of course, you only need a driver and one to set up.

Q.—Supposing you went back to the cradle, how many men would you require to do the work that the self-binder does? A.—I cannot tell you that.

Q.—The binder will do away with the work of four men? A.—Yes; in a full gang.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How many horses do you use to the binder generally? A.—Two or three; they are getting now so two horses can work them all right; one team can work them all day.

By Mr. CLARK :—

Q.—Do you get any better prices for produce than you did ten years ago? A.—I do not think so; everything is low now.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Are prices lower this year than last? A.—I think cattle are.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you use the gang-plows to any great extent? A.—Not to break up land with, but we use them on summer fallows or to break up ground in spring.

Q.—Do you drill-in your grain mostly? A.—Some do and some do not.

Q.—Are you able to tell us how much it would cost you to cultivate an acre of wheat in the old times, when you swung the cradle? A.—I never swung the cradle; that was before my time.

Q.—You cannot calculate what it would cost you now to cultivate an acre of wheat? A.—I cannot tell without figuring it up.

Q.—However, the cost of raising wheat is much reduced by the introduction of machinery? A.—Yes, but machinery is very expensive, too. A man can handle his farm better with machinery, because he cannot always get labor when he wants it.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you think it would be possible to harvest your crops without machinery? A.—No; I don't think it is; four, or five or six years ago, wages were up to \$1.50 to \$3 a day.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Was that during the whole season? A.—No; just the harvest season.

Q.—A couple of weeks? A.—Two or three weeks.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you hear of many agricultural immigrants coming into the country? A.—Not a great many; a few in our section.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—This is not the place where immigrants come to, generally. Property is dear here, is it not; not many cheap farms? A.—No; not many cheap farms.

Q.—Not a place where immigrants come to, generally? A.—Not to buy farms unless they have means.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—What rotation of crops do you consider most advantageous in the farming business? A.—Clover after wheat, or wheat after clover; summer fallowing, wheat and clover, and barley will follow, or wheat after barley.

Q.—Would what is advantageous here apply to the Province of Ontario as a general thing? A.—I should judge so, though, of course, there may be other parts where the soil is different. I would only say to a certain extent, though.

Q.—With regard to your products generally, what market do you consider the best; the home market or the foreign market? A.—Well, our home market would not amount to much; we have to have a foreign market because the supply is greater than the demand in this section for farm produce.

ROBERT MCKAY, Foreman of the Car Department, Canada Southern Division, Michigan Central Railway, St. Thomas, called and sworn :—

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What operations are carried on in the car department here? A.—The whole of the car construction throughout.

Q.—Woodwork, ironwork and wheels? A.—The wheels are cast in close proximity to the place by a private company.

Q.—How many men are employed by the company in the shops? A.—In the car department somewhere about two hundred, but of course that does not include the locomotive department, which is distinct.

Q.—What rates of wages are paid skilled mechanics in these shops? A.—The average for mechanics in the car department would be something about 17½ cents per hour.

Q.—What hours do they work? A.—Nine hours for about three and a-half months in the year—from about the middle of November to the 1st of March.

Q.—And the rest of the year? A.—Ten hours.

Q.—Are the men pretty constantly employed? A.—Yes; we have our permanent staff, and sometimes there are a few more, but generally we have about the same number as at present; it fluctuates a trifle.

Q.—Have you ever had any labor difficulties there? A.—Never—well, not for a number of years. Some eight or nine years ago there was a slight difficulty, but it was soon arranged. At that time we were behind hand with their wages, but that was all adjusted to the satisfaction of the company and the men. You really could not call it any difficulty.

Q.—Is the machinery in these shops well protected? A.—Yes; we have had no accidents. I am one of the oldest employes; I have been there since the organization of the road.

Q.—When the factory inspector was around did he find any fault with any of the machinery? A.—I never saw him.

Q.—Have you any difficulty in getting all the men you want? A.—Not in the least. We have splendid shops, the men are treated as men and we always have any amount of applications.

Q.—Where do these applications come from? A.—From the country and often from a distance. I have frequently received letters applying for positions, but we generally try to recruit from the ranks or increase our force from people resident in the neighborhood.

Q.—Do many of your employes own their own houses? A.—The majority of them. I must say that the workmen in the car department especially are a very good class of men—provident, very industrious and intelligent, and perfectly satisfied; most of them have either acquired homes or are in course of doing so. The economy practised by them is something surprising; they must understand financing to a fine thing to distribute their wages as they do and keep up appearances.

Q.—In building houses, do they save enough themselves or do they borrow from the banks and other sources? A.—I could not give an accurate answer to that. Some of them, no doubt, have to borrow, but I don't know as to that. I don't know of any man in that position, but I suppose they purchase them ready built on time and pay them by instalments.

Q.—Do you know of any societies to encourage the men in building houses for themselves or buying them? A.—No; I don't know that there is any society which gives any special inducements in St. Thomas.

Q.—Are there any speculators who build houses and sell to them? A.—I believe there are one or two builders who have built one or two workingmen's houses, but how the buying or selling is effected I do not know.

Q.—Do you employ many boys? A.—None at all.

Q.—You have no apprentices learning any of the trades? A.—No, sir. We have boys whose position is equivalent to that of apprentices. They come in there

perhaps at twelve or fourteen years of age and have been generally kept along until they have acquired a thorough knowledge of the trade. I received a letter from one last night; he stopped in California and he has gone into an important branch of the business—stair building—a young man who started in our shop.

Q.—They remain until they learn the trade pretty well? A.—Well, we advance them every year in their pay. Some of them display more ability for acquiring a knowledge of mechanics than others do and they advance more rapidly.

Q.—Can you volunteer any suggestion which would be for the advantage of the men? A.—Well, I don't know that I could in regard to the relations to the company under whom they are working. Their wages are paid promptly and the men are perfectly satisfied, apparently. I never hear a murmur, and in times past when there was murmuring it generally emanated from those who were less skilled than the others, in order to take advantage of the superior abilities of their fellow workmen.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What wages do good mechanics receive? A.—The average is \$1.75 per day. Some get 18, 19 or 20 cents an hour; the lowest is 16 cents.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—In car building, do you work by what is known as standard altogether. Does everything go by the standard system? A.—I don't understand you.

Q.—Is your system different from the Grand Trunk car shops in any respect? A.—No; I don't know that it is. I think in regard to turning out of the work our shop will compare favorably with any other.

Q.—Do the men get constant employment in car building here? A.—Yes.

Q.—And turn out all classes of cars? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any piece-work? A.—Not any; we have never had any.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—You have some very long belts in your establishment? A.—Yes.

Q.—Those belts generally run down; the counter-shafts are above? A.—They are what we might term vertical belts.

Q.—Are those counter-shafts below protected? A.—Yes; there is a guard to turn the box in.

Q.—In case of a man carrying an armful of small stuff, if he should fall is he not liable to fall into the belt? A.—No; the arrangement of the machinery is such that I think no man has any occasion to carry the stuff in that way.

Q.—Don't you think a box could be arranged around those belts to protect them more thoroughly? A.—It might, but we have never heard of an accident of that kind.

Q.—But the way they are arranged an accident might occur in the way I have mentioned? A.—Yes; it might occur; there might be a little more protection, but the men there are very competent and very watchful.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—To prevent accidents, wouldn't it be worth while to do something? A.—Yes; there are boxes for them but the men don't use them; they are cumbersome and more in the way than anything else.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Sometimes the oldest hands in factories are injured through carelessness on their part, and the machines not being properly protected really makes them dangerous? A.—Of course all belts are more or less dangerous; still, I don't think there is anything very hazardous in our belts; very few of them run on the floor horizontally.

Q.—For instance, I notice that you have a large saw for butting off; don't you think a circular guard should be placed over the saw? A.—You could have an off guard on top, but the saw is always cutting away from the operator. Of course, a

man could put himself into a position to get into danger, but there is really not much danger in that way. The revolution is towards the rear while the operator is in front.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are your men paid weekly or monthly? A.—Monthly.

Q.—Do they prefer to be paid that way? A.—I think it is to the advantage of the company to pay monthly; they have to go over a large tract of road, and so much travelling would have to be done that it would be almost impossible to pay them oftener.

Q.—It may be an advantage to the company, but is it an advantage to the men? A.—Well, I don't know that it would be with the class of men that we have. Those men are able to appropriate their monthly payments to the different objects they have in view. We scarcely have such a thing as a garnishee, and it is a rule of the company that if a man is garnisheed twice he is dismissed, and that gives us a better class of men—men who look after their own interests.

Q.—You never heard them complaining about the length of time elapsing between one pay day and another? A.—Never; nothing of the kind has come to my knowledge.

GEORGE WRIGLEY, Printer, St. Thomas, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Suppose you first tell us something about the printing business. What is an ordinary job hand worth in St. Thomas? A.—I do not know what wages are paid.

Q.—Have you any journeymen? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much do you pay them? A.—One hand, my foreman receives 17½ cents per hour.

Q.—How much do you pay your journeymen? A.—I have only had one hand; I paid him \$1 a day, \$6 a week. He had been a year and a-half at the business.

Q.—Have you many apprentices? A.—One, at \$1.50 per week.

Q.—What is the general age at which apprentices are taken on in the printing business at St. Thomas? A.—From twelve upwards. Some probably younger than twelve.

Q.—How long do they serve? A.—That I could not say.

Q.—Do you know anything about the newspaper branch of the printing business? A.—I have been the publisher of a newspaper for eight years.

Q.—Do the men work by piece? A.—Nearly all work by piece in St. Thomas.

Q.—How much per thousand ems do they receive? A.—Twenty-two cents, I think, is the figure.

Q.—Do the piece-hands receive any portion of the fat matter, such as advertisements and tabular matter? A.—In regard to that, I could not say positively, for I have no knowledge of the custom in the large offices.

Q.—Is there much plate-matter in St. Thomas? A.—Considerable.

Q.—Where does it come from? A.—From Buffalo; I think some comes from there; all from Buffalo or the other side.

Q.—Do you think that is a preventive of more men being employed? A.—On the whole, I do not think it affects the number of men generally, for the reason that where plate-matter is used a greater number of offices are established, and that being the case, the number of employes is about the same as it would be if no plate-matter were used. Then again, the offices that use plate-matter publish more reading matter than they would do if they could not get plate-matter to use.

Q.—When plate-matter is used, are not the piece-hands compelled to lay off for want of something to do? A.—I do not think that that is the case, more than

formerly, when no such matter was used. It has always been necessary, more or less, for some hands to lie off at different times; it has always been the custom, and been necessary.

Q.—You have known that to be the case, that men have been laid off several days in the week when no plate-matter was used? A.—Yes; and when plate-matter was used.

Q.—Do you know of cases of men being laid off when plate-matter was used? A.—There are always a number of hands who work when things are busy in the office, and they have no work when things are not busy.

Q.—Have you known men to be laid off in the printing business at the time plate-matter was not used because either no copy was ready or there was no type to distribute? A.—I have not had any personal experience as to how that is. I understand it has been the same here as in every other place where printing is done.

Q.—In every other place where printing is done. Is it so in Toronto or Hamilton, to your knowledge? A.—I have always understood there has always been in labor centres where printing is done a number of hands who get work part of the time, but not all the time. But on this point I have no practical knowledge.

Q.—Do you know the length of servitude in St. Thomas for apprentices to the printing business? A.—There is no regular time.

Q.—When boys are out of their time do the employers take them on as journeymen, and give them journeymen's wages, or are they discharged and a new batch of boys brought in off the streets? A.—I have heard complaints that they are not advanced as they should be in St. Thomas.

Q.—How do you mean advanced? A.—There are too many green hands taken on.

Q.—When they have served a length of time and consider themselves journeymen, what would you prefer to do with these men? A.—In some cases we keep them on and in other cases they go elsewhere, where they can do better.

Q.—That is rather fencing with the question. Let me ask you this: when boys have been four or five years at the business, and when they demand a certain amount of wages, approaching that of journeymen, do the employers say: "I will not give you that amount; you can work for smaller wages or you can go?" A.—Without wishing to have you imagine that I desire to avoid the question, I may say that this is a matter on which I have no personal knowledge.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—I understand you wish to say something to the Commission about schools.

A.—When I was asked to give evidence I said there was one point on which I would give evidence if I gave evidence at all. As an old teacher, I have thought considerable recently as a student of the labor question that the ages at which children attend a school are different from those which should prevail. I do not think a child ought to attend school until he or she is seven years old. I think the first twenty-one years of a man's life should be divided into three periods of seven years each; the first seven years to be given to building up a good, strong constitution; the second seven years, between seven and fourteen, to obtaining a good English education, not the higher branches at all, but good common school education; and the third period, between fourteen and twenty-one, should be used for obtaining knowledge of a profession or trade. During the second seven years, between seven and fourteen, the higher branches should not be taught at all in the common schools; there are altogether too many of the higher branches taught in the common schools, the result being that the lower branches are not studied so thoroughly as they ought to be.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Are you familiar with the kindergarten system? A.—Not particularly so. I know what it is, and that is all.

Q.—Do you think the attendance at kindergarten schools of children between five and seven years is a detriment to their health? A.—No; I think children under seven might attend kindergarten schools.

Q.—Do you think that technical instruction might be combined with the ordinary common school course between the ages of seven and fourteen—an elementary knowledge of the use of tools and things which will be of advantage in mechanical trades during future years? A.—Yes; to a certain extent. The text books might embrace, or should embrace, that information, as well as all scientific information.

Q.—If a boy calculates to become a mechanic, could not some lessons be dispensed with advantageously, and others substituted which have reference to technical instruction? A.—Certainly so.

Q.—Have you made any study of this question? A.—I have thought of it considerably.

Q.—Have you any suggestions to offer in this connection? A.—Nothing further than that I think the present system should be amended, probably in the way suggested, to divide the periods into seven years each, and to do away with the higher branches entirely in the common schools. My idea is that during the third period, between the ages of fourteen and twenty-one, those who continue to attend school for the purpose of learning a profession should pay for their instruction. During the period between seven and fourteen the schools should be free; what is learned during that period should be learned free, but after that time children should pay for the instruction they receive at the high schools.

Q.—Do you think that five years are necessary to teach the child the ordinary branches of English education? A.—I think they could obtain a good English education if that time was properly applied.

Q.—Could it not be acquired in much less time? A.—In very much less time if the time were properly used. I think the working people of the country are not dealt with properly when they are called upon to pay a portion of the expense of maintaining higher schools, and allowing children of the wealthier class of the population to attend them for the purpose of learning a profession. That is the point I wish particularly to bring before the Commission.

Q.—If higher education were made more expensive would it not prevent the children of the comparatively poor from getting any higher education whatever? A.—To some extent it might.

Q.—Would it not have a tendency to make the distinction between the rich and the poor more distinct than it now is? A.—I do not think it could or would. I think any workingman who has a child, or two children, whom he desires should learn a profession, can earn a sufficient amount of money to pay for their education in the higher schools in order to enable them to acquire a profession.

Q.—You have a collegiate institute in St. Thomas? A.—Yes.

Q.—A good one? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the rate of school tax in St. Thomas? A.—I do not know. I have been a resident here only a short time.

Q.—Do you know what is the cost of maintaining collegiate institutes? A.—That I could not say.

Q.—Have you any idea what the total cost of its maintenance is in proportion to the total assessment of the city? A.—No; I could not answer that question.

Q.—Do you think it is as much as to be appreciable to the average mechanic in St. Thomas? A.—I think it amounts to a considerable sum.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you think that the portion of the Government money that goes to colleges and universities should be diverted to the public schools, in the shape of purchasing books, so that books may be free? A.—I approve of that system at the common schools.

Q.—On the principle of the greatest good to the greatest number? A.—Yes; that is it.

Q.—Are there any children, in your opinion, among children of mechanics, who reach as high as a university education? A.—Very few.

By Mr. MARSH:—

Q.—Do you know anything of the model school system in this country? A.—Yes; I think it is a very good system.

Q.—What is the system adopted here? A.—Teachers, of course, have got to go through the course of training in the school under the new Act before they can get a certificate of qualification.

Q.—How are the schools supported? A.—I think there is a Government grant. It is eight years since I was a teacher.

Q.—Have the public to pay anything to those schools. I suppose higher education is taught there? A.—The public does not directly; they do indirectly, if there is a Government grant.

Q.—Do you think the public money could be applied to a better system, even taking your system into account? Suppose the system were to prevail, what branches would you consider sufficient to furnish a common school education for these children? A.—The three principal ones would be the three R's, grammar and geography.

Q.—How far would you go with the third R, arithmetic? A.—I would not expect that to embrace algebra or geometry.

Q.—Do you not think that for the son of a mechanic, who is intended subsequently to learn a trade, mathematics are important, especially if he is going to be a carpenter or a builder? A.—The first three books of Euclid would be very essential, and algebra also.

Q.—Do you know any reason given for teaching these higher branches to children in the common schools? Take algebra, for instance; do you know any reason given for teaching it in the common schools? A.—I do not know to what you particularly refer.

Q.—Do you know the reason given why it is taught in the public schools when it may not be essential to the trades which most boys will ultimately follow? A.—I think it is a study that would benefit any one, no matter what his course in after-life may be. I do not object to the study of those subjects; it is a point I have not thought out particularly as to what should be taught in the public schools, but the elementary branches are not thoroughly taught at present—not so much as they would be if the other plan I have mentioned were adopted.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are the wages in printing offices in St. Thomas always paid in cash? A.—I believe not.

Q.—Men sometimes receive orders on stores? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it done to any extent? A.—So far as I am concerned, I am one party who gives orders occasionally, but they are always received voluntarily; there never has been any system of compulsion, so far as I am concerned, although I have given orders.

Q.—Is it within your knowledge that men prefer orders on stores to cash? A.—If there has been any particular store at which they are dealing they would as soon receive an order as cash.

Q.—Do they prefer an order on a store to cash? A.—My answer is, that orders are sometimes received just as willingly as the cash would be. In my case they have always been so.

Q.—Do you give the hands an order on the store where they wish an order? A.—I never give an order to an employé on any store he does not wish an order on.

Q.—Do you select the stores, or do the men select the stores? A.—The men select the stores.

Q.—That they have received orders on? A.—Yes. I am sorry you have introduced the question, and I am sorry that I became a witness, for I can see where you are driving.

Q.—Did you see one of the circulars issued by the Commission? It states, "Inquiries relative to what is called the truck system." You understand that the

truck system is part orders and part cash. We understand that the workmen of the Dominion, generally, have been agitating to have that abolished. My only reason in asking the questions was to ascertain to what extent the system has been carried on in the towns we visit. A.—Not to cast any reflections on others, you can ask me any questions you choose on the matter. Since I have, in my answers, in a measure, committed myself, I want to say, in justice to myself, that I have never given any thing but what was just as acceptable as cash. We do business, more or less, with tradesmen who expect that trade will be taken in return, and in paying my hands, on some occasions, I have asked the question, knowing that they were dealing in particular stores, "Would you just as leave have an order on such and such a store?" In some cases it has been received very willingly; there has been no objection offered; there never has been any complaint; I am satisfied of that.

Q.—Do you know if they get full-cash values for these orders? Q.—I know that I am supposed to get full-cash value.

Q.—You get credit for the full-cash value. Do you know if the men get full-cash value for the value of the order? A.—Perhaps not.

Q.—Would it not be a better system to always pay the men cash? A.—I think it would.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are there not many instances in one of the printing offices in St. Thomas in which this is done? A.—Do you wish to press the question?

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—How long did you teach school? A.—About eight years.

Q.—How many times in those eight years were the books in any branch changed? A.—A great many times.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you find merchants in St. Thomas, in giving printing work to the offices, insist on the printer taking payment in trade, in many cases? A.—Here and in every other place they do so, more or less.

Q.—That, I suppose, is the general reason why men are sometimes paid in that way? A.—Yes.

ROBERT MCKAY, re-called.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What do you consider the best coupler for freight cars in use? A.—Considering the number of cars and the number of different draw-bars we have, I consider the Safford draw-head is the best; it is not an automatic coupler. There is a protection for the hand when the draw-heads come together; there is a place for the hand, and there is no chance for a man to get his hand smashed if at all careful. The number of patent couplers is very large, and unless you can compel all the roads doing business in Canada—for you cannot legislate for the United States, and you cannot refuse the cars, and uniformity is almost an impossibility—the new patents will not amount to anything, except to the patentees and those interested.

Q.—Do you know anything of the Ames coupler? A.—Yes; we use that. The Ames is the one adopted as a standard on the Canada Southern division of the Michigan Central.

Q.—Are the men required to go between the cars with the Ames coupler? A.—Yes; if it comes into contact with another, which is as likely as not. If there are two Ames couplers a man has not to go between the cars. As we build new cars and alter cars we put on the Ames coupler, which is an automatic coupler. It is a coupler that does not recommend itself to any railway company, for it is very expensive, and it is not a perfect coupler; it gets out of repair very quickly, and is altogether an expensive affair and is not a perfect one.

Q.—What is your opinion of the Janey coupler? A.—It is a very good coupler, but unless you can make all the couplers Janey's or Ames it is no use.

Q.—In view of the fact that some change is necessary, what coupler do you consider the best? A.—I think the Janey is preferable to the Ames. There are very few of them in use in Canada.

Q.—Could the Miller coupler be adapted to freight cars? A.—I suppose it is not an impossibility, but it would entail a vast amount of expense on the rolling stock.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What would it cost? A.—You would have to alter the coupler considerably from what it is now with the Miller platform. In introducing the platform to merchandise cars you have to have it project accordingly, so as to enable the brakeman to go from one to the other. On this division, I must say the company have adopted every precaution to protect the men, that is, by having the running bars a proper distance, so that they will not come in contact when the springs are compressed. The compression in the springs will amount to about 5 inches.

Q.—I suppose the link-pin with the Safford head is about as good a one as you have? A.—Yes; and about as profitable.

* * * Brakeman, M. C. R., St. Thomas, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—How long have you been employed as brakeman? A.—Four years and five months.

Q.—Will you tell us, please, if the brakemen have any grievances or if there are any means which you would suggest of bettering the condition of the brakeman's life? A.—Well, they have a good many grievances, and considerable improvements could be made to better their condition.

Q.—Just tell us what they are? A.—First, the running boards on the top of box cars should be widened a little, so as to make it better for brakemen running along them. The expansion between the cars is rather long in many cases and it is really necessary that it should be shortened. We have cars running over this road on which the frame of the car would project out 15 or 16 inches more than the top, and then we have the slack between the draw-bars, which will make it more still. Together this makes it quite a distance to step from one car to another, and if it is a windy night or the decks are bad we have to go down the end of one car and crawl up the end of the other.

Q.—What would you consider the proper width of running boards for safety? A.—Thirty inches.

Q.—You speak of the distance between the cars when running of being too great; can you tell us nearly what that distance is? A.—From 2½ to 3 feet.

Q.—A man would require to stand clear of the end of the car when jumping, and he would want to land clear on the other car, so he would have to jump 4 feet at least? A.—He would on some cars.

Q.—What is the average width of running boards now? A.—They vary considerably, from 30 inches down to what I should judge to be about 1 foot.

Q.—Have you any idea which is the best way to construct a running board? A.—To my idea lengthwise and some are put in short lengths, crosswise. Which is the best? A.—To my idea lengthwise is the best.

Q.—On an ordinary car, what is the distance between the deadwood and the end of the draw-head on your road? A.—There is no deadwood; there is a timber going across on the top of the draw-bar, but we don't consider it to be the deadwood. What we consider to be the deadwoods are the timbers down each side of the draw-bar.

Q.—Is there not a piece of wood bolted to the end sill of the cars to prevent them coming together? A.—No; the draw-bars touch first.

Q.—How much spring have these draw-bars got? When they come together how much will they spring in? A.—They vary; it is a hard thing to tell.

Q.—How far should the running boards project over the ends of the cars in order to avoid striking together when the draw-bars meet? A.—Taking the ordinary car, about 9 inches over the end of each.

Q.—Are you supplied with rubber shoes in the winter time? A.—No.

Q.—If you were supplied with them would the life of brakeman be safer? A.—I don't think so. From what I have seen and heard of rubber, it gets slippery after wearing it awhile.

Q.—Are you required to remain upon the cars for any length of time when running? A.—While descending grades we are supposed to be on top.

Q.—And when not going down grades you are supposed to be in the caboose? A.—Yes; except when going through stations.

Q.—Now, how about bell cords on freight trains? How do they work? A.—In my idea they are no use.

Q.—Are they any source of danger? A.—They are.

Q.—In what way? A.—Well, they are always getting down along the sides of the train and the brakeman has to step on the edge to get them up, and the least jar is liable to throw him off. Then, in walking along the deck of the train when you are in a hurry you step on it and it will roll under your foot.

Q.—Are accidents frequent to brakemen from that cause, or through the bell rope in any way? A.—As far as practical experience is concerned, I am not well versed in that, as I haven't had anything to do with it very long.

Q.—Brakemen when out on the road are supposed to do all the coupling required in picking up cars? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you find that in way-stations the frogs are all filled? A.—I think they are all filled on our road with wood blocks.

Q.—The danger has been removed from that source? A.—Yes; I think it was about a year ago they put them on.

Q.—What is the usual trip for a brakeman—the number of hours on the road? A.—The train I am on, taking it on the average, is about eighteen hours going one way over the road.

Q.—Without any rest? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many trips do you make in a week? A.—Two round trips in the week.

Q.—That would be seventy-two hours in a week? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much rest are you supposed to get between trips? A.—Well, I don't know; I haven't seen any official notice that we are supposed to take any—only go when we are called.

Q.—You cannot claim any number of hours for rest? A.—Not on the Michigan Central, that I am aware of, and I have been on four years and five months.

Q.—What class of trains do you run on? A.—A way freight.

Q.—Is that a more dangerous train than a regular freight? A.—Well, yes; I think it is.

Q.—Where does the extra danger come in? A.—We are always coupling and uncoupling cars at way stations.

Q.—Are you required to do that at night as well as day time? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is a brakeman paid by the trip or by the month? A.—On local freights we are paid by the month.

Q.—What wages do the Michigan Central pay for local freight? A.—Fifty dollars a month.

Q.—No allowance for overtime? A.—No.

Q.—No allowance for detentions for way stations? A.—No.

Q.—Can you tell anything about the couplings in use on your line? Do you consider them dangerous? A.—Some of them I do.

Q.—Which ones are they? A.—There is a kind of patent draw-bar they have got up which I consider very dangerous, for this reason: On this way freight business

we have to couple on with the push-bar to the engine as often as otherwise, and in coupling with the patent draw-bar it is apt to go right through, and you are liable to get caught. That is the Ames coupler, or the Toledo.

Q.—Isn't it considered by railway men one of the best that has been invented yet?
A.—I don't know; it is not in my estimation or in the estimation of any that I have spoken to.

Q.—Do you know anything of the Janey coupler? A.—No; I do not.

Q.—You have never seen it? A.—Not that I am aware of.

Q.—Do you know the Miller coupler? A.—Yes; that is used on passenger coaches.

Q.—Could the principle of the Miller be applied to freight trains? A.—Well, I don't know as it could.

Q.—Have you ever seen a coupler which, in your estimation, would be perfectly safe? A.—Well, no; I don't think so.

Q.—Which do you consider the safest draw-head in use at the present time?
A.—What they call the Safford draw-head.

Q.—The one which has room for the hand between the end? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there much difficulty in making up trains through the unequal height of cars? A.—Sometimes there is.

Q.—Isn't there a draw-head on some cars now which will enable you to connect easily cars of a different height? A.—There are a few that you can change the link from one place to another on the draw-bar; there are two different places for it.

Q.—Can you suggest to us any means whereby the risk to brakemen may be reduced? A.—Well, there is one case I see where I think it could be reduced a good deal, and that is by placing a hand rail along the top of the car for protection.

Q.—Where would you recommend this rail to be placed? A.—Along the running board—on the side of the running board.

Q.—On each side? A.—No; one side, I think, would do.

Q.—Is it the practice on your road when trains are delayed for orders to be sent to the men to take rest? A.—I have never heard of any.

Q.—And you have been on the road four years and have been detained frequently? A.—Yes.

Q.—And you have never received orders to take a rest? A.—No, sir. Last winter we left here on time; there was a snow block, and we got into Windsor about twenty-five minutes before we were due to leave; we had just time to wash and clean up before going back again, and it was after dark when we got back.

Q.—Were you on duty all the time? A.—Yes.

Q.—You were not asked to take any rest? A.—No.

Q.—In case of accident, would the company compensate the men in any shape?
A.—I have never heard of any.

Q.—Are you required to sign a paper when you enter the service protecting the company against actions from the consequences of accidents? A.—Yes; there is something to that effect.

Q.—Have you any provident system on the Michigan Central like that on the Grand Trunk? A.—No.

Q.—No insurance? A.—No.

Q.—Then you have no protection from accident at the hands of the railway company? A.—No.

Q.—When a man is disabled on the Michigan Central do they ever pay his expenses; or do they make it a practice to pay the expenses of a man who is laid up?
A.—I have never heard of them doing so.

Q.—Did you ever know of a case in which the company paid the doctor's bill and the board of a man who was injured by accident? A.—I never heard of any.

Q.—Do they furnish medical attendance to their men at the expense of the company when they are injured? A.—No; not that I am aware of. They have a doctor here but whether they pay him at their own expense or not I don't know.

Q.—Is the doctor furnished to the men free of charge? A.—I could not tell you that.

Q.—When a man is suspended how long does it take before he gets his case tried? A.—Sometimes it takes quite a while—I could not say how long. I believe there are some who are laid off and don't know whether they were going to work or not.

Q.—When a man is suspended for some offence, and after investigation has been found innocent, does the company pay him his wages while suspended? A.—I never heard of any instance of it.

Q.—Do they allow him for loss of time? A.—I never heard of it.

Q.—A man may be suspended without his knowing the cause and kept suspended for a month or more, and lose his time, without receiving any benefit? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are men discharged on the Michigan Central without their case being investigated? A.—I could not say as to that.

Q.—Who generally investigates charges against brakemen? A.—The superintendent.

Q.—The general superintendent of the road? A.—The division superintendent. Of course there are some cases where the train-master uses his own judgment upon it.

Q.—Are these superintendents always practical railway men? A.—I could not say.

Q.—In the case of a man being discharged, can he appeal to anybody above the person who has discharged him? A.—No.

Q.—Would it prevent a brakeman from getting employment on another road if he were dismissed in that way? A.—In which way?

Q.—If a man were dismissed without any charge being brought against him to his knowledge would he be able to get a similar situation on another road? A.—He might if he went so far west that they could not get any track of him.

Q.—Does the Michigan Central furnish employes on leaving their service with a certificate of service and character? A.—I believe so.

Q.—In all cases? A.—I don't know that they do in all cases, but I believe that they do in some.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—After running eighteen hours, as you say, how long are you allowed to rest after you are sent out? A.—Just until the train is due to leave.

Q.—How long would that be on the average? A.—About five hours.

Q.—And would you then be eighteen hours on duty again? A.—Hardly that much; it would just depend on the business of the road; sometimes it would and sometimes not.

Q.—After that eighteen hours' service how much time pay are you allowed? A.—We are paid by the month and we make two round trips a week.

Q.—If you ran from here to Windsor would you be eighteen hours on the road? A.—Yes; that is the run exactly.

Q.—And eighteen hours coming back? A.—No; we would hardly be that coming back; there would not be quite so much business and we could make it quicker.

Q.—In icy or sleety weather are orders given to run slow and carefully, so that brakemen need not run on the top of the trains to brake up? A.—I have never seen such an order, but I have heard there are such orders.

Q.—None ever came to you? A.—No; I never heard of any order being issued of that kind to conductors on local freights.

Q.—When running eighteen hours from here to Windsor aren't you lying by sidetracked part of the time? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you sleep during that time? A.—No; we are supposed to be on the lookout all the while, carrying freight and doing switching. If you get through work and the dispatcher sees fit to let you go, he will; if not, he will hold you for an hour or two and you are not supposed to go to sleep at all.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—If air brakes were applied to freight trains would they be as serviceable as they are on passenger trains? A.—I should think so.

Q.—Do you think an air brake system could be applied to a train, say of forty-five cars? A.—As for that I could not say; I am not posted on air brakes and can hardly say how many cars it will work.

* * * St. Thomas, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Just proceed with your evidence without questioning? A.—The last witness spoke about the running board, and that is my object in offering my evidence. As practical railway men, and after considerable enquiry last spring, we concluded that 2 inches from the end of the draw-bar—that is, that the running board should extend over to within 2 inches of the end of the drawbar—would be what would be required. Take, for instance, the D. L. & W.; they have deadwoods which extend some distance out past the end of the cars. Well, if there was the regular distance that the running board extends over the box it would not run satisfactory in that case, or in the case of the West Shore or New York Central with a Michigan Central car. But having the running board to extend within 2 inches of the draw-bar it would meet the requirements of all these I have named, for the reasons I have partly stated—that the draw-bar extends beyond the deadwoods, which extend a considerable distance past the D. L. & W. boxes. When they come within two inches of the end of the draw-bar it would suit the case of the D. L. & W. When coupling with another, the D. L. & W. may be 4 feet apart, in some cases more, and in some less, but generally about 4 feet, and both running boards would almost meet; they would be within 4 to 6 inches of each other. The same rule would apply in all box cars. The Bill of last Session, introduced by Mr. Dalton McCarthy, in the Dominion Parliament, is one I think would meet the requirements, as far as running boards are concerned, and that Bill is framed as I have described in that respect.

Q.—You take into consideration, of course, the elasticity of the spring in making that calculation? A.—Certainly, that would have to be considered. When a car is standing in the shop the draw-bar has not been pulled out and the spring has not been extended. And for that reason, the carpenter building the car is in a position to know exactly what spring the car is supposed to have. Now, with regard to bell cords, as far as I understand—and I believe I know correctly—the Michigan Central don't use bell cords on ordinary freight trains, but on the Grand Trunk they do; on all trains they are supposed to carry a bell cord, with the exception, I believe, of gravel trains.

(A person present in the room here stated that the Grand Trunk didn't use the bell cord on way freight trains).

The WITNESS.—The bell cord does not prevent a train parting in two, and supposing the conductor is in the caboose and wishes to warn the engineer, there is not one case in a hundred in which he can do so by pulling the bell cord—not with the usual freight train on the air line, which is twenty-eight cars to the train. In case the train breaks in two, if the gongs on the engine are in proper condition, the engineer might be warned, but in my experience on the Grand Trunk there are no gongs on the engines that will work sufficiently satisfactorily to warn the engineer that the train has parted.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Why is that? A.—Because the gong connecting with the bell cord is not in proper condition. The brakemen frequently don't have time to properly splice their bell cords; they make knots on them, and if you have two or three knots on the cord it is impossible for it to work freely on top of the train, because there are

some running boards composed of three narrow pieces, and the cord may get caught between them, and not go round the ratchet or dog. As far as the conductors and brakemen are concerned, the company's rules give them to understand that they shall string the bell cord while the train is standing; but unfortunately, like others they are desirous to get on the road as soon as possible, and they often string the bell cord while the train is in motion. For instance, in London yard about two years ago a young man was stringing the bell cord on a train running perhaps not more than four miles an hour; the cord caught by some means on the deck of the train, and in turning round to pull it it gave way suddenly, giving him a jerk, throwing him off on a flat car loaded with stone, and he was killed. The same thing occurred in Windsor, and frequent risks of the same kind are run here. As long as the bell cord is in use my opinion is that there will be a great many lives lost while stringing in that way, and at the same time very little is accomplished by using it. When the air line was connected with the Great Western the men on this division ran their trains without using the bell cord and they ran them to the entire satisfaction of their superintendents; since the bell cord has come in use I don't see that accidents have lessened one iota. Further, I think they are an unnecessary bill of expense and accomplish very little good.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are brakemen taught to splice a rope? A.—No; they are not.

Q.—They have no other resource than to tie it if it breaks? A.—If they have common sense enough they can learn in a few minutes.

Q.—They are not obliged to learn? A.—They are furnished with wire for the purpose of doing so.

THOMAS JONES.—I would ask the previous witness if he thinks from his experience that if a brakeman were not to knot the bell cord, but to splice it as well as possible, if there were thirty cars in the train, and even if the gong was working all right and in good condition, could it be rung from the caboose once in ten times?

The WITNESS.—Not once in fifty times. I may say that I would like to have it distinctly understood by the Commission that when I spoke of bell cords and their use I referred to freight trains only. I approve of them on all trains carrying passengers. I should also have mentioned that when a bell cord breaks on a train it frequently occurs that where the splice is in the bell cord it may be caught in the running board, and in cases of that kind it has frequently been known that the engineers are not warned by it.

THOMAS JONES.—I contend that the bell cord is practically useless on long freight trains, as it is impossible to use it as a means of communication between the conductor and the engineer.

* * * recalled.

I desire to say a few words in regard to the licensing of conductors. We expect by having licenses to have our occupation made a steady one. At present we are at the will and pleasure of the superintendent, who may, the moment he comes here to assume the position of superintendent, discharge all the conductors, although they may have worked up from the position of brakemen, and bring a new staff entirely with him. We believe by our Bill, or by something similar to it, if it became law, it would be impossible for him to take away the work entirely from Government employes, for men holding a Government license would be, to a certain extent, Government employes. Another point is plain to anyone who has had anything to do with the railway, that incompetent individuals have been put in charge of trains. When out on the road an incompetent man is running the risk of sacrificing not only his own life and the lives of the public, but of every man who works on the train with him. We believe in a man passing a strict examination, and afterwards obtaining a

license based on it. It is not unusual for the superintendent of a railway to be a man who has been trained entirely in an office, and we claim, as practical railway men, who have followed the business in a practical way from brakemen to conductors, that the man trained in an office does not know the work practically, but theoretically, and that he should not have the power to fine a conductor, or keep back ten days' pay, or lay him off for a month, when he does not know the facts of the case. If we had a board of examiners, as is provided in the Bill, we would have a safeguard against the superintendent, who is not always well able to judge of the capabilities of the men.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Would the company, in that case, have sufficient control over its employés if, to a certain extent, the men were guaranteed positions by holding a Government certificate? A.—I think the company would have; for the appointment to positions would always remain in the hands of the superintendent. No law can be made to say that a superintendent shall hire certain men and not hire others. That is the last thing we would attempt to derive any benefit from, but it would give the man a right to go before that board in case the superintendent discharged him. There was an accident near St. Thomas a little while ago of which we all heard. The conductor of the train was entirely blameless, and the company was at fault, that is from our standpoint. Had we had some tribunal to whom we could have taken the case, above the superintendent, who judged the man guilty and discharged him, which was the highest penalty he could inflict, the man would, no doubt, have been declared innocent. That same man was, however, laid off for three months, and was afterwards discharged, and did not get any papers of character. The black-listing question comes in here, and without a letter from his old superintendent it is pretty hard for a man to get a train to run, and even difficult to get a position as brakeman. If we had a license system it would work in this way: Having the recommendation of his superintendent, a conductor or brakeman could go before the board of examiners and get his papers, and they would state that he was a practical man, and fully able to run a train; and so long as the certificate was not revoked by the board he would be qualified to hold the position set out in the certificate.

* * * Brakeman, M. C. R., St. Thomas, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—You heard the evidence of the witness with regard to a brakeman's life and work. Do you agree with it? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you add anything to it? A.—No; I cannot, except to say that we had a train out of St. Thomas last Thursday morning, and I don't think two men could pull the slack on the bell cord; we had fifty cars; and if a man can do it on ten coaches he is a pretty good man.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Supposing you had it slack, say on a train of thirty cars, how much would you have to pull? A.—You wouldn't have over, I should say, 6 to 10 feet.

Q.—It would not be less than 10 feet? A.—No; I don't think so.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—What kind of oil do you use in your lamps? A.—Signal oil.

Q.—What is it made of? A.—I think it is made of lard oil and kerosene.

Q.—Does anybody give it out? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it the same with other oil and other articles you use—axes, &c.?

A.—Yes.

Q.—That is on the Grand Trunk? A.—No; the Michigan Central.

* * * M. C. R., St. Thomas, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What is your occupation? A.—A brakeman.

Q.—You have heard the evidence of the previous witnesses? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you agree with them? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you give any information which we have not received? A.—As to the risk that the brakeman runs, I think something should be done in the way of brakes, that is, in the number of brakes that a man has to set to hold the train.

Q.—How many brakes can a brakeman control properly when the train is in motion? A.—That depends a great deal on the grade.

Q.—Take an average trip, and the engineer whistles for brakes, how many can a man put on on loaded cars? A.—On this road we pull thirty-five to forty loaded cars, and when you stop a train one man has to set up from seven to eight brakes.

Q.—Then you put the brakes on a little more than one-third of the whole train? A.—Yes.

Q.—If there were a larger crew carried on freight trains would it lessen the danger? A.—Well, it would in one way; of course, there would be another man to help to do the work.

Q.—If there were, say, three brakemen and a conductor on the train, and the engineer whistled for brakes, wouldn't three men be able to stop the train in a much shorter distance than two? A.—That depends upon whether they have the brakes to work with. A great many of these cars have not got brakes which will hold them.

Q.—The cars are sent out in an improper condition? A.—Yes; I have gone through seventeen cars to get three good brakes to hold the train.

Q.—Where would you find the principal defect? A.—In the brake rods or chain, the chain being too long; the top rod would come up to the brake mast.

Q.—Do you ever find that the shoe of the brake is worn so it will not go? A.—Yes; very often, and in other cases we find the dogs and ratchets broken or worn out.

Q.—Whose duty is it to report the condition of the car? A.—On the Michigan Central at present I believe it is the conductor's duty to report the condition of the car if they can tell what is the matter with the brake.

Q.—Are cars sent out when the authorities know that the brakes are not in working order? A.—I would not say as to that, but at the same time there is nobody to look after the brakes.

Q.—Is there anyone here to inspect the cars before the train is made up? A.—They inspect the cars as far as their running is concerned, but not the brakes.

Q.—Have brakemen ever asked that somebody shall inspect the brakes before trains shall go out? A.—I do not know as they have.

Q.—Wouldn't it be largely the fault of the brakemen themselves, then, if these brakes are not in good condition? A.—Well, no; because they will not stop the car here if it happens to be loaded with perishable property; they will not stop it to fix it.

Q.—If it is reported? A.—No, sir; not in St. Thomas.

Q.—Do brakemen always report bad brakes to the conductor? A.—I think they do; I always have.

Q.—Do you know if the conductor reports the state of affairs to the proper officer? A.—Yes, I have known them to do it, and I have known that car to go out without being fixed.

Q.—Is there anything else you could suggest to us? A.—No; I don't think there is.

Q.—Do you know anything about the action of air brakes? A.—Not a great deal.

Q.—You could not speak as to whether they would be workable on long freight trains? A.—I do not think it would work on a whole train.

Q.—Would it be any benefit on part of the train? A.—Yes; I think it would.

Q.—Wouldn't it be a great expense to have cars only partially fitted up with air brakes. A.—Well, if all cars were fitted up it could be used on so many at the head end.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are these bad brakes often reported and not fixed? A.—Yes; quite often to my own knowledge.

Q.—Whose fault is it, then? A.—That I don't know; those who could fix them tell me they couldn't stop the car; it must go through.

Q.—Were you ever concerned in a case of investigation? A.—I was pulled off myself once for breaking a draw-bar.

Q.—Do the parties investigating the charge show courtesy towards the men in the trial? A.—They didn't show any towards me.

The Commission then adjourned until 10 o'clock the following day.

* * * St Thomas, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What is your business? A.—I have been employed upon the Grand Trunk as a section man.

Q.—What wages are paid to section men? A.—One dollar a day.

Q.—What hours do you work? A.—From seven o'clock to six.

Q.—How frequently are you paid? A.—Once a month.

Q.—Do you get a full month's pay then? A.—Well, we get paid about the 15th up to the end of last month.

Q.—Are you employed the year round? A.—Yes.

Q.—The same wages the year round? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you ever called on to work at night? A.—Sometimes; in case of fires or accidents.

Q.—Do you get extra pay for that? A.—Yes; the same rate that you would for day work.

Q.—The same rate per hour? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are men kept for long periods in these positions? A.—O, yes.

Q.—Are they frequently discharged? A.—No; I had to leave in consequence of weakness, after I was on the section over seven and a-half years.

Q.—You left of your own accord? A.—Yes.

Q.—Was the work very severe? A.—Yes; we often get wet.

Q.—Are the section men in danger of accidents of any kind? A.—No; I think not.

Q.—Not more than other ordinary laborers? A.—No.

Q.—Have you any suggestions to make as to anything that would improve the conditions of these men? A.—No; I don't think that I have; I think they should have a little more money.

By Mr. HEAKES.

Q.—Did you belong to the providence society of the Grand Trunk Railway? A.—Yes; I did.

Q.—Will you state anything you know in connection with that society which you think is not in the interests of the men? A.—Well, there is one thing I didn't like; when I left in consequence of weakness I supposed they would give me another job of some kind after being on so long, but instead of that I was ordered to give up my certificate that would entitle my family to \$250 if I died. I asked if they could give me another job and they said the whole engineering work was the same, and that was all they could do. Some time afterwards Mr. Stewart, the station agent, called me in and said he could give me a steady job in the freight house; but when he asked me my age, and I told him, he said he could not give me the job because I was over forty-five years.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What age were you when you went into the service of the company?
A.—I was about thirty-six.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Was there any reason, that you know of, why they asked you to give up your certificate, other than that you had left the company? A.—No; none that I know of.

Q.—Your assessments were all paid up? A.—Yes; everything.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—And you are not entitled to anything? A.—No.

Q.—What you paid in was lost to you? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it not a fact, that when an employé of the Grand Trunk railway becomes a member of the benefit society he may remain a member after he leaves the railway? A.—Yes; I believe he may.

Q.—Isn't it an understood thing that he can do so? A.—He can do so, but there is a great deal of bother about it, and I didn't want to be put to that bother.

Q.—Did you object to giving up your certificate? A.—No; I did not.

Q.—You gave it up on demand? A.—Yes; at once.

Q.—Did they pay you a sick allowance during the time you were ill? A.—Yes.

Q.—The rate up to date? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You say that section men are paid once a month? A.—Yes.

Q.—Would they prefer being paid oftener? A.—No; it doesn't matter to me.

Q.—For a small amount of money, I presume, you think that once a month is too long? A.—Yes, I think it is too long, but still we have to put up with it.

Q.—Do you think if you were paid in a shorter time it would be more beneficial to your family? A.—Yes; I do.

Q.—Is \$1 a day the average salary a section man receives? A.—Yes; a section foreman get \$1.50.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—All the year round? A.—Yes; when the Western had the road we got \$1.10 for two or three years, when Mr. Broughton was manager.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You work for 10 cents an hour? A.—Yes.

JOHN WADDELL, St. Thomas, re-called.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—I am told you can give us some information respecting the operation of the mechanics' lien law? A.—Well, as far as we have it on the Statute-book now it is a dead letter, as far as I can get at it.

Q.—For what reason? A.—For the reason that men when they have a job with an employer, and perhaps to all intents and purposes a steady job, and perhaps can not get their money out of it, are not going to apply the lien law. The first thing they know the man gets into difficulty, and the lien law is too late. He is all paid up on the contract he has taken, and therefore the workmen and the hardwaremen furnish him—the millmen and the glassmen, and the paintmen and the hardwaremen, and so on—have all to suffer if he has a bogus contract. The lien law in the shape it is in at present is no benefit to the mechanic.

Q.—Can you suggest any change which would protect the mechanic? A.—The suggestion I would make would be for the law to ignore the contractor, and let the

building which is put up be good for all that goes into it. In that case we would get responsible contractors; and every Tom, Dick and Harry who is no mechanic, and has no foundation, or anything else, could not go out and tender for contracts.

Q.—Wouldn't that injure, say the journeyman, who has saved a few hundred dollars, by preventing him from getting a contract? A.—No; because a good journeyman, a man who knows his business, can at any time get backing, as far as my experience has gone. Such a man is never denied backing if he is required to put up a deposit on a contract—if he is known to be a fair, honest man, and has taken his contract at a fair figure. The reason for low wages in many instances in this town is the fact that so many saw-and-hatchet carpenters, as you would call them, go round and take jobs, and the first thing you hear of them they beat the millmen and the hardwaremen, and others. When the millman loses his money he must, in order to get profits, curtail his wages, and the men cannot get higher wages on account of the risk. If there was no risk, and profits were sure mechanics would be better paid, and a better class would be employed.

Q.—If a person intended to build, and a substantial contractor were to put in a tender, and a journeyman, or a few journeymen, were to put in a tender also, wouldn't the capitalist prefer the substantial contractor to the others, for the very reason that he might be afraid they would get into difficulties and cause him loss and annoyance? A.—Not unless they had security. It doesn't make any difference to him in that case, but it would make people who were able to get security, if the building had to be good for everything which went into it.

Q.—You think the respectable mechanic, who was a good workman, could get security if he was well known, and would be on a footing of equality with the large contractor in that respect? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—With reference to the lien law, doesn't it allow the owner to hold back 10 per cent. for thirty days, so that the mechanic can be paid in the mean time? Can not he procure his wages within thirty days? A.—Yes; if the 10 per cent. covers it, and if there is not another in ahead of him, and if the lawyers do not eat it all up.

Q.—Isn't the lien the prior claim? A.—Yes; if my lien against my next neighbor is in ahead of his.

Q.—For wages, you mean? A.—Yes. Supposing there were twelve men working on a building and I put in my lien first, three or four men's liens will eat up all that there is. You take it as a general thing men don't care about putting on these liens; they get to be marked men if they go to a lawyer's office; if it happens to be a good man who gets into one he will not get a job again.

Q.—Are there many journeymen carpenters in this city settling in that way? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—The lien law affords no protection to the mechanic? A.—No; not in my estimation; it is too much of a roundabout to get at it. If a man puts in ten days' work on a building, let the building be responsible for a certain length of time and then the man who is going to put up the building will make the contract or furnish security to cover all this, and this will bring the mechanics into a higher state of respectability. They will be better paid; the man will be sure of his profits when he knows that somebody is not going to take the job who cannot make anything out of it, because such a man cannot get security to hold him up.

LONDON, January 10th, 1888.

C. T. CAMPBELL, M. D., called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You have some knowledge of workmen's benefit associations? A.—Yes, sir; I have considerable knowledge of what are called benefit societies, and of course the majority of the members of these societies are workingmen, people of the wage-earning class.

Q.—Are those local or general organizations to which you refer? A.—General organizations, of course with subordinate branches. Some of them are very large; some have a membership of over half a million, and some only probably a thousand or so.

Q.—How long does your experience of these bodies extend? A.—My personal experience extends over twenty years.

Q.—How many organizations of the class to which you refer have lived for twenty years? A.—Let me understand just exactly how you mean. There are different kinds of associations; some of them have lasted for a century—that is, associations whose object is to afford pecuniary benefits to their members. Then there is another class of associations whose main object is to provide what is called assessment assurance and benefit to the family of a member at his death. Those are much more modern; the oldest of them would not go back probably more than thirty years. It is within the last thirty years that societies of that particular kind have been established. Many of them have failed, though others have not.

Q.—The organizations whose life has extended over a century would include only the Masonic body and the Oddfellows? A.—Yes; and I think the Foresters, as far as the English body is concerned.

Q.—Is the primary object of the existence of these bodies benefit, or ordinary charity and benevolence? A.—The Masonic body is, of course, charitable; it gives no direct benefits, that is the organization itself, though there are auxiliary bodies, formed of the parts of that body itself, which give benefits. But the body itself gives no pecuniary benefit except as a matter of charity. Others of these are the Oddfellows, the Foresters, the Druids, in England, the Knights of Pythias, the Red Men, and the Ancient Order of Workmen, and others which give benefit as a matter of business.

Q.—Is that the primary object of their existence, or is it a secondary object? A.—Well, I look upon it as being really the primary object of their existence. Nearly all of them claim in one sense that it is not; that their great object is to teach virtue, truth, morality, charity and benevolence, and they do so. It is the essential part of their work, but I assume that without the benefit system connected with them these organizations would not last very long. That is the practical part of their operations.

Q.—Is it possible in these bodies or any of them to separate the cost of what we may call the insurance which is given in them from the cost of maintenance? A.—Yes; in some of them. A good many of them do not enter into details of that kind in sending their reports to the main body, but others do.

Q.—Where it is possible to separate the cost of insurance from the other expenses, is it found that the cost of insurance is greater or less than that given by the ordinary insurance companies? A.—That is life insurance, or health insurance? Some of them give mostly sick benefits, which would be health insurance, and others give life insurance.

Q.—I mean those giving life insurance? A.—Yes; as far as my examination of the returns as given in all those cases, and I think in the great majority of companies of that kind which give life insurance, if they take the cost of insurance separate from the cost of maintenance it is found to be, speaking roughly, less than half the ordinary cost of insurance—that is the old time life insurance companies.

Q.—What are the expenses of maintaining the insurance branch of these societies, over and above the amount of money returned to the other? A.—Well, I could not answer that, of course, on the spur of the moment without going into an examination

of the statistics &c.; but the expenses are comparatively slight, for this reason: in all those bodies there is very little paid for the expense of maintenance; salaried officials are comparatively few; their salaries are moderate in amount, and there is only a small sum paid by individual members towards keeping up the general running expenses of the institution. The great mass of the money they pay—I should suppose, though I would not like to say for certain, probably 90 to 95 per cent. of it would—goes towards the insurance.

Q.—Have you informed yourself as to the amount of the premiums in ordinary life insurance companies which are returned to the insured and the amount which is swallowed up for expense, and which goes to the profits of the companies? A.—To some extent I have looked into the matter. The amount that is returned in the regular life insurance companies to the holder is an uncertain amount.

Q.—Yes; but there is an average struck. Do you know what it is? A.—No; I could not tell you.

Q.—You think, then, that of the sums paid into those benefit organizations to which you refer 90 to 95 per cent. would be returned to the insured on the average?

A.—Yes; I think so, though I would not like to be held as speaking definitely on that point, as I have not looked it up closely.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Does that apply to all these benevolent societies? A.—No; I would not say that, but to the great mass. There are so many that it is almost impossible for any man to know the details of all of them, unless he was making a special study of it.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do these societies continue to exist for long periods, or do they pass away from time to time? A.—It is only within a very comparatively short period that these societies have been in existence at all, and no doubt many of the first ones organized did fail. They were started probably in rather a hap-hazard manner, some of them by men who did not have much understanding of the laws of vital statistics, and not being conducted in a good business manner, many of them failed. There are some in existence to-day to my personal knowledge which are over twenty years old—how many I could not say. The majority of those which have been organized of late years, so far as I have been able to learn, are established with much better prospects of permanency. They are taking into consideration the varying laws of life and health, and they have founded their business on more scientific principles, and therefore they are more likely to last.

Q.—Are the payments in these societies based on the average probabilities of life, or are they required as the members die? A.—That varies. Some of them require definite payments from each member every time there is a death; others make their calls as the treasury become exhausted, and then the assessments vary in this manner—that in some the assessment is called from the members, irrespective of their age, when they join—that is, a man joining at twenty-one or at fifty pays the same. In others, and I think in most of those organizations established lately, the assessment is according to the age of the man when he joins, so that those joining at an advanced age pay higher.

Q.—Do you consider it safe insurance where a man of twenty-one pays the same assessment as a man of fifty. A.—I should not consider it fair; I suppose it is safe.

Q.—Do you know whether it is or is not a fact that after these societies have been organized for some years the calls on the members increase rapidly in amount and frequency? A.—No doubt they will, because when a society is first organized its members are all either young or have recently passed a medical examination, and they are in comparatively good health, and the mortality rate will be low, but in time the rate will run up to the general average rate.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Would not an increased number of members counterbalance the difference between the extra number of calls made and the amount paid? A.—Not fully; of

course it will to some extent. In fact, if there was no increase of members I presume the assessment organizations and the insurance companies alike would come to a speedy termination. It is by the new blood coming in that they are enabled to work along, and of course by new members coming in the rate is kept down lower than if only the old members were there.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you know if the membership has increased? A.—In the great majority of cases the members increase. In some few of them, of course, the members drop out, especially those of a purely local character, and a great many failures of organizations of this kind have been purely local. The membership has never been large—perhaps running from 500 to 1,000, and after a few years the calls becoming rather frequent the membership drops and they become extinct.

Q.—And those who have made payments find themselves without any insurance? A.—Yes; certainly; they were supposed to understand that when they joined the insurance it was as long as the society held together; there is nothing invested.

Q.—Taking the average of these societies, and taking the average of the regular original life insurance companies, do you think the chances of permanency as great in these societies to which you refer as in the insurance companies? A.—I think so. So far as membership and things of that kind are concerned, the advantage of the life insurance companies would be in this, that drawing from policy-holders probably twice the amount necessary to pay insurance they are enabled to invest a large sum to provide for the future.

Q.—And to re-insure? A.—Yes; if it is found necessary. Of course, there are a great many of those societies who put by a reserve fund to a moderate amount. Some of them have no reserve fund. Some take the position that there should be no reserve fund; that the members should keep all the reserve fund in their own pockets. There are differences of opinion among members of these organizations as to which is the wiser policy.

Q.—You would not consider one of these companies safe unless it had a large membership extending over a large area? A.—I would not have so much confidence in its permanency. If it was a purely local society its sphere of operation would necessarily be limited and I should have my doubts about it. If it started out locally at the origin, as all of them must necessarily do, but with the intention of extending itself and not confining itself to the locality, but spreading as far as its merits would enable it, then of course its prospects would be all right.

Q.—Have you anything to volunteer in addition to what you have said? A.—No; I cannot say I have. Of course, I had no idea what would be the particular scope and prepared nothing special to offer to you. I just came with the intention of answering any questions you might have to ask; but I did not know whether the object of your enquiry was more as to assessment associations providing life insurance, or benefit societies providing simply health assurance or sick benefit. I see now it is more in regard to assessment associations. I think, in general terms, all these organizations are beneficial to the workingmen. They have a good educational effect. The majority of the assessment associations are more or less social and fraternal associations as well as business organizations. They have all something of an initiatory ceremony, and their rituals, as far as I have learned, are all calculated to teach good lessons to their members, and in that way they have a beneficial effect. Then, in addition to that, I think another beneficial effect they have is the cultivation of the principle of mutual help and self help. Members join these organizations having a well-founded business basis and for practical purposes, yet, at the same time, they understand that it is done, not through some special business company, but as a mutual work, each assisting the other, and they put their money into these organizations, pay in their dues and assessments, with the idea that they are helping one another and at the same time helping themselves, and they are thus led to cultivate habits of providing for the future and habits of independence. In this way benefit societies of all kinds, I think, are eminently calculated to prevent

pauperism. Largely their membership is drawn from the wage-earning class; while there are many of the professional class and employers of labor, yet the majority, I think, are drawn from the wage earning class, and when the wage-earner takes sick, of course his means of revenue are cut short, and unless he gets help he is thrown upon public charity. Now, these organizations enable many workingmen who have no income beyond their daily or weekly wages to get along weeks and months without being thrown on the community as paupers. In this way a city or municipality is protected from a large expenditure for charitable purposes, for which it would otherwise necessarily be called upon. So I think these organizations have all a good effect. The one bad feature about any of them is, that there is a tendency to promise more than they can really fulfil.

Q.—There is that tendency on the part of the societies? A.—Yes; there is a great deal of competition amongst them; there are a great many organizations, and although there is no ill-will bred among them, each one wants as many members as it can get. In this way the feeling on the part of many members, who do not look into the solid business part of an organization of that kind, is to make large promises; thus they are promised much larger sick benefits, for example, than the facts would justify. Of course, there is danger to that effect, and I am sure that the older and better organizations are going out of that. When they originally started their benefit system was on a purely hap-hazard basis, but of late it has been conducted much more soundly, and prominent men in these societies have been endeavoring, by studying vital statistics, to fix some definite basis by which there may be a proper scientific proportion between the dues paid into the societies and the benefits to be received by members. And I think the tendency now amongst the older and better societies is to have their benefit systems on a sound financial basis. The only evil about them is the danger of some of them promising more than they can fulfil, and the result is, of course, that they fail after a time, and those putting dependence in them will suffer. In Great Britain the matter is under parliamentary supervision to some extent. Returns are made to the Registrar-General, and a fixed plan of fees and dues has been provided by legislation, to which they have to conform. I do not suppose that could be carried out here, so far as Government control is concerned, although Government supervision might be had to some extent, that is, receiving from these societies proper reports of their operations, and fixing the proper dues of admission by the Government, and requiring all societies who come up to the proper requirements to be duly registered. Then, of course, those societies which did not register would lack nominal endorsement to that effect. They would stand before the world as having a system which was not approved, and people would go into them with their eyes open.

Q.—Do you think it would be possible for the Government to require from these societies the same security that they require from the ordinary insurance companies? A.—No; I do not think so; I don't think that would work at all. In fact, it would be a very difficult thing to do, because these societies have, as a rule, no money to put up for purposes of that kind. They call the money from the members for the immediate purpose of the society, and they have not large funds which they could pay to the Government as security.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Would it be possible to limit the liabilities of the companies? A.—I do not think of any way just now. Do you mean not to allow them to promise?

Q.—Not to allow them to speculate with their money? A.—Yes; a supervision of that kind I think could be made.

Q.—And limit their liabilities so far as insurance is concerned? A.—Yes; not to allow them to give a larger amount than say \$1,000 or \$500. I do not think they could be compelled altogether in this matter, but if placed under a certain amount of Government supervision and they failed to come up to the requirements that the authorities laid down as constituting a proper basis, they would necessarily stand

before the public as failing to come up to those requirements which good authority required and they would suffer accordingly.

Q.—Wouldn't it be better for the Government to have some supervision over these societies, to supervise that part of their business? A.—I think it would be, to that extent only. I do not think it would be a good thing for any Government on this continent to undertake the matter of controlling those organizations, but just a general supervision. There could be no harm to anybody in that, and I think every society properly conducted would be willing for anything of that kind, as long as it did not involve serious expense.

Q.—It would establish a constituency for the cautious of these societies? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know if these societies have a surplus of any kind? A.—Compared with the surpluses of insurance companies operated with the same number of members, of course the surpluses are small.

Q.—Is there any one which has a very large surplus, one of those you mentioned as among the English societies—the Ancient Order of Foresters? A.—I cannot say for certain as to that.

Q.—I was going to ask you if the members of the societies participate in any benefit from these surplus funds? A.—In regard to the Foresters, I cannot tell you.

Q.—Is it possible for a member of these societies to will the amount of his insurance to any body? A.—None that I can call to mind, though there may be some. In most of them the member is required to give the name of the party to whom he wishes his benefit paid, and there must be some relationship—it must be some one more or less depending on him.

Q.—He cannot will the amount? A.—No; not for the payment of his creditors, or anything of that kind.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Can it go to a stranger? A.—No; not in most cases. He must select some person, either a member of the family or some person to a reasonable extent depending on him; that is, in most of them.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—In case that the beneficiary should die the amount would fall to somebody else? A.—As far as I remember, all the members are directed that if the beneficiary dies they must have the certificate changed.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—There would be no objection to a man naming two or three in succession in his certificate? A.—No; a great many name several members of a family—say the wife and children of one of the members.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—You believe, in general, that a man insured receives the full benefit, because it is carried at a low rate? A.—Yes; and it is insurance as long as it continues. Of course, for many people they would have either to have insurance of that kind or none at all, because they could not afford to pay the fixed charges by regular insurance companies.

Q.—You are generally in favor of them? A.—Yes; if properly conducted and supervised—the arrangements being based on something like stock principles of fixed statistics.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do the parties who have the custody of the money have it secured? A.—Yes; I think so, without exception. I think the rule is to give security far in excess of any amount they are required to have in their hands.

Q.—It that the general rule? A.—I think it is, as far as I can call to mind. I know in some of them they give security to the extent of \$100,000—the security of

guarantee associations, or some other responsible parties. The security I should be personally more inclined to depend upon is the security which any official of an insurance company gives of the same character—that is, for all the larger and more prominent ones; some small ones might be different.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—I understand that you have been connected with the Public School Board here for some years. Possibly you could give us some information on the subject of technical education. Have you ever given the subject of technical education in primary schools any thought? A.—To some extent, but not largely, for the reason that we have had so much to do, and the course in the primary schools is so extended that we have never been able to see how we could work much more in. The advisability of having technical education I think there can be no question about, if it could be managed.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—They have been making a change in New York. Do you know anything specially about it? A.—No; nothing but what there was in the press.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Don't you think that the present system of education tends to professionalism? A.—Yes; I have no hesitation in saying that the State—I mean the State in Canada and the United States—provides too much education; that is the general tendency on this continent. I think if the State provided a practical education, which every man, woman and child is likely to need, or can find serviceable, it would be better. No doubt, the education necessary for professional study would be provided sufficiently cheap for those who wished it.

Q.—Taking into consideration the large number of boys attending school who develop into mechanics, don't you think that some of the present course of instruction might be dropped and the elements of science as applied to mechanics introduced in their place? A.—I think so; I think it would be an advantage if that could be done.

Q.—Do you think it might be engrafted on the public school system? A.—I think it could, though I would not undertake to say how. Of course, one necessary element would be, that you would have to drop out some of the present course.

Q.—Do you think it would be an advantage to the population if boys could be educated in that direction? A.—Yes; I think as a simple question of fairness, and also for the benefit of the community, that there should be the same choice offered to those who are going to fill mechanical occupations as are offered to those who are going to fill professional occupations, that is if it is advisable at all that a man should get any further assistance from the State than is necessary to enable him to read, write and spell. If he is to get something to fit him for a future calling, as all professional men do to some extent, the wage-earning class should have the same assistance.

Q.—Do you know anything of the kindergarten system? A.—A little.

Q.—Do you think if it was extended it would be of benefit to the older students as well as the younger children. For instance, if they had the different kinds of wood and were taught the uses to which they might be applied, strength, durability and so on, with models of steam engines and things of that kind? A.—Whether that could be worked in as part of the kindergarten system I do not know. The Kindergarten system properly is an educational nursery. It takes children before they are fitted for a course of the public schools and gives them a certain amount of training which, while it does not give them much information, fits them for learning better, so that when they take up the regular course in the public schools they could observe better, reason better and make better use of the instruction given. I think that is the chief advantage of the kindergarten system. The amount of information the child gets by it is not very great; I think the advantage is more in the training.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Don't you think that that would be a very good education for extending to the children of a larger growth? A.—Yes; as children become larger the same principle could be carried out to cultivate the reasoning faculties, but of course you have to pile in more information.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—I am told that in the kindergarten schools there are over one hundred different articles which they make out of paper, clay, &c. Could not that system be extended, and instead of paper, clay, &c., have models of steam engines, and so on? A.—That would, of course, be shaping it into a system of technical education; it would be primary technical education.

Q.—Do you think that might be developed in the public school system without injury to the average scholar? A.—I think so, but of course it would be a matter of a great amount of study to know exactly how to arrange it, but I think it might be done, and if it could be done I have no doubt of its beneficial character.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—As a matter of fact, the children of mechanics and laborers are taught fifty things in schools which they never require, and the people who are engaged to teach them these subjects are paid higher salaries than one could be got to teach for in technical education, just because he has a higher education himself? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you mean to say that the teacher who gives technical education would have a smaller salary? A.—I would not undertake to say that. I do not know what salaries are given for that purpose.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—It would depend on how for it was going? A.—Yes; if you were teaching a boy to shove a jack-plane, and so on, an ordinary carpenter at \$1.50 to \$2 a day could teach him that. But if you went farther than that and taught him the practical part of his work, I think he would demand and claim a higher salary.

Q.—Has he not to have a certain amount of education? If he hadn't would he understand the planning and be able to follow it out? A.—Of course he certainly requires to have a certain amount of education and the more he has the better for himself.

Q.—And he does not get anything like the salary the teacher gets? A.—No.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you think that after a child has left the public school and gone to learn a trade it would be better to teach him the technical part of his trade through night schools? A.—I have never thought on that point.

Q.—I mean a school where nothing else would be taught but the technical branches of mechanics as applied to trades? A.—It would be better I think, of course, if he could get the technical education along with his trade, that is if there were instructors in the establishment where he was learning his trade who were competent to give him the necessary amount of education there. If he is taking a night school training at all it would be better to be a training bearing on the occupation he was going to follow.

Q.—He would learn the practical part in the shop, but there is the theoretical part of all trades which you must understand about in order to excel in them. For instance, there is drawing. He must know something about that. Do you think that would be better acquired after a boy has finished his course at the public school? A.—A good deal of that can be learned while he is in the public school. Drawing is now an important part of the curriculum, though not always taught as it should be, but the idea in teaching it is to supply that particular branch of education.

Q.—I am afraid it is a failure? A.—In some places. The fault is, in some places

boards of education will select a teacher because he is a very fine artist, when they should select a mechanical draughtsman.

Q.—And the curriculum of the public schools is now so large that they have very little time? A.—Yes; that is the evil.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—The reason I asked you the question is, that a boy gets a distaste for anything in the shape of labor in the public schools. I have a boy just now who should be able to go to a trade who has an absolute distaste for anything in the shape of work. All boys should be taught the love of labor of some kind or other; his mind should be led that way? A.—No doubt.

Q.—Because there is more room for mechanics now in the country than for professional men or clerks? A.—And to effect that there should be some technical education of some kind, you think?

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How are the salaries of teachers arranged? Isn't there a graded scale? A.—Nominally there is, but it is not on a very correct basis; of course, the younger the teacher the lower the class of certificate he holds, and the lower the class he can teach the smaller the salary. As they get older they are apt to get higher salaries; they teach more advanced classes and they get better paid.

Q.—Does a lady who teaches as high a class as a gentleman get as high a salary? A.—No.

Q.—Why? A.—I suppose because the question of supply and demand enters into the matter.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Don't you think that a lady having as high a certificate as a gentleman should get as high a salary? A.—On general principles, yes.

Q.—And it is not done? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know the reason? A.—The only reason is, I suppose, because ladies are susceptible to the public touch very readily. If they should pay out more money than the ratepayers thought advisable they would be turned out, and many of them are anxious to be economical, and they find that ladies can be got to teach for considerably less than gentlemen of the same standing, and they get them, not because they are ladies but because they are found to work for less money.

Q.—Don't you think that a lady who has spent a large portion of her time educating herself and coming off with as high honors as a gentleman should have the same salary? A.—Yes; I say so; I say that on general principles there should be no question about that.

Q.—Don't you think that if the books of the pupils were free it would be a relief to the parents in many instances? A.—No doubt it would be a relief.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Have you seen it stated that where they get their books for nothing they don't take care of them? A.—Yes; it is true that if you get a thing for nothing you are not so likely to take care of it. When I said it would be a relief to the parents I did not say it would be advisable; of course there are poor parents who cannot afford to pay for books, but I think that in most of such cases the boards of education avail themselves of their privilege to supply them. I know in this city we have on two or three occasions; in cases, say of a widow who was the mother of a number of children, they have been supplied.

Q.—You supply them to those who really cannot afford to buy them. A.—Yes.

Q.—But not to those who can? A.—No; the rule is that the parents should supply the books.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—In those cases where the parents got the schoolbooks for nothing were they not given in the light of charity? A.—Certainly.

Q.—If the books were free don't you think the children would be kept longer at school? Don't you think the children are taken away from school because the parents have not sufficient means to keep them there and supply them with books? A.—I should hardly like to say so.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—In cases where they require them they are supplied them? A.—Yes; we do in some cases, but it is the exception altogether.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Is it not a fact that the reason ladies are paid less salaries than gentlemen is that they don't choose teaching as a life work, but as a temporary occupation? A.—That may be one element in the general principle, that they merely choose it as a temporary employment and of course are willing to take employment at any figure they can get, or many of them are. There is no doubt that ladies are eminently calculated for teachers, that is subordinate teachers, and as principals they will compare favorably with men. Because a woman is paid less than a man it does not follow that the teaching is of inferior quality, and there is no doubt about the justice of their being paid the same salary, but as long as they are willing to work for less they will get less.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you know of cases where children have been sent from school because they had not books? A.—I cannot call to mind such a case, though I presume there might be such a case.

Q.—Do you think that the ratepayers of this city would object to paying as high a salary to a female teacher as to a male, provided she was competent? A.—A good many would.

Q.—Do you think a majority would? A.—I have no idea of that. If they would make it an issue at the elections they would find out, but I know there is a great deal of complaint made by the ratepayers about the high salaries paid to teachers, and they object to any advance generally, so I presume they would to advances made in that, unless they were friends of particular teachers.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are you acquainted with the Ontario Association of Teachers? A.—No; not to any extent; it is confined to teachers alone.

Q.—Don't you think it would be possible for that organization to strike a scale of salaries, as mechanics do, and to keep up their wages? A.—I don't see how they could keep them up, though they could strike a scale and recommend it.

Q.—Do you think it is impossible? A.—I think so.

Q.—For what reason? A.—There are so many in the teaching profession who hold on to it as a stepping-stone to something else. Young men take it up and follow it for a time until they are able to take a course in the professions. Ladies take it up to pay their expenses until they are married, and as long as there is a class in any trade or calling of that description you cannot expect them to live up to a particular tariff of wages. They will take anything they can get rather than nothing.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Are there any lady teachers in this city who are married? A.—Yes. I don't mean to say that all ladies take it up in that way, but I say there are some ladies make it a temporary employment, just as there are some men.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you think that any person teaching for a temporary purpose like that

would make the best kind of a teacher? A.—No; the best one is the one who devotes himself right to the work.

Q.—Then if teachers do not do that the pupils must be taught very badly? A.—I would not say that. They do the work pretty fairly, but there is no doubt that the teacher who holds to teaching as a life work makes the best teacher, as a rule.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are any fees paid by the pupils in the common schools of London? A.—No; except that there is a small fee for outsiders coming to the public school, but there are very few coming.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Is there not a fee for supplying stationery? A.—Yes.

Q.—That is not actually a fee for attendance? A.—No.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What is that fee? A.—I could not call it to mind. It is a trifle. I would not like to say for certain that we do charge for it, for I think stationery, such as pens and ink, is supplied without charge. I would not like to say, however, but it is a trifle if it is charged.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Is there anything else you would like to say? A.—No; there is nothing else I can think of.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you know the system under which the school books of Ontario are printed and issued? A.—Nothing but what has appeared in the public press and as a matter of general knowledge. I know nothing personally.

Q.—Don't you think if there was no monopoly in existence, as there is at the present time, the books would be cheaper? A.—I could not say.

Q.—You know that there is a royalty paid to two firms and they get a monopoly? A.—I am not sufficiently acquainted with the details of that matter to form an opinion.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Do you think there are Jay Goulds in publishing as well as in other matters? A.—Yes; I suppose it is possible, though I am not acquainted with the publishing business.

WM. BELL, Relief and Health Inspector, London, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What is the general sanitary condition of London? A.—Pretty good at present.

Q.—Have you a good system of sewerage? A.—I do not know that; it is a matter of opinion.

Q.—Do you think sufficient attention is paid to sanitary measures by your municipal government? A.—I think so; I think there has been a great improvement during the last few years.

Q.—You are also relief officer here? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there many exceedingly poor people in London who require relief from the corporation? A.—There are quite a few, but not quite so many as there were some years ago.

Q.—The position is getting better? A.—If you want the items I can give you the numbers last month. I had 124 applications for relief last month.

Q.—Would that number be different families? A.—Yes; 124 families got relief last month; that was for the month of October. In the corresponding month last year the number was 140.

Q.—What class of people would that be who get relief? A.—They are widows and orphans, in the first place. We have always a lot of old women who go around and get what work they can, who do a day's work when they can; and these get a little wood and provisions from us. Some of them, of course, get groceries. Not many workmen have come on as yet. We have probably, out of the 124, about thirty workmen. Of course, there will be more apply this month than there were last month, as work is not very plentiful at present.

Q.—Out of the 124 applications, how many do you suppose have brought their position upon themselves by bad habits? A.—There are some of them, no doubt, who do drink, and some of the women may have had drunken husbands, but you cannot let the family starve on that account. There are not so very many cases from that account on the books at present.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Some of the people are there, I suppose, through misfortune? A.—Yes; certainly. There are not so many on the books from drunkenness now; I am very particular about drunkards getting relief.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Then their position arises, in most cases, not from any fault of the people themselves? A.—All the relief going out is to pretty necessitous cases. We investigate every case in which application is made. Sometimes we find cases in which we are imposed upon, and the parties get half a cord of wood or so in the first instance; but in every case, when we find it is one deserving charity, the parties get relief. When we find the party is a drunkard he does not get any relief, I assure you.

Q.—Do you find many immigrants applying for relief? A.—No; not many. Three or four families are on our books now who landed this summer; they are pretty hard up. As a general rule, they do well out in this country, but among them there are a class of people who are too old to come here, and who would not be likely to do well anywhere.

Q.—Under ordinary circumstances, would they be able to earn their living? A.—Yes; that would be just about all they could do.

Q.—You do not suffer from much pauper immigration coming here? A.—I think less this year than other years, but some come every year; not very many.

Q.—What is the general condition of the working people here, speaking from your own knowledge? A.—I think it is better than their condition has been in the past. I can show you that, I think, by making comparison with 1882, and to do so, I have just looked over the books a little. In 1882 our expenses for relief for the four wards in the city in the former year, and now we have five wards, and a much larger population, and we expended \$800 less in relief than in 1883. You are aware that London East has come in since that time. Those figures, I think, do not speak badly for London.

Q.—Do many working people own their own homes here? A.—They do in the fifth ward more than in any other. The fifth ward is a very good ward, and does not make a heavy drain on the relief funds.

Q.—Is it possible for a workingman to obtain a home of his own easily in London? A.—Yes; such, however, is not of much benefit to him, I think, owing to our taxes being pretty heavy, unless, indeed, he can go and pay the money down at once. It is in my opinion a very bad system for a workingman to pay for a house by instalments, especially if work is not very sure. If work is very good such a system may be all right, but on the whole it is not a very good system.

Q.—What is the average rent of a mechanic's house in London? A.—From \$5 to \$7 a month. There is not enough of those houses put up in the city.

Q.—What kind of a house will a mechanic get for \$5 a month? A.—Not very much of a house; he might obtain one of four rooms.

Q.—What kind of a one for \$7 a month? A.—He would not get a very extra house for that rent. It depends on the locality a great deal. Of course, he would have to go out into the suburbs, anyway, to get a house at that figure.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—I believe that every year you make a house-to-house inspection? A.—Yes.

Q.—How did you find the sanitary condition of the city this year? A.—I will give you a few facts: Last summer we started our house-to-house inspection in April. We inspected 5,606 houses, and we found as follows: Closets, reported dirty 1,167—all have been cleaned since; dirty yards, 310—all have been cleaned since; house cesspools and tanks dirty, about forty, or a little over; closets connected with sewers, 341; dry-earth closets, now in use, 151. That was the result of our last inspection. To-day I was very happy to state to the board that we had got rid of our last case of fever; none had been reported during the week, and the disease was not likely to cause any more trouble. The outbreak of fever that occurred has been stamped out, and the condition of London, at present, will compare with that of any other city in Canada.

Q.—You put up placards on houses in which there are infectious diseases? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you put up many? A.—Yes; there has been a good many put up.

Q.—Have you put up many for typhoid fever? A.—Yes; but nothing like the number compared with other diseases.

Q.—Can you tell me what was the cause of the typhoid fever in the neighborhood where it broke out? A.—I think myself, and of course this is only my own opinion, that it is due to bad drainage and sewerage, and bad water. Bad water, of course, is the main thing. I have tested several wells and found the water bad, and the people have been drinking it. I think the disease has come from bad water, if it has come from anything, for bad water will undoubtedly cause it. That is my opinion, at all events, although some persons may differ from it. I visited one place this morning where they had typhoid fever, and of course they attributed it to the closets being too near the well. I have undertaken to make a test of the water, but I cannot tell you what the result will be until to-morrow. That is the opinion of the family as to the cause of the outbreak and, I suppose it is the opinion of the doctor attending the case. The closet is 21 feet from the well, and no doubt drains into it.

Q.—Do you find, in your house-to-house inspection, that the water-closets and the wells are too close together? A.—A good many of them are.

Q.—That would probably be in the heart of the city? A.—Yes; in the heart of the city they are pretty much all taking city water.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What is the nature of the soil generally? A.—Sandy.

Q.—Do you know how far the liquid matter of cesspools will travel through sand? A.—There are various opinions in regard to that matter, but some say it will travel 100 feet. It is a matter of opinion. I have no doubt it will drain a very long distance through sand.

Q.—That is in course of time? A.—Yes.

Q.—I suppose it will contaminate the water when there has been a rainy season? A.—Yes. It will take, of course, some time to get that long distance mentioned, but when the closet is 20 or 30 feet from the well it is very likely to drain into it.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of the Public Schools? A.—Very good.

Q.—Have they good water? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How is the sanitary condition of the factories and workshops here? A.—It is very good. We get them cleaned up as fast as we get time to do so. I have an assistant going round all the time.

Q.—Are there separate conveniences in the factories where there are both sexes employed? A.—We have not many such factories here.

Q.—In those you have, is such the case? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Were you ever requested by any person who worked at the factories to examine into the sanitary condition of any of them? A.—Not unless it was in regard to the closet, and in that case it has been attended to right away.

Q.—Have you had complaints made to you by people working there? A.—Yes; that it was not quite right; and in those cases I have had it attended to right away.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How long is it since you have established the dry-earth closet system here? A.—I do not think much of the dry-earth closet system, unless we obtain a better method of scavenging. They fill up directly, and unless we have a proper system of going around and making collections frequently, I do not think the system can be satisfactorily worked. However, if we got in a sufficient number of dry closets, there would be a better chance of organizing a system for taking products away. Of course, they may be properly disinfected. We have the Hick's patent in one of the schools, which works very well.

Q.—They require to be looked after every day, I believe. A.—Yes; in the winter time. They are very clean and nice when the refuse is taken away regularly.

W. A. CLARKE, London, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You are a printer? A.—I am.

Q.—How long have you been in London? A.—Most of my life, except two or three years.

Q.—Are you a member of the Typographical Union? A.—I am.

Q.—Have you got any benefits in connection with your organization? A.—Yes; we have local benefits, health benefits, and I believe there are insurance benefits in connection with the international organization. I am not very much acquainted with the international part of it—that is the insurance part of it—but the local benefit is \$3 a week to members in good standing for a period of five weeks, and it rests with the union whether they continue it thereafter or not.

Q.—Is there any death benefit? A.—Yes; they make an assessment of \$1 per member—a special assessment.

Q.—The sick benefits are taken out of the dues? A.—Yes; they lay aside 20 per cent. of the dues for that purpose.

Q.—You are best acquainted with morning newspaper work? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the scale of wages in London? A.—Twenty-eight cents a thousand on morning papers and 25 cents for evening papers, and taking job work, 20 cents.

Q.—How much per week day work? A.—Nine dollars per week.

Q.—For how many hours? A.—Well, they do not lay down the hours, but I believe they work 56 hours. In summer they get four hours on the afternoon of Saturday, and in winter time they start at 7:30 in the morning.

Q.—What is the average number of hours a morning newspaper man works in London? A.—Fourteen hours per day.

Q.—What time does he leave off in the morning? A.—About 3:30 o'clock.

Q.—What time does he begin composition? A.—They have hours for the afternoon and hours for the night. They begin at 1:15 in the day and leave off at 3:45 or 4 o'clock. In the night they start at 8 o'clock and leave off at 3 o'clock or 3:30

Q.—Tell us the average bill a morning newspaper hand would make? A.—Take the average throughout the city, about \$2.50 per day.

Q.—That would be \$15 a week? A.—Yes; if he works six days.

Q.—Do they generally work six days? A.—No; four days on the average. That is considered a week's work.

Q.—Are they compelled to leave off two days in the week? A.—No; if they choose they can work six days in the office I work in.

Q.—That is the *Free Press*? A.—No, the *Advertiser*. In the other offices I think they make four days a week's work, and arrange it so that three men will take two frames, but in our office they do it another way; they have subs. to put on.

Q.—It is supposed that if they work six days at fourteen hours a day they make about \$15 a week. A.—Yes.

Q.—As regards fat matter, such as advertisements, does it go to the men on piece work? A.—No; they are set by the week.

Q.—By boys or men? A.—Partly by boys and partly by men. It is set by the office.

Q.—Does the craft, as a general thing, consider that a fair deal? A.—They do not.

Q.—Is it the universal custom with printers on morning newspapers that men are entitled to fat matter, such as advertisements, tabular work, and so on? A.—Yes; they get it in the majority of places.

Q.—Why don't they receive it in London? A.—They are not in a position to do so; they have more apprentices to the men, and if the men demand it they can tell the men to go, and the apprentices can do the work.

Q.—Do the rules of your union state how many apprentices per man will be employed? A.—The international body does not state distinctly.

Q.—Does your union? A.—Yes; there is a local law that two boys shall be allowed to five men.

Q.—Is there more than that proportion employed? A.—Yes; considerably more; more than one to each man.

Q.—Is it two men to five boys? A.—Well, it is hardly as low as that, but I think there are one-third more boys than men; I have the statistics in my pocket.

The total number of journeymen in the city is forty-eight, apprentices fifty-nine; that is taking all offices together. In the newspaper offices there are twenty-eight apprentices and twenty-seven journeymen.

Q.—Are the apprentices indentured? A.—They are in the office I work in, but I don't think they are in the others.

Q.—Do the men prefer an indenture system? A.—They do.

Q.—Are the employers in favor of indenturing apprentices? A.—If it was universal, and they were all indentured.

Q.—How many years has a boy to serve before being recognized as a journeyman? A.—The union provides for five years, but the offices have been indenturing for four, and I believe the offices give them the option of being indentured for five, if they choose.

Q.—Have you had any labor troubles recently? A.—Not for the last five years.

Q.—Are the men, as an organized body, in favor of settling labor troubles that may arise by arbitration? A.—They have done so during the last three years with any little troubles that came up. When you asked me before, I understood you to mean whether we had any strikes or not, but we have waited on the proprietors and arranged things satisfactorily in the office in which I am employed.

Q.—As a body, you believe in arbitration, instead of resorting to strikes? A.—Yes; strikes are the last resort in our organization.

Q.—Is that law with you a local idea amongst yourselves? A.—It is the law throughout the international body.

Q.—In a case of arbitration, or a social coming together of employers and employees—what is your opinion about the Government having an arbitration board? Do you think it would be a step in the right direction? A.—If the Government

were to have an arbitration board which could step in and settle matters to suit themselves I don't think it would be satisfactory to every one. But if it was one to which they could appeal, in case they wished to arbitrate, I think it would be a good thing, if both parties were agreeable.

Q.—That is for the Government to step in? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any plate matter used in the newspapers in London? A.—During the last couple of weeks I have noticed that on Saturdays they issue large papers, and in one of the papers they issued two pages of plates. In one only they use them once in a great while, but they pay for them like other composition.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—They allow the men the difference? A.—No; they allow just the same as if they were set up by them—that is the full price. They use plates on the weekly edition, and they don't pay anything for them.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—If the plates were not used at all would they employ more printers? A.—Yes; of course.

Q.—Where do these plates come from? A.—I think from Buffalo, the ones that I know of.

Q.—It has a bad effect on the printing business? A.—Well, of course it has, but on the other hand it has a good effect in several ways. For instance, in places such as Stratford and Woodstock, and towns like that, they would not issue daily papers unless they got the plates from Toronto, so that if it has a bad effect in one way it has a good effect in another, because if they did not get the plates they would not use the daily papers.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Set in the large cities, is it departmentally? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Provided plates are used in Canada, don't you think it right that the plates should be made in Canada? A.—I think it would be a good thing. I think they should raise the duty and prevent them coming in on any pretext, and in the event of doing that the plates would be set in some central city and the Canadian printer would get the benefit.

Q.—In morning newspaper work do the men remain idle for want of copy on account of the carelessness of editors and reporters? A.—Sometimes, though I don't know whether it was from carelessness.

Q.—It was for the want of copy? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are the men paid for that idle time? A.—No.

Q.—Do the union think they should be paid for idle time? A.—We do.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Are you ever sent home at night as not being needed? A.—Very seldom—once in a great while.

Q.—Do the men set all the type on the paper you are on? A.—No; it is set by boys as well as men.

Q.—Do boys get fat matter on it? A.—They get the same run as the men.

Q.—Do they often get such things as poems to set up? A.—Well, if they happen to "strike" them, as we call it, they get them.

Q.—They have the run of the hook the same as the men? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are there any female compositors in London? A.—Yes; there are ten girls employed in the city.

Q.—At the same wages as the men? A.—No; at 15 cents a thousand, or a wage of \$3 a week.

Q.—Don't the union demand equal wages for equal work? A.—Yes; but these

girls employed in the *Record* office do not belong to the union.

Q.—Would it not be in the interests of the union to see that they got the same?

A.—Yes, but until they join, the union could not affect them. They work in an office in which there are no union men employed, and they cannot very well fix the matter.

Q.—Would a bureau of labor statistics be of benefit to the workingmen?

A.—I don't see how it would, and I hardly think it would, but I haven't given the matter any study.

Q.—Do you think that if statistics of labor were published it would be of any benefit to the rates of wages, the hours of work, and the general condition of the workingmen? A.—It might be some benefit, but I could not say in what way.

Q.—You haven't given the subject any thought? A.—No.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of your workroom? A.—Of course, you cannot call it bad, but it is not in any way good. There are a great many draughts, and the ventilation is very poor in some cases; I speak with regard to the city.

Q.—I am speaking of your own workshop? A.—It is about as good as can be expected; there is nothing to complain of particularly. The only trouble is that sometimes it gets overheated and there is no way of regulating the temperature.

Q.—Do you know of the existence of any iron-clad contracts? A.—There are none.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are the men paid in cash? A.—Yes; unless they otherwise desire.

Q.—Are there any men who desire otherwise? A.—Yes; there are some men in our office who get orders once in awhile.

Q.—Are they asked to take them? A.—No.

Q.—Are the men paid weekly or fortnightly? A.—Weekly.

Q.—On what day? A.—Friday.

Q.—Do they prefer Friday to any other day? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Why? A.—Of course to a single man it does not make much difference, but it enables the wives of those who are married to go on the market if they choose on Saturday. I believe that is the argument generally used.

Q.—What are the wages in Canada compared with Great Britain and the United States? A.—Well, they are low. I will give you an idea from the book I have here. In Indianapolis they pay 35 cents; Philadelphia, 46; Cincinnati, 40; Columbus, 35; Brooklyn, 46. They don't give New York.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Take Binghamton, or a town in central New York about the same sized places as London, or take Oswego? A.—I don't think those are given.

Q.—Take Poughkeepsie, N. Y.? A.—I have no record of that either.

Q.—Take Harrisburg, Pa.? A.—I have it here, but it is not given in figures.

Q.—Take New Haven, Conn.? A.—Forty cents for night work and 35 cents for day work.

Q.—Take Springfield, Mass.? A.—I have a Springfield, but it does not give the State. In that place they pay 33½.

Q.—You cannot find a place like London? A.—Well, here is South Bend, Indiana, which I guess is about the same size. It does not give the night scale, but it gives 30 cents for the day scale. In Wilmington they pay 30 to 35 cents.

Q.—You see it is not a fair comparison to take places like Chicago and New York and compare it with London? A.—Certainly not, but there are many places here about the same as London, and I think they are all a little higher paid.

Q.—Can you give comparisons with the rates of wages in the old country?

A.—No, they work on a different system there; they work by the “N” and they pay for distribution.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Have you any idea of what a printer can make in the old country? A.—I have not.

Q.—How much are the ladies working at the printing business paid here?
A.—Fifteen cents a thousand or \$3 a week.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How long have they worked at the trade? A.—Some three years, some five, and others ever since I can remember. They all get the same price, excepting when they first start, and they never raise them. The proprietor says he likes to have girls because they never ask for a raise of wages, and he can get rid of them some day when he does not need them. They get married.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are they skilled compositors? A.—I suppose they are. They seem to do as well as any compositors I know of.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You have known young women to leave this office? A.—Yes.

Q.—When they do happen to leave or get married are they replaced by men?
A.—No; by other young women.

Q.—And they work for a long time without anything? A.—No; not without anything, but they work for what they can make.

Q.—Do they get 15 cents a thousand at first? A.—No.

Q.—But that is the standard? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are these young women competent to work on piece-work equal to the men on morning papers? A.—I could not say, because I have not worked in that office with them.

Q.—You would imagine they are if they have worked over five years? A.—I should think so; I have seen young women as competent as men.

Q.—There is a difference of 13 cents a thousand? A.—Yes.

Q.—Would you like to make any suggestion that we have not touched upon?
A.—Yes; I think the Government should take the matter in hand with regard to apprentices. We have more apprentices in the city than men by quite a number, comparatively speaking, and I think the Government should take in hand some way in which they could restrain the number of apprentices to the number of men; also in regard to indenturing, that they should be qualified before entering upon their trade. We have incompetent printers amongst us, and the reason is because they never had any education; of course, they always will be incompetent, because they never had the education to start with and they cannot learn anything now. When they have their trade you cannot put anything into them. They don't consider very much about their education when they take them on as apprentices. When a boy is put into the office, if he learns to be a good compositor or pressman he does it on his own responsibility; they don't offer to teach him anything particularly. They are put in, and they come out in four or five years, and what they have learned in that time they have learned by asking the men around them, or picking it up themselves.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you think the Government should fix the qualifications of apprentices?
A.—I think they should make them go to school for a certain number of years before allowing them to take up anything else.

Q.—Do you think the Government should restrict the number of apprentices?
A.—Well, I don't know hardly how they could do that, but I think they should compel them to stay at school longer than they do at present.

Q.—Up to what age would you ask the Government to compel children to remain

at school? A.—I think fifteen is quite early enough for any one to go to a trade, and at that age they would be nineteen or twenty when they came out of the trade, and I don't think that would be any too old for them to start out.

Q.—Do you think that parents, in all cases, are able to maintain their children until they are fifteen without doing anything towards their own support? A.—Of course that is another matter. I don't know whether they could or not, but I suppose they could not in some cases.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—When apprentices are out of their time in your office are they, as a general thing, kept on? A.—No; they generally have to go to make room for new ones.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—In cases where parents are not able to keep their children at school until they are fifteen years of age, how would an industrial school, supported by Government, strike you? A.—Do you mean for teaching them their trade?

Q.—Well, the rudiments, any way? A.—It might be a very good thing, but I think when a boy goes to school it will take him all his time to learn the intellectual part of education without teaching him the industrial.

Q.—In case parents are not able to keep their children at school to a certain age? A.—It would be hard to draw the line as to where they are able and where they are not; it would have to be cut down pretty low.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—I know of a boy who was thirteen and a-half years of age—he is now a man of thirty-five—and he insisted on going into an office when he was thirteen and a-half years old, though his parents could keep him and wanted to keep him. He has been making his living more or less successfully since that time. What would you do in that case? A.—I know from my own experience that boys are anxious to go to work early.

Q.—What would you do in such a case? Would you have the Government interfere and say he should go to school until he was fifteen years old? A.—I think it would be advisable in that case.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you know what the requirements of the Ontario law are as to children attending school? A.—I do not.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—At what age are boys generally taken on at your office? A.—I don't know; it is pretty hard to tell. Some call themselves fourteen, but judging by their looks they are ten, or eleven or twelve, and others are large for their age.

Q.—Do these boys work at night? A.—Yes; they take turns of three or four months at a time, and then they change them round to day work.

Q.—They work by the piece, do they? A.—After the first year some of them do. Some of them work by the piece on night work.

Q.—What do they pay boys a thousand by the piece? A.—They have a graded scale, and I am not sure what it is. At first they pay them $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents, and then raise them to 15 cents, and their last year I think they pay them $17\frac{1}{2}$ cents—that is in the fourth year.

Q.—In his fourth year he is as good as any? A.—As good as he ever will be, if he ever will be any good.

Q.—Has the factory inspector been to your office? A.—Not that we have seen; he might have been when every one was away, but not to our knowledge. I heard Dr. Campbell discussing industrial schools, but from my standpoint I would think differently. I think when a boy goes to school it will take him all his time to learn the intellectual part, without putting him to any mechanical part of the business.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—You are speaking in regard to your own trade? A.—Yes.

Q.—But as to other trades? A.—If they were to give him any information in the way you speak of in regard to it, the chances are we would have a lot who would never have an idea of what they had to do; they would go out to work without having acquired any one trade; they would be jacks-of-all-trades and masters of none.

Q.—You think that the theoretical knowledge of trades would hinder boys from getting a trade? A.—Yes; there are lots of boys who, if they got the theory in regard to a trade and a little information, would not bother themselves about the practical part.

Q.—Do you think that they would turn out a fair blacksmith or carpenter to go out and compete with others in these trades? A.—He might not compete, but he would do in a pinch.

Q.—If he got a job and spoiled it, would he not be sent to the right-about quickly? A.—Well, in the case of a blacksmith he would go and work under a helper for a while.

Q.—In that case he would not be a blacksmith to start with? A.—No; perhaps not.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—He would be a blacksmith in a printing office? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Supposing he were taught the properties and qualities, say of pine boards, at such an institution, would he be able to do the practical work of the carpenter? A.—Perhaps he would not, but if he learned the case in a printing office he would learn the practical part, and would soon be able to pass as a printer.

Q.—Supposing you taught him the nature of type metal, its properties and so on, wouldn't it help him? A.—It might help him in some trade, but it would not in the printing business, because it does not make much difference to the printer what metal his type is made of.

The Commission then adjourned until 8 o'clock p. m.

Upon resuming, JAMES McKENNA, Moulder, London, was called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—How long have you worked at the business? A.—Twelve years.

Q.—What branch of the moulding do you work at? A.—Stove-plate moulding and agricultural work, though I have not worked very much at the agricultural; stove-plating is what I follow.

Q.—In the moulding business do you have any apprentices? A.—Yes; where the shops are not strictly union there is an over-run of apprentices.

Q.—Is proper care taken to teach the apprentices their trade? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Is there anything, to your knowledge, to compel an employer to teach an apprentice the trade? A.—Not to my knowledge. In a union shop the men are supposed to instruct the apprentices if they run the right number. Outside of that they are not.

Q.—The union takes them on themselves. A.—Yes.

Q.—Would it be better for all concerned if there was a proper apprentice system? A.—Yes; undoubtedly.

Q.—What age should you think a boy should be before going to the business? A.—Moulding being a heavy work, my opinion is that a boy should be sixteen years of age.

Q.—How long would he serve? A.—Four years.

Q.—As a matter of fact, what would be the average age of boys going to the business here? A.—From sixteen to seventeen, up to as high as thirty, and some over thirty.

Q.—No very young boys? A.—No.

Q.—Have you had any disturbance in connection with the moulding trade in London lately—strikes, or anything of that kind? A.—Yes, we had a strike six years ago this coming March.

Q.—How was it settled? A.—We left the shop and it was run by men from the other side—Detroit and elsewhere—they filled the shop with boys and those men.

Q.—When a labor difficulty occurs between the employers and men how would you prefer to have it settled? A.—Well, if the employers and men could not come to a settlement I would prefer arbitration.

Q.—Would you favor a law placed on the Statute-book of Canada compelling a settlement in these disputes by arbitration? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What wages do moulders earn in London? A.—Well, the way they are divided in London—they only serve a time of three years to it and the shop is over-run by apprentices, and they don't get a chance to learn. If a boy is smart he will get a better chance than a man or boy who is a little backward. Sometimes men of thirty years of age are not smart, but any person really smart gets a good show.

Q.—What wages will a moulder earn in a year? A.—Some of them will earn as high as \$2.75 and \$3 a day on some jobs.

Q.—What would be the average? A.—The average in Mr. McCleary's shop, where I am working, would not be over \$10 a week.

Q.—What hours do you work? A.—We worked last summer about eleven hours a day.

Q.—Could that time be shortened without injuring the business of the employer?

A.—Yes; we used to work all the noon hour, just taking time to eat a lunch. We went around the shop and asked the men who did not belong to the organization if they did not think they were injuring themselves and others also, and we got them to stop, except one man.

Q.—It was piece-work, I suppose? A.—Yes; it is nearly all piece-work in stove work.

Q.—You have not tried to shorten the hours here? A.—Only the once when we shortened the noon hour. We start about 6 to get ready to mould, but those running big jobs don't get through until an hour after the usual time.

Q.—It depends a good deal upon the time you are ready to run off? A.—We have a certain time to commence—3:30 or 4 o'clock.

Q.—Should you have a union here? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the general effect of organization amongst workmen? Is it a benefit? A.—Yes; I claim that it is a large benefit.

Q.—In what way? A.—In regard to keeping up prices and to the right number of apprentices in the shop, and not having the trade over-run by men; because where a shop is over-run with apprentices you cannot turn out competent workmen.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you derive any benefits from connection with the union? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is it? A.—One hundred dollars of death benefit.

Q.—No sick benefit? A.—No; not in this union; in the other union we have.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Is there any such thing as fining employés in your business here? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—Do immigrants interfere with your business to any extent? A.—Not to a large extent. We have had some, but it is a little heavy work for them.

Q.—Do many moulders come here from other countries? A.—Yes, we have quite a number coming from the United States and England, but those coming from England are mostly machinery moulders, and those from the United States stove-plate

and hollow-ware moulders. We have two now from New York State who have been in Elmira prison.

Q.—Did they learn their trade in the prison? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does prison labor come in competition with you at all? A.—It used to, but not the last few years.

Q.—There are no prison-made goods in your line in this part of the country now? A.—Not to my knowledge in the last two or three years.

Q.—What is the general condition of the moulding shops here? Are they comfortable, dry, &c.? A.—Well, they could be better drained. In real damp weather the floors are very wet, and a man working among the steam, and so on, is liable to get rheumatism, and especially sciatic rheumatism.

Q.—After a man has done his day's work it is necessary to change his clothing? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they provide any place for that? A.—Not in Canada.

Q.—Would it be an advantage to provide a room for changing and washing in? A.—Yes; I worked in one shop in Massachusetts where they had a bath room upstairs and a place to change your clothes. The men could go and get in good comfortable clothes.

Q.—I suppose when there are no rooms for such a purpose they are exposed to the drafts of the whole shop? A.—Yes; a great many change their shirts, and it and the inside drawers are wet, and often the stockings, and going out in the cold weather they catch cold.

Q.—Are there many accidents in connection with your trade? A.—No; not at moulding, unless it is men getting burnt.

Q.—That is in case of the metal getting spilled? A.—Yes.

Q.—Not skilled labor? A.—No.

Q.—Are there any workingmen's co-operative societies in London? A.—None.

Q.—Have you ever known the system of distribution of profits to exist in the moulding trade anywhere? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—Have you ever know the moulders start a co-operative foundry? A.—Yes; there is one in Canada started that way—Burrows, Stewart & Milne, Hamilton.

Q.—Was it a success? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it still carried on? A.—Yes; it is a large firm now.

Q.—There is nothing of the kind in London? A.—No.

Q.—You have worked in the United States? A.—Yes.

Q.—How do wages in the United States compare with those in Canada in your line? A.—Well, they are quite a bit higher than the wages in Canada. Still, there are some places where they are generally the same as in Canada, but not as a whole.

Q.—Taking into consideration the difference in wages, has money the same purchasing power here that it has there, do you think? A.—I would not like to say.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You have lived in the States? A.—Yes.

Q.—Where? A.—In Detroit and several other cities in the United States, but Detroit is the only city I had my family in. Rent is the only thing that I saw higher in the United States than it is in Canada. There living is as cheap if not cheaper.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—In what condition are the water-closets in the factory you work in? A.—They are out-door closets.

Q.—Are they clean? A.—They are cleaned twice or three times a year. They are cleaned out early in the fall and again as soon as soft weather comes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are the men paid in cash? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are they paid every week? A.—Yes; on Saturday night.

Q.—Is that the proper night to pay them? A.—Yes; I have been paid on Friday, but I would as soon be paid on Saturday.

Q.—Is that the opinion of the others? A.—I could not say; some prefer Friday, so as to get to market.

Q.—About what rent on an average would a workingman pay for a house here? A.—About \$6 or \$6.50 a month.

Q.—A good house? A.—Yes; very comfortable for workingmen, for \$6.50 to \$7 a month.

Q.—How many rooms? A.—It is according to where it is located in the city. The house I am in has two bedrooms, a front room, a dining room, a pantry, summer kitchen and woodshed.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Have you ever known any of your trade black-listed for engaging in strikes? A.—Yes; I was black-listed. McCleary sent a black-list to Toronto and asked Gurney to discharge all the men who had been in his employment.

Q.—Did they keep you from employment for any length of time? A.—Gurney did not take any action upon it.

Q.—Is that a regular thing, or is it exceptional? A.—That is the only case I have seen in this city.

Q.—Do you ever have to sign any contracts, contracting to work for any length of time for a certain figure, or do you merely go to work by the week? A.—We merely go to work by the week.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—You don't know of such a thing as an iron-clad contract? A.—No.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—For how large a part of the year are you employed? A.—Since the apprentices have commenced to run down from the old trouble I have been employed I might say twelve months in the year, except two weeks at Christmas—that is this year.

Q.—It is usually longer than that that you are idle? A.—Yes; I have been out five to six months in the year.

Q.—How long ago was that? A.—Three years ago this winter. The shop was run altogether by apprentices, two journeymen and the apprentices.

Q.—As a usual thing, you are laid off a little time at the holidays? A.—Yes; to take stock.

Q.—You were only laid off two weeks this year? A.—Yes; all the married men were kept on this year.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—In taking castings out of the mould it is pretty hard work? You run a stream of gas upon it? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever known of any moulders having the blind staggers for an hour or so? A.—Yes; I have taken it myself, and have seen others.

Q.—Do you know of anything which would stop that? A.—A high roof to the foundry is about the only thing, so as to give the steam and gas a chance to rise.

Q.—Is there such a thing as suction conveniences in these moulding shops? A.—No; not in any that I have worked in.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Have you any other suggestion? A.—Is there any law in Canada to stop manufacturers from bringing convicts to labor here, such as those men from Elmira prison?

Q.—What is your reason for thinking those men are from Elmira prison? A.—I have their word for it. One of them told me he was sentenced for life. One of them told me he was sentenced for six years for shooting a man, and I asked how long he had served, and he said two years. I asked how he got his liberty, and he said that he had a ticket handed to him; the first week or month they did a quarter

day's work, and it rose gradually up to a full day's work, and as soon as they got the requisite number of points required and as soon as they got a person to go guardian for them they were liberated. Last year they brought six or eight over from this Elmira prison to this McCleary's shop to work there. Four of them were in the habit of getting drunk, so they had to discharge them, but these two men have conducted themselves like gentlemen since they have been here. Both have got married since they came here.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do they go over and bring these men? A.—I could not say that they came from there direct to McCleary's shop.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Did they come during the time of the late troubles? A.—No; it was not at that time.

Q.—It is a mixed shop? A.—Yes.

Q.—Could you substantiate these statements by other gentlemen? A.—Yes; by twenty; these men don't deny it themselves. They admit it themselves, and I understand they have a brand on them, and they are traced up by this brand.

LONDON, January 11th, 1888.

J. B. BOYLE, Inspector of Public Schools, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How long have you held the position of inspector of public schools here. A.—Since 1871.

Q.—How large a percentage of children of school age are attending the public schools in London? A.—That is a matter that I could not state decidedly. I have no authority over Roman Catholic schools. They do not report to me, but they report immediately to the Government. I can tell you about the number we have of all other denominations except the Roman Catholic. We have in our schools at the present time a little over four thousand pupils.

Q.—That is the whole population of school age, excluding supporters of separate schools? A.—This is the number who attend the schools, with the exception of the Roman Catholics.

Q.—Those who attend the separate schools? A.—The Roman Catholics do not all attend the separate schools, but a number attend the public schools.

Q.—Are they entered as public school supporters? A.—They very often are marked in the voter's lists as Roman Catholics, and they have to pay the taxes, unless the parents have made an appeal to be put on the common school list.

Q.—At what age do you find parents disposed to send children to school? A.—Some of them at a later and some of them at an earlier period; it depends on the circumstances of the parents. If they are able to keep them they will allow them to remain at school till they are sixteen or seventeen, and after they pass into the high school from seventeen to nineteen.

Q.—Those who need the services of their children at what age do they take them away from school? A.—The children sometimes leave at twelve and from that up to fourteen; very few below twelve.

Q.—Do they go to work then? A.—Yes; at something. They do some work as a contribution towards the income. Sometimes they become errand boys in shops, or they sell papers, or they do what they can.

Q.—Do you think any children below fourteen years go to work in factories? A.—I do not think many of them are in factories; there may be a very small percentage of the whole.

Q.—Have you any kindergarten system of education in London? A.—Not yet.

Q.—Do you think the present system of education is that which is best suited to

the boys who wish to become mechanics? A.—I think it is very well suited for the education of those who intend to pursue mechanical pursuits in every way, in so far as intellectual training is considered, as giving proper education, that is intellectual development. In some places they have a technical training as well; but we have nothing of that kind here.

Q.—Do you think technical training could be added to purely intellectual training? A.—It would require considerable expenditure of our accommodation. We have all our classes pretty well filled at the present time; therefore to add accommodation for technical training would require more class rooms, but it would not cost a great deal to do that, and it would amply repay any community for doing it.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are you of the opinion that technical education might be engrafted on the public school system? A.—I think it might be very well.

Q.—Without any detriment to the schools? A.—If you look upon education solely as an educational matter, then you cannot take away attention from that and at same time have progress made. That is clear enough.

Q.—Is there not a great deal in the present curriculum that is positively useless to mechanics? A.—That depends on the view you take of it. I consider no education worth anything that will not train the intellect, and I do not think there is any branch in the teaching in the public schools in which you do not obtain that to a greater or less extent. There is very little training of the intellect in learning history, grammar, and things of that kind; it is a matter of memory, merely, or, at least, to a very great extent.

Q.—Would not a boy be much more likely to take an interest in a trade if his eye and hand were trained at the same time that his mind was trained? A.—No doubt, if a boy has made up his mind to follow some certain mechanical pursuit the sooner he becomes acquainted with tools the better for him, and the more likely he will be to take an interest in everything that bears on his pursuit.

Q.—Do you think it would be better to continue the system of education as it is and add night schools for technical training? A.—We have tried night schools here. In some places, no doubt, they have succeeded very well. We got our central school equipped with gas and the necessary apparatus, but we could not make the experiment work, even when the classes were made free.

Q.—Was that technical education? A.—No; there was no technical education ever tried.

Q.—What I mean is this: Do you think the present system of education should be continued and technical education taught in the evenings? A.—I have never thought of that; I do not know how it would work.

Q.—Have you ever noticed any tendency under the present system that would unfit boys for mechanical trades, or lead them away from such trades? A.—I do not know how to answer that question. I have heard and read a good deal about our youth of Canada being over-educated, and that they will not take to trades, but seek the professions, if that is what you mean.

Q.—It has been said that the present system tends to professionalism. A.—I think it is filling up the professions to the loss of those entering them.

Q.—The present system leads in that direction? A.—Certainly it does.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Have you a library here? A.—We had a very fine library in connection with the public school, but we gave away part of it to a sister institution, the colligate institute, because we did not feel ourselves in a position at the time to buy more books; we gave away perhaps 300 or 400 volumes.

Q.—You have no library now? A.—Yes; we have a pretty good library yet, but we want a renewal of books for juniors to read.

Q.—Is the library free to the public? A.—Yes; they have a right to go there

and get books, but very few have troubled us. I have given out a few books to people, but they have not come to us for years back; they have not troubled us.

Q.—Do you know any reason for the falling off? A.—None, except one, and that is because the books of a higher order were given away to the collegiate institute.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you think the people would object to paying female teachers as high salaries as are paid to male teachers, provided they are of equal capacity? A.—The very fact that such is not done is an answer you cannot misunderstand, because the school board, which has the whole matter of salaries in its hands, ought to be a representation of public sentiment. The members are elected, to a large extent, by the people. Still, there are a large number of members of the board, who consider that female teachers are underpaid, and very materially underpaid, and I agree with them.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you place female teachers in the positions of principals of the schools here? A.—We have two female principals only; one of them has five rooms and four assistant teachers, and another four rooms and three assistant teachers.

Q.—Is there any embargo on the female teachers in that respect? A.—They have staid at the head for the last ten years. They pass more scholars almost every examination than male teachers who are receiving nearly twice their salaries. I have no doubt you will meet people who will tell you that in the matter of school government, and in the maintenance of order a female teacher will be inferior. Such is not my experience. Of course, I only speak for myself.

Q.—Do you grade the salaries of the teachers? A.—Yes; they are graded.

Q.—Are there regular increases of salary? A.—They are increased in proportion to their certificates, their standing and their success. By standing, I mean the length of time they have taught.

Q.—There is not any yearly increase? A.—There is now before the board a scheme for such increase, but I do not think it will pass.

Q.—Do you know if that system has been adopted in any other city? A.—Yes; in Toronto.

Q.—Length of service counts for something? A.—Length of service counts in increase of salary.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What are the sanitary conditions of the school? A.—I consider they are in about as healthy a state, so far as their sanitary arrangements go, as any other schools I know of in Ontario.

Q.—Are they much crowded for room? A.—Some of the junior classes are crowded a little in two schools. Another school containing twelve rooms will be finished in midsummer, and then there will be abundance of room for every class.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do lady teachers holding the same grade of certificates as a male teacher, and teaching the same grade, receive the same salary as a male teacher? A.—I can show you how that is. In the central school we have the old pupils graded, in regard to sex. We have plenty of room there, and we have in every case two classes of exactly the same grade. The head teacher of the male department receives \$900, and the female teacher, teaching exactly the same grade of girls, receives \$500, there being \$400 difference in the salaries.

Q.—The same teacher holding the same grade certificate? A.—They hold the same certificate, both first-class.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Do they charge fees in your school? A.—No; we furnish everything, except the books, which the parents of the pupils have to buy. We furnish pens, ink and paper, and colored crayons, free.

Q.—I believe many schools in Canada charge for stationery, which is counted a hardship. A.—I know they do.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are you aware there is a strong competition in the publication of school books? A.—There is danger in my giving an opinion in regard to school books. There is only one thing, I need say, with free competition the books could be obtained by the parents of the children a great deal cheaper than they are now.

Q.—We will have to wait, I believe, ten years before there is a chance of that? A.—It will be a good while yet before they have it.

JOHN WOLFE, of the London Furniture Company, London, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Does your firm employ a considerable number of hands? A.—Yes.

Q.—What hours per day do they work? A.—Ten hours generally, fifty-nine and a half hours a week, there being half an hour off on Saturday.

Q.—Are they employed pretty constantly throughout the year? A.—Yes.

Q.—Taking the average of your hands, what length of time do they work during the year? A.—They can work about fifty-one weeks, six days a week. We have done that right along. Sometimes we have to shut down for a few days for repairs, but that is the only stop we have.

Q.—About what rates of wages do you pay to skilled workmen? A.—From \$1.50 to \$2 a day.

Q.—Do you employ many unskilled workmen? A.—No.

Q.—Do you employ any? A.—We have to employ some laborers.

Q.—What do you pay them? A.—One dollar and twenty-five cents a day.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you employ them constantly? A.—Yes; constantly. Sometimes we have to pay an odd man a little more if we employ him for a week or so.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you employ many boys? A.—No.

Q.—Have you any at all. A.—Yes; I think we have about five boys.

Q.—Are they apprentices? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are they indentured? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you like the indenture system? A.—We adopted that and we have followed it up. I do not know of anything better.

Q.—Do the boys remain with you for the period for which they are indentured? A.—Yes; we have never had one leave us.

Q.—Do you think that under the indenture system boys are trained better as mechanics than they would be if they were not indentured? A.—Yes; very much so; that is my opinion.

Q.—Do you believe it is to the advantage of the boys to be indentured? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it your opinion that in that way more pains are taken in instructing them in the trade? A.—I think so.

Q.—Do you think they become more settled than they would if they were not indentured? A.—Yes; I think so.

Q.—It is within your knowledge that any of your men save money out of their wagen? A.—Most of our men buy themselves homes. I do not know whether they save money or not; but, at all events, I know that many of our men have houses.

Q.—Are they paid for, or are they being paid for? A.—Some are being paid for; some were paid for some time ago.

Q.—Do you know whether your men are satisfied with the experiment of buying their own houses? A.—I think they are. They have expressed themselves that way when I have heard them say anything about it.

Q.—How are your machines protected—well or otherwise? A.—We consider them well protected.

Q.—When the factory inspector was around was he satisfied with the way in which they were protected? A.—Yes; he was very well satisfied; at all events, he seemed to be.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of your establishment? A.—We are connected with the sewers.

Q.—Was any fault found respecting ventilation, and so on? A.—None whatever.

Q.—Is there any arrangement for protecting men from dust from the sand-papery machine? A.—Yes; we have two very large blowers.

Q.—Have you had any accident from machinery in your shop? A.—Sometimes we have had a man have his finger cut in the machinery, but never any accident of any consequence.

Q.—Have you ever had any difference with your men? A.—None whatever.

Q.—I presume there have been changes in the rates of wages paid during your time? A.—Yes. The former occupant of the place failed just eleven years ago, and when we commenced business it was at lower wages than we pay now. Wages have risen considerably since that time.

Q.—When wages were raised was it done on an application made by the men, or was it voluntary? A.—We generally do it when we find a man is worth more than he is getting, but often when we are asked by the men themselves to increase the wages we consent to do so, if we think they were not receiving what they were worth.

Q.—Then it was an understanding with individual workmen rather than with the men as a class? A.—Yes; we could not raise the men as a class right through without doing some injustice.

Q.—Are they satisfied with the system? A.—They appear to be satisfied. I think we do not change a man once in five years; we have had men right along. We employ 120 or 125 hands. As many as eighty have been with us ten years. We very seldom change a man. Of course, we change laborers or those not constantly employed, but I mean regular men.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—When the inspector came around and visited your shop, from whom did he make his inquiries? A.—He went right through the shop and examined for himself. He had seen me and got permission to go through.

Q.—I suppose it was open to him to make inquiries from the men? A.—He had an opportunity of going through the shop and doing as he liked. I was not with him. I saw him after he had gone through the shop.

Q.—You have a good deal of machinery in your establishment, I believe? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you teach a boy in five years the whole of the cabinet business, or only one branch? A.—We only pretend to teach any one man one branch.

Q.—How many branches are there? A.—Four; we run four branches.

Q.—So he would have to remain twenty years to become a thorough cabinetmaker? A.—No; he could not learn it in that time. No man needs it; if he had the knowledge he could not compete with other men who learn branches only. An upholsterer would not be a finisher; a finisher would not be a turner, under any circumstances. These are two distinct branches. A turner is by himself, and a finisher is by himself, and a cabinetmaker by himself.

Q.—Are there not men who know the whole branches of the business? A.—They would not be so good at any one branch.

Q.—Such knowledge is not required now, I suppose on account, of the machinery used? A.—No; it is not requisite on that account. A man who has a general knowledge of every branch will not be able to do so well as another man whose knowledge is confined to a certain branch. A man, of course, might get a general knowledge of every branch, so as to conduct a business.

Q.—Then an apprentice becomes a journeyman at one branch of the trade, and

he has got to remain at that branch, and if he leaves your shop he has to hunt up another position in that same branch. Is that so? A.—Yes.

Q.—He cannot, I suppose, take up any other branch and earn journeymen's wages?
A.—No; he could not earn journeymen's wages with men who had learned that one branch.

Q.—What is the highest rate of wages paid to your journeymen? A.—About \$2 a day.

Q.—You say you have about 125 men employed all the year round? A.—Yes.

Q.—Of these men, how many do you pay \$2 a day? A.—Perhaps twenty; and then there are some who work by the piece who earn that amount and more.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—In regard to men who work by the piece: do they take a contract for a certain class of furniture? A.—They work at so much a piece.

Q.—Do they hire their own help? A.—In some cases they do.

Q.—In what branch is that principally done? A.—In furniture, not in turning, upholstering or finishing.

Q.—In the manufacture of furniture, men take their contracts and hire their own help? A.—They take what we call piece-work. They do not contract in any way; they can drop it at any time they wish.

Q.—They hire their own help to do that work? A.—They generally hire one with themselves; some of our men do so. There are four or five who hire that way; they get a man to help them and do the work themselves.

Q.—Do these men who take piece-work hire boys? A.—Yes; the boy they generally take with them.

Q.—They are not considered apprentices to your shop? A.—No.

Q.—How many boys have you in your factory who are thus employed by men?
A.—Perhaps four or five.

Q.—Are these boys taught the trade? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are they taught it thoroughly? A.—They are taught the part of it in which they work.

Q.—For instance, is a boy taught chairmaking and general cabinetwork? A.—No.

Q.—Do you consider chairmaking a distinct branch? A.—We consider chair-makers are not in the cabinet line; less skilled men can work at that.

Q.—You divide the work up in that manner? A.—Yes. There are chairmakers as well as others; but a chairmaker will not make furniture of any other description. They prefer that arrangement themselves. If a man asks for work he asks for it as a chairmaker, as a turner, or as an upholsterer or a finisher.

Q.—What wages do these boys receive that the men employ? A.—From \$2 to \$4 a week. The first year they receive about \$2 a week.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Has the use of machinery lowered wages? A.—I do not think so. Wages have advanced since I can remember, and machinery since I was a boy has very much increased.

Q.—Has the production of goods been cheapened by the use of machinery?
A.—Yes; production has been cheapened by it.

Q.—Has the workingman received a share of benefit from the machinery?
A.—I think he has received very much benefit from it. Machinery does all the hard work that the men formerly had to do; that is now done by machinery.

Q.—Has the introduction of machinery been a benefit to workingmen? A.—Yes; I think they have been very greatly benefited by it.

Q.—Is there any profit-sharing in your business? A.—No; none.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Are you aware that there is any in London? A.—I do not know of any here.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Do you pay your wages in cash? A.—Yes; we never paid in anything but cash.

Q.—Do you pay your wages weekly or fortnightly? A.—We pay every fortnight. We pay every Friday, fortnightly.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Are you aware of any truck system in this city? A.—I do not know that there is any—not much. There was in some of the small shops, but I do not think it is a general thing.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—What is the purchasing power of one dollar now as compared with its purchasing power one year ago? A.—Do you mean in the way of furniture?

Q.—In the way of cost of living? A.—I never buy any provisions, and so I cannot tell you.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You have stated that your men work fifty-one weeks; would they be full weeks? A.—Yes, six days in the week.

Q.—Would they work ten hours a day in winter? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then you light up your shop with gas? A.—Yes; morning and evening with gas.

Q.—So all the time they would lose is stock-taking and the holidays? A.—Yes; there are the holidays; I do not count them in. This year we have stopped since New Year's, because we had to repair the engine, but we do not generally do that. Sometimes at the time of the fairs and such events we shut down for one day, and sometimes two days, but we do so as much to accommodate the men as to suit ourselves.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Where do you get your wood from—is it domestic wood? A.—We use a good deal of walnut, which we get from the other side. We cannot get here the quality we use.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Is there any walnut here? A.—Not very much.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—In what way? A.—In boards and planks.

Q.—Have you ever gone into importing it into the shape of what is known as moulded out? A.—We have got certain stuff in that way.

Q.—Do you find you can get it cheaper? A.—I think we can buy it a little cheaper that way.

Q.—Where do you chiefly find a market for your goods? A.—We send our goods east to Halifax, and also to Montreal and Ottawa, Toronto, Kingston and large centres east. Those are our principal markets. We do not send much west. We send a little sometimes to Winnipeg, but not much.

Q.—How do you find the prices of furniture now as compared with ten or twelve years ago, generally speaking? A.—I should say the price has been reduced 20 per cent. in the last ten years. Competition and machinery have done that.

Q.—Competition within our own market? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know of very much furniture being imported from the other side? A.—I think there is very little imported, except it is imported for patterns or something of that kind. We are sometimes guilty of that ourselves.

Q.—Speaking of apprentices, are you of the opinion, with the conditions or opportunities they have of learning the trade with you, that they are able to earn their living as cabinetmakers after remaining three years in your shop? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you consider that if he was a smart boy he would turn out a good

mechanic in three years? A.—Yes; in three or four years. We have had men learn their trade with us who have gone to other places where they have been thought well of, and where they have been able to take their stand in the business.

Q.—Do you make it a point to give your apprentices every opportunity to learn the trade? A.—Yes; we do.

Q.—I understood you to say something about classifying men—that if he was a good man you would pay him as such. Please explain what you said? A.—Yes; our men are not all of the same ability. Some men are worth very much more than others.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You do not believe all men are born equal in capacity? A.—No; not intellectually equal.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—You believe in paying a man for what he does, and for all he does? A.—Yes; some men are worth very much more than others.

Q.—Do you find the prices of lumber have increased or decreased in the last ten or twelve years? A.—They have increased within the last three years a very great deal. We are paying more than we did formerly.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is there any planting of walnut being done here in this neighborhood? A.—I do not know of any attempt being made at walnut planting in this section.

Q.—Is not this a walnut country? A.—Yes; some of the finest walnut grew in this section, and there is a little yet, but it is very little. I have seen within thirty miles of London walnut trees with logs 6 feet across. I could not look over the log on the ground; and the timber is straight as can be. We have got planks that were cut in this section, within thirty or forty miles from here, 35 inches wide; it is very nice wood.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Have you made any investigation as to the age of those trees? A.—No; I have not.

Q.—Do you know how long it would take to grow marketable walnut? A.—No; I do not. I have no idea of the growth of walnut. I would say that it would take fifty years to get a tree that would make marketable timber.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Can you tell anything as to the difference between the manufacturer's price of furniture and the cost to the consumer? A.—Do you mean as to the cost of production and consumer's price?

Q.—I mean the difference between the manufacturing cost and the cost to the actual consumer? A.—I would put it from 20 to 25 per cent., to the best of my knowledge. I think furniture is sold low, considering the bulkiness of the article and the liability to damage. I think it is sold very low, as between the cost of production and the retail price.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you any boys employed at the machinery? A.—No; we never put a boy at machinery.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Taking furniture, and the average furniture made before the introduction of machinery, do you think the furniture to-day is as good and as strongly built as that formerly made? A.—Yes; I think so; it is where there is equal pains taken with the work, and it is even better under such circumstances, but the difficulty in making up material now, as compared with formerly, is that the temptation is too great to use

unseasoned lumber, and the furniture will, therefore, shrink and warp perhaps more quickly than it formerly did. Some years ago it took almost three months to make furniture, and in that time the wood had time to dry, and there was no warping.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—What comparison would there exist between a bedroom suite made to-day in your factory, and such a suite made twenty-five or thirty years ago in London? A.—Take a suite worth \$100 to-day, a bedroom suite of three pieces; such a suite could not have been made twenty-five or thirty years ago, certainly thirty years ago, for \$200.

Q.—Would that suite made thirty years ago be a better article than that you are making to-day? A.—No; it would not.

Q.—Consequently, it would be impossible to manufacture without the use of machinery? A.—Yes; you could not possibly supply the demand without machinery?

Q.—Where is your machinery principally made? A.—About half of our machinery is made in the United States and the other half in Canada, at Galt.

Q.—Do you find the machinery made in Canada is as good as that made in the United States? A.—I think for the last two or three years it is fully as good, but formerly it was not so good. As our manufacturers have obtained more experience they make better machinery. The first machinery we obtained in Canada was not liked, but that we have obtained since is very much better. There is no reason why we should not make as good machinery here as they do in the United States, after our manufacturers have obtained the necessary experience.

Q.—How do the prices of furniture, such as you manufacture, compare with the prices on the other side? A.—They work more in specialities on the other side. They will run a shop with fifty men, more or less, on one special article. I know of a shop in Jackson, Mich., which makes only one kind of chairs—they do not make all kinds of chairs, only one. In that factory, of course, they can run the price down very close. An ordinary shop that makes one hundred articles cannot compete with them in chairs, because their machinery is not very well adapted to making them. For that reason the Americans can more than compete with us.

Q.—Are the designs in workmanship as good on this side as on the other? A.—I think so. We follow their patterns a good deal, and so never have any hesitation in adopting any new styles. I think they do the same thing throughout Europe. The Americans cater to so much larger a trade than we do that they adopt new styles before we can.

JOHN McCLARY, Iron Founder and Tinware Manufacturer, London, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you do general foundry work? A.—I am engaged in stove manufacturing largely.

Q.—And hollowware? A.—Yes, and furnacework.

Q.—How many hands do you employ? A.—About three hundred hands; not in the furnace business altogether, but in the foundry and tin business we keep about that number.

Q.—In the foundry business what are the rates of wages prevailing for moulders? A.—Our work is mostly done by the piece; we employ very few day hands. Day men, I suppose, average from \$1.75 to \$3 a day.

Q.—What would be the average, without counting the men on piece-work? A.—Good men, I think, average about \$15.

Q.—Are they employed steadily all the year round? A.—Yes; they are pretty much so. We close down about ten days at this season of the year for stock-taking.

Q.—Do you employ apprentices in your moulding shops? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many apprentices would you consider it necessary to run a shop in proportion to the number of moulders? A.—As to their being necessary I could not say, for it might be possible to run a shop without any apprentices at all.

Q.—Are your apprentices indentured? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long do they generally serve? A.—Three years.

Q.—Do you prefer the apprentice indenture system to any other? A.—We only indenture our apprentices in the moulding department; I think in the other departments they are not indentured at all.

Q.—What system do you think works best all round in regard to employing apprentices? A.—I think it is the proper thing to indenture them.

Q.—Do you employ any female labor in your tin department? A.—We do.

Q.—Do they work in the same room with the men? A.—No; only with the foremen; we have a separate shop, and in addition to the females one or two small boys are employed there for running about doing certain work that is more suitable for them to do than for women.

Q.—At what class of work is female labor employed? A.—At soldering, chiefly.

Q.—At japanning? A.—At japanning also.

Q.—What wages will be generally earned by them at soldering? A.—I can hardly tell you the average wages; I think from \$3 to \$5 a week.

Q.—Are they as good at the business as men? A.—Some of them might be so if they had been as long at it.

Q.—Do they do as clean work? A.—I presume they might.

Q.—What wages does a good tinsmith earn here at your class of work? A.—They work largely by the piece; about \$1.50 a day; I think a tinsmith averages about \$1.50 a day.

Q.—That is \$9 a week? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you provide separate conveniences for the male and female help? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any communication between those places? A.—No.

Q.—Have you not at the present time convicts in your employ from Elmira prison? A.—That is a question I could not answer from my personal knowledge.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Have you engaged men, knowing them to be such? A.—No; I think not. There are one or two men I have reason to believe are such.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Is it true that within the last two years some member of your firm has brought several convicts from Elmira prison here, and put them to work at your shop? A.—I cannot answer that question. If it is so, it is out of my department.

Q.—You have never known it to be done yourself? A.—I have never done it.

Q.—Which department do you superintend? A.—I am generally supposed to be on hand to advise in anything in regard to money.

Q.—You do not engage the men? A.—Not usually.

Q.—Such a thing might have occurred without you knowing it? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you got the contract system in any department of your works? A.—We work largely by the day, but we do give out piece-work.

Q.—Do the men employ their own help? A.—No; they do their own work. We might give a man a job to make a certain number of articles by the piece at a certain season of the year, and when he has done that he might get a job on something else, or we might put him on work by the day. Ours is largely day work.

Q.—You stated that wages generally run from \$3 to \$5 per week? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you aware that you have any girls at your works who receive only \$1.50 a week? A.—No.

Q.—They are there, I suppose, without your knowledge? A.—There might be such; I am satisfied, however, that there are not. There might possibly be a small girl there—there might be such a thing.

Q.—Have you ever had any labor troubles? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long is it since the last occurred? A.—About five years.

Q.—Could you state to the Commission the cause of the trouble? A.—I had an idea of what the cause was; I had an idea that the men wanted us to turn out the apprentices. We had at the time recently made a voluntary advance of 10 per cent. to our men, and within ten days or two weeks there was a demand made on us to turn out our apprentices, or bind ourselves not to take any more, and the men also demanded 25 per cent. advance.

Q.—Do you consider a boy can learn the stove moulding business in three years? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any standard of apprenticeship among moulders? A.—Not that I am aware of. I think the term used to be four years, and most of the stove moulders take the boys for that time.

Q.—Do you know the standard of Messrs. Gurney, in Toronto and Hamilton? A.—I do not; I presume it is four years.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You spoke of the demand upon your firm to turn away their apprentices, and at the same time increase the wages of the men 25 per cent. Now, what was the result of the demand? A.—The result of the demand was that we declined to accede to it, and through the vote of the union, or, as it was said to have been, of the outside shops, our men were ordered to strike. Our own men, as I have always understood, would have remained at work, but they were ordered to strike, and they did strike, and we struck also.

Q.—How long did the strike last? A.—It commenced early in the spring and lasted all summer, until we got independent of it, and then it dropped.

Q.—Did the same men return to your shop, to your employ, or did you get other men? A.—We got other men.

Q.—Did you give any increased rate of wages? A.—Yes; we did give an increased rate of wages.

Q.—Did you turn away your apprentices? A.—No.

Q.—You retained your apprentices? A.—Yes; our apprentices, however, were largely enticed away and quite a number of them left.

Q.—Was any attempt at arbitration made during that strike? A.—Not any.

Q.—Were any overtures looking towards arbitration made? A.—I think not.

Q.—On either side? A.—No.

Q.—Do you consider that in such cases arbitration could be effectually employed? A.—It might be, sometimes.

Q.—Would you favor a uniform system of arbitration—compulsory arbitration? A.—No; I would not. I do not think it would be possible. I do not see how compulsory arbitration could be worked; I do not see how you could force men to work against their will, or force an employer to employ men at such prices as he did not think his business would warrant.

Q.—Would you favor the establishment of a court of arbitration by the Government? A.—If it were not compulsory I think it would be a very good thing.

Q.—Would arbitration be of any value unless it were compulsory? A.—I do not think you could enforce compulsory arbitration. My idea is, that it should not be compulsory. You might compel a man to close up his business.

Q.—Would arbitration be of any value unless the parties were obliged to abide by the result? A.—Yes; it might have a certain influence. It might have a valuable effect on public opinion, which has a good deal to do with these matters. In regard to arbitration, I consider that men like county judges in the different districts would be the most suitable men to appoint, for they would possess influence in their localities, and would also have considerable influence on public opinion.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you consider that when the labor difficulty happened in your shop the union was arbitrary in its action? A.—I do not consider that a union is arbitrary that provides that its members shall not work for less than a certain rate of wages; I think it is a very proper thing, but at the same time I think it is very arbitrary to insist on keeping anyone else from working or taking the place of the men who have struck. It is their duty and privilege to get all the money they can for their labor, but it is not a proper thing for them to endeavor to force idleness on other men who are willing to work.

Q.—At the time of the difficulty, did you increase the number of your apprentices? A.—We did, decidedly; it became necessary to do that.

Q.—Are you a member of the Manufacturers' Association? A.—Yes; I think I am, nominally. I never attend their meetings.

Q.—Still, you abide by their rules and regulations, I suppose? A.—Do you refer to the Iron Founders' Association.

Q.—I refer to the Stove Manufacturers' Association. You are a member of that association, I believe? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any rules and regulations that manufacturers must not sell stoves under a certain price? A.—I believe there is something of that kind.

Q.—Is any punishment inflicted, supposing a man does sell a stove at a less price? A.—I do not think it is proper for me to answer that question.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How far do you send the goods that you manufacture? A.—To every part of the Dominion, more or less.

Q.—Do you send any to the old country? A.—A little, not very much. Simply some odd things.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Would you employ any escaped convicts from a prison? A.—Not knowing him to be such. I would not for a moment object to employ a man because he had been a convict, because there are a great many convicts who are better than men who have not been in prison.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Is it a settled policy of your firm to employ such ex-convicts? A.—Oh, no; not at all. Occasionally, perhaps once a year, we might require to send a distance to get a moulder for a special article—that is, say, for moulding an iron tea-kettle. I presume that would be the man referred to. We might strike a man of that kind who has learned his trade in the prison.

Q.—In such a case, would you give him the same rate of wages as other moulders were receiving? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You make no difference in the rate of wages paid to the men for the same class of work once they are in your employ? A.—No.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You never brought a man direct from the prison to do that work? A.—Not that I know of; a man might come down from the prison without my knowing it.

JOSEPH L. GOODBURNE, Printer, London, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—To what branch of the trade do you belong? A.—I am employed on a newspaper.

Q.—Have you been in the business for a long time in London? A.—A little over three years.

Q.—What is the number of hours per week a morning printer works? A.—On an average, I work fourteen hours a day and four days in the week; that is the system.

Q.—Is that the system enforced by the office? A.—Yes; it was at the instance of the men in the first place that such hours were regulated. The men did not wish to work six days in the week, for they thought it too long; they could not get substitutes at the time, and so it was arranged to work four days a weeks.

Q.—How long ago was that system devised? A.—About three years ago.

Q.—Are the men still in favor of that system? A.—Yes; I think so.

Q.—Is there much idle time? A.—There is very little just now; in fact, there has been very little all last summer and winter. There had been before then a good deal of idle time.

Q.—Do the men get any of the fat matter or all of the fat matter? A.—We do not get any advertisements, or very few, except on Friday night, when there is generally a rush.

Q.—That is when the week hands cannot do it all? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are those who get the fat matter boys or men? A.—There is one man and two or three boys.

Q.—They are paid by the week? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much does the man get per week? A.—The man who was last on died last week; I think he got \$12 a week.

Q.—What might be the average earnings of a man working, as you have said, four days a week? A.—I should say about \$9 or \$9.50 a week.

Q.—Suppose everything was given to the men, how much would a man then earn on piece-work? A.—One dollar a day I should say.

Q.—Do you know that it is the universal custom when men work on piece-work for a newspaper for them to get everything coming into the newspaper? A.—Yes.

Q.—That system is not carried out in London, then? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know the reason? A.—I cannot tell you; I suppose it is because the masters think the men would earn too much.

Q.—What, in your opinion, would be the best course to pursue if labor troubles should arise; would you favor arbitration as a means of settlement? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is that the opinion of your organization? A.—Yes; I think so.

Q.—Would the men prefer that the boys would be apprenticed? A.—Yes; they would rather they were working in that way.

Q.—In your opinion, the system of indenturing would be preferred by the men to the present system? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—At what hour do you take copy for the afternoon edition? A.—Half-past one.

Q.—When does that close? A.—The rule is 4:30 at present; the chapel rule was 4 o'clock.

Q.—At what time do you take copy at night? A.—At 8 o'clock.

Q.—About what time do you get through? A.—The paper is supposed to be on the press at 4:30. We get through before 4 o'clock; half-past three is the average.

Q.—You have at night some time for supper? A.—Yes; we can take what time we like for that.

Q.—Take the average compositor: how many ems would he set during those eleven hours of composition? A.—I should think the average number would be from 9,000 to 10,000.

Q.—How long would it take a man to distribute 10,000 ems? A.—Two and a half or three hours would be about the average time for distribution.

Q.—Then an average compositor ought to set about 40,000 ems a week? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much do you receive per 1,000? A.—Twenty-eight cents.

Q.—And yet you think you earn about \$9 per week? A.—That is the average; sometimes we do not get that.

Q.—Suppose you multiply 40 by 28 cents what is the result? A.—Eleven dollars and twenty cents.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you generally obtain eleven hours' composition? A.—Yes; except when there is no copy ready, when we have to stand around and wait. For a long time, however, we have had as much in fact, and more in fact, than we could do.

Q.—How has it been in slack seasons? A.—Sometimes we do not get more than nine hours—hardly that, sometimes.

Q.—Have you experienced some days when you have not received six hours' composition? A.—I never took notice.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—In regard to the matter in the Saturday edition of your paper: is it set up by the men? A.—The supplement, you mean? It has been set up by the men, except for the last two weeks.

Q.—Do the men get the cuts included? A.—No; except when the matter run down the side of the column.

Q.—If these twelve pages were set up by the men would your composition be improved? A.—There has been no standing around. Even within the last two weeks, when we have used plates, there has been no standing time at all.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of the office? A.—Very good, except during the rainy season, when the roof is not of the best.

JOHN A. ROSE, Cigar Manufacturer, London, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you manufacture cigars here? A.—Yes.

Q.—What tobacco do you use? A.—Imported altogether.

Q.—Is there any domestic tobacco grown in this neighborhood? A.—None that I know of. There is some west.

Q.—Have you ever used it? A.—No; it requires a different license. We take out a license to manufacture imported tobacco. You must understand there are two licenses, one for domestic and one for imported.

Q.—Do you know whether domestic tobacco is suitable for cigar manufacturing? A.—I do not know it; I have never seen any that was fit for it.

Q.—Have they succeeded to any extent in improving the quality of the tobacco grown in Canada? A.—I do not know; I cannot tell you anything about that. I think they have. Mr. Walker has taken a great interest in the industry. He ships tobacco down to Quebec.

Q.—What wages will a cigarmaker earn? A.—We do not employ any cigarmaker now; we employ girls and boys.

Q.—You have, then, no journeymen, only women and boys? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do the women learn their business with you? A.—Yes; they go in, and in time learn the different branches. We take a girl and teach her to make the inside of a cigar, what is called the bunch, and we teach another girl to roll them up.

Q.—What wages do girls get at the business? A.—It depends on how expert they are. When they first come to learn it they get \$2.50 per week. We have girls who earn \$6, \$7 and \$8 per week.

Q.—At what age do you take them? A.—We do not take them under the age prescribed by the factory law, I think fourteen years. You cannot, however, tell the age of a girl very well.

Q.—Do you consider female help more profitable than male? A.—I do now, at the rate of profits the cigarmakers are making. It is more profitable to us or we would not employ them.

Q.—Are there any cigarmakers employed in London? A.—Very few; I do not think there are ten journeymen employed in London.

Q.—And how many women are employed here? A.—There may be three hundred women and boys, apprentices. Understand me: there may be in some of the shops—I have a few—apprentices. As soon as they are out of their time they demand journeymen's wages, and then we have no more use for them.

Q.—Does a woman become as expert in making cigars as a man does? A.—No.

Q.—They are not so good? A.—They are not so good. A woman rolls a cigar with her fingers; a man with his hand. Some women do it that way, but as a class they do not. As between a man and a woman, a woman can never make as good a cigar as a man, that is taking ten men and ten women.

Q.—Are cigars made by men considered superior cigars? A.—They are.

Q.—Has it got something to do with the selling? A.—No. A man will take a pride in getting up an article nicely where a woman will not.

Q.—Does a cigar made by a man command a better price? A.—No.

Q.—Then it is an advantage to you to employ women all round? A.—Yes; it certainly is.

Q.—I suppose there are separate conveniences for women and men? A.—Yes.

Q.—Any communication? A.—No; that is inspected by the Ontario Government. We have an inspector who comes and inspects all these matters. We have lots of inspectors.

Q.—Do you know the average earnings of a man in the cigar business? A.—I cannot tell you his earnings now. A year and a-half ago I employed forty men. Then they were working eight hours a day, and they were earning, on an average, \$9 per week.

Q.—What hours do women work? A.—They work till 6 o'clock. At this time of the year they do not work so late, because we would have to light gas, and the cigar business is not brisk enough to warrant us in working the whole time. In the summer time we start working at 7:30 and work till 6.

Q.—That is nine hours and a-half a day? A.—Yes; it takes, perhaps, half an hour to clean up; so half-past five will be the time for work.

Q.—Do the boys in your employment learn the trade thoroughly? A.—Some of them do.

Q.—Are they indentured? A.—Yes; they are indentured.

Q.—And as soon as they have learned the trade do you let them go and take other positions? A.—Yes; we did not do that formerly, but we have to do it now, in order to make any money out of the business.

Q.—What is the reason you discharge men as soon as they have learned the business and resort to child labor so much? A.—Because the men, as soon as they are out of their time, join the Cigarmakers' Union, and the union will not allow them to work except at certain prices, at so much per 100 or 1,000 cigars.

Q.—Does prison labor come into competition with your industry? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is there any depression in your trade? A.—Yes, there is.

Q.—What is the cause of it? A.—The Scott Act and the high rate of duty on cigars.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—What has the Scott Act to do with smoking cigars? A.—By enacting the Scott Act they take away our customers. This is not a cigar-smoking country; the people are pipe-smokers in this country. A man with his friends would go into an hotel, and perhaps two or three of them would each call for a glass of beer. Some man, however, would say that he would not take beer, but he would take a cigar, and some men would even go out with half a dozen cigars in their pockets. When the Scott Act is in force the men do not go into the hotels in the same way, and if we do sell cigars to hotels, they buy the commonest and cheapest kind they can get, because

they sell them at 5 cents, and their custom is limited. It must be remembered that we paid the same duty on the \$20 cigar as we do on a \$50 one. We pay \$6 a thousand, irrespective of quality.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Is that the opinion of your trade throughout the Province? A.—I cannot tell you, but I should think so.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—The Scott Act is not to prevent smoking? A.—It does prevent the smoking of cigars; men smoke tobacco instead.

Q.—But the Act is not to prevent the consumption of tobacco? A.—No; but it prevents the consumption of cigars. A man, where the Scott Act is in force, will go in and drink all he can get. He will not say "I will take a cigar," nowadays, because he does not get a chance to drink very often.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Surely he cannot drink in a Scott Act town? A.—Yes; he can.

Q.—Are all your cigars hand-made? A.—Yes; they are all hand-made. The bunches are made by hand, and they are placed in a mould to give them their shape, and then they are taken out and rolled by hand. They are all hand-made, this mould being used merely to work them into shape.

Q.—Does a hand-made cigar command as high a price as a mould-made cigar? A.—There are several kinds of mould-made cigars; one cigarmaker will have six moulds; another cigarmaker will have only one mould. No person can tell the difference between a hand-made cigar and a moulded cigar.

Q.—Is there an inferior brand of foreign-made cigars coming into the country? A.—No; not now.

Q.—How long ago is it since it has been stopped? A.—Since the last session of Parliament; since they raised the duty on imported cigars. There used to be cigars of that kind coming in here. They would have the import stamp on them, and they have been sold for \$50 a thousand in this city, made by farmers in the State of Pennsylvania, and those same cigars have been bought in quantities on the other side at \$9 a thousand. They are got up nicely, and they look well. You will occasionally see some of them in the auction room in London. They are, I say, beautifully got up, but any one acquainted with the business knows them on seeing them by the white veins.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—You used, I believe, to employ forty union hands? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any other reason why you have changed the manner of running your business? A.—I cannot in any way compete with other factories.

Q.—Did any of the men in your employment cause you trouble? A.—Yes.

Q.—Please state in what way they caused you trouble? A.—By shirking their work, by plugging their cigars—which means by stuffing them, so that they would not smoke.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Were they union men who did that? A.—Yes; and I fired them bodily.

Q.—And I believe, you have never had union men in your employ since? A.—No; and I never will have one.

Q.—Could you employ men if the Scott Act was not in force in your vicinity? A.—Yes; I could.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—What is the average price of your cigars per thousand? A.—From \$20 to \$50.

Q.—Do you sell many \$20 a thousand lots? A.—A good many.

Q.—More than the \$50 a thousand lots? A.—Yes.

Q.—Would the \$20 a thousand lots retail at 5 cents? A.—Cigars at from \$20 to \$30 a thousand are all retailed at 5 cents. Those at from \$40 to \$50 a thousand are all retailed at 10 cents.

Q.—So, I suppose you sell more at from \$20 or \$30 a thousand than at \$40? A.—A good deal more at from \$22 to \$25 than any other kind.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you make any 10 cent cigars since the duty was raised? A.—I make a few more than I did.

Q.—If the duty on cigars was raised a little higher would it not be better for the manufacturer and the workingman? A.—If the import duty was higher it would keep the imported cigar out effectually.

Q.—I suppose you can make just as good a cigar in this country as in the United States? A.—Just as good.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Which is your best market? A.—The best market I have for 10 cent cigars is Manitoba and British Columbia.

Q.—And for the others, what? A.—In Ontario. Ontario is our only market outside of those we have named. We could not sell a cigar in Quebec; we could not steal the tobacco and make them so as to pay.

By Mr. McLEAN.

Q.—How is that? A.—In Quebec they are made by cheaper labor, and they are made from our cuttings. Our cuttings are all shipped to Quebec and there made into cheap cigars. There are, no doubt, some good cigars made in Montreal, and more cigars of any kind than are made in all the rest of Canada put together, but there are a good many of those cheaper kinds made in Sherbrooke, and also in Montreal. They sell cigars there at \$14 a thousand. I have bought some of them.

Q.—Is it a fact that Mr. Davis can sell cigars cheaper here than you can make them? A.—I do not think so; but he would make cigars in order to get into the track of any one, if he thought he could do so.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Out of the entire number of cigarmakers employed in London, how many women are there? A.—I could not tell you the exact number; I am only speaking about my own establishment.

Q.—How many are in your establishment? A.—Twenty.

Q.—And how many boys? A.—Seven or eight; sometimes more, and some times there are more women there than I have mentioned.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you know of any iron-clad contract existing now, or ever existing, between the bosses and the men? A.—No. The cigar manufacturers here had, at one time, a union to fight the Cigarmakers' Union. They had a quarrel, and the employers banded themselves together to protect themselves.

Q.—Could the masters hire any of the men belonging to the union? A.—No; not without getting a permit from the man who locked them out.

Q.—That was during the time of the strike? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—And is that rule still in existence? A.—No; I cannot tell you that. I never belonged to the organization. The man for whom I was book-keeper did that; I have never done it.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Did you ever know of a cigarmaker who was black-listed? A.—Yes; lots of them, and they deserved it. I have a lot black-listed now.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are there any women black-listed? A.—No; women do not go on strike and do not get drunk.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you not think women will stand up for their wages as much as men? A.—It is not the man's fault, but it is the union's fault, in regard to strikes. Women will stand up for their wages and will claim what is right, but they generally come out right, while a man will not. If a man is left to himself he will listen to reason, but the union will not let him do so.

Q.—Do you not think organization among workingmen is a benefit to them? A.—Yes; I do think so. But I think every society should frame its own laws. For instance, if there was a Cigarmaker's Union among the trade in London it should be allowed to run things to suit itself, and it should not allow itself to be run by another union at the other end of the country, because what will suit one part of the country will not suit another.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—What is the scale of prices in the working hours for union men? A.—When I was employing union cigarmakers they would not make a cigar for me for less than \$6 a thousand, no matter what kind it was, and from that as much as \$10 a thousand. I know that other men were working in another shop in the city, and were making some cigars at \$4 a thousand, and these men still belonged to the union.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—If the same rates of pay were given to women as are paid to men would you still prefer to employ women? A.—I think I would prefer to employ the women.

Q.—If the same pay were given them? A.—Yes; because they are cleaner. They do not get drunk, and they are not so abusive, and they do not put up jobs.

Q.—Do cigar makers get drunk? A.—Cigarmakers always get drunk.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—That is your experience? A.—It is in their blood? they cannot help getting drunk.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you had experience outside of London? A.—No; but we have had lots of experience in London. We got cigarmakers all over.

Q.—Do you not think low wages have a tendency to make a man get drunk and careless? A.—I do not know. I have seen them that way when we were paying high wages, when we have paid all the way from \$3 a thousand to \$10 a thousand for making.

Q.—Do you not think the manufacturers in London could afford to pay the same rates as are paid by manufacturers in St. Catharines? A.—I do not think it. St. Catharines has a trade of its own, and no outsider can sell there. Every person comes into London and sells. Again, no manufacturer in London can sell in Hamilton. He cannot sell a cigar there; they have a wall around it.

Q.—Do you know the number of journeymen cigarmakers employed in St. Catharines? A.—I do not know; there are a good many less than there were a little while ago. The manufacturers there sell their cigars a great deal in Hamilton.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do they not sell a great number of cigars along the canal? A.—I suppose so. I have never been able to sell cigars in Hamilton or St. Catharines, or any where down that line.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you not think that in some places your cigars are objected to because they have not on the box the blue union label? A.—Yes; but in Hamilton even if

we had the stamp we could not sell them. Our cigars are objected to on account of not being union-made cigars in any town where a good many mechanics are employed.

Q.—That is where there is organized labor? A.—Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—They are only objected to, I suppose, by union men? A.—No.

Q.—You have said that women never struck but always mind their own business?
A.—I mean that that is the case as far as my experience goes. I have seen our cigars objected to for not having the union label on them, and I have seen cigars objected to because they had the union label.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—The knife cuts both ways? A.—Yes. There are thousands of people who do not know anything about the labels and do not care, and among these there is a big crowd of farmers.

JOHN DAVIDSON, Agricultural Wood-worker, London, called and sworn.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—How many hours a day do you work at the agricultural implement establishment where you are employed? A.—Ten hours.

Q.—What wages are paid to your trade? A.—The highest is 15 cents per hour—\$9 a week.

Q.—How do you get paid? A.—We get \$10 every two weeks, and the rest is kept back on the books.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—For how long a time? A.—They do not like you to draw it till the amount runs up to \$25 at least. You are expected to have money there, and even some have as high as \$100 in the hands of the firm. If you get \$9 per week you will draw every alternate week \$5.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do the firm pay any interest on this money kept back from the men? A.—No; not a cent.

Q.—Is the rate of wages you have earned the rate of wages for a highly-skilled mechanic? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there men who receive less wages? A.—Yes.

Q.—You are speaking of the factory in which you are now employed? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many men are employed at your business in the factory? A.—Twenty-four.

Q.—Is it a rule that this portion of a man's wages should be kept back by the firm? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it compulsory, or is it optional? A.—You can draw the money when it runs up to about \$25; you can go to the office and draw a check for that; but if you want that money, and another man leaves \$100 or even as high as \$200 in the hands of the firm, while you draw your money to a close margin, you will be the first man laid off when a slack time comes.

Q.—Is your factory the only one of the kind in the city? A.—No.

Q.—How many men at your business are there in the city? A.—There will be 200, anyway.

Q.—Is your trade organized? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you find organization a benefit? A.—Yes; we do.

Q.—In what respect? A.—It is a help to us in getting our money, to an extent, because we always used to have to wait on Friday night. We used to have to go to the office and wait while each man of a hundred men was paid, and that would keep you, perhaps, till 7 o'clock at night. Last season the men used to have the money

carried round, and that was the first step done in organized labor. We get \$10 every alternate Friday. We only work nine hours on Saturday now, but before we worked ten hours.

Q.—Has organization increased your wages? A.—No; it has not.

Q.—Has your establishment any objection to employing union men? A.—They would rather not do so if they found it out.

Q.—Is there any iron-clad document which the men have got to sign? A.—No.

Q.—Are there any apprentices? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does your society regulate the number of apprentices in proportion to the number of men employed? A.—No.

Q.—How long do the apprentices have to serve before they become journeymen?

A.—That is the trouble—they do not serve their time out. They are there for a while, and they leave and go to some other shop and get another job there. They do not put in their full four years.

Q.—I take it, then, that there is no indenture system in your establishment?

A.—No.

Q.—Do you think such a system would be a benefit to your trade? A.—It would be a great benefit.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Are there any boys running machinery in your shop? A.—Yes.

Q.—What kind of machinery do they run? A.—They work on the planer, the rip-saw, the cross-cut saw, sand-papering machines and jointers; in fact, there are boys who can run almost any machine. Every week or two an accident happens.

Q.—The boys get hurt? A.—Yes; their fingers are cut off.

Q.—What becomes of the boys when they get their fingers cut off? A.—I saw a case of an apprentice to the woodworking business. After he had been working four weeks he had been put to running a machine; probably he had never seen a machine before, and four of his fingers were cut off. The boys in this town, and the firm kept him about a month and then discharged him, and this boy is now working at painting.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What machine was it? A.—It was a Universal.

Q.—How old was the boy? A.—Not over sixteen at the time.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is the machinery protected—the shafting and belting? A.—No; none of it.

Q.—Has the factory inspector visited your establishment? A.—Not that I am aware of.

Q.—You think if he did that there was good ground for complaint? A.—Yes; I do.

Q.—Do other establishments in town keep back wages the same as is done in your establishment? A.—I know other firms in this town which do it.

Q.—In your trade? A.—Yes, in woodworking.

Q.—Do they all do it? A.—I would not say that all do it.

Q.—Is a boy put to these dangerous saws and machines when he first enters the employment? A.—He may work around a week or two, but I have known a boy not there a month before he was put on a very dangerous machine.

Q.—You do not think that at that time he knows sufficient to be familiar with the working of the machine? A.—No; he would not.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Does he get a chance to learn other branches of the business? A.—No.

Q.—He is always kept on that saw or machine? A.—Yes; always on that machine.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you heard a reason given why a portion of the wages of the men is retained? A.—Yes; I have; because it is on the books drawing interest, at 7

per cent., probably, or some other rate; I do not know what. I know that when the firm sell a machine they sell it at 7 per cent. interest, and if it is not paid in six months it is raised to 10 per cent. I happened to strike on one of their notes, and that is how it reads.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How is the sanitary condition of your shop? A.—I do not think we have any complaints in that direction.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you find any dust rising from the sand-papering wheel? A.—Yes; there is a certain amount of dust from it.

Q.—Does it have an injurious effect on the men working it? A.—I have had no experience on it. They generally put a laborer or a boy on the sand-papering machine.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—They have a suction pipe to the machine? A.—Not on the sand-papering machine.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—What kind of apparatus is it? A.—It is a drum.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do many of the men of your firm save money and buy their own little homes? A.—Some of them do.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—The boy you spoke of as being on the machine and as being hurt—was he hired to run that particular machine? Is that the practice? A.—Not when they hire; they generally hire with the intention of learning the trade.

Q.—What about the boy who was injured by the Universal? Was he put on the machine by the firm, or by the foreman, or for his own amusement? A.—He was there under the foreman's instruction.

Q.—How long had he been working at machinery in the shop before he was put on that machine? A.—Not over three weeks before he was put on that machine.

Q.—What kind of stuff was he running? A.—Hickory.

Q.—Long or short stuff? A.—Short stuff.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Has the use of machinery in your trade lowered wages? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know the difference in the wages paid in your trade here and those paid in the trade in England and the United States? A.—Yes; I do in regard to the United States. I do not in regard to the old country.

Q.—You can speak from experience in the United States? A.—In the State of New York I received \$2.25 a day.

Q.—What part of New York? A.—Syracuse.

Q.—Are you a married man? A.—Yes.

Q.—Were you married when you were there? A.—No.

Q.—In regard to the cost of living for a married man: would it be higher in proportion than what you paid here, comparing wages in London and Syracuse? A.—No.

Q.—You think you would be better off in Syracuse? A.—I know I would.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Why did you leave Syracuse? A.—I was a single man, and I came home to be married.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Why do you not return there, if you can do better there than here? A.—All my friends are here.

Q.—Then you would rather be poor with your friends than rich in Syracuse?
 A.—I do not know about that. Once you get here you have to stay here. I would have to beg my way there, on the cars, if I wanted to go.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Is there any fining of employés in your factory? A.—No.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of industrial schools? A.—No; I have not.

Q.—Does immigration interfere with your trade? A.—Yes; we see the effects of that every day. People come into the city and hire themselves at a cheaper rate than the employers can regularly get men here.

Q.—At what rates do these men hire themselves? A.—I have known them to hire here at 90 cents a day. They work in the chipping room.

Q.—Do you know anything about men's co-operative benefit societies? A.—Yes.

Q.—Tell us anything you know about them? A.—I have been in two co-operative societies, and I can buy my groceries and all my provisions a great deal cheaper by co-operating with others than otherwise.

Q.—How much cheaper. A.—The mistress told me two weeks ago that the \$2.50 worth of provisions I bought at the co-operative store could not have been bought for less than \$3.50 in an ordinary store.

Q.—Then you think workingmen's co-operative societies are a benefit to a workingman? A.—I do.

Q.—Do you know anything in regard to establishing a bureau of labor statistics?
 A.—No; I cannot say that I do.

Q.—Do you think it would be a benefit to workingmen if there was a bureau of labor statistics? A.—I think it would be.

Q.—Does convict labor in any way interfere with your work? A.—Not here.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is the wood you use generally Canadian wood? A.—Yes.

Q.—All of it? A.—Yes.

Q.—In case of labor troubles, what kind of arbitration would you like to see for their settlement; would you prefer one appointed by the employers and employed, or one appointed by the Government? A.—One appointed by the Government. I have seen the effects of endeavoring to settle matters by the men; I have seen deputations go from the men, and have noticed that the men who have gone have been discharged in a short time. I have seen it once in this city where three men went to settle a dispute with the master, and two out of those three were discharged within two months.

Q.—Would you like to see a compulsory board of arbitration formed by the Government? A.—I would.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Those co-operative societies of which you have spoken, are they still in existence? A.—They are.

Q.—You deal with them? A.—I do.

Q.—How long have they been in existence? A.—They have been running in this city, I should say, about three years.

Q.—Are they successful? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many of them are there? A.—There are two at the present time.

Q.—Both groceries? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has the system been applied to any other branch of trade? A.—It has to coal oil.

Q.—Did it reduce the price of coal oil? A.—It did.

Q.—Does that exist now? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you known of any co-operative manufacturing establishment in London? A.—Not in London.

Q.—Have you had anything to do with any such establishment elsewhere? A.—Yes; I was a shareholder in the Woodstock co-operative company.

Q.—Was that successful? A.—No; I cannot say that it was.

Q.—Do you know what were the causes of failure? A.—Yes.

Q.—What were they? A.—I know them according to my own mind.

Q.—What were the causes, in your opinion? A.—I think there were certain parties who wanted to get the control of the running of things, and they ran it to the ground.

Q.—Had you sufficient capital in the concern? A.—We had when we started.

Q.—Was the failure, then, due to want of proper management? A.—That was it; at all events, in my opinion.

Q.—What industry was it? A.—A match factory.

Q.—Is that still in existence? A.—We hold the plant, but we are not manufacturing any matches.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—How many members were in the factory who ran it? A.—I think about fifteen.

Q.—What amount of capital was invested? A.—I could not answer that question.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—At what price can you buy coal oil under the co-operative system to which you referred? A.—I can save 5 cents on every gallon.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Were all those interested in the match factory workingmen? A.—Yes.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Do you know if any of those men receiving as much as you do, and working for establishments that will hold a portion of wages, lost any money at any time? A.—No; I cannot say that I do.

Q.—To your knowledge, every one who had money held back by the firm received it? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it a general rule in your establishment to put boys so young as you have mentioned at dangerous machinery? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has there ever been any accident to any of these boys, except the one of which you have spoken? A.—Several, but not so sad an accident as that.

Q.—Was there ever any action taken by the boy's parents or others regarding the accident? A.—The boy is an orphan.

Q.—Then there was no one to look after his interests or make any representation? A.—He has a brother, but he is not in the city now.

Q.—How many men are employed altogether at the establishment where you work? A.—Not over fifty now.

Q.—Have you had more employed? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is the business working successfully now? A.—Yes; it is working, but they only work about seven months—never over seven months a year.

Q.—Do any other establishments of the kind pay any higher wages than you speak of as being paid at your establishment? A.—Not that I am aware of.

Q.—Do you know that that is the rate of wages they pay? A.—Yes; I think that is the rate of wages they pay.

Q.—Did you ever make any remonstrance with the masters with respect to an increase of wages, not yourself individually, but the men generally? A.—Yes.

Q.—What answer did you get? A.—We could not get an increase; that is all he would pay.

Q.—Do you know of an industry in any other place in this neighborhood that pays more than that rate, or is that the usual scale of wages, so far as you know? A.—That is about the usual wage.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Can you tell us if any of the accidents you spoke of have occurred since the Factory Act went into force, on the 1st of October last? A.—No; I do not think so; no great accident, at all events.

JOHN ALLENBY, Tailor, London, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How long have you been in London at the tailoring business? A.—About seven years.

Q.—At custom work? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the weekly wages paid to a tailor? A.—The wages average from \$9 to \$10 for a weekly man.

Q.—That is in the busy season, I suppose? A.—Take a weekly man: they give him about \$10 all the year round.

Q.—Are there many apprentices at the business? A.—Very few male apprentices.

Q.—Any women? A.—Quite a lot.

Q.—What part of a garment do the women work at generally? A.—They generally commence on pants and vests, and work their way into making coats.

Q.—Do you think a woman at the business for some time can make a vest as good as a man? A.—She might manage to make one that would pass as well, and a man not as experienced as a tailor would not know the difference.

Q.—But practically speaking, how would it be? A.—A practical tailor could tell the difference.

Q.—Is there a difference in the cost of a vest made by a woman and one made by a man? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever heard that a woman can make a vest as well as a man? A.—Yes; I have heard it a score of times.

Q.—By a practical tailor? A.—Yes; a man who runs a tailor shop in this city will say so; but they are not practical tailors; they are men who sell clothing.

Q.—How much does a woman get for making a tweed vest? A.—It depends on what shop it is, for the shops vary in price. Some shops pay 30, some 50 and some as high as 75 cents.

Q.—It depends, I suppose, on the kind of cloth? A.—It depends, principally, on the shop; the cloth has not so much to do with it as has the shop.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—It depends on the employer? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Take a good hand at the business: how many vests would such a hand make in a day? A.—I served seven years at my trade, and one vest I consider a day's work.

Q.—How many will a woman make? A.—She will make two or three.

Q.—And what are the average wages she would receive? A.—That would depend on the kind of vests, and where she worked. There are some who would call themselves practical vestmakers, who would not be allowed to touch a vest in some other shop.

Q.—Is there a log? A.—There is a log, but neither party is bound by it. The bosses will pay more at one time than another. There is no regular tariff.

Q.—Does the price depend on the particular part of the city where the shop is? A.—It depends on the man who runs the shop; it depends on the employer entirely.

There are employers who pay \$4.50 for a coat, and others who will only pay \$2.50 for exactly a similar coat.

Q.—What are the average wages of a woman per week employed at making vests? A.—I could not say; but I could give you the average wages of a man who is a good tailor. He will make about \$6 a week.

Q.—At piece-work? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many hours per week would he have to work to earn that sum? A.—About ten hours a day, perhaps eleven.

Q.—Will they take work home with them after shop hours? A.—Some of them do.

Q.—Then a woman who works ten hours a day will make \$6 a week? A.—Yes; if a good hand.

Q.—And a woman who takes work home with her will earn, I suppose, so much more? A.—Probably so. That is the average wages of a good, practical tailoress.

Q.—What are the sanitary conditions of the tailors' shops? A.—I can scarcely tell you that; I have not been through many of them. I have only worked in one or two of the shops.

Q.—Do you work in a shop now? A.—No; I am not working at all now.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What was the sanitary condition of the shop in which you worked last? A.—It was what I call a fair average tailor shop; the sanitary condition was splendid and the light was good.

Q.—Were there separate conveniences for men and women? A.—That I could not say.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—During the summer, have you ever been in a room where the men and women worked together? Do they work in the same room where the stove is to heat the irons? A.—Yes. You cannot go into any shop where both men and women are not employed, except one shop, the principal shop in the city, which will not employ any women.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Tell us something more about having ironing done in the same room where the people are at work. A.—That is the rule whenever they keep back shops. Tailors are, however, beginning to dispense with workshops and are allowing tailors to take the work home.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Then the work is being done outside? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are there any Italians doing laboring work? A.—They take the work home, and they run what are known as sweating shops. They are making quite a pile of money, and have a few slaves under them, in the shape of women.

Q.—Do they work cheaper than regular men? A.—They do the work cheaper, and they get women to do the work cheaper still.

Q.—Are there many of them in London? A.—There are quite a few.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What class of work do the Italians do? A.—We call it second-class work.

Q.—That is ready-made clothing? A.—They do not do so much ready-made clothing as ordinary work. Some shops will pay only \$2.50, no matter whether it is a fine coat or a tweed coat, while the ordinary price would be \$4 or \$4.50, or at the least \$3.75.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Is there much child labor in connection with your trade? A.—No; not unless it is done by women.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the over-all trade? A.—Yes; I have a slight knowledge of it. I have been cutting in a wholesale house.

Q.—Is there any of that trade done in London? A.—Yes; quite a little of it is done, I believe.

Q.—What is the price per dozen for making over-alls in London? A.—I could not say what the price is here.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—What are the wages paid here as compared with those paid in Great Britain and the United States? First, let me ask you if you have worked in Great Britain?
A.—I have worked on the board in Great Britain and here. The prices are just about the same; perhaps eight years ago they were a little better, but they are just about the same.

Q.—Is that where you had experience in making over-alls? A.—No; that was at Hamilton.

Q.—Do you know what they paid women there for making them? A.—They average about 4 or 5 cents per pair—about 60 cents a dozen.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are the men's wages paid in cash here? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are they paid weekly, fortnightly or monthly? A.—I have been paid weekly. I have been paid on Monday my wages up to the Saturday night.

Q.—Do you prefer Monday as pay day? A.—No.

Q.—What day in the week would you prefer? A.—Where I am working we are paid every Saturday at noon, when we quit work.

Q.—You prefer Saturday, I suppose? A.—It suits me well enough where I have been working last.

Q.—Do you know anything about workingmen's co-operative societies?
A.—Very little.

Q.—Do you belong to any? A.—No.

Q.—Do you think it would be a benefit to your trade if it were organized?
A.—It would be a great benefit.

Q.—In what respect? A.—There would be a standard log, which would be a guide for the masters as regards pay. I can give you an instance; I go to one job, and after I have done it the employer throws me down \$2.50 or \$3. If I go to work for a man next door he perhaps gives me a dollar less, and I must either take it or lump it. A journeyman does not know what he is going to receive till the Saturday night comes.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you not generally make an arrangement with regard to wages before you engage with a man? A.—There is very seldom any arrangement made. You go in and you ask a master if he can give you a job, and he perhaps says, "Yes." If there is a man on the board you perhaps ask him what he pays, but nothing more. Let a man once work, and once he gets a job he takes it until he can strike something better.

Q.—Does convict labor interfere with your trade? A.—I have not heard that does.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—In a respectable part of the city, what would a mechanic pay for house rent? A.—About \$10 a month, I presume, in this city.

Q.—About how many rooms would there be in a house at that rent? A.—About six rooms, and the house would be centrally located.

Q.—Has house rent gone up during the last four or five years in London?
A.—Yes; I believe it has.

Q.—As a general thing, have wages increased? A.—No; they have lowered.

Q.—Is the purchasing power of a dollar as great to-day as it was ten years ago?
A.—The purchasing power of a dollar is not so much by half as it was eight years ago. That is from my personal knowledge and experience.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What things are dearer than they were eight years ago? A.—Eggs, butter and meat are dearer.

Q.—Is clothing dearer? A.—As to clothing, I cannot say.

Q.—What would you pay for one dozen of eggs eight years ago? A.—About 10 or 12 cents at this time of year.

Q.—And what are they worth now? A.—About 25 cents.

Q.—What would you pay for butter eight years ago? A.—About 12 cents a pound, I think. Now it is 22 cents.

Q.—What would you pay for sugar eight years ago? A.—I do not know.

Q.—What do you pay for it now? A.—Fine sugar is 9 cents a pound, that is granulated.

Q.—How many pounds do you get for \$1? I do not know, but the average price is 9 cents per pound.

Q.—What do you pay for roast beef now? A.—Roast beef is about a York shilling a pound.

Q.—What was it eight years ago? A.—About 9 cents. What makes me so well posted in regard to prices is that I sent them to a friend eight years ago, and now they are much higher. At that time I was getting \$15 a week, and I have \$10 now, and yet I am just as good a mechanic, ; in fact I am a little better than I was.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is fuel cheaper or dearer than it was ten years ago? A.—I do not know. I think wood is about the same as it has been for quite a while. I never burn coal.

Q.—Is coal in London cheaper this year than it was last year? A.—I do not know.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Those over-alls of which you spoke : were they made by women? A.—Yes ; by women.

Q.—How many pairs would a woman make in a day? A.—They were taken away by the dozen and they were brought back made. I do not know how many a woman did in a day. I saw them cut by the machine ; I was then cutting cloth suits for the firm of Sanford, Bail & Buckley.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—When these over-alls were returned by the women were they examined by the foremen? A.—The man who gave them out took them in and examined them.

Q.—Provided they were not properly made, would they be returned? A.—They would be given back to the women to fix again.

Q.—Do you know anything about making shirts? A.—They make shirts at the same factory, but I do not know anything about it.

Q.—Does immigration affect your trade? A.—Yes.

Q.—What kind of immigration is it? A.—As a rule, tailors who come here in the fall will take a job at much less than the one who has been here all summer.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What proportion of immigrants who come to London are tailors? A.—I only experienced this in Toronto, when I was working there. I have had to vacate my seat for them.

Q.—How many years ago was that? A.—About eight years ago.

Q.—Was there any organization among the tailors at that time in Toronto? A.—No ; we tried to organize, but we could not get a meeting. I endeavored to organize a society among old society men belonging to the old country.

Q.—Were you working in a King street or a Yonge street shop? A.—I was working for the Golden Griffin at the time I was on the board. There were old society men working on the board.

Q.—Do you know there has been a society in Toronto for thirty years? A.—The men did not know it ; I wanted them to get up a club.

RICHARD MATHEWS, jr., Printer, London, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are you a job printer or a compositor? A.—I am a book compositor.

Q.—How long have you worked in London? A.—I have worked about three and a-half years here lately.

Q.—Are you paid by the week or by the piece? A.—I am paid by the week.

Q.—How much per week? A.—Nine dollars for fifty-six hours.

Q.—Is that the standard rate of wages? A.—Yes; that is all the union requires; you may get more if you can?

Q.—Do you think it is a benefit for one doing book-work to work by the piece?

A.—Yes; if you can get enough to do; in some offices it would be a benefit to work by the piece. Of course, in a small office they do not get enough to do to keep them going all the time.

Q.—Are all the books that are to be set up any time given out to them on piece work? A.—No; it depends on what kind of a job it is. If it is a solid job you can get it by the piece; if it is a fat job it would be given out by the week's work.

Q.—Do you work in an office where there are week hands and piece hands employed in the same room? A.—No; they are all week hands. It is a small office, and both the proprietors are printers. Any man who comes in is always a union man. There are four there altogether, counting the bosses.

Q.—Are there any job offices in this city where the week hands and piece hands are employed in one room? A.—Yes; they are in one room, in different ends of it.

Q.—Where the piece hands and the week hands are employed in the same room, do the piece hands get their proportion of the fat matter? A.—The proprietor, as a general rule, knows if the job is going to be fat matter or not, and if it is he gives it to men working by the week.

Q.—Is it with the object of saving money? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there many apprentices at the job-printing trade? A.—Yes; more than there are men.

SAMUEL PEDDLE, Cabinetmaker, London, called and sworn.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—You work, I believe, for the London Furniture Company? A.—Yes; I have worked there for nine years.

Q.—What wages are paid by that company? A.—They vary; a day hand will get from \$8 to \$10 a week; a piece hand, I suppose, will make from \$9 to \$15, that is a good mechanic.

Q.—Are there any men in your factory who get less than \$8 a week who take the place of skilled workmen? A.—Yes; an apprentice just out of his time receives less than \$8.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you given a good deal of attention to labor matters? A.—I did some time ago, but I have not much of late, for my time has been occupied with domestic matters more than it was formerly. I gave a little more attention to labor matters, probably, than I should have done, considering my position.

Q.—Have you ever given the subject of profit-sharing any consideration? A.—Not practically, but in reading I have given it considerable attention.

Q.—Do you know if anything of the kind exists in this country? A.—No; not in Canada.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you include co-operative societies? A.—No; profit-sharing. That is where the men are paid in accordance with the profit made by the employer, apart from the co-operative principle. In profit-sharing, if an employer made a large return he would give some of it to his men.

By MR. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you think if profit-sharing were adopted as a principle it would lessen difficulties between employers and employed? A.—Yes; it would lessen difficulties, and influence a man to be more careful in the use of raw material, and they would work into each other's hands better than they do now.

Q.—In your opinion, would it be practicable to introduce profit-sharing as a factor in business? A.—It is practicable, because it is done in England. It is done, I believe, in the publication of some of the best books in London at the present time.

Q.—Do you know if the workingmen in Canada have ever attempted to have profit-sharing brought into practice? A.—I have never known the subject to be broached to any employer in Canada, nothing more than the co-operative plan; not in regard to profit-sharing.

Q.—In regard to apprentices as employed in your business: is the present system of taking apprentices a satisfactory one? A.—In our business in this city the present system of taking apprentices is a bad one. There are a great many who commence to learn the trade who never properly learn it, and who cannot be termed *bona fide* apprentices. A *bona fide* apprentice who is bound by an indenture does pretty well, as a rule.

Q.—Those that are indentured? A.—Yes; those that are properly indentured.

Q.—Should not all apprentices be indentured? A.—I do not know. There are a great many boys who come to help mechanics and learn a certain portion of the work, and when they have got so far they can get no further. They learn just enough to be useful to the man who employs them, and he keeps them there. Some boys of extra ability get to be mechanics in time through their being obedient, faithful and intelligent, and industrious at their work, and when a crisis happens they get pushed into a place and become mechanics, without having been properly indentured as apprentices.

Q.—They are hired by the men and not by the employer? A.—They are hired by the men, irrespective of the employers. A man hires them for himself; they pay the wages agreed upon, and the boy can leave when he likes.

Q.—Do you know if there is any desire among workingmen for the establishment of a bureau of labor statistics? A.—Generally speaking, the more intelligent workingmen think it would be a great help to us, inasmuch as we would be able to see a uniform rate of wages prevailing, and generally the condition of the labor market, and in this way such a scheme, if adopted, would be a benefit, both financially and educationally.

Q.—From your knowledge of the workingmen of London, do you think they favor the establishment of such a bureau? A.—Yes; the more intelligent portion of them do.

Q.—In regard to the question of settling disputes between capital and labor: have you given the subject of arbitration any thought? A.—Yes; considerable.

Q.—Would you give us your view of the question? A.—My view, and the view of the men in the shop, with whom I have talked it over, is that we think that an arbitration board of good, solid business men and of workingmen combined, would be the best means of investigation and settling labor troubles.

Q.—How would you propose to constitute such a board? A.—I think I would select good business men, and a few intelligent mechanics, and constitute a permanent board for the settlement of all labor troubles, and make their report decisive.

Q.—Would you make that compulsory? A.—Yes; the board having the power to consider both sides of the case, both the wages received by the men and the amount earned by their labor.

Q.—Is there not an Act on the Ontario statutes providing for arbitration? A.—Yes; but I do not think it has ever been put to any practical use.

Q.—Do you know why? A.—I do not.

Q.—Was it because there was not sufficient power contained in the provisions in

the Act? A.—I do not know why it has not been put in force; I simply know there is such a law.

Q.—In regard to employers' liability for accidents: is there any law in existence that protects employes from neglect on the part of employers? A.—There is a law for protecting him, but it does not do it.

Q.—Can you tell us why the law does not protect him? A.—The factory inspector went through our factory. He never spoke to any one; he simply walked right through. I did not even know that he was a factory inspector. I say that he just walked right through the factory, Mr. Wolfe walking in front. I understand that he was not in the whole building five minutes. He never looked at the machinery, or at the closets. Those who saw him said he walked right through the shop. We would never have known he visited the shop, except from noticing his name in the paper.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are the workshops in London, generally, pretty well ventilated and drained? A.—I can speak from practical experience in regard to the London Furniture Company. It is about the best shop in the city to work in, so far as good health and warm and comfortable shops are concerned, and the men are properly treated. The only thing we have to complain of is a little in sanitary matters, although, perhaps, that has not altogether to do with the manager; it may be due to the construction of the place.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the operation of the Mechanics' Lien Law? A.—No; I have no particular knowledge. I have just read it, and nothing more. We never have any trouble about our wages; they are paid when we have earned them.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the proportion of the profits as between capital and labor? A.—Not directly.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Where are the tools used in your establishment generally manufactured? A.—Our tools are principally manufactured in Sheffield.

Q.—Do you know if any of your tools are manufactured in Canada? A.—I believe some of the tools we use in connection with the machinery are made in Canada, in Montreal.

Q.—Have you any knowledge as to where the tools used in machines, such as knives and cutters, are obtained? A.—No; I think they get some of them in the United States and some in Canada; I know that some come from the United States.

Q.—How do those manufactured in Canada compare with those manufactured in the United States? A.—I cannot tell you.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you know anything in connection with co-operative building societies? A.—Yes; I have had a little experience in one—more experience than I desired.

Q.—Was it an actual benefit to you? A.—No, I lost \$60 by it.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you know of any co-operative society in existence at present? A.—Yes.

Q.—Please tell us what benefit it is to workingmen? A.—On the last two purchases I made I spent \$8.50, on which I saved \$1.25. We buy at wholesale rates, in a retail way, in the co-operative store to which I belong.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—How long has it been run on that system? A.—This society is not more than four or six months old. I have belonged to it six or seven weeks; I have been a shareholder during that time.

Q.—Is there a fair chance of obtaining success under such circumstances? A.—Yes; I think so. There is a better chance, in my opinion, than there has ever been before. I think they are treading in the same path as the society that has been so successful in England.

Q.—Is it very well patronized at the present time? A.—Yes; fairly well. I think on the last roll we have some fifty members.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you sell to others besides members? A.—No; not outside of trades unions.

Q.—What I mean is, do you sell to those who are not stockholders in the concern? A.—No. You pay for your share, and when you take your share, you are a *bona fide* member. You can give an order, and that order will be sent to a wholesale house and it will be filed in a retail way. You pay your cash beforehand, and your goods are sent home to you, and any money not required is refunded. In all cases the cash is paid before the order is put up. We get wholesale prices and 3 per cent. discount, which goes to pay for our reading-room and other expenses.

Q.—This wholesale house would not like it to be known that you get your goods from it? A.—Perhaps not.

Q.—It is not generally known, I suppose? A.—It is not generally known; but the cash fetches them all the time.

Q.—There would be no difficulty, I suppose, in finding wholesale houses that would deal with you? A.—No; we have only to ask for their lists and we obtain them; and one house will compete with another for the fall trade.

Q.—You carry no stock, I understand? A.—No; nothing except \$50 or \$100 we have lying there.

PATRICK BURNS, Laborer, London, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Will you please state to the Commission the kind of labor you do? A.—I am employed in the tannery at the present.

Q.—What are the weekly wages of a laborer in London? A.—I have \$7 a week; the wages generally run from \$1 to \$1.25 a day.

Q.—Do you know what are the wages of an employé in the employ of the corporation here? A.—One dollar and twenty-five cents a day for nine hours.

Q.—Are there any working under that rate for the corporation? A.—No; not at the present time.

Q.—Do laborers employed by contractors at excavating, and work of that kind, and work on drains, receive more than the corporation laborers, or do they receive less? A.—One dollar and twenty-five cents a day is the standard.

Q.—Are the corporation laborers employed all the year round? A.—No; generally in the spring and fall.

Q.—Are they paid fortnightly or weekly? A.—I do not know; weekly, I believe.

Q.—Are you employed the year round? A.—Yes.

Q.—What money can a married man in your business save, taking a man with three or four of a family, and one who exercises ordinary economy? A.—Do you mean a man on \$7 a week?

Q.—Yes; what would such a man save? A.—I should say about \$25 or \$30 in the year.

Q.—That is if he is employed all the year around? A.—Yes; a man having three or four of a family.

Q.—And could he live pretty comfortably? A.—Yes; he could live pretty comfortably.

Q.—Are laboring men in this city organized? A.—The hod-carriers are organized.

Q.—Are any others organized? A.—That is the only laboring union. I belong to the Knights of Labor.

Q.—Are there any workingmen living in tenement houses here? A.—Yes; there are a few, but there are not many.

Q.—Are those houses in a good sanitary condition? A.—Yes; generally speaking they are.

Q.—Have you ever had any labor difficulty in your trade? A.—No; no difficulty with the firm for which I work.

Q.—Does immigration affect your business? A.—Yes; I believe immigration has a tendency to pull down the prices of wages to the laboring men. The majority of immigrants coming out are naturally laboring men, and some of them are induced to leave the old country by advertisements. In fact, that was one of the inducements that led me to leave the old country. I saw an advertisement of the Allen Line, saying that there was plenty of land here, and that laborers were wanted in every part of Canada. When I got out I found there were already too many here.

Q.—Did you come out as an agricultural laborer? A.—No; I paid my passage out here; and that was one of the things that induced me to come out.

Q.—Are you acquainted with the circumstances of many who come out in that way? A.—I have been speaking to several of them, and many of them wish they were back home again.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What rent would you pay for a comfortable cottage in London? A.—I live in London west, and pay \$4,50 a month.

Q.—How many rooms are there in such a cottage? A.—Five rooms and a kitchen.

Q.—Is it a warm and comfortable house? A.—Yes; it is a good, comfortable house.

J. W. THORPE, Job Printer, London, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—I suppose you receive the standard wages—\$9 per week? A.—I get more than the scale.

Q.—Did you hear the evidence of the last printer who was called? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you anything to add to his evidence? A.—I am willing to answer any questions put to me by the members of the Commission.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of your office? A.—The sanitary condition is very good, I think. It is about as good as the average printing office, and probably better.

Q.—Can you give the Commission any information in connection with the prices of job printing in London? Is it cheaper or dearer here than in another city of similar size and importance? A.—I think the prices of work are about the same all over. The firms here have to tender against firms in London, Hamilton or other places, and sometimes they get ahead of those firms, and sometimes they come out second best.

Q.—What is the state of trade at the present time? A.—Pretty fair.

Q.—Is it in a more prosperous condition than it was at the corresponding period last year? A.—I think it is about the same; we are always busy at this season of the year.

Q.—Are there many men idle? A.—Not at the present time—a few.

Q.—Does the craft prefer an apprentice system? A.—They do.

Q.—Do they think it would benefit a boy in his future life if he were to be properly indentured and taught the trade thoroughly? A.—I think if a boy were indentured, and the master was compelled to teach him the trade thoroughly, it would be a great benefit to the apprentice. The way they teach a boy the business now is a detriment; in fact, they only employ him till he gets some knowledge of the business, and then he goes somewhere else in order to obtain journeyman's wages.

Q.—Are any women or boys employed at the trade in this city? A.—I believe there are ten females employed at the printing business.

Q.—Do you know what wages they earn? A.—I have been informed that they average about \$3 a week.

Q.—You say you receive over the scale? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there many men in London who receive over the scale in wages—that is, journeymen? A.—Yes; the wages all over the city average a little over 50 cents over the scale. The wages vary from \$9 to \$13 for journeymen—these are printers who do not occupy positions as foremen.

LONDON, January 12th, 1888.

JOHN HAYMAN, Builder and Contractor, London, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Will you kindly tell the Commission what is the general condition of the men working in your business? A.—We have not any special conditions; we simply work away in the ordinary mode.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How many men do you employ? A.—This time of the year only two or three, sometimes twenty-five or thirty.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What I meant by the general condition of the trade was as to how long your men are employed, and what are their average earnings? A.—The average earnings of a bricklayer may run at the present rate of wages from \$400 to \$500 a year. Some will come about \$400, and others will make up as high as \$500.

Q.—This \$400 will be about the average? A.—Yes; I believe so.

Q.—How many days' work would that represent? A.—We pay 33½ cents per hour. In the winter time we can do but very little, especially in a city like London. The buildings are light here, and work is almost shut down in winter time.

Q.—I suppose the demand for labor is very light for four or five months in the year? A.—Yes; for four months anyway.

Q.—Is there any other employment to which the men can turn in the slack season? A.—Not for bricklayers; they must live out of their own business, or it is no good to them, for there is a supply of laboring men, who do not receive so much wages.

Q.—Are the men generally satisfied with the state of the trade? A.—I believe our bricklayers are very well satisfied at the present time. We had a strike, but I believe they are well satisfied on the whole; I have had no complaints.

Q.—How long is it since that strike occurred? A.—It was in June last; I believe it was on the 1st of June the strike occurred.

Q.—Can you tell us just how that strike was terminated? A.—By paying the money.

Q.—Was there any arbitration? A.—There was no arbitration; the parties would not have any.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Who would not have any? A.—The bosses offered to meet the men, but they would not arbitrate at all.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—In your opinion, what is the fairest mode of settling trade disputes? A.—By arbitration; all disputes, I believe, should be settled in that way.

Q.—Would you favor a law compelling parties to disputes to go to arbitration? A.—I do not know that; I think I would hardly enforce a thing of that kind.

Q.—For instance, we will suppose that you are very busy here, and that the men take advantage of the busy season to strike. Would it be for the benefit of the employers if they could compel the men to arbitrate? A.—It would be; but their

rules will not allow them to do so without giving due notice. We got notice two or three months ahead last spring that when the time came the men would demand the pay. I, for one, thought we had better pay it. We held out for a few weeks, and I was one of the first to pay the increased rate. We could not stop our building, anyway.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—The laborers were also out on strike? A.—Yes; at the same time.

Q.—How was their difficulty settled? A.—We gave a slight advance to the best men and the rest worked about the same as before.

Q.—Did they offer to arbitrate? A.—There was no arbitration offered, I believe, on either side; I do not remember any. We were decided that we could not pay the demands of the bricklayers' laborers on account of other laboring men asking much lower, and because there were lots of men; and so it would not be satisfactory to the public in any way to give a general advance.

Q.—What wages do you pay to laboring men in your trade? A.—Eighteen cents per hour.

Q.—For nine hours? A.—Yes; for nine hours.

Q.—Are there any laborers who are employed in your trade who are getting more than that rate? A.—Yes, there are a few odd men who get 20 cents, but they are almost mechanics; they are good for other purposes and are handy men.

Q.—Have you ever given the subject of profit-sharing any consideration? A.—I have worked with a couple of other men, and have shared the profits; that was several years ago.

Q.—Do you think the system is one that can be carried out successfully? A.—No; I do not think much of it.

Q.—Do you not think that if the men were given an insight into the business of their employer they would be more careful in regard to their work? A.—Some would be; others have no business qualities to guide them. There is so much difference in men that you cannot regulate that matter very well.

Q.—About apprentices in the bricklaying business: do you take many of them on? A.—We are only allowed one at the time, that is, one to the whole number of men you employ. There is no boss in London who will be hiring a number of men for whom he will be allowed more than one apprentice. Our building trade is very light.

Q.—Are the apprentices indentured to the trade? A.—Yes; they have to be indentured. Where you have a son at work you are not allowed an apprentice. I am not allowed one, because I have a son employed.

Q.—Do you know anything about co-operative societies? A.—No.

Q.—Have you had any experience in them? A.—No experience.

Q.—Have you ever given the subject of technical education any consideration? A.—No. We just take the best man we can get and pay him his wage. That is about all we look after in the building trade.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Why do you say the boys have to be indentured as apprentices? A.—It is necessary both for the boy, and to meet the rules of the bricklayers' union. They have to be indentured and to go up to the union, or they will not be allowed to work.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Will you explain a little further, if you please, what are those laws that will not allow the men to arbitrate without notice having been given? A.—I am not acquainted with that.

Q.—I think you said the men would not or could not arbitrate without notice having been given? A.—They could not strike without notice. They could not strike last spring without giving notice, and notice was given.

Q.—There was no reason, then, why there was no arbitration, except that the men considered they had an absolute right or power on their side in that strike? A.—They considered they had given the builders due notice. I think that was the idea.

Q.—And after having given that notice they declined to arbitrate? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Were you desirous to arbitrate? A.—The bosses were; we had meetings and appointed members to arbitrate. I do not know the reason why the members would not do it. Some of the men would not do it; perhaps their laws were such that they could not do it. I do not know what their laws are.

Q.—How many men must a master employ before he is permitted, to have a second apprentice? A.—I do not know.

Q.—How many men are allowed to one apprentice? A.—I do not know their laws. I only know that I have a son, and that they will not let me have an apprentice.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How long a notice is supposed to be given by the men for a rise in wages before they demand it? A.—I do not know that there is any special time.

Q.—You know there is a time? A.—There seems to be a time for that, because the men claimed at the time that they had given due notice and they had to stand by it.

Q.—Are the bosses organized? A.—Yes, some of them; quite a few.

Q.—As regards giving notice: is there a mutual understanding between employers and employes that each party shall give notice, either for a rise of wages or a reduction of wages? Is there an understanding between the men and the bosses to that effect? A.—There has been something of that kind. It may work around that way another year, in the future.

Q.—The men gave notice that at a certain time they would strike for a certain rate of wages? A.—Yes; they were receiving 25 cents an hour, and they claimed 33 cents an hour for nine hours.

Q.—Previous to giving notice, were they promised by the bosses a rise of wages at a certain time? A.—I think not; I do not know of any promises. The idea was to go on at the same wages.

Q.—Is there a building branch of the board of trade in this city? A.—Yes; there is.

Q.—Are the employers of bricklayers connected with that branch? A.—Yes.

Q.—In taking contracts is there any understanding at the building branch of board of trade between the bosses, so far as tendering for certain classes of work is concerned? A.—No; you tender as you like.

Q.—There is no understanding by the bosses that there shall be a uniform tendering on some things? A.—There may be on some things, but as a rule you tender openly.

Q.—You have a knowledge that an understanding has taken place on some things between the bosses? A.—Yes; that is, to discuss how to tender and how you would figure.

Q.—And compare figures? A.—Yes; and compare figures, and put in your tenders, but not to alter your tenders. If you open your tender you simply do so as you would in an architect's office. You see then who has bid and who has not; that is the only object of that.

Q.—Has there been an understanding that certain bosses would tender for certain works and certain bosses would not? A.—No; it is not to keep any one from tendering.

Q.—Has there been an understanding? A.—You can use your own judgment; you are not bound.

Q.—Has there been an understanding to that effect? A.—No.

Q.—An unwritten law? A.—No. You can figure at the time or any where. The only difference I have known would be that on a certain job you may meet and open tenders, the same as you would on this table, but the lowest man would take the job all the same. It is simply a protection to your branch that you are dealt with squarely. Sometimes your tender might be thrown out for some unjust cause.

Q.—Do I understand by that that when employers make up tenders they open them and show them to one another before they put in the tenders to the architect? A.—Yes; you can see them on the table. I have tabled my figures.

A.—And they have tabled theirs? A.—That is, in certain cases. If it was a heavy job, and we were to put a tender in the architect's office, and we were the lowest and had made a mistake, we would get the contract, and it might be the means of ruining any one in the trade, because if the contract were signed we must carry it out. There is no way of getting out of it.

Q.—There is no way of getting out of it? A.—Certainly, if a person had made a mistake—and no man will give up a job if he can carry it out at all—and the contract was signed, he would have to abide by it. He has the privilege of increasing his tender.

Q.—Or withdrawing it? A.—Yes, or withdrawing; that is the only benefit in meeting.

Q.—In a word, I understand they compare tenders before they are put in to the architect? A.—In some few cases they do.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—But after this comparison is made no figures are altered? A.—No.

Q.—Only a man may withdraw his tender if he has made a mistake? A.—Yes; it is for mutual protection.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—The society to which you belong is called Builders' Exchange? A.—Yes.

Q.—You are secretary, I believe? A.—No.

Q.—Were you secretary? A.—No.

Q.—Do members of the Builders' Exchange take in mechanics? A.—Yes; any one.

Q.—Hardware merchants? A.—Yes; any one who likes to join.

Q.—Coal men and men who sell lumber? A.—Yes.

Q.—How are the members elected to this society—by ballot? A.—Yes; by ballot.

Q.—Do the members of this society discriminate against other employers in this city? A.—No.

Q.—They do not make them pay for goods? For instance, I am a carpenter, and am taking a job, and I go to a planing mill or a lumber yard to get material: would I be asked to pay more for lumber than would the members of the Builders' Exchange? A.—I do not think you would be asked to pay more.

Q.—Would I be asked to pay more for laths? A.—No; I do not think you would. In fact, I have heard outside merchants say that they have bought for less; I do not know what they pay.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Then, I understand you to say that there is no distinction made between union and non-union members of the exchange, or outside men? A.—No; there is no distinction.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What is the idea of having hardware merchants belonging to an exchange connected with the building trade? A.—I do not know; it is for general business all through.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—In order to put this matter into a nut shell, I would ask you this question: Is there any rule or any understanding on the part of members of your association that they will not work in connection with persons who are not members of your association? A.—No.

Q.—There is no rule, and there is no understanding to that effect? A.—No; we work any where and at any time when we can get work to do, and we can get our money from responsible men.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Or from any one? A.—Yes; or from any one. The only difference is, you

can please yourself where you will get work, but that is the case whether you are a member of the union or not. Of course, if you do not choose to build you need not put in tenders.

Q.—Does it frequently happen that a man who is a carpenter takes a whole job in connection with a building, and goes to a bricklayer for a tender, and a plasterer for a tender, and a painter and plumber for tenders, the carpenter taking the whole job himself and being responsible for the entire work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then the only point you have is, that if you do not find a man to be responsible you do not care to give him figures? A.—Yes; in such a case I do not care to give him figures.

Q.—Have you any advantage in being a member of the builders' exchange in buying material, as compared with an ordinary employer? A.—No; all the builders buy in the cheapest market. The only advantage we have is, that if we buy a large quantity at one time we can make a better bargain than if we buy in small quantities.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is that the only advantage? A.—It is the only advantage I have ever seen.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Are there any fines imposed on any of the members for doing anything in violation of the rules? A.—I suppose there may be.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Have you any rules for the imposition of fines? A.—I believe there is a rule that if you do not act the same as any other member you will be fined.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What would constitute an act that would cause a fine to be imposed? A.—By acting mean to any member, trying to beat him, or doing anything dishonest.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Your rules, I suppose, do not dictate in any shape or form how you should work tenders, or with whom you should tender, but that is left entirely to yourself? A.—There are no rules at all regulating your prices for bids. There is no written contract in that respect; you are a free agent to tender and do as you like, so long as you can get your pay.

Q.—Did not the lumber dealers belonging to the builders' exchange have some trouble with the city council on account of a contract for lumber for sidewalks? A.—Yes; lumbermen may do anything themselves, it must be remembered.

Q.—And you would not know anything about what they did? A.—Yes; no one in the exchange (I want this to be distinctly understood) acknowledges any thing but square dealing. Nothing else must be done, and what I am speaking of is transactions in the exchange. With respect to raising the price of a tender, or with drawing a tender and putting anything in it, in cases of that kind, I have heard statements often made about this matter—I want it to be distinctly understood that the exchange acknowledges nothing of that kind.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—The exchange is no party to it? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You mean square dealing among members of the exchange? A.—Suppose a number of bricklayers or plasterers met together, they would do things outside of the exchange. There would be nothing to prevent them from doing matters at their own trade, but the exchange acknowledges nothing of the kind. The reason the exchange was started was to talk over the best means to adopt towards men during a strike.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—When members of the exchange belonging to the bricklaying trade bring contracts into the exchange, do they pay 10 per cent, on those contracts? A.—There

are no contracts taken into any building exchange. I have known tenders shown in the exchange. You may talk about those matters yourselves. Half a dozen may meet together and show their prices for particular work. I have heard of a case where they have been increased. In one or two cases I have been present where the tender has been too low, and it has been raised to meet the requirements. There is a difference between a committee meeting or such a thing being done on the exchange. The exchange is clear on such matters.

Dr. OROHYATEKHA, London, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You are connected with various benevolent and benefit societies, I believe?
A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you had a pretty large knowledge of the working of these societies?
A.—Yes; with both.

Q.—I mean the outside working? A.—With some I have had an intimate knowledge as to their working.

Q.—Are they both benevolent and benefit societies or are they either benevolent or benefit? A.—I think that with nearly all the societies with which I am associated the two purposes are combined. There are some, however, that are not so. They may partake of a benevolent character, but such is not part of their constitutional requirement. Most of the societies now combine both benevolence and benefit in their working.

Q.—Do the fees paid into these societies cover all the expenses of working the societies, including benevolences and payments which are obligatory, or are they separated—is the insurance branch separated from the ordinary workings of the society? A.—With the Independent Order of Foresters the insurance and the sick benefit and the other benefits are a part of the system. With the Oddfellows the insurance is a separate institution. What I mean is that an Oddfellow may be an Oddfellow and not be insured, partaking only of the sick benefit.

Q.—I suppose the sick benefit is an insurance to the extent of being a sick insurance? A.—Certainly.

Q.—I mean the payments are those which he may demand? A.—Yes.

Q.—As distinct from those which may be given to necessitous persons? A.—Yes.

Q.—How are the funds of this society invested? A.—Perhaps I had better speak of the society with which I am more intimately associated, the Independent Order of Foresters, because I know that society, and it is a type of the other institutions. The funds of the Independent Order of Foresters are, in the first place, deposited in the bank, subject to the check of the three officers, for the benefits and expenses in connection with the running of the order. The surplus funds, which are now very large, or which are getting large, are deposited in certain institutions which are selected by the Supreme Court, and some \$11,000, I think, are in the post office savings bank; \$25,000 in the Dominion savings bank here; \$55,000 in the Canadian Permanent; \$20,000 in the Ontario Investment Company debentures—not the Taylor Ontario Institution, but another loan society here; and \$4,000 in school debentures. These are called permanent deposits. They can be withdrawn only on the check of the whole seven members of the executive council, and only for the purpose of paying benefits. They are laid away in case of accident or an epidemic attacking the order, when, in such an event, the surplus funds would be available to pay the extra demands without calling for any extra assessment from the membership.

Q.—So that when those moneys are once invested as distinct from being deposited they cannot be withdrawn to meet any expense, except by this board of seven directors? A.—Except by order of the Supreme Court, which represents the body; but until such an order was passed the money could not be withdrawn for any purpose, except to pay benefits.

Q.—Are any large sums of money retained in the bank and not invested?
A.—We generally aim to keep, from one month to another, about \$10,000 to enable us to pay death claims promptly.

Q.—On what authority may this money be drawn? A.—By the check of the three principal officers—the Supreme Chief Ranger, the Supreme Treasurer and the Secretary.

Q.—What security do they give to the body? A.—Guarantee bonds are given by the Supreme Treasurer and the Supreme Secretary.

Q.—Those bonds, of course, are considered ample to protect the body against any possible misuse of the funds? A.—Yes; and while the Order has an Indian for its Supreme Agent that is an additional protection. We have, we think, ample bonds to cover any deposits which are in what we call the open bank account.

Q.—Are the funds of the other bodies of which you have knowledge secured with equal care? A.—As a rule, the institutions take very great care in protecting the funds of the Order. All with which I am connected are, I believe, well protected.

Q.—Do the companies which do an insurance business, either in insuring the health of members or their lives, charge according to the probability of sickness or death, or a fixed rate, irrespective of age or probability of death? A.—In the Independent Order of Foresters the rate is based upon actuarial tables entirely.

Q.—So that really it is an insurance business, based on the principles which govern ordinary insurance companies? A.—Yes; there is this difference, however, that the expenses of management are with us less than 5 per cent. of the gross receipts, and as we have lodges extending everywhere, and thereby possess machinery by which we can collect from our membership over the whole Dominion, at little or no cost, our expenses are very small. An insurance company could never do the business upon the same basis of economy, and our salaries are not large. In this way we are enabled to lay by a reserve fund, without collecting, especially as insurance companies do, part of the premium for the purpose of creating a reserve fund, a part of such premium being to pay for the cost of risk and part for the management and expenses, and nearly one-half of the premium going to a reserve fund. We are accumulating a reserve fund, and in six and a-half years we have accumulated over \$18,000.

Q.—Does this reserve fund constitute a reserve fund in case, for example, the membership of the order should decline? Would it guarantee to those who had paid in their money that they would receive benefits? A.—Yes; I think so.

Q.—You have heard of societies in which the membership has fallen away, and those who have paid in have not been able to get anything? A.—I think our system is perfectly sound, financially speaking, and, at all events, our expenses in six and a half years' administration show that our estimates were pretty nearly correct, and instead of our membership being called upon in future to pay more, we expect, probably, by the next session of the Supreme Court, to declare a dividend. What I mean by that is, that we will return a part of the reserve fund to the members, so as to lessen the cost of the insurance during the particular year in which the dividend may be declared, our object being simply to accumulate so much of a reserve fund as will insure the stability of the order, and insure its safety in the event of an epidemic; and when we have accomplished that the surplus will be returned to the membership.

Q.—Have you a very large membership? A.—Not so very large; only 7,700, I think, on the 1st of January.

Q.—In what territory? A.—In the Dominion. We have a few members in the United States who have attached themselves to our order.

Q.—Are your money affairs connected with those of the United States? A.—Rather theirs are connected with ours. The Supreme Court is located here, and our constitution is so constructed that it can never be taken out of Canada, it making the Supreme Chief Ranger, the Supreme Secretary and the Treasurer, residents of Canada, as part of their qualification.

Q.—Are Canadian funds responsible for payment to United States members?
A.—Yes; they send all their money over to us, and we pay their claims, the same as those of the members here.

Q.—Is there any of the body in the old country? A.—No; we expect, however, to extend our body to all civilized parts in the course of time. A.—We are growing slowly, but growing surely.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Do you mean that the order in Canada is responsible for payments to members in the United States? A.—Yes; they send their contributions to us, and they are under our constitution.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you know anything about the sanitary condition of London? A.—I think it is about as good as that of any city on the continent.

Q.—Could there be improvements made in it? A.—Of course, there might be.

Q.—In what respect? A.—By the introduction of earth-closets, or the compulsory use of the city water as against well water, because you understand that the soil here is very porous and there is probably greater danger here than in any other city of the sewage contaminating the drinking water. Either the earth-closet system should be adopted—and it ought to be made compulsory by the Government in every city—or the city water should be used, and the wells used at present for drinking purposes should be close up. In that way there would be less typhoid fever and kindred diseases.

Q.—Would you prefer earth-closets to water-closets running into the sewers? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is that on account of sewer gas? A.—Yes; on account of the sewer gas. Defective plumbing is not an uncommon thing, even in London; but in earth-closets, with the use of certain disinfectants, you can make them absolutely safe from producing any injurious effect on health.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—As to the actual practice in this regard, is it within your knowledge that disinfectants are used, and are satisfactory? A.—No; I could not answer that question, because the earth-closet system is in its infancy as yet. Of course, there are dangers on the part of uneducated people, from having filthy earth-closets.

Q.—I suppose the theory of the earth-closet is perfect, and the theory of the water-closet is perfect, but the question is, which gives the best results in actual practice—is that so? A.—I am not conversant with any city which possesses a sufficient number of earth-closets, in use, to answer that question definitely. I am principally acquainted with earth-closets in use among educated people, and how it would act among the masses I do not yet know. Of course, there would have to be a system of inspection on the part of the authorities, so as to keep the earth-closets disinfected and clean.

Q.—The earth-closets, I understand, have been used at one of the schools here? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know how they have worked? A.—I do not know.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How is the ventilation of the public schools? A.—I have not given much attention to that, except in a general way, and I may say, as a rule, that it is exceedingly defective.

Q.—Are the rooms over-crowded? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you mean there is not sufficient school accommodation? A.—Yes; in almost every school in the city there are 25 per cent. too many pupils in attendance for the accommodation.

Q.—Do you know anything about the taxes in London? A.—Yes; I have some knowledge of it.

Q.—How many mills on the dollar are collected? A.—I think the taxes are up to nearly 22 mills on the dollar.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Does that cover the school taxes? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any more statements to make to the Commission? A.—I would like to call attention to the question of the Government providing some means for investigating the funds of these societies. With us, it is getting to be a matter of embarrassment, because it is of very great importance that these funds, which belong, as a rule, to workingmen, which are funds accumulated to pay benefits to workingmen, should be safely invested. It has seemed to me that it would greatly benefit the working classes, the industrial classes, if the Government would receive the funds of those societies, and allow a certain rate of interest, making some general law or rule by which any society of this character having surplus funds could deposit such in the Post-Office Savings Bank.

Q.—Could not that be accomplished by the purchase of Government bonds? A.—Not with the same facility. Of course, you can sell the bonds, but you remember they have from fifteen to twenty years to run, and there is a premium upon them. I do not see why some such rule could not be established for receiving the funds of these societies. Take the Independent Order of Foresters, and you will have noticed that we divide our investments so that if any institution in which we have money goes to the ground we will lose only a small sum; but even such a system causes constant anxiety on the part of the executive.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How about the Government Savings Bank receiving funds at the present time? A.—They will not accept more than a small sum. We tried to increase it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What is your opinion with regard to Government supervision for benefit societies in Canada, as is done in England? A.—I think it would be a capital thing. It would certainly make the officers more careful; if it did not do so it would certainly not make them less careful, when they knew they would be called upon at the end of the year to render an account of their management under oath, and that the books would be opened to Government inspection. I think such would be a great benefit. Our Order has always expressed itself ready to accept Government supervision and to submit our work to the review and inspection of Government officers. We have nothing to conceal, and perhaps that is the reason we have been so successful.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—In regard to funds placed in the hands of the Government, as you suggest, would it be necessary to call such notes in on short notice? A.—No; these permanent funds are deposits that we are not likely to require, except in case of emergency, and therefore they could be well invested with the Government, and could lie there until needed, the interest from them going to the benefit of our membership.

Q.—Have you prepared any scheme, or thought out any scheme, by which that would be made practicable? A.—I think an amendment to the General Insurance Act, giving authority to benefit societies to deposit funds with the insurance department of the Government, would cover the ground. All we require is that the Government should accept from us our funds, and keep them until needed.

Q.—You need absolute security rather than a high rate of interest? A.—Yes; we are now getting on some of our deposits $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; on others 4 per cent. We would very much rather give all our funds to the Government and accept 4 per cent.

Q.—Of course, you are aware that the Government can borrow money at less than 4 per cent. now? A.—When you take into consideration the payments of commission to agents, $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. will amount to nearly 4 per cent. This would be an extension of the National Policy—investing our money with the Government here and receiving interest for our members, instead of sending our money to the old country. It would be keeping our capital in the country and our interest also. The Dominion Government, I think, could well afford to pay $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. more for

such money. The workingmen, I repeat, get the principal advantages from such a society, and members who never think of saving a dollar are compelled, under our rules, to do so. The fraternal feature keeps them in the Order, even perhaps when they find it pretty hard to spare a dollar. When they are taken ill the Order takes care of them.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Have you any other suggestions to volunteer? A.—Nothing, except that point with respect to the deposits. I am sure it would be regarded as a great boon by the members of the benevolent and benefit societies.

THOMAS GREEN, Carpenter and Builder, London, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are you a journeyman? A.—No; I am an employer.

Q.—What wages do carpenters earn in London? A.—From \$1.75 to \$2 a day.

Q.—What are the hours of labor here? A.—Nine hours a day.

Q.—Do the men work six days in the week? A.—Yes; on Saturday we quit at five o'clock, so they only work eight and a-half hours that day, that is, except in winter time, when we work only eight hours. The men are working eight hours now.

Q.—What will be the average time during the year when the men can work in London? A.—It depends on the quality of the workingmen. Good men work the year round; poor ones work less.

Q.—What would be the utmost a man would earn in the year at \$2 a day, allowing for short time in the winter, and holidays? A.—Some \$400 or \$500. We have had men make only \$300 in the year, but that is very seldom.

Q.—Do you mean 300 days of ten hours? A.—Three hundred days, at \$1.50 a day, would be \$450.

Q.—I want to get at the utmost a man could earn, working every day in the year lawful to work, and deducting short time in winter. Could a man work more than forty-two weeks? A.—As I have said, the best workmen will work the year round—say, fifty weeks in the year. For, say a couple of weeks or a week and a-half at Christmas, we do not work in the shop. Of course, an inferior class of workmen has to lay off in a dull time. Any kind of a man can get \$1.50 a day now. I would say that on an average men receive \$1.75 a day of nine hours—18½ cents or 20 cents an hour—and some get a great deal more—\$2 a day.

Q.—As a rule, are journeymen carpenters here prosperous? A.—As a rule journeymen are not very badly off—that is the best of them; there are some badly enough off.

Q.—Do they manage to make both ends meet and pay their way? A.—They do, but it takes a long series of years to lay by much money. If a man gets a family about him and rents a house it is pretty up-hill work. He has got to live very economically. We have men who have been working twenty years and have never been worth any thing, while others have got homes of their own.

Q.—Are carpenters in this city organized at all? A.—Yes; they have an organization.

Q.—Does their organization interfere with employers to any extent? A.—No; except in the case of strikes.

Q.—Have they been out on strike here lately? A.—Yes; a year or two ago they were.

Q.—What in your opinion, would be the best means to settle disputes between employers and their men? A.—I do not know; that is rather a difficult question to answer.

Q.—Have you ever given the subject of arbitration any attention? A.—No; I have heard of it being adopted in other places, but it has not been done here. Disputes here have generally been settled by deputations from each party.

Q.—Do you think it is practicable to settle disputes by means of arbitration?
A.—I should think it would be.

Q.—Do you know anything of the operation of the Mechanics' Lien Law? A.—I have not had much to do with it, very little. There is a lien law here, but it has not been much used. I think there is a lien that builders can put on, but I do not think I have ever put a lien on a building. I have threatened them.

Q.—Then you cannot tell us whether, in your opinion, a lien law is a sufficient protection to a man or not? A.—I could not; I do not know anything about the merits of it.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you know whether, if journeymen carpenters were unable to get their wages they could apply that law? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Do you know of any journeymen carpenters who have been unable to get their wages? A.—Except by the lien law. This fall there have been failures, and through the lien law the men have been able to get their wages. Their claim, however, can only go back thirty days; some claims have run over that time and they have lost the balance.

Q.—Do you know if the law gives them sufficient protection if they are vigilant?
A.—The fact is, it is the rule to pay a man up every week, and it is the best way, but some employers, of course, get behind and do not do it.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—When a laboring man's wages get two weeks behind, I suppose he can make use of the lien law? A.—Yes; that might be done, but the man would, no doubt, lose his situation. It is not always advisable to do so.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—When your men work short time do they get their wages? A.—They are paid by the hour now.

Q.—I believe the rates range from 18½ cents to 20 cents an hour? A.—Some get as high as 25 cents per hour; 19 and 20 cents is about the average.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have the employers in this city a standard scales of wages to go by?
A.—No more than what is recognized by the trade.

Q.—What do they make as a standard? A.—Say, 19 or 20 cents.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—What was the cause of the strike of the carpenters this summer? A.—A year or two ago they wanted an advance and said they would work nine hours for the same pay as they were getting for ten hours. They struck for that and it was granted.

Q.—Did they get what they struck for? A.—Yes; I consider the carpenters about the worst paid mechanics in the place; bricklayers get a great deal better wages, and plasterers are better paid.

Q.—What do you think is the reason? A.—The trade is run down, and the men have not the organization the other trades possess. Bricklayers get as high as 30 cents or 33 cents per hour.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—They cannot work so long during the year? A.—Certainly; but they do not require any tools.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you ever calculated how much a kit of tools costs a carpenter, and how much it costs him to keep his tools in order? A.—When I was a journeyman, myself, it cost me \$20 a year. Some men will have kits worth \$100, while other men will have kits not worth \$20, and perhaps the man with the \$100 kit gets 5 cents per hour more than the poor hand.

Q.—He can do better work with his tools, I suppose? A.—Yes; and he will be a better workman.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—How is it that the carpenters are so poorly paid? Is it because the labor market is overstocked? A.—It is not overstocked with good men, but there are a great many poor carpenters.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What are known as saw-and-hatchet mechanics? A.—Yes; perhaps you come to my shop and do not want to pay much to have a job done, and in such a case I send a poor man. The other trades, I say, have strong organizations. You cannot get a bricklayer or plasterer without paying well. They have got their societies, and they stick together better than the carpenters do.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Do you believe organization is a benefit to workingmen? A.—I think so. Sometimes it is good for other people, too.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are apprentices to the carpentering business legally bound to remain with their employer for a certain number of years? A.—No.

Q.—Would not the indenturing of apprentices have the tendency of turning them out better mechanics at the end of their term? A.—I should think so. We have been in business here a little over thirty years and we have not had any boy apprenticed for over twenty years.

Q.—Are the men in favor of the indenturing of apprentices to employers? A.—They are not indentured. You cannot control them, and things have become kind of loose in that respect, all edges and points. It would be better for the boy to be indentured to his employer, because it would compel him to stay and learn the trade.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Do you never ask boys if they desire to be indentured to you as apprentices? A.—I would not have a boy; sometimes we take one under instructions for a year or two at the business, but we have not got one boy in the place now.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—A previous witness has stated that there was a difficulty about indenturing boys, because they would often run away. Do you find that to be the case? A.—We had some run away; they went to Detroit on an excursion and remained there. If they were indentured we could arrest them, of course, if they returned.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Does not the increase of machinery in the carpentering trade prevent, to a great extent, young men from learning it thoroughly? A.—I suppose it does; I have no doubt it does. Learning the trade now is different to learning it when I was indentured.

Q.—For what reason? A.—On account of the machinery. When I went to the trade, everything was done by hand.

Q.—Is there more stability in carpentering work done by hand than when it is done by machinery? A.—No; I think it is just as strong when made by machinery as when made by hand, if men take the time to do it. You can even make it better by machinery, unless you are very particular in working by hand.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Has not the introduction of machinery in the carpentering trade made the work much less laborious? A.—Yes; very much so.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Has it not, at the same time, decreased wages? A.—No; because wages have risen all over the country. It formerly took a good man to get over \$1 a day.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—When did that state of things exist? A.—About thirty or forty years ago.

By Mr. FRED:—

Q.—Those poor mechanics of whom you spoke: are they Canadians or immigrants? A.—They are Canadians as a rule.

Q.—Are they poor mechanics because they have not received sufficient instruction in their trade? A.—Very often because they have not received sufficient instruction; sometimes they are not as intelligent as they might be, but generally the difficulty arises from lack of instruction. You get some very poor Englishmen coming here as mechanics. As a rule, we get better mechanics from Scotland than England as immigrants. We also get some very poor men from Ireland.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you belong to the Builders' Exchange? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do members belonging to the exchange refuse to do work for builders who are not members? A.—I do not think so.

Q.—If I was a building carpenter, and wanted some doors run through, and I took them to your place to be done, would you do the work? A.—Yes.

Q.—You would do the work as cheaply as you would for members of the Builders' Exchange? A.—We have never discriminated yet; I have never done so: but I hold this: if you do not belong to the Builders' Exchange you have not the right to favoritism as members would have, if I was dealing with you; one belongs to the exchange and the other does not; I would make it a point to deal with the man who supports my institution. You call that boycotting, I believe. I will work, however, for any man who brings stuff to me.

Q.—Can people outside of the exchange buy lumber as cheaply as members? A.—It is in this way: we have an agreement among ourselves to this effect: by an arrangement with the lumbermen our ordinary accounts are monthly, and the builders who are members of the exchange get 3 per cent. off, and 2 per cent. for cash. They are, I say, monthly accounts, and if you bring in your bill to me at the end of the month for, say, \$100, and I pay you cash, I expect you to take 5 per cent. off. I suppose you can do the same in any store in town, and obtain even more than 5 per cent. off for monthly payments.

Q.—Do you compare contracts before you hand them into the architects? A.—No.

Q.—Or to lumber dealers? A.—I do not think so.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you think it has been done by any builders? A.—I think it has been done in the bricklaying trade. It has been done, so far as I understand the matter. Suppose we are all contracting for bricklaying work, and we have made up our tenders; we afterwards meet here and show our hands. If there is a man whose tender is very much too low we raise him up. He still, perhaps, gets the job. The amount we raise him up is paid into a general fund, and at the expiration of the season it is divided. The contractor does his job for the same amount as he contracted.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—He does not get the benefit of the rise? A.—No.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—It is the consumer that saves it? A.—The man who is getting the job done. The general trouble is, that the man takes a job too low, and some people get the better of the builders in that way. For instance, a man is building a house, and he gets a tender 20 per cent. lower than the work can be done, and the builder is induced to go ahead and put up the house, and he only gets the benefit of it. Some make a practice of that work, and we, as builders, think there is too much sharp practice going on.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—If I were a carpenter and took a contract to build a house, and wanted the plastering done, and I was not a member of the Builders' Exchange, could I get the plastering done by a member of the exchange if I was not a member? A.—That has been blocked.

Q.—Why is that? A.—It is not for me to say why it is.

Q.—Is there any fine in connection with the matter? A.—That belongs to another trade; I am not a plasterer.

Q.—Would the Builders' Exchange sanction such a thing? A.—The exchange has nothing to do with it. The exchange is not supposed to know what is done by the different members; it has nothing to do with it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You have stated that when a contractor tenders at a low price and the majority of those in the trade consider it too low they raise it up to what they think the work is worth? A.—As high as it will stand. Suppose there are three tenders, and one is too low. They raise you to the amount of the tender above you and the difference is paid into a general fund.

Q.—And the owner of the property is compelled to pay the price to which it is raised? A.—Yes; but he does not get the tender until after it is raised.

Q.—You do this before you put the tenders into the architect's hands? A.—Yes; we raise it before it is put in.

Q.—And the difference is divided? A.—Yes; at the end of the season; that is as I understand it.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Has the factory inspector been through your establishment? A.—Not that I know of; I have not heard of anyone coming there.

Q.—I suppose your machinery is all properly protected? A.—So far as we know; but it is no more protected than we thought necessary. I know no particular law about the matter.

Q.—Are there any boys or unskilled workmen running machines with you? A.—No; I have not got any boys. We sometimes have a young fellow carrying away boards from the planer, but he does not run the machine.

Q.—Do I understand you to say there are no fines in connection with the Builders' Exchange? A.—There are no fines.

Q.—Will contractors put 20 per cent. on the contract prices after they have figured up the amount? A.—Some have different methods of doing. Each makes his tender up according to his own judgment; you may make it up to be on a certain percentage and others will have their own method of doing it. There is no showing up prices among carpenters and making comparisons.

S. M. HODGINS, Cigarmaker, Stratford, called and sworn.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How long did you live in London? A.—I was residing here some time ago.

Q.—How long ago is that? A.—I have now been in London for thirty years.

Q.—Have you worked in London all that time? A.—No; not all the time. I served my apprenticeship here, and I have been away and back again.

Q.—How long have you worked at your trade here? A.—I have worked at the trade for twenty years.

Q.—What do cigarmakers receive in this town? A.—There is no bill of prices here.

Q.—They get just whatever they can? A.—Whatever they can get. We had a bill of prices, but there is nobody working on it; in fact, the masters would not employ any men belonging to our society.

Q.—Why will they not employ anybody belonging to your society? A.—We were black-listed some years ago; I am not certain of the date, but I think it was in September, 1882. At that time each shop was paying a different price, and the boys were all complaining that some other employer was getting his cigars made cheaper, and they were arguing that something must be done in the matter. We appointed a committee to wait on each employer, and when they went to arbitrate with them in the morning the men found the doors locked and their tools out in the hall. The masters might call it a strike, but it was a lock-out. Our intention was not to strike at all.

Q.—You have spoken about a black list? A.—Yes; I will give you information about that.

Q.—Is that the reason you are not working in London now? A.—Yes; some time after that, I think a week or so, the bosses caused a paragraph to be inserted in the London papers, stating that those people who had been working for them were a lot of robbers, and so forth, and I believe they pledged themselves under a bond—I do not know the amount exactly—not to employ those men for a term of three years. There were then some seventy or eighty men scattered from Maine to Oregon, and I do not suppose there are three in London to-day.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Did those seventy or eighty men belong here at that time? A.—Yes; the majority of them were citizens; a few were from other places.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Did you ever work for Mr. Rose? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did he put the men out? A.—Mr. Rose undertook to run a union shop in this city. I was working away from home, and I came here to see my family, and he offered me a job. He said he was running a strictly union shop and he was going to see how it would work. He ran it for a while and then came to the conclusion one day that there was no money in it. He came to the shop and asked a portion of the men if they would work at a reduced rate. Our bill was lower at that time than that of any other city in Canada, and still he asked a portion of the men to make cigars for \$1 a thousand less than they were then receiving.

Q.—Were cigars being made at any other shop in the town at less money than he was paying? A.—Yes; by child labor and by the aid of moulds. There was a cigar made that might appear to those not posted in the business to be equal in quality to the cigar we were making, but it certainly was not. He claimed that he could not compete with that class of cigars, and he wanted cigars made cheaper. There was no living in it for the men. We had no strike, as I have said. I will put the matter a little plainer. Our work is protected by a trade-mark, a blue label, and any manufacturer who complies with the requirements of our society is entitled to use that trade-mark to protect his goods from all inferior grades of cigars. Mr. Rose was doing first-rate when he was using our label; I do not think he can say so to-day. The principal object of the manufacturers in this city is to excel each other in cheapness, and it has been so for three or four years, until they have got it down to that pitch that there is no living in it for any one. I was talking to one of the manufacturers yesterday, and he told me he had lost more in bad debts, and so forth, last year, than he had made; or, in other words, more than the profits amounted to on the goods.

Q. Has the Scott Act done any harm to the cigar trade? A.—He claimed that the class of goods being made in London and, in fact, I know it to be the case, is the class of goods that were used in the towns where the Scott Act is now in force. He used to keep that cheap class of goods for those back country hotels. Certainly the Scott Act has shut that class of goods out, and that is why there is so much cheap trash on the market to-day, and this town is absolutely glutted with it. In all the cities where the Scott Act is in force there is a better class of goods demanded; the demand is, in fact, for a superior class of goods. You could not sell the cheap

trash to any respectable hotel in the city, but the country hotels formerly used them up in great shape, but they do not want them now.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Is it true that Mr. Rose sends all his cuttings down to Quebec? A.—I think Mr. Rose uses as good a grade of tobacco for his cigars as any other manufacturer in the city. In every factory there is a certain amount of cuttings, and I believe they are generally exported to Germany.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you believe labor is cheaper in the Province of Quebec than it is here? A.—In Montreal the prices are higher than they pay in London. There is a place called Three Rivers where they make a cheap grade of cigars, and they are swamping the country with them.

Q.—Are the cigars made cheaper in Quebec than in this city? A.—No; they are not; not to my knowledge.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you know the price paid in Quebec? A.—I am not clear on that matter. I think the manufacturers can get a cigar as cheap in this city, so far as labor is concerned; with respect to material, I am not prepared to say. I do not know what kind of material they handle in Three Rivers.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you know if the cuttings from wrappers are sent down to Quebec from here? A.—I have shipped cuttings myself to a man by the name of Isaacs, in Montreal, from Tilsonburg—fifteen cases of cuttings. What he does with them I do not know.

Q.—How many children are employed in this town in cigarmaking? A.—When they are working in full blast 150 people are sitting at cigar tables in this city. Out of that number there are only thirteen men.

Q.—How many women? A.—The balance are young women and children, boys and girls. A great many of them should be at school. Their wages run from \$1.50 up to \$6 or \$7 per week.

Q.—What is the age of the youngest of these children? A.—They run from twelve years up; about eleven or twelve is the youngest. They are secured by indenture, the majority of them are bound, and when their time is up they, of course, demand a little more pay, and then their day of usefulness is gone. They have got to skip. They go to Detroit, Chicago, and all over the country; some get work; some wind up in prison; more turn out prostitutes, and so forth.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—At the time of the difficulty between the employers and the men you say there was a lock-out and not a strike? A.—Yes.

Q.—That the employers locked you out before you pushed your demand? A.—Yes.

Q.—In every shop in this town? A.—They would not interview the committee or hear them at all.

Q.—Did the men attempt to interview the masters? A.—Yes; we formed committees to wait on our employers,

Q.—They refused an interview? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did any men in your shop destroy material by plugging cigars? A.—There were two men, I believe—Mr. Rose blames two men for plugging. What they mean by that is making cigars so that they will not smoke. The men claimed that the stock was too wet to make into cigars, and they plugged a few of them. Of course, Mr. Rose had the privilege of sacking the men, provided they did not work properly.

Q.—If a complaint was made to your organization that some of its members did that thing, would the society take action against those men? A.—Yes; if it could be

proved, and it could be ascertained for a fact that they had wilfully destroyed material the society would take action upon it.

Q.—Was that complaint of the gentleman you mentioned ever brought formally before the union? A.—Yes.

Q.—Was there any investigation made? A.—There was.

Q.—What was the result of that investigation? A.—The result was that the men claimed that the stock was not in a fit condition to make into cigars; that it was too wet. It was to make a common cigar, and when the material is too wet it is liable to clog.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Is it not very difficult to find out, when five or six men are working on a brand, who commits the action spoken of? A.—He had different men employed and he had, of course, the privilege of discharging them.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Did the men know of this complaint, that they had been charged with plugging cigars? A.—I do not suppose they could get out of it. It was shown to them. Each man's work is put on a separate rack, on which the man's name is placed, and so the names of the men were known.

Q.—That only happened with two men? A.—Yes.

Q.—If it had happened with more men he would have known of it? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Did any of those cigars go out of the factory? A.—I believe they did.

Q.—Were any sent back when they were sold? A.—I could not say. I was not in the shipping department, and I do not know anything about it.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What object would the men have in spoiling work? A.—No object at all.

Q.—Had any dispute at that time broken out in regard to wages? A.—I admit it was on account of an insufficient training or knowledge of the business; but they are the kind into whose hands the manufacturers are turning the trade. They serve their trade with those manufacturers in the city who are turning them out by the car load.

Q.—Was any dispute in progress between the men and their employers at that time? A.—There was not.

Q.—Had any demand for increased wages been made? A.—No.

Q.—Had any demand been made by the employer for a reduction in wages? A.—Yes; there had been.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Previous to the plugging of the cigars? A.—No.

Q.—Or at the time? A.—No.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—It was not made till after that? A.—It was not made till the boys refused the reduction. I suppose Mr. Rose is telling the truth, probably, when he says the goods were plugged. The complaint was not made till after he had found the men would not accede to his demand for a reduction. He immediately denounced the union and every body connected with it, and he said he was going to do the same as the rest of those people.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you know anything about an iron-clad contract? A.—I do not think I am quite clear as to the meaning of that term.

Q.—That men employed should not belong to the union? A.—I am slightly acquainted with that sort of thing.

Q.—Tell us something about it? A.—After the trouble of 1883, a year or two, two or three of our men went and applied for work, and the bosses told them they would give them employment if they would get a permit signed by the last boss for whom they had worked. Then they had another scheme, so that if a child wanted to leave one shop and go to another—if he was discharged even—he would have to get a paper signed by his last employer before he could obtain employment in any other factory in the city. I suppose that is what you call iron-clad contracts.

Q.—That is black-listing? A.—Then I do not know what you mean by iron-clad contracts.

Q.—Did you ever sign an iron-clad or other contract, that you would not strike? A.—Two gentlemen offered me a job provided I should renounce the union.

Q.—Had you to sign anything? A.—I would have had to sign an agreement.

Q.—What did the agreement read like? A.—That I would never have anything more to do with a union and would never try to work up the union again, or build it up again, or do anything on behalf of it.

Q.—With respect to these girls of whom you were speaking: if they left their employer could they get a situation without stating where they worked last and obtaining a permit from their last employer? A.—No; they would have to have a paper from the last boss they worked with.—“You may give the bearer work if you need him,” and so forth; and the boss' name would be signed to it. I have seen two or three of those papers myself.

Q.—Does your union give any benefits? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are they? A.—If a man is sick he receives \$5 per week.

Q.—For how long? A.—For sixteen weeks.

Q.—Does his family get anything at death? A.—After that he receives \$3, and then it comes down to \$2 per week. At death the amount is according to the length of time he belonged to the institution; it runs from \$200 to \$500.

Q.—Do any females belong to your union? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they get the same wages as the men? A.—Yes; but not in this city. We tried to get the females to join the union in this city. One or two joined and they were discharged immediately; they are in Detroit at the present time. That intimidated the balance and they would not come into the union.

Q.—In the factories in this city, are the water-closets for males and females separate? A.—No; not in the factory in which I work. Of course, I have not been in all of them, only in two or three.

Q.—Do you know anything about the truck system? A.—Yes.

Q.—Tell us what you know about it? A.—They ran the truck system for about three years in this city, but it is done away with now. Of course, all the men are gone, and I do not know what they are doing with the children. They used to compel men to board at certain houses and buy their goods at certain places, and they gave orders, and so on, but that has been done away with.

Q.—Has foreign contract labor ever been brought into competition with your labor? A.—Yes; at the time of the strike a car load of Pennsylvanian Germans was brought over here. They were landed at the station and marched up the street under police protection, not that we were going to hurt them.

Q.—Will you please tell us about this black-list; how did they black-list you? A.—It came out in the daily papers here. The bosses signed an agreement, a contract, under bonds, I think it was for \$300 or \$500, (I do not speak with certainty of the amount), that they would not employ for a term of three years any of the people locked out.

Q.—Did you ever try to get employment since? A.—My name is on the list, simply because I happened to belong to the union at the time.

Q.—After you were locked out from the shop did you try to get employment in the city? A.—Yes; I was offered work provided I would throw up the union and have nothing more to do with it, but I had paid my fees into the union for some years, and I was entitled to benefits, and I did not feel like going out.

Q.—Is there such a thing as fining employés where you work? A.—Yes.

Y.—For what do they fine them? A.—We have certain restrictions with respect to the use of the blue label. We have an apprenticeship system. It works something like this: There is one apprentice allowed to every factory and to every five men, and one for every additional five men. That is the way we run it, and if a master complies with these rules he is entitled to use the blue label for all work made in the factory.

Q.—I want to know for what employés are fined? A.—If the master complies with these rules we give him all the protection of the label; if he does not comply with them we do not give him the use of the label. There is a man in this city who got hold of some blue labels and who, at the same time, was not employing union men, but was employing children. He stole those labels or they came in to his possession. He used them upon a very inferior cigar. They got about in the retail business and that was an injury to our skill and our trade. We fined that man \$50. Sometime afterwards he wanted to start a union shop. We told him there was an old charge against him, that he had improperly used our labels and that this fine had been imposed on him. He said he would come up to the meeting and see us. He failed shortly afterwards and he did not amount to anything. That is the only man who was ever fined in this city.

Q.—Do you think if the duty on foreign cigars was raised it would greatly benefit the cigarmakers in this country? A.—I do not see any foreign cigars coming in. I believe the duty was raised lately.

Q.—Has it not been a benefit to the cigar business? A.—It has been a benefit to the cigar business, but the manufacturers claim that the internal revenue or excise duty is altogether too high. They claim they cannot get a raise on the goods they produce corresponding to the increase in the excise duty. It was formerly \$3 per thousand; it has been doubled, and is now \$6 per thousand.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—There was an assertion made here yesterday that all cigarmakers were inveterate drunkards. Is there any truth in that statement; do you know anything to the contrary? A.—I do. I know quite a number of sober, very good men, who are not inebriates or drunkards. Some take a glass of beer, some do not. There are quite a number of hard nuts running through the country, the same as there is in any other trade, and it is an easy matter to condemn all the men on that account. The masters always had the influence of the press in this city and we could never have a word to say. That statement to which you refer is false.

Q.—He said they were all inveterate drunkards? A.—It is not so.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Was it on account of the black-list that you had to leave the city? A.—Yes.

Q.—Excepting for that you would be living here? A.—Yes. After we were locked out I got employment with a man named Clarke, now in Chicago. He started in a small way and used the blue label, and he had capital to employ nine men. He got all the hotels at the back of him. I was not there very long before two of the bosses wanted to call him into their meeting and get him to black-list me; they wanted him to discharge me. One gentleman went so far as to offer him a case of tobacco if he would discharge me and get me out of the city. Mr. Clarke went out of business and went to Chicago. I then received employment from Mr. Reynard, now dead. His son is in the city and he can corroborate what I say. I was one week as foreman when some of the men came there and said I was a dangerous person, an agitator, and so forth, which was false. They tried to get me discharged. I went away to Tilsonburg. I held a position as foreman, and we were running along very nicely when suddenly one day a telegram came from Ottawa stating that the duty on cigars was doubled from that day forward. We had a contract for 150,000 cigars, on which we would lose \$3 per thousand. The Government gave us the change too suddenly. We would not have lost anything except for the suddenness of the change, and it left us a very small margin on the contract. Of course, that was the reason

for closing the place down. The boss said the internal revenue was too high and he would close. That threw me out again. I come back to London, where my family were all the time. I went to three or four different establishments seeking work, believing that as the three years had expired the matter would be all right. But I found the same old thing. Several others came back and tried to get jobs, but the bosses said, "We cannot give you work if you belong to the union." They told us this straight and plump.

Q.—Does tenement-house work interfere with the work here? A.—No; not in Canada.

Q.—What are the sanitary arrangements of the factories in this city? A.—They are very good in all the factories in which I have worked.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How long has the blue label been in use? A.—Quite a few years; about fifteen years, twelve years anyway.

Q.—What was the object of introducing the blue label? A.—To protect our work against inferior and cheaper goods.

Q.—I suppose that label is only given to manufacturers who employ union men? A.—Exactly; to manufacturers who will pay the prices of the union.

Q.—And the object is to discriminate and to influence the public to discriminate against the use of cigars which do not bear the blue label? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do union men work with non-union men in cigar shops? A.—Yes; in what they call open shops.

Q.—And in those open shops where union men are employed do they have the blue label? A.—No; union labels are only allowed in shops that employ union men and comply with the union requirements with respect to the apprentice system, and comply with the laws of the union. I may say that we are not allowed to strike except we are guaranteed the protection of the International Board of the International Union. No local union and no shop can strike unless their grievances are submitted to the board of arbitration, that is the executive board of the International union. They consider the grievance and the prices of living, and the wages paid, and whatever they decide is what we have to abide by, but if they say our case is not just to strike we have to go to work; if we do not do so they send members to take our place.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Can the executive board order a strike if the local board is opposed to it? A.—Yes; but it is not customary to do so.

Q.—Has it ever been done? A.—Each local union has a perfect right to make its own by-laws to govern its own work, provided it does not infringe on the international constitution.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you take a vote in the case before you go on a strike? A.—Yes.

Q.—What vote do you require; what has the vote to be—a two-thirds vote? A.—The local union cannot strike, no matter whether it takes a vote or not. They can move for a bill to strike, and if the majority of the meeting is in favor of a strike against a reduction or a lock-out, or anything of that kind, they send their grievance to the executive board, which considers them and sends them the results of the meeting, whether they stand by us or order us back to work.

Q.—Was that done in the case of the difficulties here? A.—Yes.

Q.—Your grievances were sent to the executive board and approved by them? A.—Yes; as soon as the doors were locked. In case of a strike the men have to submit to that line of action; in case of a lock-out, I believe, it is generally understood that the men are placed on the list for benefit.

Q.—What benefit do you get? A.—In case of a lock-out, \$5 per week.

Q.—For how many weeks? A.—Till the strike is through, but it does not generally last long. Our motto is to settle by arbitration; we do not approve of strikes. I am sorry I did not bring one of our constitutions with me; we are opposed to strikes; we do not strike unless we are pushed right to it; it is our last resort.

Q.—What kind of arbitration do you believe in? A.—In forming committees to act with the bosses—that is, to have interviews with the bosses.

Q.—That is local arbitration? A.—Yes; I think if the Government wish to help our trade the best thing they could do—that is, if they want to do it—is to reduce the excise duty to \$3 per thousand, and to look well into the Factory Act and enforce it. Also, to place the regulation with respect to apprentices and make the bosses teach them the trade thoroughly, and not send them out botches. There are a number of young men driving waggons and horses through the city who served their time at the cigar trade, and when their time was out they had to go at something else or leave town.

HENRY NICHOLS, G. T. R. Car Works, London, called and sworn.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you work in the Grand Trunk car works? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long have you worked there? A.—Three years last April.

Q.—What wages does the company pay you? A.—At first I worked at 12 cents an hour as a laborer in the yard. When I had been there fourteen months they sent me to work in the upholsterers' shop; after I had been there nine months they raised me to 14 cents per hour.

Q.—How many hours a day do you work? A.—I have worked nine hours, and do so now. Before that we were working short time—five hours a day, all through the month of December.

Q.—Is that a general thing, to work five hours a day in winter? A.—No; but we have had to lose a portion of time every winter. Sometimes it has been that we have stopped work altogether about Christmas, and as a general thing we lose two weeks' time in June. Last June it was ordered that all hands were to lose two weeks' time, and the men were to arrange among themselves who were to go off the first week and who the second week.

Q.—Do you belong to the provident and insurance society of the company? A.—I do.

Q.—Was that compulsory on you? A.—It was.

Q.—Is it compulsory now? A.—I believe it is. Men who are fit to pass a medical examination must do so, according to the printed rules; otherwise they cannot be employed as a regular man.

Q.—Then if a man is not perfectly fit he cannot work in the shop? A.—I believe not. The company will not give him a permanent position, or if he is too old, over forty-five years. He is then too old to join the provident society, and in consequence of that he is not employed permanently.

Q.—Do the men object to belonging to that provident society? A.—Some do and some do not.

Q.—Do you object to belonging to it? A.—In one way I do, and in another way I do not. If you will allow me to give a reason I will state it. The reason is this: I think a man should be compelled to join the provident society, because I know that some men will not join any sick benefit or provident society unless they are compelled to do so; they will not join anything of that kind when they are well, so when they become sick they do not receive any benefit. It is that class of men for whom subscriptions are taken up by their fellow-workmen. That is the reason why I think that the joining should be compulsory, because the men then have to join and

that does away with the contribution and subscription list. There is a printed rule in the workshops that no subscriptions will be allowed to be taken up there. Formerly there was a subscription once a month, and it was found that some men imposed on their fellow workmen, and the company put a stop to it. For that reason I approve of the provident society being compulsory.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What benefit do you derive from the provident society? A.—Three dollars per week and a doctor and medicine free.

Q.—And what is the amount of the insurance? A.—If I belong to class F it is \$250.

Q.—Class F is the lowest class? A.—Yes; it is what is called the 5 cent class. We pay 40 cents a month for the contribution and the remainder is for the insurance. We get a pay ticket once a month when we draw our wages, and it states the amount of insurance and sick pay deducted.

Q.—The company retains a certain amount? A.—Yes; out of \$19.95, 75 cents are deducted.

Q.—Does that include death benefit? A.—It includes both; 40 cents is our contribution to the sick benefit. That was the amount for December—the month when we were working five hours a day.

Q.—Can you tell us if there is much dissatisfaction among the men about the working of the provident society? A.—There is much dissatisfaction. Some men think they have not sufficient voice in the matter. So I have heard them express themselves.

Q.—How are the fees of the society managed? A.—They are managed entirely by the authorities at Montreal.

Q.—Have the men no voice in appointing directors? A.—Yes; we have—but not being a representative of the men in that matter, I cannot properly explain it; but we are allowed a director as representing the men.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—I suppose the constitution of the society explains everything? A.—Yes; and we have a book of rules.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Would the men, so far as your knowledge goes, prefer to have this provident society optional with them, so that they could join it or not as they pleased? A.—So far as I know, I think they would prefer to have it optional, and still if they were all asked the question they might say different; but I have heard several express themselves that they would prefer to have it optional.

Q.—Do you know what reason they give for holding that opinion? A.—One reason was that two men were sick, and while they were sick they were discharged.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Where was that? A.—At London East. One is living now; the other is dead. Those men were discharged while under medical treatment for certain complaints, and the rules distinctly said that if a man is pronounced by the doctor incurable he shall receive \$100. Then it states again in the rules that if you are discharged from the company's employ you are no longer a member of the provident society, that is to say, you will not be entitled to a sick benefit; but we can remain in the insurance branch, provided we pay the monthly contribution, with \$1.50 per year added. At the time those two men were discharged they were under medical treatment.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Was their sickness caused by accident or simply by disease? A.—One was an ailment of the body; I think it was called by the doctor ulceration of the lungs; that was William Kingsworth; and the other, I think, was affected with paralysis on one side. Whether he has quite recovered or not I do not know.

Q.—Do you know what reasons were given for discharging those men—that is to say, for dismissing them with \$100 instead of allowing them to continue on the insurance society? A.—They were allowed to remain on the insurance society, because Kingsworth's widow received \$250 insurance from the society. But this \$100 I am speaking of is a separate affair.

Q.—They got that in lieu of sick benefit? A.—Yes; in lieu of sick benefit. When a man is found to be incurable, instead of keeping him on the sick-list they give him \$100, and he has no more claim on the fund.

Q.—He still has a claim on the insurance? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any complaint that money paid in for insurance purposes, and for benefit purposes, is in any way misapplied or improperly distributed? A.—I have not heard of any persons not getting their sick payments when they were honestly entitled to them. They had been paid all right. If they have any complaints to make they have their representative, James McGowen, to speak on the matter, and if he takes any writing he will do his duty to them. He is a machine-minder.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Does the provident society supply you with free medical attendance and medicine? A.—It does.

Q.—Is it all included in the 40 cents a month? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there anything you would like to tell the Commission that would be of interest in this enquiry? A.—There is one question that I think it right to speak of; it is the trouble that garnishees give sometimes. Certainly, it is some times owing to the men's own fault that garnishees are brought against them, but I think a good deal of that would be done away with if the wages were paid more frequently than once a month. I believe, however, the last case of garnisheeing I heard of was the man's own fault, for if he had tried he could have come to terms with those with whom he was dealing, and they would have given him a chance to pay the amount. But I repeat, that if we were paid more frequently than once a month a great deal of that would be stopped. I am glad to say, that I have not heard of any garnishees where I work; but, of course, the men do not tell me their business; I have heard of some. There was one man discharged a little while ago; he had many garnishees, and he would not try to come to terms; so it was his own fault.

Q.—Those garnishees would be by creditors of the men employed? A.—Yes.

Q.—When a garnishee is served on the company how much money belonging to the men will the company have on hand? A.—They have always in their possession ten days' wages or more, because, as you see by this ticket, the money I will draw to-morrow is due to me for a month of 1887. They make up their pay-sheet to the end of the month, and this pay, therefore, is to the end of December. What I am earning at the present day I will not receive till the 13th of February. The company pay on the 13th of each month, and they make up their books to the end of the month, so they always have, as I have said, ten days or more of our money in their possession from the time we join their service.

Q.—If the men were paid every two weeks the garnisheeing law would not affect them so much? A.—Not so much.

Q.—Have the railway men ever made any effort to get the day changed? A.—Some time ago papers were brought around by some of the men, asking the others to sign them, praying the company to grant fortnightly pays instead of monthly pays. We signed the papers and I believe the General Manager sent a very polite reply, stating that he would be quite willing to do it if he could oblige the men, but in the interests of the company he could not do so.

Q.—If a man is leaving the employment of the railway can he draw his money on the day he leaves? A.—I think not. There was one man, I remember, who left of his own accord, and he did not give notice that he was going to leave, or I presume he could have had his money. He did not get his money till some weeks afterwards, and then his wife received it by his order.

Q.—What notice is a man required to give on leaving the company's service in

order to enable him to draw his pay? A.—I do not know, for I have never heard it stated, and I never read any rules to that effect.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—He would not be paid before the regular pay day? A.—Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Do you belong to any co-operative association? A.—I do not.

Q.—Is there one in connection with the Grand Trunk Railway—such as the coal association? A.—In that respect there has been none. A committee was formed in the Grand Trunk shops, and it was arranged that anyone would be supplied with coal at so much per ton.

Q.—At how much per ton cheaper was the coal furnished than it would be supplied by ordinary dealers? A.—I paid \$16 odd for three tons; that included deliveries.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What would that have cost you to buy it elsewhere? At that time, \$6.50 or \$6.75 a ton; it was \$6.50 when they took the order.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Was it good coal? A.—Middling good coal; some seemed to get better coal than others. Others again complained that they did not get as much coal as they expected, and that there was too much dust with it. Others again complained that they got the coal, but it was not weighed, and that that was not exactly the thing; but this year, I believe, tickets are given out with the coal. I did not become a purchaser of coal this year. That is how they did last year, and the men said some years ago that they must have tickets with the coal. I heard one man complain that two men's coal was in one waggon, and nothing between the coal, and they asked each other how could the driver of the waggon tell what quantity to leave at the first man's place and what at the second man's place, but they did not get any answer.

Q.—Is wood the same way? A.—I have never bought any from the co-operative society.

Q.—Do they sell wood also? A.—Some of the men grumbled that the measure was short, and I believe the committee rectified that. I do not know of anything wrong in the wood dealing.

ROBERT SYMONS, Shoemaker, London, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—In what branch of the shoemaking trade are you employed? A.—I am not working in any particular branch just now. Recently I started to do a little business on my own account.

Q.—You are what they call a custom shoemaker, I believe? A.—Yes. When I was a journeyman I worked at custom work; I have also worked at factory work, and I am thoroughly acquainted with the shoemaking business in most of its departments.

Q.—Is there any custom work used in the Dominion? A.—Not very much.

Q.—It is principally factory work? A.—Yes; it is principally factory work that is sold, but there is not much factory work made here.

Q.—Comparing factory work with hand work, do you think the consumer obtains as good an article for his money in the former case? A.—No; he gets better value from custom work than he does from factory work.

Q.—Is that in proportion to the price paid? A.—Yes.

Q.—About what wages will a shoemaker earn in London? A.—The best wages I now pay to a week hand is \$9, that is for a journeyman, and very few get that. I do not know more than half a dozen, to my knowledge, in this city.

Q.—Have the wages of shoemakers increased during the last few years here?
A.—The wages have steadily increased, but the work has decreased.

Q.—There is less work now, in your opinion? A.—Yes; in both departments, both factory and custom.

Q.—That is just speaking for London? A.—Yes; I am only acquainted with London.

Q.—Are there many women employed in the shoe factories here? A.—There are a few women; we have only one factory of any dimensions in this city.

Q.—Do you know anything of the working of the shoe factory here—that is, of the place were the women work? A.—I am not acquainted with it.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Is the shoe work made in London sold in London? A.—Not very much.

Q.—How is that? A.—Because they cannot or do not produce as good an article for the same price as is produced in other towns. I mean that Toronto and Hamilton can produce a better article for the same money, or at all events they do so; the most of the work sold in London comes from the Lower Provinces, from Quebec and Montreal. Fully three-quarters of the work sold in London comes from Montreal and Quebec.

Q.—Why do the dealers purchase from Montreal and Quebec when they can obtain goods much nearer, at Hamilton or Toronto? A.—Because the goods can be produced so much cheaper at Quebec.

Q.—Cheaper in Montreal? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is that after the freight is paid? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know what wages are paid in Montreal to factory hands as compared with the factory here? A.—I do not, but I am acquainted with the reason why the goods can be produced cheaper.

Q.—State it? A.—The reason is, because the manufacturers use largely female and child labor.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Where? in Quebec? A.—Yes; We all understand the system of working that prevails there, even although we have never been there. The system largely in vogue is this: a man or a boy will go to a factory with a cart and will bring away a load of work, and he will have his family, including his wife and children, all who are able to handle a tool, do some part of the work; in fact, it takes the whole family to make a man's wages. That is the reason why they can produce work so much cheaper than it can be produced in London.

Q.—Do you know what will be the earnings of a factory hand here in a week?
A.—The average earnings of a shoemaker in the factory would not exceed \$7.50 per week; that is for journeymen, leaving out foremen, and for sewers; I mean a practical man, those who work. For such a man, I think, \$7.50 per week is a high average.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Is that for men alone? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the average that females earn? A.—I have not.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you think it is largely the case that a manufacturer here can send down to Quebec and obtain boots and shoes cheaper than they can be produced here? A.—I have heard remarks to that effect, but I am not acquainted with the facts. Most of the retail merchants here buy direct and they use the factory here as a jobbing house, to fill up lines, and so on.

Q.—There is a smaller factory that does nothing but manufacture and does not buy?
A.—There are about a dozen hands in that factory; they make a good class of work.

Q.—Does the larger factory close down for any length of time during the year?
A.—Yes; generally twice a year, particularly about this time of year.

Q.—Are there any other causes for closing down other than taking stock? A.—That is their excuse; I think it is want of work. It is understood to be want of work, but their excuse is to take stock.

Q.—They close down in the summer time also? A.—Yes; for two weeks or a month in summer.

Q.—Do you belong to any workmen's co-operative society? A.—Yes; I am a member of the co-operative society.

Q.—Have you derived any benefit from it? A.—Only slightly, because, as I am situated now, it is not an advantage to do business in that direction, for I have to do very much by way of trade and barter. Otherwise, it would be a benefit to me.

Q.—You mean that that is owing to being a merchant in business? A.—Yes; it alters the circumstances; but I may say that the society is of considerable advantage to those who get their goods from it. I know that, because I am in a position to know it.

Q.—How much would a purchaser save on \$1 in buying goods? A.—He would save about 15 per cent.

Q.—And how much would he save on coal oil? A.—I have not figured up the percentage, but when coal oil was selling at 18 cents a gallon you could buy it from the co-operative store for 13 cents.

Q.—How much would he save on soap? A.—I am not in a position to say. I know in regard to coal oil, because I got our coal oil for the house from the store.

Q.—Does the co-operative society derive any benefit by buying boots and shoes? A.—Yes; and we allow every member 10 per cent. who deal with us.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are there many first-class operatives in London on hand-work? A.—I am not in a position to know; there are some. One foreman employs three or four first-class hands; there are five with whom I am acquainted.

Q.—What kind of work in the Montreal and Quebec factories are the boys and girls engaged at? A.—The women can work at almost any kind of work; they can do some parts of it.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Is there any practical journeyman shoemaker employed in any of the factories in this city? A.—Yes; there are quite a few of them.

Q.—Do they, as a general rule, when the factories take on any person as a shoemaker, ask him if he is a practical man, or has he to be a practical shoemaker to get employment in a factory? A.—No; it is not necessary. If he can work at any part of the business he can get a job if one is open; it is not required that he should be able to make a shoe. I desire to say a word or two in regard to school books. I read a statement made by the school inspector, or by the chairman of the school board, to the effect that he never knew a child to be sent home because he had not the necessary school books. I am in a position to state the contrary to be the case. I have known children, my own included, to be sent home from school because they had not the necessary school books, and I could produce numerous persons, if necessary, who have been so situated. It very often arises in this way: when a child is promoted to a higher class the parent is not always in a position to get a new set of books. Under such circumstances my children have more than once been sent home from school, and when we have sent a note, or request, to be allowed to get the books in a few days, and said that we would get them as soon as we were able to do so, the children have been threatened with punishment if they came again without the books, and they have been sent home. I do not know that this is largely the case, but I could enumerate several instances within my knowledge.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you think if the books were free the children would be kept longer at school by their parents? A.—Yes; I am positive of it. It is the purchasing of

books that is a heavy item, and, moreover, it happens so often that the books have to be changed. In my case it happened more than once, that as soon as we have bought a new book, costing, perhaps, 50 cents or 25 cents the child has been promoted. You are not aware that the child was to be promoted, and you must get new books. I believe it would be a great advantage to the working community to have the books for the schools provided free.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Can you form any idea of the actual cost of books per annum for one child?
A.—No; I have never thought the matter out in that way.

Q.—Would you rather have the books supplied to your children and pay a monthly fee, say 15 or 20 cents, than have the present condition continued? A.—I am not prepared to answer that question, because I do not know the actual cost. I am strongly of the opinion that it would be a great boon to the working people to have the books provided and paid for out of the school taxes.

Q.—Do you think the children would be as careful of their books under that system as they are at present? A.—More so, because the teachers would see to them.

Q.—Do the teachers now see that the children care for their books? A.—I do not think they do, from the way the books are treated. I do not know the exact cost of books; but it is quite an item.

Q.—How would you do if the child lost a book or destroyed it? Would the teacher have to supply it? A.—I could not say as to that; I should say they would have to make it good, because if the children were allowed to destroy the books they might do so to a considerable extent.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Would it not be possible to give the children books free for a certain time and compel the parents to replace them if destroyed? A.—I should think such a system would work well. The books could be supplied for at least a certain amount of time, and if they were destroyed or lost they could be made good by the parents. I think that would be fair and reasonable.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you believe a female teacher should receive as high a salary as a male teacher; provided she is equally qualified? A.—Yes; and in all other branches of labor where a female does the same amount of work as a male she should receive the same remuneration. I see the question of drainage has been talked about before the Commission. There is one great difficulty in London in regard to drainage, and that is in the east end. I refer to the open sewer, which is known as Carling's creek.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—That is going into municipal affairs? A.—That is the cause of a great deal of sickness.

Q.—Have you complained to the mayor and common council? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have the mayor and council done anything? A.—Not that I am aware of.

Q.—Your council declined to attend to it? A.—I think their attention has been called to it.

Q.—We are here representing the Dominion Government, and you think the Dominion Government should be called upon to deal with the matter? A.—This city is not in a proper state of sanitation. The sewage runs into the creek, and it has a serious effect upon the people living along its course.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What makes you think that this is a matter for the attention of the Dominion Government? A.—The question was put to a witness before the Commissions to the state of the drainage and sewerage of the city, and the reply was

given that it was satisfactory, whereas it is not. If it should go to the country that London is perfectly drained, which it is not, you give one phase of the story, making it appear that it is well drained, when it is not.

Q.—Have you a board of health in London? A.—I understand so.

Q.—Have these representations been made to the board of health? A.—Yes; frequently.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Then, neither the board of health nor the mayor nor the local government will attend to it? A.—It remains open. I would not have mentioned the matter only it is not fair for a statement to be made before the Commission that is not true and correct, for such is the fact when officials come here and say the sewerage of the city is satisfactory. Another statement has been made in regard to the wages of laborers in the city. I observe that laborers have been represented as earning \$1.25 a day, as an average wage.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—The statement of the witness was, that the wages of corporation laborers was \$1.25 a day. A.—There are a good many men working for \$1 a day when they are employed; a large number have no work to do at all. I know quite a few who subsist on what grocers and provisions dealers will let them have.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you known any men in that position? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are they aware that there is a Commission in town to take that kind of evidence? A.—They are; there are, however, lots of men who are too timid to come up and give evidence, and there are others who are afraid they might lose something by doing so, and there are others again who have not much faith in the Commission. There are lots of causes which will keep men from coming here. I say there are men living on what grocers choose to let them have; and, of course, they will have to pay, if they ever pay for it, a big price for what they have obtained under such circumstances. They are getting goods with the hope of being able to earn sufficient money next summer to pay for them.

JAMES O'DONNELL, Carder and Spindler, London, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You are engaged, I believe, in the manufacture of woollen goods? A.—I am assistant at that business.

Q.—How many men are engaged at that business here? A.—There is not a man at the present time. I am the only man at present employed in the city as a workman.

Q.—Is there not a great quantity of woollen goods manufactured here? A.—There is only one factory in the city.

Q.—What class of goods does that firm manufacture? A.—I have not been there for some time and I cannot say. I have a pretty good idea of the qualities of stocking yarns and blankets.

Q.—Do they get their wool in this neighborhood? A.—Principally; that is their coarse wool.

Q.—Do they go into fingering yarns? A.—They cannot do it.

Q.—Do they do a local trade? A.—Yes; a little wholesale, but the margin is so fine on the wholesale trade that they cannot do it.

Q.—Can you tell us anything of interest that would be useful to the Commission? A.—It is very difficult to say what the cause of the depression in the trade is; in my opinion it is over-production and the employment of cheap or child labor. That labor will scarcely go under what the Government might call child labor, for it is labor by

young people between the ages of sixteen and seventeen who work for child wages, and therefore I would call it child labor. One thing we want is a change in the system, so that no person from twelve to fourteen years should be allowed, either male or female, to be employed, to compete against men's labor.

Q.—Are many of those children employed? A.—I have not been in any of the large factories so as to be able to know; some time ago I saw an example of it. I worked at Wilby & Co.'s mill, near Toronto; they are in the woollen and shoddy business. With the machinery they have imported they can manufacture all kinds of shoddy, which, of course, hurts the honest manufacturer. Lots of children are employed in such occupations.

Q.—Injury is done, I suppose, by putting these boys and girls at working machines? A.—Yes; they will get good men to look after two or three machines, and they will employ boys to do the rest of the work. Not children, but boys—that is, young men.

Q.—What will be the earnings of a man in your business in the year? A.—I do not know. It is so long since I got work a year that I cannot tell you. If I work eight or nine months in the year I am doing well. We will average from \$7.50 to \$9 per week.

Q.—Will that be for nine months in the year? A.—Some get \$7.50 and some \$9. Instead of nine months the mill is more likely to run six months.

Q.—Is there any Sunday labor in connection with the woollen factory? A.—There is no Sunday labor, except in the shape of filling up the boilers.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you know the age at which children can go to work, according to the provincial Act? A.—At twelve, I think. I may state as a Knight of Labor that I want that law revised; I speak as a Knight of Labor when I say that.

Q.—The age at present is thirteen? A.—I think it should be more like seventeen; I will say fifteen years. At thirteen a boy is only a child, and has not half his senses.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of your factory? A.—Not good.

Q.—Has it been visited by the Ontario inspector? A.—I do not know; I suppose so. A sub-inspector has been there. It is situated at an out-of-the-way place, and I do not suppose the inspector would come round personally.

Q.—Are you aware that he is sub-inspector? A.—Well, I think so; as there are three of them there must be a sub-inspector. There is a doctor appointed; he will act in one sense and will notify the inspector. They generally report to the general inspector.

Q.—Have you known the inspector to be in London? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—Do you know who he is? A.—I do not; I know that a man came and inspected the place and I know that he was not the regular inspector but a medical man.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you represent the workmen of London here to-night? A.—Not as a representative, only as a workman.

Q.—Can you give us the opinion of the workmen of this city on the question of arbitration? A.—It is favorable, I think.

Q.—Do you know in what shape they would prefer this arbitration? A.—I suppose by men being chosen by each party, each party thus having its own arbitrator.

Q.—Do you know if the men of this city would be favorable to a law compelling the settlement of disputes by arbitration in that way? A.—I believe they would be in favor of it. The workmen want the assisted immigration stopped.

Q.—How many immigrants do you have in London in the year? A.—I cannot tell you.

Q.—Are there many? A.—I could not give you figures.

Q.—Have you any idea whether there are a great many? A.—There are more or less at times.

Q.—Do they interfere materially with your business? A.—I could not say

directly that they do, but they do interfere with labor, for if I were out of work and wanted it they would certainly interfere with my chance.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—In that work? A.—They work at all lines, I suppose.

Q.—Do you know that immigrants are assisted. A.—I do not; I am aware that they were assisted. They should not receive any assistance, because there are too many men here now. Another matter is with respect to orphan children being brought out to Canada. We are against that, too.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Where were you born? A.—Here.

Q.—Where did your ancestors come from—from Ireland? A.—Yes.

Q.—You do not want their successors to come out here? A.—No; I do not want any Irishmen here. With respect to those children: they may be nits, but they breed lice for us workingmen, and they make us scratch in course of time.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do men come to this city who have received assisted passages as mechanics? A.—I do not say as mechanics.

Q.—Have those artisans received assisted passages to the best of your knowledge? A.—I am under the impression that they were assisted.

Q.—You cannot speak with certainty? A.—I thought the Commissioners might be aware of it. I claim that in the large shops girls are liable to become immoral; they hear immoral words.

Q.—Would you stop factories, and thereby stop immorality? A.—I would stop child labor in them.

Q.—Until they were sixteen or seventeen years old? A.—Yes; and then they would have a little judgment.

Q.—Are there such cases to your knowledge? A.—Not to my knowledge in London. They have two or three girls, but they are over fifteen.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—How many hours do the children work? A.—As many hours as the rest of us; ten hours is a day's work.

Q.—How much a day do those children receive? A.—Those I speak of are good-sized boys, and they receive from \$2.50 to \$3 per week.

Q.—Do they get paid every week? A.—Yes; some of them. In speaking of this, they do not get paid every week, that is, all hands.

Q.—Is that the highest rate of wages paid to boys, or is it the lowest? A.—It is about the highest.

Q.—Now, with respect to girls: do they get as much as boys for the same work? A.—Just about the same. It is generally piece-work they do. The young women are on piece-work.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you know the number of hours the children are allowed under the provincial Act to work in a factory? A.—I do not know how many children of the age of thirteen are working at present. I have only worked in small mills, and cannot speak of large ones.

Q.—Did you ever study the provincial Act? A.—I never saw it.

LONDON, January 13th, 1888.

A. W. PORTER, McCormick Manufacturing Co., London, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You manufacture crackers, biscuits, confectionery and everything in that line, I believe? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long have you been connected with the establishment of the McCormick Manufacturing Company in London; have you been connected with it since its organization? A.—Yes; before the organization of the company. I have been twenty-one years in this one concern.

Q.—Where do you find your market? A.—All over Canada.

Q.—Do you export any goods? A.—We do not export at all. I do not think any houses in our line do export.

Q.—How many hands do you employ? A.—We vary with the season; in busy times we increase the number of our hands to over 150, and then they run down, probably, to 125.

Q.—Is that both in the cracker and candy department? A.—That variation occurs principally in the candy department; the cracker department is much more uniform.

Q.—How many journeymen confectioners have you in your employ, on an average, the year round? A.—Really, I do not remember.

Q.—For what you would call a first-class man, what wages would you pay him per week? A.—A first-class confectioner is worth from \$15 to \$20 per week.

Q.—Have you got any journeymen who receive under \$15 a week? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the lowest wages you give to skilled confectioners? A.—We have not any mechanics here, I think, under \$1.50 a day—that would be \$9 a week.

Q.—How many hours do those men work? A.—Nine and a-half hours a day, or a little more. We have a peculiar arrangement at our works; all the hands take only half an hour for dinner, and by that means they make three hours, and the company gives them the other two hours, and in that way we close at half-past twelve on Saturday. The real working hours should be ten hours, but we give them two hours out of the week.

Q.—During your busy season have you night work? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long do they work at night? A.—Till ten o'clock, with about twenty minutes for supper immediately after six.

Q.—Is it understood when the men receive only one-half an hour for dinner that they take their meals in the factory? A.—Yes; there is a good dining-room provided for them.

Q.—There is a dining-room for the purpose? A.—Yes; and also one for the girls separate; they are well heated by steam.

Q.—What is the highest rate of wages you pay your women? A.—A woman's wages run from \$2 to \$3 per week; little girls get the lowest amount.

Q.—Do you pay any of your girls under \$2 a week? A.—No; we do occasionally start a girl for less for two or three weeks, but we never pay any of our regular hands less. In fact, we do not pay any of them under \$2.

Q.—Do the girls work the same hours as the men? A.—Yes; the same hours.

Q.—Do they also come back in the busy season and work overtime? A.—Some of them do; we do not require all of them to stay.

Q.—At what branch of the confectionery business do you employ girls; are they employed in boxing? A.—A great many are employed in boxing, and a great deal of our confectionery is wrapped in wax papers. They do that work, and they roll chocolate drops, and so on. It is all light work.

Q.—Do you make your own paper boxes? A.—Not on the premises.

Q.—Do you get them in London? A.—Yes; there is a man who runs a box factory in London East, but we supply most of it.

Q.—Are any of your confectioners employed by piece-work? A.—None now; we have had them employed in that way.

Q.—Are the men paid weekly, fortnightly or monthly? A.—They are paid weekly—every Friday evening.

Q.—Do they prefer Friday evening to any other day in the week? A.—I think so. We did that in deference to the wishes of a good many of our work people; we changed the time from half-past twelve on Saturday to six o'clock on Friday evening.

Q.—In the confectionery department where the women work, are there separate conveniences for them? A.—Every convenience separate.

Q.—Distinct and separate? A.—Yes; distinct and separate, although they work together in common in the rooms.

Q.—In the cracker and cake department, what do you pay your baker per week? A.—The bakers run up pretty high at times. We have paid them as high as \$30 a week.

Q.—That is to a fancy cake baker, I suppose? A.—Not fancy, particularly, but to good men; and they will run in the neighborhood of from \$15 to \$20 per week.

Q.—For how many hours will they run—twenty hours? A.—Ten and a-half hours a day, but we shorten the number of hours in the week by the two we give them.

Q.—Do you pay your present baker \$30 per week? A.—We are not giving that now; the wages of bakers run from \$17 to \$18 per week to the best men now.

Q.—That is during the season you have work for them? A.—They work pretty steadily. In the past season they were not so steadily employed as in other seasons, but as a rule we have pretty steady work in our establishment.

Q.—Can you tell us the average number of bakers you employ? A.—We have about forty all told in our bake shop. There are about eighteen girls, and that would leave twenty-two men and boys.

Q.—What would be the average wages of the girls and boys in the baking department? A.—We take in boys in the bake shop at \$3.50 a week. They run from \$3.50 to \$4.50 and \$5.50 in three years.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—How old are they when you take them? A.—Seventeen or eighteen.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What is the average wages of the girls? A.—They make about \$2.50 a week. They work on piece-work, packing biscuits, and so on.

Q.—Have your bakers got night work? A.—No; they have not had any lately; we have not been sufficiently busy. They do not run nights at all in the factory, except during the exceedingly busy season. As a regular thing it is all day work.

Q.—Do they set up the sponge in the day time? A.—Yes; everything is done at day time.

Q.—Do you indenture your apprentices? A.—We do not.

Q.—Do you consider, at either branches of the business, a boy can become a competent journeyman in three years? A.—No; we do not.

Q.—What number of years is required for a boy to become a competent journeyman? A.—As a rule, we cannot get them competent in three years, but we cannot get them for a longer time; they really are not first-class journeymen in that time.

Q.—When they are out of their apprenticeship do you keep them as journeyman? A.—Frequently; but some of them go away.

Q.—Do you think, so far as your knowledge goes, that your men save money? A.—Yes; our men as a rule have been very successful; the men we have now have remained with us for a long time.

Q.—Have any of them got their own homes? A.—Yes; six or eight, ten or twelve of our own journeymen, live all in homes of their own, and a few have a little more.

Q.—Have you had any labor difficulty with your employés? A.—No; we never had.

Q.—Do they remain with you for any length of time? A.—Our foreman has been with us twenty-two years; other men seventeen and sixteen years, and so on like that. Our foreman candyman has been twenty years with us.

Q.—Is there any profit-sharing in your establishment with your men? A.—No; not outside of the company.

Q.—Is the sanitary condition of your whole establishment good? A.—Exceedingly so, I think.

Q.—Has the Ontario inspector been there? A.—Yes; he inspected the works very closely not a great while ago.

Q.—Did he speak to the men in connection with the business? A.—Yes; he spoke to quite a few as he was passing through; he spent a couple of hours going through the works; he was in twice, in fact.

Q.—Did he find every thing correct according to the Act? A.—Yes; he seemed to be very well pleased.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Where do you buy your sugar—in Canada? A.—Yes; altogether.

Q.—Is it Canadian sugar or foreign sugar? A.—All Canadian.

Q.—Have you used foreign sugar? A.—Not for a good many years.

Q.—Why do you get Canadian sugar in preference to foreign sugar? A.—We cannot get foreign sugar at the same price, you might say. I understand there is some foreign sugar imported here, but we have not tried it. I cannot speak from a personal knowledge of it, but I do not think it would suit us, from what I have heard.

Q.—Do you know anything about the quality? A.—Not personally; I have not seen the samples. We are now expecting a line of samples from the old country.

Q.—Have you formerly used foreign sugar? A.—We used a good deal of foreign sugar in the past.

Q.—From what country did it come? A.—A great deal of the granulated came from the United States. We formerly used Dutch sugar, and got it from Liverpool.

Q.—Was it cane or beet sugar? A.—Cane sugar.

Q.—Did you ever use beet sugar? A.—Not knowing it to be beet sugar.

Q.—Would it suit your purpose? A.—I cannot answer that question for the reason that I indicate.

Q.—What flour do you use? A.—Principally Canadian flour; we also import flour.

Q.—If you import flour for what reason do you do so? A.—We like imported flour, and use a little of it. We can get a higher class of flour in the United States, as a rule, than we have in Canada.

Q.—Is it better than Manitoba flour? A.—Yes; Manitoba flour is not in our line. We do not use Manitoba flour.

Q.—You do not require as strong a flour? A.—No.

Q.—The strong flour is required only for bread, I believe? A.—Yes; only for bread.

Q.—What are the ages of the young girls in your employ? A.—We do not take any body under sixteen years.

Q.—Either a girl or boy? A.—Yes; I have made that a point for the past two years. I always ask them their ages, and I will not accept any one under sixteen.

Q.—Do they try to deceive you in regard to their ages? A.—Yes; I have found a few instances of that.

Q.—You require considerable strength in your employés of both sexes? A.—It very light work that the girls do; there is nothing hard about it.

Q.—At any rate, if you set up a standard of sixteen, you will hardly be so much deceived as to take any one under fourteen? A.—No; I should think not.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are any crackers or biscuits imported? A.—Yes; I believe a small quantity is imported.

Q.—Of both? A.—Of both crackers and biscuits; they call them all crackers on the other side, in the United States.

Q.—Is confectionery imported, too? A.—Not to any extent.

Q.—Those goods imported in your line, could they be made in Canada? A.—Yes; in our establishment.

Q.—And of as good quality? A.—Yes; we think it is pretty good.

Q.—Does the imported article command as high a price as the domestic? A.—Yes.

Q.—Higher? A.—No; I do not think it is higher. They have to pay for some lines a little more; of course, some people have an idea that the imported article is better than the domestic?

Q.—Is it only a fancy on their part? A.—That is what we try to persuade them.

Q.—Do you export any of your goods to the North-West Territory? A.—Yes.

Q.—And to British Columbia? A.—Yes; we send some right through to Victoria and Nanaimo.

Q.—Is that trade increasing? A.—Yes; we have given more attention to it in the past years than ever before.

Q.—And I suppose you also send goods to the older Provinces? A.—Yes; and to the Maritime Provinces; we keep a traveller going through the Maritime Provinces.

Q.—Have you much competition in Ontario? A.—Yes; the competition is very high in our line now. We never had such competition as we had during the last year and we never had such low prices.

Q.—Do you use much machinery in your business? A.—Yes; we use a great deal of machinery.

Q.—Does the use of machinery decrease the demand for labor? A.—It has not with us. Our business has been growing, and when we were running without power we had not anything like the establishment or the business we have now.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Machinery has enabled you to do a larger business? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think that without that you could possibly do it? A.—Without machinery we could not do the business we now do with machinery.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—That is with the same number of hands? A.—I question whether we could do it at all.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Could you compete with your rivals? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Nor with the United States? A.—No; nor with the manufacturers in Canada.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Has the use of machinery decreased the price of labor? A.—Not with us.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How do the rates of wages now paid compare with the wages of former years? A.—They are rather higher in our trade than they were years ago; that prevails all through the different departments.

Q.—Is there a free library in London? A.—No.

Q.—Have you a mechanics' institute? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there a good library attached to it? A.—There is a very good library.

Q.—Are there night schools in connection with it? A.—Yes; there is an art school in connection with it.

Q.—Is there any technical education given there? A.—I think so. I have heard a great deal about the mechanics' institute and the night classes.

Q.—You have given some attention to these subjects, I understand? A.—Not to the mechanics' institute. I have been more interested in exhibition matters for the last year or so.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—In the busy season, when you work at night, do you pay your employés extra? A.—Yes; we pay a good deal more for night work. They work three hours and forty minutes, instead of five hours, for a half day's pay.

Q.—Did they demand that, or did you give it to them voluntarily? A.—We gave it to them voluntarily.

Q.—Did you ever have any Sunday labor? A.—No; never in the works on Sunday. We do not run biscuit on Monday—that is hard biscuit; we turn out small stuff, on account of not working on Sunday.

Q.—What kind of goods are imported from the other side? A.—Sweet goods principally; goods that have to pay high duty, too.

Q.—I mean in the cracker line? A.—Yes; what we term sweet goods. It is our impression, and it is the impression of the trade generally, that those goods are sacrificed for this market. They are certainly entered at our custom houses at prices below the prices at which they are sold in the United States.

Q.—You have said in your evidence that those goods could be manufactured in Canada of as high quality. Is that correct? A.—I think so.

Q.—What, in your opinion, would be a preventive measure of the importation of those goods? A.—If they had to pay duty, the higher price would keep them out.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Is there any detective service? A.—I do not know.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Have you ever made any attempt to ascertain whether those goods are being appraised at their full value on being imported into Canada? A.—We have not made any definite enquiry into the matter, although we were thinking of doing so. If all those goods were entered at their regular values it would be impossible, with the present duties, to sell them in competition with our goods.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you sell any of your goods in New Brunswick? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you able to compete with Rankins? A.—We have to do so. We send our goods right down to the Maritime Provinces and through to Prince Edward Island.

Q.—Did you make one of the large displays made by biscuit houses at the exhibition at St. John? A.—No; we never exhibited down there.

Q.—Do those exhibits do any good in advertising your products? A.—We have no means of knowing as to what kind of advertising medium such an exhibit really is. We have an idea that it is beneficial, but we have not any means of getting at it exactly.

JAMES BURNS, Manufacturer of Engines and Mill-work, London, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How many hands do you employ? A.—From sixty to seventy-five, and in some seasons one hundred.

Q.—Do you find your market all in Canada? A.—So far, we have done so.

Q.—Are engines the only product of your manufactory? A.—As well as engines we manufacture saw-mill machinery, shingle-mill machinery and a general line of engineering work.

Q.—How steadily are your men employed through the year? A.—We keep from fifty to sixty running all the year round.

Q.—Are all those skilled mechanics? A.—Mostly so.

Q.—What would be the wages of a skilled mechanic? A.—Our wages run from \$9 to \$10 or \$11 per week.

Q.—How many hours per week do the men work? A.—When on full time they work ten hours a day, sixty hours per week, except on Saturday, when we have one hour short, making fifty-nine hours a week.

Q.—Have you any apprentices at your work? A.—A very few.

Q.—At what age do you take them as apprentices? A.—We do not take them at less than eighteen years.

Q.—The work is heavy work, I believe? A.—Some of our work is heavy; our engine work is heavy work. We run in connection with our engine works a brass foundry and finishing workshop, where we employ ten or twelve hands.

Q.—Do the men in the brass foundry work by the piece or by the week? A.—By the week.

Q.—Are they paid weekly, fortnightly or monthly? A.—Fortnightly.

Q.—Do the men prefer any particular day of the week on which to be paid?

A.—I do not know that I am prepared to say what they prefer; we have always adopted Monday as pay day, that is Monday every two weeks, and we find it very satisfactory to the men.

Q.—At any time when a man wishes to leave, do you pay him in full at the end of two weeks? A.—Yes; we pay on Monday night for the previous week's work.

Q.—Has the market for your goods been increasing in the past five years, in your opinion? A.—In some lines it has been increasing; in some lines it has not been increasing, so far as we are concerned. We are not pushing some parts of our business as much as others.

Q.—Have the wages increased in the past ten years in your line of business, so far as your knowledge goes? A.—I do not think they have.

Q.—They have decreased? A.—No; I think they are just about the average standard wages.

Q.—Do you use much machinery? A.—A good deal, both wood-working machinery as well as brass-working machinery.

Q.—Who attend to those machines, men or boys? A.—Men have always charge of the machines.

Q.—Do you consider your machinery is properly guarded in order to prevent accidents? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Have you had the factory inspector here? A.—Yes.

Q.—What did he say? A.—We have never had any complaints made by the inspector, either insurance or otherwise.

Q.—Was your factory satisfactory to the inspector? A.—He expressed himself satisfied with us.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you find keen competition in your branch of business? A.—In some lines we do.

Q.—In what line do you find it most keen? A.—It has been most keen in threshing machines and portable engines.

Q.—Has there come into existence within the past few years improved machinery into your business? A.—Yes; very much so.

Q.—So far as your information goes, has the use of this improved machinery decreased or increased wages? A.—I do not know that it has changed the amount of wages at all, one way or the other. They seem to remain at about a standard.

Q.—Has the use of machinery decreased the demand for labor? A.—I cannot say that it has. There has been an increase in demand for the goods, so that the men

get just as much work to do with the improved machinery as they formerly had with the less improved machinery.

Q.—Are there any goods in your line imported from the United States? A.—Yes; some brass-work in certain lines.

Q.—Does any brass-work come up from the Maritime provinces? A.—I believe so, from McVieety, of St. John. I understand he is canvassing this western part for his brass goods.

Q.—Could the brass goods imported be made in Canada? A.—Yes; I know of scarcely anything imported that could not be made here—some few articles, but very few, some of the higher grades of engines, indicators, perhaps, or something of that kind. They could all be made here, nevertheless.

Q.—Do you import any of the raw material? A.—We have imported our copper and tin.

Q.—Do you import any of your iron? A.—No; we have never ordered any importations of iron; we have bought through commission men here, except our boiler-plates and such work as that.

Q.—Do you import that from the United States? A.—No; from England.

Q.—From what part of the Dominion do you obtain most of the iron? A.—Our pig iron comes from Londonderry mostly; we have used almost exclusively Londonderry during the past two years.

Q.—Do you find that best suited for your purposes? A.—It suits our purpose as well as the best imported pig we can get. It makes a very fine casting; that is to say, the better qualities of Londonderry iron do.

Q.—To the best of your knowledge, do your men save money? A.—I think they do.

Q.—Have many of them their own homesteads? A.—Nearly all of our married men have their own homesteads.

Q.—So far as you know, they seem to live comfortably? A.—Yes; they do better than we do, sometimes.

Q.—Have you ever had any labor trouble with your men? A.—No; we never had any to speak of.

Q.—What happened, was it settled amicably between yourself and your employes? A.—Yes; we never had any trouble.

Q.—Are engines of the same class cheaper than they were a few years ago? A.—No; they seem to hold their prices fairly well as regards portable engines: Stationary engines are cheaper and there is a good deal of competition in that line, but we are not competing. In our portable engines we find prices hold up pretty well.

Q.—Do the employes in your establishment belong to any labor organization? A.—I believe they do—that is, many of them; I do not think all do—some do.

Q.—Some do and some do not, I suppose. Do they all work together? A.—It seems to be a rule with our men that they submit to our rules and ask no questions, go on and do their work, or, otherwise, quit. We have no troubles on that account.

Q.—You have never made any objection to that? A.—No; we have never made any objection. We have never made any point as to whether the men were union or non-union, and consequently we have been free from trouble.

Q.—Are manufacturers in your line organized with a view to look after their own interests? A.—No; we have no organization—it is each one for himself, as the saying is.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Do all your workmen belong to London? A.—Some have come from other towns here, last year. Almost all our men live here, and some of our young men have been apprenticed with us some years ago, and have now become journey-men. The majority of our men are citizens here.

Q.—Did you ever send to another country for men? A.—No.

Q.—You always got what you wanted here? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever asked any of your men to sign any contract binding them? A.—No; never our men; no one, except our apprentices. We have them enter into contract to stay with us for a certain number of years; it is a regular indenture.

Q.—Do you believe in the system of indenturing apprentices? A.—Yes; I do.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—What do you use for fuel? A.—Coal.

Q.—What kind of coal do you use? A.—All kinds. We have anthracite for our brass foundry; steam-coal for our boilers, and what we call egg-coal for our blast furnaces; also, coke.

Q.—Where does your bituminous coal come from? A.—All from the United States.

Q.—At what price can that be obtained here? A.—We pay for steam-coal, now, \$4.50; for egg-coal, \$6; for coke, \$6.

Q.—Did you ever make any enquiry about steam-coal from New Brunswick or Nova Scotia? A.—No; we have not.

Q.—Do you know at what price it can be laid down here? A.—I could not say. We have always taken it for granted that it was impossible to get it here on account of the cost of freight.

Q.—Are you aware that it can be obtained in Nova Scotia for \$1.40 a ton? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Could you run your shop without the improved machinery you use? A.—No; manufacturers have to get the most improved machinery.

Q.—Is it a matter of necessity to get it? A.—Yes; otherwise you could not turn out the quantity of work required.

Q.—Could you compete with the United States if you did everything by hand? A.—There would be no competition; we would not be doing anything.

Q.—You mean it would shut up your factory? A.—Yes; we would have to shut up our shop; the stuff would be imported, even with all our high duties.

Q.—It has been suggested by a witness who appeared before the Commission that no new machinery should be made for thirty years. What do you think of that proposition? A.—We would simply go back about 100 years if that were the case.

Thirty years from now we would be away back 100 years ago, so far as the progress of the country is concerned.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Could you give the Commission an idea of your yearly output? A.—It is not so much as it ought to be; that is the only objection I have to giving it. I suppose we turn out perhaps on an average \$100,000 worth. We could turn out twice that much.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—With a view to the increase in machinery, do you think the shortening of hours should follow, so that the men would be constantly employed? A.—That would not follow at all, because the increased demand gives a much larger purchasing power than the increased power of the imported machinery.

Q.—I mean, as regards the employment of surplus labor? A.—I understand you thoroughly. I cannot see that that would follow at all.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You believe that improved machinery gives increased work? A.—Yes; and we must have the improved machinery in order to produce the quantity of goods required by the country.

Q.—And that improved machinery enables people to buy things they would not be able to buy otherwise? A.—Yes; lots of things that they could not buy to-day, except for the improved machinery applied to different processes. We might as well try to stop printing and go back to hand writing.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Is it not true that as improved machinery decreases the cost to the consumer it must take away labor from the workingman? A.—That does not follow at all in

such a case. You might as well say that printing would drive hundreds of people from employment in printing bibles and books.

Q.—Does the workingman receive a fair share of the benefit arising from improved machinery? A.—I think he receives fully a fair share, if not more than a fair share.

Q.—How does he do that, if he gets no higher wages? A.—He gets as high wages as he ever got, so far as we are concerned. I do not know any business in Canada to-day in which the men are not paid higher than, or equally as high as, they have been during the last ten years. Certainly, that is the case in mechanical work.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Take ten years ago: were there many imported machines at that time coming into the country? A.—Nearly all our machinery was imported at that time; we were importing threshing machines and other machines.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How many years ago is it since engines were brought from the other side? A.—I do not know.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You think the present high rates of duty prevent machinery from coming in from the other side? A.—Most decidedly so. They have factories on the other side where they can complete one hundred machines where we can complete ten.

Q.—Then on account of this duty your trade is increasing? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—The larger a shop is the cheaper it can complete machines, I suppose? A.—Yes. The only thing working against us is that we have not quite enough people in Canada to let us run into specialties.

Q.—But we have had witnesses before the Commission who have endeavored to prove that we have too many people in Canada, and they want to stop immigration? A.—That man wants to go to the other side.

WILLIAM ELLIOTT, of John Elliott & Sons, Iron-founders, London, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are you an employer of labor? A.—I am.

Q.—How many men do you employ? A.—We employ on an average from 150 to 175 men.

Q.—Do you manufacture stoves? A.—No; agricultural implements, reapers, mowers and binders.

Q.—What are the wages you pay your men per week? A.—According to the work they do; our wages run from \$1 to \$2 and \$2.25.

Q.—Two dollars and twenty-five cents is the highest rate of wages you pay? A.—Except to our foreman; we pay him more than that.

Q.—How many men in your employ receive \$2.25 a day? A.—Two, I think.

Q.—The remainder are under that sum? A.—Yes.

Q.—One-dollar-a-day men are laborers? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you got any apprentices in your employ? A.—We do not keep a great many; we have five or six in our employ.

Q.—Are your apprentices indentured? A.—No.

Q.—How long has a boy to serve as an apprentice before he becomes a journeyman? A.—We take them for five years, with the privilege, if they are not satisfied, of leaving at any time.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How old do you take them? A.—About fifteen or sixteen years. Our shop is not a good shop for apprentices; we force our work too much; we get it out too quickly.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Can you teach an apprentice thoroughly the trade in that time? A.—We do not think apprentices can learn the trade good in an agricultural implement factory, except in the moulding shop.

Q.—Are your men constantly employed? A.—Yes.

Q.—How are they paid, weekly, fortnightly or monthly? A.—Fortnightly.

Q.—On what day? A.—On Friday.

Q.—Do men prefer Friday as pay day? A.—They requested us to pay them on Friday.

Q.—Where do you find a market for your goods? A.—We find a market chiefly in Ontario and the North-West.

Q.—Are there any goods in your line imported from the other side of the line? A.—No; very few. Some ploughs go into the North West-Territory and Manitoba.

Q.—Do you think Canadian-made goods in your line are as good as foreign-made goods? A.—American manufacturers say that our goods are better made and are of better material than theirs.

Q.—Where do you get your iron that you use in your factory? A.—Our pig iron is chiefly American and Nova Scotian—Londonderry.

Q.—Do you find an increasing demand for your goods in the North-West Territory? A.—Of course, as population goes on the demand increases.

Q.—Do you send any of your goods out to the Pacific coast? A.—Yes; we do so; we have an agency in Victoria, British Columbia.

Q.—Do you find that trade increasing? A.—Last summer was our first year on the Pacific coast; it is the first year we have had our agency established out there.

Q.—Is competition in your business keen in Ontario? A.—Yes; we have too many manufacturers for the country.

Q.—Do you carry stock? A.—No; but we almost give our machines away.

Q.—Have you any definite reason why you do not carry stock? A.—Because we are sold out, I suppose. The prices of our machines have been reduced from \$300 in 1881-82 to \$135 and \$150, and that might account for the fact that we do not carry stock. A man who has fifty acres now will buy a binder, when he would not at former prices, when he, perhaps, had 300 acres.

Q.—Have wages increased or decreased in your trade during the last five years? A.—They have increased with us.

Q.—I believe the cost of the products to the consumer has decreased? A.—That is, you mean in the manufacture of our machines?

Q.—Yes? A.—Yes; our machinery is better adapted for turning out our work.

Q.—Could you give the Commission the number of self-binders you manufactured last year? A.—Some 1,350.

Q.—Is that an increase over former years? A.—We were burned out two years ago, and had not been making our full out-put since, until last year.

Q.—Can you report the same prosperity with respect to reapers? A.—The reaper trade is done altogether; we made no reapers at all last year.

Q.—Did you make any other agricultural implements? A.—Yes; ploughs, harrows, mowers—in fact, we make everything, almost, except a threshing-machine. We have two factories.

Q.—Do I understand you to say that there are not so many foreign goods imported now as was the case heretofore? A.—There are none at all imported into Ontario; there are some few imported into the Maritime Provinces, and some into the North-West, but only ploughs, and so on.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—What kind of fuel do you use in your factory? A.—Coal, altogether.

Q.—Do you use soft coal or hard coal? A.—We use both kinds.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What will be the value of the agricultural implements on the average farm here? A.—It will be a hard matter to give the amount.

Q.—Say, on an average? A.—A farmer would have a binder, mower, harrows, a couple of ploughs, and other small tools—probably \$300 or \$350 worth; that is not counting waggons, and so on.

Q.—What sized farm would that be? A.—I should say that would be a 100 acre farm.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How many men's labor do a self-binder do away with on a farm? A.—That is a hard question to answer. We have had binders cut as high as twenty-four acres in a day; it will take a pretty good man to cradle three acres in a day.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How many men with a reaper would it take to cut, say, twelve acres? A.—An ordinary day's work is eight or nine acres, and probably two men with a boy to shock up, would do it, that is, with a self-raking reaper.

Q.—What with a self-binder? A.—An ordinary day's work is from ten to twelve acres, that is, with two men in the field, besides a driver and three horses.

Q.—Then a self-binder does away with a certain number of farm hands? A.—Yes.

Q.—And the farmers do not have to employ as much manual labor as formerly? A.—I have heard of a farmer and his wife taking the grain off sixty or seventy acres; she did the driving and he did the shocking up.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How many hours per day do your men work? A.—Ten.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—How many hours a day does a farmer work here? A.—One farmer told me last Saturday that he got up at three o'clock in the morning to feed his stock.

Q.—Do you think that some of the farmers work about fifteen hours a day during the summer? A.—I think so. He said he got up at about three o'clock in the morning and went to bed at nine o'clock at night.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—If a man employed sixty hours per week in your establishment wants to leave off work for a time, can he do so? A.—We quit on Saturday at five o'clock.

Q.—Provided he wants to get a day off can he get it? A.—All he has to do is to tell us. If a man is not there he does not get his check, and his time does not go on.

Q.—The time he is absent is deducted from his wages? A.—Yes; for the time his check remains in the rack he does not receive any pay.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What kind of farming would it be without any machinery, without binders and reapers? A.—I do not know; probably something like it was thirty or forty years ago; but you could answer that better than I could.

Q.—Do you think a man could farm now without machinery? A.—Not very well.

Q.—If we did away with machinery, would not the price of grain have to be raised? A.—I do not think you could work farms now at all without machinery.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do self-binders do away with farm labor? A.—Yes; and if we had only farm labor now we could not farm at all. I do not think a man who works 100 acres now could work eighty acres then with hired help.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How did it occur that in former days, before there was any machinery introduced, there was any farming done? A.—It was done on a very small scale. Thirty or forty years ago a man had five or six acres cleared.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—And prices were high accordingly, I suppose? A.—Yes; but we cannot farm now as then.

Q.—Could a Canadian farmer without agricultural implements and machinery of the most improved kind, compete with farmers in the United States with improved implements and machinery? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you use much machinery in your establishment? A.—Yes; we use all we require and can find it advantageous to use.

Q.—Has the factory inspector been round to examine your establishment? A.—Yes; he was around about three months ago.

Q.—Was he satisfied with what he saw at your factory? A.—He expressed himself so.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—What kind of coal do you use in your forges? A.—Blossburg.

Q.—That is American coal? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you ever make any enquiries as to the cost of laying down Maritime Province coal here? A.—I have always been told that they have no coal suitable for forges.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—When the increased use of machinery takes place does it not do away with manual labor, and is it not a fact that the demand for labor is not so great? A.—We employ more men than we did five or six years ago; we employ double the number we did six years ago.

Q.—That may be in some industries, but taking the general principle, so far as your knowledge goes, has not the demand for labor decreased? A.—Do you mean when you get in proper machinery?

Q.—Yes? A.—I think so.

Q.—In order to have this surplus labor employed, do you not think it is right to have the shortening of the hours of labor? A.—I do not know. We are willing to do whatever the rest do and what our men want, in reason.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—The more machinery you put in the more men are required? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you found that you have to obtain the very latest improvements in machinery in order to be able to compete with other people? A.—Yes; in order to make any profits on our business we have to obtain the very latest improvements in machinery.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you had any labor troubles with your employés? A.—Never.

Q.—Are your men members of any labor organization? A.—Yes; some of them are members of the Knights of Labor. I believe we had in our employ the head man at one time.

Q.—I suppose your firm have no objection to the men belonging to the labor organization? A.—No. He was our foreman.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—They now do? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Have you ever had any strikes? A.—No; never.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do your men remain long with you? A.—Some of our men have been with us twenty-five years—two or three of them.

Q.—Can you give any suggestion to the Commission that would be a benefit in connection with your line of business? A.—I do not know of any.

Q.—Of course, the manufacture of agricultural machinery has increased in Ontario during the past eight or ten years? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you give us any definite reason why that is the case? Is it because the people are taking up more land? A.—It is, no doubt, because their lands are getting into better shape all the time; the clearings are getting larger and machinery is required to work them.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—And I suppose it is also because there are no importations of agricultural machinery? A.—Yes; no importations.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—In case of trouble in your establishment, would you be in favor of arbitration? A.—We never had any trouble; of course, we would desire to settle them as easily as possible.

Q.—Would you be in favor of a Government board of arbitration to settle disputes in case you could not come to an understanding with your men? A.—I would be willing to leave the matter with arbitrators, but I do not think we will have any trouble with our men; we have never had any disputes or disagreements.

Q.—Are all your men natives of the city? A.—No; they are living here now.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do many own their houses? A.—Several of them do.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—So far as your knowledge goes, do you think your men are living comfortably? A.—I do not know of any who are not.

Q.—Have you got any American mechanics in your employ? A.—Yes.

Q.—In the manufacture of Canadian implements, do you find Canadian mechanics as well up in the business as Americans or foreigners? A.—Yes; after a Canadian gets into it. Of course, binders were new things to Canadians five years ago; they had to be educated in regard to their manufacture; now they are as good makers as are Americans.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Are you in favor of a Government duty on agricultural implements imported into this country, or would you as soon have American competition? A.—It would be better if we had a little protection yet, at all events, until we get stronger. The American manufacturers are a pretty strong force and they swamp us out.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You said the American article does not come into Ontario to a great extent? A.—No; not into Ontario; some go into the North-West Territories and some into the Maritime Provinces.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Do any of your goods go down to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick? A.—We have sent them down to Prince Edward Island; we have an agency there.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you send any to foreign countries? A.—We send some to England, New Zealand and Australia.

Q.—Do you send any to France? A.—Only a few; we formerly did business with France—six or eight years ago.

Q.—What class of goods do you send abroad? A.—Binders.

Q.—Do you do your own brass work? A.—We do not use any.

JOHN SULLIVAN, Bricklayer, London, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How long have you been working in the bricklaying business in London?
A.—About fifteen years, if a day.

Q.—What are the weekly wages of a journeyman bricklayer? A.—Eighteen dollars per week.

Q.—You are paid by the hour, I believe? A.—Yes; we receive 33½ cents per hour.

Q.—How many months in the year are you employed? A.—We hardly get six months' work; we get a little over five months—that is, constant work.

Q.—Do the bricklayers remain idle during the time they are not employed or do they engage in some other business? A.—Some engage themselves at other things if they can get work, but most of them are unemployed; there is nothing for them to do around here anywhere.

Q.—For the twelve months, at the standard rate of wages which bricklayers are receiving, how much do you think a bricklayer can save in the year? A.—I really could not say how much he could save, but his wages would amount to about \$400; if he got work he would be doing very well. If he has a large family he could not save very much money out of that wage.

Q.—Are there many bricklayers owning their own homes in London? A.—Yes; a good many.

Q.—I suppose those who have houses here have been here many years? A.—Yes; they have been here a good many years; there are some strangers.

Q.—How many bricklayers are employed in London during the working season? A.—There are about sixty-six bricklayers in London; about thirty-six were employed around London; the rest had to go to other places for work.

Q.—Has house rent increased in London during the past five years? A.—No; I do not think so; it is rather lower now than it has been.

Q.—What would a mechanic pay for a respectable house for his family in an agreeable and comfortable neighborhood? A.—About \$8 or \$10 a month, I would say, but as I have never rented myself I cannot be certain. That is, so far as I know, the rent for which you could get a nice cottage here.

Q.—Are the bricklayers organized in London? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do the men consider they obtain benefits from organization? A.—Yes.

Q.—Will you please state some of the benefits derived from organization in your trade? A.—The benefits derived from organization are that the men get better wages and they help each other to get work.

Q.—Are there any benefit allowances to bricklayers made by the organization? A.—No; not at present.

Q.—Are you a branch of the International Bricklayers? A.—Yes.

Q.—According to the rules of your society, do they countenance strikes? A.—They make strikes the last resort; they do not like strikes at all.

Q.—Do they prefer arbitration? A.—They prefer arbitration, so far as I know.

Q.—Is that a local matter among themselves or is it a conclusion in accordance with the laws of your International body? A.—There is no law attaching to it.

Q.—Have you had any labor difficulties lately? A.—There was a strike this year.

Q.—You mean last summer? A.—Yes.

Q.—Will you state the cause of that difficulty? A.—The men asked for 3½ or 3¾ cents more per hour, and the bosses would not give it to them, and the bosses at the same time made an organization of their own, or combination of their own, and they raised the price of everything.

Q.—How do you mean? A.—They raised the price of material. They got the manufacturers to join them on the exchange, and I guess they raised the price of material from 10 to 20 per cent.

Q.—Do you know that as a fact? A.—Yes.

Q.—How? A.—Because when I am not working by the day I take jobs myself. I found that out when I went to get material.

Q.—Is there an understanding in your organization that when you ask for a raise in wages you give notice before you make the demand? A.—I believe there is such a rule, but I never heard of it.

Q.—Do you know if there is an understanding among the employers that if they ask for a decrease in the ruling rate of wages they must give notice; or do they give any notice before they endeavor to enforce the reduction? A.—No; they would not give any notice.

Q.—Is there any law governing them in that matter? A.—No.

Q.—Is there any understanding? A.—No; there is no understanding.

Q.—Are there any apprentices at your trade? A.—Yes; one is allowed to every firm in the trade.

Q.—To every employer? A.—Yes.

Q.—Irrespective of the number of men he employs? A.—Yes. Every employer is, by the rules of the union, supposed to have one apprentice and no more,

Q.—Do you mean one apprentice in each establishment? A.—Yes.

Q.—That is, irrespective of the number of employes the shop has? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are those apprentices indentured? A.—Yes; they are all indentured.

Q.—Do you approve of the indenture system? A.—I do.

A.—Yes; I know it is a combination; I call it a ring, and they want to keep everything in their own hands. About a year or so ago the builders got the dealers in building material and the manufacturers of brick to join them, and they have endeavored to run everything their own way. The arrangement did not stand very well.

Q.—If, during the existence of the labor troubles, half a dozen strikers had undertaken to take job on the co-operative plan, would they have found that this arrangement made by the bosses would have had an injurious effect in preventing them from obtaining material from those who had material to sell? A.—Yes.

Q.—In what respect? A.—They would have charged more to us than to the bosses.

Q.—Are you sure of that? A.—Yes; I had a bill charged to me, and so I can speak for myself. I paid 10 cents a barrel more for lime than the boss did.

Q.—Are the lime manufacturers in the exchange? A.—Yes; they got them to join with them.

Q.—In the event of labor troubles and in the event of employe and employer not coming together in arbitration, would you approve of a Government board of arbitration, which would have power to step in and settle the dispute? A.—I would approve of any arbitration, I do not care whether by Government or not, so long as it was fair to both sides.

Q.—Would you prefer that arbitration to be compulsory? A.—I should prefer arbitration to be compulsory.

Q.—Do you speak in that respect the sentiments of your union? A.—I believe so.

Q.—Have you given any thought to the question as to the establishment of a bureau of labor statistics; do you think the formation of such a bureau would be beneficial to the working classes? A.—I have never given any thought to that subject.

Q.—That is, a project for the establishment of a bureau for the purpose of giving any information and making annual representations in regard to the state of trade in the different parts of the Dominion? A.—Yes; I think that would be a very good idea. That is one of the benefits we have from the union; we get to know the state of trade all over.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Does the Builders' Exchange discriminate against any builder who is not a member of the exchange? A.—Yes; I know they have been black-listed, but I would not swear to it.

Q.—You say you have taken jobs on your own responsibility. If you were to

build a brick house and you wanted the work done by one of the carpenters who is a member of the Builders' Exchange, would he do the carpentering work for you? A.—Not fair and openly. He might if he wanted a job very much, but if the exchange knew it he would be fined. They have told me so. I have heard it. They have told me they could not give me a price or they would be fined.

Q.—Members of the, Builders' Exchange have told you that? A.—They have told me that.

Q.—Have they tried to keep you from buying brick from members of the exchange? A.—They have raised the price of brick, so as to make it harder for me to put in a tender for a job.

Q.—Do you know anything about the lien laws? A.—No; not much. I was going to put on a lien, but I found it would be no good. They said the lien would stand there, but it would be no good to me.

Q.—Do you think a good lien law would be a benefit to the workingmen? A.—Yes; I think it would be.

Q.—Do you know of any profit-sharing with bosses in London? A.—No; I do not know of any.

Q.—Do you know of any iron-clad contract or black-list here? A.—There was a contract on one job in this town last season, but it was not carried out; they stopped the job.

Q.—How do the wages in Canada compare with those paid in Great Britain and the United States? A.—Just as you cross the borders at Detroit, and also at other cities, the wages run from \$3.50 to \$6 a day; in Canada \$3 is the highest rate.

Q.—Do you know how the pay is in Great Britain? A.—About 6 shillings and 8 pence a day there; 10 pence per hour.

Q.—How is the cost of living in the United States as compared with the cost of living in Canada? A.—A family could live nearly as cheap in the States, but if a man has to board it is a great deal dearer for him.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How is it if a man wants to live in the same class of house as here? A.—If a man had a family and had got his house he could get his provisions quite as cheap, but a man has to pay much more for his board.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—How would it be if a man had a family and rented a house? A.—I think he could live as cheaply there.

Q.—How is it in regard to Great Britain? A.—The wages go as far there as our wages do here.

Q.—Do you think a man working at your trade is as comfortable in the United States as he is in Canada? A.—Yes; I have been in different parts of the United States, but I like Canada very well.

Q.—Do you know anything about the fining of employés at your trade? A.—No; I do not.

Q.—Do you belong to any workingmen's co-operative society? A.—I do not know whether I do or not. I paid a share into one, but I have not been connected with it since. They were going to start, and they, perhaps, have started.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Does immigration affect your trade? A.—I do not think much in this town. Formerly some bricklayers used to come into this town, but not many have come in lately.

Q.—How was the labor difficulty you had with the bosses this summer settled? A.—The bosses gave in.

Q.—Did you ask for arbitration with a view to settle the difficulty? A.—The men asked for arbitration, but the bosses did not want it; but they were obliged to give the wages in the long run.

Q.—How are the men paid—weekly, fortnightly or monthly? A.—They are supposed to be paid weekly.

Q.—Are they actually paid weekly? A.—Yes.

Q.—On what day are they paid? A.—On Saturday.

Q.—Do they prefer Saturday, as a general rule, as pay-day? A.—They do.

ALFRED SHORT, Bricklayer, London, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You have heard the evidence of the last witness? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you anything to add to it? A.—No; I may say, however, that immigration hurts our trade here.

Q.—What kind of immigration? A.—Bricklayers coming in here. There is not enough employment for those who reside here.

Q.—Do they come from the United States? A.—No; most of them come from the old country; hardly any come here from the United States.

Q.—Do those bricklayers who come here from the old country belong to labor organizations? A.—I do not know, but they have to join the order when they get here.

Q.—Are there many bricklayers from the old country here who came here during the past year? A.—Not a great many, but there has been a good many come in other years. We are filled here with old country men.

Q.—Have you found any bricklayers coming from the country districts of Ontario into the cities? A.—A few.

Q.—Have you had any conversation with any of the bricklayers who come from the old country? A.—I have worked with some of them here. They say they were better off there than they are here. They often say that they have wished they were back there as soon as they get here.

Q.—Have you anything further to add? A.—Nothing more.

C. A. PASSMORE, Painter and Decorator, London, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How long have you worked in London as a journeyman painter and decorator? A.—I have been here for the last eight years.

Q.—How many painters and decorators are employed on an average in London? A.—You cannot count them that way as painters and decorators, for there are three or four different grades. There are brush-hands, paper-hangers, decorators and grainers.

Q.—For a first-class grainer, what weekly wages would he receive? A.—The way things are now, I think he would receive \$2.25 a day—that is, on the nine hour system.

Q.—You count fifty-four hours as a week's work? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are the average wages of a first-class all-round painter, a brush-hand? A.—One dollar and seventy-five cents a day.

Q.—Are there any apprentices at the trade? A.—Yes; quite a few.

Q.—Are the painters organized in this city? A.—Yes; they are organized.

Q.—Have they been long organized? A.—No; only since last March; that is the International organization.

Q.—You are a branch of that body? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you find it is a benefit to painters to belong to organized labor? A.—I find this is more so than the former ones.

Q.—Are there any benefits in your organization? A.—We have a benefit attached to our organization, which has not been the case hitherto.

Q.—Are those benefits paid by special assessment or by general dues and levies? A.—They come out of the general fund, and if necessary by special assessment.

Q.—Will you tell us the nature of those benefits? A.—The benefits are for death or for disability—that is to say, disabled for life.

Q.—Are the officers holding your money—such officers as your treasurer or board of trustees—called upon to give security for their honesty? A.—They are; I happen to be one myself.

Q.—Are the men paid weekly? A.—Yes; they are paid weekly.

Q.—On what day are they paid? A.—As a general thing on Saturday, but some are paid on Monday.

Q.—What day does the majority of the men prefer as pay-day? A.—I think the majority of the men would like to be paid on Friday. I suggested that in Toronto some years ago and it was adopted, and it proved a great benefit to the workingmen.

Q.—For what reason is it a benefit? A.—It gives the wife of the workingman a chance to go to market.

Q.—Do many painters in this city save money? A.—A few of them do.

Q.—Have many of them their own homesteads? A.—Quite a few of them have.

Q.—And are they living quite comfortably? A.—Yes; they are.

Q.—Have you had any labor troubles in your trade? A.—Last spring there was one here.

Q.—What was the nature of it? A.—It was in consequence of asking for an increase in wages; the hours were shortened from ten hours to nine, but wages were left just about the same.

Q.—How was the trouble settled—by arbitration? A.—There was a proposition made to the employers, and they, of course, acceded to the workingmen's wishes, because it was compulsory on them, in fact.

Q.—Does your organization believe in arbitration in the settlement of labor troubles? A.—Yes.

Q.—In case of a rise of wages being demanded at the commencement of spring work, do the men notify the employers beforehand that a rise in wages will take place at such-and-such a time? A.—Yes; if such is the case.

Q.—The rule is the way you state? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there a similar rule on the part of the employers, that if they desire to make a decrease in the rate of wages they must give notice to the men? A.—Not that I am aware of.

Q.—What kind of arbitration would you prefer in the settlement of labor troubles, an arbitration board, formed by the Government, or one appointed mutually between the parties? A.—One mutually appointed by the employers and employes.

Q.—Provided those parties could not agree, what would you suggest? A.—The calling in of a third party—a disinterested party altogether.

Q.—Would you prefer compulsory arbitration? A.—Not altogether.

Q.—Have you given any study to the formation of a bureau of labor statistics in Canada? A.—We have one of our own, so that we always keep pretty well posted.

Q.—That is, so far as your International body is concerned? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever given the subject of technical education any thought? A.—Yes; a little.

Q.—Do you think it would be of any assistance to apprentices? A.—Yes; I think it would be in every way.

Q.—Do you think, taking such subjects as drawing, designing and moulding, it would be a benefit to apprentices by receiving instruction in them? A.—Yes; it would be a great benefit to them.

Q.—Do many mechanics in London take books out of the public library? A.—That is a question I cannot answer.

Q.—Do you believe the shortening of the hours of labor has a tendency to make a man more intelligent, stricter in his habits, and do you think he would use the spare hours for his own benefit and for the benefit of his family? A.—I do in some respects; but when we advocate the shortening of the hours we do not always consider our own

benefit but the benefit of others. So far as the shortening of hours is concerned it must be remembered that with shorter hours more men have to be employed to do the same amount of labor.

Q.—Do you look upon that as a benefit? A.—It would be a benefit derived from it.

Q.—Did you ever give the subject of co-operation any thought? A.—No; I have never had much to do with that.

Q.—Did you ever consider the Employers' Liability Act, so far as accidents from defective scaffolding is concerned? A.—Yes.

Q.—Since that Act came into operation has there been more care taken by men in the erection of scaffolding? A.—The Act has had the effect of making the men more cautious themselves. But so far as the Act is concerned, I do not think the workmen, from what I can make out from the Act, would get any benefit from it.

Q.—How does it compel men to be more cautious? Do you mean it compels the employers to be more cautious? A.—Both the employers and the employés, because if a man meets with an accident it will not be compulsory on the part of the employer to pay him damages.

Q.—Not according to the Act? A.—So far as I know it.

Q.—Have you read over the Act? A.—I have not seen it lately.

Q.—According to the Act, in case of defective scaffolding, which might be the fault of the employer, if a man fell from the scaffolding, could he not come down on the employer for damages? A.—In our business we do not erect, as a usual thing, our own scaffolding. It is erected by the carpenters, and if the scaffolding is insecure we come on the carpenters or builder of the scaffold for damages.

Q.—Not on the employer who has the contract? A.—That would be the contractor.

Q.—You have a claim against the contractor? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know if there is any truck system in London—that is, if any working-men are paid by store orders or anything of that kind? A.—No; I do not know of any.

Q.—Do you think the purchasing power of a dollar is as great now as it was five years ago? A.—I think it would be at present.

Q.—Have the wages increased or decreased during the last five or ten years, to your knowledge? A.—They have remained about the same.

Q.—The volume of business, I suppose, has increased? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any fining of employés in case of their being late coming to work? A.—No; there is only a deduction made in the amounts of their wages.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Have you ever worked at your trade in the United States? A.—Yes.

Q.—In what part? A.—Pretty nearly all through the States. I have worked in New York.

Q.—What is the general rate of wages in the American cities? A.—While I was there it was \$3 a day.

Q.—Does immigration affect your business to any extent? A.—Not so much as it has done in former years.

Q.—Where do the immigrants come from, as a rule? A.—From the old country.

Q.—None come over from the United States? A.—No; as a general rule the workmen who come from the other side are good workmen, who are up to every branch of the business; but those coming from the old country are not up to every class of work, and those who come out here are not qualified. They have, as a rule, never served a proper apprenticeship; they are not *bona fide* workmen.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—The class of work there is not the same as it is here? A.—No; they cannot do it.

J. B. MURPHY, Moulder, London, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q.—You are a journeyman moulder? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Are there many moulders employed in London? A.—Yes; quite a few.
- Q.—Can you give us the average number employed here? A.—About seventy five or eighty, I should judge.
- Q.—What are the weekly wages of a stove-moulder? A.—They are on piece-work.
- Q.—We would like to have both. Stove moulding, I believe, is generally done by piece-work? A.—Yes; sometimes. The rate of wages for a day-hand runs from \$1.50 to \$1.75. I do not know any stove hands getting \$2 a day; the rate may be stated as \$1.98 a day.
- Q.—Do the piece-hands receive as steady employment as day-hands. A.—I do not think so; some of them do and some do not.
- Q.—The wages of a piece-hand, I presume, range according to the different patterns he has to work? A.—Yes; some pieces of stove will pay more than others; it depends on the size of the plates.
- Q.—How many months in the year is a stove-moulder engaged, on an average, on piece-work? A.—I should think about ten months; some of the masters employ them about nine months and then slack up and discharge them.
- Q.—What is the cause of slacking up the work? A.—They have a considerable number of apprentices employed and they take the journeymen's work. Of course, if piece-work was not so much in force there would be work the year round.
- Q.—Do your apprentices work piece-work? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Do you think piece-work with apprentices is a proper way to conduct your business? A.—No; I do not. My reason is this: In doing piece-work a man never tries to remedy his mistakes; he just goes right along, and if the work will pass he thinks it is all right. He will not take time to use his judgment in trying the different ways of making work properly and in adopting a proper way of making a piece. He gets a job and he runs it for all he is worth, early and late; and, besides, he has not served a proper length of time at the trade in the first place.
- Q.—What is the time laid down in your organization as that which an apprentice should serve? A.—Four years.
- Q.—That is the universal rule, is it not? A.—Yes; it has become the universal rule by our organization; the apprentices are to serve four years and are to be indentured, and our organization is to assist employers in regard to carrying out these terms.
- Q.—How long do apprentices serve here? A.—Three years is what they call the time here.
- Q.—From a practical point of view, is that a sufficient time for a boy to learn a trade thoroughly so as to become a thorough journeyman in after-life? A.—They do not become so here; several who have served three years are not capable of holding a job in any shop; in fact, they do not hold them.
- Q.—Are the moulders in this city organized? A.—Yes; to a certain extent.
- Q.—Do you know of any foundries in this city which employ ex-convict labor? A.—Yes; there are, I understand; I could not swear positively, because I have not seen the men come out of the prison. From what I have heard them say, and from what has been told to me by other men, they said they came out of the prison direct to London to work in the shops here. I was speaking to one to-day, an ex-convict, and he told me he came direct from prison, except for a short time when he went to see his friends, and then he came direct here.
- Q.—Was that during the time of the labor troubles? A.—I could not say whether he came then or not; it was since the labor troubles, so far as I remember.
- Q.—Was that man discharged by the Governor of the prison? A.—I understand he was allowed out on ticket-of-leave and that he and the others have to report to Mr. Gartchose, and he has to report back to headquarters at Elmira.

Q.—In the case of labor troubles, do you prefer a system of arbitration in the settlement of such troubles? A.—Do you mean rather than to fight it out?

Q.—Rather than to strike—in order to prevent a strike taking place? A.—Certainly. I believe in settling that trouble by arbitration, or in the most legitimate way it can be done, in order to save trouble.

Q.—Are the manufacturers in London organized with the other stove manufacturers? A.—Throughout Ontario, I think they are.

Q.—Do you know of any black-listing taking place in London in your trade? A.—Do you mean black-listing the members of the organization.

Q.—I mean black-listing members because they are union men? A.—Yes; I think so.

Q.—Do you say so? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know it as a fact? A.—They did not tell me so, and of course I did not ask my employer, for I am pretty sure he would not have told me. I saw one man, and no doubt there were others.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—At what particular branch of your trade are those men, whom you say are ex-convicts, employed? A.—They are hollow-ware moulders.

Q.—Do they make that work a speciality in Elmira prison? A.—I cannot say.

Q.—Perhaps you know whether that particular branch is done in that prison? A.—I think that was what they were working at, and they were sent for, to come here to make hollow-ware. I know one man here who is employed as a hollow-ware moulder; there was some dispute in regard to prices, and he quit work, or was discharged. That was one of our men here.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How long have you been living here? A.—Since the 24th of March, 1881. Since that time I have been absent about nine months.

Q.—How old are you now? A.—Thirty-one, next birthday.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Can hollow-ware workers be got here? A.—Yes; if the bosses will pay the prices.

Q.—Is the reason for bringing men from the other side because they get them cheaper? A.—I think it is. I really think we have got hollow-ware moulders in Ontario who have served their time at the trade, and who understand the work thoroughly, and my opinion is that they employ these men, of whom I have spoken, because they are cheaper.

Q.—Then it is a matter of prices? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—In regard to day work: is there a difference in the wages paid to stove moulders, agricultural implement moulders, and hollow-ware moulders; are there different rates of wages in these different branches? A.—Some of them get \$1.50 or \$1.75 a day.

Q.—To which branch of the moulding trade does the \$2 a day rate belong? A.—To machinery moulders.

Q.—Does stove moulding come next in price in day work? A.—For agricultural work and stove work there is about the same paid. In the car-shop they pay about \$1.50; I understand that they do not pay more than that.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Do the hollow-ware moulders refuse to work for those figures? A.—Which figures?

Q.—You said that because the hollow-ware moulders would not work for certain figures they employed ex-convicts? A.—One of those stove-building moulders is in Hamilton.

Q.—I suppose they were competent men? A.—I think so.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—What is the condition of the shop in which you work? A.—It is a little cold in winter; it is not properly secured for winter use.

Q.—Is it high enough to allow the steam to rise? A.—It is ventilated sufficiently; it is very free in the line of ventilation. The greatest fault I have to find with moulding shops is that they are not protected in the winter time. Some of them are not fit for a man to strip in. Everything is damp, the sand is wet and cold, and everything a man touches is cold. Moulders' shops should be heated in winter, and steam pipes should run around the wall. This is done in some shops on the other side, and it is done in one shop in this city.

Q.—You mean, heated up similar to machine shops? A.—In fact, it is even more necessary in the moulding shops that this should be done, because everything is damp and cold. Men are not able to work—their hands are sometimes benumbed with cold.

Q.—Have you ever made any representation to the bosses to that effect? A.—It would be useless for the men to say anything about it.

Q.—They think they are good shops in winter? A.—They are very good in summer, but not fit for winter, where the men have to strip where it is cold, and work in damp sand, and their fingers become so cold they are not capable of using them, and almost all of the body is the same,

Q.—Are moulders much troubled with colds? A.—Sometimes they have bad colds in winter.

Q.—Not unusually so? A.—No; they wrap themselves up pretty well. The shops in other departments are kept warm, and steam is put through them. The moulding shop, as I have said, is not so; it may have a stove, but it is not sufficient to keep it warm.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Was there any difficulty in regard to the apprenticeship question in any of the moulding shops last spring? A.—No; not that I am aware of.

HENRY RYMILL, Bricklayer, London, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you heard the evidence of the last bricklayer, Alfred Short? A.—Yes; part of it.

Q.—Have you anything to add to that part you heard? A.—No; I do not think I have.

Q.—I believe there is a standard rate of wages in the city for bricklayers?

A.—Yes.
Q.—Do you know what that is? A.—Thirty-three and a-half cents per hour, \$17.50 per week.

Q.—Do you know any bricklayers working under that rate? A.—There have been bricklayers working under it; I do not think there have been any lately.

Q.—When was your last labor difficulty? A.—We had the last difficulty in May.

Q.—What was the cause of it? A.—We asked the bosses for an increase of wages from 30 to 33½ cents, and they refused, I believe.

Q.—Taking the average season's work, how much do you think you could earn during twelve months? A.—It would depend a great deal on the work. I suppose last year in this town a bricklayer would not work four months during the whole year; there were not four months here all last year.

Q.—How many months would you consider an average season's work? A.—About five months.

Q.—How much do you think a good journeyman bricklayer would earn during those five months? A.—Not much over \$500, about \$500; I have earned \$500.

Q.—They are paid by piece-work, I believe? A.—No; by the hour.

Q.—How many hours do they work? A.—Nine hours a day for five days in the week, and eight hours for the sixth day, making fifty-three hours per week.

Q.—In case of labor trouble would you prefer arbitration, and if so, what would be the nature of the arbitration you would prefer? A.—Arbitration that would be satisfactory to both parties.

Q.—Do you believe in compulsory arbitration? A.—I do not know.

Q.—That is, arbitration framed by the Government, compelling both sides to agree to the terms arrived at; would you prefer that system? A.—Yes; provided it was fair to both sides. Our international laws call for arbitration in preference to strikes every time.

Q.—Are there any benefits connected with your organization? A.—No more than obtaining news or information in regard to work.

Q.—There are no more benefits? A.—No; we talked of having a sick benefit and a death benefit, but there are none in existence here as there are in some other places. I worked in Toronto most of last summer, as I could not get work here, and there was a death benefit there.

JOHN NORFOLK, Moulder, London, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You have heard the evidence given by Mr. Murphy regarding ex-convict labor? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you agree with what has been said by him? A.—Yes.

John McGowan, John Paekham, Thomas Walton, having been sworn respectively, declared that they had heard the evidence of the witness Murphy, and confirmed it.

ROBERT SYMONS, re-called.

I wish to say that the Government have issued a report this year showing the amount of money expended by them on immigration; but I am not prepared to state what the exact amounts are, and we know also from Government reports that they do expend money in bringing immigrants here to compete with our workingmen, many of whom are already out of employment. There are more men here than we can find work for. The labor market in Canada is overcrowded, and we, as workingmen, protest against the Government using the money of the country in bringing men out to compete with us in trying to earn a living. That is our contention. We are opposed to the system of assisted immigration.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you know who gives assisted passages to immigrants from Quebec to Ontario and London? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Do you know if they get any assistance? A.—I do not know. All I know is from Government reports, that there is much money expended annually in bringing immigrants out here.

Q.—Do you know how much is expended on assisted passages? A.—I understand that a large amount is expended through agents.

Q.—Do you know how much is expended on assisted passage tickets? A.—I do not; I do not remember the amounts. Our contention is, that while the Government taxes everything that is imported, which our workingmen have to consume, and make them pay high prices in consequence of that, they, at the same time, import labor to compete with our workingmen, and thus place us at a great disadvantage. We are opposed to the whole system of assisted immigration on these grounds; we are opposed to immigration as workingmen, but we are especially opposed to the system of assisted immigration.

SAMUEL PEDDLE, re-called.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Can you tell us anything about the wages in Canada as compared with those in the United States and Great Britain? A.—In our particular trade I can tell you a little. The wages in London, England, in my trade are from £2 to £2.5s. a week. In Canada, as I have told you, we get from \$9 to \$10 or \$11; there are machine hands who receive \$12. I am a bench hand. I received in London £2 and £2 5s. on piece work. I get in Canada \$10 a week. Previous to that I did not get quite so much. In the United States I got \$2 a day, that was \$12 per week, and I had no lost time. I was paid for days that were holidays; that was in New York.

Q.—How are hours and the cost of living as compared with the other countries you have named? A.—The cost of living in this country for a mechanic who has something over and above the necessary expenses of life, compared with England, is just about the same. That is to say, that living is much cheaper here, or rather the necessary food is much cheaper, but when you get to take the little things you buy outside of food it comes to pretty much the same thing. A present here that would cost you \$2 you would get in England for \$1, and a thing that costs a penny in England costs 5 or 10 cents here; so that outside of a laboring man's mere living I consider London, England, is just about as good as Canada. Friends of mine who were apprenticed with me have done as well in London as I have done here. They have houses and lots, and they are better off, as a rule, than I am.

Q.—How long have you been here? A.—Ten years.

Q.—Do you own the place you live in? A.—Yes; but I think you ought to ask me how I got it?

Q.—What is the condition of the workingmen's houses in the old country as compared with this country? A.—In country places, in the suburbs, they are fitted up quite as nicely as other houses. They have not so much garden, but the houses are as attractive. In London the sanitary conditions are better than anywhere in the world I know of.

Q.—Do the working people live in flats? A.—In London you live in flats, what we call rooms; you take two or three rooms with the use of the wash-house. Of course, the rents there are high. You have to pay 7 shillings a week for two rooms with the use of the wash-house. I paid that sum. I took the rooms, and divided them between myself and another man, and my share was 7 shillings a week.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—When you received \$2 a day in New York did you consider yourself as well paid as you are here? A.—Yes; I was just about as well paid, although there I was living without my family. The necessaries of life were very cheap.

Q.—When was that? A.—Some five or six years ago. It was at a time when we were a little dull here, and I went there and afterwards came back.

Q.—What did you pay for your board? A.—Four dollars and a-half. I lived at restaurants, and I paid \$1.50 for my room.

Q.—What would you have had to pay for rent if you had been there with your family? A.—I would have had to pay from \$2 to \$3 a week for two rooms, and have furnished them myself; the one I had was a very nice room.

Q.—Where did you get a room for \$1.50 a week? A.—In a street just off the Bowery; I forget the name of it.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Have there been any accidents to boys in your factory through machinery? A.—Yes; several.

Q.—What was the nature of the accidents? A.—The last one I know anything of was an accident to a boy who came there, and which occurred the first day he was at work. He came to me, thinking that he had to work for me. I told him to remain there till the foreman came, and when he came I spoke to him about the boy. He said the boy had to go down to the planer. He was a very neatly-dressed and

tidy boy of about fourteen years of age. He went down to the planer, and about 2 o'clock in the afternoon the top of one of his fingers was brought in on a piece of wood. We said it was a shame for such a nice boy to meet with such an accident. He was paid a week's wages and went away. Previous to that there was an accident in the next shop, where a number of boys are employed by one man who makes cabinet-work. He cut his hand at the rip-saw. Those boys were about fourteen years old. One I saw was thirteen and a half, for I asked him his age. Previous to that there was a boy lost three of his fingers on the planer.

Q.—Was the boy running the planer himself? A.—No; he was standing behind the planer, and he got his finger on one of the knives.

Q.—That was not through any fault or neglect on the part of the employer? A.—No; it was simply from the boy being too young to have sense enough to keep away from the dangerous part of the machine.

Q.—Was that not the case in the accident of the boy having his finger cut in the shaper? A.—Yes; it was done very much in the same way. He got his fingers underneath the plank. In the other case the boy was put on a cross-cut saw.

Q.—Are the machines properly protected in your establishment? A.—From my standpoint they are not properly protected; I do not know where they are protected.

Q.—Is there anything to protect the machinery? A.—No; there are no safe-guards. There is not the least attempt at protection.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—How is your labor market; is it overstocked? A.—So far as good mechanics go, they are not too plentiful; but so far as laboring classes are concerned, I think there are too many, and there are many laborers who are coming for such work and cannot get it.

Q.—Does immigration interfere with your work? A.—Yes; it does considerably. We have Italians who come out and work at prices which we will not accept; I know of two smart mechanics laid off for three months in this city on that account, although they had been working in this city for many years. At the same time, there were immigrants here who were green, and who could not speak the language, at work, because they would take a job for a little less money.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Did those men come here direct? A.—They came here direct.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—What were they? A.—They were the same as I am, assisted immigrants, and I do not thank you for it.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How long is it since you were assisted to come out here? A.—Ten years ago.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—By which Government were you assisted? A.—I cannot tell you who it was. I know I received a cheap passage rate, and that is all I know about it. When I got to Liverpool I had to go to the agent before we got on board. The man who went with me from the hotel to the office gave the agent a wink, and he said to me: "Are you in a position to pay the full rate of passage?" I said: "Perhaps I am, but if I did so, I would not have much when I got there." I told him that I did not come there on those conditions, and that I was not to pay full fare, because I had bought my ticket in St. Paul's Churchyard. He wanted full fare from Liverpool. Let me say that you have to make a deposit when you get your ticket, and the balance when you get to Liverpool. I came out here to take up land, and I went to Muskoka for the purpose.

Q.—Was that one of the inducements that led you to come out here? A.—Yes; I hired myself out as an agricultural laborer for a time, resolving to take up land. Things

were not, however, as I expected them to be. I understood any one could get work at once at decent wages. I found I could not do as I expected. I got \$17 a month. They very soon employed me in making doors, and hanging doors, and fixing up barns, and so on. I could not see any chance to settle down on a farm and so I gradually drifted back to my old trade and got work as a carpenter.

Q.—How many men are employed at your factory? A.—I should think about seventy; there used to be one hundred.

Q.—You say the highest wages paid is \$12 a week? A.—I cannot speak positively; that is piece-work.

Q.—Have you anything to say in regard to the sub-contract system? A.—I say it is nothing more than a contract system. A man takes a job to make 1,000 chairs, and in doing the work he can hire whom he likes. In one case a man had four boys, and he has now three boys, and he sets them test work. They have to do so much work in so much time. If they get that work done they work for him again, and that time counts for overtime.

Q.—Suppose that middleman's business was done away with, would there not be either a rise in the wages or more profit to the proprietor of the work? A.—It seems to me that if that was done away with there would be work given for two workmen having families in place of four boys. More wages would have to be paid for the work, and at all events the wages would be divided up between those two men, and two families would be kept out of the wages paid. A few weeks ago a man got 600 chair seats to make and he got five boys to make them. For the making of those seats, for which \$12 should be paid, \$9 was paid, which would be 1½ instead of 2 cents per seat. That man paid to the best of the boys \$3 per week, and to the second best \$2.50. He gave them five days in which to do the work. They did the work in three days and one hour. The balance of the time up to the five days they put in at work and were paid overtime. That man who was doing the contract works close to me.

Q.—Do the men employed by the sub-contractor work harder, and are they looked after more closely than they otherwise would be? A.—They have more privileges than day-hands. They do work harder when they are at it. Of course, they adopt all kinds of means to get over the work as rapidly as possible. If the work does not pay they get through with it quickly. If a dip in the glue pot will do for a job that will suffice; they act so as to make both ends meet.

Q.—You look at it as a kind of scamp work? A.—It must be so. Piece-work is detrimental to the trade, as far as it goes, although it is better for men of good ability and who are quick. I have worked at both.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Are you sure the Italians you refer to do not come from the United States? A.—I do not know.

Q.—I understand there have been people of that description brought into Toronto? A.—I do not think those people would be brought over from New York. They are pretty respectable, but they work a great many hours for very little money.

Q.—When you say people have been induced to come here it will be taken for granted that they have come here direct? A.—I think the one I was speaking of came direct—that is the one I work with on the bench. We have three there. I was working on the bench at that time; I am not now.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Is there not a very dangerous hoist in your factory? A.—Not more than any other factory; it is unprotected; there are four flats, and there is no protection; no safeguard in any way.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you know whether the inspector's attention was called to it? A.—I know it was not; he walked right past it. I would not have known it was the

inspector, but a man said, "Did your notice that man; he is the inspector." I said he could not be, as he walked right past and back again. I pass the hoist hundreds of times a day, for I mark all the stuff that is sawn. I am not saying this to the detriment of my employer, because I think he is a first-class man and a gentleman; he has to compete, of course, with others.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG.—

Q.—Does much American furniture come into Canada, to your knowledge? A.—Not much; what does is to supply patterns.

Q.—Is the wood you use domestic wood? A.—Yes; with the exception of walnut, which comes from Indiana. Of course, the mahogany we get through New York. Our maples, elm, birch and beech we get in Canada.

PETROLIA, 14th January, 1888.

DAVID MILLS, Oil Producer, Petrolia, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Will you kindly give the Commission any information you possess bearing on the oil industry? A.—I have often wondered that the oil producers have no way of selling their products, and ascertaining whether they are getting acknowledgement of the quantity of oil they take to the tanking companies here. We have no way of finding out whether these companies are doing business right or not, and I have often wondered that the Government do not appoint an inspector to see that we get our right measure. In the mercantile business any person handling fluids of any description cannot sell a quart without having the Government stamp on his measure, nor can he sell a pound of anything without having his weights inspected.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is that by the Provincial or the Dominion law? A.—It is by the Dominion Act; and here we are selling our products, and the tank companies can use any measure they see fit; there is no one to say whether they are doing right or wrong. I have had a measure from Toronto, a Government inspection measure, a tank, and I know that it has been measured wrongly by the tank companies. I have tried to get parties who have influence with the Government to ask them to appoint an inspector here to inspect the tanks.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do I understand that you want the Government to fix a standard to measure them? A.—Yes.

Q.—You wish the Government to appoint an inspector to see that that standard is carried out? A.—Yes; I think it is nothing more than right.

Q.—Do you think that all the oil producers would be willing to submit to any expense in connection with paying for that work? A.—I think so.

Q.—You think they would not object to an inspector being appointed and so paid? A.—I think it would pay them in the long run. I, as one oil producer, would be perfectly willing to pay my quota towards the expense.

Q.—Do you know if the different oil producers have different measures? In other words, do you know that the measures differ? A.—I do not know it; but I have heard it from one tanking company.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Have you reason to believe it is so? A.—I have reason to believe it. A friend told me that he had a tank measured by one tanking company, and he took it to another company and the variation was between two and three gallons on a tank.

Q.—Are there many people engaged in the oil-producing business here?
A.—Yes; quite a few.

Q.—Are there a large number of companies? A.—Yes; a large number of companies and also of individuals. I do not know the exact number.

Q.—In regard to the men employed in this oil business: I suppose there are a great number of them here? A.—Yes; all the oil business is not here, but it is also at Oil Springs, where there are a large number of people.

Q.—What is the general rate of wages for workingmen here? A.—That I cannot tell you. A great many of the engineers get \$1.50 a day; they are engine drivers.

Q.—And about what does a laboring man get? A.—I cannot say what laboring men receive.

Q.—Are the men engaged in the oil business generally able to live comfortably—I mean the workingmen? A.—I do not think they have got very fat these last five or six years—that is, any men in the oil business.

Q.—Are you speaking of laboring men now? A.—I have reference to the laboring men and to producers both, because the producer cannot pay a man the amount of wages he naturally feels inclined to pay, on account of his production being hampered by the market, by the small price paid for crude.

Q.—Can you account in any way for those small prices? A.—I cannot account for it in any legitimate way. I think it is due to parties not working their business rightly, or it is due to parties getting their heads together and agreeing that they will give you so much for your production and nothing more. That is my impression.

Q.—What are the prices of crude now? A.—Seventy-four cents. The refiners are receiving very small profits as well as the producers.

Q.—You think profits are small? A.—I do, according to the best authority I can get.

Q.—You refer to all classes? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you think over-production has anything to do with low prices? A.—No; I think if we had our market to ourselves our production would fall very far short of the consumption.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What do you mean by having the market all to yourselves? A.—A great deal of American oil is imported into the country—that is what I referred to—and our manufacturers, in my opinion, go to extremes. They either charge too much for it or too little, and by doing so they take it out of the producers; that is where it comes from.

Q.—Do you think the duty on imported oil should be raised? A.—I am not going to say that either. I think we have as good protection by our Government, probably, as they can well afford to give us, but if they were to give us a little more on the crude end, and not charge a little more on the refined end, we would have a better price.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What is the difference in price between American and Canadian oil? A.—I do not know; it must be pretty large—quite a difference.

Q.—What is the price of Canadian refined oil in bulk here? A.—From all the information I can get it is sold for 10 cents by car lots.

Q.—Is that on board or in bulk? A.—In barrels.

Q.—Do you know the difference in cost between oil in barrels and in bulk? A.—Not more than what I hear them say. They say it costs about 3 or 3½ cents.

Q.—Do you know what the cost of pumping a barrel of oil is, that is, the average cost? A.—Do you mean of producing crude?

Q.—Yes? A.—That depends a great deal on the well you have. Some men can produce oil at probably 50 cents, where other men cannot produce it for 75 or 80 cents.

Q.—Would that be on account of water in the well? A.—No; on account of the quantity pumped. Some wells produce four or five barrels, while others will not pump more than a quarter of a barrel a day.

Q.—What becomes of the refuse of the oil after it is refined? A.—There is coke produced from it, and wax, and tar, and gas oil.

Q.—I suppose, if it were not that all which is waste was worked up it would not pay to pump oil? A.—That is where the refiner has the producer. I have been credibly informed that the refiner gets as much for his refuse as we get for our crude. I do not know whether it is true or not.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What is done with the refuse? A.—It is sold.

Q.—It is sent to where? A.—The tar and coke are sold around the town to producers for fuel.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—The refuse is mixed with sawdust, I believe? A.—Yes; and the tar is put on the boiler.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do they manufacture paraffine oil from this refuse? A.—Yes; I am told they do; of course, I do not know it as a fact.

Q.—At what stage of the refining process is the benzine taken off the oil? A.—I am not a refiner.

Q.—You do not understand the business? A.—I have quite a knowledge of it, but I am not a refiner.

Q.—Have you anything in connection with the business that you want specially to say in addition to what you have said? A.—I would advise the inspection of the crude oil, and the measurement of it, by the Government.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—How many men are connected with a well producing, say, five barrels a day? A.—I am running fourteen wells, and there are two men required to do the work, counting myself one.

Q.—Is steam power used? A.—Yes; I suppose there are some people running more than that number with two men, sometimes three men, just as circumstances occur.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—I suppose there is a good supply of oil? A.—I think there is a good supply of oil here if they would use the territory they have for putting down wells, but it does not pay at present prices. I think the production could be enlarged a good deal.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—How deep are those wells bored? A.—Mine average 468 feet.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—There are some, I believe, a great deal deeper? A.—I believe in the north territory they can go a little deeper, not a great deal; I think 470 feet.

Q.—I heard some one say that he had gone 700 feet down, and expected to go 500 more. A.—That would be in the other territory—that is where they are "wild catting."

Q.—You mean prospecting? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Is it expensive boring in this vicinity? What will be the cost of sinking a well? A.—I could not exactly tell you; I have not put one down lately. They are cheaper now; the first one cost me \$4,225 for boring.

Q.—Was that done by the diamond borer? A.—No; with a drill.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are the men pretty constantly employed all the year round in the oil business? A.—Yes; as a general thing.

Q.—Do you require men specially versed in the business? A.—You do for everything at your wells.

Q.—Then, would a stranger coming in here be comparatively useless? A.—Yes; he would be, so far as regards taking care of wells; he would know nothing about it.

Q.—Have you a surplus of labor in this vicinity? A.—I could not tell you as to that.

Q.—Do you know of many idle men around here? A.—I do not.

Q.—Do men leave here in large numbers to go to other oil regions? A.—We have a great many drillers go from this section to other countries. They are all over the continent. They are both in the United States and in Europe.

Q.—It is a practice of men to leave here and go into other countries to drill oil wells? Yes; a great many have gone.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What does a laboring man here pay for house rent? A.—I could not tell you. Rents are considered to be dear here, but what they are I could not say.

Q.—Are laboring men here paid their wages by the week? A.—I think they are paid by the month. My man pays \$6 a month for his house, but it is a quiet part of the town, where the rents are not so high. They are dearer at this end of the town.

Q.—Are there many laboring men living in houses belonging to the companies? A.—That question I could not answer.

THOMAS MCKETRICK, Oil Producer, Petrolia, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Will you kindly tell the Commission something in connection with the oil business and any disadvantage from which you are suffering here? A.—The greatest disadvantage under which we are working here is low prices.

Q.—Can you give any reason for prices of oil being so low? A.—I suppose the reason is one in obedience to the law of supply and demand. About five years ago we commenced to accumulate a surplus of oil. New territory was struck in the oil-producing district and new wells in the territory here. After that the surplus increased, until a couple of years ago, when it began to decrease again, and on that account oil is getting to be a little better price, although it is very low yet; somewhere about 75 cents is about what it is worth to-day.

Q.—You think over-production was the cause of the fall in price? A.—I think so. We had to dig tanks and take care of the oil, which is a very expensive thing to do.

Q.—Do you store large quantities of oil in those tanks? A.—Yes.

Q.—And you keep it there all the year around? A.—Yes; it costs 1 cent a barrel a month the year around.

Q.—Are those tanks excavated out of the ground? A.—Yes.

Q.—What would be the average earnings of a laboring man in the oil business? A.—An engineer gets about \$1.50 a day—some perhaps, \$1.25; \$1.25 or \$1.50 is about what an engineer gets. Drillers who work in drilling wells get more than that; they receive from \$2 to \$3 a day, but they generally take the work by the job. A driller will say that he will take his chance as to how long it will take him for \$20.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Is there any Sunday labor here? A.—There is.

Q.—Are any extra wages paid for it? A.—No; the same wages are paid.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Has any effort been made to stop Sunday labor? A.—There has been an effort made to stop it. I am not sure whether there is any done now or not.

Q.—Are you speaking of unnecessary Sunday labor? A.—Some say it is unnecessary and some say it is necessary.

Q.—What is it? A.—There are some wells in which there is considerable water, and the companies or parties owning them say that it does not pay them to shut down on Saturday and start on Monday, because the water accumulates to such an extent, that they cannot make the wells pay unless they run them every day of the week, Sunday included.

Q.—Then, it is a question of larger or smaller profits whether they violate the Sunday law or not? A.—That is it.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—How are the men paid? A.—Some are paid by the week, and some by the month. The companies, as a rule, pay by the month.

Q.—Do they pay in cash? A.—Principally cash.

Q.—Are there any store orders? A.—There may be some, I do not know.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you know of any so-called truck system? A.—I do not know of any. I am informed that there is some. We pay our men in cash once a month.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Is there a standard measure for crude oil? A.—Yes; 35 imperial gallons is a barrel.

Q.—Is there any standard measure for the measuring of oil in tanks? A.—We have tanks in which we draw oil; they are measured, I understand, by the tanking companies; that measure is supposed to be right.

Q.—Do you know if the measurement of the same tanks will vary? A.—These are wooden tanks, and the tanking companies will call them im promiscuously and measure them, because when they drive the hoops the tank is supposed to shrink, and it will vary.

Q.—Is there any desire among producers to have those measures inspected? A.—I think there is.

Q.—Do you think they would prefer a Government inspection of the tanks? A.—I think they would. I have often heard that advocated strongly.

Q.—Do you know of any provision in the Government Weights and Measures Act that would permit it? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Do the laboring men in Petrolia generally own the houses in which they live? A.—I do not know that they do; a great many rent the houses here; although a good many do not; I do not know what proportion.

Q.—As a rule, do the workingmen in Petrolia earn sufficient to keep them the year through? A.—I think so. That is when they get steady employment.

Q.—Can an industrious man live comfortably on his earnings here? A.—I think that with a little economy he can; living is not a great deal higher here than it is elsewhere.

Q.—Have you any other information that you could offer in connection with matters that occur to you? A.—I do not know that I have. I may say that I have been in the business for about twenty years.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Can you give us the average cost of refining a barrel of oil? A.—I am not a refiner, and I could not answer that question.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Can you tell us what a laboring man will pay for rent per month? A.—They pay different prices, depending very much upon the locality and the house; some pay \$6 per month, and from that figure up.

Q.—What would a workingman pay for a house of eight rooms in a pretty good locality? A.—Pretty high rent?

Q.—How high? A.—I could not say.

Q.—Would he pay \$10 per month? A.—I think so.

Q.—Would he pay \$12? A.—I have heard of houses being rented at \$12 per month.

Q.—That is by workingmen? A.—They could not afford to pay that much; I think laboring men do not pay that, because they cannot afford it.

Q.—Is it the choice of the laboring men to have their wages paid to them once a month? A.—I do not suppose it is; every company makes its own rules. For instance, we decided to pay our hands once a month, and they get their money at the end of every month.

Q.—Do you not think it is a hardship to a mechanic's family, when a mechanic is earning only \$1.25 a day, that he should have to wait for a month for his earnings? A.—I do not know that it is; of course, some may get it weekly.

Q.—In the meantime, have not mechanics in some cases to go on trust for the necessaries of life? A.—Very likely they have, to the end of the month.

Q.—Have you, to the best of your knowledge, ever heard that some workingmen are paid by store orders in this locality? A.—I do not know it. I have heard of such a thing having been done some time ago, but I do not know whether it is done now at all. I know that it is objected to; that workingmen do not like it.

Q.—Has the house rent of workingmen increased in Petrolia during the last five years? A.—I do not know that it has. I could not answer that question definitely.

Q.—Have their wages increased? A.—I think not.

Q.—Has the cost of living increased? A.—I think not.

Q.—How much is beefsteak per pound in Petrolia, good beefsteak? A.—From 7 cents to 12 cents;—about 10 cents, it depending on the kind you want. You can buy it on the street for from 4½ cents to 5 cents,—that is, beef by the quarter.

Q.—Do workingmen generally buy their meat by the quarter? A.—I could not say; I do not know.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Could they not co-operate and buy beef by the quarter? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Did you ever hear of any overture made by the men to their employers with a view to having the pay days weekly or fortnightly? A.—I have not heard of any.

Q.—You never heard of any effort being made to change the system? A.—Not that I know of.

Q.—Have you ever had any labor difficulties here? A.—Nothing special, that I know of.

Q.—You have had no strikes? A.—No; no strikes.

Q.—Have you ever given the subject of disputes between employers and employes any consideration, with a view to arriving at the best modes of settling them? A.—I think they ought to settle them among themselves, as a rule. Have you reference to organizations here or Knights of Labor?

Q.—I have no reference to organization, but I am supposing that a strike takes place between some men and their employers, and I ask you what would you recommend as the best means of settling it? A.—I suppose the only way would be to settle it among themselves, that is, between the employer and the employed.

Q.—Do you mean by appointing representatives to discuss the matters involved? A.—I have no recommendation to make upon that point.

Q.—You have never given the question of arbitration any thought? A.—I do

not know that it has ever come to arbitrating here. I think, as a rule, we have had no practical distinction in that way here.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You have had no strikes here, and therefore you have not considered the question? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Would a bureau of statistics for the whole Dominion be a benefit to the oil trade, if they were gathered and published annually? A.—I cannot answer that question, for I do not know.

ANDREW SMITH, Carpenter, Petrolia, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Will you tell the Commission what wages carpenters earn here? A.—They earn from \$1.50 to \$2 a day.

Q.—Do they find pretty general employment? A.—Yes; I think so. Some times when men come in from other places, pretty thickly, we find business dull, but employment is middling steady; at least, I find it steady.

Q.—As a rule, men are pretty generally employed here? A.—Yes.

Q.—How are the men situated, as regards being comfortable in their homes—speaking generally. A.—They are moderately comfortable. I do not think they are more so than they require.

Q.—Do you think the average man can live comfortably with his earnings here? A.—He can live; as regards comfort, of course, if he could earn more he could become a good deal more comfortable.

Q.—Do many of them own their own houses? A.—Yes; quite a number.

Q.—What percentage do you think own their own houses here? A.—I could hardly say; probably 25 per cent.

Q.—Can you give us any information as to the working of the Ontario lien law? A.—No; I cannot. I think we have had very little experience in regard to it.

Q.—You cannot tell us whether it protects men in their wages or not? A.—No.

Q.—Are the men in Petrolia paid in cash always? A.—Not always.

Q.—When they are not paid in cash, how do they get their pay? A.—They get it in orders; still, it is principally cash—not always cash.

Q.—Do the men raise any objection to these orders? A.—Sometimes.

Q.—Would it not be more beneficial to the men if they were always paid in cash? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever given the subject of arbitration in the settlement of disputes between capital and labor any thought? A.—I have not given it a great deal; I have thought somewhat about it.

Q.—Can you suggest anything to the Commission in regard to the establishment of a system of arbitration in the settlement of disputes? A.—No; I do not think I can. We have had no labor troubles here.

Q.—You have never had the necessity to think about it? A.—That is the idea.

Q.—Have you ever given the subject of technical education for mechanics' children any thought? A.—Yes; I have. I think such education would be a great deal better than a good deal they learn now.

Q.—Do you think that boys going to school should be taught the rudimentary principles of science? A.—Yes; I do.

Q.—Do you think the present system of education has a tendency to develop a dislike to labor in the minds of the pupils? A.—I have no doubt of it; that is my opinion.

Q.—Have you any building societies here? A.—No.

Q.—If a man purchased a lot and wanted to build a house, could he obtain money easily? A.—I really could not say exactly. Contractors here often build houses and take mortgages on them, and so on.

Q.—Do you know what rate of interest a workingman would pay for money borrowed in that way? A.—I think he would pay about 8 per cent.

Q.—There is no difficulty, I suppose, in getting houses put up? A.—Not so far as I know.

Q.—Is there anything in connection with the trade here you would like to bring before the Commission? A.—I do not think there is anything particularly.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—What are your hours of labor here? A.—Ten hours.

Q.—Do you mean ten hours six days in the week? A.—Yes; six days.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you know, as a fact, that some workingmen are paid by store orders?
A.—I know for a fact that they have told me so.

Q.—The men who get those orders? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did they ever inform you that they were not satisfied with that system, and it was not as satisfactory as if they were paid in cash? A.—Yes; they would complain a little of it. It has not been the custom, however.

Q.—Not a general custom? A.—No.

Q.—Those store orders would be given as part of their monthly wages? A.—Yes; or weekly; the companies generally pay weekly.

Q.—Do you refer to laboring men employed in the oil industry? A.—They are mostly paid weekly, I think. I do not know, however, very much about that part of it.

Q.—Do you know whether there are workmen living in houses owned by the companies and constructed by the companies? A.—I do not know of any at present.

Q.—Can you give us the rate of house rent in Petrolia? A.—It runs all the way from \$4 to \$12 per month.

Q.—What kind of a house could a man get for \$4 a month? How many rooms would it contain? A.—There might be quite a number of rooms, but all the same it would be a very poor house.

Q.—In what respect would it be a poor house? A.—It might simply be a board and batted house, and while it might be large enough, would be very cold.

Q.—It would not be lathed or plastered? A.—No.

Q.—There would be no bath-room in it? A.—I think not.

Q.—What kind of a house, in a respectable locality, would a workingman get for \$12 a month? A.—He could get a very good house.

Q.—How many rooms? A.—A house with six or eight rooms.

Q.—What you would call a good house? A.—A very fair, comfortable house.

Q.—In a suitable locality? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have the wages of carpenters increased during the past five years? A.—No; I think not—that is, on an average; sometimes they are a little better; sometimes they are not so good.

Q.—Could you give us an estimate of the number of carpenters generally employed all the year round in Petrolia? A.—No.

Q.—There is no standard scale of wages here? A.—No.

Q.—Has the price of land increased recently in Petrolia—that is, in regard to building lots? A.—In certain localities it has; but, I think, in a general way it has not very much increased.

Q.—What would be the percentage of increase during the last five years, for example? A.—I really do not know; as the town extends, of course the land gets a little more valuable.

Q.—Are there any real estate agents in Petrolia? A.—That is, in the town proper?

Q.—Yes? A.—I do not think there are; there are some, no doubt, but I do not think there are a great many.

Q.—Could you tell us in regard to the other industries, outside of carpentering and the oil industry, that are thriving? A.—I do not think that I could; I am not very well posted in regard to other industries.

JOHN SCOTT, Livery-stable Keeper, Petrolia, called and sworn.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you know anything about the condition of the working classes in Petrolia? A.—I do. I consider that the workingmen in Petrolia are paid about the same as any other place in Canada.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you know anything about house rents? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the rent of a workingman's house? A.—House rent here is pretty high compared with other places.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—What is a reasonable price for a workingman's house? A.—It seems that no one takes an interest in building tenement houses here; they are talking about doing it all the time, but it is never accomplished.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Are the people afraid the town will not increase? A.—They were afraid, but they have all the encouragement they require.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Are building lots high? A.—No; not unreasonably high.

Q.—What would be the cost of an ordinary lot? A.—You can get a good lot for \$200.

Q.—What would be its dimensions? A.—It would be 50 by 80 or 50 by 100.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Compared with other places, you think building lots are a reasonable price here? A.—Yes; of course, there are lots in the business part of the town for which you would have to pay more, but for house-building purposes they are cheaper.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Why was it the people had not confidence to invest their money in property here? A.—The oil business is one that fluctuates a great deal, and the people get scared occasionally. We have better hopes at the present time than we ever had before.

Q.—And still the people here think the price of oil is very low? A.—That is on account of the surplus on hand, but that is certainly decreasing now.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Was that low price due to over-production? A.—Yes; to over-production.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—How long have you been in Petrolia? A.—Sixteen years.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—How long have you carried on a livery-stable business? A.—I have been eight years in the livery business.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Are the prices of provisions about the same now as they have been during the last few years? A.—They are just about the same, so far as I know. I make it my business to enquire after matters of that kind, and I see no difference between here and a good many other places.

Q.—With what towns did you make the comparison? A.—From Strathroy, Watford and Sarnia, and even from London I made it my business to get quotations. The quotations I got were about the same as those given by our merchants here.

Q.—What kind of fuel do you use here? A.—Coal, wood and coke.

Q.—Coke from the refiners? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are the prices about the same as they have been during the last four or five years? A.—Yes; first-class hardwood can be obtained here at \$3 a cord.

Q.—And are other things in proportion? A.—Yes; you can buy this coke for 10 cents a bushel.

Q.—Is it cheaper than hardwood? A.—Yes; it costs me in my stable about 10 cents a day for coke.

Q.—What would it cost for wood? A.—More than that.

Q.—You buy coke at 10 cents a bushel, and you find that cheaper than the best hardwood at \$3 a cord. A.—Yes; I know that for a fact.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—How old is Petrolia? A.—About twenty-two or twenty-three years. There were people living here before that, but that is the period since the oil industry commenced.

Q.—Do you know any corporation that pays its men by the truck system, that is, by orders? A.—There is only one company or party in the town which does that.

Q.—Is that a company or a party? A.—I think it is a company.

Q.—There is one company that has the name of paying by orders? A.—Yes

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—An oil company? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Does no other company but an oil company? A.—No; that is the general talk. This party I mean, is in another business.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What other business is he in? A.—I do not know that it is necessary for me to answer that question.

JOHN W. CROSBY, Builder, Petrolia, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—On what particular subject would you like to give the Commission information? A.—I am a Canadian by birth, and I have a little knowledge of a great many things.

Q.—In regard to the agricultural districts around here, how are they? A.—They are very good, I consider.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—How are the farmers doing? A.—I think they are doing very well, as a general thing; those who are willing to work are doing well.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What are the principal grain crops raised here in this district? A.—They raise a variety of grain. I do not think they run to any one kind of grain. A man may grow ten, fifteen, twenty-five, or even up to sixty acres of fall wheat; he may grow, probably, thirty, twenty-five, or ten acres of oats; he may grow some peas, a quantity of barley, from fifteen to twenty-five acres, and a little corn, sometimes ten acres, sometimes five, and sometimes one acre.

Q.—Where do they find their principal market for the barley? A.—They sell it here to grain buyers, as a rule.

Q.—Is it manufactured here or shipped? A.—It is shipped generally; some of it is manufactured here, but it is generally shipped.

Q.—Do they raise corn for food or for sale? A.—They feed what they require, and if they have a surplus they sell it.

Q.—Where does that go, as a rule? A.—Parties who do ship generally ship it

to Kingston. We sometimes import a good deal of corn here from the west, and we have it crushed in the mill to feed cattle and hogs.

Q.—Do farmers in this neighborhood go into stock-raising to any extent?
A.—They do.

Q.—Have you any knowledge as to what good cattle are worth on the hoof?
A.—I have no further knowledge than what I obtain from my friends selling their cattle. Animals from three to four years old bring from \$40 to \$60.

Q.—Have you ever given any thought to this question: what does it cost per pound to feed cattle? A.—No; I have never fattened any cattle, and I cannot answer your question.

Q.—Do you know, if farmers make a profit by feeding cattle? A.—They all claim that that is what they make a profit on.

Q.—They claim that there is more profit in that than in raising grain? A.—Yes; and they have less trouble with it. There are men in this locality who have in the year 100 head, and some forty or fifty large steers, which they export from here to Montreal, and some go right direct to England with their cattle.

Q.—Do you know what they principally use for food when they are preparing cattle for market? A.—To prepare them for the domestic market they feed them with chop stuff, oats and barley ground together, and sometimes corn meal and bran mixed.

Q.—And do they use different food when preparing them for the foreign market?
A.—They are generally taken off the grass along in August and September, and even right up to October they can take them right off the grass. They have a large area here to run over, and they can keep them in good condition for shipment to the old country. This is a good grazing country for cattle.

Q.—Do you find in this neighborhood any great demand for agricultural laborers? A.—Very fair.

Q.—Is the supply equal to the demand? A.—I think it is.

Q.—Do the farmers, as a rule, keep their men all the year round? A.—No; as a rule, they do not. They hire them for the summer season, and some keep them the year round.

Q.—What wages would an agricultural laborer get for the summer season?
A.—He would get from \$18 to \$23 a month and his board and washing.

Q.—Would that be for six months? A.—Yes.

Q.—What would a man receive who was in his employment all the year round?
A.—About \$16 a month. Some men are hired for a little more than that and some for a little less. Of course, some men are worth double what other men are.

Q.—Has the introduction of machinery in farming lessened the demand for labor? A.—Decidedly it has.

Q.—Do you think under any circumstances agricultural laborers, to any extent, could find employment all the year round with farmers? A.—Yes; at fair wages.

Q.—Many of them? A.—It depends on the kind of laborer he would be. If a man was able to chop and log, and understand a little about such matters, he could obtain such employment. A foreign laborer would not be much in demand, but a Canadian laborer, who knew something about the different branches, could get any amount of work. I suppose south of here in the forests there are not less than from 1,000 to 2,500 men now engaged in lumbering.

Q.—What class of timber do they get out in this neighborhood? A.—Hickory; elm, oak, white ash, black ash,—pretty much all kinds of timber, what we would call hardwood.

Q.—Is Canadian hickory as good as American hickory for manufacturing purposes? A.—Yes; in this section of the country it is.

Q.—Do carriage-makers use Canadian hickory in preference to American hickory? A.—Of course there are two kinds of hickory in this country. There is first the shell-bark hickory, and also the second-growth hickory, a white hickory. The small hickory makes posts and bearing stuff for carriages; that is generally cut

out of the white timber. They take often the first logs, $2\frac{1}{4}$ or $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches through and take the butt for bending purposes for carriages, and they will put two or three logs into something else for a similar purpose in connection with carriage work. They also take a lot of this timber and ship it from here to Germany and England in logs. I have done something of that myself. They make gun carriages of it in Germany and France, and they also use a lot of white ash grown in this section of the country, which goes to Liverpool for agricultural work, such as reapers and machines used in England. This locality was, I suppose, at one time the best locality in western Ontario for oak and other timber. Of course, the country was new when I came here. I have a brother who has been living here forty years, and he pioneered the woods, and at that time wood was sent from here to Quebec.

Q.—Has walnut pretty well disappeared from here? A.—It has been pretty well cleared out.

Q.—Have you ever given the subject of tree-planting any thought? A.—No; I have never grown a forest for timber.

Q.—Have you any idea of the length of time it would take a walnut tree to come to maturity? A.—Yes; I have. Do you mean to grow large enough to make saw-logs?

Q.—I mean to make merchantable timber. A.—From twenty-five to thirty years.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What size would that timber be? A.—About $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter. I have cut down a walnut tree that was thirty years old, which was given to me by a man who planted it; It was 2 feet through at the stump, and tapered a little, giving about 14 feet of solid butt, and the rest was smaller timber. Timber grown in an open clearing generally grows with a larger top and makes a wider tree, whereas in the forest it generally runs straighter up.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Then walnut lumber would grow about 1 inch every year? A.—Yes; in good soil adapted for it.

Q.—Do you think it would pay farmers as an investment to plant trees of that description? A.—I hardly think it would. It certainly would not pay the farmer who puts them in, for life is short, but it would pay his sons or some one else.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—It is like money invested at interest? A.—Yes; it would return interest.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—If a Dominion bureau of statistics were established, would it be of use to the manufacturers and the people generally? A.—It certainly would be.

Q.—In what way do you think it would be beneficial; do you think it would be beneficial to have the statistics of trade published? A.—Those who read such reports would get some knowledge of what they should grow, and of what they could turn into money, for a great many people go along without much thought, so long as they make both ends meet, and the people in this way would be able to turn their attention to different channels.

Q.—You think the people would be able to learn the condition of the various markets and the prices of products? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Are you in the building trade now? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you employ any men? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many hands do you employ? A.—From five to twenty-five men.

Q.—What are the wages paid in the trade? A.—From \$1.50 to \$2.25 are about the wages my men get when I have work for them. Of course, if I were putting men into the woods at this time of the year to cut lumber I would give them \$1 a day and their board, and if they boarded themselves I would pay them \$1.50 a day.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Is that for logging? A.—Yes; for cutting timber. I get out a good deal of timber at this season of the year.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—In regard to your remark as to wages running from \$1.50 to \$2.50 a day: are there a great many men in this section of the country who are handy men? A.—Yes.

Q.—A good general mechanic would command more than \$1.50 a day, I suppose? A.—Yes; in the summer time. I do a good deal of contracting for bridge building, and I pay some of my men \$2; \$2.50 a day being the highest pay, because I generally have a shanty where I board these men. Sometimes I give what would be called as high as \$3 a day to men, because I board some of the men, because they are extra good men, and are able to do work in my absence. As a rule, \$1.75 is what my men will average the year round, that is where they board themselves; of course, when I board them, I charge them for their board in many instances.

Q.—As a rule, are workmen comfortable in this section of the country? A.—They are not very.

Q.—Are they pretty generally employed? A.—Yes; a good man need not be idle one hour.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the percentage among them who own their own houses? A.—Not unless I were to take the case of the men who work for myself. I would say, however, that in this section of the country one-half of the workmen own their houses, that is, of those who are not transients, but men who are living here constantly.

Q.—Do you think it is possible, with reasonable economy, for workmen to obtain their own houses? A.—Yes; they are often a great deal better off than the men who employ them.

Q.—Do you know of any disadvantage under which a workman is, in regard to selling his labor? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Do you think he stands on a perfectly equal footing with the purchaser of labor? A.—I think he does, and he is very often ahead.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You think the employer often wants work as well as the employé? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How does the employé get ahead of the employer? A.—I am a contractor. I will compete with other contractors all around in taking contracts. I obtain one, and it does not come out as well as I expected. Perhaps the men were not so competent as those I had employed at some other work, and did not earn their wages; but, at the same time, I would not sack them, because they had been with me for a long time, and I looked upon them as good men and willing to do all they could, but for lack of knowledge they had not been able to earn their wages on this particular contract. At the end, therefore, they would have the money and I would have the experience.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How long would it take you to ascertain whether a mechanic was competent or not? A.—One day.

Q.—You would discharge him if he were not competent? A.—No; I would not in all cases. If a tramp came along, or a man from a distance, and recommended himself to be a mechanic in want of work, and told me what he could do, and after I had given him work I found he could not perform what he had undertaken to accomplish, I would give him his money and let him go. But, if I had a man working who had been working for me for two or three months, perhaps for a year, and I knew well enough that he was not a perfect hand on certain classes of work, I would keep him on, because he would be a faithful hand, his only fault being that

he did not know enough always to carry out the work I set him to do, and he might be a steady man, having a large family, and be doing the very best he could to get along—I say, I would not pay that man off.

Q.—And still you knew that that man was not earning his wages on the work?
A.—Certainly.

Q.—In the case of Petrolia, when there is not a sufficient supply of labor are wages increased? A.—Not at the present day. We have put down business to a pretty fine point. We have seen the time here when we have paid almost any price for labor.

Q.—On account of its scarcity? A.—Yes; and on account of rush of business. This was a new town and there were new enterprises going on, and, of course, everybody was going to do the best he could to get rich. We were bound to carry on as much work as our neighbors.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Is it not a fact that contractors sometimes lose a great deal of money, because they do not know how to tender for a job, and tender too low? A.—There are very few men who have had experience who do not know how to tender for a job, but they do sometimes stretch a point, with the expectation of coming out clear, in order to keep their hold upon their amount of business and with a view to obtain other jobs.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you known, when there was a surplus of labor that workingmen were asked to receive less wages? A.—I never did. Of course, there have been a few individuals in our town who have cut down wages. They thought they could get the men to work for less, but they did not stand and they did not accomplish anything by it. In a word, it did not succeed.

Q.—Did it cause labor troubles? A.—Not to amount to anything. It might cause a little talk, and it might be that some parties waited upon the men and had the thing talked over—it did not amount to any trouble. We never had any appearance of a strike in our town.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—There is a good feeling all around? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is second-growth hickory plentiful in this section? A.—It is not very plentiful now. We are rapidly clearing up the forests to the south of us. When I came here twenty years ago we had plenty of good second-growth hickory and good oak, but we have been manufacturing and shipping it pretty rapidly. It was pretty much of a forest for 20 miles to the south of us twenty years ago, with an odd gap here and there.

Q.—Is the sanitary condition of Petrolia good? A.—Yes; I think so. I may say that we have over 1,000 pupils going to school here.

Q.—Is the school accommodation sufficient here? A.—We are getting good schools here, and I do not think you can boast in Ontario of any better teachers, and the school accommodation here is very good. We pay out a great deal of money for the education of the young.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do they attend school here up to sixteen years of age? A.—Yes; some up to twenty years. We have a high school here which pupils attend after they have passed the common school, and who are there fitting themselves for business. There are over 150 scholars at the high school.

Q.—Would it be possible to give technical education in the public schools to the children and sons of mechanics? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think it would be a benefit to them if such instruction were given? A.—I am of the opinion that a boy with a common school education is fit to go through the world in any line of business he chooses to attach himself to. If we would give boys more labor and less schooling we would have a better class of men.

JOHN KERR, Builder, Petrolia, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are you engaged in any other business besides the building trade? A.—In the lumber business, and hardware and all building material.

Q.—Where do you get your lumber, principally? A.—Our pine lumber comes from the north of Georgian Bay of late years, from Spanish River and the Serpent River district, and along the east shore as well.

Q.—How do you bring that from there to Petrolia? A.—The lumber from the north shore comes down by vessel to Point Edward or Sarnia mostly; that from the south shore has come mostly by rail of late years.

Q.—Do you know anything about hardwood? A.—Yes; we get that in the vicinity here.

Q.—Do you know whether there is a great demand for Canadian hickory in the carriage shops? A.—I have understood so. Hickory is a wood we do not use much of; we have been exporting a little lately.

Q.—You cannot tell us, I suppose, whether carriage builders prefer Canadian to American hickory? A.—No; it is a line in which I am not interested.

Q.—I noticed yesterday the number of hardwood logs being shipped on the cars. Can you say anything in regard to them? A.—That was a shipment we were making for a firm in New York. They were drill poles, to be sent to the continent of Europe, principally Germany or Austria. Those we sell to a New York firm.

Q.—Do you do much of an export trade in manufactured goods? A.—As much as we require for boring and drilling.

Q.—Those which are intended for drilling purposes, I suppose? A.—Our export business has been in a moderate way for the past ten years, and it has embraced most of the countries in the world. Considerable has gone from here to India, and we have sent considerable this last year to Australia and to Germany, Austria and Bulgaria. We made one shipment, probably two, to Bulgaria.

Q.—Do you know if there is any dissatisfaction here as regards the inspection of oil measures? A.—There has been a great deal of talk in regard to the measurement of oil here. The principal dissatisfaction has been in regard to the absence of a Government inspection of the measurement of waggon tanks. We could not get inspection done, because there is no authority to measure less than two or five gallons, and the inspection has been made by the tank companies. The question, I think, has been drawn to the attention of the Government, but I do not know to what extent.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Do you think it would be beneficial to the oil business if the Government would appoint an inspector to test the burning qualities of the oil as well as the measurement, too? A.—I do not know whether it would be well for the trade to be hampered any further by Government inspection than what it is hampered to day.

Q.—Do you think refined oil here compares favorably with American oil? A.—No; I do not think it is as good, but I think they are doing all they can.

Q.—So you do not think inspection would bring up the quality? A.—It might, but I think it would do more harm than good. The refiners are doing all they can, but the trouble is with the crude material. I was in the refining business a couple of years, ending last year, and I am of the opinion that we do not want any more Government interference along that line.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Is there any system by which the boilers in which the refining is done are inspected? A.—Yes; we try the effects of getting up steam in them. Accidents to steam boilers form a very low percentage here to the number of boilers used, and our experience is that we suffer with men who have not received what we consider practical experience in that line, except the experience they get here. We have very few accidents.

Q.—Speaking of engineers in charge: are they all skilled engineers? A.—They

would not be considered so. They are skilled, however; but they would not be considered so, in the ordinary sense of the term. We do not, however, want Government inspection of engines and boilers here; we are very positive about that. The question was put a year ago and that was the universal opinion, and I can say without hesitation, therefore, that we do not want any such inspection. Accidents, I repeat, are few here, and those that have occurred have not been in connection with boilers that we consider poor, but more frequently in connection with boilers that we considered good. If a boiler is very poor an explosion may blow a hole out, and do no damage either to property or life. The accidents that have happened here in twenty years could be counted on the fingers of one hand, and they have been more among the boilers in charge of engineers who would be considered well up in their business. We run four, five or six boilers all the time ourselves.

Q.—Are the men here generally paid by the week? A.—They are generally paid by the day. Our practice is to pay our men every Saturday night—to pay them whatever money they want. We do not make a habit of paying all the money that is coming. He is asked what he wants and he gets a check on the bank for that amount.

Q.—Are the men generally paid by check? A.—Speaking for myself, we always have made it a rule to pay by check on our bank. I have always set myself against the ordinary system.

Q.—You have never had any difficulty with your men here? A.—No.

Q.—About how many men do you employ on an average? A.—This last season, something over 100. Last Saturday night we had forty or fifty. The number has been reduced on account of the season.

Q.—Are workmen in the building business pretty generally employed all the year round? A.—Yes; we have men in our employ who have been twelve, thirteen, fourteen and fifteen years with us.

Q.—Do you consider a workingman in Petrolia is on an equal footing with his employer in regard to the sale of his labor: in other words, do you think a workingman is under any disadvantage in that regard? A.—No. Speaking personally, I can say that there is the very best feeling between the two classes here.

Q.—Do you know anything of the savings of workingmen in this neighborhood? A.—Some men are saving very nicely.

Q.—You think it is possible for them to do so? A.—Yes; they are getting houses of their own, and so on.

Q.—Has co-operation in the production and distribution of products ever been tried here? A.—Not that I am aware of.

Q.—Have you ever given the subject of distribution of profits any consideration? A.—No; it will be a difficult matter to manage here, for it would be difficult to say just where the profits are to be divided.

ROBERT E. MENZIS, Manager of the Producers' Oil Refining Company, Petrolia, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Will you kindly tell the Commission what rates of wages men earn in the refining business—take the average man? A.—We have a great many men employed as laborers who work for \$1.50 a day; our coopers get \$2 a day. We have other men receiving \$1.75 a day. I would strike the average rate at about \$2 a day or \$1.90.

Q.—Is that the prevailing rate throughout the refineries? A.—It is at the producers' refinery. There are, however, refiners who pay less wages than we do—a few refiners with a different class of labor.

Q.—Are those men employed throughout the whole year? A.—No.

Q.—What length of time are they employed? A.—I should say that two-thirds of the men work seven months in the year, not longer.

Q.—Have you ever made an estimate of what a man will earn in a year? A.—I never have. The movable portion of laborers is that of coopers. They know the season as it comes along and they come here and go to work, and they go away again; some go to Cleveland and the American oil fields.

Q.—They go to the American oil fields when the season is through here? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Does the season here last seven months continuously? A.—Yes; about that time.

Q.—What time of the year do you start work? A.—When we begin to make the oil we employ a certain class of labor, that is in May and June, depending on the circumstances. We manufacture oil at that time, but our shipping season, commencing in August, extends through September, October, November, December, January and February. It is falling off from November onwards, and by March business is flat again.

Q.—Can you tell us the class of men you require to run the engines here; tell us what class of engineers they are? A.—A great number of our engineers are local men, men who have come in here and have run an engine for a short time and get to know the steam gauge, and after they know that and the water gauge they are full-fledged engineers.

Q.—That is the class of men who receive \$1.50 a day? A.—Yes.

Q.—You would not consider them skilled engineers? A.—No; that is, many of them.

Q.—Do you think an engineer should have a knowledge of the construction of a boiler before he is placed in charge of one? A.—He should have a knowledge of the strength of iron, to some extent, the ability of a boiler to carry pressure, and the effect of heat on a boiler-plate.

Q.—I suppose you test your boilers here? A.—No; we never test our boilers.

Q.—Are they not inspected? A.—No; not to my knowledge, and I have owned a good many.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Who are the parties in Petrolia who do not wish any Government inspection of the boilers and engines? A.—I am not aware of any. They may be all against it, so far as I know, but I consider personally that it should be done; I consider it a necessity.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You believe that all boilers should be inspected. How frequently do you think this should be done? A.—Say, at least, once a year if in use.

Q.—How about the men in charge of the boilers: do you consider the present system a proper one? A.—I do not think so. I think a man intrusted with a boiler, especially when there are persons in the vicinity, should know something about the nature of a boiler and something of his charge.

Q.—Would you recommend any system of granting certificates to provide for the efficiency of engineers? A.—It would be very hard to get such a system adopted. In the case of steamboat engineers they are graded into different classes, and the third or fourth class would be quite good enough for here. Men holding steamboat certificates require to possess certain information in regard to boilers and certain special information in regard to steamboat boilers; you could do away with part of that and continue only such part as would apply to boilers and engines such as we have here.

Q.—All steamboat engineers, I suppose, carry certificates? A.—They all do.

Q.—Should stationary engineers be protected in the same way? A.—I think they could be.

Q.—Can you tell us some of the principal causes of accidents with boilers? A.—There are a great many different reasons why accidents occur. One reason, and about the first reason that may be given for accidents, is want of water. In many cases it is

not really want of water, but want of cleaning out the boilers, which become incrustated by lime from the water and salt which is in it here. These deposits form a crust which eventually breaks and allows the water to drop on the sheets, and they become overheated and the explosion of the boilers occurs. You, of course, weaken a boiler by over-heating it.

Q.—Are accidents to boilers frequent here? A.—Not so much so as they were years ago.

Q.—Are the men getting more careful as they are coming to have better knowledge? A.—There are not so many boilers running in proportion to the number of men, or the number of men of that class I have referred to. We had at one time a drilling rig, a boiler and engine at every well, whereas to day we have a boiler and engine for perhaps twenty-five wells.

Q.—I suppose the risk in proportion to the number of boilers is as great but you do not use as many boilers? A.—We have also more men who know more about the business than we had previously.

Q.—Is it possible for an inexperienced engineer to so strain a boiler with pressure as to weaken it, and thereby run the danger of causing an explosion? A.—It is possible for an engineer to over-strain a boiler.

Q.—Would it be more probable to occur with inexperienced men? For instance, if a boiler had 100 or 120 pounds pressure, would it injure the boiler? A.—Certainly, if a boiler was not built to stand that pressure. An ordinary boiler is made to stand a strain of about eighty pounds pressure, and if a pressure of 120 pounds is put on the boiler may stand it once or twice, but at some later time it may explode with a pressure of seventy-five or eighty pounds.

Q.—Would it be due to excessive expansion? A.—To the expansion and contraction of the iron.

Q.—Speaking of the business of an engineer: do you think it is possible to teach the ordinary principles of engineering in the public schools? A.—I think it is possible to teach a great many of them.

Q.—Would it benefit the children of mechanics if they were taught such principles? A.—I think it would. There are a few simple things, such as vacuum, expansion and contraction of iron, and the action of a pump, and rudimentary subjects of that kind, that would be a benefit to any one to know.

Q.—Do you think it is possible to introduce that instruction into the public school system without injuring our present educational facilities? A.—Just as easy to introduce it as it was to introduce the teaching on the syphon which was introduced long ago into the schools.

Q.—Have you ever had any labor troubles here? A.—Personally, I have been very fortunate in that direction; I have never had any trouble with the men.

Q.—Have you ever given the subject of arbitration in regard to trade disputes any thought? A.—Very little. Labor seems to be regulated by the laws of supply and demand; one man would be worth \$3.50 a day while another man is not worth more than 75 cents.

Q.—Would the establishment of a bureau of statistics for the whole Dominion be a benefit to the oil industry? A.—I believe it would be.

Q.—Have you any idea what benefit would accrue from the establishment of such a bureau? A.—I have never given the matter any study; this, indeed, is the first time I ever heard of it.

Q.—Such a bureau, of course, would give you information in regard to the various markets and the prices ruling. A.—Yes; I think it would be a benefit.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Who started the agitation as to the appointment of a Government inspector? A.—I have not any idea.

Q.—Was there not such an agitation started some time ago in Petrolia? A.—I have heard a little about it, but who the instigators were I do not know.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Would Government inspection of boilers be generally acceptable? A.—I think it would be. It would have the effect of displacing very few men at present employed, and it would also have the effect of compelling the employers of the men to furnish boilers that are not dangerous. Many times boilers are owned by parties who do not risk their own lives in connection with them, while the men whom they employ to run them must do so or lose a job, and even if a man loses a job it will be taken by some one more ignorant, and the risk will be continued.

Q.—Have you ever known instances of boilers exploding with eighty pounds of steam pressure after they had been strained? A.—Yes; for instance, a Slack boiler. On that boiler a pressure of from 120 to 125 pounds had been applied. I knew Mr. Slack very well, and he told me about the pressure that had been put on the boiler and how well it stood it, and how sound it was. I made the remark that a boiler might carry the pressure for a time very well, but that it might explode subsequently at a very much less pressure. He thought it would stand 120 pounds pressure for ever. Shortly afterwards the boiler exploded, and from the best evidence I could get the pressure on it at the time was not greater than eighty pounds, the explosion killing a boy and maiming another person for life.

Q.—Is there a general desire here to have the oil measured by Government inspection? A.—Yes; I have heard something about that, and there is quite a stir among producers in this regard, and I think they are right. They want a standard measure, whereby they can test the measure the tanking companies give them.

Q.—Have you no Government standard now? A.—We have what we call the imperial measure. How we got it I do not quite understand; I think there will be an effort made to get the standard here for the future.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Do you not use the Ontario Government standard? A.—I do not know. I know we find a difference in the measurement between the ordinary measure and the measure the tanking companies give for the tanks. They call the tanks in and measure them over to suit themselves. I do not say that their measure is wrong, but there is great dissatisfaction in regard to it.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—If the tank were measured by an inspector would it give confidence to the oil trade? A.—Yes; people would know that their tanks were measured and that they were all the same.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—I suppose they would be willing to pay for the inspection? A.—You could compel them to pay for the inspection of the tanks. They, in fact, pay for the inspection now, \$1 for each tank.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Speaking of the supply of labor here, is it always equal to the demand? A.—Skilled labor is sometimes a little hard to get here. We export about as much labor as any other place in the community. It is in the shape of skilled labor for drilling in foreign countries. Men from here have gone to Germany, Austria, Australia, India and all parts of the world.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Have they learned their business here? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Do they go there seeking work? A.—They are employed here and taken out there.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—I suppose unskilled labor coming in here would find much difficulty in

obtaining employment? A.—Yes; some difficulty; the same as if a man wanted a job in a carpentering shop—he would have to know something about the business.

Q.—Then immigration would not interfere with your business to any extent?

A.—Immigration interferes with labor in any business, because if an employer can hire a man for 75 cents a day he will make it his business to educate him.

Q.—How frequently do the companies pay their men—weekly or fortnightly?

A.—Some one; some the other.

Q.—Do many pay only monthly? A.—I could not say as to that; our method is to pay every two weeks.

Q.—Are your men paid in cash? A.—Vouchers, which are the same.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—What is your idea in regard to Government inspection of the burning quality of oil? A.—That is a question which has been discussed a great deal. We have a sort of standard for a burning test, and it is a very good one. I could not give you any more definite answer as to that.

Q.—Would not the adoption of such a test bring up standard quality? A.—It would be a good thing to show people buying the exact quality of oil they are getting.

Q.—There is ten times as much Canadian oil used in the Maritime Provinces as there formerly was, but there is a lack of confidence in regard to it. It is supposed that if there was a Government inspection of the burning test it would inspire confidence. What is your opinion on that question? A.—The oil exchange established a burning test, and we sent out with our bills of lading a certificate of inspection, and it had a good effect and continued for some little time; but without certificates a man who would sell the oil for 10 cents similar to that sold by a rival at 10½ cents, no matter what the quality is, has the advantage.

Q.—Has there ever been, to your knowledge, a very low grade of oil exported from Petrolia? A.—Yes.

Q.—Of course, such oils would not compare favorably with American oils? A.—Very low grades have been made; they are occasionally turned out now.

Q.—Does the consumer who obtains such oil think he is burning the best oil?

A.—He would very soon be able to find it out by burning it. He cannot, however, know it until he has used it.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is this bad oil used for any other purpose than burning? A.—No; I think not.

Q.—Then there must be a demand for this impure oil? A.—Its quality is not known until it has been tried.

Q.—It is sold? A.—Yes; but I will not say there is a demand for it.

Q.—You think those who buy it do not know the quality of it? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you think it is possible to bring the Canadian up to the standard of the American oil? A.—In some ways it is; in other ways it is not.

Q.—Do you think it can be so manufactured as to sell with a profit compared with American oil? A.—You have got me there. At the present time we can compete with the American oil, but it is with the protection we enjoy, which is not any too much. We could not possibly compete with American oil without the protection we have got.

Q.—You think American oil is a better oil than Canadian: is it purer? A.—It depends on what you consider better. The Canadian oil is a better oil in some respects; its capillary action is better. You can burn the lamp drier than you can with American oil and it will last longer, while, at the same time, if you desire a light for five or six hours, a brilliant, nice, white light, the very best American oil will beat our Canadian oil. But the ordinary grade of American oil is very much inferior to our present grades. The New York test, for instance, is for a very low grade of oil.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—If there was a Government burning test would it be possible to export that very low grade of oil to which you referred? A.—No.

Q.—Does the oil that the companies refine belong to themselves or to the producers; or can the producers have their oil refined by the refiners? A.—That has never been tried. No doubt, the producers could get the oil refined if they engaged a refiner to do it for them, but it has never been done.

Q.—It is a distinct branch of the business, I suppose? A.—It has never been done in that way.

Q.—What is the extent of this oil territory? A.—Seventeen or eighteen miles long. There is the Oil Springs territory; there are different territories, partially cut off from each other.

Q.—Would this oil territory be twenty miles long? A.—It depends altogether on what you call oil territory. There are showings of oil for a distance of over twenty-five miles in length.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—From the nearest to the furthest point, what is the distance covered by the territory? A.—If you include Comber, it will include sixty miles. It may be placed at fifteen miles by sixty; there are showings of oil through that district.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You have an oil exchange in Petrolia? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long has it been in existence here? A.—I think three years.

Q.—Do they deal in both crude and refined oil? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is their object? A.—To buy and sell oil.

Q.—Do they attempt to make a corner in oil? A.—Yes; sometimes they do, if there are plenty of bulls.

Q.—Does the producer receive more for his oil than he did when there was no oil exchange in existence? A.—He has received just as much, and just as little. I do not think the oil exchange has any effect upon the price of crude oil.

Q.—You think it has no effect on oil, one way or the other? A.—Very little.

Q.—What benefit does it do the refiner or the producer? A.—It is something like having a little game of poker.

Q.—Has the exchange a tendency to raise and lower the price of oil? A.—It depends altogether in whose hands the market is. If the majority of the men have agreed that the price of oil shall go up, and they are stronger than the parties opposed to them, it will go up for a time, but the price will gradually come down again.

Q.—To the best of your knowledge do you think that this exchange has endeavored or does endeavor to control the market? A.—They have endeavored to make the price. Their price has been recognized as the price of crude oil. It has been the price of crude and recognized as such. I believe, however, that more or as much oil changes hands off the exchange than changes hands on the exchange.

Q.—Still, the exchange has only been in existence three years. I suppose there has not been time to control the whole of the produce? A.—I cannot say; it is growing very rapidly.

Q.—You have spoken about your men being paid by vouchers. What do you mean by that; is a voucher received at the bank for its face value in cash? A.—Yes; it is a check.

Q.—Is there any discount on it? A.—No; no discount.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Since the establishment of the oil exchange, has the producer received less for his oil? A.—I would have to go back to dates for that information. I have sold my oil for less before there was an exchange than I have since there has been one. But at that time there was a great quantity thrown on the market at once. Supply

and demand control this business, to some extent, and want of confidence and lack of money has an effect on the price. If the Government can send us lots of money in here the price will undoubtedly go up.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Does the price in Petrolia govern the price throughout the Dominion?
A.—Yes.

BLAKE LANCEY, Dry-goods Merchant, Petrolia, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q.—Are you a member of the firm of Lancey & Company? A.—Yes.
Q.—Are you book-keeper in the firm? A.—No.
Q.—Can you tell us the price of boots, and such goods, in Petrolia? A.—No; I am not in the boot business; I have nothing to do with that department.
Q.—What department do you control? A.—Dry goods.
Q.—Is there any difference between the price of goods in Petrolia and Sarnia?
A.—I do not know; there may be some.
Q.—In which town is there an advantage, as regards the purchasing of dry-goods? A.—I do not know that there is any.
Q.—Are dry-goods ordinarily as cheap in Petrolia as in any other town in Ontario of the same size? A.—I think so.
Q.—Is your firm connected with any other industry besides dry-goods? A.—We have dry-goods, boots and shoes, groceries, hats and caps, and so on.
Q.—Do you invest capital in any other industry? A.—No.
Q.—Do you receive, in the course of trade, orders on your store? A.—In what way?
Q.—Store orders instead of cash? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Have you any arrangement with any person or corporation by which you pay their men in goods instead of the men being paid in cash? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q.—You do not receive orders from any other employer of labor in Petrolia in part payment of wages to men? A.—There are several ways of putting that, I should think.
Q.—Is there any truck system transacted in Petrolia to your knowledge? A.—We take farmers' produce in exchange.
Q.—Do the customers come to your establishment with orders, instead of cash, for the purchase of goods? A.—Sometimes.
Q.—It is not prevalent to any extent? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—I suppose some one may give a man an order, and if you are satisfied with regard to the liability of the man you let the individual have the goods? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q.—As a rule, are the men paid in cash for their work in Petrolia? A.—Yes; most of them are.
Q.—Are the orders you get an exception to the rule? When a man gets an order on a store, instead of pay, is it not an exception to the general rule with respect to pay? A.—No; I do not think that it is.
Q.—You think it is part of the system? A.—It is a general rule.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What is the general rule? A.—If a man sends an order to our store to give a man so many goods we give it to him.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—That is not what I meant. Is it a general rule to pay men partly in cash and partly in orders, or is it a general rule to pay in cash and the exception to give orders? A.—No firm, so far as I know, oblige their men to accept orders instead of cash. It is a matter of accommodation.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What is the salary generally paid by mercantile establishments here to clerks? A.—From \$5 to \$12 per week.

Q.—Without board, of course? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do females serve behind counters here to any extent? A.—Not to any extent. We have a female book-keeper and cashier.

ALEC. SIMPSON, Shoe-maker, Petrolia, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:

Q.—You have given some attention to labor matters, I understand? A.—I have done a little in that line.

Q.—Can you give us any information in regard to the best method of settling disputes between capital and labor? A.—The way I could approve of is arbitration.

Q.—Do you know if there is a general feeling among workmen in favor of that system? A.—I think if it were put to the vote the majority would vote for arbitration.

Q.—Would you make arbitration compulsory in all labor difficulties? A.—I would make it compulsory, as far as it was practical.

Q.—What effect have labor combinations, so far as your knowledge goes, on the condition of the working people? A.—They have had an effect for good, so far as I have seen the working of them—that is to say, if they are properly organized and carried out. The working classes want to be organized in order to understand their position towards capital.

Q.—Do these trade organizations afford facilities for discussing these questions? A.—They do.

Q.—Can you give us a comparison of the workmen to-day and workmen before organizations were effected to any extent? A.—I do not know that I could draw a very accurate comparison. I know that since labor organizations have started there has been more of labor discussion than has taken place during the previous ten years. The only resort labor had before these organizations were established was to strike. Organization tends to teach the workman not to strike.

Q.—Do you think labor organization of recent years has, in comparison with former years, benefited workmen morally? A.—I think they have benefited workmen, or, at least, the majority of them. There are some instances in which organization has not benefited them, because the men have been led by those who were not capable of leading them, by men who were too rabid on the question to take time to see where they were going to jump; in other words, they arrived at conclusions too quickly.

Q.—Are labor organizations, so far as your knowledge goes, antagonistic to the interests of employers? A.—No.

Q.—You think it is beneficial to employers if the workmen are well organized? A.—I do; a man will look to his own and his employer's interests also.

Q.—Do labor organizations educate their members to take an interest in their employers? A.—So far as regards any organization to which I have been attached, I may say that they have made that a special question, to look at their employers' interest.

Q.—Do you know anything about the lien laws in Ontario? A.—I am not very

well posted on that matter, not being employed in a branch of industry which uses lien laws.

Q.—Have you ever given the question of profit-sharing any study. A.—Yes; a little.

Q.—Do you think the principles of profit-sharing could be introduced with safety into business. A.—I think so.

Q.—If profit-sharing were introduced, what effect would it have on workingmen? A.—It would have a beneficial effect. It would make them more industrious and more careful, because their interest would be involved in the matter. Wherever it has been introduced it has been a success, so far as I know. I know several firms that give their employés an interest in the business.

Q.—Do you not think profit-sharing, if it were introduced generally, would, to a certain extent, do away with labor troubles? A.—It is my opinion it would. It would make the men more careful in the trade; they would have more at stake.

Q.—Are workingmen according to your knowledge, generally paid in cash here? A.—If you call a check cash, they are. It is quite a question whether a check is cash or not; it is not a legal tender.

Q.—I suppose the banks cash the checks? A.—Yes; but they cause a good deal of difficulty to business men and storekeepers to cash the checks on Saturday evening. They have to cash them or lose custom.

Q.—Does the truck system prevail here? A.—I do not know; reports are such, but as to facts I cannot say.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of co-operative societies? A.—I have never been attached to any co-operative institution. I have studied a little in regard to the matter.

Q.—Has it ever been introduced into Petrolia? A.—Not to my knowledge. It cannot be successfully carried out in Canada under the present laws, and there would have to be a change in legislation.

Q.—In what direction? A.—To make it legal.

Q.—Cannot a co-operative company be incorporated now? A.—As a joint stock company, but not on co-operative principles. They will give you a charter as a joint stock company.

Q.—Cannot you become incorporated as a limited liability company? I do not know.

Q.—Do you not think if a bureau of labor statistics was established by the Government it would be a benefit to the working classes? A.—I do.

Q.—In what way? A.—Workingmen would see at a glance the rates of wages, prices of living, and so on, at the different centres of trade, and a man would not have to travel all over the country if he wanted to benefit himself. They would see exactly what was doing in Hamilton, Toronto, Montreal or in any other part of the Dominion. I believe such a system would be a benefit to the working classes and to the masses at large.

Q.—From your knowledge of the working people in this district, do you think they would generally favor such a bureau? A.—So far as I know, I think they would.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Did you ever work in a boot and shoe factory? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there a great deal of machinery employed in such a factory? A.—There is.

Q.—Do you think that a boy going to work at the shoe trade in a factory can learn the business properly, so as to be able to start for himself without machinery? A.—No; he cannot.

Q.—Does he go round from one branch to another until he has learned the whole business through? A.—No; unless he is favored. He would have to be the son of the boss or the manager to get that privilege.

Q.—He is kept at one particular branch? A.—Yes; at that branch where his labor is most profitable to his employer.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Is that in the United States or Canada? A.—In both countries.

Q.—Have you worked at a factory in Canada? A.—I have worked in two or three factories in Canada.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Did you work at the factory in London? A.—I was eight years in the factory there.

Q.—How many departments are there in the making of a top boot in a factory? A.—Five.

Q.—And a boy does not exchange from one department to another so as become acquainted with the departments? A.—No.

Q.—What are the wages of a journeyman shoemaker in Petrolia? A.—That varies, according to the class of work he does.

Q.—I mean custom work? A.—It varies from \$1.75 to \$2 and \$2.50 a pair.

Q.—That is by piece-work? A.—Yes; that is the way we work.

Q.—How many pair would a passably good workman make in a week? A.—That is a question.

Q.—How many pair of hand-sewed boots you call a fair week's work? A.—Four pair; but a man does not get them to do.

Q.—Did you ever work in the United States? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the comparison between the position of a shoemaker in the United States and Canada? A.—The comparison made now would not correspond, because I worked there at the time of the war.

Q.—Do you know anything about tenement houses in Petrolia? What would a mechanic pay for a respectable house, say of six rooms, in a convenient locality—a house fit to live in? A.—About \$10 a month.

Q.—Do you know any companies in Petrolia which construct houses for their employes? A.—No; there may be some, but I do not know them.

Q.—How long is it since you worked in London? A.—A little over three years.

Q.—Are wages higher in London in your branch of business than in Petrolia? A.—They are about the same.

Q.—Is house rent higher or lower here? A.—House rent is cheaper in London than here.

Q.—How are the necessaries of life, as regards price? A.—They are cheaper in London.

Q.—To the best of your knowledge, does the purchasing power of a dollar go as far as it did five years ago? A.—I do not think so.

Q.—Have the wages in your line of business increased during those years? A.—Not during the last ten years.

Q.—Has house rent on the whole, increased or decreased? A.—I think it is about the same in London.

Q.—I mean in Petrolia? A.—My experience in Petrolia is confined to three years; it has been the same during that time.

Q.—Is the value of building lots increasing, to your knowledge? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know anything about public schools? A.—I have a boy going there twelve years old.

Q.—Is the school accommodation in Petrolia sufficient? A.—They are doing very well in that line.

Q.—Are they keeping up with the population? A.—I think so; at all events they are making arrangements to do so. I have nothing to say as regards the school question.

Q.—How do the people here obtain their drinking water? A.—It is taken around to them, to those who have no wells. It is taken around every morning and delivered at the houses.

Q.—Is it taken around gratis? A.—No.

Q.—Who pays for it—the corporation? A.—No; you pay for what you consume at the rate of 1 cent a pail.

Q.—Where does the water come from? A.—From a well on the flats, and another one at a different place, and another one on the twelfth line.

Q.—Are there good water wells in Petrolia? A.—There are some.

Q.—Why are there not sufficient of them to furnish a sufficient supply, instead of the water having to be carried around to the houses? A.—Because the gas from the oil wells affects the water; it makes water salt. There are salt deposits here besides oil deposits.

Q.—Are good water wells scarce on that account? A.—Yes.

JAMES KERR, Secretary of the Petrolia Oil Exchange, Petrolia, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Are you engaged in the manufacture of oil? A.—Very indirectly.

Q.—Can you tell us if the present system of testing oil is satisfactory? A.—I do not understand your question.

Q.—Do you think the present system of testing oil is a guarantee to the consumer? A.—Do you mean the Government system?

Q.—Have you a Government system of inspection? A.—Yes; there is one in Canada.

Q.—For safety? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think that is satisfactory? A.—Yes; it is, so far as it goes.

Q.—Is it a fact that at different times an inferior class of oil is shipped to the market? A.—There can be no doubt about that. There are various qualities of oil that go into the market, and some are inferior.

Q.—Would that inferior grade of oil have the mark of the inspector on it? A.—Yes.

Q.—The same mark? A.—Yes; the official inspection of oil in Canada has no reference to the quality of the oil as such; it only has reference—that is, within certain bounds—to the safety.

Q.—It has only reference to the fire test? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then, under the Government inspection there is no guarantee to the consumer of the quality of the oil? A.—No.

Q.—Do you think it advisable that such a guarantee should be given? A.—Yes.

Q.—Would it be in the interests of the refiners to have such a guarantee? A.—I think it would be in the interests of the whole of Canada, the producer of the raw product, the manufacturer and the consumer. There can be no doubt whatever about it.

Q.—If you had such a standard fixed by the Government would it not give you a much larger market for the oil? A.—It would increase the market about 50 per cent.

Q.—Have any overtures ever been made to the Government for an inspection of that kind? A.—Yes; it was suggested a year ago.

Q.—By the refiners? A.—No; not as such particularly. There was a deputation appointed by the Refiners' Oil Company and the Petrolia Oil Exchange last year. It was sent to Ottawa to wait on the Government in that regard. Members of the deputation did so, and represented to the Department of Inland Revenue some of the points in connection with the matter. Mr. Costigan and Mr. Miall were seen.

Q.—Generally speaking, do members of the oil exchange favor a standard of that class? A.—Yes; so much so that they have adopted rules of their own in that regard to inspection, providing a mode of inspection, and they have exerted themselves to a considerable extent to have them generally adopted. It was adopted and put in force for about a year and a half, but through changes in the trade it ceased to be followed. The authority of the exchange is not sufficient to enforce the rules connected with the system to which I have referred.

Q.—That was not a guarantee, I suppose? A.—It would be a guarantee if adopted. In fact, so far as adopted by manufacturers it was a guarantee. A certi-

ificate of the oil exchange inspection would be a guarantee, so far as it goes. There was another difficulty in connection with the matter. The Dominion statute in regard to the inspection prohibited the placing of any other mark except the Government stamp on the end of the barrel, and, of course, we were debarred from placing our stamp there, and it was rather inconvenient to place the stamp in any other part. So we adopted a system of certificates rather than that of stamping the barrels.

Q.—Since the adoption of the system of certificates has the demand for your oil increased? A.—I rather think so. I think I would be safe in saying this: that during the last two or three years the demand for Canadian oil has improved, especially during the last two years. Of course, there are other reasons for that as well; it does not depend wholly on the certificates; it depends on the improvements in refining as well.

Q.—You mean improvements in the manufacture? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Has the oil exchange in Petrolia anything to do with American coal oil? A.—No; we are completely cut off from it.

Q.—Is there only the one exchange here? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does the coal oil exchange have a tendency to control the prices of foreign oil? A.—No.

Q.—Does it control the price of the outside oil—that is, American oil? A.—No.

Q.—Does it control, commercially speaking, the price of Petrolia oil? A.—It depends on how you look at it. The oil exchange is simply a market place where people who wish to buy or wish to sell, if they have the *entré*, go, every day if they choose, either for themselves or for people who are not members of the exchange. It is simply a public market. That is all the Petrolia exchange is, barring this: they have a board of management which, from time to time, makes rules for the management and sales, and settling of them, and generally in regard to other matters of a like character.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—I suppose, just as corn exchanges have in some cities? A.—I presume so. It is simply a public market, not a general stock company to control anything, and it cannot control anything as an exchange, and it does not.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Can any one buy or sell oil there except members? A.—Any one can through a member.

Q.—We all know that on stock and gold exchanges there are bulls and bears; I presume it might be the same with the oil exchange here. A.—It may be so; we do not make them.

Q.—Do they sometimes attempt to corner oil? A.—That I have never heard.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—As an exchange, you have nothing to do with that? A.—Not as an exchange.

Q.—Individual members may, of course? A.—Certainly.

Q.—But not the exchange, as such? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What benefit accrues to the producers of oil from the exchange? A.—There is this that accrues: there is a market every day where his oil can be sold for cash, and every day he knows the ruling price, without going around and making enquiries of various purchasers or other parties.

Q.—Are there many producers members of the oil exchange? A.—Not many, when you consider there are only thirty members connected with the exchange, and perhaps there may be one hundred or two hundred producers altogether round here.

Q.—How are the members admitted to the exchange? A.—They are admitted by paying a fee of \$10, handing in their names and being admitted.

Q.—Are they accepted by ballot? A.—Yes; by ballot.

Q.—Is it by the wish of the majority of the producers of oil in Petrolia that this oil exchange is in existence? A.—I could not tell you; that is outside of my knowledge. It would not surprise me to know that it was the fact.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Does the exchange place an embargo on people who do not belong to it, so far as doing business with it is concerned? A.—I do not know why it should.

Q.—Does it not interfere with trade by other people? A.—I do not know why.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG —

Q.—Before the exchange was in existence were the producers and refiners hampered by want of a market? A.—Sometimes they were. Immediately before the establishment of the Petrolia Oil Exchange they were very much hampered, very much indeed. The price of crude was down to 60 cents. A public meeting of the producers and others was called to consider the situation, and a resolution was passed providing for the establishment of an exchange, and the exchange was thus the result of a public meeting.

Q.—At any time previous to the formation of this exchange, say during the last four years, was more oil produced then than now, taking one year as an example? A.—I could not say from my own knowledge, but I think, probably, three or four years ago there was more oil produced than there is to-day. Probably about 1881 and 1882 there was the largest product—in fact, it was immense in those years.

Q.—More was produced then than there is to-day? A.—Yes; perhaps double.

Q.—In 1882 there was no oil exchange? A.—In 1882 we started the oil exchange, in the autumn.

Q.—There was no exchange in existence until within the last three years, that is, practically? A.—Practically, no.

Q.—And you say that at that time more oil was produced than is produced now? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it not a natural conclusion to arrive at that there must have been a large surplus of oil produced and stored? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know what became of that oil? A.—Yes; I have a very good idea.

Q.—Was it shipped away? A.—I think so; a great part of it was. Part of it was exported to parts of the United States for fuel. I think part of it went to Chicago, and was used in connection with their waterworks for fuel. We subscribed a certain sum and sent it out of the country.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—That was trying to slaughter the American market? A.—No; they were not using crude oil in the United States at the time, but they took a fancy that they could use our Canadian crude oil for that purpose, and I think they did so to the extent of 30,000 or 40,000 barrels, if my recollection is correct. This was before the Ohio field was struck.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Is there not, to-day, over-production in oil? A.—No.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Will you give us some information in regard to the flash and burning test of oil and the discoloration of oil? A.—With regard to the flash test: I am strongly of the opinion that the Government requirement in this country for flash test is too high—that it is much higher than it needs to be. The requirement of the State of New York, of England, and, I think, of the major part of the continent of Europe, is about 73 degrees by our method of testing. Some of the Eastern States, if I am correct—New Jersey and others, I think—have a test as low as 63 degrees. Some

of the States further west run as high as 80 and a fraction; some further west run higher for particular reasons. Our test is 95. Our oil is of that character that in order to be equally safe with the American test it does not require as high a flash; perhaps 10 or 15 degrees less would make it equally safe with the American oil. Some years ago—in 1879, I think, or subsequently—the Government of Canada placed a requirement of gravity on oil, to prevent our refineries from making our oil too heavy—that is, from taking too much out of the crude. The reason at that time why we asked the Government to do that was, among other reasons, to prevent quantities of paraffine wax from being distributed into the burning oil. We asked the Government at that time (1879) to lower our flash test in comparison with American oil or the flash required on imported oil; and in order to justify us in asking this we requested the Government to insert the gravity clause. As I said before, the reason we did that was to prevent paraffine wax being run into our burning oil. In the American oil there is a great deal of paraffine wax distributed over such as are of light gravity; but such is not the case with our oil. Take an oil of 8 degrees or of 5 degrees in this country: we can make it perfectly free from paraffine wax, so that if it is exposed at a temperature above zero of 20 degrees, or 20 degrees below zero, our oil would not show that paraffine wax floating in it. An ordinary American oil will show paraffine in it in considerable quantities at 20 degrees above zero, and at zero, or below zero, it will show it immensely. That is the key-note of the different characteristics, as between American and Canadian oil, that necessitate the requirement of a higher flash test on American oil than on Canadian oil. Experience has proved in the western States—for example, in Minnesota and several others of those States—that an oil of a low flash test, equal to that which obtains in the Eastern States, is not suitable for their climate, where they have exceedingly low temperatures long continued. You will draw off a light oil by itself, and perhaps an oil of an average 95 degrees flash will show, when separated, light oil not more than 90 degrees. In the spring, when the oil completely thaws out, you will get paraffine wax and heavy oil. That is always dangerous if the flash is high, because it does not travel up the wick of the lamp. The oil should keep the wick saturated; it should keep the burner clean and prevent the lamp from heating. When the lamp-wick is well supplied with oil and burning is going on freely the lamp does not become heated to anything like the same extent it does when the lamp is not properly supplied. There is not that evaporation going on which corresponds with the cooling process. I refer you to the report of Henry A. Castle, Oil Inspector for the State of Minnesota, in proof of these statements. I sent a communication to the Minister of Inland Revenue last winter, and if you think it of any advantage I will give you a copy of it, for perhaps it is too long to read. It contains a statement of what I suggested the Government should do in respect of further legislation.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Tell us what you require in the shape of Government protection or legislation for the benefit of the oil industry. A.—In the first place, the Government should lower the flash on Canadian oil to about 85 degrees, and amend the law in that particular. In the second place, I think they should embody in the Oil Inspection Act a clause similar to the clause contained in the Gas Inspection Act, 36 Victoria, chapter 48, section 28; and we should have a clause similar to this: That after the coming into force of the provisions of this Act any person who sells oil shall exhibit no excess of sulphur when tested in accordance with the rule provided in that behalf, unless such seller has expressly undertaken to furnish oil of some other quality than as prescribed. My reason for desiring a change of the law is this: that the chief difficulty in connection with our business to-day is the fact that our oils contain a great amount of sulphur. I find that a considerable quantity of our oil going through the country contains at least 120 grains of sulphur to the gallon. That is injurious; it is certainly noisome to the people who use it. Our oil can be made as free from sulphur as the American oil, and our oil when it is purified is a better oil than any American oil that comes into this country. The

difficulty, generally, of supplying that quality of oil to the people of Canada consists in the difficulty that the dealer or consumer finds in recognizing the quality of the oil when he sees it. He cannot tell whether the oil is comparatively pure or not until he has burned it, and unless we have an enactment to properly compel the manufacturer to purify his oil it is going to be a difficult matter to have improved systems introduced. I suggest that the Government simply embody in the Inspection Act a clause similar to this clause I have quoted. We have a precedent laid down here; the Government inspector in the various towns will be the judge in case of dispute, and I think it would be a practical remedy for all the evils we suffer from here.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—You think it would protect the producer and consumer? A.—Yes; and it would protect one refiner against another.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—How many barrels a day are produced in Petrolia? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Have you any idea? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is your idea? A.—About 45,000 or 46,000 barrels a month, including the whole region, but I have no means of making an exact calculation.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you think it would be a benefit to the producers of oil and the refiners if a higher duty were placed on American oil? A.—I think not.

Q.—Please state your reason for holding that opinion? A.—I think such a change would probably drive us into carelessness in our business to such an extent that instead of improving our business we would kill it. I think our duty is high enough.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you find the demand for higher grades of oil increasing, even of the highest grades? A.—I rather think so, but I have no direct knowledge of that, not being in a refinery.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—In the Maritime Provinces we find, or we think we find, Canadian oil smells more and discolors the lamp-glass more than the American oil? A.—It does the same here, and the suggestion I have made would, I think, remedy that. If oil containing those foreign matters was either prohibited from being sent out, or it was assumed that when a sale of oil was made it was free from those matters, then, in case of a dispute with the dealer and seller in regard to the oil, all that would be necessary would be to go to the gas inspector and have that oil condemned, and it would be thrown back on the hands of the seller. I presume that this would impel him to pay attention to the business and ship pure oil in future. In Nova Scotia a dealer can get pure oil if he wants it, and is willing to pay for it what it is worth. I fancy it might cost him a fraction of a cent more than it does to get the worst oil. I am safe in saying that it would not cost more than a fraction of a cent per gallon extra; but, unfortunately, dealers do not know how to do this thing, and, so far as my opinion goes, they are prepared to take any kind of stuff that is offered to them if there is a difference of a fraction of a cent in the price.

Q.—What can that oil you speak of be bought for here by the car load? A.—You can get oil here that would be satisfactory to the people of the Maritime Provinces, and which is equal to the oil they obtain from the United States, for about 10½ cents a gallon. I think there would be no difficulty in making contracts here to-day at 10½ cents for an oil which is as good an oil as the oils which the people of the Maritime Provinces burned twelve months ago.

Q.—We have had lots of American oil sent back? A.—Yes; some of the American oil that goes down there is extremely poor stuff.

Q.—I am of the opinion that American oil is generally sold down there at 23 cents per gallon by the barrel. A.—Yes.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—There must be a great difference between the manufacturer's price of the oil and the cost to the consumer. How is that? A.—Of course, I cannot tell you what that is. I do not know what the consumer pays.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—The consumer pays 20 cents a gallon in Toronto? A.—I suppose there is perhaps some reason for that. I suppose the parties who retail it like to have a pretty good profit.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—What does it cost to transport a barrel of oil from here to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia? A.—I do not know; I understand it will cost about 3 cents a gallon.

JOHN FRASER, Real Estate Agent, Petrolia, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Will you tell the Commission, please, if the workingmen of Petrolia and this neighborhood can save much money, or do save much money, from their earnings, according to your knowledge of them? A.—I really have not got any data on which to express an opinion. From my knowledge of the people here I think the wages are fairly good, but the expenses of living here are tolerably high. I hear working people frequently complain of the high cost of living here; rents, for instance, are pretty high, and taking the cost of living generally it is a fraction higher here than in the average Canadian town.

Q.—Do the men not get constant employment here? A.—Yes; I am inclined to think they do. I think there is a very small percentage of the people who are out of employment; as a rule, the working people here are pretty constantly employed.

Q.—Have you any idea of the proportion who own their own dwellings—that is to say, who own them or are paying for them? A.—It would be a mere guess on my part to express any opinion in regard to that matter. I think you could get that information more correctly, probably, from the assessment roll than from any other source. If I referred to the assessment roll and went through the names I could come at it with tolerable accuracy.

Q.—I suppose a good many of the working people do own the dwellings in which they live? A.—A good many here own their premises; there are quite a number within my knowledge who own their premises, which they have purchased on easy terms of payment. They have purchased them by monthly instalments, interest, or in some other way.

Q.—Do you think the people here, generally speaking, are prosperous? A.—Yes; I am happy to state that the people here are in a tolerably prosperous condition.

Q.—Can you give the Commission any information on the subject of profit-sharing in business? A.—I do not know that the system has been introduced here at all; I am not aware that the system is in operation in connection with any manufacturing establishment here.

Q.—As a business man, do you think the establishment of a bureau of labor statistics would be a benefit to the working people of the Dominion? A.—Yes; I have no hesitation in saying that I believe it would be a benefit.

Q.—Will you mention some of the benefits which you think would accrue from the establishment of such a system? A.—Of course, speaking in a general way, it would insure, I think, accuracy of information in all question vital to the working people; and, of course, accurate information cannot be got in any other way than through some official source of that kind. The other classes, the manufacturing

classes, the capitalists and the employers of labor, have, through Government regulations, or through themselves, furnished themselves with accurate information of that kind, while the working people are devoid of anything of the sort. If the working people were so organized that they could secure that information for themselves it would, perhaps, be quite as efficient as if it were secured through the Government; but in a business of that kind I think it would be a benefit to the working people to have a bureau of labor statistics established.

Q.—Do you think it would be a benefit to the merchants and manufacturers in giving the ruling price prevailing in the various markets, prices of manufactured goods and prices of labor? A.—To have that published?

Q.—Yes? A.—Yes; I think so.

Q.—Of course, a bureau of statistics would be intended to include all these points?

A.—Yes; I think that would be highly beneficial to employer and employed combined. One thing I think it would do, and that is to remove misunderstandings between employers of labor and employed, and do away with a good deal of friction, perhaps. A great many troubles in this world arise from insufficient information on points of interest.

Q.—Have you any information in regard to the lien laws and in regard to the garnisheeing of wages? A.—No; I have no personal experience of anything of that kind.

Q.—Have you any special information of interest, in your judgment, which you could furnish to the Commission? A.—Nothing occurs to my mind at present.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Suppose a man desired to build a house, what interest would you ask him on a thousand dollar loan? A.—The rate my company charges on loans in the town just now is 8 per cent.; but our company was organized to do business with farmers exclusively. It is only recently that we have begun to make loans in town. Our capital is restricted, compared with the large loan companies, and recently we have not had so much money at our disposal as we would wish in order to accommodate town borrowers as well as farmers.

Q.—At what rate of interest is your company prepared to lend money to farmers on good security? A.—Our present rate is 7 per cent. We have a large amount of money out as loans at 6 and 6½ per cent., money that we loaned last year. Our present rate is 7 per cent. Money is somewhat higher than it was six months ago.

Q.—You deal principally with farmers? A.—Yes; I think 90 per cent. of our business is on farm security.

Q.—Do you do any business in the town? A.—Yes; a small percentage.

Q.—Do you rent any houses in the absence of owners, acting as agents for the individual or company? A.—No; but I have done it individually.

Q.—Do companies purchase vacant lots here and hold them for a raise in value? A.—No; we have never done it.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Your company buys, I suppose, only when it is necessary? A.—Yes; our company was organized only in 1882, and it has never done that yet.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you not think that when a man buys a lot in the town, and builds on that lot and improves it, he should pay more taxes on it than a person who holds a vacant lot for speculative purposes, and one which does no possible good? A.—No; on the contrary, my opinion is to make it easier for them, if possible. I do not like the system of encouraging the holding of land for speculative purposes.

Q.—I believe that opinion is not generally indulged in by real estate agents? A.—It is probable; I am an agent, but an owner.

Q.—Do you think in that case it is handicapping individuals in the minor industry? A.—The policy of our company is entirely in the direction of improving the lands.

CHARLES JENKINS, Oil Producer, Petrolia, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Will you tell the Commission any disadvantages that oil producers are laboring under here—the disabilities that you would like to have removed by legislation? A.—I do not know of any specific object that could be effected by legislation at present, except in one direction: I think the test imposed on the oil is unnecessarily high and takes away from the good burning quality of the manufactured article.

Q.—If the test were modified would it advance the interests of the consumer? A.—No; I think that as the knowledge as to how to test oil has come to be so well understood there would be no danger whatever in that direction.

Q.—If a Government inspection were generally adopted would it guarantee the security of consumers? A.—The Government inspection is generally adopted. It is generally adopted at the point now called 95 flash test; that might be reduced to 90, possibly to 85; the exact point to which it could be reduced with safety could be left to experience. I would have no hesitation in making the flash test at 90.

Q.—Is it possible, under the present system of inspection, for an inferior grade of oil to be placed on the market? A.—It is possible under the present system of manufacture. It is necessitated by this system of inspection, by which the full burning value of our oil does not get brought out.

Q.—An inferior article might be substituted for a superior article under the present system? A.—According to the way we have in regard to our manufacture just now, the full elementary value of our oil is not available.

Q.—Does all the oil that is shipped come up to the Government standard? A.—Yes; it is supposed to do so. Some mistake may occasionally occur, but I think, as a rule, it is all up to the Government standard.

Q.—How, then, do you account for the difference in the quality of the oil? A.—So far as I know, there is no place in the world where a proper test of a burning oil is made—that is, a test as to how it burns; they take the color, the gravity or the smell, anything except as to how it goes up the wick. I have not seen it formulated anywhere except here, and we have not been able to introduce it into our practice; but that it must come to it some day or other is very palpable to me—that is, the test as regards its burning quality.

Q.—Would such a test as regards the safety of the oil make it safe as regards the question of explosion? A.—Not alone. Of course, there would require to be another test; the oil may be in a perfectly safe condition for use, and it must be remembered that while such may be the case it may, at the same time, have a bad capillary action, and I may say that the capillary action of the oil is a matter that must be recognized in the future in the oil business more than it has been in the past.

Q.—Has the demand for the finer grades of oil increased? A.—It is increasing very much, and that is the reason why this particular relaxation would be to our interest. It would enable us to supply a larger portion of the market than we do at present. We do not supply more than two-thirds of the Canadian market.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is the test used fixed by Act of Parliament? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then, it would require an Act of Parliament to change it? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think you supply two thirds of the whole demand now? A.—That is the case, so far as we can get at the figures. There is one disadvantage under which we labor, but I do not see how any legal act could affect it, that is, the competition we meet from the American oil. You know the very long front here, and the geographical position of Canada, by which the American refiner is able very easily to send in oil to this country. The oil business in the United States is virtually one gigantic monopoly. One of the privileges of that corporation is low railway rates; they are able to handle the whole oil product of the country, and they give certain

dealers here the power of handling their products, guaranteeing them a particular profit. So when the Canadian refiner goes to try to push his goods he will find the dealer say: "I have a 3 cents guarantee on American oil, and I make 1½ per cent. on your oil, and it does not pay me to handle yours."

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. How is the question of freight rates, which you have mentioned affected by the Interstate Railway law? A.—I think there were no preferential rates. They are fighting that question all the time; but taking all the manufacturers in Buffalo and Cleveland, there is not much inter-state trouble. The effect is that this oil monopoly on the other side has very great power over every railway system—I refer to the Standard Oil Company; and it is a most serious thing, so far as we are concerned.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are you laboring under any disadvantage here in regard to railway freights?
A.—In the past we have been; I do not know exactly the state of matters to-day.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You have competition, at all events? A.—We have competition. There may be some errors in regard to rates at present, but I have not a direct knowledge of the subject to speak with authority on it.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you think that if a higher grade of oil were manufactured you could compete with American oil coming into this country? A.—If a high grade were allowed to be made by relaxation of the law it would increase the amount of high class oil we would take out of our crude oil, and it would enable us to go further with it, and by that means it would be obviously beneficial to the whole business. The producer will be naturally inclined to think that anything that is going to increase, even by a trifle, would be against his interest, but under the circumstances to-day it would be the very best thing that could occur, considering the large amount of American oil imported.

Q.—Is there much crude oil used for fuel outside Petrolia? A.—Not much crude oil used for fuel anywhere; but the demand for the products of Petrolia as fuel is increasing. It does not pay us to use crude oil as fuel; we want to take the burning oil out to supply the country.

Q.—And the refuse? A.—We waste the refuse, although it is a very valuable product. It is the heavy qualities that are generally used for fuel.

Q.—Does it come into much use? A.—The business is increasing all the time, and the adoption of it is likewise increasing. We have used it for twenty years around here.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Is all the fuel used in the liquid state? A.—Yes; it is got into a proper state of fineness of particles by the forcible union of it by steam, and when this is done it is divided into very fine particles, so that no smoke is produced. There is room, in that respect, for further improvement, but, at the same time, at present it does pretty well.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you make lubricating oils also? A.—We do nothing in that direction. I have no particular experience in that way to speak of, at least in regard to some points of it.

Q.—Are there any such oils made here? A.—A great deal. The lubricating oil business is sub-divided. There is what we call black oils, being oils made without any special preparation, and I have had a good deal to do in connection with the making of such. Then there is the distilled oil, which is mixed with other animal and vegetable oils, and is manufactured according to requirements. That becomes, of course, a special business of its own.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you any difficulties arising between the producers and the refiners with respect to the measurement of the tanks—I mean, any misunderstanding? A.—I do not know that there has been any misunderstanding about that point.

Q.—Is there no misunderstanding existing? A.—The producer, as a rule, gets a vessel in which to deliver his oil; that vessel is of all sizes, ranging from four barrels to ten; it is made of material that shrinks, pine wood. In the business of using that tank-waggon he will take fluids of various degrees of temperature, sometimes, from the refiners, it having a temperature of from 200 to 300 degrees. He will next use the tank for carrying oil at 60 or 70 degrees, and the consequence is that the vessel that will measure nine barrels to day will, in two months, not hold that quantity. The vessel shrinks, and there is a perpetual change going on. Of course, if the producer would go to the trouble and expense of having a proper tank made, capable of holding an exact quantity, there would not be any difference of opinion in regard to the matter of measurement; but at the present time such measurement requires to be very frequently revised.

Q.—You are talking now in regard to the measurement of crude oil? A.—Yes.

Q.—After the oil is refined how is it measured? Is it measured by a Government standard measure? A.—The oil that leaves here in barrels is weighed, and the specific gravity of it is taken, and a Government officer converts the weight into the number of gallons divided by the specific gravity; so that in regard to all the oil that leaves here the quantity in gallons is arrived at by weight—that is all that leaves in barrels. A good deal leaves in bulk, and those cars have been measured usually by some one, and if the receiver of the oil at the other end is content to take the measurement of the cars no one else has anything to say. It is for the merchant in Toronto, who receives the tank-cars of oil, say 100 barrels, to see that he gets 3,500 gallons, and not 3,400 gallons.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Do the refining companies own those portable cars that haul the oil? A.—No; they are owned by producers, or by teamsters generally.

Q.—They are called in and the measurement revised by the refining companies? A.—As a rule, some one has measured them, and put a brand on them; people will not take the oil unless they are branded. There are one or two places here that have specially laid themselves out for this, and they are compelled to do it, because they are constantly handling the stuff. Often these tanks have not been revised for some time. This revision is necessary, and if you were checking the exact measurement to day, the average would be one gallon or two gallons in favor of the producer. That is, taking the entire average tanks. There are individual exceptions, of course, that will arise.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—These tanks are supposed to hold certain quantities, I suppose? A.—They are supposed to hold whatever is marked on them as being their measurement; one tank may be nine barrels, another eight barrels and thirty-three gallons, another seven barrels and twenty-four gallons.

Q.—Are the measurements stamped on these tanks? A.—Yes; at the time they are measured.

Q.—Who stamps those tanks? Is it by Government authority? A.—No; it is not by Government authority.

Q.—By whose authority is it? A.—The measurements have been put there by some of the people who have measured them in order to be a guide to themselves in receiving oil.

Q.—What guarantee is this to the public or to the producer that this is a correct measurement? A.—The guarantee is that he can name and check the thing at any time; it is thrown open to him.

Q.—Would it not be right to have an Excise officer appointed to measure, just as

is now done in the Weights and Measures Department? A.—I do not think that an Excise officer's certificate would be good for one week. I would like very much to see a central authority to do this business in some way or other, because it is one of those little trade snarls that are constantly going on, although, upon the whole, I think that substantially justice is done all around.

Q.—Do you think that in this way correct measurements would be secured?
A.—I think it might be done if such a system were carried out, but when you take pine tanks and use them in all kinds of ways and in all sorts of weather they will not remain the same size.

Q.—But, so far as measurement is concerned, could that not be obviated by having the tanks manufactured of metal? A.—That could be done. If you got the vessels made according to a fixed pattern and the capacity was fixed by the proper officers when the vessel was used that quantity would continue to be the measurement till it was worn out.

Q.—Even in the absence of a metal vessel, could not a gauger supervise the measurement, and thus have it placed under Government control? A.—Yes; but it would require to be done somewhat frequently.

Q.—You think, then, this could be done, even with wooden vessels? A.—Yes; provided the measurement was done somewhat frequently and the vessels were taken to be measured. I have known tanks not measured for ten years.

Q.—The gauger would take the measurement and allow for the shrinkage in the wooden tanks? A.—That could be done if they were frequently re-measured and re-marked.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—I understand you to say that these tanks are owned by people who make a living at the business? A.—They are owned by teamsters, and by producers, and sometimes by refiners.

Q.—Have you any idea as to what the difference in cost would be between a wooden and an iron tank for that purpose? A.—I have an idea, for I have paid for them both. The cost of a metal tank would be about twice that of a wooden one.

Q.—Do you think that if a standard were laid down for these vessels, and they were required to be constructed of iron, so as to insure a stated capacity, it would have the effect of driving the poorer men out of the business? A.—I do not think it.

Q.—Would such a man be able to purchase an iron tank? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—What would be the cost of an iron tank and a wooden tank? A.—The cost is about \$25 for a wooden tank and for an iron tank about \$50. Wood is used because it is the most handy thing, because wooden tanks have been used for a long time, and it is only of late the necessity of having some better system has been felt. On the whole, I think the producers have the advantage.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Could you inform us what processes you go through to measure those tanks?
A.—We have an approved five-gallon measure stamped by the Government, and we have other vessels of measurement, of course. That vessel is filled with water, and it is scaled off with every five gallons. We fill the vessel that is to be measured in that way, and we again test it by drawing it off in the five-gallon measure. We thus apply two tests. It is possible that a mistake may occur, but in regard to the re-checking of measurements we have not yet found any difference, although people interested have gone over them. We tell the people: "You can check the measure whenever you like." I have asked the trade over and over again to go in for some standard for general measurement in these vessels, but we have not been able to get to that point.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Then you would favor a standard measurement? A.—Yes; I do not think there is any actual grievance—it is more a sentiment than an actual grievance—but, at the same time, a remedy would save friction.

JAMES PERKINS, Collector of Taxes, Petrolia, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you looked over the assessment roll in order to find the number of proprietors and tenants in the town? A.—I have taken the first three hundred names on the assessment roll, and I find there are out of that number one hundred and sixteen tenants.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What is the population of the town? A.—I think it is about four thousand.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What is the rate of taxes here? A.—Twenty-eight mills on the dollar. There is also a frontage tax in a certain portion of the town.

Q.—Do you know anything about the assessment here? A.—The town is assessed up pretty well.

Q.—Do you consider the income of working people is assessed, according to law, equitably? A.—The classes are not assessed for income at all—that is, with very few exceptions; some bookkeepers and officials.

Q.—You know, of course, that there is \$400 exemption? A.—There is \$700 exemption now.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Are there many artisans assessed for income—that is, do they receive a sufficient amount to be assessed? A.—I do not recollect seeing one on the roll.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you take any means of finding out the men's income, or do you generally take their word? A.—When I was assessor I would ask the amount, and sometimes he would not tell me, and then I would put him down at so much and let him rip at that.

Q.—But if he answered you, what would you do? A.—If he gave me any kind of a statement I would take it. Sometimes he would not give me a statement, and then I would put him down for anything I thought about right.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Did you make any enquiries from employers? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you sometimes take the word of the employer without going to the individual? A.—I always speak to the employé before I go to the employer. If the former gives me anything like a definite satisfaction I do not say anything more about it.

Q.—Did you ever find men of large incomes, that is, running up into three figures, making attempts to put down their incomes at as small an amount as possible? A.—Yes; they generally all try to do that. They are all tarred with one stick.

Q.—Have you found that to be the case with people of incomes of from \$1,500 to \$2,000? A.—Some will not tell exactly what they get, while some men will tell you right off.

Q.—How do you know that they are speaking the truth? A.—I am satisfied they are, because I have probably enquired already. Some men, again, will give you no satisfaction whatever.

Q.—Do you not think it would be a benefit to all if the assessment roll were published every year? A.—Every body here has access to the assessment roll if he chooses to come and look at it.

Q.—Would it not be a benefit to the masses if the assessment roll were published every year in a pamphlet or newspaper? A.—It would give the people assessed a better chance of looking to see how they stood.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How much would it cost if this were done in Petrolia? A.—You would have to get the printer to tell you the cost.

Q.—You think it would be an advantage to the printer? A.—Every man assessed has access to the assessment roll, and he can come here and look at it.

Q.—How long a time has he to examine it? A.—Four or five weeks.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you not think the cost of printing the roll would be more than amply offset by the results that would follow? A.—No; because I do not think the people would take the trouble to look at it. In regard to the audit of the town, for example, every body can come and get a copy of it, and yet they remain here stacked up.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you think the assessment of income is a satisfactory principle to follow? A.—I would rather they would do away with the present system of taxes on income and assess private property wherever they find it.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—From what you know of income tax you are opposed to it? A.—I think the assessment law should be amended so that you could assess wherever you find goods. A man who has a store, on being questioned in regard to assessment, will tell you that he does not own the goods, but that they are owned by a man in Toronto. In this way they do not pay any taxes. On the other hand, the man who says that he owns the goods in the store, amounting to \$400, or \$500, or \$600, is assessed, while his competitor, who has, probably, four times as much, is not assessed.

Q.—Do you think all kinds of property should pay taxes? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think that people with bank stock should be assessed? A.—Yes; I believe they should pay double taxes.

Q.—Is there much of that class of property exempt in Petrolia? A.—I could not tell you about that; bankers say it is not exempt.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Do you tax religious institutions? A.—Yes. There has been some evidence given here about the measurement of tanks, and I would like to say a word in that regard. I think the Government ought to appoint some man who can inspect vessels larger than four gallons measurement. We are producing a great deal of oil here, in the neighborhood of 40,000 or 50,000 barrels a month, and under the way it is measured now the man who receives the oil will receive it if you will take it at his measurement. I have known a good many tanks—I have had my own tanks—to be measured. When you are ordered up you have to go up, or your tanks are objected to and you cannot deliver oil. Some of us sent to Hamilton and got a four-gallon measure stamped by the Government inspector, and we measured our tanks, and we found that our tanks contained a larger measurement than was marked on them. But it is no use talking about that, for our tanks have got to go up for measurement to the company or they will not receive our oil.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Who fixes the measurement? A.—The tanking companies. They receive the oil and they establish the measurement. They say: "If you let us measure your oil to our satisfaction we will take it; if not, we will not take it, and we will not accept any other measurement than our own."

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Is there an inspector of weights and measures here? A.—There is one who comes here once or twice a year. These inspectors, however, do not inspect the tanks measuring from four to ten gallons, or a few gallons over that. One of my tanks was stamped at one time, and I ran it for about three months and was then ordered up. It costs \$1 every time it is ordered up for measurement; and after it

was ordered up the measure was cut down two gallons. There had been no hot oil or anything of that kind carried in it. It ran for three months more and was then ordered up for to be re-measured, and it was then cut down one gallon; that made three gallons. I could not say whether the second time they had set the hoops or not, but the first time they had not set them. Most of my neighbors say that the tanks generally shrink. I have always argued that if the hoops have not been set or if the tanks have not held hot tar they can be no smaller. In the winter time they steam them out and thoroughly clean them before they are measured, and that, of course, is all right. We had a big tank that held 300 or 400 gallons. My boys went to work and got an inspected measure and measured the tank as accurately as they could; but it would not tally with the tank company's measurement, their measure being one barrel short.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Do you think there should be some Government inspection? A.—The Government should give the inspector here power to inspect the tanks. A great many people deliver oil in waggon-tanks, and, in my opinion, the Government inspector should have power to inspect and brand them, and this could be done once in a while. If these tanks are made out of green wood they will undoubtedly shrink a little if the hoops are driven. The Government should do something to relieve us in this way, so that the man who buys and receives the oil should not have the sole control of measuring it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you think the grievance would be overcome by having an internal revenue gauger to gauge the tanks every time they are delivered, whether they were old tanks or not? A.—It does not need all that to be done. If they were gauged twice a year it would meet the point. The people would then be more satisfied, as I would be, although, at the same time, I am not dissatisfied now. Take a man who is selling 100 or 200 tanks a month, and if he loses a gallon on a tank it amounts to quite a quantity, whereas the tanking companies take care they do not lose any. Of course, I would not want them to lose any, even if the tanks were inspected by the Government.

JAMES JOYCE, Blacksmith and Oil Producer, Petrolia, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—On what particular subject do you wish to give the Commission information? Is it in regard to blacksmithing or to oil producing? A.—Blacksmithing has not, as a general thing, got to be quite a common subject, although we manufacture quite a number of tools here for foreign countries. I export quite a lot of tools.

Q.—Of what classes? A.—Oil-well tools. The manufacture and exportation of such tools has become quite a business in this country. We send them to Austria, Germany, Australia, California, and different parts of the world.

Q.—Is that industry very busy here? A.—It is quite busy. I sometimes think it is only in its infancy here—if we only had our own market for our own product.

Q.—What competition have you in drill tools here? A.—What I mean by that is this: our market here is supplied, probably to the extent of one-third, by American oil. That stops the manufacture of drill tools.

Q.—If the American oil were shut out there would be more demand for Canadian oil and more wells would be needed? A.—If there were a better class of Canadian oil made it would shut out American oil, and there would be more call for tools, and that would give us a chance to employ more labor.

Q.—What wages do blacksmiths get here? A.—A blacksmith here gets from \$1.75 to \$2 a day.

Q.—Are they generally employed all the year round? A.—Generally, but during

the last three years there has been quite a depression in the oil business and we have not been able to run so steadily.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Is that rate you have given the rate of general wages, or only of wages in tool-making? A.—It is about the general wages here, that is from, \$1.75 to \$2 a day for a good, average blacksmith. The tool business is a specialty; there is no place in the Dominion where it is done except here.

Q.—Would those tools do for phosphate mining? A.—No; they are not for anything, except for boring for oil wells, salt and water. We sometimes use them for prospecting for coal, but in all cases they have not been a success. There is no drill so good in prospecting for coal as the diamond drill. It is more costly, but you see the core of each piece you bring out, and you can tell exactly through what you are going. You can tell that pretty accurately with this drill.

Q.—You refer to the different strata through which you pass as you drill? A.—Yes; with these drills we have drilled as deep as 2,700 or 2,800 feet.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—What do the drills cost? A.—A set of tools for drilling 2,000 feet, a complete rig, costs, probably, from \$3,000 to \$3,500.

Q.—Do you ship those all over the world? A.—Yes; I sent this year and last year alone \$2,600 or \$2,700 worth to Australia, that is of drill tools, not counting engines and boilers and other things necessary—just the drill, with its connections.

Q.—Does this \$3,000 worth of tools to drill a well 2,000 feet deep include engine and boiler? A.—It would include engine, boiler and tools, and the whole connections for going a distance of 2,000 feet.

Q.—What would the tools cost for going that distance? A.—Probably from \$1,000 to \$1,200—that is just the naked tools hanging on the derrick.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are there many men employed in that line of business? A.—Yes; there may be perhaps eight, ten or twelve. The business is up and down like any other business.

Q.—Is there anything of special interest which you desire to bring before the Commission? A.—The only thing I would like to say—is that there has been a special grievance here, for some years, connected with the measurement of tanks; that is quite a grievance to men who pump a little oil.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—You have heard the evidence of other witnesses as to that matter. Is there anything you would like to add? A.—I think it is very necessary that there should be some way found out by which we would have a Government measure. There is no Government measure for the measurement of oil tanks. To the best of my opinion the Government is only allowed to measure a bushel; that is what I am informed by the general inspector of weights and measures, I think, at Windsor.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You are of the opinion that there should be a Government inspector? A.—I am certainly of that opinion. There should be some way by which he would be able to tell whether there is a right measurement or not.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are there any drilling outfits imported from the other side? A.—There are considerable, but not to any great extent.

Q.—Could those outfits be manufactured in Canada? A.—Yes; they could be; they are now.

Q.—Is the American preferable to the Canadian-made? A.—Not in this country. They drill there with rope or cable.

Q.—Why is an American drilling outfit preferred to a Canadian-made? A.—Men differ in opinion in that regard. One man will say he can do better with a cable; another will say he can do better with poles. Occasionally an American comes over here and puts down a well or two and goes back again. I am informed that in Manitoba there are one or two American sets.

Q.—As a practical man, do you believe a Canadian-made outfit is just as durable as an American? A.—Taking the whole thing through, it is more durable.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Are there hands employed exclusively on manufacturing tools? A.—There are shops that do nothing else. I do nothing but manufacture tools and repair; but there are small shops that do a little other work.

Q.—What hours do your men work here? A.—Ten hours a day; sometimes in winter they come down to nine hours, but I have never done so.

Q.—Is there any surplus labor in the town? A.—Not a great deal. Laboring men here get very good wages.

Q.—Are they employed the year round? A.—Yes.

ROBERT BROCK, Farmer, Township of Enniskillen, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How long have you been in this neighborhood? A.—About thirty years.

Q.—What kind of a farming country is it around here? A.—I think it is very good; for a new country it is very fine.

Q.—Can you tell us about how many bushels of wheat on an average are grown in this township? A.—Of fall wheat it would average probably from twenty-three to twenty-four bushels to the acre, taking the whole township through. I have run as high as thirty-three and thirty-four bushels; but in some sections of the township it will be down as low as fourteen bushels.

Q.—Have you ever calculated the cost of raising a bushel of wheat here? A.—No; I am not prepared to say that I have; I have never gone into the business exclusively. I do mixed farming, and do not make a speciality of wheat growing, so I have not given any attention to what it really costs to grow it.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Like most of the farmers, you do not keep any account as to what any particular crop costs? A.—No; I have not done so.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you raise any live stock? A.—Yes.

Q.—Any hogs? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you sell hogs? A.—No; I raise none to sell. I find that branch of farming industry will not pay here.

Q.—Do you raise cattle? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Did you open up your land and commence with a bush farm? A.—I commenced in the solid woods, about four miles south-west of this town.

Q.—On an average, how many hours a day do you work? A.—I have worked as much as eighteen hours sometimes in the harvest.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Then, again, in winter you would not work half of that time, I suppose? A.—No; I have never made that an average, not since I have been able to work.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you make ten hours on an average? A.—Not less than ten hours on an average.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you think farming pays? A.—Yes; I think it pays when gone into systematically.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—I suppose, like every other business, it depends on the man himself? A.—Yes; there are failures in it, like there are in other callings.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Will the condition of the farmer to-day compare favorably with his condition ten years ago? A.—I think so.

Q.—He is generally prosperous? A.—He is generally prosperous. Of course, prices are not equal to what they were ten years ago, but the farmers appear to be very prosperous in this part of the country. For a new country, I consider they have nothing to complain of.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Do you mean that you cannot get the prices for your products now that you could ten years ago? A.—I mean to say that during the last three years grain has been very low, as compared with the prices fifteen or twenty-five years ago.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are there any butter and cheese factories in this neighborhood. A.—Not in this immediate neighborhood, but eight or ten miles away there is both a butter and a cheese factory.

Q.—Do you know anything of the operation of the butter factories? A.—No; I have very little knowledge in regard to it.

Q.—Do you know whether it pays better for a farmer to manufacture his butter or to sell his milk to a butter factory? A.—I have had no experience. Opinions on that subject seem to be very conflicting. They make more by using their own milk into butter, and some others again claim that where there is a factory established there is more money to be made by sending the milk to the factory. That, of course, does away with a great amount of labor that would naturally have to be done by manual labor.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—What would be the prices of milk on which the conclusion was made? A.—I think they allow about $4\frac{1}{2}$ cents a quart for the milk put into the factory.

Q.—How many acres have you in your farm? A.—I own about 340 acres.

Q.—Have you that many acres in cultivation? A.—No.

Q.—How much have you under cultivation? A.—About 100 acres.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You say you raise cattle for the market? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you tell us, from your own experience, whether cattle raising is more profitable than grain raising? A.—Cattle raising is the most profitable branch of the farming industry in this part of the country.

Q.—Do you feed cattle for market? A.—I have done so.

Q.—Have you any idea what it costs to feed beef per pound? A.—I have not kept a diary of the cost; in fact, I have done very little of winter feeding. I have generally fattened them on the grass.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—How long can your cattle generally run on the grass profitably? When do you put them on? A.—About the middle of May—that is, cattle for market.

Q.—You mean cattle you intend to feed for market? A.—Yes; I put them out about the middle of May. We generally have them fit for market about the middle of June or the 1st of August. We sell them between those two dates, as a rule.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—What do you get for beef? A.—For good quality we get about 4 cents live weight.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are farmers paying any attention to improving the breeds of cattle? A.—Yes; during the last eight or ten years they have given considerable attention to that question. They have been importing higher grades of cattle, well-bred cattle.

Q.—What breed of cattle do you consider makes the best beef cattle? A.—In this part we use the Durham, the Short Horn. It appears to suit the climate here better than any other.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is that from their large size? A.—Yes; and they are more profitable.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are they profitable for dairy purposes? A.—The graded cattle, I believe, are more profitable for dairy purposes.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Is there any Jersey stock used here for dairy purposes? A.—Not here; they are used east. I do not know of any in this township.

Q.—I suppose that is largely because they are not suited for beef cattle? A.—Yes; they are not so suitable for beef.

Q.—But I suppose they make it up in the quantity and quality of the milk? A.—Their milking qualities are better than those of the Durhams.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you raise any other stock for market? A.—Yes; sheep and horses.

Q.—What grade of sheep do you consider best adapted for that purpose? A.—Leicester are the best sheep in my opinion.

Q.—Do they make the best mutton? A.—They are the most profitable; they are the best breed of sheep.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Have you any woollen mills about here? A.—Yes.

Q.—I suppose the raising of sheep depends on the kind of wool they use at the mills? A.—That has to do with it. A good many of the farmers have been going into the finer breeds lately, and they are now getting to think that they are not so profitable as Leicesters in this country.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What is a good horse worth here, say a three or four years old—a general purpose horse, such as you use for the market? A.—A good general purpose horse is worth from \$150 to \$175. There has been a great number of them sold in Petrolia at that figure.

Q.—Have you any difficulty in disposing of your stock? A.—Not any.

Q.—Have you always found the demand for it is equal to the supply? A.—So far as horses are concerned, the demand has been more than equal to the supply.

Q.—Generally speaking, do you think if the farmers paid more attention to that than to grain-growing they would be more prosperous? A.—They do.

Q.—Of course, all the lands would not be suitable for stock-raising? A.—This section is well adapted to stock-raising; there is as good pasture and hay land as can be had.

Q.—What crops do you find most profitable here? A.—I find of late years that oats is the most profitable crop.

D.—Do you get a good price for them? A.—Yes; we have always found a ready sale for oats for a number of years past in this town. There is a good deal of feeding done, and consequently there is a good demand for them.

Q.—When you stall-feed what do you use? A.—We use barley and oats, as a rule, for grain feed with hay.

Q.—What feed do you consider the best for putting beef on cattle? A.—I believe, as a rule, that corn will put on more fat than oats or barley.

Q.—Do you think it makes as good beef? A.—Yes; I think it does.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Do you find the cattle shows, which occasionally take place throughout the Province, beneficial to stock-raising? A.—I do.

Q.—In what respect? A.—In the first place, competition has a good effect upon a community.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—And I suppose it gives you an opportunity of seeing what is being done by others? A.—The exhibitions are to show what the country can produce in the way of stock, and the improvements that have been made.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—How often do you break up your meadows? A.—About once in three years at the furthest. About every second crop is the most profitable.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Is there any general demand for farm labor in this section of the country? A.—It is very good.

Q.—Have you any difficulty in obtaining a sufficient number of hands? A.—No; I have had no difficulty lately, but some years ago I had some little difficulty.

Q.—Has not the introduction of machinery greatly lessened the need of labor on the farm? A.—Yes; undoubtedly it has. There are not half the number of hands required on a farm of the same given space as we needed ten or twelve years ago.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Could you to-day cultivate your farm to as great an advantage as you do at present? A.—Not very well; I do not see how I could do it at present prices. I could not make it up.

Q.—I suppose the more machinery you use the more men are required to run it? A.—A very small boy or girl could drive a good deal of our machinery at the present day, who would be of no use in the harvest field fifteen or twenty years ago.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you find many agricultural laborers from the old country coming to this section? A.—Quite a few have come here the last two or three years.

Q.—Have they all got work? A.—Yes; I am quite satisfied they all got work as soon as they arrived.

Q.—Do they settle down and become permanent settlers? A.—I do not know of any in the neighborhood in which I live, but I have reason to believe that they do.

Q.—Do they become good settlers? A.—Yes; they become good settlers.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—What nationality are they? A.—English, Scotch and Irish.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—There is not a surplus in this section? A.—No; not to my knowledge.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—I suppose you know farmers who came here as agricultural laborers? A.—Yes; plenty of them.

Q.—And are they well off to day? A.—Yes; I have known some to work on a farm until they subsequently were able to own a farm.

Q.—You think it is the general way in this neighborhood as well as almost everywhere else? A.—I think so.

Q.—Is there anything else you wish to mention? A.—I do not know of anything I consider a grievance, except this law that gives a man a title to his neighbor's property, provided he is out of it for ten years. I think that should be remedied in some way.

Q.—The feeling just now is contrary; the feeling is, that if a man neglects his property for ten years he should lose it? A.—A man may lose his farm if he is absent from it for ten years, even if he has fenced it. I think some change in legislation is necessary in regard to this matter. I also think there might be some changes made with good effect in the assessment law. For instance, if I go upon a piece of land and improve it, and spend my last dollar in building a house on it, my neighbor who owns the adjoining lot for speculative purposes derives an advantage from what I have done. I am assessed for the improvements I have made, by which, I have increased the value of my neighbor's property; I am assessed so many dollars an acre more than his property is assessed, although he has not made one dollar of investment.

Q.—Is not your neighbor's land assessed to its full value? A.—No; not if it is in its natural state. If it is a bush lot it might be held for speculative purposes.

Q.—You refer merely to what is called a bush lot? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Then you consider when you are improving your own land you are enhancing the value of your neighbor's land? A.—I do.

Q.—You believe he is not entitled to partake of that increased value when he does not do anything himself? A.—No; what I mean is, that I should not be rated for the improvements I make on my land.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—You think, I suppose, that assessment should be levied on land whether it is wild land or not? A.—Yes; in the same neighborhood.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Is it not the fault of the assessor that this is not done? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—It is the fault of the system? A.—It is the fault of the assessment law.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Has he a right to value the land? A.—There is a certain scale laid down and he cannot go beyond it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You believe that a man who holds land is not entitled to the value of it? A.—I do not believe that.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—If the law limits the power of the assessor to assess the land it is an injustice? A.—I think so.

POST OFFICE BUILDING,
HAMILTON, 16th January, 1888.

WILLIAM AUGUSTUS STUDDART, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You are secretary of the Hamilton Homestead Loan and Building Society? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long have you been in that position? A.—Since March, 1883.

Q.—When was the association organized? A.—Between January and March of 1883; we issued the first series in 1883.

Q.—How frequently is stock issued? A.—Every six months. The first issue was in March, and there were three or four months between the first and second.

Q.—You issue a fresh series every six months? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the amount of each share? A.—The stock represents \$200, and we pay for it at the rate of \$1 per month.

Q.—How many series of stock have been issued up to the present time? A.—Eleven.

Q.—How many shares? A.—I could not tell you; 1,347½ shares are in existence?

Q.—What proportion of them has been paid up? A.—None had been paid up in full.

Q.—What proportion? A.—On the first series 59 payments have been made of \$1 each; 58 to the close of the year.

Q.—An so on down until the last series was issued—when? A.—In January.

Q.—And on that only one payment has been made? A.—Yes.

Q.—What class of people have subscribed for this stock? A.—The principal class are all mechanics.

Q.—How many shares are held by mechanics? A.—There are 649½ shares held by mechanics now.

Q.—How many by sewing girls and servants? A.—One hundred and thirty and a half. The are 33 held by lawyers and doctors; I am talking now of the first series. We began with 649½ shares held by working people—mechanics, working people, laborers, &c.; 233 were held by clerks—men who earned their bread as clerks; 130½ were held by women who earned their bread as sewing girls and servants, and 33 by lawyers and doctors.

Q.—How is this money loaned? A.—It is only loaned to the members.

Q.—By what arrangement is the loan effected? A.—They have to come to the meeting and the money is put up at auction, and a man has to say how much he is willing to discount his share for.

Q.—How many loans have been made. A.—One hundred and fifteen.

Q.—Does each represent a house built. A.—Oh, no; some of them represent two or three houses in one family. They will borrow to build, and the loan will represent two or three houses.

Q.—Can you tell us how many houses have been built? A.—One hundred and twenty-eight.

Q.—What class of people have built houses? A.—They have been all built by the working classes, except lawyers, and one other person, who is a clerk. There is another which has been built by a clergyman.

Q.—And with these exceptions? A.—With these exceptions, 123 houses have been built by mechanics.

Q.—In how long a time is it calculated the loans will be paid off. A.—In eight years.

Q.—What interest do borrowers pay on their loans? A.—Taking a borrower who will borrow in this month, or who went in in January, taking the last series of stock, paying 33 per cent. bonus, it will cost him less than 4½ per cent.

Q.—That is, he will make monthly payments and interest, and then the loan will come to how much? A.—Less than 4½ per cent.

Q.—Now, if the man pays 33 per cent. bonus on his money, how is it that his interest comes so low? A.—A man pays 33 per cent. bonus. Take an amount with \$1,000, for instance. He gives us a mortgage for \$1,000 and he gives us a discount of \$333.33, leaving him a net loan of \$666.67 that he gets from us in cash. He pays us back \$955 in dues, and taking the \$666.67 from the \$955 it leaves towards paying us interest \$288.33 that we get back from him more than we pay him.

Q.—You spoke of dues—what do you mean? A.—It means dues and interest.

Q.—So that if he pays a bonus he receives a benefit of all the other bonuses? A.—Yes; he is actually credited on our books with his proportion of the bonuses.

Q.—In other words, he participates in the profits? A.—Yes; in everything.

Q.—Have any speculators borrowed money for the purpose of speculation?
 A.—No. The first question I put to them when they come is, what they want with the money, and they will say they want to live on it, or pay a mortgage, or that he has lots and would like to build a house and sell it again, and then I tell him that we don't loan money on speculation, that it was not intended for that purpose.

Q.—How is the society secured? A.—On first mortgage assignments of the stock; that is the only security accepted.

Q.—Within what territories does the society make its loan. A.—Just in Wentworth county.

Q.—Do you accept a second mortgage? A.—No.

Q.—You must have first? A.—No; we will not even loan him by a second mortgage ourselves.

Q.—What security do the officers of the society give? A.—Mr. Grant, the only one who handles money, gives bonds.

Q.—Who is Mr. Grant? A.—The treasurer.

Q.—When the money is ordered to be paid, on what names can it be paid out?
 A.—Only by the secretary and treasurer, countersigned by me, on a warrant stating upon what authority it is to be paid.

Q.—On what authority is a loan authorized? A.—When a man makes application for a loan it is inspected by the property committee; then there is a report of the assessed valuation of the property, and the whole matter comes before the board, on the written report of the property committee, with the statement of how much it is assessed for, and what is on the property in the way of a house, or if it is a vacant lot, and then it is put to the vote if the loan is to be granted. If the margin between the loan and the value of the property is too small, then we insist on the man giving us a bond, signed by one or two solvent securities, that he will pay the dues for a sufficient time, so as to give the mortgage between 35 and 30 per cent. more than the amount.

Q.—What amount of money has the society lost between the time of its organization and now? A.—Not a cent.

Q.—How many mortgages have they foreclosed? A.—None.

Q.—The society has met with no losses, direct or indirect? A.—No.

Q.—If the borrower gets into arrears from any cause how do you deal with him?
 A.—We then change him. We take his loan and credit him with what he has paid, and make him give a mortgage for the amount owing to us, which will refund our balance. There have been two or three cases in which we have had to do that. That starts a man back at the last monthly payment after any arrearage on our books.

Q.—That is for the security of the society? A.—Yes; and for the benefit of the man, and stop him having penalties to pay for default.

Q.—The society is perfectly secured? A.—Yes.

Q.—Supposing a stockholder who has not borrowed desires to sell out, what can he do? A.—The by-laws require him to give us \$50 dues, though we have not required it. We always give him money without the thirty days' notice, and then we give him what he actually paid us, and 8 per cent. for his stock—that is in the first series. For the last year it is 8 per cent. for stock four years old, and if it is one of the other series we give him 6 per cent.

Q.—So that in any case the stockholder who withdraws and has not borrowed money from the society gets 6 per cent. for his money? A.—Yes; for the average time they have it.

Q.—Any stockholders who have borrowed, if they desire to sell the property and transfer the stock, how do they manage? A.—They can do it without any notice whatever to us. We always know when there is a sale, because people come in. They transfer it by a deed, and the purchaser steps in the other man's shoes, and the property continues to be held under the other man's mortgage.

Q.—Can the members borrow on their stock without giving real estate security?
 A.—No; if a man holds ten shares on the first series, that is \$595, and if he wanted to borrow \$90, he could not get it without real estate security.

Q.—What is the cost of managing the society? A.—The cost of managing the society since it started—four years and ten months ago—was \$5,790.52, for everything. That includes the original cost of outfit, books, supplies.

Q.—What would this average, per year, on the amount of stock out? A.—About 2 per cent. on the dues.

Q.—On the money received? A.—For instance, the money we have received is \$150,734.91, and the cost of managing that amount has been only \$5,795.52.

Q.—That is more than 2 per cent.? A.—I don't think so.

Q.—Do you think it exceeded 2 per cent. last year? A.—No; I do not; it was just about 2 per cent. If you like, I can tell you how much was paid in during the time and withdrawn.

Q.—Perhaps it would be hardly necessary. Are the shareholders permitted to know what the directors are doing? A.—Yes; the money is loaned at a meeting of the shareholders, and can be loaned in no other way. The minutes of the directors' meeting, at which the final action is taken, are read afterwards, at the next meeting of the shareholders, so that they know all about what is done.

Q.—Supposing a man borrows, let us say, five shares, or \$1,000, on a house, what will the house cost him when it is all paid for and what will it be worth? A.—Say his lot is \$250, which is about the average; he pays back to the society in dues and interest \$955, making \$1,175—ninety-five months' rent, at \$8 a month, which I find is the rent he would have to pay; in that case he would have to pay \$10 a month for that, and that is equal to \$760, leaving the property, at the end of eight years, costing \$450, or rather \$515. Adding \$250 to the \$955 makes it equal to \$1,205; so that \$450 would be the cost to him of his house, over and above his rent.

Q.—And the house would be worth how much? A.—After taking into consideration the value of real estate, it should be worth \$1,175.

Q.—How are the assets of the society invested? A.—The assets of the society, as they stood on the last day of December, were: \$82,416.66 in mortgages; \$1,768.60 in the bank; and there was due for arrears of dues and interest, \$960.92, the greater part of which has been paid in at the last meeting; value of the fixtures in the office, &c., \$390; making in all \$85,536.18.

Q.—What class of property is represented in these mortgages? A.—Those mortgages all represent real estate and dwelling houses of working people.

Q.—On which loans have been made? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has the society any money to invest besides what it loans to members? A.—No; we do not take any savings bank deposits.

Q.—Has the society been able to loan to members substantially the whole of its income, or has any large amount remained in hand? A.—No; this year was the largest year we have had; we closed everything we had, except the \$1,768 in the bank this year.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—This time you have \$1,768 in the bank to your credit; other times you are indebted to the treasurer \$20. Now, what is the fact that you have \$1,768 in the bank an indication of? Is that an indication that not so much money was required last year? A.—No; less money was required this year, with the exception that we had a loan paid off after a meeting of the stockholders, and that has been deposited.

Q.—That is only an accident, then? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FRED:—

Q.—Has the business of the society increased or decreased from year to year, or has it remained stationary? A.—It has increased steadily.

Q.—How do money-lenders look upon this society? A.—We have got all the opposition that money-lenders can give. They cried it down, and there has been up-hill work all the time. They did everything they could to try and run it down, and when we began business 7 or 8 per cent. was the rate on those small loans of \$400, or \$500, or \$600, but now we make these small loans at even 6 per cent.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Could the same member obtain two loans? A.—If he could get real estate security sufficient; but he cannot obtain the second loan for the purpose of speculating.

Q.—Could the same member obtain two loans when others were applying for loans? A.—It is all open competing; but we will not give a second loan at all if it is for speculative purposes. For instance, if it is to build a house to rent or sell again, or to speculate upon, he cannot get it.

Q.—Is it possible for any member of the society to obtain a loan if he desires to do so? A.—Yes; for each member in the series.

Q.—How are the loans paid? A.—Monthly.

Q.—What amount each month? A.—A man paying \$200 will pay us \$2 a month, and \$1,000 will be \$10 a month; that includes principal and interest.

Q.—He still has his stock to pay for? A.—No; that pays everything; he is reducing his stock by that much. Take a man beginning in January on the last series: he has nothing in the society but \$5; he discounts the stock due to him eight years hence, and says how much he is willing to give. So, if he gives 33 $\frac{1}{3}$, the advance would be \$666.67 on real estate security, and at the end of the time his stock is cancelled and his dues and interest are paid up.

Q.—What is the average discount paid for loans? A.—I should think about 20 per cent.

Q.—How long has a member to be in the society before obtaining such a loan? A.—A man who joined on the 9th of this month made a loan. He paid \$3 and obtained \$600. He obtained it in this way: it is guaranteed to him; he is putting up the house and the contractor is paid as the work progresses, we paying the contractor. Every fortnight I go and measure up the work and pay the contractor as he is entitled to it.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Do you loan money on other security than real estate? A.—Not any other security than the first mortgage on real estate.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How are the directors elected? A.—By the stockholders once a year.

Q.—They may elect any body? A.—Any body who owns five shares of stock.

Q.—The members have absolute security for their money? A.—Yes.

Q.—If a member so desired, would he be allowed to pay his loan before the time expired? A.—Yes. I was talking to you about this bonus business. We keep 1-96 part of the bonus. Suppose a man borrowed, and four years from the time he borrowed he gave us \$333.33, we would keep one-half of that and credit him with the unearned half, he receiving credit for his dues and interest or share of profits.

Q.—If a member paid his loan before the whole was due he would have a rebate? A.—I will figure it out for you. Suppose a man gets \$96 of a bonus, and at the end of the year he comes and says, I want to pay off that loan. He gets \$200, for which we take a mortgage. We divide it in this way: we credit him with back dues, say \$12, return premiums \$84, interest, \$1.30, or whatever share of the profits it may pay, he will pay us \$103 back and we discharge the mortgage. That bonus is not ours until it is earned. We earn the 1-96 part every month.

Q.—Supposing a man obtained a loan from you, and built a house, and paid for it, and sold it, could he obtain another loan? Yes; he can cancel his mortgage in another way if he likes. He could pay back the \$666.60, for instance, that we gave him, and continue his stock.

Q.—Supposing a man obtained a loan and built a house and sold it at an advance figure, could he come back and borrow money to build another house? A.—Yes.

Q.—That would not be considered speculation? A.—No.

THOMAS PARTRIDGE, President of the Canadian Association of Stationary Engineers, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have the stationary engineers of Hamilton an organization? A.—Yes; they are incorporated and they have a constitution.

Q.—Can you state some of the principal objects of the society? A.—I may state that we are voluntarily here; we have not been called by any person. Our object has been, for some time, to get a law passed, if possible, to have stationary engineers examined, so that they can get a certificate of ability. We have formed a society in Canada—in this place, in Montreal and Toronto—and what we wish for now is, if possible, to get a law to that effect, so that incompetent persons, or intemperate persons, should not be allowed to take charge of these establishments.

Q.—You would propose, then, that this certificate of competence should be granted. How would you propose to have it granted? A.—By examination.

Q.—By a Government board? A.—Yes; by a Government board or any board they like to appoint.

Q.—Is it the rule or the exception for unskilled men to be put in charge of engines? A.—It is the exception for unskilled men to be put in charge.

Q.—Then, there are more skilled men in charge than unskilled? A.—Well, as far as that goes, I will tell you: When they get an unskilled man to look after it he will run it for a while and then they think they can do with somebody cheaper, and here is where the trouble comes in. They may put a lad in charge of it who has had no experience. That has been the case in Hamilton within the last few weeks. I would draw the line. A man may be running that engine to-day and next week a boy may be running it.

Q.—What I want to get at is whether there are more practical engineers in charge than men who are not practical engineers? A.—I think, if I take the majority, there are more practical engineers in charge—decidedly so.

Q.—Do the engineers have control of the boilers as well as the engines? A.—Yes; and that is where I wish to draw the line. We wish to create competent engineers, so that if you gentlemen should go to-night, for instance, to your hotel, you could sleep there with perfect safety; it is the boiler that does all the mischief. If the engine breaks down the man will go no further, but the boiler is different. We propose to grade them: for instance, a man may be capable of taking care of a boiler for steam-heating purposes; some may be capable of taking care of an engine and boiler for all practical purposes; and we grade them, on the principle of safety. We think that a man should understand the properties of steam and what is to be done in connection with boilers and engines, according to the grade of work he performs. For instance, in the hotel there is a large boiler, and you may go to sleep with a feeling of perfect safety, but in the middle of the night you may all be blown to pieces.

Q.—If a man has no knowledge of the expansion of steam would he be considered a competent engineer? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Is it possible for a man in charge of a boiler to so strain it that afterwards it will not bear the strain it is gauged for? For instance, if a man has a boiler guaranteed to run at 100 pounds of steam, and supposing he ran it at that rate, would it be possible for him to so strain it that it would not to be able to stand a pressure of eighty pounds? A.—Yes; it is.

Q.—Do you think that is a source of danger? A.—Yes; I have known it to be tested and destroyed by tests, for I would not expect it to carry the same amount of steam it was tested for.

Q.—You would not consider it safe to keep a boiler up to its test? A.—No; I would not consider it safe to put the safety-valve back 24 inches when she should be only 14.

Q.—Would it be safe to run a boiler at the full pressure of the test? A.—No; it would not.

Q.—What are some of the chief causes of the explosion of boilers? A.—That is something that nobody has been able to answer yet. There are many causes—so many that it is almost impossible to tell; but I believe over-pressure has been the cause, principally.

Q.—Do not boilers frequently get encrusted inside from the ignorance of those in charge of them? A.—Yes.

Q.—And when the boiler is so encrusted is it more liable to explode? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it possible for a boiler encrusted in that way to burn? A.—Yes; it burns the plate, and the incompetent engineer would not understand it.

Q.—You would have engineers in charge of boilers to carry certificates? A.—Yes; that is our object.

Q.—I want to ask a question on another subject. Would it be any benefit to engineers if technical education were taught in the schools? A.—Yes; decidedly so.

Q.—Would you tell us, please, how it would be a benefit? A.—It would make them half-engineers before they got through. I know boys who want to be engineers, and they say we would like to get into your shop, but they are no more use to be engineers than my dog is, and yet they get into the shops and in positions, too, by some means or other, though they are not capable of filling them.

Q.—Is it possible, after teaching a boy the practical part of the trade, that he may know little of the theory? A.—You cannot do much without a theory; you cannot do anything without the practice.

Q.—And if the theory were taught in the schools do you think it would be useful? A.—Yes.

Q.—They would be better skilled mechanics when their trade was learned? A.—Yes; decidedly so.

Q.—Would you propose to grade stationary engineers, first, second and third, like steamboat engineers? A.—Yes; we have our grades, though I have not the papers here.

Q.—How many stationary engineers are there in Hamilton? A.—I could not tell you; we have sixty-two in our association.

Q.—Have you any idea how many engines and boilers are in the hands of incompetent men? A.—I know of seven; one I read of two weeks ago.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE, Stationary Engineer, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you corroborate the evidence of the previous witness? A.—Yes; I corroborate what he said. I would advocate a board of examiners for stationary engineers.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You would want something more, would you not. You would want a law to make it compulsory that certificated engineers should be employed? A.—Yes; we include them.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What wages are stationary engineers paid in Hamilton? A.—From \$1.12½ to \$1.75 a day.

Q.—Are competent stationary engineers paid \$1.12½ a day? A.—Yes; that is the regular rate.

Q.—Do you consider that enough? A.—Well, we have eight hours a day on an average of twelve months in the year, and our whole wages would come to about \$1 per day, for competent men.

Q.—Do you consider that enough? A.—No; I do not.

GEO. T. TUCKETT, Tobacco Manufacturer, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You are a member of the firm of G. E. Tuckett & Son? A.—Yes; the junior member.

Q.—What is your business? A.—Tobacco manufacturing.

Q.—How long has the business been established in Hamilton? A.—Since 1867.

Q.—Do you employ many hands? A.—About 300.

Q.—What class of people do you employ? A.—Well, we employ white and colored, male and female.

Q.—Of what ages? A.—From fourteen up to about forty.

Q.—Have you a considerable number of young persons working for you? A.—I should say about 120 to 150, boys and girls; they are changed from time to time. Of course we have more in winter time than in summer time.

Q.—Do you think any of them are under fourteen? A.—Well, we have a rule that firms have to be guided by, that no one shall be employed less than fourteen. We had some factory inspectors going through the factory, and I told them we had a great deal of trouble in finding out the age, and they told me they were going to get out certificates which parents would sign.

Q.—What rates of wages can these people earn? A.—They average about \$1.25 a day; that is what we pay ourselves. The children are paid by the “rollers,” and when I said 300 hands I was counting only the grown up people—those we pay ourselves.

Q.—How many are employed altogether? A.—The average would be from 400 to 425. It depends on the season.

Q.—Are they at liberty to work if they wish to? A.—Yes; we cannot get them in summer time.

Q.—How long in the year is the factory closed down? A.—Six weeks to two months.

Q.—What part of the year? A.—During Christmas and New Years, and generally in summer time, according to the heat. If it is hot we shut down longer, but generally it is about four weeks. Last summer we shut down for six weeks, on account of the heat.

Q.—Is it necessary to employ young persons in this business? A.—Yes; in order to strip the tobacco; the older hands would not be so nimble.

Q.—Are these children living with their parents generally? A.—Generally they are mechanics' families and poor people. Some are the children of widows.

Q.—Would it not be better for them to go to school than to work for you? A.—Well, the mothers come to me and say that their children will not go to school, and in order to keep them off the streets, they send them to me.

Q.—Have you reason to know that many of them are the children of such mothers? A.—I could not say. At times we have children of that sort. As a rule, we have the parents come to the factory, and have a bargain made between the “roller” and the mother or father, in our presence, the first time, and we see that the children go with the proper man and get properly paid for their work. The wages of a child from fourteen to sixteen are from \$3 to \$4.50 a week.

Q.—How long a time do they serve before being able to earn \$3 a week? A.—The first week, as a rule, they get about \$1.50 to \$2; the second week perhaps \$2.25, and afterwards it depends upon the child, but generally in three weeks they get \$3.25 to \$4. If the child can take the stem out without tearing the leaf too much they get \$4 to \$4.50.

Q.—Can children from fourteen to fifteen years old earn those wages? A.—Yes; if they are smart.

Q.—Is the work in your factory a trade, so that those who have learned it will be called mechanics? A.—Yes. If the stemmer goes along and gets to be smart he gets to be a “roller”; then he gets on to be a wrapper, and then the foreman mentions it to us, and when they are at eighteen or nineteen, and fit to become apprentices,

they are given benches. He serves for three years, for the first two years at ordinary work and the last year in fine work, and after the last year they become journeymen, and get journeymen's wages.

Q.—Do you use much machinery? A.—Considerable.

Q.—Do accidents ever occur? A.—We have guarded against them in every way possible.

Q.—What are the sanitary conditions of the factory? A.—We have had three generations working in the factory until lately. The grandfather was there, and the father, and we have two sons there now, grown-up men.

Q.—When the factory inspector was around did he find any fault with the sanitary conditions of the factory? A.—None whatever.

Q.—Or with unprotected machinery? A.—None whatever.

Q.—Did this inspector make a particular and close inspection? A.—Yes; there were two of them. I went with them myself, and they examined the boilers, and engines and belting, &c., and saw that they were protected.

Q.—Have you separate conveniences for the male and female employes? A.—Yes; all emptying into the sewer.

Q.—What class of tobacco do you make? A.—What we call "bright goods"—bright smoking tobacco.

Q.—Where do you find your market? A.—Well, we find our market all over the world.

Q.—In what countries? A.—The United States, England, Australia, and we have sent some to Ceylon and Japan.

Q.—How wide a market have you in Canada? A.—Well, we have the whole of Canada; we have sent goods to British Columbia, the North-West, Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Q.—How do the prices of tobacco, at the present, compare with those of former years? A.—The last two or three years they have been lower, on account of the internal competition.

Q.—Lower than ever before? A.—Well, just about as low as we have had. Of course, when we started prices were low, in order to get into the market, and we have come back to those prices again.

Q.—Where do you get your tobacco? A.—From Virginia, North Carolina and Kentucky.

Q.—Do you use any Canadian tobacco? A.—No.

Q.—Why? A.—Well, Canadian tobacco, at the present time, is a very common grade of tobacco, and the class of tobacco we use, which is grown in the South, cannot be grown in Canada; Canadian tobacco will not suit the people's taste. If we bring the seed from Virginia and plant it here it becomes common or nondescript tobacco, the same as if you bring the sweet potatoe here and plant it it will become the common Irish potatoe, and get insipid.

Q.—You try to keep your tobacco uniform? A.—Yes; we do. We have a brand which has proved itself a good many years, and our particular attention is paid to that brand.

Q.—What wages do your skilled employes make? A.—One dollar and twenty-five cents a day, on the average.

Q.—What hours do they work? A.—Nine hours a day, and in the winter time we start at 7.30.

Q.—Can you tell us anything about the experiment made a few years ago in your factory in reducing the hours of labor? A.—We found that by starting in the summer time at 7 o'clock and working until 6, and giving them a half holiday on Saturday, so that they could get off and enjoy themselves, they worked steadier and with more vigor. In the winter time we start at 7:30 in the morning and work until 6 o'clock, allowing them one hour at dinner, and giving them from 4 o'clock. This allows the mothers to do the marketing in the daylight, and we find that they

can do the same amount of work in the nine hours, and then they appear more healthy and strong than when working the longer hours.

Q.—Practically, then, you reduce the hours from ten to nine, without any reduction in the product? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you satisfied, as employers, with that reduction? A.—Yes; or we would not have kept on with it.

Q.—How were you induced to make this reduction? A.—By my father's own free will; by reading and observing.

Q.—He is the head of the firm? A.—Yes.

Q.—How frequently do you pay your hands? A.—Every Saturday.

Q.—Do you find Saturday to be a satisfactory pay-day? A.—Yes; always.

Q.—Has any request been made to you for a change of pay-day? A.—None at all.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the profit-sharing in manufacturing, or in the system of bonusing? A.—No; as a rule, we mean to reward merit in the factory. Of course, they get their wages every Saturday, as we promised to pay them, and at the end of the year, when we see that they take an interest in us, we give them purses according to merit.

Q.—Is it not on the principle of profit-sharing? A.—No.

Q.—Do you find, under the system you pursue in that respect, that your people take a better interest in your business? A.—Yes; we do, because they notice that we are watching their interests and rewarding merit, and therefore they watch our interests.

Q.—Do you think it possible to introduce profit-sharing generally in manufacturing? A.—No; I do not think it possible.

Q.—Will you give us some reasons for thinking so? A.—Well, in the first place a man has to stand the chances of great losses, and besides it would cause discord, because if the man is a large buyer prices might drop, and the employés are not going to lose that themselves.

Q.—They would be willing to share the profits but not the losses? A.—Certainly.

Q.—Have you ever had any labor troubles in your factory? A.—Never, sir.

Q.—Have you ever given the subject of arbitration any thought? A.—No; we have had no reason.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Before you granted the nine hours did they ask for it? A.—Not with regard to time. We have had a few coming and asking if we did not think they were worth \$1.25 or \$1 more a week.

Q.—What amounts have you given to your people at holiday time? A.—Well, we have distributed from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

Q.—And those presents are based on their record during the year? A.—Certainly. We have given \$50 and \$100, the same amount, because they have saved us perhaps more than that by their careful manipulation of the tobacco.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Having found the nine-hour movement profitable and satisfactory could not you reduce it still more, with the same result? A.—It might be the last straw which sometimes breaks the camel's back.

Q.—You think that nine hours is a fair limit? A.—I think so; from what I have seen and heard I think it has proven to be about the limit.

Q.—You have not tried any other? A.—Of course, I am only speaking of what I have read in the papers on the United States; I find that the jumping into the eight hours has caused a great deal of trouble; it is going too far the other way. There is always a happy medium.

Q.—When you reduced the hours from ten to nine did you reduce the men's wages at all? A.—None at all.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Do you fine your employés for neglect? A.—No; if they repeat a thing two or three times we generally let them go.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Is the tobacco business generally considered a healthy business? A.—Well, we have had three generations in our factory, so I don't think it is very unhealthy.

Q.—It does not seem to have a bad effect on the young people? A.—No; when we expected the cholera here I passed a remark to several of the doctors, and they said that it was not only a good disinfectant, but that it would keep the people at work.

GEORGE HARPER, Compositor, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What are the compositors paid on the morning papers? A.—Do you mean the average wages?

Q.—What is the rate fixed by the union? A.—Thirty-two cents a thousand on the morning and 30 cents on the evening papers.

Q.—What amount of matter or what part of matter goes on the "hook" and is distributed amongst the compositors, generally? A.—All general matter, except advertisements.

Q.—The advertisements are set by whom? A.—By the week hands.

Q.—That is the rule with all the newspaper offices in Hamilton? A.—Yes.

Q.—What wages are paid the weekly hands on the morning papers, not including the foremen? A.—I do not know of any weekly hands engaged on the morning papers, except the foremen and the pressmen.

Q.—What wages are paid the weekly hands on the evening papers? A.—Twelve dollars.

Q.—What are the wages of weekly hands in job offices? A.—Eleven dollars is the scale.

Q.—Do any, except the foremen, get \$12? A.—Yes; I believe there are exceptions to this rule; I find that there is one or two who get \$12.

Q.—In the newspapers, how many boys are allowed by the union to any particular number of men? A.—One apprentice is allowed to every four men in the newsrooms.

Q.—What are the hours of work in the job offices? A.—Ten hours a day.

Q.—On the evening papers do you know how many hours are worked?
A.—No.

A.—And by the weekly hands? A.—About nine hours.

Q.—On the morning papers what hours are worked by the weekly hands? A.—I think they would run about nine hours.

Q.—Do you know how many journeymen printers in Hamilton own the houses in which they live? A.—Yes; I think there are about eight; that is those working by the piece, and not including foremen.

Q.—Do you know how many journeymen printers have established themselves in business in Hamilton within your time? A.—I think there are four, and one who went into partnership.

Q.—How many of the job offices in Hamilton are owned by the men who were formerly journeymen printers in Hamilton? A.—Five, I believe.

Q.—How many are there in Hamilton owned by other persons not connected with the daily newspapers? A.—I don't know but one, and he came up from Ottawa. He was a journeyman printer, and worked here for a short time.

Q.—Practically, all the job offices in Hamilton, outside of the daily newspapers, have been established by journeymen printers? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—What paper do you work on? A.—The *Times*.

Q.—Do you know how many branches there are altogether working in the newspaper offices? A.—I think there are ten altogether.

Q.—How many journeymen? A.—About twenty; that is piece hands, exclusive of foremen. There would be, perhaps, four others besides them, making about twenty-two or twenty-three.

Q.—Do you use any plate-matter? A.—No plate-matter.

Q.—What time do they begin composition on the morning papers? A.—About one o'clock in the afternoon, and work for about two hours, waiting their cases after that, and then back in the evening at eight o'clock, and work there until three next morning, making about nine hours.

Q.—How much longer will it take them to distribute their cases? A.—The cases are distributed in the afternoon; that is over and above the nine hours.

Q.—Will it take three hours to distribute? A.—No; about two hours; they do some distributing at night in the time they are waiting.

Q.—Do they get paid for standing time? A.—No.

Q.—Is there much waiting for copy? A.—I believe there is considerable waiting. There is some on the morning papers, but of late we have been pretty busy.

Q.—Do you derive any benefit from the organization to which you belong? A.—No, except the benefit which is derived from keeping together. There is a death benefit of \$75.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are there any printing offices in Hamilton where they object to the hiring of non-union men? A.—No; there are two mixed offices where they consider they are interfered with.

Q.—Has there ever been any black-listing of men in Hamilton? A.—No.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—How do wages compare in Hamilton with cities of the same size in Great Britain or the United States? A.—I could not speak as to Great Britain, but they are paid a better rate of wages in the United States.

Q.—How are the men paid here? A.—On the papers they are paid by the piece—weekly.

Q.—What day of the week? A.—On Saturdays.

Q.—What day do you prefer? A.—I prefer Friday, as it allows Saturday for shopping, buying provisions, &c.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Would a bureau of statistics be acceptable to the workmen, do you know? A.—Yes; I think it would be a benefit.

Q.—Do you think as a body they would generally favor it? A.—I think they would.

Q.—You spoke of some printers owning their own houses: how long would they be working at their occupations before being able to purchase those houses?

A.—No; some of them I spoke of are old men, and some had money loaned to them; the majority of them are old men. Two or three young men have property of their own, but, of course, I can't say if it is cleared property.

Q.—What I want to find out is, whether they purchased this property from the amount of wages they earned by their trade, and if so, how long it took them to do it? A.—To answer that I would have to take individual cases.

Q.—Do you know of any individual cases? A.—I could refer you to my own case. Of course, I have been working at the business for twelve or thirteen years, and I

own the house I live in. I suppose it will take a man about ten years to secure a house of his own, and perhaps longer.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What do artisans' houses rent for in Hamilton? A.—Six dollars to \$10.

Q.—Are there any of the men paid by orders? A.—None are accepted and none are offered.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Have there been any labor troubles in your office? A.—None for some time.

Q.—When you have had troubles what system do you take for settling them? A.—The matter is discussed in our union, and an endeavor is made to settle it by arbitration, and sending a committee to the employers.

Q.—If conciliatory means failed what would you prefer? A.—We have generally been able to settle matters of this kind ourselves. If it comes to a matter that cannot be settled it comes to a strike, I suppose, as a last resort. We have what we call an organizer in connection with the International Union, and he is sent for in the event of a strike, and he endeavors to settle the matter before it comes to a strike.

Q.—You try every means in your power before coming to a strike? A.—Yes; I remember only one strike in my time.

Q.—You have never thought of the matter of enforced arbitration? A.—No; I never looked at it in that light.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are there any female compositors in Hamilton? A.—Not to my knowledge.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Is \$11 the union scale for day work? A.—Yes.

HAMILTON, 16th January, 1888.

WILLIAM J. McANDREWS, Foreman Printer, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You are president of the Typographical Union of Hamilton? A.—I was elected last Saturday evening.

Q.—The last witness was president last year? A.—Yes.

Q.—You have heard the evidence of the last witness? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you corroborate what he has said? A.—Not in some particulars. He said that in ten years he would get a house and lot in the city, and I think the ordinary printer working at the case would find it pretty hard work.

Q.—How long have you been working at printing—since you have been a journeyman? A.—I have been eighteen years at the business, and I served five years, so it would be thirteen years that I have worked as a journeyman.

Q.—How long has it been since you paid for your house? A.—I have not got it paid for yet.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—How long is it since the idea possessed you to own a house of your own? A.—I never had any great idea of it; I never was much inclined towards workingmen owning property, unless they have a permanent position, or have some money saved up. As I had some money saved up I bought a house, and I could realize it any day. I bought in a central part of the city, whereas, if I had gone outside I could not have realized as well.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Why don't you approve of workingmen owning their own houses? A.—I

don't disapprove of it, still I don't know that I would own one if I were working at the case all my life.

Q.—Don't you think that owning property anchors a man down and prevents him from becoming a rolling stone? A.—That is the cause why workingmen don't amount to anything who shut themselves away from the world.

Q.—Are not those printers better off who remained in Hamilton than those who have been going to the United States and other places? A.—Yes; they have a little money of their own, but they are not better off in health or money gained, or anything picked up to the advantage of their trade, or anything like that. I know men who have gone away and have come back a great deal better off than they went from this town.

Q.—Is that your experience with the Hamilton printers who have travelled? A.—A good many of them—not in money matters, but in the knowledge picked up with regard to their trade; all these men who have gone away medium good printers, come back good printers.

Q.—What do you think of the system in vogue of getting tenders from printers for job work, &c.? A.—Well, for small work, or for any job, I don't believe outside of my own trade in this tendering system. I was a member of the Trades and Labor Congress which sat in this city, and I was opposed to the tendering system for job work, or work of any kind, unless it was a very large job. I know that in our trade the tendering system causes workingmen, I believe, to be hindered from getting advances of wages, because the bosses or foremen are very strict in regard to keeping five or ten minutes out of your wages, if you lose that time, and it causes a great deal of inconvenience in that way. For instance, if a man wants 1,000 note circulars, I suppose \$3 or \$3.50 should buy them in any printing office. There are many small printing offices where they sell them for \$2.75 or \$2.50, and eventually it goes down to such an extent that the proprietor has not sufficient profit to pay the men fair wages.

Q.—You think that keen competition produced by the tendering system induces employers to pay smaller wages than they should pay? A.—I should not say that, but I think that if the general public were to pay better prices employers would willingly pay the men more wages, because they would be more able to pay them.

Q.—You think that higher prices would result in them paying higher wages? A.—I do.

Q.—You think that if there were high prices and high wages all round it would benefit the working classes? A.—Yes; because if a workingman gets a fair wage he gets ahead better, buys better goods and gets more of them than if he gets a small wage; he buys goods on which there is a larger margin of profit.

Q.—Do you act on that principle yourself? A.—I do, in one way. In building my house I had a plan drawn, and I thought to myself that I would get a man to build it, and I got a Scotchman named _____, thinking that a Scotchman would be an honest man, and I asked him what he would build my house for. He built it for me and I gave him his price. Another time I had it painted and I gave it to a man to do for \$30, but I was sorry that I had not given it to another man for \$40, just on account of the character of the work. For example, I would sooner pay \$3.25 for some articles of cloth than \$3, provided the sewing woman got a share of the extra 25 cents, because it would come back to me in the long run. There would be more money coming back, the printer would have his bills printed on better paper, instead of common paper and so on, in other trades, all paying good prices.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you know anything of the operation of the lien laws? A.—We never have had any occasion to apply them, but from what I heard at the Labor Congress they are not perfect. There were parties who put liens on buildings here, but they were not of any use, though I don't know the reason.

Q.—It did not protect the workingmen in their wages? A.—No.

Q.—Have you ever given any thought to the question of profit-sharing in business?
 A.—Yes; I have often thought of it. I have read in the newspapers where men have shared with their employers, and I believe it would be a good thing if bosses were to do it.

Q.—Do you think if bosses shared with their men that there would be as many labor troubles? A.—Do you mean generally?

Q.—Yes? A.—It would lessen the amount of labor troubles; but no doubt there would be other troubles about dividends and other things which would counter-balance it.

Q.—You think the cure would be as bad as the evil? A.—I think so, because I believe I saw a statement in the papers the other day where it had been tried and the men had turned kickers.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you think the men would be willing to receive the profits when there were profits? A.—Yes.

Q.—But would they be willing to accept a share of the losses? A.—No; because the moment the business begins to run out, and there were losses instead of profits, they would shut up shop.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—What is your opinion with regard to arbitration in cases of labor troubles?
 A.—I believe in arbitration, but I believe it should be by people who understand it. For instance, if there was a trouble among the printers I believe printers should be arbitrators, and not outside persons.

Q.—When they have each done so, and have each picked a party, how would you have the third party chosen? A.—If I was president of our union I would insist on the third party being a printer, although I would not care where he was from. I have known of cases where people who did not understand the trade were arbitrators in disputes in it, and I don't think it is right.

Q.—You mean that the original two arbitrators would be people who understand the business, but failing to agree as to the third party, you mean? A.—I don't know who the third party should be, but I would say that he should be a person who understands the business. If moulders were on strike we should not send a printer to arbitrate in their business, and I would not be in favor of arbitration if it was done that way.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You are in favor of the parties appointing their own arbitrators? A.—I would say that printers should appoint their arbitrators and the employers should appoint theirs, but they should be people who understand the printing business. Let them go across the ocean, if necessary, to get an independent man, but he should be a man that when you spoke to him about "ems" and "slugs," and so on, he would understand it, without having it all explained to him.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Your answer would be, then, that in that case, you would not go for Government arbitration, or enforced arbitration? A.—No; I would not employ enforced arbitration, though I am not in favor of strikes. I never saw any trouble in our trade that could not be settled amongst ourselves without bringing other people in, and if the men and the bosses can't agree disinterested people would not agree very well. Of course, in our business in this city we are not like that strike on the other side the other day on the railway, where the bosses would not receive the men or listen to them. I suppose, in such a case, outsiders would be the right ones to settle the strike, but I believe that when the bosses talk the matter over with their hands they can come to a better and more lasting settlement than any outside arbitrators. I would like to say, with regard to the apprentice system, that I am not

in favor of indenturing. I believe that if proprietors and foremen interested themselves in the boys working for them they would be only too glad to work for them and not run away.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do they do that? A.—Not in this town.

Q.—And it is only in case they do that that you would favor it? A.—I may say that our union is very strict. We register every apprentice in the union and name the day we sent him to the trade, and we don't let any boy go before he is fifteen, although we allow them to go as message boys at any age; but he is not to learn his trade until he is fifteen, and when he is twenty he is a journeyman.

Q.—Supposing a boy after he was fifteen went to another office, would that count on the time? A.—Yes; if he served for five years. I understand by the indenturing system that if I want to learn the printing I have to sign an agreement that I will serve a certain time; I may have to take all sorts of abuse, but I can't leave without resorting to law and breaking the indenture.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Does indenturing necessarily give the bosses the power to abuse the apprentices? Is not the boss bound as well as the apprentice? A.—Certainly he is. Sometimes a good boy is very valuable, and if he wants to go he may pull the latch. For instance: in this city an apprentice to a foundry man did that, and he was brought before the police court and fined for breaking his indenture.

Q.—Do you think a boy should leave his employer if he has special need of his services? A.—No; I don't think so, but I don't think that any employer who treats his men properly would find boys doing so. I think they would see that their services are required, but when boys see that their services are slack it is a different thing.

Q.—That only goes to condemn the apprentice system? A.—All my life I never was bound. I learned my trade here, and I never knew a boy to run away. Another reason is, because a boy may have served two years at the business, and he is bound, and his foreman can see that he will not make a printer, and that the best thing he could do would be to discharge him, but if he is indentured he will try to make the best of him.

Q.—Supposing the men could see that he would not answer, could they not separate by mutual consent? A.—I believe in freedom; I believe that boys will stay if they are used right. The idea is that they are not good workmen, or very few, just because of the want of an indenture system.

Q.—Do boys work around too much from one shop to another. A.—I don't think they do in our trade; and I consider it does a boy good to move around. Working at one class of work results in a boy not knowing anything of the other branches of his trade. If I was working in a foundry and making stove-lids all the time they would be very apt to keep me at it.

Q.—If he is kept at that he would not learn the trade, whereas if he is bound by indenture they are bound to keep him at the trade and teach him? A.—Well, as I said before I believe in freedom, and if I had fifty boys I would not bind one of them to a trade. With regard to immigration, I say it is wrong that the Government should assist them to this country.

Q.—Do you know that they do so? A.—Yes; they assist persons to come to this country.

Q.—When? A.—All the time.

Q.—In this last year? Can you state that this last year the assisted passage system has been continued? A.—Well, they have their passage paid on the Allan Steamship Company, and they are brought out cheap.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you know what you have just said, that the Government pays the Allan steamship line, to bring them out? A.—Yes; I believe so on my oath.

Q.—Do you know so? A.—Yes.

Q.—How? A.—From general knowledge that one gets; I believe there are people in Hamilton who never paid their way across the ocean.

Q.—Do you know of a single one within the last twelve or eighteen months who came to Hamilton without paying a cent? A.—I said “assisted.”

Q.—You begun by saying “assisted,” but you said at last that people came to Hamilton without paying a cent. A.—I know they assisted people out to this country.

Q.—Do you know of any person who came to Hamilton without paying a cent—answer, “yes” or “no”, within the last twelve or eighteen months, if you know of any person coming to Hamilton without paying his passage? A.—I don't know any person in that way, but I know of people who have come and were assisted out. There are people walking in Hamilton, wanting work and can't get it. We have deaf and dumb printers who came to Hamilton and came with assistance.

Q.—Can you give us the name of them? A.—There were deaf and dumb printers who came to Hamilton and applied to the mayor for charity, but I don't know their names. They went to Montreal, and went there by our money, but they came out by other people's money; they came out cheap.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you know who brought them out? A.—No; I do not.

Q.—Do you know if the Dominion Government paid their passage, or part of it? A.—I believe they came out in that way.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—That means it is a fact, if you believe so. When I say I believe such a thing I mean I believe it is so? A.—I believe it is so, to the best of my judgment, I believe those printers came out here by cheap fares.

HAMILTON, 16th January, 1888.

JOHN SMITH, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You are the immigration agent at Hamilton? A.—Yes.

Q.—How large a district is in your charge? A.—The counties of Halton, Welland, Monck, Lincoln, Norfolk, Oxford, Brant, Waterloo, Wellington, Bruce, a large portion of Huron, a portion of Grey, and Haldimand, and a portion of Perth.

Q.—How many immigrants have settled in your district during the year just closed? A.—Seven thousand nine hundred and nineteen.

Q.—Can you tell us from what countries they have come? A.—3,421 were English; 796 Irish; 1,434 Scotch; 790 Germans and 1,297 American citizens.

Q.—That is in the calendar year 1887? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know how many of these came on assisted passages? A.—I could not say; I have no means of knowing.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—When they come to Hamilton, if any were assisted you would not know it? A.—Well, no; unless we questioned them.

Q.—You cannot say? A.—No; I have no evidence of the transaction at all.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you know what are the rules of the department now as to the Government giving assistance to emigrants? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you tell us? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do, if you please? A.—Immigrants assisted into Canada comprise agricultural laborers and female domestic servants.

Q.—What does this assistance amount to—any abatement of their passage-money? A.—Assisted passages originated and still continue. By an arrangement which was made with the conference of steamboat companies of New York, Boston, Philadelphia and the St. Lawrence ports, fixed rates were established. The New York steamship company lines had the advantage over Canadian lines, and the assisted rate rose in consequence of cutting the rates on the New-York lines. The New York lines hearing of the assisted passage rate made an application to the department to know what proportion they paid, and the department referred them to the steamboat companies. It remained that way for two or three years, and now the assisted passage consists in the Government assisting agricultural laborers and female domestic servants to the extent of \$2.50.

Q.—How can the Government know whether the immigrant is an agricultural laborer or a mechanic, or whatever he may be? A.—Only by the declarations made. Before the assisted passage can be granted to an emigrant the emigrant applying for the assisted passage has to make a declaration on a printed form. He has also to have the declaration signed by a clergyman, or a magistrate, before he can obtain it—that he is *bona fide* an agricultural laborer.

Q.—Must the magistrate or the clergyman reside in the district from which the agricultural laborer comes? A.—Yes; and must know him, or rather he must declare that he knows him, and can vouch for him.

Q.—How many mechanics have settled within your district within the last year, immigrant mechanics? A.—Fifty-nine.

Q.—Out of how many immigrants? A.—Seven thousand, nine hundred and nineteen.

Q.—Taking all the emigrants that have come into your district within the past year, have they created more work for mechanics than the mechanics among them have taken from the Canadian mechanics already here? A.—You could only ascertain an answer to that question by the law of induction. For instance, opinions may vary, but I answer in the affirmative. Then you might ask me upon what ground I base my affirmation. I will take the number just settled in the Hamilton districts, 7,919. Now, in making a per cent. of the population—for instance, take this city or any other city—if you find the population at Hamilton 40,000 or 50,000 in round numbers, without knowing the actual number of families, the computation would be that five should form a family, in round numbers. Now, taking 7,919 and divide that by five: there would be 1,583 cooking stoves which could not be possibly done without. Now, out of that number there is not one person engaged in stove-making. I take another computation. Say there are 7,919 who require 7,919 suits of clothes.

Q.—They are not naked when they come here? A.—That is quite evident. Now, what do you mean by that question?

Q.—They don't want clothes immediately on their arrival? A.—Possibly not; sometimes they do. But answering your question in that way, supposing they had clothing to last them twelve months and did not require to purchase anything the first year, they certainly would the second year, so that the rotation of reformations goes on and the same law of progression would go on.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—That is—the immigrants of last year would require clothing this year? A.—Yes; out of that 7,919 that arrived there would not be 5 per cent. engaged in the business of tailoring. Very well; then take boots and shoes, you would not have 2 per cent. engaged in that business, and you would require two pairs for each individual. If you add it, in stoves there are 1,583; there are 7,919 suits of clothes, and over 15,000 pairs of boots and shoes. I merely mention these trades,

and as the community is made up of different trades and occupations each one must participate in the general prosperity produced by these transactions.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Are all these immigrants people with families? A.—No; not all.

Q.—What are they? A.—The great bulk of them are agricultural laborers and common laborers.

Q.—They don't require stoves? A.—I think I would convince you that they do. I would draw your attention to the fact that the agricultural laborer has a need which is being provided for by these different portions of the community, and that he is a consumer of goods in his proportion to the whole.

Q.—That is an argument? A.—You have raised the question of the man who does not need a stove.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are many of these agricultural laborers married men? A.—As a rule, the great bulk of the married men come out single at first, and after working and earning sufficient they send for their wives.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—That is a fact, to your knowledge? A.—Yes; after eleven years' experience.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do they for the most part bring their own furniture with them? A.—No; nothing but clothing and wearing apparel. The whole effort of parties engaged in immigration in past years has been to discountenance the bringing of anything into this country excepting wearing apparel.

Q.—Are there many agents in Great Britain and Ireland, or other countries, encouraging emigrants to come to Canada? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are they Government agents? A.—No.

Q.—What agents are they? A.—Well, there are the agents of the steamship companies. The old country agents are on a different footing from what they are here. Before the party can be engaged in shipping persons he must have a license from the Board of Trade. On obtaining that license he is allowed to engage in the general business of shipping to any part of the world by any steamship company.

Q.—You think that these steamship agents are, as a rule, men who are active in inducing people to come to Canada? A.—Yes; then there is another class, and that is philanthropic societies, so-called, who help people to come out to this country, or to the United States, Australia and other places. A large amount of money is subscribed in England for this purpose. Now, in the case of those deaf and dumb printers referred to by Mr. McAndrews, they did not cost the Government a cent. The Government did not know anything about it, but I take the ground that these people sent out here were not in a position to earn a livelihood for themselves, and I think that in such cases the steamboats should be compelled to return them. The arrangement was made so that they could be returned. The circumstances were these: there is a lady in London, England, named Miss Gordon, who devoted the whole of her life to this work. She has private funds of her own, but lives on the bare necessities of life, and confines herself mainly to the unfortunate class of the deaf and dumb. She had been out here several times, and she called on the Messrs. Dougall, of the Montreal *Witness*, who are very philanthropic people, as the paper would lead you to suppose. When they came out these gentlemen had no occupation for them, and they were sent from Montreal by money raised in the city. When they came here, one of them being a printer, some people interested themselves in the printing offices to get this man in, but he was a non-union man, and I believe in addition to that it was not so easy to communicate with him as with other printers; and the result was that the mayor contributed \$5, and other men interested themselves, and a subscription was raised and he was sent back home.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Does Miss Rye bring out many small children to Canada? A.—Miss Rye brought out last year 125.

Q.—Does she receive any remuneration from the Government? A.—No.

Q.—She is just a philanthropist of that kind? A.—Well, she goes by that name. Formerly she used to get \$2 a head; this year she gets nothing.

Q.—Previous to this year she got \$2 a head? A.—Yes; two years ago, but it has been discontinued.

Q.—Assisted immigration has ceased as far as the Dominion Government is concerned? A.—Yes.

Q.—From what you know of these small children brought out here, do you think it is advisable to bring them from the old country to this country. Don't you think there are enough children to relieve in our asylums, &c.? A.—I can only answer by the results, that we have not been able to supply the applications made for them.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you know whether inmates of these asylums, homes, &c., have increased in number while these children have been brought out here? A.—I don't know; but the great difficulty we have had in institutions such as the Hamilton Home is this: these children have relatives living, the majority of them probably a mother or a sister, and the objection made to them by the farming community is that as soon as they have educated them so that they become useful to them they are taken away by their relatives and put into service, and that is the reason they prefer emigrant children—from the fact that there is no one to trouble about them, so that they become a portion of the household.

Q.—Does any body keep supervision of these children until they grow up? A.—I will give you the working of one institution, and I think that may be the best and most intelligent answer to your question, and it will apply generally. Here is the report to the Government for the year ending 31st December, 1887:—

“The Childrens' or the Stephenson's Home, situated in East Hamilton, has been very successful in its work, being presided over by the late Rev. Mr. Evans, a gentleman remarkably adapted for this class of work. A strong feature of this home, consists of the sympathy and assistance extended to the children placed out by them, who are encouraged to keep up their connection with the society, whose home is ever open to them, and Christmas time all are welcome to join at the annual dinner. The lads sent out, as a rule, have been successful, the majority of them having deposits in the savings bank. The home is now presided over by Mrs. Evans the coadjutor of her late husband, who has yearly visited the boys under their charge, and which has resulted largely in the success of the boys and to the credit of the institution.”

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Have you made any visits to those boys who have been placed out? A.—Yes.

Q.—What was the result of your enquiry? A.—As to the general results, you mean?

Q.—What is your opinion as to what you saw? A.—Favorable, with the exception of only one class.

Q.—And that class? A.—Are from the reformatories and industrial schools in the old country.

Q.—You found that that class was not suited to Canada? A.—I found that that class of children, having been committed to the industrial schools or reformatories either for vagrancy or crime, are apt to lapse back to-day under temptation here or elsewhere.

Q.—What proportion of the boys sent to Canada are of that vagrant or criminal class in your district? About 4 per cent.

Q.—About 4 per cent. are taken from the reformatories, &c., in the old country? A.—Yes; I am speaking of what I know of my own district.

Q.—Apart from these, what do you find the character of the boys who are to be placed out? A.—Good.

Q.—Among what class are they generally placed? A.—Among farmers.

Q.—Exclusively? A.—Ninety-five per cent.

Q.—How many of those boys have found their way to the Penetanguishene Reformatory? A.—Four boys in seven years.

Q.—Of the class to which you refer? A.—Altogether juvenile emigrants.

Q.—Do you know anything of the girls assisted by charitable societies or individuals? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is the report in their case as favorable as that of the boys? A.—More so.

Q.—How are they generally disposed of? A.—In the way in which I have alluded with reference to the childrens' home.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—They are sent to farmers, also? A.—Yes; the rule is not to put them in cities; that is the rule with all those societies, not to put them out in cities, except under exceptional circumstances. I have not only sanctioned this, but I have asked that it should be done from the homes. Where I have known a lady that wanted one of these children, who was of a motherly or kind disposition, and who would look after the child and make it her own, it might be done, but under no other circumstances would it be tolerated.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How is this home kept up? A.—By subscription; it does not cost Canada one cent. They are subscriptions from those purporting to be philanthropic people.

Q.—Charitable people? A.—They don't go under that denomination. There are charitable institutions at home, such as our orphans' home, and there are people engaged in the work, like Miss Rye and others, who get subscriptions and bring the children out to those places.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What inspection of these people is done when they arrive in Canada to see that they are in physical health? A.—There is no inspection, excepting the quarantine inspection.

Q.—And that amounts to what? A.—That is after passing quarantine at the point of embarkation. They were officially inspected before getting on shore.

Q.—Is that inspection sufficiently rigid to give reasonable guarantees that they are in sound health? A.—It is generally, but not so rigid as I would insist upon. If the law is carried out it is all right. The provision for the inspection is complete in itself, and sometimes I am afraid there is a little laxity.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—What proportion of them turned out to be anything but healthy? A.—Speaking from my personal knowledge, having visited those children for eleven years, I should say not over 2 per cent.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What has been the early life of those children—boys and girls? Have they been reared amongst vice, so that they have the taint of vice when they come here? A.—There are two classes. If you take Miss Rye's work or Mr. Middlemore's work, in London—I don't class Dr. Barnardo's in the same category—the people who contribute to Miss McPherson, and others of that class, generally look for some orphan child in the district, and those children are comprised in that class. Dr. Barnardo's are picked up on the streets of London or anywhere else. He states that if a child has a claim on his sympathy he takes it.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How long are they under his care before he takes them out? What would be the average time? A.—I think some are sent out without being kept there at all,

and others are kept two or three years. He may strike an average, but speaking from a practical point of view, I don't believe in any such work. If he sends out the 95 that he has at his training establishment in the old country in, say three years, until he has had a knowledge of the character of those boys, and they have attained that status which would warrant him giving a guarantee as far as human probability is concerned, that would be a benefit. You would be receiving those who would grow up into respectable citizenship.

Q.—Do you think that boys gathered out of the gutters of London are calculated to make good citizens? A.—I would prefer taking them from somewhere else. I am not going to argue in favor of one class of immigrant or another, although I might have an argument with my department did you want facts. I make a distinction between what I have already told you of the reformatories and industrial class and workhouse children. The workhouses are under the supervision of a board of guardians; children having lost their parents, they become wards of the State, and not by being tainted through crime. They have also the advantage of scholastic education, and are subject to discipline and industry, and I make that distinction between the two classes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—The Dominion Government only assists by means of steamboat passages?
A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it not a fact that there are immigrants assisted from Quebec to ports in Ontario? A.—It has been the case.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Since when? A.—I got a letter the other day rapping me over the knuckles a little for having recommended a family arriving out of Quebec to be sent up. We have been gradually discontinuing it, and trying to get it done away with. Formerly there was an agreement between the Ontario and the Dominion Governments that the Ontario Government should pay two-thirds of the assistance from Quebec and the Dominion Government one-third. The Ontario Government having withdrawn from the agreement the Dominion Government has now given it up.

Q.—Do you act in the same capacity to the Ontario Government as to the Dominion? Are you the agent of the Provincial as well as of the Dominion Government? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know as a fact that railway fares are paid from other parts of Canada to parts of Ontario this year? A.—Yes; I think there are.

Q.—Do you know of any appropriation made for that purpose? A.—No; there is no special appropriation, it is only under the general appropriation; there is an appropriation made for general purposes.

Q.—There is an appropriation also made for assisted railroad passages? A.—No special appropriation.

Q.—I think there is? A.—No.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Out of the whole number of immigrants settling in your district the past twelve months, what proportion would you consider pauper or useless immigrants?
A.—Probably 1 per cent—I am just speaking roughly.

Q.—It is not true that a large number of pauper immigrants are sent to this country? A.—No; it is not. I think I might draw your attention to this, that some three or four years ago, during the time the British Government were assisting pauper emigrants from the congested districts of the west of Ireland there were a large number of pauper immigrants sent out by an arrangement made by the Ontario Government.

Q.—With whom? A.—Through Mr. Hardy by a committee. This money was out of a fund guaranteed by the British Government and placed in the hands of Mr. Tuke and others. They came to Toronto and we had conferences with them, and

they agreed to send out bread-winners sufficient to keep the families, but they did not do so.

Q.—What eventually became of these immigrants? Did they remain in that same destitute condition? A.—Eighty per cent. are now earning their livelihood, but the parents of the family will never earn their own livelihood; they will not work, or rather they are incapable.

Q.—Many of them are old people? A.—Old men, some married, and some were young men. They were the worst class of paupers that you could get—that is, the old men were incapable of working; but although it was a great evil at the time, still their children are becoming a useful class to the community.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You do not think the community has lost anything? A.—No; they save in one way what was lost in another, and I think the result has been a gain.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you think that immigrants coming to this country displace our own working people to any extent? A.—I don't think so.

Q.—What class of immigrants do you have most applications for? A.—Agricultural laborers and common laborers.

Q.—Speaking of the agricultural class, do you know if many of them find employment the year round? A.—That is becoming more general.

Q.—Can you give us any special reason for its becoming more general? A.—Yes; We have applications in harvest time, which will include July, August and September, at from \$30 to \$35 a month. Now, taking it at \$30 there is \$90 for the three months, with board. Now, they will get the same labor for twelve months for \$150, and farmers are beginning to realize that it is more economical to employ the year round than to employ them specially for a few months. There are fifty men employed the year round now to one that was employed when I took charge of the agency here eleven years ago.

Q.—It is claimed by some that agricultural laborers only find employment during the haying and harvest, and then drift back to the cities. Do you find that to be the case? A.—Not as a general rule. They do drift back, but they are generally the class I have alluded to as forming an undesirable class.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You put the population of Hamilton at 40,000? A.—Yes; in round numbers.

Q.—What is the population? A.—Forty-three to forty-four thousand.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—That is within the city limits? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What is the proportion of those people who are the sons and grandsons of immigrants? A.—I should say 80 per cent.

Q.—Of those fathers and grandfathers, how many were poor people, would you say? How many came here without any money in their pockets? A.—There is a certain class of the population that we lose sight of, but taking the permanent part, 95 per cent of the whole wealth of Hamilton is owned by men who have made it.

Q.—From your observations is it not found the case that sons and grandsons of rich people become poor, while the sons and grandsons of the poorer class become rich? A.—Yes; I find that the best immigrants that can come into this country are the men who have been mostly independent of capital.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—How long would it take a man to acquire considerable wealth coming to this country just now? A.—I will give you an instance out of my own office. We

have six men here, once poor people, who are now worth millions, all out of my own office.

Q.—If people came now in the same way as they did thirty or forty years ago would they find the same chances in this Province to-day as they did then? A.—I don't believe the opportunities in Ontario to-day are as great as they are in the North-West for poor men, for the simple reason that there is unearned increment in the North-West, which we have not here.

Q.—The chances in the North-West are better than they are here? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much better? A.—Fifty per cent.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Just fix in your mind some wealthy man of Hamilton who started without considerable capital, and then say if men of equal ability, exercising industry and economy, would have as good chances of success to-day as ever these men had in Hamilton? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Why? A.—For the simple reason that capital has become more concentrated, and poor men have not the same chance to enter into competition with capitalists.

Q.—Is all the money appropriated by the Dominion Government under the head of immigration spent on immigration? A.—No, sir.

Q.—To what is it applied? A.—To quarantine and for protecting the health of the country.

Q.—Now, can you give us some information as to the expenditure on quarantine? A.—It is for the purpose of keeping out epidemics; for instance, as a press man, Mr. Freed, that some articles we have read—

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Please speak to the Commission with regard to the quarantine, and do not make personal allusions, please? What is your answer to the question? A.—Nothing.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How is the money spent which is appropriated by the Ontario Government under the head of immigration? A.—About 90 per cent. in salaries and expenses and 10 per cent. to immigration.

Q.—Considerable of this money is spent for assisting immigrants from Quebec to parts of Ontario? A.—No; not a cent for the assistance of immigrants from Quebec to Ontario.

WILLIAM McANDREWS, re-called.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—With regard to the assertion made by Mr. Smith, the last witness, respecting a deaf and dumb printer, he stated that he would not be allowed to work because he was a non-union man. I understand you want to contradict that.

A.—I wish to say that the deaf and dumb printers never applied to the union for work; though it is a rule of the union not to give employment to non-union men, we do not want the statement to go abroad that we deprived a deaf and dumb man from working because he was a non-union man. He may have been a fair man; I had a conversation with him in the deaf and dumb alphabet, but he never asked for work, and he received help from the printer's union.

The Commission then adjourned until Tuesday at two o'clock.

BENJAMIN M. DANFORTH, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You are employed in the Ontario rolling mill? A.—In the nail works.

Q.—How long have you been employed there? A.—Four years and ten months.

Q.—Is there a large number of men employed there? A.—Fifty hands.

Q.—Do they get pretty constant employment? A.—Yes.

Q.—During what portion of the year are they laid off? A.—We run steadily; we don't lay off, unless we are compelled to do so by a break down.

Q.—You have work which keeps men constantly employed, excepting in case of an accident? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many hours a day do you work? A.—Ten.

Q.—Do you work by the day, the week or the piece? A.—Most of the men are on piece-work.

Q.—How do the rates of wages in Hamilton in the nail works compare with the rates paid, say in Pittsburg? A.—They are a little higher at present in Hamilton.

Q.—Who makes the scale of wages? A.—We are working on what is called the Pittsburg prices at present. They are taken from the Pittsburg scale; we were working before they reduced over there at 12 per cent. They have been reduced and ours is still the same.

Q.—So that you get now a little better than they get there? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can men do pretty well at those prices? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you care to say what a man can make? A.—A nailer running four machines makes \$3.50 to \$4 per day.

Q.—It is pretty hard work, is it not? A.—No; it is not.

Q.—Is the shop fairly comfortable? A.—Fairly.

Q.—How is its sanitary condition? A.—Very good.

Q.—How frequently are you paid? A.—Once every two weeks.

Q.—On what day of the week? A.—Saturday.

Q.—Are you satisfied with that pay day? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you had any labor troubles lately? A.—None during four years and ten months.

Q.—How many boys are working at the trade? A.—Twenty.

Q.—Do the rules of your union provide any specific number of boys to any number of journeymen? A.—They do not mention boys at all.

Q.—There is no limit? A.—No.

Q.—Are those boys apprentices? A.—Well, they are not apprentices.

Q.—Are they learning the trade? A.—Well, yes; they can learn the trade; there is a good chance for them, the same as in other shops.

Q.—In course of time they become—what? A.—In course of time they become nailers.

Q.—Will they then be competent workmen? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are those receiving such instruction as to make them good workmen? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know where your nail-plates come from? A.—From our rolling mill alongside of the factory; they are all one concern.

Q.—What iron is used in the rolling mill? A.—Scrap-iron.

Q.—Where is it obtained? A.—In Ontario; all over Canada, wherever we can get it.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—How do the rates of wages in your business compare with Montreal? A.—They are better.

Q.—Are the Montreal employers able to undersell you in consequence of that? A.—A.—That you will have to ask the manufacturers.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Has your factory ever been visited by the Ontario factory inspector?
A.—Yes.

Q.—When? A.—Last fall.

Q.—How often does he visit the factory? A.—I think, if I am not mistaken, this was his first visit.

Q.—Was everything satisfactory; did he make a pretty critical examination?
A.—Yes.

Q.—I suppose you manufacture all kinds and sizes of nails? A.—Yes.

Q.—And tacks? A.—No.

Q.—Do you have any competition from the Lower Provinces? A.—Yes.

Q.—How do the prices compare with yours? A.—I cannot speak as to that.

Q.—You spoke with reference to Pittsburg and Montreal? A.—You are speaking of the manufacturers' prices, and I was speaking of wages.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are the boys in the nail factory employed by the men or by the firm?
A.—By the men.

Q.—Do the employers have nothing to say in the regulating of the wages of those boys? A.—No.

Q.—The whole work is done by the piece? A.—Yes.

Q.—And the men have their helpers. A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the principal work those boys do? A.—Sitting down and turning a rod in the machine.

Q.—What wages do the boys get? A.—Well, they make from \$1 to \$1.25 a day.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Those will be pretty good sized boys? A.—Over fifteen years of age.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is your association connected with the Nailers' Association of the other side? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you find that organized labor is a benefit to your trade? A.—Well, it is a benefit if a nailer goes to the other side. If he goes from here to there he can get work, and if he is not he has considerable difficulty.

Q.—Has it a tendency to keep up wages? A.—Well, yes; we keep up the wages through the Western States by holding together.

Q.—Do you think if there was no organization the wages would be as high as they are? A.—I do not think so.

Q.—Have you any sick benefits in connection with your organization? A.—Well, the sick benefit runs in this way: a man holds four machines, and if he is laid off the men will take the machines and run them for him, so as to keep them running.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—And he draws the pay? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—How do the wages compare in your factory with those in the Maritime Provinces, so far as you have had experience? A.—They compare better.

Q.—Are there as many boys employed in the New Brunswick factories as there are here? A.—Just about the same.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you know if there is any marketed goods coming in from the other side?
A.—None.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Do you make steel nails? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever used Londonderry iron? A.—No; not here.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Do boys get \$1 to \$1.25 a day the first year they go to work? A.—Yes; if they turn out to be good feeders; some learn quickly, and others not.

Q.—How long does it take to learn? A.—Sometimes three or six months, and some require one to two years.

Q.—How do they start them? A.—So much a keg; about \$1 to \$1.25 is all they make when they become good nailers.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do those boys displace men? A.—I cannot say they do. When they grow up to be quite large, heavy fellows, they put them on larger machines, and it would not look very well to see a big man feeding lath nails.

Q.—Are not there many men in Hamilton who would be glad to have \$1.25 a day? A.—No doubt there are; but it is skilled labor making these nails.

Q.—There is not much skilled labor about it, is there? A.—I think there is, and I have been twenty-eight years at the business, and should know something about it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—In the event of labor troubles, does your organization prefer the principles of arbitration? A.—Yes.

Q.—And a strike is about the last resort? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you know any organization that objects to arbitration? A.—No; I do not.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—I don't suppose you can speak for any trade but your own in that respect? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What kind of arbitration would you prefer in case of a labor trouble—one appointed by the Government or by the parties interested? A.—By the parties interested.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you know if the men in your business are in favor of a bureau of labor statistics? A.—I could not say as to that.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How are your nail-plates heated? A.—For what purpose? Do you mean for making nails?

Q.—Yes? A.—With oil.

Q.—What is called a carbon burner? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is that as satisfactory to the men as the old fashioned furnace? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it any better? A.—Yes; there is not so much dust or sulphur arising from it.

Q.—Do the men remain with the company pretty constantly or are there frequent changes? A.—When the firm started there were a good many changes, but now men are very steady; there has not been much change for a long time.

Q.—Have you had any strikes or other labor troubles? A.—Not for a long time.

Q.—How frequently are men paid? A.—Every two weeks.

Q.—How many hours will each man work per day? A.—It just depends on the amount of heat the quantity we turn out.

Q.—What is a fair day's work? A.—Eight or nine hours, if everything goes right, but sometimes accidents occur; if that happens we cannot work as fast as at other times.

Q.—What classes of iron do you turn out? A.—All grades and sizes which are

manufactured—squared, bar-iron and rods. We do not work plates or angles; we work machine iron, from $\frac{1}{2}$ up to 4 inches round, and from $\frac{1}{4}$ square up to $2\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{3}{8}$, and plate to 7, 8 and 12-inch sizes.

Q.—Do you make shafting? A.—Yes; 4-inch shafting, not any larger.

Q.—Do you turn out any steel at all? A.—We make some steel occasionally.

Q.—Steel shafting? A.—No; just steel sleigh-shoes and so forth, but very little of that.

Q.—What steel do you use? A.—We use some old rails, and blooms imported from the United States.

Q.—Are you able to tell us how United States blooms compare with those you get from England? A.—No; I am not.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Has not the system of piece-work a tendency to lower your standard rate of day wages? A.—Well, I do not know; I never did work by day work; always piece-work.

Q.—Do you know any system by which work in your mill could be regulated so that the men could have it efficiently laid out as day's work? A.—No; I do not.

Q.—You think piece-work is the only resource in your business? A.—Yes; I think so.

Q.—Do you manufacture any other articles except those you have spoken of? A.—Just nails and merchandize of all sizes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—When the factory inspector visited the mill was he satisfied with the arrangements? A.—I believe he was.

Q.—Did he make a pretty thorough inspection? A.—Yes; a pretty thorough inspection. We got a few guards put up after he was there.

Q.—Have you had any accident to life or limb? A.—We had one four or five years ago and one death; that is the only one since the mill was started.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Have you done anything to prevent such accidents from recurring? A.—Yes; it is very hard to see how any occur. I do not see how this one happened. There was a little opening and a man was sleeping near the machinery; he woke up, and by some means in his stupor fell into the machinery.

Q.—That could not occur again? A.—No; it could not.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How did the man come to be sleeping? A.—He was waiting for his turn to come on; he was lying near the machinery, and when the whistle blew and called on the men to wake up he fell right in.

Q.—Had he been working at all? A.—Yes; this occurred between three and four in the morning, when his work was nearly over.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—How long has the mill been in operation? A.—Nine years.

Q.—Where do the proprietors come from? A.—They are Americans.

Q.—Is it a branch of an American establishment? A.—They are an American firm but not the branch of an American firm. They are Americans principally.

Q.—Was there a rolling mill or anything of the kind in Hamilton previous to their coming here? A.—Yes; they used to roll rails for the Great Western railway.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Rolling mill work is very hot work, and the hands cannot stay at it very long? A.—Yes; they have to get holidays in summer.

Q.—What kind of work is it? A.—They get a piece of iron and have to reduce it down by rolls.

Q.—How long at a time? A.—Three-quarters of an hour, perhaps more, and then they get half an hour's rest.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Are rails made in the mill? A.—No; they are cast at Gartshore's.

Q.—Are rails made in Hamilton as good as those made on the other side? A.—Well, we get all chilled rails from the other side and soft ones are made here.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Have some men attempted to manufacture wire of any sort? A.—No; we have not.

THOMAS MACKAY, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You are a retail grocer, Mr. Mackay? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long have you been in the business in Hamilton altogether? A.—Over twenty-eight years.

Q.—Are you able to speak as to the price of groceries during this period of twenty-eight years? A.—Well, I do not remember much about the first two or three years when I was just starting, but I think after that I could.

Q.—How do prices of ordinary groceries at the present times compare with the prices in former years? A.—Teas just now are about the same as when I first went to work twenty-seven or twenty-eight years ago. I had been working only two years when teas began to go up.

Q.—When they began to go up how high did they go? A.—As high as \$1.25 a pound. They went up from 30 to 37½ cents, and 63 to 75 for the best, up to \$1.25. Gunpowder and even Young Hyson went up to \$1.20 and \$1.25.

Q.—How long did tea remain at those prices? A.—Until about fifteen years ago.

Q.—Has the fall been gradual during the past fifteen years? A.—Yes.

Q.—What would that 75-cent tea sell at now? A.—I do not think we could to-day equal the teas we used to get fifteen years ago,

Q.—Well, as near as could be? A.—It would sell for about 75 cents now. Fine Gunpowder is worth about 70 cents to-day if you could get it, but it is hard to get.

Q.—About sugar—what would good brown family sugar be worth twenty-five years ago? A.—In former times there were only four or five grades of sugar, Nos. 2, 2½, 3 and 4; No. 4 was the lightest.

Q.—When you began business what was it worth? A.—Eight and nine pounds for the dollar.

Q.—Did it rise or fall? A.—It kept at that price for years.

Q.—What would that sugar sell for now? A.—We have been selling it as low as sixteen pounds for the dollar until the last three months.

Q.—What do you sell it for now? A.—Thirteen pounds to the dollar.

Q.—Was there any granulated sugar when you first went into business? A.—Yes.

Q.—What was the price? A.—Seven and eight pounds to the dollar.

Q.—What is it now? A.—We sell it as high as sixteen; sometimes it would be fifteen pounds to the dollar.

Q.—Has it fluctuated a great deal since you first went into the business? A.—During the last six years it has got much cheaper. When I started for myself it was eleven or twelve pounds to the dollar.

Q.—What has caused that fall in the price of sugar? A.—I could not say.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Beet-root sugar? A.—Yes; I suppose that and glucose would affect it.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you know what kind of sugar the granulated is, now sold? A.—No; I do not.

Q.—Is it beet-root sugar? A.—No; I think it is cane sugar.

Q.—Can you speak as to other classes of groceries? A.—Well, coffees were cheaper until this fall. They were as low as 15 cents last summer.

Q.—What were they five years ago? A.—The cheapest we could sell would be 25 cents.

Q.—Ten years ago what was the price? A.—Twenty-five to thirty-five cents.

Q.—Fifteen years ago? A.—The same; Java was worth 35 cents, Mocha 40 to 55; Ceylon 35; Rio is cheap, about 25 cents.

Q.—What will those classes sell for now? A.—The cheapest we could buy would be not less than 23 or 24 cents. We lost about 15 per cent. in Rios.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—There has been a boom in coffee? A.—Yes; since last summer it has been going up gradually.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How has the price of butter ranged? A.—In winter I think it keeps pretty much the same; in summer we have paid as low as 6 and 8 cents a pound.

Q.—Lately? A.—In 1868 and 1869; but then we could not buy it regularly for that; it was just a chance.

Q.—What would you sell good table butter for, say twenty-five years ago, in winter? A.—Twenty-five cents a pound.

Q.—What would that same butter be worth now? A.—About the same—25 to 30 cents.

Q.—Has it been dearer or cheaper during the interval? A.—I think in winter it runs about the same, and in summer from 8 to 12½ cents, depending on the season.

Q.—Take pepper, spice and goods of that class: how have prices ranged? How do retail prices now and then compare? A.—Black pepper is now much higher than last year; we used to buy it for 10 cents per pound and now it would be worth 20 and 22—that is, whole pepper. Cloves are much higher now than two years ago; I think speculation does that.

Q.—Taking the whole quantity of groceries an ordinary family would require, do you think a man can supply himself now as cheaply as he could five years ago? A.—I think he could, more cheaply.

Q.—Ten years ago? A.—Cheaper.

Q.—Fifteen? A.—Yes.

Q.—Twenty years ago? A.—Yes; cheaper.

Q.—Twenty-five years ago? As near as I can recollect, I think he could. I did not look back so far to see; I did not go back twenty-five years.

Q.—You have looked back in your books to refresh your memory? A.—Yes; I did as far as 1872.

Q.—Are there any other articles of groceries of which you can speak? A.—Flour is cheaper.

Q.—What do you sell good family flour for to-day? A.—The best roller flour for \$2.50 and \$2.25 per hundred pounds.

Q.—What would that sell for five years ago? A.—Three times that.

Q.—Ten years ago? A.—That flour was not made then. There was no roller flour, but what they called the best flour was sold at \$3.50.

Q.—Fifteen years ago? A.—About the same.

Q.—Where do you get your sugar? Is it manufactured here? A.—No; we bring it from Montreal and Halifax; I buy from the wholesale trade here.

Q.—Which of the factories do you think makes the better article of sugar? A.—I like Redpath's best, though Halifax granulated sugar is good.

Q.—Are there any raw sugars now used, such as imported family Muscovado?

A.—No; very little; you hardly ever see Porto Rico sugar or Demerara now. It was principally these raw sugars we sold formerly, and the three or four grades of yellows; but now every lot of sugar you get has a different number.

Q.—What teas are in greatest use now? A.—Young Hyson and blacks.

Q.—What class of black teas? A.—Finest, cheapest and medium.

Q.—Congou? A.—Yes, and Souchong. I sell very little Japan or Oolong; it is hard to sell. Perhaps others sell it.

Q.—Is Young Hyson as much used as formerly? A.—Yes; I think just as much as formerly. Take the Americans, they want Oolong tea; they will not use anything else; old country people want black tea; farmers, as a general thing, want green tea, but of late most have used it more mixed.

Q.—What class of tea do you sell here mostly? A.—Fifty-cent tea.

Q.—What do you call the green tea you sell? A.—Young Hyson, first, second and third.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—At what age do boys go into the grocery business? A.—About fifteen, sixteen and seventeen, along there; just when they are leaving school.

Q.—You prefer to get them at that time? A.—Yes.

Q.—What salaries are paid to them? A.—Two dollars a week to begin with to \$10 a month.

Q.—For how long a time? A.—It depends on the employer.

Q.—What is the general thing? A.—I could not tell you.

Q.—When they come to be twenty or twenty-one what salary do they get? A.—About \$400 a year; it depends on how long they have been at the business and their fitness for the work.

Q.—That would be about as good a salary as a young man of that age could expect to get? A.—I think \$500 is about the average now. The most I got was \$10 a week.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—That was a good many years ago? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is it about the same now? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What hours are they engaged in business? A.—From 7:30 to 7; in summer from 7 to 7 and down to 10 or 11 o'clock on Saturday night; they have an hour for tea and dinner out of that.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—On Saturdays they have a day of fifteen hours? A.—Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—To what do you attribute the increased price of sugar at the present time? A.—I would say its scarcity.

Q.—Not through any monopoly? A.—No; not from what I know; sugars have gone up on the other side and the old country as well as here.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is there any truck system carried on in Hamilton in connection with the purchase of groceries and the necessaries of life? Are men paid by store orders? A.—I do not know of any. It used to be done when I first started. I do not know of any now, unless a man just makes a bargain for something and wants to trade it out. I never get orders; I have not seen any for years.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How do the present prices of brooms and woodenware compare with those of former years? A.—About the same.

Q.—Molasses? A.—They have been cheaper, according to the difference in the measures. I think you get more for your money by the imperial measure; the price would be the same per gallon. Of course, the sugar market would affect the molasses market.

Q.—How do the prices of liquors compare—say whiskey? A.—Whiskey is about five times as dear.

Q.—That is due to what? A.—Increase of duty.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is it as pure? A.—I think so.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Do you know how our sugars here compare with those in the United States? A.—No; not just now. Last summer I was in Rochester and Buffalo and saw that they were selling sugars about the same as we were here; that was last August; I could not say now.

Q.—How were other groceries over there? A.—I could not say.

Q.—In your line of business is there not a good deal of the credit system? A.—Quite a bit.

Q.—Don't you think if people were paid weekly instead of fortnightly and monthly it would do away with a good deal of that? A.—No; I do not think so.

Q.—They would have credit just the same? A.—Yes; if they were paid every day. If a person runs a monthly account I consider it cash just the same as if they paid every day. I make no difference; I do not know how others do. We give the same quantities and prices, as I consider a man's money who pays every month or two weeks is just as good as if I got it every day; I do not see why he should be charged more.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Practically, in your business thirty days is cash? A.—Yes; very few ever ask longer credit than a month.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you not sometimes make bad accounts? A.—Yes; sometimes. It depends on the amount of credit you give; if you are careful you will not do much of it.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—If people were paid weekly they could buy with better advantage to themselves? A.—Not in groceries; they might on the market. Prices do not change very much.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do not cash customers get better terms than credit ones? A.—No; I do not think so—if you mean by credit customers, those who pay monthly. Thirty days is considered cash in retail. Many people pay as they go, some every week, some two weeks and others monthly. I have monthly customers who pay me promptly.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are there any who do not pay at all? A.—Yes; you come across such occasionally.

Q.—Is not that generally in the slack season of business? A.—Generally. You will find people who have paid accounts promptly for years turn out bad; I do not see why it should be so.

Q.—Have grocers an association in Hamilton? A.—Well, they tried to form one but they have never done anything with it; they have never been able to agree among themselves. They do not seem to have confidence in one another.

Q.—They went on strike once, did they not? A.—No; this fall they formed an

association and that was all they did. They tried to regulate prices and report bad-paying customers, but they were never able to do anything.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Competition is too sharp in the business? A.—One is afraid of the other; I have joined four since I started here. The one they have now has meetings once a month; they had a meeting last week but I did not go.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do they publish amongst the members what is called a black-list? A.—No; but they say it is their intention to do so. If they could get all to join and work it up it would be a good thing.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—By black-list you mean a list of those who will not pay? A.—Yes; that was one of the things they talked about.

Q.—That is equal to the Dun-Wiman system? A.—It would be a good thing for grocers if we had an idea who were bad customers. If their names were reported to the association and a list printed and distributed amongst the members, and a man whose name was on the list went to you asking for credit you would turn up the list and would not let him have it. It would save the grocers a good many dollars if they would carry the idea out.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have they ever made an attempt to raise the price of sugar or tea? A.—No; not here. I talked it over with several but they would not do it unless all did. When sugars go down they talk about it, and they say: So-and-so will not do it and I will not.

JOHN HALL, Foreman at the Locomotive Works at the Grand Trunk Railway, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—I believe you are in charge of the locomotive power on the Great Western Division of the Grand Trunk Railway? A.—Yes; at Hamilton. I have only charge of the locomotives that are assigned to this station.

Q.—Not of the whole of the Great Western Division? A.—No.

Q.—The drivers and firemen report to you? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long have you been in the employ of the Great Western and Grand Trunk since the Great Western was transferred to it? A.—Thirty-four years and three months.

Q.—Have you occupied your present position during the whole of that time? A.—No.

Q.—For what length of time have you occupied your present position? A.—Thirty-two years on the 12th of March next.

Q.—You had had railway experience before you came to Canada? A.—Yes.

Q.—Will you please state briefly what it was? A.—I was firing on the North Eastern Railway and on the North Western, and I was driving for two years and a-half out of the city of Madrid, in Spain, before I came here.

Q.—The North Eastern and the North Western Railways are separate corporations in England, I believe? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long will an engine-driver and fireman, under ordinary circumstances, be employed in one day? A.—Nine hours.

Q.—Under exceptional circumstances is that length of time usually increased? A.—Yes; after nine hours, additional pay is granted to them. The trip is usually ended in nine hours of regular work, and for any time occupied in the journey beyond this a fixed rate per hour is allowed until the trip is completed.

Q.—Then, I understand you to say that if a man has been running, let us say from Niagara Falls to London, if his trip extended over nine hours he would be paid additional? A.—Yes; additional, at the rate of 20 cents per hour to the driver and 13 cents per hour to the fireman.

Q.—Is the trip considered a day's work, whatever it may be? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are detentions frequent on the road? A.—At this season of the year they are more frequent than in the summer time; we have comparatively little detention in the summer time; it is only in the event of some accident or some unforeseen occurrence delaying the train that such is at all possible.

Q.—For how many hours of continuous service does a man's work extend sometimes, under exceptional circumstances? A.—In the event of a break-down on the road, a storm, or anything of that kind, I have seen it run up to forty hours.

Q.—Of continuous service? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are the men required to keep awake during the whole of the forty hours? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it possible for a man to give that attention to his duties under such extraordinary circumstances that is necessary to the safety of life and limb and the preservation of property? A.—He is not engaged in anything active; he simply has to keep the engine safe from freezing. A train is delayed on a side-track and an engineer is expected to keep awake and see that the boiler is kept right, and that he takes down the numbers of the trains that pass him; so we expect him to be alert and on duty for all the time to look after that work.

Q.—After this extraordinary number of hours, is he required to proceed on his way and carry his train through? A.—No; he is relieved at the first locomotive station he comes to. For instance, if he started from London he would be relieved here; if he started from Niagara Falls he would be relieved here, and if he started from here he would be relieved at London. He would be relieved at the first place he came to where there is any person capable of taking charge of the engine which he gives up.

Q.—If a man completes his trip in the ordinary, or nearly in the ordinary, number of hours—nine hours—how long a rest is he permitted to take under your rules? A.—Whatever he wishes.

Q.—What is the usual amount of rest he does take? A.—From ten to twelve hours.

Q.—Is it usual for a man to abridge his term of rest in order to get increased pay? A.—Yes; the way we do is this: We keep a book, and when the man comes in he signs off duty. Suppose he comes in at 8 o'clock and he desires to rest for ten hours, he would not be called till 6 o'clock the next morning; if he desired twelve hours he would not be called till 8 o'clock next morning. If he desired one or two days off, after anything special, he simply says: "I will report when I am ready for duty."

Q.—Is a man ever required to return to work without having obtained sufficient rest? A.—No; never under any circumstances.

Q.—Does the company encourage men to return to duty without having sufficient time to get properly rested? A.—No; on the contrary. The company is not benefited in any way whatever by a man coming in an unfit condition to his work, and our orders are peremptory that no man shall come except he is thoroughly capable and in a fit condition to do his work. I have not known a case in the thirty years that I have been here that a man was ever asked to come to work when he was in an unfit condition. He is largely a judge himself as to his condition.

Q.—If a man is called to duty, but being in ill health, or for any other reason unfit for work, how do you treat him; do you compel him to come to work? A.—No; we call him at whatever hour in the day or night we require him, and if he says: "I am ill and cannot come to work," then the caller comes and reports to me, and I tell him whom to call to take his place, and the caller keeps going from one to another, sometimes to three or four, perhaps, before we get a man that is capable of going.

That, of course, is an unusual thing to do, because the regulation says that he is to give us timely notice, so that a man can be provided in his place; but, whenever a man is taken ill, or his illness in his family, all he has to do is to tell us, and we make ample preparations to have his place supplied by some one who is capable of taking charge of an engine.

Q.—Of course, at certain times a great many more men are employed than at others? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you a number of men sufficiently large so that in active times the men are not required to work beyond their strength? A.—The way we arrange matters is this: we always have a number of firemen who have had six or seven years' experience, and are familiar with and are capable of taking charge of an engine. We move those men away from firing to take the engines of those who are not required to work under the circumstance stated, and then we supply the places of those men who ordinarily fire with cleaners out of the shop. We have quite a number of these, ten or twelve, and it is not a very important matter whether the engines are cleaned or not for a few trips. So we have possibly 25 per cent. of men for doing additional work, with another number of not less than 10 per cent. we can fall back upon in the way I have indicated; so that in all cases we are prepared to meet any emergency that is likely to arise.

Q.—Have you known men to be broken down in health by severe work? A.—No.

Q.—I am speaking of train men, of course? A.—Certainly.

Q.—Do you know anything about the width of running-boards on freight cars? A.—Yes; I know by seeing them.

Q.—What would you consider to be a proper width for these running-boards? A.—About 3 feet.

Q.—Do you know what the width of the boards on freight cars on the Grand Trunk is? A.—I should judge somewhere in the neighborhood of 16 or 18 inches, but I could not speak positively as to that matter. I doubt that when a train is in rapid motion and is going round a curve whether it is safe for any one to be standing on the top of the cars. I have seen men take their boots off when the cars were going down hill. The roofs become slippery in winter and the men have only the width of, say, sixteen inches to stand upon.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do not the regulations say that the width is not to be less than 16 inches? A.—I think somewhere about that width.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Are accidents in consequence of men falling from freight cars frequent? A.—They are a little more frequent than they should be.

Q.—When sleet is falling do the roofs of cars become exceedingly dangerous? A.—Yes.

Q.—In your opinion, would it be possible to place guards along the running-boards to give the men additional protection? A.—I think it would be better if the running-boards were placed on the sides of the cars. I think it would be a dangerous matter in a dark night to step from one car to another, having only 16 inches to step upon, and a guard upon each side of this narrow width; a man's foot might strike against the guard protection and throw him between the cars. As a protection I should judge it would be far better to have the guards on the sides of the car, so that if a man slipped he might be caught before he fell off the car—I mean a railing along the side. That should be strong enough, so that the man who slipped might be caught by it before he fell over. That is a protection that, I think, would probably meet the case.

Q.—Could such a protection be applied to the cars without any serious expense? A.—I think so.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you not think there would be danger from snow lodging against that and doing away with the usefulness of it? A.—It could be arranged if erected so that the poles would stand at a distance from each other of 3 or 4 feet, and the railing would simply be one to protect the men from falling off the cars.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—What height would you propose? A.—About 2 feet; just sufficient to catch a man in the event of his slipping.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you think it possible to apply air-brakes to freight cars, so that the necessity of running along running-boards would be obviated largely, or almost wholly removed? A.—Yes.

Q.—Could you apply the Westinghouse air-brake or some other air-brake? A.—Almost any air-brake. During the session of the Ontario Legislature in 1880 the question was considered by a committee of the body, and I had thought for twenty years previous to that time that an economical method might be adopted whereby a hitherto unused power could be utilized to attain the object the Legislature had in view, in attempting to stop men getting on the tops of cars to control them down grades and stop them where necessary. I intimated by letter bearing date the 10th February, 1880, through my superintendent and to Manager Broughton, the plan I had in view. I am not prepared to say whether this information was communicated by the committee; I did not see it in their report. My plan, briefly stated, was to use the ordinary pistons and valves of the locomotive as air-pumps under certain conditions to retard and stop a train. I was aware of the three objections that were urged against reversing the valve motion of an engine when running, and especially at a high speed, the first of which was: The drawing of impurities in the smoke-box through the exhaust orifices into the cylinder and steam chests and thereby injuring them. 2nd. Having been drawn in, no mode is provided except by forcing this impure air through the regulator valve into the boiler and unduly increasing the pressure. 3rd. When desirable to change the reversed lever the dry and heavy weighted valves cannot be controlled, and the reserve force in the steam pipes and check are liable to damage the car couplings. The first objection I overcame by closing the blast orifice, and arranging for the admission of pure air through an independent channel opening and closing. If those are done simultaneously this pure air is lubricated, so that no injury can result to valves or pistons. The second is accomplished by placing a valve in the steam pipe or chest, and regulated by the driver between the fixed boiler pressure and the atmosphere, so that no pressure beyond that allowed in ordinary work will be present when running reversed to cause undue strain upon the machinery, and as this valve can be used to reduce the pressure to any desirable point the reversing lever can be changed without injury to the couplings, removing all the objections that have any force in the construction of the ordinary engine. And this retarding force when applied against the moving pistons will depend upon the engine's power to resist, but when any of this stored-up air is used in a brake cylinder you attain what no other brake attains, the power to stop a train by the force of its own motion, and this air is gathered so rapidly when running only a moderate rate of speed, say a joint piston speed of 800 feet per minute, that a reasonable computation can be reached when each piston is drawing air, should that be desired, through 75 per cent. of their pathway, and exhausting it through the valve referred to, and which can be set at any desired pressure and released at each pulsation of the stroke, or carried back if desired to stop cars almost without limit by the three way-cocks assigned for this particular duty. It is very similar to the Westing-house method, except we entirely dispense with air-pumping machinery for the purpose of stopping a train. I was led to think this matter out largely owing to the fact that men of vast railroad knowledge, such as Mr. Brydges, were recommending the putting of weighted cars on freight trains

for braking purposes, and as this could not be effected without increasing the load one-twelfth and deriving no revenue from this additional load it appeared to me to be a plan, if endorsed by the Legislature, that would be extremely harassing to the company, and although nothing came of my suggestion it has been demonstrated that a cheap and effective method of largely preventing men from following this hazardous method of stopping a train can be dispensed with by united and concerted action on the part of all the railroad companies using our Canadian lines.

Q.—I have forgotten whether you mentioned what would be the expense of attaching this air brake to a freight car? A.—From \$16 to \$18.

Q.—Do you think that an improvement could be made in the coupling, so that accidents from coupling would be partially or wholly avoided? A.—I think so. There should not be any difficulty in the case of freight cars when it has been successfully carried out in respect to passenger cars. A coupler of that kind, the Miller coupler, has been applied to passenger trains, and I see no difficulty in applying it, or some other similar device, to freight trains.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Would you not have to provide a Miller platform on freight cars, so as to provide a Miller coupler? A.—I think not; I think deadwoods would answer the purposes for coupling.

Q.—You think a Miller coupler could be attached to an ordinary deadwood? A.—Yes; I think with a Miller coupler there would be no difficulty in doing that. There have been a great number; I counted somewhere in the neighborhood of 1,600 different kinds of couplings patented in the United States, and it would be very difficult to get the railway companies to agree upon any certain one as the best. Of course, there are a great number of cars belonging to other companies passing through here, and it might be difficult to settle upon one particular coupler that would answer all purposes.

Q.—If we had legislation looking to the adoption of improvements in this or in other respects, would it be necessary for this legislation to cover the United States as well as Canada? A.—I think so. Unless you could apply it to all trains coming here it would not be effective. Of course, it would have to be applied to every road, and each company would have to put in that particular appliance recommended before the system could be effective. It would not do, for instance, to have two or three kinds of couplings attached to freight cars coming here, because we would not be able to get along with them.

Q.—Do you think the railway companies would feel inclined, if they could once decide on which was the best coupling and the best brake, to adopt those improvements, apart from considerations of expense? A.—I think so.

Q.—You have mentioned the Miller coupler: do you think it is as good as the Jancy coupler, or the Ames coupler? A.—The Miller coupler answers very well here; I have no experience in regard to the other couplers you have mentioned, and, of course I cannot tell you anything about them. The Miller coupler answers very well with our passenger cars, and that or any other coupler, would, no doubt, cover the ground.

Q.—Are accidents at all frequent on the road, within your knowledge, from men getting their feet fastened in frogs, or between guard-rails and main rails, while coupling cars or working in the yard? A.—They are not very frequent. Of course, I have known cases to have occurred here where men have got their feet fastened in that way.

Q.—I believe the law now requires those frogs to be blocked with wood to some extent. Is that not the case? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is that done on the Grand Trunk line? A.—It is on some parts of it.

Q.—Does it prevent those accidents? A.—I should not think it would do so. I am of the opinion that there ought not to be any switching done, and that men should not couple or uncouple cars where there are either switches, or frogs, or guard-rails. Work of this kind should not be done in the immediate neighborhood where these are.

Q.—Could the cars in all cases be run beyond the switches or frogs, so that the men could work at them? A.—Yes; in nearly all cases; I scarcely know a case which would be likely to occur where it could not be done.

Q.—If so, would the men be likely to be found fault with for being slow about the work? A.—I cannot see it. It is only a matter of doing work as it might be done at one end of this room or at the other. There is no difference in the work itself.

Q.—You could not uncouple a car at a dangerous place so rapidly as you could do it if you were in a position of perfect safety, and when you had not to watch all the time where your feet were going? A.—The distance involved would be very small; there is not more than 52 yards between the extreme end of the frog and switch, and I think a man should in all cases avoid doing any kind of work in that neighborhood unless everything was entirely at rest.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you know of any person other than an employé who has had his foot caught in a frog? A.—No. Of course, a man might be caught in a frog, and if he was he would take his foot out of his boot as quickly as he could get it. There might have been such a thing occur, but I do not think I ever saw a man working where his foot was likely to get caught. I, myself, have passed them a great many thousands of times and I never got caught by them.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you know anything of the system of signals on the line? A.—Yes; I am acquainted with those in use on the Grand Trunk.

Q.—In your opinion, is the present system of signal lights a satisfactory one? A.—In what way do you mean? To what signals do you refer—to engine signals?

Q.—To lights, signals used in the yards at night to signal the engines, semaphores and all the lights that are used in the yards? A.—Yes; I think they are very satisfactory lights.

Q.—Are the same signals used now on the Grand Trunk as were in use on the Great Western? A.—No.

Q.—Do you consider the signals in use on the Great Western were a better system than those now in use on the Grand Trunk? A.—In some respects they were and in other respects they were not. For instance: in switching we used to have two red lights. If you were starting for the switch you never could tell on looking at night whether the switch was for the north or south track? You started with this one light, and it was a red one, and you might run off the track. Now we have a uniform system and different colors, a purple and a green light, and the one is for one side and the other is for the other side, and a third light is for the main track. The purple light is not seen as great a distance as either the red, white or the green light. You have to get within, probably, 100 yards to be sure as to what it is, but usually when moving about a switch you do so continuously, and there is not much trouble in knowing exactly where you are. The system has a further advantage that the drivers can always tell, whereas under the old system they could not tell as accurately, and further, they avoid running past danger lights, a very desirable consideration.

Q.—Have you ever heard any complaints by engineers of the present system of signals? A.—No.

Q.—What examinations do locomotive engineers undergo before being appointed to engines? A.—I hardly know, for I have never examined myself. The examination, however, covers chiefly questions relating to lights on the road and a familiarity with the rules, and matters of that kind. The engineers are very properly expected to have some knowledge of such matters, especially in regard to the lights and the rules of the road, because they are very often without conductors and have to act both as engine-driver and conductor in the absence of the latter—that is when they are running an empty engine over part of the road, and the engineer has joint responsibility with the conductor for any infringement of the rules in any case.

They are examined on this matter, and I dare say they are also examined further, although I have never been at an examination to know what technical knowledge is required from an engineer in regard to his work. He is, however, expected to be able to ascertain what is the matter with his engine when it breaks down while at work. If a piston or valve is broken or machinery disabled he is expected to know on what side it is, and to be able to adopt measures to take the engine out of the way.

Q.—Is there any test for color blindness among engine-drivers? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does it frequently occur that engineers on the Grand Trunk are affected with color blindness? A.—I have never known any cases.

Q.—Are the men tested in regard to that matter? A.—They are always tested when they start work, although I do not know whether you would call it a scientific test or not. We have a board and several colors on it, red, blue, green and yellow. These colors are marked, and the men are required to stand a distance away and are tested, and we always make this test before we take them into the service. We chiefly confine ourselves to the green and white lights, lights something like those which are on the road, and if they can pass that test we do not go any further.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Is there a certain order in existence by the company that a man has to be a certain size before he can become a fireman or engineer? A.—I am not aware of any such order. I have heard some joking about this matter, and a little man came to me the other day to ask me whether such was the case. He said he would not be nearly big enough to be a fireman if there was any such rule. I have never heard of it before or since.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Can you tell us how many freight cars an air-brake could control, or how many brakes a man could control? A.—Which kind, automatic or straight?

Q.—Any kind? A.—You could control an unlimited quantity if you had air with which to do it.

Q.—How many brakes could an engineer control, either automatic or straight brakes? A.—The Westinghouse brake works very well up to thirteen or fourteen cars. When all the triple valves and other things are in order of course they are working automatically and storing a quantity of air under each vehicle—that is by the Westinghouse automatic brake. You pump into the main pipe to keep the triple valves up. When you lower the pressure in the main pipe below the pressure in the reservoir this valve falls, and when it falls it opens an orifice and lets the stored air out into the brake cylinder, and this sets on the brake. In order to take the brake off it is necessary that this pressure be increased by the pumping of the air engine, until such time as there is brought upon it a pressure in excess of that which is in the reservoir. For example: you are running with sixty pounds pressure in the main reservoir; the difference between what is in the reservoir in the engine and the reservoir in the cars is five pounds. There must be five pounds in excess in the main pipe over the pressure in the reservoir to keep it clear by lowering it in the pipe below the pressure of fifty-five pounds, which is automatically set on, and it will take from the gauge something like two and a-half pounds of this pressure to set a brake. This is supposing you allow the piston to travel only one-third or one-half of the stroke, not to let it run the full extent of its length; if you do not take up the slack it will probably take the five pounds, but usually they are kept up reasonably tightly, and they simply pump them clear and let the brake off, or change the valve and the brake comes on again. If these valves are in good order you can work thirteen or fourteen cars without much difficulty. When you get beyond that number you have quite a trouble in getting the ordinary engine to pump sufficient to release them with any kind of rapidity. You have to pump the whole length of the pipe running under all the vehicles to equalize the pressure. In order to pump you have to charge them all directly from the engine or main reservoir, by attaching a reservoir under each carriage; the amount of air taken to charge the brake cylinders is the

same in the aggregate and reduces the pressure on the main reservoir as if only one had been supplied instead of, say ten, on the train; but it will readily be seen to recover the original pressure in the ten will require the same amount of air as if it had been supplied from one only—in other words, it draws from ten instead of one; but with the advantage that the high pressure upon the whole is not reduced to be ineffective, as it would in the case of drawing only from one reservoir. I think the automatic is a very quick brake, because as soon as it is applied it is felt by each vehicle. The disconnecting of a pipe or the opening of a check at the end of the car by the conductor, or any device of that kind, would enable him to set the brake, and if the air engine is not at work from any cause, of course he would have to let the train stand until such time as there has been what we call bleeding, that is, to let the pressure out of the air cylinders and keep it out. We let it out by the process of turning a cock; that, of course, would be a very serious disadvantage in the event of any misfortune occurring, or in the event of one train being followed closely or rapidly by another. If there is a train of ten or twelve cars, and the connection with the engine cannot be quickly released, there is danger of the following train running into it. That is the most serious difficulty in the automatic brake; it is only automatic in setting, but not releasing the brake.

Q.—Do you think an air-brake could be applied and used satisfactorily on freight cars? A.—Yes; I thoroughly do.

Q.—Do you think a brake would have sufficient power to pull up a train going down a heavy grade? A.—I guarantee with my brake to control fifty cars going down a 1 per cent. grade without difficulty. I can pump an unlimited quantity of air, and it is only a question of making a disposition of it; I have so much air I do not know what to do with it; the trouble is to control it. I could control, say, fifty cars, and could give as much pressure as 140 pounds, and there is no car that will stand that pressure. It would pull a truck from underneath. There is no difficulty whatever in controlling a train and, in fact, I have no doubt they are working air-brakes on freight trains all over the United States to-day, and from what I hear from the north-west States, and in the neighborhood of the Rocky Mountains, they could not descend many of the grades without an appliance of that kind.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Do you say you could control a train on any grade? A.—I can control cars on any grade, and to the number of fifty.

Q.—Are you aware of any grades on the Canadian Pacific Railway that are so steep that the cars cannot be controlled? A.—I am not aware of any grades where cars cannot be controlled. If a grade is 1 in 40 I can control the cars. We have no grades here in excess of 1 in 80.

Q.—Do you know what the grade is through Kicking Horse Pass? A.—I could not tell you. I simply know that if stopping wheels will hold the car I can do it. We can stop the wheels under any condition, and put on a pressure of 140 pounds, and there is no car that will stand a pressure of that kind.

Q.—Do you know of any grade on any railway that is so great that the stopping of the wheels will not stop the cars? A.—No. You want to begin to control the train, however, in good time. You do not want to let the cars get away too rapidly before applying the brakes. The great secret is never to let them get away more than at the rate of a few miles per hour. With the use of sand we can hold them under any condition. If there are forty cars, and you do not begin to check them early, then I can understand the difficulty there is in controlling them; but wherever we apply this power, of which I have spoken, we can hold the cars, because we can stop every wheel, and that will hold anything that can be held with the use of appliances.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Do you think its own gravity will stop it? A.—Yes; I think so. We,

however, also use the power of the engine. If I can pull three cars up a hill I can hold three cars going down a hill, because the pistons are moving in their pathway against an air pressure equal to the fixed boiler pressure that propels them up. We have had this system applied to an engine for a couple of years, and it has been under severe tests, and I do not know of a case where it has failed. I think in the ordinary Westinghouse brake, when used with straight air, the air engine does not pump enough to control more than ten or eleven cars, because if five pounds are taken out of the reservoir to fill one of the cylinders, and you are running with sixty pounds, you have practically nothing remaining. That is one of the reasons why they have placed additional reservoirs on the cars, so as to be able to control a larger number. They are obliged to do that because they cannot recover pressure sufficient, and if the air is taken out it takes a long time for the appliance to recover itself.

Q.—It loses pressure, I suppose, as it goes along? A.—Yes; as the air is removed the pressure decreases.

Q.—With regard to color tests: at what time did you make those tests with respect to color-blindness? Was it night or day? A.—In day time; also at night, if we have any doubt.

Q.—Do you think it is a satisfactory test to place colors on a board, as you have stated? Are you aware that the reflection at night and the reflection in the day time, with regard to colors, is very different? A.—I am not prepared to say as to that.

Q.—What do you think, with respect to that question—the reflection of colors at night and in day time? A.—I have generally understood that a color red in the day time is red at night; that is what we understand it to be when we look at it. I did not know there was any difference between a red color at night and at day.

Q.—When the reflection of a color comes through glass at day time or at night, do you think those colors, even to a man of pretty keen eye-sight, is the same as the color is on the board in the day time? A.—I could not say as to that. If I have had any doubt as to men's eye-sight I have got a man to stand with one of the lanterns that will change from green to red, and then to white, a revolving signal, and I have sent a man, say five-eighths of a mile down the track, and have instructed him as to the method of turning the lights, and then I would examine an individual in regard to that. If a man answered correctly then I concluded that the test was a reasonably sufficient one for any practical use.

Q.—A man of your intelligence, from practical investigation, must certainly know that whilst the sun is up the reflection of light is very different from what it is when the sun is down. A.—I suppose so.

Q.—And that a man who might be keenly alive to special colors in the day time might not be keenly alive to special colors at night time? A.—I have had no experience as to that matter; I cannot tell you whether there is any difference. I suppose if you lighted a lamp and exposed it some distance away in the sunlight I would not be able to tell the color, but if it was dark I would be able.

Q.—That is the reason why I asked you whether the tests were made in the day time or at night. Do I understand you to say that you have made tests at both times? A.—Yes; when there has been any doubt of the ability of any one in this regard we would use several colors and probably would test the man in the way I have said. If we had any doubt as to whether a man was color blind or not we would not allow him to have an engine. There have been cases of that kind occurring.

Q.—Are you not aware that there is a difference in color at night and at day? A.—I know this much, that it is a very difficult thing for a man to locate the whereabouts of a light. I have had experience in that following trains. I remember one night when the thermometer was 15 below zero I followed a train from Chatham to within fifteen miles of London. I thought from the tail lights I was not more than from 800 to 1,000 yards from the train I was following, and yet I found out by the time this train had passed several stations I was never nearer than seven miles; this illustrated to me the difficulty of locating a light at night. There was a case that

occurred at Beamsville, the explanation of which I am not prepared to offer. A conductor by the name of McKay and one of our experienced engineers were standing consulting at the station as to whether an engine along the road was standing at Jordan, five miles away, or not, and they all concluded—the station master, the engineer and the conductor—that it was five miles away from them. They started and their train collided with the former train not 500 yards distant from where they started, and the conductor was killed by the cars telescoping. I am quite aware that this is one of the difficulties encountered, and I have sometimes thought that we might obviate it, especially when following a train at night. You come upon a straight road like ours for a distance of fifty or sixty miles, and you see one of the corrugated lights, and it has the appearance of a locomotive head-light when at a distance. Now the difficulty is that there is nothing to indicate its position, whether it is one mile or ten miles away from you. I saw in Chicago some years ago what I thought was a very valuable kind of light; it was a light facing front and rear of a caboose, and it was the property of Mr. McMullen, president of the Chicago and Alton Railway. There were two lights set about 2 feet apart from each other, and the reflectors were so set that when you were one mile away the two lights merged into one, and as you approached them they began to open out until they became 2 feet apart, and each quite visible. This would answer a double purpose, one to indicate the position of a train when followed, that if two lights were visible you would be too near and speed should be checked; the other would indicate when the train parted by links or pins breaking and would prevent the rear part colliding with the front, by showing the exact position of the rear part and the speed it was approaching.

Q.—That is, if you were aware that they had a light of that kind? A.—Certainly. I have seen a light of that kind, but I have not seen it in practice. I can imagine no reasonable doubt why such a light is not practicable, and if it proves so it will prove a very valuable acquisition to the trains that are running in the way I have indicated. We have a system of utilizing the ordinary head-lights in front of the engines into cautionary or dangerous lights, by drawing shades over them, and I think it gives confidence in approaching an engine that nothing else gives. In order to see the position of a train when approaching to pass you must get down to look past the side of your own engine, and yet you have a difficulty in judging whether the engine is on a disc track or not, owing to the brilliancy of the light which is spread over three or four tracks. We now use a green shade, which we draw across the light when a train is clear and on the siding, and when he comes out and fouls the main line he sets a white light, which then practically becomes a “danger” light. Our people here rather like the idea of having a white light in front of the engine, but it has always appeared to me from my railway training in England that such a light upon a single line of railway is in violation of all railways rules. The white light indicates “all right” to railway men, and two engines may approach and collide, showing “all right” light, and yet it is all wrong. We used in the old country a red light in front, because it indicated danger, and when we went upon a side track we showed a white light, to indicate that it was all right for a train to pass, which was carrying out the letter as well as the spirit of the rule. However, we overcame this difficulty by using a third light; now we have green, red and white lights. As soon as a man comes to the main line a white light practically indicates danger, because the light on the siding is green. When you are on a siding you indicate a green light, and a man a long distance away and approaching, consequently knows that the switches are all right, train clear and ready for him to run past. The number of the train is carried in front of the head-light to prevent stopping to know what train is passed. If any emergency occurs, a red light is used, and this system is probably the best for safety as well as for despatch.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—How many freight cars is a locomotive capable of pulling over your road?
A.—A locomotive can pull about 340 tons up a grade of 1 per cent. on an ordinarily decent day. Of course, there is much difference in the cars that are hauled; some

cars will contain 50,000 or 60,000 pounds, and other cars carrying ordinary merchandise will represent about twenty tons gross. So, we may say that a locomotive could haul about 340 tons on a good day, and on the level about 600 tons.

Q.—How far would such a train run after you had applied your air-brake of which you have spoken? A.—At what speed would the train be running?

Q.—Say thirty miles per hour? A.—A train of thirty cars, each containing twenty tons, and running at, say thirty miles an hour, would be stopped in about seven-eighths of a mile.

Q.—How long does it take to stop such a train now? A.—If a train was going at a pretty good speed it would take them five or six miles. It always takes a good while for brakemen to get over and set the brakes, and when there is ice about the dogs it is difficult to get them set so as to hold.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—In case of an accident occurring and the signal was given for down brakes, how many brakes could a brakeman control? A.—About eight. We carry one brakeman on the tender, and usually a conductor and one or two brakemen behind. That is for local freight. For through freight we have two brakemen and conductors. They generally meet each other in the middle of the train, some setting brakes in the front and some in the rear. When going down a heavy grade they generally set four or five brakes, so that they can descend the hill without allowing the speed to become excessive.

Q.—Do you know anything about benefit societies connected with the Grand Trunk Railway? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is the membership understood to be compulsory among the employés? A.—It was not compulsory when it began. It is supposed to be compulsory now, but I do not think that anybody particularly enforces it. We have employed quite a number of men recently, and I know it is supposed that everybody in the service should join the provident society. We have not, however, as I say, been very particular in carrying out that particular part of our duty. When a man enters the company's employ he is sent to a doctor to be examined, the idea being that he should pass a doctor before he is employed by the company.

Q.—I suppose you are aware of the action of the Local Legislature in sending notices to employés, asking them which they would prefer, the benevolent society of the Grand Trunk or the application of the Employers' Liability Act? A.—Yes; I received a circular of that kind. I know we got that notification.

Q.—It was understood, I believe, at that time, that the names and addresses of the employés were to be sent in to the Government? A.—Yes.

Q.—Were those addresses sent to the company's shops or to the private residences of the men? A.—I think a great many were sent to the shops; many were addressed to the Grand Trunk shops, and I saw quite a number of those.

Q.—Have you ever heard any complaints from any of the men that they never received any of those notices from the Government? A.—No.

Q.—Whose duty was it to send them? A.—I could not say whose duty it was to send them. It appears to me that a large number of the men received them, and some of the men may have got them at their own addresses. The way it was done was this: they were put up into racks, and each man got what belonged to him. I got mine, and I know several others received their's. I believe the questions referred to were asked, but I have always had my own opinion as to the authority of the Provincial Government in this matter. I have always doubted the competency of the Provincial Government, under the terms of the British North America Act, to deal with these questions. I am willing to have the provident society, of which I am a member; but, at the same time, I have seen a great many things which, no doubt, might be improved upon in connection with it. Against that the complaint

is, that the men have not been promptly paid, but the rules of the society are very stringent and a great many forms have to be complied with, although only for small amounts, to carry out those matters, such as sending documents to Montreal and receiving them back again, and, moreover, men do not pay as much attention to the matter as they might.

FERGUS ARMSTRONG, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What is your position? A.—I am station master at the Grand Trunk.

Q.—Do any of the men employed by the Grand Trunk Railway report to you?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What men report to you? A.—Well, all the men that work in the yards, such as making up trains, turning switches, tending to the baggage and numbering the cars that run on the road.

Q.—Have you much knowledge of the running of trains? A.—Well, I don't exactly comprehend what you say. I have to know about the trains going out and coming in.

Q.—Are accidents frequent in the yard in making up trains? A.—Not very frequent; we have had some.

Q.—From what causes were they received? A.—The majority of the accidents we have had in the yard are from making up trains and coupling them.

Q.—Did you hear the testimony of Mr. Hall respecting couplings? A.—I heard part of it.

Q.—Do you think it possible to change the couplings so that accidents would be obviated? A.—As far as any patent couplings I have seen are concerned, my idea is that none of them have been a success.

Q.—Have you had practical knowledge of any of them? A.—Well, I am amongst them every day. My objection to the majority of them is that there is too much machinery about them, and they are liable to give out; some part of the coupling is liable to give out and render it useless. In fact, I do not know of any coupling that I would recommend, as far as my acquaintance goes with it.

Q.—Is there any more danger of these couplings proving inefficient in freight or in passenger cars? Is there any reason why they should prove efficient on passenger cars and non-efficient on freight cars? A.—Well, the couplings we have on passenger cars now are very good; the Miller and the Janey coupling are very good on passenger cars, but my own impression is that that sort would never work well on freight trains.

Q.—Why? A.—When a freight train is made up part of the train is composed of empty cars and part is loaded. We will have 50,000 or 60,000 pounds in one car and the next car may be empty, and the difference in the weight would bring one of the couplers so much below the other that it would not be at all useful. I have never seen a coupler of that sort which I thought would be a proper thing to put on freight cars. When a car is unloaded it stands up high and when it is loaded it is below.

Q.—Does that objection, apply to some extent, to the link coupling? A.—Yes; it does, but there is something about the draw-bar and link that there is not about the Miller coupling. For instance, the ordinary goose-neck, as we call it on the road, lies in the hanger. There is play there, and if it is too low you can put in a stick and stand below and raise it up, so as to meet the other car.

Q.—The present law requires the blocking up of frogs? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have accidents been as frequent since the blocking up as they were before? A.—Well, I could not exactly say whether they have or not.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Are all frogs on the Grand Trunk Railway blocked? A.—Yes; but my impression is that the blocking does not amount to a row of pins, inasmuch as the

frog has to be below the flange of the wheel, and a man's heel is liable to be caught in just the same place as before.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Have you had any practical reason to believe that? A.—Well, no; I don't know that I have ever seen any one hurt through that.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you know of men being frequently hurt or killed by being thrown or blown from the top of freight cars? A.—Occasionally I have heard of them.

Q.—Did you hear Mr. Hall's testimony respecting the possibility of placing guards along side of freight cars? A.—No; I did not.

Q.—Mr. Hall has told us that he thought such accidents would be rendered less frequent and largely prevented if rails were placed along the sides of cars, extending along the sides, so that if a man fell he would roll against the car. What is your opinion? A.—I think it would be a good thing and that it would save a good many accidents.

Q.—Have you much knowledge of brakes? A.—Mechanically I have not.

Q.—Did you hear Mr. Hall's testimony respecting a brake of his own invention? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you seen it tried? A.—I have.

Q.—What was the actual work of it? A.—My impression was that it was a very good thing. I went down on the trial train. We gave it four or five trials between here and Stony Creek; several gentlemen were there. I was timekeeper; I had a stop-watch which acted to a charm. We were running, I should say, about forty miles an hour when the signal was given to stop. The engine driver did not know when it was coming, and on the first trial it stopped dead in twenty-two seconds.

Q.—How many cars were there? A.—We had five or six passenger coaches. We tried it several times, and at last, I think, we got it down to sixteen seconds from the time the signal was given.

Q.—About what distance would you cover from the time the signal was given until you were at a dead stop? A.—I can hardly tell you. We frequently count by the distance between telegraph poles, and I think five telegraph poles was the distance.

Q.—That would be between 250 and 300 yards? A.—I don't know.

Q.—Are not they about 50 yards apart?

Mr. HALL—They are about 40 yards apart.

A.—The last time we tried it we were running about thirty-six to forty miles an hour, and we stopped in eighteen seconds, with either five or six coaches.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the rates of wages paid to men in the shops here in Hamilton? A.—No; I could not speak on that subject. I am principally connected with the men in the yard and on the road; there are about twenty-one trains running out of here that I have to do with.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What do the crossing-men get? A.—They vary. One class gets \$1.40 and another \$1.30.

Q.—Are there any men getting as low as 90 cents? A.—No; not in this yard or any other on the road as far as I know of. Our yardsmen get the first year \$1.50 and they grade up to \$2. We have five men in the yard now making up trains and getting \$2 a day.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Are there many cars on the Grand Trunk with the old-fashioned dead-weights? A.—Yes; a good many.

Q.—They are very dangerous to couple, are not they? A.—Not so dangerous as new cars. There is a dead-weight introduced by the American roads which is much more dangerous to couple. There is a dead-weight on each side of the draw-bar,

and they are just simply on a level with the draw-bar. There is a dead-weight on the other car, and it is almost impossible to couple these cars. You have to couple them from the top or from below. The brakemen all complain of them.

Q.—Have you known men to be killed or have their arms taken off by being caught? A.—I have known one man killed, and lots have had their arms taken off. The old-fashioned simple dead-weights, where there is a space between them, are preferable to these later ones. I think any brakeman on the road will agree with that.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Was the single dead-weight you speak of on the end of the car above the draw-bar? A.—They are generally level or even with the draw-bar in either direction.

Q.—But the American one you are speaking of now? A.—Yes.

Q.—But I am speaking of the old style on the Grand Trunk? A.—The dead-weight was even with the coupler, and the coupler projected out, so that a man had a chance to couple it before the dead-weight came together. Of course, there was spring enough, and a man had a chance to couple the cars and get out of the way. With these American cars, such as the Baltimore & Ohio, W. L. & W., and the Lehigh Valley, all of them have this new sort of dead-weight, and it is next to impossible—I have seen men try two or three times, men who are careful, before they could get them coupled.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Are they put on new cars to-day? A.—Not in Canada, but they are in the United States.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—So you have to take these cars for your road? A.—Yes; certainly. We think our old fashioned couplers are far superior and safer to brakemen than the American ones. Of course, it is perhaps a little more economical on the draw-bars, but I think it is more unsafe for the brakemen.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Does your company give your brakemen any sticks to use? A.—They can use them if they like, but it is not the system on our road, though it is on some roads. Our rules do not require them, though they are useful on foreign cars.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—That coupling is most dangerous? A.—Yes; they complain of it very much. We have a number of them here, and I have often heard them objecting to it.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you ever heard any engine-drivers and conductors on the Grand Trunk complain of the present system of signals? A.—No; I don't think so.

Q.—Or express a preference for the old system which was in use on the Western? A.—Well, you can understand when our system was changed it was a new thing, and we were satisfied with the old system and liked it best, but after a few years' experience now we think we like the present system as well as we did our own. We have heard expressions against it when the change was made, and you can understand how that would be.

Q.—If there was any great dissatisfaction with the present system you would be likely to know it? A.—Yes; I would.

Q.—The men all report to you? A.—Yes; they generally speak to me about anything which is wrong.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—As regards Sunday travelling have the Grand Trunk and C. P. R. practically abolished Sunday and made seven working days in the week? A.—We have our Sundays; we don't do any local work on Sundays.

Q.—I am speaking of the passenger traffic? A.—Our passenger traffic is not abolished that day. We do not abolish Sundays altogether.

Q.—How many hours apart have you trains running on Sundays? How many trains are run on Sunday? A.—We have three west on the main line, and the same number east—that is passenger trains.

Q.—Does the Grand Trunk make a practice of selling tickets at way-stations by these trains? A.—Wherever the train stops.

Q.—How do the men get a Sunday for themselves? A.—It only requires half of the staff to do the work on Sundays, so each of us has a Sunday every two week.

Q.—So, as regards the men, they have twenty-six Sundays in the year? A.—That is about it.

Q.—Are you aware of any particular business being done on Sundays, either on the C. P. R. or the Grand Trunk? A.—There is no local freight, but the freight which is on the road goes to its destination.

Q.—Don't you think there might be a partial stoppage of the trains, or even all passenger trains? A.—Well, as far as our road is concerned——

Q.—Well, I am speaking generally, not making a special thing of your road? A.—Well, I think the demand from the travelling public would almost prohibit any stoppage at the present time.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you know anything of the yard at Suspension Bridge? A.—Yes; a little of it.

Q.—Are not trains made up there all day Sunday? A.—Yes; but only for through traffic.

Q.—How many hours per day are they employed on Sunday at Suspension Bridge? A.—Twelve hours.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—In the case of the garnisheeing of wages on the Grand Trunk, what is the result to employes—does the company discharge them? A.—Not in every case.

Q.—In some cases? A.—If a man is garnisheed two or three times; I think if he is garnisheed the second time he is discharged.

Q.—Is it possible if a man is discharged from the company under those circumstances to get a job on another road? A.—It is a rule on our road that he cannot be re-employed after he is discharged. I will not say that he cannot, but it is the rule that he should not.

Q.—Do you think that is fair treatment of men on the road? A.—Well, I am not prepared to answer that question.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Will another company employ that man who has been discharged from the Grand Trunk without a recommendation from the Grand Trunk Company? —A. Frequently we have applications. A man says he has been working on the Grand Trunk. Our rules at the present time require a man to get a certificate from his last employer to testify to his good character.

Q.—And if he has not that certificate he is not employed? A.—Well, if he cannot get one we have a printed form that requires to be filled up and signed by his last employer.

Q.—That is an understood thing between the different companies? A.—I could not say it is an understood thing, but I know it is the practice. For instance, when my men left and went west a few days ago I got a note from the Assistant-Superintendent of the Chicago & Alton, saying that a man named McKenna had turned up wanting employment, and stating that he would be glad to know what I had to say about him. I told him that he left on his own account, and that he was entirely satisfactory to me. That sort of thing is practised all over.

Q.—Don't you look upon that as a species of black-listing? A.—No; I would not.

I think as regards that railway company they should know whom they are employing. If you were employing a man you would want to know whether he has a good character or not.

RODERICK CHISNELL, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You are employed by the Hart Emery-wheel Company? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long have you been there? A.—Eight years ago on the 26th of this month, when they started here.

Q.—Is it an independent company or a branch of a company established in the United States? A.—I think it is an independent company, although of course they manufacture the same wheels as they do in Detroit. I think they have bought the right for Canada, but I would not be positive.

Q.—Do you know what was the occasion of establishing this business in Canada? A.—We had to manufacture our wheels here or lose the patent.

Q.—Why could not they import them from the United States? A.—Well, they could, I suppose, although there is a heavy duty upon them now.

Q.—Was it the duty which induced them to establish the business here? A.—No; I don't think so; I think it would have been here independent of the duty. I think it was established here to save the patent.

Q.—Are many men employed in the factory? A.—I suppose there are about fifteen or sixteen, all told.

Q.—Do you know where they sell their goods? A.—All over the world—Australia, England, France—any where, with the exception of the United States, and they don't sell any there.

Q.—Is the number of men employed in the business increasing, decreasing, or is it remaining stationary? A.—It is increasing every day; we started with myself alone eight years ago.

Q.—Have they increased their plant and machinery since that time? A.—They increase it steadily every year.

Q.—Do you consider yourself a practical judge of emery-wheels, and that you know the quality of them? A.—In that one particular wheel I do.

Q.—Are these wheels made in Canada as good as those made in the United States? A.—I think they are.

Q.—Do you know anything about the prices? A.—I do not.

Q.—Do you know whether the sale of these wheels in Canada is increasing or not? A.—Yes; it is increasing.

Q.—Do you know whether any particular company or any man employed by the company was in England to introduce these wheels? A.—Yes; Mr. Briggs, at the time of the Centennial Exhibition.

Q.—Did he meet with any success? A.—Certainly. We are shipping quantities of goods there every month.

Q.—Are skilled mechanics required in making these wheels? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you tell us about what wages they receive? A.—They average from \$2.50 to, I think, \$1.50, that is men. There are two or three boys, and I don't know what they get.

Q.—Are the men getting \$1.50 skilled workmen or unskilled? A.—They are men who can be replaced at any time.

Q.—What hours do you work? A.—We are supposed to work ten hours a day.

Q.—Sixty hours a week? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you work altogether by the time or by the piece? A.—By the time. It would be rather a hard matter to work by the piece there, because the changes in the atmosphere are such that what you might make in one hour to-day would require two hours and a-half to make to-morrow.

Q.—Where do you get the raw material of these wheels? A.—I think it comes from the other side.

Do you use common emery or corundum? A.—Both.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What proportion of men are paid \$1.50 and what proportion \$2.50? A.—They are about equal.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How are the men paid? A.—Weekly.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Do you employ much machinery? A.—Not a great deal.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you make other articles outside of wheels? A.—Yes; common emery stones and saw-filing machinery.

Q.—You require a great deal of machinery? A.—Two or three lathes, two iron turning lathes and, I think, three emery lathes, and a couple of drills.

Q.—Have you any boys working at the business? A.—Yes; there are some boys there—three, I think.

Q.—You are teaching them the business? A.—No; a boy is no use in the moulding department at all.

DAVID CASHION, Moulder, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Where do you work? A.—For the Grand Trunk.

Q.—The Moulders' Union of Hamilton is a very strong one, I think? A.—Well, yes; pretty strong.

Q.—Can you give us a list of the foundries and shops in which moulders are employed? A.—There are about twelve, I think, mostly stove shops.

Q.—What would be the number of men employed in the largest of these—you need not mention names unless you like? A.—I think Mr. _____'s is the largest when running full blast.

Q.—How many would be employed there? A.—I should think about sixty.

Q.—That is moulders? A.—Yes.

Q.—And how many other men? A.—Well, I suppose there would be twenty-five more.

Q.—Has the Moulders' Union adopted a scale of prices? A.—Yes; they have a scale of prices in stove shops.

Q.—Do you work by the day or piece? A.—We work by the day.

Q.—Do all moulders work by the day? A.—All do in job shops; it is mostly by the day, but in stove shops by the piece.

Q.—What are the ordinary day rates for those working by the day? A.—It varies. In the Western it is 22, 24 and 25 cents an hour.

Q.—How many hours constitute a day's work? A.—Nine and a-half hours in the Western for five days, and six and a-half hours on Saturday, making an average of about nine hours for six days.

Q.—And in the other shops? A.—I think it is ten hours a day in the other shops.

Q.—During what part of the year are you employed? A. Well, the Western runs pretty steadily, except June and December. They have a week or two's holidays the latter part of June and in December.

Q.—Do the men desire these holidays or would they prefer working the year through? A.—I think they would prefer working the year through. I think, for my part, half a day on Saturday is sufficient rest.

Q.—Do you know what length of time they work in the stove foundries? A.—Well, the stove foundries don't run very steadily.

Q.—Are you able to tell us how many months in the year they run? A.—Well, they open up, as a general thing, about the 1st of March, and sometimes in February; they run briskly until about Christmas or December.

Q.—Do these men get as good wages as you get? A.—Of course, they work by the piece.

Q.—Do you know what they can make? A.—Well, they make from \$2.50 to \$3 a day, and if they work pretty hard they may get \$3.

Q.—It is pretty hard work in any case? A.—Yes; it is pretty hard work.

Q.—Are the foundries generally comfortable to work in throughout the city? A.—Well, I guess they are.

Q.—How is your own? A.—It is not too warm. They can't keep it warm; there is a door open all day to let the iron in, and we can't seem to work there and keep it shut.

Q.—Is the services of the Grand Trunk considered very desirable? Would men rather work there than in the other foundries? A.—It is counted about the steadiest shop in this city.

Q.—Do you have many boys learning the trade? A.—There are three or four in our shop.

Q.—Is there any rule of the union fixing the number of boys to be employed? A.—They have a rule of one boy to eight men.

Q.—How long do boys serve before becoming journeymen? A.—About four years.

Q.—Are these boys indentured? A.—No; just by word of mouth.

Q.—Is anybody particularly interested in teaching them their trade? A.—As far as I can see, the men are very good in teaching them what they can, if they are not too saucy.

Q.—Do the boys generally turn out to be good workmen at the end of four years? A.—I have seen some turned out who are not very good, in my opinion.

Q.—Do union moulders consent to work in the same shop with non-union moulders? A.—Well, there are cases of it down in the Western shops, but they don't like it. Well, there are one or two who don't belong to the union, and some don't like it.

Q.—Have you had any strikes or lock-outs in your trade? A.—I have never been on strike in my life except on my own shoulders in St. Catharines.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—That was yourself alone? A.—Yes; I never came out as one of a body.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Have there been any strikes in this city? A.—There was one this summer. I don't believe in strikes myself.

Q.—How did it end? A.—I believe they gained their point, to a certain extent.

Q.—Was there arbitration or did the men and the employers come together? A.—Yes; they just met.

Q.—After the strike lasted some time they agreed on terms? A.—Yes; they struck for 10 per cent and they got 5 with 5 per cent. more in March.

Q.—On that understanding the men went to work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then you consider that practically they made their point? A.—Yes.

Q.—Were the negotiations between the men and the employers pretty good natured or was there much hard feeling? A.—Well, I don't know. They seem to say that they are closing down a little this winter on account of the strike, but I don't know whether there is any truth in it or not.

Q.—Is the closing down this winter any longer in duration than other winters? A.—No; I don't think so.

Q.—Are all the foundries closing down? A.—All the stove shops are.

Q.—It is usual to close down about the holidays? A.—Yes; about Christmas.

Q.—So you cannot tell whether the closing down this winter will be of longer or shorter duration than other years? A.—No; I could not say.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You had only one difficulty with the founders last year? A.—I was not on strike; the Western was not on strike.

Q.—Is it a principle of your union to resort to all conciliatory measures before a strike takes place—to take any course to settle the matter without going to strike? A.—Yes; they always prefer to do so; they give notice of about three weeks.

HAMILTON, Wednesday, 18th January, 1888.

GEORGE I. STURGES, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You are connected with the Hamilton Rolling Mill? A.—Yes; the Iron Forging Company.

Q.—In what capacity? A.—As a roller.

Q.—How long have you been employed there? A.—Since June last.

Q.—How long has the forge been opened? A.—I believe it has been in existence fifteen years, but the rolling mill only for the last two years, I think.

Q.—Do you distinguish between the men in the forge and those employed in the rolling mill? A.—They are under the one firm—one employment.

Q.—You are employed in the forging department? A.—No; in the mill.

Q.—How many hours a day is the mill in operation? A.—About ten.

Q.—Do you work single or double shift? A.—Double.

Q.—How many hours a day will each man be employed during one day in the mill? A.—As regards the work, we work about probably seven hours.

Q.—Do they work by the day, the week or the piece? A.—Mostly by the ton.

Q.—What would be a fair day's earnings for a heater? A.—About \$6 per day.

Q.—And for a roller? A.—Seven dollars.

Q.—For a helper to a heater? A.—He would make about \$2.50.

Q.—And a helper to a roller? Well, we don't have in our trade helpers to rollers; the next would be rougher, making \$3 to \$3.50

Q.—Are they skilled workmen? A.—Yes; but a heater's helper is not.

Q.—What would unskilled workmen employed in the mill earn? A.—Of those who work for me one gets \$1.50, one \$1.25 and three boys get \$1 per day.

Q.—How old would the boys be? A.—About eighteen years old.

Q.—They have to be pretty strong, hardy boys? A.—Yes.

Q.—The work is pretty hard, is it not? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it trying to the constitution of those who work at it? A.—Not when they are accustomed to it; I don't find it so.

Q.—Do they live as long as ordinary mechanics? A.—I believe so.

Q.—Are they laid off a greater time through illness? A.—I never had a day's sickness in my life.

Q.—Have you worked in other cities besides Hamilton? A.—I worked in England until I was twenty-three years, and in Philadelphia and Troy, and through the State of Ohio—in Cincinnati and Toledo.

Q.—How do wages in Hamilton compare with wages in England for a like service? A.—They are about double.

Q.—How do they compare with Philadelphia? A.—They are just about the same as Philadelphia.

Q.—And Troy? A.—Just about the same.

Q.—And with western cities—Pittsburg, for instance? A.—They are a little lower in Hamilton.

Q.—Are you aware of any recent reduction in wages in Pittsburg and other western cities? A.—No: not in the western; but in the eastern cities in the rolling mills reductions are taking place.

Q.—A witness yesterday told us of a reduction, I think of 12 per cent., in wages at Pittsburg. Have you any knowledge of that? A.—None at all. During the summer they had an advance of 10 per cent.

Q.—Is your union connected with the union in the United States? A.—We have not any union.

Q.—Is the scale on which you work similar to that prevailing in the United States? A.—Yes.

Q.—In what part of the United States? A.—In the Amalgamated Association Districts, Pittsburg and throughout Ohio; we work on a similar sliding scale.

Q.—If the price is so much per ton you receive so much per ton for your work? A.—Yes; we are not governed by any scale in the States at all.

Q.—Do you know how your prices compare with prices in the eastern parts of Canada? A.—I never was in the eastern part of Canada at all.

Q.—How frequently are you paid? A.—Every two weeks.

Q.—Are you paid up to pay-day? A.—We work two weeks, and we are paid on Tuesday for the past two weeks, so that Monday and Tuesday would be considered not paid for.

Q.—Is this pay-day satisfactory to the men? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have they ever asked for a different arrangement? A.—Not that I know of.

Q.—Have you heard any complaints as to the pay-day not being frequent enough? A.—Never.

Q.—Is the day of the week upon which you are paid satisfactory to you? A.—As far as I am concerned I never heard anything different.

Q.—Are you paid in cash? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever received orders or pay in anything but cash? A.—Never.

Q.—Do the men who work at night or on the night shift receive pay at the same rate of wages as those on the day shift? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any advantage in working in the day over working in the night? A.—Yes.

Q.—The men prefer to be on the day shift? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is the mill a pretty comfortable place to work in? A.—Yes; it is fairly comfortable compared with other rolling mills, but rolling mills generally are not very comfortable places. It is up to the average that I have been in.

Q.—During how large a part of the year are you able to work? A.—The mill is in constant operation, except from accidents or holidays.

Q.—And the men may work every lawful day in the year if they wish? A.—Yes; so far as I have seen. It has been in operation ever since I was here.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Are there many boys working at your business? A.—No; we have not any, excepting, as I said before, three young men eighteen years of age.

Q.—Are there any working for the company in which you are employed? A.—No.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do the heaters employ their own helpers? A.—No; the company employ them.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Do the men in the shops remain on the same time constantly? A.—No; we change, one week days, and one week nights.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What is the lowest rate paid in unskilled wages? A.—For men, \$1.25. We have three young men working for \$1 a day.

Q.—Can these young men do the work of journeymen? A.—No; it is boy's work. In the States the same work is only paid 65 cents a day and we are paying \$1 for it. I never paid more than 65 cents until I paid it here.

Q.—What is the lowest rate paid for skilled workmen? A.—The lowest wages for skilled workmen in my department is \$3 to \$3.50, and those are roughers.

Q.—Those men work ten hours a day? A.—They are there about that time; their actual work is not more than seven.

Q.—How many full weeks can a man put in in your department in a year? A.—We could put in every week, excepting in case of accidents; we don't need to lay idle any.

Q.—All the departments are of that kind? A.—In our concern, yes.

Q.—Is your trade connected in any way with any labor organization on the other side? A.—The trade is connected with organization on the other side, but this side is not connected with the other.

Q.—Still, they recognize the men of this side when they go over there to work? A.—Yes; they recognize them.

Q.—Have you the travelling card system? A.—No.

Q.—Is there any kind of benefit society among the men? A.—Not that I am aware of.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—You say that wages are a little higher in western cities than here. Comparing the cost of living with the increase of wages, is it higher? A.—I think it would bring it about on a level.

Q.—You would be just about as well off? A.—In fact, I can save more money than I could in western cities. I may say that those boys I spoke of getting \$1 a day are paid 15 cents a day out of the office in addition to that, making \$1.15 per day for them.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—What is the heaviest iron you make? A.—About 400 pounds per bar.

Q.—What is the size of it? A.—Two and a-half inch rounds and 2½-inch squares, 4-inch plates, or 4-inch by 1 inch or 1¼ inches.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What age do you consider a boy should be before learning your business? A.—I went in when I was eight years old. I would not put a boy there so early as that, but in small mills where boys are able to perform the work they may be employed when thirteen years old. I think it would be to the advantage of the boy if he followed that employment all his life.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—To go young? A.—Yes; I went when I was eight years old and I held the same position I now hold when I was twenty.

Q.—If a boy went to your business at eight, or nine, or ten years old, at what time of life would he be supposed to have his schooling? A.—Well, I don't know; I got my schooling at nights and at home.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Where did you get your schooling? A.—In England.

Q.—Are there night schools in this city? A.—I believe there are.

Q.—Are they pretty well attended? A.—I don't know; I have never been privileged to attend one of them. I believe there is one somewhere in this vicinity.

Q.—You don't know anything about the working of them? A.—No; I do not.

SETH J. WHITEHEAD, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You are the mechanical superintendent of the Forge Company and the rolling mill? A.—I am general superintendent.

Q.—How long have you been in that position? A.—Since we commenced rolling there. I was in the Ontario Mill for four years, and I went over and started the mill after they were forging.

Q.—The forging works had been in existence before that, and when the rolling mill was started you went over and became general superintendent? A.—I induced them to go into the rolling in addition to their forging department.

Q.—And you thought there was plenty of room for an additional rolling mill in Hamilton? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has the event justified your opinion? A.—It has.

Q.—Has the mill been busy since it started? A.—We have never been a minute idle.

Q.—What iron do you use? A.—All scrap iron.

Q.—Where do you get scrap iron? A.—A great deal of it has been picked up around the country. It is brought to us; but we have been importing some from England this last summer.

Q.—You do not get an ample supply in Canada? A.—Well, we were rather afraid we should not, and we laid down quite a lot. Still, we had to refuse quite a lot of it, which we could have bought here.

Q.—Where do you find your market for your iron? A.—In Ontario.

Q.—Altogether? A.—Yes; all over Ontario.

Q.—You find a very active opposition in importing iron of like qualities with that which you make? A.—Well, we have found a good deal in the beginning, but we are making an extra quality of iron. We went into the business of making hammered bar and it took some time to get it into the market and to get it known to consumers. We have never had, with the exception of one or two months when Mr. Beddoe went out canvassing, any one out since, for we have not felt any serious trouble from competition.

Q.—You claim that your iron is superior iron and used for a superior class of work? A.—Yes.

Q.—How do the prices in this class of iron compare with the prices in former years? A.—Well, they are higher. Of course, the alteration of the duties has given us a little advantage. Before the change was made we had to compete with England, and we had to keep them pretty well down, and we could scarcely live at the price we were working for when we started. We found iron laid down here just as cheap as we could make it, and sometimes cheaper. We were making a good quality of iron, and some of these agricultural implement men having got used to it preferred it to the English iron. There was also another advantage, which was that we did not have to carry so large a stock, or wait so long after giving orders.

Q.—About how many men are employed in the works altogether? A.—I think we have on the pay-roll from seventy to eighty; I could not say positively, but it is about that. I could say seventy-five.

Q.—Does that number increase, decrease or remain stationary? A.—They are rather on the increase now. We are extending our works, and we have just started on Tuesday another branch, and that will take about ten men to run it night and day of two turns.

Q.—Is there any advantage to Canadians of any class in being able to sell their scrap iron to the rolling mills in Canada rather than to export it to the United States? A.—Yes; as a general thing we pay a higher price for scrap than they were able to give in the States, with the exception of occasionally when they get pinched a little over there. They came when there was a good quantity on the market and bought it from us, and they paid a little more than we could.

Q.—Do any rolling mills in the United States use scrap iron exclusively? A.—I think some do, but I don't know of many. There is one at Lockport which does.

Q.—As a rule, they use puddled iron in their rolling mills? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there any mills in Canada using puddled iron? A.—Yes; I think some of them in Montreal import some puddled iron and get some also from Londonderry. We have a little from Londonderry. They asked us to try it. We thought under certain conditions and circumstances we could perhaps work it as well as scrap iron, and when we were pinched for scrap we could use puddled, but we found it was not so good as our hammered scrap blooms.

Q.—Have you imported any blooms from the old country? A.—No; nothing but scrap.

Q.—You heard Mr. Sturges' testimony? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it correct? A.—Yes; he has given exact figures, I think. There is very little difference in the amount earned by the heaters in the forge department and those in the mill. They do not earn quite so much in the forge from the fact that they cannot get out quite so much iron. I suppose their average is from \$4.50 to perhaps \$5 a day.

Q.—How many hours would they work to earn that? A.—Just about the same. They have to work two shifts, and they get out of one another's way—probably eight to ten hours a day.

Q.—Are they actively employed during all these hours? A.—No; between the heats they have considerable time that they can sit down or go away—say a half an hour or twenty minutes between each heat.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do the men work piece-work or day work? A.—All-piece work, except our common laboring men.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—You said that you cannot put iron on this market as cheap as the English people can? A.—I have always supposed it to be from the fact that they do not pay more than 50 per cent. of our wages, and then they have facilities which we have not got in their coal and ore company so close to their works.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Do you have any trouble with strikes? A.—No.

Q.—None? A.—We had in the Ontario Rolling Mill. We had a union in connection with the Amalgamated Association in the United States, but it became necessary to upset it. The management bore it as long as they could, but the men acted very foolishly; we thought they began to dominate, and the gentlemen who run the place concluded that they would be better off without it, and they just sat upon it and squeaked it out.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What was the nature of the difficulty? A.—It would take some time to describe it all. I don't think our men on this side acted as wisely as they did on the other side; I think they were a little elated on account of obtaining a charter, and they probably got an idea that they could run things to suit themselves. I don't think, as far as I have seen—and I have seen all their by-laws and constitution—that there is anything wrong in them. I think they are perfectly right in having their own laws and regulations.

Q.—You say the firm found it necessary to drop them out as a body? A.—From that mill.

Q.—Was that any benefit to the men or to the firm? A.—It has been a benefit for both. I have no doubt that the men will tell you themselves that it has been a good thing to them. I know it is for our men, because they get better wages and they have no trouble. We employ the best men we can get and pay them the highest

scale of wages, and we have no trouble. We have better work and we have peace and harmony there.

Q.—Did any of these men tell you that it was much better to be without organization? A.—Yes; a good many of them. I have several of them working for me now, and they all claim that they are far better off without it. The gentleman who gave evidence before me was president of the association over there before coming to this city, and he has told me repeatedly that he is far better off and that he is far more comfortable. Of course, these are simply matters in my own mind which I am making to you.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Did any of the men object to the association being wiped out? A.—Well, they did and they didn't. There is a sort of terrorism in connection with that thing that a man does not dare to speak.

Q.—Do you speak from experience? A.—Yes; from what I have seen and known. We had years of it there.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Were you ever connected with one of these associations? A.—Oh! no; I am speaking simply of facts in our mill during that time.

Q.—Are the managers and manufacturers throughout the country organized, and have they an understanding amongst themselves in some shape or other? A.—None that I know of; we have no understanding.

Q.—Is there such a thing among the manufacturers in the United States? A.—I believe there is, but I simply speak from what I see in the papers. I do not personally know that there is.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—You think that organized labor has an evil effect on the working classes? A.—I think that particular association had from the way they acted.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Was the difficulty for an increase of wages or shortening of hours? A.—No; it was not. It was for matters that didn't amount to anything. In fact, a great part of the trouble was that they would get drunk and try to run things their own way, and shut us down and go on just as it suited them.

Q.—How many hours do those men work? A.—About ten—the regular shift night and day.

Q.—Those ten hours represent ten hours of constant labor? A.—Oh, no; between heats they have from twenty minutes to half an hour in which they can sit down and rest or go where they have a mind.

Q.—They cannot go very far in twenty minutes? A.—They can go and get their glass of beer or have a smoke.

Q.—You say they would become intoxicated, and yet the firm recognized their going out and getting a glass of beer. A.—We don't recognize it, but we don't prevent their going out to get a glass of beer.

Q.—Don't you think that hard work and long hours have a tendency for men to become intoxicated, and under the circumstances are they not more liable to drink? A.—I don't hardly know how to answer that. We have men who sometimes get intoxicated, and we have men like Mr. Sturges who never taste it; but, as a class, we have I think the steadiest lot of men that ever was in a mill; and I have been connected with several.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Do you find those who are temperate in their habits the steadiest? A.—Yes; and the best men and the most reliable.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What hour on Saturday do the men quit work? A.—Generally about 3

o'clock. They generally quit a little earlier if they manage to get out about the same quantity of work.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—You spoke about having a forge in connection with your place: do you still continue it? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the nature of the work you produce in your forge? A.—The principal part of our work now is making blooms in our rolling mill department. We hammer the scrap into blooms, but we make quite a quantity of shafting, connecting-rods, crank-rods, &c.

Q.—Any ship work or anything of that kind? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you open to contracts of any kind for forging work? A.—Yes; we are doing it all the time.

Q.—Do you get the iron which you use in your forging work entirely from scrap iron? A.—Yes; every bit; it is all hammered into slabs, and the slabs are put in and re-heated.

Q.—Do you ever import any pig iron at all? A.—No; we don't use it in any shape.

Q.—What is your forge capable of producing? What size of matter can you forge there? A.—I think the heaviest shafting we have ever turned out since I have been there was about 10 inches in diameter. The largest shafts we made were for a flouring mill out in Manitoba, or somewhere out there. We also forged shaftings for the new pumps here and they were pretty heavy.

Q.—Have you much of that kind of work? A.—Yes; we have sometimes more than we really care to take, because it puts us back in our mill work.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—You are not particularly calculated for that work? A.—Oh, yes; we commenced in that business and from making car-axles, but as business became slack we went into the making of bar iron in connection with it.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—You do make car-axles? A.—Yes; we do yet.

Q.—Where were they for? A.—Latterly they were made for the Grand Trunk, and some for other roads.

Q.—Have you all the plant on hand necessary for that kind of matter? A. Yes.

Q.—What is your fixed capacity for the steam hammer? A.—I think it is about 3,000 tons with the steam back it.

Q.—Are you continually engaged in the forging business? A.—Yes; we are running night and day.

Q.—Your forging business? A.—Yes; and the hammers are running night and day.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Have any of your employes houses of their own? A.—Quite a number.

Q.—How long does it take your workmen to accumulate money enough to purchase one for themselves? A.—That is a question I can scarcely answer; I have not been connected with them long enough.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—As far as you know? A.—I know we have quite a number who are paying for houses, but how much they have paid on them I don't know. They seem to be getting along nicely and comfortably.

Q.—How long would it take one of your men at \$1.25 a day, a married man with a family, to purchase a house of his own? A.—It would take him a long time.

Q.—Have you any men working at \$1.25? A.—Yes; laboring men who do wheeling and work like that; that is the simplest kind of work.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—If the men turn out as much on Saturdays as any other day would the firm have any objections to stopping work at three o'clock? A.—We let them do as they like in that respect. If they get along in the early part of the day they will make probably the same number of heats, and if they don't they will probably lose a heat, and they are paid for what they do. The company would lose the benefit of that heat as well as the men.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do they often lose a heat on Saturday? A.—Very seldom.

Q.—That almost goes to prove that the men would put in as much work in nine hours as in ten? A.—They do when they make a push and want to get through early.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—That would not establish that the men are not overworked at any time? A.—I don't think our men are overworked; I have never heard them complain. Our men are just as anxious to get out the work as we are to have them do it. We have a class of men anxious to earn all they can earn.

T. D. BEDDO, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Have you anything to add to the evidence of the last witness? A.—I have nothing to add to what Mr. Whitehead has said. I think he has covered the ground very fairly and truthfully. I don't think anything has been exaggerated at all.

Q.—What is your official position? A.—I am manager of the steamboat company. I would like to state one thing.

Q.—What is your statement? A.—I would like to make a statement in regard to some of the men having purchased their own houses. I have always spoken to them in that line, and endeavored to influence them as far as I could to be saving. I know of two cases in particular during the last three years of men who have paid between \$600 and \$700 on account of houses which they have bought for, possibly, \$1,800, showing that they are thrifty and saving.

Q.—The forging company, as such, was in operation fifteen years ago? A.—

A.—Yes; in 1874 we commenced.

Q.—And the rolling mill has been added to them after the present rates of duties on imported iron? A.—It might have been, and it was, as a matter of fact, added before, but we were in a very difficult position. Well, we had to compete against England laying down iron at a low rate; still again we had to pay the higher rate of wages fixed in Pittsburg, so that we were handicapped.

Q.—When was the rolling mill established? A.—About two and a-half years ago.

Q.—What was the rate of duty on imported iron then? A.—Seventeen and a-half per cent.

Q.—What was it previous to 1879? A.—It was still 17½ per cent.

Q.—You were handicapped by that? A.—Yes; certainly.

Q.—When was the Ontario Rolling Mill started first? A.—About nine years ago—1879.

Q.—When was it first built? A.—I don't know when it was first built; it was built by the Grand Trunk for the purpose of rolling iron.

Q.—And it lay idle for some time? A.—Yes; for a number of years, when it was re-opened by the present company in 1879.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What salaries were those men receiving who saved \$600 in those few years?

A.—They are averaging now about \$35 to \$40 every two weeks, and the last three

years they have not lost a day. For instance, during the whole of last summer in the heat we never lost a day, except holidays, and on some holidays they worked.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—These are not the men earning \$6 a day? A.—These are the heaters in the forge; they have special rates, making from \$4 to \$4.50 per day.

Q.—That would be \$48 every two weeks? A.—It runs about from \$35 to \$40; I am putting it at the lowest average.

Q.—How many men in the mill earn \$6 a day? A.—Our heaters; there are two of them. Then there are four heaters in the forge department earning \$4 to \$4.50 a day.

FRED. WALTER, Moulder, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You are a moulder, I believe? A.—Yes.

Q.—About how many moulders are employed in Hamilton? A.—I am here as a representative of the union, in which there are from 350 to 400 members. There are about fourteen or fifteen moulders in the city who are not in the union; that is the number within a few.

Q.—Are the moulders belonging to the union willing to work in the same shop with non-union moulders? A.—The whole of the men in the city, with the exception of those in one shop, are union men. There is one shop where non-union men are working, and there are also some Union men there.

Q.—About how many hours in the day will a moulder work? A.—Of course, it is somewhat difficult to say that, because there are so many different branches. Some workshops will work ten hours a day, others nine hours, and some even more than ten or eleven a day.

Q.—Is it within the control of the moulders as to how many hours they will work? A.—No; sometimes they are kept late because they cannot get the iron when they want it.

Q.—Have they to work after the casting is done? A.—Yes; till it is all poured off, taking the castings out of the sand and fixing the sand for the next day. In large shops for stove-plating and machinery this is left till the next day.

Q.—There is very much of it, I believe, hard and laborious work? A.—Yes.

Q.—In even the best shops the work is so hard that I suppose the men are covered with perspiration? A.—Yes; in the stove-plating shops you can generally take your under-shirt off and wring it out at any time of the year, even when the temperature is below zero outside.

Q.—Is there any way to make this work less laborious? A.—No; they have tried to do so often; they have tried to introduce different kinds of machinery, that has been intended to try and facilitate moulding, but it does not alter the character of the work, which seems laborious. It has never been successful, so far.

Q.—Can anything be done in the way of shortening the hours, so that the men will be less fatigued at the end of a day's work? A.—We have tried to do something in that way, but the business appears to be run in seasons. We have seasons when there is nothing to do, and then when there is work we must do all we can. There is no disposition on the part of the employers, I think, to spread the work over the year. The business runs in the way I have said, and we have no power to control it.

Q.—Could employers extend the work over a greater portion of the year than they do at present, and thus shorten the day's labor? A.—They used to do so years ago, but of late years, and especially in the stove business, they calculate that there have been a great many changes, in the patterns, from new designs being introduced, and the difficulty is to know exactly what they are going to sell.

Q.—It is necessary, I believe, to shut down for sometime to sort up and get ready for the season's operations, is it not? A.—No; nothing more than to take stock. They are changing their styles all the time, even when we are working. It is not necessary to shut down more than a few days.

Q.—It is the custom to shut down? A.—Sometimes it is necessary to shut down for a few days to repair the engines, or something of that kind.

Q.—How long have you been employed in Hamilton as a moulder? A.—Eighteen or nineteen years.

Q.—What is the average term the shops are closed, taking not one year but a series of years—taking such a series of years, what time would they be shut down in the stove foundries? A.—We have appointed a committee of the union to figure this up, and the result arrived at was, that taking all the moulders together that we are not employed more than 60 per cent. of the time.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Would those be engaged all the year round? A.—According to the calculation made they do not work more than six out of every ten days. Some do not work over five or six months at a time, for they have nothing to do.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—When the moulders are at work what would be a fair average wage for a moulder to earn per week—do not take the very best men nor the poorest men, but take an average man, so as to give us a fair statement? A.—We place the average, taking a series of two or three, at about \$1.35 a day. Hardly two men will make the same pay.

Q.—You have gone into a calculation in this matter in your union? A.—Yes; a committee was appointed by the union, which met and went into the question minutely, and they have agreed, at about that amount.

Q.—You think, then, that an average day's earnings for a moulder in Hamilton would be \$1.35? A.—That is taking the body; we were figuring for the whole body.

Q.—Did you count 200 days for the year? A.—We counted the number of days we work, the individual time, because that would come to very much more.

Q.—The rate of \$1.35 per day would come to a little over \$400 a year as the average earnings of a moulder in Hamilton. Am I correct in that statement? A.—We did not figure it up for the year. I don't think it comes as high as that; that was the estimate we arrived at, however—\$1.35 per day.

Q.—Do many of the moulders save money? A.—Yes; quite a number of them; that is to say that some of them are able to put up houses of their own.

Q.—Have you been able to buy a house? A.—I did own a house, but I sold it again.

Q.—In order to save money I suppose the men must be very economical, temperate and prudent? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you had any serious labor difficulties of late? A.—We had some difficulty last summer.

Q.—What did it grow out of? A.—In order to understand the nature of the difficulty I will endeavor to explain it: Some six or seven years ago we received a rise of wages; times were pretty good here then. It was a rise on the rate prevailing at that time of 10 per cent., and afterwards of 20 per cent. It continued for about two years, and it was taken off five years ago this winter. When it was taken off we insisted that when times became sufficiently good to warrant its payment it would be put on again. Years went on, and times appeared to be pretty good again last summer. The men had been waiting for the increase to be again put on, and it appeared as though it would not be given them; the men then asked for it, and the men then decided that they would refuse to work unless some settlement was arrived at. They were out

of work eight or nine weeks, and then an agreement was entered into between the employers and the men.

Q.—How was the compromise or agreement reached? Was it by a conference between the men and the employers? A.—Yes; a committee waited upon the employers and stated their grievances, and the employers sent the committee to the Moulders Union; and those two bodies met, until finally an agreement was arrived at.

Q.—Was the conference conducted in a friendly spirit as between the men negotiating, or was there any hard feeling displayed? A.—It was very friendly. I was on the committee at the time.

Q.—A good spirit was displayed on both sides? A.—A very good spirit was displayed on both sides.

Q.—Have you any special statement to make to the Commission; I gather you have? A.—I have a statement to make. There were ten men appointed on this committee, six of whom were to give evidence. We took up those papers you sent to us and looked over them and considered the different subjects.

Q.—You are president of the union I believe? A.—I am secretary of the union.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—In regard to the difficulty you had last summer, was it a strike of the men or was it a lock-out on the part of the employers? A.—It was a strike.

Q.—What was the compromise? A.—The men asked 10 per cent. advance, and the compromise arrived at was that we should receive 5 per cent. for six months and that the 10 per cent. should be granted for twelve months, commencing on March next.

Q.—Have those promises been carried out? A.—So far the 5 per cent. has been given and we expect the additional 5 per cent. in March for the next twelve months.

Q.—Was not the promise made that steadier work should be given besides the 5 per cent.? A.—No; the men were asked whether they demanded an increase on account of the rise of prices; but the reason we gave was that last year it was understood that we would be given work for so many months the men had to live whether they were working or not, and that was the reason we felt we should have more wages when we were working in order to be able to live during those portions of the year when there was nothing to do.

Q.—Did not the difficulty in St. Louis about supplying the patterns to outside shops have something to do with the strike in Canada? A.—No; they did not send any of their patterns across the line; it did not affect us here whatever.

Q.—Are there any benefit branches in connection with your organization? A.—Yes; we have a sick benefit in connection with it. There is also a provision so that if a man is injured he will receive \$4 a week so long as he is unable to work. We have also a fund to bury our members.

Q.—Is it a fact that in your union one of its principles is to resort to arbitration before you resort to the extreme measure of a strike in labor troubles? A.—Yes; we do not believe in resorting to a strike except as an extreme measure; we believe in endeavoring to do away with that as much as possible, and never fall back on that only as a last resort.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are the workmen in your trade in favor of the establishment of a bureau of labor statistics at Ottawa? A.—We are favorably disposed to that, and we believe it would be a benefit to all classes concerned.

Q.—Another object for which the Commission was appointed was to ascertain, if possible, from the workmen themselves, some method of avoiding these continued strikes, by adopting some method of conciliation, or arbitration or some other means in the settlement of disputes; and the evidence taken now will have a very large bearing on that subject. What is your opinion in regard to it? A.—The settlement arrived at in our trade appears to be a very good one. We have entered into an agreement on the part of the union with our employers not to ask for a rise

of wages for eighteen months; we did that when the settlement was made. They agreed to give that advance and not to reduce the wages during that time. By the agreement arrived at the employers will be able to figure on the wages they will have to pay, and this will be beneficial both to the union and to the employers. They have an association and we have a union, and representatives of the two met together and entered into this agreement.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Has foreign contract labor interfered with your business? A.—It has done so in the past. We have had some difficulty with that, but not of late.

JAMES STEPHENSON, Moulder, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You have a statement to make to the Commission, I believe. Please make it?
A.—A committee of our union considered the questions sent by the Commission, and the feeling of our body is expressed briefly in the statement I am prepared to make. The answers we give are as follows:—

1. Regarding iron-clad contracts.—We have suffered much in the past, but have overcome the evil by organization.
2. Regarding child labor.—We have no children in our trade. The work is too laborious; we believe there are a great many children under fourteen years of age working in the city, and think it wrong. We condemn the practice of pauper children being imported into this country, and look upon it as being no better than a mild form of slave trade, when we take into consideration the treatment that many of them are subjected to. We know by experience that there is no scarcity of children in this country, finding it difficult to place our own.
3. Regarding the Employers' Liability Act.—We approve of the Ontario Act and would like a Dominion Act of a similar nature.
4. Regarding the truck system.—We disapprove of it.
5. Regarding foreign contracts.—We endorse the Ontario Act and ask for a Dominion Act.
6. Regarding rents.—There is no great change. Rents are slightly higher, but there is better accommodation for the money.
7. Regarding weekly payments, and pay days.—We approve of weekly payments, and think Friday the best day.
8. Regarding apprentices.—We think they should be legally bound, and would like a Dominion Indenture Act.
9. Regarding hours of labor and wages.—We believe eight hours should constitute a day's work. At present \$2.25 a day is the rate of wages. Taking into consideration the loss of time, over which we have no control, the average wages in our body does not exceed \$1.35 a day by the year.
10. Regarding the purchasing power of wages.—Not much change, but less to purchase with.
11. Regarding wages in Canada as compared with Great Britain and the United States.—Not much difference between Canada and the United States; not as well paid for amount produced as in some parts of England.
12. Regarding arbitration.—We have no experience; can see no good in it.
13. Regarding the effects of organized labor.—Through organization we are enabled to care for our sick, bury our dead and get compensation for our labor, which we could not get without it.
14. Regarding strikes.—Though our last resort, still we believe that all labor agitation tends to benefit all classes of toilers, even though those directly engaged in the strike might fail.
15. Regarding trusts.—Think trusts needful, as your living is made so precarious

that most men would find it difficult to live without trust—if that is the meaning of the word “trust” there.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What is meant by the word “trust” there is a combination or ring. Does such exist in Hamilton? A.—Yes; we know where it does exist.

16. Regarding the fining of employés.—Don't approve of it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Does it exist? A.—I could not tell you; I don't think it exists in our business to-day. I have seen employés fined in our business for the breaking of an article. You would be fined so much, and if you didn't like it you could quit.

Q.—The men don't have anything to say in regard to the reduction of the fines? A.—No; fining was the case in dry-goods stores in the city.

17. Regarding Sunday labor.—Think all Sunday labor should be abolished.

18. Regarding industrial schools.—Don't see the need of them, as children would have to serve an apprenticeship at any trade they might work at afterwards. We especially object to industrial schools for the foreign element.

19. Regarding tenement houses.—We have none; don't want any.

20. Regarding immigration.—We are opposed to assisted immigration.

21. Regarding sanitary arrangements.—In dwellings, generally fair; in shops and factories, room for great improvement.

22. Regarding conspiracy laws and black-listing.—Don't believe in either; think both should come under the power of law.

23. Regarding workingmen's co-operative and benefit societies.—Believe in them; Iron Moulders' Union is one.

24. Regarding convict labor.—Think convicts should be employed at something that would least compete with free labor; condemn the practice of letting prison labor to contractors; what they produce should be sold at the same price as the product of free labor.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—With regard to convict labor, I am aware there is only one contract now existing, that with the Ontario Government; that has been stated will very shortly expire, and will not be renewed? A.—Yes; I believe so. That is very simply an expression of the feeling of the body.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You have referred to the matter of employers' liability and to foreign contracts: are you aware that the question of property and civil rights comes wholly within the province of the Provincial Legislatures, and that the Dominion Parliament has no control over that subject? A.—No; I was not aware of it. I thought it was proper that there should be a Dominion Act. We look to the Dominion Government in this matter. If such an Act cannot be applied to all the Provinces it is not fair. For instance, a manufacturer in Ontario is brought under the Employer's Liability Act, whereas a manufacturer in Quebec who is turning out the same work is not. The Ontario manufacturer is thus at a disadvantage. Either the Quebec Legislature should pass a similar Act to the Ontario Act or the Act should be passed by the Dominion Parliament, controlling the matter. We think it is unjust that the Ontario manufacturer should be placed under a special Act while a manufacturer in Quebec or in any of the other Provinces goes free.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—How many contracts are there existing at present for prison labor? A.—We don't know at present.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—We have been told by officials that there was only one contract that would not be renewed? A.—The members of this body object to such contracts.

Q.—Did you give the question of factory laws any consideration? A.—The factory law does not really come into our business; I don't think we did.

Q.—I understood you to say that the shops could be made a great deal more comfortable: would not the Factory Act cover that? A.—I don't know.

Q.—Have you seen the factory inspector at your premises? A.—I have seen him; he was in our shop.

Q.—Did he condemn anything? A.—He did not speak to any of the men I know of. He went around with the master mechanic.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Did he speak to the men? A.—No; not that I know of.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Did he condemn anything that you are aware of? A.—Everything was right, so far as I have ever heard.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—I have heard it stated that in such shops as yours there is not an opportunity given for the escaping of steam, through lack of space, and that the shop is therefore unhealthy: have you found it so? A.—I find it a very unhealthy business at best. You can build a high and lofty shop and still it does not seem to clear the steam away, because the more cold air that comes into the shop in the winter the more the heat is condensed into steam and thrown down on you. I believe that fans would make the shop more free from dust, which is a bad thing on a man's lungs at any time, and especially when you are in it very long; but I do not see how in our business we can get rid of the steam, and heat, and dust to the full extent. We have to contend with those matters, and have to risk our bodies against them.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Could not the ventilating pipe be so arranged as to carry off the steam? A.—I have never seen it applied.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Is there a suction fan? A.—There is a little one in Gurney's. They have a mill there for making a particular kind of sand castings, which gives a better finish than can be obtained by castings made in the ordinary way. A great deal of dust is caused by it, and the suction fan is applied that carries it off. It acts very well, and I think that large suction fans could be made to take away the dust.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Has your association ever considered as to what work convicts should be made to do; or, in your opinion, should they be allowed to remain idle? A.—That is a knotty question that should be determined by our legislators in Parliament. We send them there for such purposes.

Q.—And they will turn around and ask the opinion of such an association as yours as to what kind of labor the convicts should be employed at? A.—Our body thinks they should be employed on such labor as would least interfere with free labor, and if the Government sells the products of their labor they should be sold at an equal price with the products of free labor. We see no reason why, if there are competent men in prisons, that they cannot produce certain articles just as well as free labor, that is if there are proper appliances as regards machinery, and so on; and if so, the government might as well sell their products just as high as those of free labor are sold.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you not think that all the goods manufactured in prisons and sold in competition with the products of free labor should be stamped as convict labor? A.—It would be a good idea.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you not think that such a system would prevent people from buying them? A.—Yes; there are people who would be prejudiced against them.

Q.—Then, in that case, the work would not be done? A.—It would be done to a certain extent.

Q.—We all agree, I suppose, that the men must be employed at something? A.—Yes; we don't believe that the convicts should be kept in idleness.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Did your body ever give a thought to the manner in which the wealth produced by these convicts in prison should be distributed? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are your ideas? A.—We believe that these men producing goods should have part of their wealth so produced for the benefit of their families. If a man is in prison his family has to be supported by some one, and in fact the rate-payers have to support the men in jail. We believe that a portion of the profit on the goods turned out by the man should go to himself or his family for their support.

Q.—You believe he should be paid the full rate of wages given for the article when manufactured by free labor? A.—We don't believe that, because the convict is kept free of expense. He is kept, I say, by the Government, and he has no board to pay, and we don't consider he should get the full rate.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—If there are 100 convicts in the Central Prison manufacturing stoves, who has to pay the taxes for their support? A.—We have.

Q.—The moulders have? A.—We, the people, have; this city or this community which sends them there, and at the same time has to sustain their families while the men are laboring there.

Q.—Would not the moulders have to pay more than any one else? A.—Certainly, on account of the competition that would be thrown into their trade.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—When you were discussing the question of industrial schools, to what class of schools did you refer? A.—We have no sample that I know of to go by. The way we looked at it was as regards schools for taking children who are orphans or had been deserted.

Q.—I refer to technical education of boys to learn the trades—a school where the elementary portions of science as applied to mechanics would be taught? A.—Would they be taught elementary subjects that would be applicable for doctors of medicine and masters of law?

Q.—No; the elementary principles of mechanics would be taught in the schools. While it would not teach a boy a trade, would it not give him a knowledge of the theory? A.—We don't think the Government ought to expend money in that way, because in any event the boy would have to go and serve a certain time under competent men. It is want of time, I mean.

Q.—Would not the adoption of such a system make better mechanics of our boys? A.—Where I served my time, in England, the period of apprenticeship was seven years. In this country, where the time is only four years, we turn out smarter men than under the seven years' apprenticeship. In the old country boys are taken about fourteen years of age, but here they come in when they are eighteen or nineteen, learn the trade and come out men. That is the advantage we have here, according to my experience. That is the reason we see no good in industrial schools.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Referring to fines for breakages: do you refer to the breakage of a pattern or of a mould? A.—I had reference to the breakage of a pattern from which you make a mould. For instance, you take a part of a stove or machine, and you are making that; suppose you break that piece you will be fined. You may not break it wilfully, but the pattern may become broken in some way. If you break it entirely you pay for the loss, or you have to pay for the repairs; that is the system. I should mention, however, that it is not enforced now; it has been done, but it is not done now.

JOHN MILLER, Moulder, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you corroborate the statement of the previous witness, John Stephenson?

A.—Yes.

JAMES BARTHOLOMEW, Moulder, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you corroborate the statement of the previous witness, John Stephenson?

A.—Yes.

MICHAEL BASKWILL, Moulder, Hamilton, called and sworn.

I desire to correct the statement which a witness made this morning in regard to the price paid Grand Trunk moulders.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What part of his statement do you object to? A.—I object to the prices stated to have been paid Grand Trunk moulders.

Q.—What are the rates of wages paid in the moulding shops of the Grand Trunk? A.—Twenty-one cents to twenty-five cents per hour; there is only about one man who gets 25 cents.

Q.—The average would be about how much? A.—The lowest is about 21 cents; the average is about 22 cents.

Q.—Have you heard the statement as regards wages made by the previous witness; is he about correct? A.—Yes; he is about correct. That gentleman has only worked in the city about ten months, and never worked in a stove-shop, and yet he assumes to tell this Commission what wages stove-moulders make. I don't believe he ever was in a stove foundry in the city; he says there are only twelve foundries here, whereas there are fifteen.

JAMES RIPLEY, Moulder, Hamilton, called and sworn.

I wish to make a remark with regard to the statement made by Mr. Stephenson in reply to Mr. Armstrong's question of whether there was a lockout. It was a strike here in the city, but it was a lock-out in Toronto. The men asked for an advance in Toronto and they went to work, but we did not go to work, and it amounted to a lock-out in Toronto.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You are the representative of your body in the Central Labor Union? A.—I was, but we have withdrawn. With reference to sanitary arrangements, I can state one thing which I think would be to the advantage of moulders, and I have had an experience of seven years. In Pennsylvania and in most parts in the east they have bath-rooms, and when you are done work you can use them. The bath-rooms are there, and a boiler with hot and cold water, with racks for clothes. You change your clothes and wash all over, so that you take none of the dirt home, and you are entirely dry. It is a great saving of clothes, as well as of your constitution.

Q.—Are not they used in some foundries in Hamilton? A.—I don't think I have seen any.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

A.—Where do the men change their clothes in the foundries? A.—They change them at home. You can generally tell moulders on the street, because they are so dirty. In Pennsylvania you could not tell them from any other mechanic. They

go dressed to the shop, and there they change their clothes. Another thing: there we got home three-quarters of an hour earlier and got washed and dressed by six o'clock, whereas here it is in the neighborhood of seven when we get there.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is there much difference in the wages paid in stove moulding between here and Pittsburg? A.—Yes; there is quite a little difference, and it is really to us a disadvantage. Some of it can be accounted for in this way: that here the manufacturers have to make a great variety of work and there is a constant change of patterns, while there they do more in specialities.

Q.—Is plate-work done by the day or by the piece? A.—By the piece.

Q.—And agricultural implement work? A.—Mostly by the piece. Pretty nearly all set work, that is, regular day's work, is by the piece.

Q.—Does your body prefer piece-work? A.—Well, we have not got it settled; some are strong on day-work and others like piece-work.

Q.—Can you add anything to the ideas of the previous witness as to fining for breakage? A.—We have what we call discounts. We suffer a great deal in this city in loss from the iron we get, on account of the slag, which we do not have in the American iron.

Q.—Where do you get your iron from here? A.—I think most of it is from Scotland; I would not be sure, but it is an ore which has this slag in it.

Q.—What length of time has a boy to serve to become a journeyman? A.—Four years.

Q.—We heard in London otherwise. Can a boy learn his trade as a stove-moulder properly in three years? A.—No; I do not think he has experience enough in that time to be a competent man, changing from one shop to another. He may be qualified for that one firm, but a great deal of changing is customary with them, and I don't think that four years would be enough.

Q.—You think four years is the best all round, for the good of the boys and the good of the firm? A.—Yes, our association has been a benefit to the employers in one case here. There were some apprentices that they would not take back unless they gave a bond, and it appears that some of the boys were not in a position to do so. They applied to us for cards, and we appointed a committee to see the firm and ask them to take the men back, and they agreed to do so; so that in that case the institution was a benefit. We have a rule in our union not to grant any run-away apprentices their cards, but to make them go back and serve their time. Speaking of the yellow slag, the American iron does not have it, and take first-class stoves, where they are very important, it is discounted. The price we get is taken off and the casting is moulded over again, so that there is considerable loss in that direction.

Q.—You do not get paid for imperfect castings? A.—No; in the stove-plate trade it passes the foreman, and it is checked in the gangway. There it is mounted and if the moulder mounts it the inspector goes over it again, and if he objects it is taken down and the men, of course, lose the amount of work which is condemned.

Q.—That is work paid by the piece? A.—Yes; we are paid for castings that are supposed to be as near perfect as possible, but the difficulty is in the iron.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—You are speaking a while ago of the lock-out in Toronto. What lock-out had you reference to? A.—In Toronto they made a demand for 10 per cent. advance; it was refused and they went to work. We made a demand somewhere about the same time, and we didn't go to work, and consequently the firm shut down there until the difficulty was settled here.

Q.—Did the employers in Toronto state no reason why they shut down, besides the reason with regard to giving what you required? A.—I can only tell from hearsay.

Q.—You did not know anything about it yourself? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know that they were short of coal in Toronto in that establishment? A.—The statement I have made was made to me by a moulder.

Q.—You do not know anything about the lock-out in Toronto? A.—Yes; I know something of it.

Q.—Do you know whether it was a lockout or not? A.—In my opinion it was.

Q.—What do you ground your opinion upon—the statement of some one else?

A.—A statement was made that they would not open until the affair was settled in Toronto.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—That was the same firm? A.—Yes.

ALEX. MCKAY, M. P., Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You are a member of Parliament for Hamilton? A.—Yes.

Q.—You have been mayor for two years? A.—Yes.

Q.—Your term has just now ended? A.—It ended last Monday.

Q.—Before you were mayor you were an alderman for some time? A.—Yes; for seven years previously.

Q.—So that you have a pretty good knowledge of public affairs in Hamilton? A.—A moderate amount of knowledge.

Q.—Are you able to give us any idea of the amount of destitution in Hamilton? A.—I cannot tell you the exact amount. I can tell you that there is a certain amount in Hamilton, and I presume there is in all cities of the size of Hamilton.

Q.—Are those persons who are chronic applicants such because they are unable to get employment? A.—There are a great number who are not chronic applicants. There are several classes of applicants. There are chronic applicants, as in other cities, who apply every winter, and not only during the winter but throughout the year. They have to have a certain amount of relief. All applicants are not chronic; they change.

Q.—Are those who are chronic applicants such through illness, or physical disability, or mental disability or old age, or are they able-bodied people? A.—Of those that go by the term “chronic applicants” a large proportion are old women and old men, and who apply on account of old age, poverty, and so on.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—They are unable to work? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—As to occasional applicants: what class do they represent? A.—Occasional applicants are people who come into the city and have not been successful in getting work.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Are there any immigrants? A.—I have had applications for relief from people who have come into the city, and from immigrants.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Can you form an idea about what proportion of the applicants would be immigrants? A.—A very small proportion.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—In what periods of the year are these applicants for relief most numerous? A.—During the winter season; the extremely cold weather brings them out.

Q.—Are many of them permanent residents of the city? A.—A great number of them are.

Q.—To what do you attribute the fact that they are compelled to ask for relief? A.—A great many permanent or continual applicants are widows with families to support—a greater or less number of children.

Q.—Are there any class of working people in the city, who work during the summer and are idle during the winter or portions of it? A.—There are some cases of that kind.

Q.—Bricklayers? A.—Not many of them.

Q.—Brick-makers? A.—Not many.

Q.—Day laborers? A.—Quite a number of day laborers, who have not succeeded in laying up anything in the busy season of summer to keep them and their families during the winter.

Q.—What would be the nature of the relief granted to those? A.—The city does not grant much besides fuel, and in exceptional cases groceries and flour. They work in conjunction with the benevolent societies connected with the different church organizations and the national societies.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Are many of the cases brought to destitution by strong drink? A.—There are cases brought to that condition by strong drink.

Q.—Many of them? A.—Quite a few.

Q.—Are they mostly young, or the older class of laboring men? A.—It takes in all classes, but I think poverty is not altogether caused by strong drink.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Not more than elsewhere? A.—I think we have here as sober and steady a lot as you can find in any city. There are certainly cases brought to poverty by strong drink. A great many cases of destitution arise from the loss of husbands—many widows are left with small families, and of course this is not due to any fault of theirs; it is simply a misfortune for them.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are corporation laborers employed during the winter as well as during the summer? A.—Not as steadily during the winter as during the summer.

Q.—Do any of them become destitute during the winter? A.—We have had applications from some who have worked for the corporation during the summer season.

Q.—Are extra exertions made by the civic authorities to provide work for those of them who are destitute? A.—We have on several occasions during the winter provided work to give employment to people out of work. We have started civic works. Some years it takes the form of stone-breaking, and at other times opening up of new streets; quite a number of years ago they used to build sewers during the winter.

Q.—Has that been necessary of late years? A.—We have not done any of that of late years.

Q.—What rates of wages do corporation employés receive? A.—During the summer \$1.37½ a day for ten hours' work.

Q.—And in the winter? A.—I think on the 1st of November it is lowered to \$1.25, and they work nine hours in the winter. The light does not continue long enough, and I think 12½ cents a day is cut off during November.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—And that is the reason, is it? A.—I think so, though I am not on any of the committees. That would be regulated by the sewer committee and the board of works.

Q.—Are you aware that in any other city the same practice prevails of cutting the wages during the winter? A.—I could not say.

Q.—Do you know that in Toronto they receive the same wages the year round? A.—I don't know whether they do or not.

Q.—And work nine hours a day all the year round? A.—I don't know that.

Q.—State the proportion of cases from strong drink and from pure misfortune? A.—I can by referring to the books I have kept for the last two years, but I could

not at the present moment. There are quite a number of cases of destitution caused by strong drink, but I think a very large proportion are caused by misfortune or circumstances which the people themselves could not obviate.

Q.—Quite a number of cases is caused by misfortune? A.—Yes; a considerable number, or something which could not be prevented.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is there a large amount of corporation work in Hamilton done by contract?

A.—Last year a good deal of the public work was done by daily labor, such as building sewers. The contract system was abolished and the sewers were built by daily labor, but we still put down the block-paving by contract.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you find in constructing sewers on the principle of daily labor that you do as good a class of work? A.—I believe we get equally as good a job done, if not better; I am satisfied it don't suffer by being built by daily labor.

Q.—Was it as economical? A.—I could not give you the figures at present.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Don't you think that if corporation work is done immediately under the supervision of the engineer and the board of works that the work would be better done, and spread over the winter to a greater extent than now, under the partial contract system, and that it would be better for the poorer classes? A.—I believe it would be better done; I would not say it would be as cheaply done, but there is no doubt it might be spread over a longer time and continued during the winter; that is, if the intention was to do that, it could be done.

Q.—And if it had the effect of preventing people from losing their manhood or womanhood by begging, through no fault of their own, it would be a benefit? A.—If it could be done, by keeping up a person's self-respect.

Q.—Exactly: that is to say, that these people by begging and living on charity lose their manhood or womanhood to a certain extent? A.—Certainly. There will be people who will beg or who will not work at any rate—people who will not save anything.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Has much stone breaking been provided by the corporation of late for persons who could not get work? A.—Almost every winter. There was some done last winter and some the previous winter.

Q.—How do those men break stones—by the cord or by the bushel? A.—By the cord.

Q.—What rates are paid, do you know? A.—I think \$1.75 was paid last winter. There are two classes of stone, one soft and one hard, and they paid different prices; for the hard stone they pay more, but I could not tell you the difference in the prices. There are two qualities in the mountain where we get the stone.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are laboring men immediately under the employment of the corporation paid weekly, monthly, or how? A.—Fortnightly.

Q.—Do the workingmen prefer that? A.—We have not had much grumbling about it; they are all glad to get corporation work under that system.

Q.—Did they ever make a request to be paid weekly? A.—I think a change was made two years ago, but for some reason or other it has been changed again. The system of paying was changed from fortnightly to weekly. I could not tell how long it continued, but for some reason which I could not give it was changed again to the fortnightly system.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do any men who work for the corporation save any money? A.—Well,

that is a pretty hard question. I know of men who have been working for the corporation who now have money and who own their own houses.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Are there any pensioners working on the corporation? A.—Yes; there are some.

Q.—Those are the men most likely to have homes? A.—Well, I was not thinking of pensioners; the people who present themselves to my mind are not pensioners.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have they families grown up and earning money as well as themselves? A.—You are going into matters now as to which I can only give you general impressions. I know there are men who have worked on the corporation who have their little homes now.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Did they acquire homes immediately out of their wages in the corporation? A.—Well, it is pretty hard for a man to raise a family and save much on the wages he gets from the corporation. Some live more economically than others, and live probably as none of us would like to live, for the purpose of accumulating these properties. Take a man with two, three, four or five children, and it is pretty hard for him to make both ends meet and besides to accumulate money.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do many of the daily laborers in Hamilton own the houses in which they live? A.—I can think of several—quite a number.

Q.—Have you examined at all the voters' list of the city of Hamilton? A.—I looked over it since I have been in the room.

Q.—Do you find very many persons who are owners of houses and who are marked as laborers in the list? A.—I see some.

Q.—Considerable numbers? A.—Quite a few.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Can you tell us whether those people have been left property by their parents or acquired it by daily labor? Can you tell us by looking over the assessment roll? A.—Well, the parents of some of them hadn't much money. I could not tell when a man is marked as an owner anything about how he came to be an owner.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you know any laboring men who get \$1.50 per day? A.—There are laboring men who get \$1.70; they belong to the Laborers' Union, and they work at buildings, and so on.

Q.—Those men would have their names on the voters' lists as laborers? A.—Certainly; they are laborers.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is the assessment roll in your city printed yearly for the criticism and comments of the mass of the people? A.—We have had it printed twice in two years.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What does it cost? A.—The last time we had it printed it cost between \$400 and \$500.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Were there any good results from it, as regards a more equitable assessment? A.—I didn't notice any results, one way or the other. A large number of the lists were printed and left in the city clerk's office for distribution, and they were not circulated; they were not called for. They were there for anyone who wished to see them.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you know of many mechanics who own their own houses in Hamilton?
A.—Yes; I know of quite a number.

Q.—Would you be able to form any estimate of the proportion of property owners in Hamilton who are working people, mechanics or daily laborers, men of the working class? A.—I could not give you any proportion at present.

Q.—The numbers are considerable? A.—I have a great many friends among the workmen, and I may intimate that quite a number do own their own houses, but whether they are entirely paid for I don't know. I know some are, but probably quite a number are not; they pay for them as they work. No. 7 ward, in the north-eastern part of the city, is populated by mechanics, a large number of whom own their own places, but whether many of them are paid for I could not say.

Q.—Do you know of many working people in Hamilton who are able to accumulate means for their own support in old age? A.—I know instances of people who have worked, and are now living comfortably without working.

Q.—Any of those common laborers? A.—I think among the common laborers it is rare, though there are exceptional cases where men seem to accumulate property. I don't know how it is done, but it is done.

Q.—Is the state of comfort of the people in Hamilton as great as it has been in former years, or less great, or has it remained stationary, as to the working people?

A.—I should certainly say that it was greater. I have been in Hamilton all my life and have mixed with all kinds of people, and I think the state of comfort at present is fully as great as it has been during any previous time in the history of Hamilton, since I have been able to take any choice or form a judgment.

JAMES SHARKEY, of Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You work for Messrs. Tuckett & Son? A.—Yes.

Q.—How old are you? A.—I will be fifteen next April.

Q.—What do you do there? A.—Stem tobacco.

Q.—How many hours a day do you work? A.—Ten hours a day.

Q.—What time do you go to work in the morning? A.—Half-past seven.

Q.—When do you get through at night? A.—Six.

Q.—How long a time have you for dinner? A.—One hour.

Q.—It is nine and a-half hours from the time you begin till you quit? A.—

Yes. Q.—Are you paid by the week, or by what you do? A.—By the week.

and \$5. Q.—How much can you earn there? A.—Wages run from about \$2.50 to \$4.50

Q.—Do you make that much? A.—I make \$3.50.

Q.—Do you live with your parents? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you take your money home to them? A.—Yes.

Q.—How old were you when you quit school? A.—I can hardly tell.

Q.—Were you fourteen? A.—No.

Q.—Thirteen? A.—No; I was about ten or eleven.

Q.—How did you come to quit school at so early an age? A.—I went to work with a tailor on James street as a message boy.

years. Q.—How long have you been working with Mr. Tuckett? A.—Nearly two

Q.—Were you fourteen when you went there? A.—Not quite; very nearly.

Q.—Do you take your money home to your father? A.—Yes.

Q.—What does your father do? A.—He is a laborer.

Q.—Are you very tired when you go home at night? A.—Not very; it is not very tiresome work.

Q.—Are you learning the trade, so that you will be able to earn more money?
A.—Yes.

Q.—Do the men around you try to teach you anything, so as to help you on?
A.—Yes; they try to teach you how to roll.

Q.—Is there much bad language used there? A.—Not very much.

Q.—Do you like the work? A.—Yes; very well.

By Mr. GARDINER:—

Q.—Did Mr. Tuckett give you any presents at Christmas time, or any time?
A.—Yes; the Christmas before last he did.

Q.—How much was it? A.—He gave 25 cents to all the stemmers.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are there many boys working there? A.—Yes; a good few.

Q.—Are there many younger than you? A.—I hardly know any.

Q.—You are the youngest? A.—There may be one that is about as young.

Q.—Are there any little girls there? A.—Yes; girls of fourteen or fifteen.

Q.—Do they sit down at their work all day? A.—Not all day; they can sit or stand, just as they like.

WILLIAM HOBDEN, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You are employed at Mr. Tuckett's also? A.—Yes.

Q.—What do you do? A.—I am a stemmer.

Q.—How long have you been there? A.—About three years and a-half.

Q.—How old are you? A.—Eighteen next month.

Q.—What can boys earn who have been there as long as you have? A.—About \$4.50 a week.

Q.—Are you constantly employed the year through? A.—We have holidays in summer time.

Q.—Do you live with your parents? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you take your money home to them on Saturday night? A.—Yes.

Q.—What does your father do? A.—He is a tailor.

Q.—Do you expect to remain long at stemming; or have you promotion in your mind? A.—I think I will learn the trade.

Q.—Do you consider you are learning the trade now? A.—I consider they will put me in another year at making lumps for plugs.

Q.—You think then you can earn more wages? A.—Yes; I think so.

Q.—At what age did you leave school? A.—I hardly know—about thirteen, I think.

Q.—Did you think it was necessary to go to work when you were thirteen?
A.—I would sooner work than go to school.

By Mr. GARDINER:—

Q.—Do you expect to get more wages when you are more advanced? A.—I expect to get a little more.

Q.—You are just working there now as an ordinary hand? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it customary in that concern to give you more as one of the rules of your apprenticeship? A.—I do not know.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you know what boys generally get when they first go to learn as apprentices? A.—I do not.

Q.—Are the rooms nice and comfortable to work in? A.—Yes.

Q.—Plenty of light and heat? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

- A.—Are they ever too warm for comfort? A.—Not that I know of.
 Q.—Are you learning the trade as you go along? A.—No; I am stemming.
 Q.—Do you not get odd chances? A.—Yes.
 Q.—It gives you a little help? A.—Yes.
 Q.—So that when you come to serve an apprenticeship you are not a green hand,
 —you know something about the business? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Do they ever take on apprentices who have not worked at stemming? A.—
 They never take them on unless they have worked there a long time.

JAMES BOWEN, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q.—You are employed by Messrs. Tuckett? A.—Yes.
 Q.—What department? A.—In the rolling department.
 Q.—Is that rolling the leaves together to form plugs? A.—Making up what we
 call the navies before they are pressed.
 Q.—How long have you worked at the business? A.—About twenty years.
 Q.—Do you consider yourself a skilled hand? A.—I do
 Q.—What do skilled men earn at such a work as you are doing? A.—From \$12
 to \$15 a week.
 Q.—How frequently are you paid? A.—Every Saturday at four o'clock.
 Q.—Cash? A.—Cash.
 Q.—When you are paid on Saturday up to what time are you paid? A.—
 Thursday night.
 Q.—Would you rather be paid on Saturday than on other days? A.—I believe
 if I had my way I would rather be paid on Friday.
 Q.—Why? A.—Oh, because we would have a chance to attend the market.
 A.—Are there many men working there who can earn as much as you do?
 A.—Quite a number; I dare say half the skilled laborers.
 Q.—What are the lowest wages paid to skilled men? A.—I should say nothing
 less than \$2 a day.
 Q.—There are a considerable number of unskilled hands employed—laborers, and
 so on. What do they earn? A.—One dollar and forty cents a day, up to \$10 or \$11
 a week, would be the average.
 Q.—Were you there when the hours of labor were reduced? A.—I was.
 Q.—Were you working by the piece? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Did you approve of the shortening of the hours? A.—I did.
 Q.—Can you earn as much since the shortening as before? A.—I do.
 Q.—How is it you can do as much in nine hours as formerly you did in ten?
 A.—We never worked ten hours.
 Q.—You were required to be there ten hours before? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Now you are required to be there only nine hours? A.—Nine hours is a
 day's work in our factory for all hands. The question you asked me was, how we make
 as much now in nine hours as we did before in ten, and my answer is that we do it by
 a little more activity.
 Q.—Do you feel you have more strength to last you during nine hours than
 during ten? A.—Yes; I do I believe I could do as much in eight hours as in nine
 if we were limited to that. A man feels more like working.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

- Q.—How many skilled men are employed at piece-work at present? A.—Fifty-
 four; they are all skilled men that work at piece-work.
 Q.—Do any of the boys work piece-work? A.—Only those that work on the
 machine, stemming and for fine cut.

Q.—How many? A.—From twelve to fifteen, girls and boys altogether.

Q.—Do the majority of the hands in your place work piece work? A.—Yes; all in the flat I work in.

Q.—Mr. Tuckett did not lose anything by giving the men nine hours a day if they are paid by piece-work? A.—There are quite a lot of day hands; he might lose by them.

Q.—They are all boys or girls and unskilled laborers? A.—No; the best have to get wages from \$1.40 a day up to \$10 a week.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are there any female rollers? A.—No; we do not allow any.

Q.—In what class are they chiefly employed? A.—Shaking out or handling tobacco before it comes to us.

Q.—Are there any men employed at that? A.—No; there are only three or four men working on that flat.

Q.—How much do women earn? A.—I think, at shaking out women earn from \$3.50 to \$5 a week.

Q.—Is female labor considered to be worth less than male labor? A.—For the work they do.

Q.—Cannot a man do that same work? A.—Yes; most decidedly.

Q.—They would have to pay the man more? A.—I suppose so; a man's labor is worth more than a woman's, I should think.

Q.—Can a woman get the same pay as a man for an equal amount of work? A.—Yes; but a man could do more of it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is \$3 a week the lowest wages that girls receive? A.—No; the labor that we hire ranges from \$2.50 up to \$4.50 and \$5 a week; there are one or two stemmers in the factory who get \$5, but they are extraordinary good stemmers. We generally pay them all they are worth.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do rollers hire their own help? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has the firm anything to say as to the rates of wages stemmers are paid? A.—No; only just the stemmers who work the machines I mentioned a while ago; they work piece-work and get pretty good wages, \$5 and \$6 a week; we do not have anything to do with them; they work downstairs; we don't see them once a month.

Q.—The firm has no control over your stemmers? A.—No.

Q.—Do you think that is more satisfactory than if the firm employed them? A.—I do.

By Mr. MCLEAN :—

Q.—Do you ever receive Christmas boxes? A.—Yes; at various times.

Q.—What was the amount? A.—Twenty dollars one time. I believe as high as \$10 two or three times.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Were these presents at Christmas time based somewhat upon work done by the hands, according to merit, as it were? A.—Yes; they just distributed amongst skilled laborers, the tradesmen; it was pretty well distributed to the men who earned it according to their merits.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are the men who work in the factory organized? A.—Yes.

Q.—All? A.—Every man.

Q.—Do you feel it beneficial to belong to the organization? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you name one or two of the benefits derived from organization in your

business? A.—I could give you one of the benefits since we have been organized : everything we have asked Mr. Tuckett for, and for which we went to him in a legitimate way, he has always granted, but we have not the least doubt he would have done it before had we been organized ; but we had not the back-bone ; we were rather scared to make the break.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Everything you asked for he gave you? A.—Yes ; he gave us everything we asked for ; that is recently. He is a very good man to work for.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You work in harmony with your employers? A.—Yes ; we join hands, you may say.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—How long has the establishment been in existence? A.—I think it was established in 1857 ; I have been working there for fourteen years.

Q.—Do you know how many men were employed there twelve or fifteen years ago? A.—When I came here I think there were thirty-two.

Q.—Have they increased hands and facilities since? A.—Yes.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Thirty-two were skilled laborers? A.—Yes ; but we have more of the other labor ; if we put on one skilled hand he has to have two to help him.

Q.—In stating the amount of wages you receive is it inclusive of the amount you pay your help? A.—Yes. We generally draw \$21 to \$22 a week, and pay our help out of that. Some pay \$7.50, some \$8, some \$9, according to what kind of skilled man he is. A good skilled man, by pitching in and helping his stemmer to work a little, could save some.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you know the age of the youngest girl employed in the factory? A.—No ; I could not say as to that. I do not know exactly.

Q.—Are there any under twelve, to the best of your belief? A.—No ; not to the best of my belief. I have in my pocket a few notes from the foreman of the factory to show that it is our aim to enforce the Factory Act and keep out all children under age. Here is a lot sent to the foreman of the factory ; they cannot get there themselves, but these are from their parents ; they are certificates that the children are over fourteen. We are supposed to inform the parents of the law.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—You look after that very particularly? A.—Yes ; if we have any doubt that they are not of age. Sometimes parents come with them.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Did the inspector come and see the factory? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did he make a thorough inspection? A.—Yes ; he went up and down and looked at every child in the room.

Q.—Did he examine the machinery? A.—There is none in my room, but he examined the fire-escape and sanitary arrangements where I was.

Q.—Did he find any fault? A.—Not that I know of. I would like to make a statement, if it is in order. In reading the papers last night I saw that Mr. Tuckett made a great mistake in regard to workmen making \$1.25 a day on an average. There is not a man in our factory that is paid less than \$1.40. I have got statistics of my own which show that I earned \$600 last year myself, and several others had more.

Q.—Don't you think his statement was that the whole of his hands, big and little, made \$1.25 a day? A.—He might have meant that, and if he did it was all right enough. Taking the men, they will average over \$1.50.

WILLIAM JOHN VALE, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you know anything in connection with prison labor? You being a representative man of Hamilton, will you give us some information about that? A.—Have you reference to contracting prison labor out?

Q.—Yes? A.—I think prison labor is one of the most difficult problems of the labor question. There are so many phases of it and different ways of looking at it. Personally, I believe that the contract system should be abolished in every instance.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Are you aware it is practically abolished—because there is only one contract in Toronto, as we are told, and it is now re-called? A.—I am aware of that fact. My idea of a system of prison labor would be to confine all prisoners to two or three grades of work, and then to have the Government sell the product of their labor only at its proper market value, so as not to come in competition with free labor.

Q.—You do not believe in the principle of keeping our prisoners idle? A.—No; because that would be against their health—moral and physical. I have lately read a report of one institution where prison labor was abolished, and there was an increase of 5 per cent. in insanity amongst the prisoners.

Q.—What institution is that? A.—It is in Pennsylvania.

Q.—You do not know what county? A.—No; it is mentioned in the report of the bureau of statistics of that State.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Would you approve of prison goods being stamped as such? A.—Most decidedly, in every instance. The greatest trouble we have to-day with prison goods competing with free labor arises from the fact that they are not stamped. If people knew they were the product of prison labor those who are in favor of labor and social reform in certain matters would not purchase the goods.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Do you not think that if the authorities would insist on a first-class article being produced, no matter in what particular line, that would not interfere so much with outside labor as at present? A.—Not if it was put at market value. The trouble has been with inferior classes of goods; the competition in them has been greater, because prison goods could be sold at a much cheaper rate.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Would any one pay the real market value for those goods with the prison stamp upon them? A.—Yes; lots of people would purchase them.

Q.—You would not like to have a chair with a prison stamp upon it? A.—I would not object if it was inside.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Y.—Have you ever thought how money acquired by prison work should be distributed? A.—Yes; I have. One of the greatest troubles in connection with prison reform to-day is when you take a criminal and place him in prison his family all become paupers, and I think the only proper way would be to allow the criminal a *per diem* wage, and let a percentage go to the family for their support.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is not that done in some prisons in the United States? A.—I think it is done in California, and in a prison in Lansing, Michigan. I think it is also done in Albany.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Your plan would be that the Government should allow all prisoners' earnings over cost of living to go towards supporting their families? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—At all events, the Government should give them something to encourage them? A.—Yes. As it is now, when a prisoner comes out he has not a cent; people have suspicion of him, and he has no chance. If he had money he could go somewhere else.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Has it come to your knowledge that immigration has affected the mechanical industries of Hamilton? A.—In several instances it has been reported to me that assisted immigration has hurt certain classes.

Q.—Do you know that mechanics have been assisted to immigrate here as such? A.—No; not as mechanics; they come under false pretences. I have known of mechanics being assisted out here.

Q.—How long ago? About a year ago. I know a case where two bricklayers were brought out, and there were two cotton spinners and several machinists reported as having been assisted, and I think there were some printers also. They so stated, but I have no proof of it.

Q.—Do you know whether the Government has appropriated any sums for assisted immigration? A.—Not according to the estimates; I think it was lumped. Whether any amount was for assisted immigration or not I do not know, but I have seen advertisements in English papers offering inducements to immigrants to come to this country.

Q.—Did you examine the Estimates? A.—I did at that time.

Q.—Did you examine the Votes and Proceedings which specified the amounts? A.—No; not to remember at the present moment.

Q.—Taking into consideration the wages that are paid other skilled mechanics in Hamilton, do you think the day printer is as well paid as other trades? A.—About the same. A statement was made the other night to the effect that a printer might in ten years own his own house. The gentleman who made that statement never went into the figures.

Q.—On morning newspaper work, does it require a man with a strong constitution to work for weeks exclusively on morning work? A.—Yes; it does; I would hate to do it myself. Five days a week is sufficient for a man on a morning paper to work. I would be strongly in favor of curtailing the hours of labor; I think it would be beneficial to the men and the employers, too.

Q.—Have you any suggestions to make as regards the craft to which you belong that we may lay before the Government? A.—I am cordially in favor of the Government doing their own printing. I think it will be beneficial to the country; it is in other places, and I think it will be in Canada. Another thing is, I think we should have an Act passed by the Dominion Government with regard to friendly and benevolent societies. This is the only Government in the British Empire which has not got one; these societies are bearing directly on the labor movement. It has already been promised by Sir Leonard Tilley, but the difficulty has been that we have different Provinces. It has also been promised by Sir Charles Tupper.

Q.—Do you think it would be beneficial to those benevolent societies if they were supervised by the Government? A.—Most decidedly it would be.

Q.—What kind of membership constitutes those societies? A.—Working classes—nine-tenths of them.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Can you give us your reason for stating that shortening the hours of labor would benefit workman as well as employer? A.—It would benefit the workingman because he would not be so tired, and he would have more time for study and to devote to his family. He would be fresher for his work, too.

Q.—Would he not be very apt to misuse his leisure time? A.—Does he misuse it to-day, when he is on shorter time? If so, he would do so if he was permanently upon it.

Q.—Your belief is, he would not misuse any extra time he would get? A.—Yes; there is not sufficient evidence to prove he does misuse it.

Q.—He would make good use of it? A.—Certainly he would.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you a Mechanics' Institute here? A.—I am sorry to say we have not got that benefit to the working classes of Hamilton—not even a night-school.

Q.—Do you think if they had one the working classes would make good use of it? A.—Yes; there are hundreds of young mechanics in Hamilton to-day who would attend a night-school if they had the opportunity.

Q.—Have you ever thought what effect shortening the hours of labor would have on the labor market? A.—Yes; it would be an improvement; it would give more work.

Q.—Absorb the surplus? A.—Yes; to a great extent.

Q.—What effect would that have on the number of people who are dependent on charitable institutions? A.—It would have this effect, they would have work to do and would have money to support themselves.

Q.—Do you think it would remove the tax from citizens at large, who at present pay it in the shape of aid? A.—To a certain extent.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Which do you think is the most likely to drink—the man who is tired out after a long day's work or the man who leaves off comparatively fresh at the end of eight hours or so? A.—The man who is tired out, most decidedly.

Q.—Twenty-five years ago, we will say, people had enough to eat, and drink, and wear in Canada. There was enough produced in the country to support everybody, so that there was no suffering. Since that time production has been greatly facilitated by the invention of machinery? A.—Yes; and competition has also increased in the labor market.

Q.—Now, if so, and greater production is taking place, consequent upon the invention of machinery, would it not be possible to work shorter hours and still have enough for all? A.—Yes; I believe so.

Q.—Then it is possible to shorten the hours of labor and still have no want for the people who live in the country? A.—Yes; I think shortening the hours of labor would not diminish the production. The improvement in machinery has been so great, I think reducing the hours of labor would be very beneficial to all concerned.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You think the hours of labor could be considerably shortened? A.—If the mechanic had his equivalent for improvement in machinery they would have to take off three hours.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How long have you been in Hamilton? A.—I came first in 1869.

Q.—Take the past ten years: is the purchasing power of a dollar as great now as it was ten years ago? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know the percentage? A.—I could not say the exact percentage. My family has increased but my rate of living has gone up about \$150.

Q.—From your acquaintance with the working classes in Hamilton, do you think wages have increased during the past five years? A.—In some branches of trade they have, principally due to organization.

Q.—Has the cost of living increased or decreased or is it at a stand-still? A.—It has increased.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—You spoke of shortening the hours of labor: would you have the same rate of wages *per diem* for the reduced time as before? A.—It will have to come to that. They will give them work to do and the price would regulate itself.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—What effect would that have on manufacturers? A.—Shortening the hours would increase the amount of production, because the purchasing power of money would be greater and there would be more people to purchase.

Q.—Would it not require manufacturers to increase their facilities. A.—There are few manufacturers who have enough room to employ a greater number than they do to-day.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—You think the increased demand for goods would pay him for the increased amount he would have to pay? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you known any trade that received a shortening of the hours of labor to get their wages increased above what they were receiving for the long hours? A.—Yes; bricklayers and carpenters. Carpenters do not work Saturday afternoons. Builders' laborers—their pay has increased.

Q.—Does the organization to which you belong approve of the principles of arbitration in labor difficulties? A.—Yes; we are always opposed to strikes if they can be avoided; sometimes a strike is necessary; it is forced upon the men. I think a great deal of trouble would be saved if men and employers would come together and talk over matters, if they met on a proper footing.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—You stated the cost of living had increased greatly the last few years: do you not live better now than you did ten years ago? A.—No.

Q.—Do you live as economically? A.—Just as economically as I possibly can.

Q.—But your chances for purchasing luxuries are greater now than they were ten years ago? A.—Chances are greater but opportunities are fewer.

Q.—Wages have increased during that time? A.—Wages have not increased in our trade to any great extent in that time.

Q.—In other trades they have increased? A.—Yes; they have in other trades.

Q.—You think you live just as economically now as ten years ago? A.—Just as economically as I can, so as to make both ends meet.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—So far as your observation goes, do you think those working men of Hamilton who have received the shortened hours of labor have taken advantage of them to improve their condition? A.—Yes; I have known a number of instances where men have met together to talk over different matters pertaining to trade, and such affairs, which they would not have had opportunity to do had they been working the long hours.

Q.—Presuming facilities were provided for that purpose, do you think they would embrace them? A.—I do.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Talking about arbitration, do you not think parties who go as spokesmen for employes in matters of this sort lose caste among the people they work for? A.—No; I do not think so. We have had only three or four cases of arbitration.

Q.—Do you not think they are looked upon with suspicion? A.—Yes; they are.

Q.—If they do not go as spokesmen do you think they get on better? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you not think the best thing would be compulsory arbitration, where the employer and employée would not meet, but where the law would step in? A.—I think that has been very favorably spoken of in France, where it is in operation.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Have you thought anything about technical schools and the benefit they would confer on the rising youth and those intended for mechanics? A.—Yes; they

are very beneficial. I received a letter from a young Canadian now in Boston attending a technical school there; he says he would not have lost the opportunity for any consideration. He attends the classes at night.

Q.—From his knowledge and your information you think they would be a great benefit? A.—Yes. The trouble has been, there are certain schools of that class established by private individuals, but the fees are so high that mechanics cannot attend them.

Q.—I have reference to public schools sustained by public funds? A.—I think they would be very beneficial.

Q.—A gentleman stated the other night they would be of no use? A.—I think any instruction in the mechanical line is valuable to a mechanic and beneficial to a young lad just leaving school and starting his apprenticeship; he could always gain a great deal of knowledge.

Q.—Theory helps him to obtain practical knowledge? A.—Yes; he is able to use tools to better advantage, and so becomes a skilled artisan and gets higher wages.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Is it not a fact that men with technical education will get higher wages than those without it? A.—Yes; They become more skilled in their trade and demand higher wages.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—In other words they are in greater demand? A.—Yes; on account of their skill.

J. B. KING, Compress Tobacco Maker, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How many men are employed in your department of the factory in which you work? A.—About twenty.

Q.—Are they all skilled men? A.—No; as they can do the work after they have been there a few months.

Q.—What do skilled men receive who are employed in that department? A.—Eight dollars and fifty cents per week.

Q.—And what do the unskilled receive? A.—That is what they get from the start.

Q.—You do not get any more after you have been some time at the business? A.—No; not if you remain in that department.

Q.—How long does it take you to learn that part of the business? A.—A day or a couple of days.

Q.—Do you require any special training to be able to do it? A.—No.

Q.—Do they work the same number of hours as the other men in the factory? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are they all paid by the day? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are any presents given to those men at Christmas time? A.—To some of them.

Q.—Does that depend on the character of the work they do or is it according to the good will of the employer? A.—It depends on the good will of the employer and a good deal on the merits of the men.

Q.—Is the tobacco all pressed? —Yes.

Q.—Does it require great skill to learn to manage that process? A.—It has to be learned.

Q.—Does one manage the process or do all the men learn it? A.—One man runs the machine and the rest assist.

Q.—Does the man who runs the machine get better pay than the others? A.—Yes; he gets \$9.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Do you work nine hours a day? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think it is possible to do the same amount of work in eight hours as you do in nine? A.—I do not; I do the same amount now as I did in ten hours.

Q.—Have you ever found men give as a reason for not doing more work that they were out of orders? A.—We have our regular hours and we don't get out of orders.

Q.—You never thought you might do the same work in eight hours as you now do in nine? A.—No; not exactly.

Q.—One man depends on the work done by another in order to get through, I suppose? A.—Yes.

Q.—So that if one man worked extra hard he would not get through until all were through? A.—They all go hand-in-hand together.

THOMAS BRICK, Carter, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What is the usual pay of a carter in Hamilton? A.—Fifty cents per hour.

Q.—How many hours per day can a man work one day with another all the year round? A.—A good, healthy man can work from eight to ten hours a day all the year round.

Q.—Have you anything of which you wish to complain in regard to your business? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is it? A.—It is in regard to monopolies. We have a great complaint to make in regard to the Sheddon Company and the Hendry Company, and those railway monopolies, whose waggons in the season of the year when the moving of households goods is going on turn in and take goods for the same rate of wages as we get. They will take loads of goods in Grand Trunk waggons for you or any other gentlemen for 50 cents an hour, and we don't think it is right.

Q.—How would you prevent that? A.—The only way we see of preventing it is to give us the chance to compete with those companies as regards railways. There are lots of private individuals who send their goods by freight on the Grand Trunk and the Northern & North-Western and delivered by the Hendry and Sheddon companies, while at the same time they would be very glad to give the work to carters such as we are. They would, however, have to pay double cartage if they did so.

Q.—If the railway companies choose to make those arrangements with the Hendry and Sheddon companies how can we interfere to prevent them? A.—I don't know whether the law or the Government could interfere. The Government, as a general thing, always favors monopolies of any kind.

Q.—Has the Government favored these monopolies? A.—I believe so.

Q.—In what way? A.—They give the general trunk railway business and everything else to the Hendry Company.

Q.—How did they give it to the Hendry Company? A.—The Hendry Company gets a share of the Government money that is distributed around for the railways.

Q.—In what way does the Hendry Company get Government money? A.—I don't know whether I am right or wrong, but if William Hendry goes before the Railway Committee of Parliament he will get privileges that Thomas Brick would not get. I went once as a deputation from Hamilton to the Railway Committee, and I had the pleasure of having William Hendry and some other gentleman along with me, and I found that the Government always fears such men.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is it not a singular thing that Mr. Hendry should get from the Government grants without any consideration? A.—I could not tell you; I don't know.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Did individual carters in Hamilton do a larger volume of business previous to the introduction of the Hendry and Sheddon companies? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Will the railway companies accept freight delivered by carters other than their own? A.—They receive it, but we have a great deal of trouble. If a private carter goes with a load of merchandise he has to wait till a man comes down and makes out shipping bills, and everything like that; in fact, they will not take it from our waggons unless we run over to the freight department.

Q.—Do they object in any way to private carters delivering freight? A.—They throw those obstacles in the way and they will hardly receive it.

Q.—Can the Sheddon Company deliver the freight at a cheaper rate than ordinary carters get? A.—I don't think they can; I think we can handle freight at as cheap a rate as they can. Of course, we have not the capacity to carry it—they have larger and better conveyances; but as regards furniture moving, or anything of that kind, I think we are superior to them, for we understand the handling of it better and we can handle it more carefully.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Would not that be more of a local than a Dominion matter—that is, merchants preferring local carters to those companies? A.—At present it would put people to a disadvantage if they had to pay the same rate for their freight, whether they employ us or not.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—The railway companies, I suppose, take freight from the premises at the same rate as they would take it from the railway stations? A.—They take it from the houses at the same rate as from the station.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—And they deliver it on arrival without extra charge? A.—Yes.

Q.—And if the shipper or merchant were to employ you he would be paying you and also the same railway freight? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—You are an alderman of Hamilton, I believe? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the general condition of the working people in Hamilton? A.—Very poor. In fact, to-day the mayor sent the chairman of the board of works around to me asking me in regard to providing work for some able-bodied men seeking assistance in order to keep them from starving.

Q.—What does it cost the city of Hamilton to meet such cases? A.—I have no idea; it is something enormous. There are from fifty to sixty applications made to the mayor every day.

Q.—Please state some of the principal causes of this distress? A.—The only thing I can mention is the system of immigration. Lots of men arrive in this country and have not a dollar, and their families are destitute, and they have to live on the rest of the people.

Q.—Are those classes of the people assisted by the city here? A.—That is the class that is always at the mayor's office. There are no men who have been in the country any length of time who are so hard up in the winter that they cannot make a living.

Q.—You think there are no people seeking assistance but immigrants? A.—There are a few, but they are exceptions; but the system of immigration brings agricultural laborers to this country, and they work on the farms and afterwards flock into the towns. Where one man is now employed on a farm there used to be twenty-five, and I think the sooner they stop the present system of immigration, by which men are imported into this country, the better. As regards bringing in children to the country, I see Mr. Smith was before the Commission. All I have got to say is that we can raise all the children in this country we require.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How many have you raised? A.—I have a family of six.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you have some people coming here year after year for relief. A.—Yes.

Q.—Are they the same faces? A.—As a rule, there is a new class every year. Some of them go back, if they can possibly get back, to the old country—they seem to make a living in that way somehow; they don't seem to intend to remain here or to work. I have known cases in which the mayor has given orders for wood in which they would not saw cordwood, but they wanted the wood split and ready to go into the stoves.

Q.—Do you think that is the only cause of distress here? A.—And lack of work.

Q.—Due to over-crowding by immigrants? A.—I think one of the great difficulties is overcrowding by immigrants. I know hundreds of men who have been raised in Hamilton and who have emigrated to the United States, and are making a good living there. I have two brothers in the United States who would not live in Canada now.

Q.—Do you know the number of applicants every day, say on an average, for the last week? A.—No; I could hardly state that; not less than fifty a day.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—From what you say it appears that Hamilton is about the worst place in the world in which a man can live? A.—I don't think so.

Q.—Do I come to a correct conclusion when I think that according to your own statement Hamilton is about the worst place in which a man can live? A.—You can come to the conclusion that there are hundreds of families starving in this city of Hamilton to-day. In fact, you can find able-bodied men who are going around wanting to get 5 cents to get a bowl of soup.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Is there a soup kitchen in Hamilton? A.—No; but there are coffee taverns.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Where are those in Hamilton? A.—There are several around the market and on some of the streets.

Q.—For the convenience of the poor people? A.—Yes; and the general public.

Q.—Are they not kept more for the convenience of those who own them? A.—Yes; there is a company that owns the coffee taverns; it is a company of gentlemen.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—And the intention is to make it pay, I suppose? A.—Yes; to make money out of it.

Q.—Have you followed carting all your life? A.—I worked at the broom-making before I went to carting.

Q.—You have worked at one or the other, then? A.—Yes; I was at laboring work before that—blacksmithing.

Q.—What is the property qualification of an alderman in Hamilton? A.—One thousand five hundred dollars, I believe.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are there many broom-makers employed in Hamilton? A.—I guess about twelve or fourteen now altogether.

Q.—Is broom-making as good a trade as it was twenty years ago? A.—No.

Q.—What is the cause of that? A.—Prison labor.

Q.—Has prison labor almost destroyed the trade? A.—Yes; it has destroyed the broom-making business; you cannot compete with them at all.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How many years have you been in the city council? A.—This is my third year.

Q.—Did the question of a public library ever come before the corporation of Hamilton? A.—Yes.

Q.—And what became of the question? They voted it down; it was submitted to the people.

Q.—It was voted down by the people? A.—Yes; men who called themselves moral reformers and men whom one would think would help to improve the working classes voted it down.

Q.—What kind of qualified voters voted on that question? Were they property holders? A.—Property holders and men who held leases for a certain number of years.

Q.—Are you sure that was the case? A.—I beg pardon; I think the last time it was submitted to the rate-payers every one who was entitled to vote at municipal and parliamentary elections voted on it.

Q.—And it was defeated? A.—Yes.

W. J. SCOTT, Heater, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How long have you been working with the Hamilton Forging Company? A.—About two years and a-half.

Q.—What wages can a heater earn? A.—He can average \$6 a day.

Q.—How many days in the year would you consider to be pretty constant employment for a man? A.—We are working steadily here, almost more so than we did in any place in the United States.

Q.—Did you ever work in the United States? A.—Yes; I am from the United States.

Q.—Where did you work there? A.—Pittsburg, and other cities in the iron region.

Q.—How do the wages paid in Hamilton compare with the wages paid in Pittsburg? A.—In my business they compare very favorably.

Q.—Have you a union here? A.—No.

Q.—Do you work according to Pittsburg scale? A.—There is some difference. We have no scale here. The Amalgamated Association has no authority in this country.

Q.—What do the helpers earn? A.—My helpers average about \$2.50 a day.

Q.—Are there any boys working in the forge? A.—No; not in the forge. The forge and mill are all under one roof; I am in the mill department. There are about four boys employed.

Q.—Do you know what the boys earn? A.—They earn, I think, \$1.25 or \$1 a day.

Q.—How old are those boys? A.—They are about seventeen or eighteen years of age—none of them are small boys.

Q.—Are there any day laborers working there? A.—Yes; I don't know exactly how many.

Q.—Do you know what they get? A.—One dollar and twenty-five cents a day.

CHAS. WILSON, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You are employed by the Forge Company? A.—Yes.

Q.—What position do you hold? A.—I am shipper.

Q.—How long have you been employed there? A.—One year and nine months.

Q.—Did you ever work in iron works before? A.—Yes; but not in this country; I did in England.

Q.—What position there? A.—I was a laborer there.

Q.—Did you begin at your present position when you entered the service of the company? A.—No; I was a laborer.

Q.—You have been advanced to your present position? A.—Yes.

Q.—When you began as a laborer what did you receive? A.—One dollar and twenty-five cents.

Q.—Then there are opportunities for day laborers to be advanced so they can improve their position? A.—Yes.

Q.—You have heard the testimony of the last witness? A.—I could not hear all of it; I heard part of it.

Q.—Do you corroborate what you heard? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is the output of the mill increasing, decreasing, or remaining stationary? A.—It is increasing now.

Q.—The quantity of iron you are shipping from day to day is increasing? A.—Yes; we have increased lately.

Q.—Do you know how wages here compare with wages in the same trade in England? A.—I do not know. I never was in a rolling mill there, although I have worked among iron for the last twenty years.

Q.—Would you be willing to return to England and assume your old position? A.—No.

Q.—You are satisfied with Canada? A.—I am satisfied here.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—To what points do you principally ship manufactured goods? A.—The greater portion goes to Toronto, some to Guelph, Galt, St. Catharines, London and Paris.

Q.—Do you know what class of goods are most in demand? A.—The Masseys take a great deal from us.

Q.—Agricultural machinery? A.—Yes; I think the greater part of it is used in that.

THOMAS PUMFREY, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You are a moulder? A.—Yes.

Q.—Where employed? A.—At the Grand Trunk,

Q.—What wages do moulders at the Grand Trunk receive? A.—There are about forty employed there, and about thirty receive 22 cents an hour, about eight 24 cents, and the other two 25 cents.

Q.—How many hours a day do you work? A.—From 7 in the morning to 5:30 at night, and 12 o'clock on Saturday, making about fifty hours up to fifty-four.

Q.—Do you work pretty constantly throughout the year? A.—The railway works are generally the most constant works there are.

Q.—Do you like it pretty well there? A.—Yes; I like it pretty well.

Q.—Would you rather work there than in one of the stove foundries? A.—Yes, a great deal, because I do not care much about piece-work; I would rather have day work. Again, I like Saturday afternoon off. The greatest evils the workingmen

down there complain of are assisted immigration and long pay. If you start at the beginning of a month you have to work until the 11th before you get any pay.

Q.—Would you rather be paid more frequently? A.—Yes; weekly or fortnightly would be better. If the men could get their wages weekly or fortnightly they would do better with them.

Q.—Where did you work in the old country? A.—The Great Western works at Sunderland for ten years.

Q.—How do wages here compare with wages there? A.—A man getting 30 shillings in the week in the old country is as well off as a man getting \$2.20 or \$2.40 a day here.

Q.—Was 30 shillings what you got there? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you believe in piece-work? A.—No; I do not.

Q.—Why not? A.—Because I think it is the wrong way to work. A man will be covetous and work himself right out to try to earn a few cents more than his day's pay. A man should try to put in a fair day's work for a fair day's pay, but instead a great many wish to earn a little more.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—If the men in your shop are garnisheed, what will be the result with the company? A.—I have seen men have their wages garnisheed down there, and the second time they have been told not to let it occur again.

Q.—If the men were paid weekly or fortnightly would not that reduce the number of garnishees? A.—Yes; because they would not be able to garnishee their wages.

Q.—The men would be better able to pay their debts? A.—A great deal.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How much does the Grand Trunk retain from their hands on pay day? A.—They keep a fortnight on hand and then pay; so it will be twelve days.

Q.—If a man wished to leave the Grand Trunk how long notice must he give? A.—He could go on an hour's notice if he likes.

Q.—Could he draw his money? A.—Yes; he could draw his money at once.

Q.—Was it always so? A.—Always so, as far as I have seen, and I have worked there for five years.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—If a man should leave of his own accord would he be used in the same way as a man discharged—could he draw his pay just the same? A.—Yes; they make no distinction. If he chooses to leave he can leave any time. All the men want is to be paid weekly or fortnightly.

THOMAS ALLAN, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You are a telegraph operator? A.—I am.

Q.—In the employ of the Great North-Western Telegraph Company? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long have you been employed? A.—For about eleven years.

Q.—In Hamilton? A.—Yes; not all that time as operator; I started as messenger.

Q.—What hours do telegraph operators work? A.—They average nine hours a day for day-work and eight hours for night-work.

Q.—Do some men continue at night-work or do you change? A.—Some men continue.

Q.—What rates of wages are paid to day operators? A.—First-class men receive from \$40 to \$55 a month; second-class men from \$30 to \$40.

Q.—How are they graded—by length of service or actual merit? A.—By actual merit—by what they can do. A man may work at the business for ten years and then not be first-class: another may work five and be strictly first-class.

Q.—A first-class operator is one who can take commercial work? A.—Yes; all kinds of commercial work.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You say operators work eight and nine hours—what becomes of the other hours? A.—Ordinary offices are not open at all then.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What wages do night operators receive? A.—The same as day.

Q.—But shorter hours constitute a day's work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you had any difficulties or troubles with the company of late? A.—Yes; we had in 1883, when we struck for an advance of wages and shorter hours.

Q.—How did it terminate? A.—It was a failure for the operators.

Q.—Were any attempts at conciliation made during that strike? A.—I believe there were.

Q.—What territory did the strike cover? A.—The whole of the United States and Canada.

Q.—Some men returned to work in Hamilton, I think? A.—Yes; all but one; he would not return at all. He did not get a situation—he was supposed to be chief among the strikers.

Q.—They refused to take him back because he had been a leader of the strike? A.—Yes.

Q.—Was that understood or was it expressed by the officers of the company?

A.—It was understood. The leaders in other places got back, and that was the only reason we could conceive.

Q.—How do young men learn the telegraphing business? A.—As a rule they start as messengers, then get to be office boys and then operators. Some men are smarter than others; perhaps you could be a first-class operator inside of three years if you worked constantly and were brought up in large offices. You require to be in large offices to do every kind of commercial work.

Q.—You cannot learn the business thoroughly at all in small offices? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you think these schools that teach telegraphing can teach it efficiently? A.—My experience has been, they cannot; the operators they turn out are only able to fill second-class situations.

Q.—Do you know that they guarantee to get situations if paid so much money and a certain length of time served? A.—I believe some of them advertise in that way.

Q.—Do you believe they are capable of fulfilling these promises? A.—No; they certainly are not.

Q.—The only place to learn telegraphing is in practical business? A.—Yes.

Q.—Previous to that big strike in 1883 were the men paid for over-time? A.—Yes; the company pay for over-time now.

Q.—Shortly after that difficulty were they paid for over-time? A.—Yes; they were always paid for over-time.

Q.—Did the men who went back receive the same wages after the strike as before? A.—Yes; they did, as a rule.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are there any female operators in Hamilton? A.—None in Hamilton; there are several in Toronto. As a rule, female operators are not paid so well as men, and of course they never attain the same degree of proficiency as men.

Q.—Is it not possible for female operators to attain to as high a standard as the

men? A.—Hardly possible. They cannot do heavy press work; their fingers are smaller, and sometimes an operator has to make half a dozen copies through tissue.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—You mean physically incapable? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—What wages do first-class female operators receive? A.—\$35 and \$40 a month.

Q.—Would a first-class female operator be just as good as a first-class man, only she could not do press work? A.—They mostly work in country offices or small offices where the work is not hard. A first-class operator has to work very hard.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Women are generally kept at commercial work? A.—Yes; I do not know of any case where they do railway work.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Are they paid at the end of every month? A.—There is no stated pay day. At present in Canada we are paid on the 8th or 9th of the month up to the end of the preceding month.

Q.—If you wanted money in the mean time could you draw it out? A.—No.

Q.—No matter how pressing the emergency? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have operators ever requested that the company should pay them more frequently? A.—Yes; they made that request two months ago, but they have received no reply, got no satisfaction whatever.

Q.—Of course they would have to go to headquarters in New York? A.—No; to headquarters in Canada, to the general manager in Canada.

Q.—Mr. Dwight? A.—Yes.

Q.—It is solely under his control? A.—Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Is the rate of wages the same in all cities in Canada? A.—In all large offices in Ontario. In Montreal wages are lower. In Winnipeg first-class operators are paid from \$70 to \$75 a month. The rate of wages all over the United States is higher than in Canada and higher in western than in eastern offices, except New York.

Q.—I suppose the reason they are higher in Winnipeg is the scarcity of operators? A.—I do not know why it is. I think it would be a benefit to the operators and the public in general if the Government controlled the telegraphs.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You believe so? A.—Yes; any incorporated company struggles to pay a dividend. The Great North-Western Company has to pay 8 per cent. to the Montreal directors and 6 per cent. to the Dominion directors, equal to 7 per cent. on the Great North-Western.

Q.—Outside of the question of wages, you believe if the Government controlled the wires they would be more easily approached in a settlement of grievances than a company. Would that be one of the benefits? A.—Yes; I believe the tariff would be lower and the operators would work shorter hours.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Do you think that if the telegraph business were in the hands of the Government that it would be used as a political machine? A.—I do not think so.

The Commission adjourned until Thursday, 19th instant at 2 p. m.

HAMILTON, 19th January, 1888.

WILLIAM COLLINS, Engineer and Machinist, Burlington, County of Halton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—I believe you are not now actively engaged in any business? A.—No; not at present.

Q.—How long is it since you ceased to work at your trade? A.—Fifteen years; it was in 1872 when I ceased active business.

Q.—You have worked both in the old country and in Canada, I believe? A.—Yes.

Q.—For a number of years? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you work in any other country besides England and Canada? A.—England and Canada were the only two countries in which I worked.

Q.—In what employant were you in England? A.—I was an apprentice to the firm of Benjamin Gott & Sons. I learned my trade with them.

Q.—As a machinist? A.—As a mill-wright; I learned my trade as a mill-wright.

Q.—When you came to Canada did you at once become employed by the Great Western Railway Company? A.—Yes; within about three weeks.

Q.—And you remained in their employ? A.—Yes; for fifteen years or a little more. I came out in 1857 and I retired in 1872.

Q.—Your position was, I understand, a little more favorable than that of an ordinary mechanic? A.—Decidedly so, in more than one way.

Q.—You had no large family to support? A.—I had no family but my wife.

Q.—And your position was that of a foreman in the shops? A.—No; just an ordinary workman while I was in the employ of the Great Western Railway.

Q.—Did you find it possible to live in comfort and save money while you were at work? A.—Undoubtedly I did.

Q.—I do not want to pry too closely into your private affairs, but I may ask you this question, I think: Did you find it possible to lay by so much money out of your earnings that at any time you were able to retire and live without working? A.—I had acquired what I considered a sufficient competency, and then retired at the age of fifty years. It had been my purpose for years if I was blessed with health and strength to cease at that time from active work, and I rigidly carried out my purpose, for which I am thankful to-day, fifteen years having elapsed since it was done. I retired in the full vigor of all my faculties. I was at that time, when I retired, able to enjoy life, and I am satisfied since of the wisdom of that step.

Q.—While you were at work earning that competency did you deny yourself any of the necessaries of life? A.—No; not at all.

Q.—Did you deny yourself any of the ordinary comforts of life? A.—Not of the ordinary comforts.

Q.—Those you considered necessary to well-being and ordinary comfort, I mean? A.—For their assistance or well-being. I was exceedingly fortunate in my matrimonial adventure, and it was our united purpose to purchase the best that consistently with our circumstances, we could obtain, and to make use of that purchase economically. It is in economy, as you know, and as we all know, where the race is won.

Q.—But this economy, as you understand it, did not involve denial of the ordinary comforts of life? A.—Not at all; but at the same time I am prepared to admit that to a fairly cultivated taste a man who has to live on the earnings of a mere mechanic has to practise denial; that follows of necessity.

Q.—You have told us that you have had no children to support: do you consider that a man with children who was working when you worked, and who was receiving like wages with you and living under like conditions, except in that regard, could save money, although, perhaps, less than you were able to save?

A.—That is a question I could scarcely answer. Perhaps, from my acquaintance with the subject, I can say that a man with a family of two children, a son and a

daughter, will find his earnings, if an ordinary workman, readily absorbed in the education of these two children, if he is so disposed. Whether it would be proper to do so or not is an open question; it is a question I would dissent from. But the moment you have any children, if even an only child, it seems to me that the earnings of an ordinary mechanic would count for very little.

Q.—You were, of course, pretty familiar with a great many of the other workmen employed by the Great Western Railway at that time: would many of them buy the houses in which they lived? A.—There are some who did, but the majority of them, I think, were like myself, mere tenants.

Q.—What were the wages ordinarily paid to mechanics in the shop at that time? A.—I suppose from \$1.50 to \$2 per day. That was the average wage, more or less, according to the capacity of the man.

Q.—How many hours a day did you work? A.—Ten hours when I first went there, and afterwards there was an arrangement made by which nine hours were made a day's work.

Q.—Are you able to say what the wages are now? A.—No; not now. That, of course, is the weak part of my evidence, as I have been so long away from work. My evidence will, of course, be historical evidence, evidence in regard to the past.

Q.—You consider it wise for a man in his early life to practise self-denial and economy in order that he may lay by something for his declining years? A.—Yes.

Q.—You think that cannot be done without self-denial and rigid economy? A.—I think it cannot.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Were you a wood-working mechanic? A.—I learned the whole art or mystery of mechanics—that is, so far as human skill, I suppose, could accomplish it, either wood, iron, brass, blacksmithing, or anything; I am one of the old school.

Q.—You are a general mechanic? A.—I was a general workingman.

Q.—Can you tell us the difference in the wages fifteen years ago and to-day? A.—No; I cannot.

Q.—You do not know what machinists earn to-day? A.—No.

Q.—You are aware, no doubt, that machinery has been very much improved since then? A.—Yes; not to the advantage of employes, I think.

Q.—I was going to ask you if the employe receives his share of the benefit accruing from machinery? A.—Not by any means. You see the effect of the introduction of machinery by the manufacturers is to abridge labor and cheapen everything. That must necessarily be against the interests of the man who has his labor to sell, because an unskilled kind of labor can be introduced by the application of mechanism, whereas it is by skill that the skilled artisan lives.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Then you would apply that remark more particularly to the skilled artisan? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You think the introduction of machinery, while it has made more work, has not materially benefited the skilled mechanic? A.—I hold that the employes to day have not participated in the advantages that have been attained by the inventive idea. There is no doubt that we have enjoyed certain advantages, but I think, as regards the employes, that their outlook and possibilities of remaining employed are more precarious, and will continue to be so. That is my impression.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Is it not a fact that the introduction of machinery by multiplying processes causes a greater use of products? A.—Undoubtedly.

Q.—Have you also thought that a great deal of employment is created by the manufacture of those machines? A.—I believe that is the case. But you see, unfortunately for the employe, that the object of the manufacture of those machines is to

reduce manual labor. Now it would be all right if the whole community equally benefited—I do not go in for the laboring classes enjoying all the benefits—but I want the working people to enjoy their portion. I am prepared to assert here or any where that the working people as a class do not enjoy those rights.

Q.—Do you think the working people to-day—we will take the skilled artisans to-day—receive any lower wages than they received fifteen, or twenty, or twenty-five years ago? A.—I am not prepared to say they do. I do not think they do. But it must be remembered that the possibilities of labor, as I have said, are more precarious now than formerly; that is, there is less demand for labor now than there was twenty years ago. This comes of necessity, because there is a larger quantity of steam power used, and the power of multiplying in the arts or in ordinary mercantile transactions has been enormously increased, so as to make the outlook for the men very critical; and not only that, but it will become more so, in my opinion.

Q.—Let us take an illustration bearing to some extent upon your trade or calling: Before the introduction of railways large numbers of people were employed as carters or waggoners? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think that by the introduction of machinery the number of carters has been increased or decreased? A.—I should think the number has been increased; comparatively, I should think the number has been increased. I am speaking of work such as cartage, not of stage coaches, of course.

Q.—All transportation? A.—No doubt there are more horses used to day than there ever were before. I should certainly think that was the case.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is not the result exactly the contrary to what was supposed to be likely to follow at the time of the introduction of railways? A.—Yes; I believe so. The stage coach, however, as an institution, has been driven to the wall.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you think carters, even though so many more are employed now, are better off to-day than they were then? A.—I do not believe any man who has to live by his labor is to-day any better off than he was twenty-five years ago; in other words, I believe that labor to-day is not sufficiently remunerated; in fact, a laborer does not get his share of the benefits.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What about farmers? A.—He is in a worse predicament still, in my opinion.

Q.—He has to pay the increased price for everything? A.—Yes.

Q.—And he is receiving decreased prices? A.—Yes; the prices are decreasing, and will continue to decrease until a certain period, and then things will take another turn.

Q.—What is the remedy for him? A.—A wider market.

Q.—I am speaking of things as they are? A.—There is no help for the farmer unless the market is extended.

Q.—Ought he to enter into combination to sell his products? A.—I am opposed to combinations of any kind—to combinations of workmen or any other people.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—If the number of people employed in transportation has been increased in consequence of the introduction of machinery and locomotives, is it not true that the number of people employed in making locomotive cars and railway iron, and building railways, has been immeasurably increased over the number of people formerly employed in making stage coaches and waggons? A.—That is true.

Q.—Is it not possible to carry out this line of reasoning, and say that this rule has been applied to almost all branches of industry in which machinery has been introduced? A.—No; and I will show you why. In my opinion, the introduction of machinery has been detrimental to the interests of the employé, inasmuch as the

introduction of machinery reduced the labor required. The planing-machine, the lathe, the slotting-machine and others were novelties in my day. When I first went to the trade we had a casting from the foundry. An ordinary mechanic like myself would take and lay the work out. Then he would chip it with the hammer and chisel, and after that chiseling process he would file it to make it true, square and clear of twist. Since the introduction of the planer has become universal, an unskilled man starts a planing-machine, which moves back and forth, and does the work silently and cheaply, and to a certain extent only does it better, but it may be at one-fourth of the cost, and in one-third of the time.

Q.—Is it not true that a great deal of this iron work is in use which could not possibly have been brought into use under the old system? A.—Undoubtedly.

Q.—What I am getting at is this: Is it not true that these improvements in machinery create a consumption? A.—No doubt; unquestionably so.

Q.—Are there in proportion to the population fewer or as many, or more mechanics now, than there were a quarter of a century ago? A.—Yes; no doubt there are more mechanics employed to-day, but I hold that they have not kept pace with the rest of the population, that is as mechanics. There is some hocus-pocus about this that I cannot exactly get at the bottom of myself. I feel somehow or other that the employé is run out in this question—he is not considered. He is just a pawn in the game, and there is where the trouble lies, and until the employé awakens he will lie there. There is no hope for a man who has nothing but his bare labor to do, unless he will think rapidly, and practise those virtues of which I have spoken now and so often before. These he must keep constantly before him.

Q.—Are those virtues industry, perseverance and economy? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you suggest anything that would improve the condition of the working-men except by allowing matters to be controlled by the old law of supply and demand? A.—I think so.

Q.—Please give us your views on that point? A.—I have given this subject considerable thought and attention. Five years ago I became acquainted with our friend Henry George, a gentleman of whom you doubtless all have heard. Since that time I have been a very diligent reader of George, and I think to-day—in fact, I would almost be prepared to argue it with any one—that the ideas that Henry George advocates seem to me to be logically certain as being the only remedy that has ever been proposed. I have read Smith, Ricardo, Carey, Mill, Spencer and all the others, and I merely mention this fact to give you an idea that I am fully posted in what has been said up to the present time. No doubt Henry George is to day a person who is deeply railed against by interested persons.

The CHAIRMAN :—The witness cannot be allowed to go into an essay on the matter.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Setting aside the land question altogether; do you not think that if the producer and consumer were brought closer together to a large extent the present difficulty could be obviated? A.—Yes; that would be the panacea that must eventually come. What we want to day when things are out of joint is to get them into working order. Many leading thinkers see pretty plainly what is going to come, and there will have to be a revolution in the tariff by-and-bye, and many of the interests will be paralyzed, both here and on the other side. There is no help for it.

Q.—Supposing you could introduce a system whereby the employés would share in the profits of industry with the employers, would that be a benefit to the working classes? A.—I formerly thought so. It has been tried in France, but it seems to me that is not the true remedy. While the remedy is being applied it is just as well to go to the cancer at once and be done with it.

Q.—Who receives the most beneficial returns from the manufactured goods—the manufacturer, the employé or the trader? A.—I should think the trader, as a rule; of course, there are exceptions to that, but it seems to me that the middle man—the

merchant, for instance—invests less and profits more than any other, that is, if he buys with wisdom and sells with the same discretion.

Q.—Do you not think that a very large part, almost the whole of the trouble, is that the working classes are inseparably bound up with trade and commerce, that you cannot separate the one without striking at the other? A.—No doubt they are inseparable. With respect to the interest of the manufacturer, I hold that he cannot have any interest without the employé's labor—labor being the source of profit; but to have labor, do what he will, he must have intelligent labor, whether he will or not. The first element is labor, or after land, labor. There you have everything. There has been a great deal said about what capital will do and what it will not do, in this country; given the land, what you want is labor.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Would it be possible for the consumer to deal directly with the manufacturer? A.—Yes; we have an evidence of that in my dealing directly with the miller at Burlington. I purchase our flour direct from the miller. That is one illustration. Another is, that I purchase my boots direct from the boot-maker.

Q.—Suppose you wanted cotton goods, would you like to be compelled to come into Hamilton and buy them from the manufacturer? A.—No; I believe in the interposition of middle men. I was formerly pretty narrow in that matter; and I thought that the middle man was an unproductive consumer, but I have got beyond that. I look upon the middle man as being as necessary as the merchant or the manufacturer for public convenience. Each of these men earns his quota, but sometimes it is a pretty heavy item.

JAMES MUNRO, Foreman Tailor, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How long have you been in the employ of Messrs. Sandford & Co., or of Mr. Sandford? A.—Somewhere about six years.

Q.—How many persons, as a rule, are employed by that company? A.—It is not easy to give exactly the figure. Altogether there are working at clothing and sewing in the neighborhood of 2,000.

Q.—Some of these are employed in the establishment? A.—No; the work is all done outside.

Q.—Are there not a large number of people employed in the establishment here? A.—Yes; that is preparing the work for going outside.

Q.—Are those in addition to the 2,000 of whom you have spoken? A.—Yes; that is the number of outside hands.

Q.—The outside hands number about 2,000? A.—Yes.

Q.—And those employed in the establishment form a large number also? A.—Yes; I do not exactly know the number altogether; I may say there are about sixty, but the others I am not conversant with. I should think there are about 120 or 160 in the building altogether.

Q.—Are the persons who do the sewing all women? A.—No.

Q.—Women and men? A.—Yes; they are women and men.

Q.—How do they work: by the day, or by the piece, or altogether by the piece? A.—By the piece.

Q.—Are you able to give us an idea of the earnings of these people? A.—Not exactly. They run in teams; a man will get out so many goods and he will employ from three or four to twenty people.

Q.—Did not some of the women take work out on their own account? Are you able to form any opinion as to what they earn? A.—Those who take out the work, that is those who are competent to do it, work on the same system as the men do; they employ others and make very good wages.

Q.—Are you able to give us any idea of the wages they earn? A.—I have known a good hand to make as much as \$15 per week.

Q.—By their own work? A.—That is what came to them after paying the help they had.

Q.—Are you able to give us any idea of the wages they pay to their help? A.—Not outside—and they take a good many apprentices and pay them from about \$2.50 to \$7 a week.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Is this male or female labor? A.—I am not speaking of female labor.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—As to the persons employed in the establishment itself: what are they? Are they cutters mostly? A.—Cutters and trimmers.

Q.—What would be the wages received by a fair average cutter? A.—From \$8 to \$15 per week.

Q.—And what would a trimmer be paid? A.—He would be paid about the same; I think some trimmers are paid even more than that.

Q.—Are there any porters and unskilled persons employed in the house? A.—Yes; there are porters.

Q.—Do you know what they are paid? A.—No; I do not know what they receive.

Q.—Where is the cloth mostly purchased? A.—I should say there is very nearly an equal quantity of Canadian and English; probably English has the advantage.

Q.—Which is the cheaper, quality being considered, native or foreign cloth? A.—There is not very much difference, I should think.

Q.—Which would be the more durable goods? A.—Canadian would be probably the more durable for the money, but they do not get the cloth quite as nice as the English.

Q.—There is not quite the style and finish about it? A.—No; as in the coloring.

Q.—As a rule, is it your opinion that there is as much shoddy in Canadian tweeds as in foreign tweeds? A.—No.

Q.—You think there is not so much? Y.—I think there is not. I do not think they know enough about it yet, but they will get to know all about it by-and-bye.

Q.—You think it is better for the Canadian manufacturers to remain in ignorance on that point? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think it is possible for a woman who works on ordinary clothing in a reasonable number of hours, say ten hours per day, to earn \$1 a day? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it within your knowledge that any one who does not employ assistants earns that sum? A.—Yes; I have not the least doubt of it. I do not know that anything presents itself to my mind at present in regard to the matter, but I am satisfied they can earn that sum—that would be a good hand.

Q.—You are satisfied they can earn over \$1 a day? A.—A good, competent hand can earn over \$1 per day. If they could not there would be no necessity to bother to drag the stuff in and out when they can get those wages outside.

A.—Can they get those wages outside? A.—Yes; I have already said that they are paid from \$2.50 to \$7 per week.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How many hours must a woman work to earn \$7 per week? A.—From 7 in the morning until 6 at night; but it is an exception when they get \$7. They must be good hands when outside persons pay them \$7.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Take the case of those persons who receive \$2.50 per week: How long must they have worked at the business before they will earn that amount? A.—

If they are handy at sewing persons will take them for a few weeks and give them little or nothing, and after that time they start, very probably, at \$2.50 per week.

Q.—Are there many persons who take work out of those shops where there are employed large numbers of sewing women? A.—Yes; some of them employ as many as twenty hands.

Q.—They provide the sewing machines, and pay the rent, and so on? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do those women who work at this ready-made clothing quit it and get other positions as rapidly as they can, or do they remain at it? A.—They hold on to it after they have got into it.

Q.—Do you hear complaints that they cannot make reasonable wages out of it? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the nature of those complaints? A.—A great many are made by those who would complain wherever they were. It is all from lack of energy or skill to go through the work.

Q.—What is the class of women who do this sewing? Are they widows or young women without family connection, or who are they? A.—There are a great many widows and a great many who might as well be widows, as they provide for the whole house, and whose husbands do not care whether they care or not; and they are making a decent living, too.

Q.—Have you been in any of the homes of any of these people who sew for the company? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the character of the homes? A.—They are well appointed homes, well furnished and comfortable in every way.

Q.—Can you tell us something about the homes of such women; can you fix in your mind the average home of the sewing women making ready-made clothing and no. employing any help? A.—No; I do not visit their houses very much. I have been in several of the tailors' houses, but I have not been in any of the women's houses.

Q.—Do you think the women live in comfort—that is, have they all the absolute necessities of life? A.—Yes; both in food and clothing.

Q.—Is that a matter of opinion or a matter of fact? A.—It is no opinion at all, it is a fact.

Q.—It is what you know of your own knowledge? A.—If you are married, as I presume you are, your wife does not appear on the street better dressed than do these women who come and take out work.

Q.—Their clothing indicates that they are in comfort? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are these women who come to take out the work the actual sewing women, or are they those who employ others? A.—There are none of those who take out work and do not superintend it; that is, to see that it is done properly and help with it.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Contractors always take the work? A.—One takes the work and employs others; that one is responsible for the work.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—If any one expressed himself to your concern as willing to continue to take out work would you continue to supply it, or do you discriminate, and allow certain parties to obtain a considerable share of the work? A.—That depends upon the stress of business. If we are very busy we like to take on new hands. If the hands have been working for a time at the business we will give them a chance, before we increase the number of hands and the supply of labor.

Q.—Where does the company find its market for this clothing? A.—All the way from the Pacific to the Atlantic.

Q.—Do you export any clothing? A.—We send clothing to British Columbia and Manitoba.

Q.—Do you send any outside of Canada? A.—I do not think so. The company did send a little to Australia, but I do not think they continue to do so.

Q.—Do you send any to the Maritime Provinces? A.—Yes; a great deal, and a great deal to British Columbia.

Q.—Do you find any competition in your trade? A.—There is no foreign competition.

Q.—Where is your principal domestic competition? A.—The only competition we have is from Montreal and Toronto; very little at Toronto.

Q.—Can you compete with Montreal houses? A.—Yes; easily.

Q.—Do you pay as high wages as they do in Montreal? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you pay any higher wages? A.—The cry has always been raised that we have paid too much here to compete with the Montreal houses, but I think it is pretty nearly an equality now as regards the Maritime Provinces and Ontario, both being about the same. I think we probably give a little more than they do.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are you giving less wages now than you did formerly? A.—The wages are lower now than they were a few years ago, and yet, at the same time, I think the men with the appliances and machinery they have are making fully as high wages as they have done at any time.

Q.—You have lowered wages to meet the competition with Lower Canada? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—If a woman who owned a sewing machine were to take a fair average amount of work and employ no one, what do you think she could earn? A.—That would depend altogether on her ability and the kind of work she got to do.

Q.—Take a fair, average sample of work and a good, fair-working woman: what do you think she ought to be able to earn? A.—She could make \$1 a day if a good hand.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—In giving out work to these hands is it given out by the dozen garments? A.—Yes; sometimes by the hundred.

Q.—How much per dozen would a woman receive for making coats? A.—We do not give them out by the dozen, but by the coat.

Q.—How much for a coat? A.—I have paid some women as much as \$1.25.

Q.—What kind of a coat would that be? A.—A child's coat.

Q.—And how much would you pay for making a vest? A.—We pay from 12 cents to 25 cents, sometimes 30 cents or 35 cents.

Q.—How much do you pay for pants? A.—Children's or men's?

Q.—I am speaking of the pants you make there? A.—We make both kinds.

Q.—Let us take men's pants: what do you pay the women? A.—We pay from 12 cents or 15 cents to 50 cents per pair.

Q.—Do you make overalls? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much do you pay per dozen? A.—That I do not know exactly.

Q.—How much do you pay per pair? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Do you make shirts in your establishment? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much do you pay per dozen shirts? A.—I could not tell you; that is out of my line.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of what the average earnings of a woman on overalls would be? A.—No.

Q.—Have you any idea of what her earnings would be on shirts? A.—I have not the slightest idea.

Q.—Do you think that a woman who makes coats at \$1.25 each can earn \$1 a day? A.—Yes; and more. That is an extra quality of coat, you will understand, and an extra price.

Q.—What are the wages paid a man in a tailor's shop for making a coat? A.—You cannot get one made in a custom shop for less than from \$4 to \$12 or \$13.

Q.—Would the coat you make compare favorably with the coat in the custom

shop, the cost of making which was \$4? A.—Yes; they would. I do not say they are equal to those made in the very best shops.

Q.—Take an average shop? A.—I would say not in a first-class shop, but in an ordinary shop our work will compare very favorably with that turned out there, and it is sometimes a good deal better than work I have seen in such shops.

Q.—How many coats can a tailor make in a week in a custom shop? A.—About three.

Q.—For making that number would he earn about \$12? A.—Ordinarily more than that.

Q.—Is it not generally supposed that a man will do more work at tailoring than a woman? A.—It may be supposed that way, but I do not think it is in accordance with the facts of the case.

Q.—Can a woman do more work than a man? A.—No; I do not think so.

Q.—If a man makes three coats in a week how many would a woman make? A.—In custom shops coats are not made by women, so far as I know.

Q.—Why could not women obtain the same price for their work as men if they do the work equally well? A.—I do not see any reason why they should not.

Q.—Do the men in your establishment get more money for their work than the women? A.—No; not a bit. If we give work to men instead of women we give them the same price.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You do employ men and women on the same class of work and pay them at the same rate, I believe? A.—Yes; we have work the women do which the men would not and could not do.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What work is that? A.—Children's clothing.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—When work is done in large quantities can more garments be made in the same time than if they were made singly, as in the custom shops? A.—Yes; far more. The hands get them cut in fours generally, and the fitting up takes considerable time; they could fit up four in the same time as they could fit up one, it giving about the same trouble.

Q.—Is any work done for the women which the custom tailors would have to do for themselves? A.—Yes; we have matters more particularly arranged than they have. They have to get it cut off the length to trim, and we have the garments all properly shaped.

Q.—Does that save any considerable work? A.—Yes; it does.

Q.—Do you supply the thread? A.—No.

Q.—Do you supply the trimmings and buttons? A.—Yes; everything but the thread.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How much would thread for a suit cost? A.—A few cents; 5 cents would cover it all, including the twist. None of the outsiders make button-holes; we have a department for button-hole making.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Are those hands you have mentioned given the work independent of making the buttonholes? A.—Yes.

On the Commission resuming at 8 p.m. :—

JOHN MILNE was called and sworn.

By MR. FREED :—

Q.—You are a member of the firm of Burrowes, Stewart & Milne, founders ?
A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the nature of the business you conduct ? A.—It may be divided into three parts: First, we manufacture stoves; second, scales; and third, malleable iron castings and saddlery hardware.

Q.—How many foundries are there in Hamilton ? A.—I believe there are fifteen, but two or three are small.

Q.—Can you give us anything like an idea of the total number of hands employed in all of them ? A.—To the best of my belief there must be something like 350 to 375.

Q.—In all the foundries ? A.—I mean moulders only.

Q.—Can you give us an idea of the total number of hands employed in all the foundries ? A.—I should say there would be nearly 2,000 hands; that is a rough estimate.

Q.—Skilled and unskilled ? A.—Yes.

Q.—Into what classes would you divide your skilled labor ? A.—We would divide them into moulders, machinists, pattern-makers and scale-makers.

Q.—What would be the fair average earnings of a moulder ? A.—Our best moulders average from \$2.50 to \$3.25 per day; \$3.25 is the outside mark; probably \$3 would be nearer, but I believe there is a rule in the union that a man is not allowed to make more than \$3 a day. Day workers make from \$2.25 to \$2.50 per day, according to their skill.

Q.—Are machinists employed by the piece or week ? A.—We run both day and piece-work, and our average men get from \$1.75 to \$2.25.

Q.—What would pattern-makers earn ? A.—From \$1.75 to \$2.50.

Q.—And scale-makers ? A.—Their wages do not go so high. They are not, generally speaking, as high as those of a first-class mechanic, but some get pretty good wages. They average from \$1.50 to \$2, except a foreman, who will get a good deal more.

Q.—Taking one year with another, what portion of the year will your establishment be closed ? A.—In our establishment we generally run all the year round, except a while at Christmas, when we shut down for repairs and to take stock. The last two or three years we have shut down about six weeks for that, from Christmas to, say, some time in February.

Q.—Are the men able to work all the rest of the year if they so choose ? A.—They are, in our establishment, if they choose.

Q.—How many hours a day do they work on the average ? A.—Moulders about nine hours a day. Piece-workers do not work the dinner hour, as they used to, but they are generally through at five o'clock or a little after, some of them at four. They average about nine hours a day.

Q.—Week hands ? A.—They work ten hours a day, and on Saturday they work nine. We give them one hour on Saturday ?

Q.—That is fifty-nine hours a week ? A.—Yes.

Q.—Would it be possible, without any very great charge upon the firm, to provide wash-rooms and conveniences, so men could wash up and put on good clothes before leaving the shops at night ? A.—It might be possible, but so far as I know I do not think the men would avail themselves of them, except probably one or two. I do not think it would be much use, even if we felt inclined to do it.

Q.—Have any steps ever been taken among the workers in foundries to shorten the hours of labor ? A.—Yes; I believe some years ago the nine-hour movement was in vogue. Latterly there has not been much done about it.

Q.—How did employers look upon that movement ? A.—We, as employers, looked at it in this light: at one time we were pretty well pushed; we could not get enough work and we had a lot of machinery in plant which would have to lie idle;

we considered they might as well work ten hours as eight or nine hours. We would have to have that plant lying unemployed all that time.

Q.—Do you not think that ten hours' hard work per day is rather more than a man can do? A.—I do not think so. Of course, some branches of the trade are a good deal harder than others. For instance, I think moulders have about the hardest work, but other mechanics do not have such laborious work. Probably it would be all right enough from the men's standpoint, but I do not think it would hurt our men to work ten hours a day. We work more than that ourselves.

Q.—How long have you been engaged in the foundry trade in Hamilton as employer and employé? A.—For the last thirty years. I have been an employer of labor for the last twenty-five years.

Q.—Can you tell us how many of the foundries in Hamilton were started by men who had been mechanics or workingmen? A.—I think nearly all of them were, with the exception, perhaps, of one or two. Sawyer is a moulder; Gartshore is not; Moore is a tinsmith; Gurneys are moulders; we are moulders; Stewarts—the old gentlemen—were pattern-makers.

Q.—Nearly all of them were started by men who were themselves at one time workingmen? A.—Yes.

Q.—In your own case each of the partners was a workingman? A.—Yes.

Q.—All or nearly all were started in a small way? A.—Yes.

Q.—And worked up to their present position? A.—Yes.

Q.—Now, if the proprietors of those foundries had spent all their earnings and lived up to their income how many, do you think, would have establishments in existence to-day? A.—Not very many. I do not think there would be many of them in existence to-day.

Q.—Suppose the men who started them had not been possessed of pretty good business ability where would they have been to-day? A.—I do not think they would have been there to-day.

Q.—Do you think that a mechanic in your line of business to-day has the same opportunities, or that a number of them joined together have the same opportunities, for establishing a business as existed when you established yours? A.—I think there is hardly the same chance to-day as there was twenty-five years ago.

Q.—You think the opportunities have decreased? A.—I do not say there are none, but there is not the same opportunity to make a successful start.

Q.—Do you apply that answer to Hamilton alone or to the country generally? A.—To the country generally, I should say.

Q.—Can you tell us why you think the opportunity is not so good now for establishing a business as it was twenty-five years ago? A.—Well, in my estimation, and as far as I know, business is a good deal overdone in Canada to-day; I think it is fully attended to. There is not the demand for new industries there was fifteen or twenty years ago.

Q.—Would the men working in a small way be able to compete with the large foundries? A.—No; I do not think so.

Q.—When you started you had a special industry—you took up that of malleable iron? A.—Yes.

Q.—And then you went into other branches? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Taking into consideration the advantages you derive from invention and improved machinery, don't you think the hours could be reduced without decreasing the output? A.—I don't think so, speaking for myself.

Q.—Machinery is of no advantage to your business? A.—Certainly it is of advantage; but still, if a man works a machine he can do more in ten hours than he can in eight.

Q.—That is not the question; but do the men derive the benefit from the invention of those machines they have created? A.—In one way they might. It might lessen the labor, the hard labor, and make it easier for them.

Q.—It also displaces men in your business? A.—I do not think so, very much.

Q.—Isn't there a difference in the cost of cleaning castings now from what it was when done by hand? A.—That is a long time ago, before I understood much about it.

Q.—You say there is not the same demand now for protection to industries as there was twenty years ago? A.—I did not say so. I said the country was fully supplied, though there is more demand, but there are more manufacturers engaged in the business.

Q.—Do you think the manufacturers have increased faster than the population? A.—Well, of course the last three or four years we have not been having what you may call as good times as formerly. Formerly we were pushed, all the manufacturers were pushed, and in several years there has not been such a demand for manufactured goods as there was a few years ago. This has a little to do with it: for instance, when the North-West boom was on all the manufacturers of the country were pushed to their utmost capacity. Of course, it was not a stable thing. Thousands and thousands of dollars went up there without finding a market, and that only rebounded back on the manufacturers here, and that was one cause. There are several other causes why there is not just the demand there was a few years ago, but I do not mean to say times are not good. We have had fair average years all through, though we have not had such good times as in 1882, when we had a larger output of our manufactures than since.

Q.—What are your reasons for supposing workmen would not take advantage of wash-rooms? A.—When I say workmen—I worked one time in a factory where there was wash-rooms and everything convenient for them, and I do not think there was more than one or two ever felt the advantages of those rooms. They would not be bothered, would not take time.

Q.—Do you know if in many large factories on the other side bath-rooms are put in for the convenience of moulders? A.—I never saw any in all my travelling—except one or two, and I have been in nearly all the large foundries on the other side. I speak of stove-plate foundries and machinery foundries.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—I understood you to say the foundry owners of this city nearly all commenced as workmen? A.—Yes.

Q.—When you started out your establishment did you start out with money received for work, which you had saved? A.—Yes; that is the way we started our business. We had no capital only what we worked for.

Q.—What were wages in those days? A.—About \$2 for a moulder. If a moulder made \$12 a week he was doing pretty well, and day men made \$1.50 to \$1.75. Wages were not so good twenty-five years ago as to-day.

Q.—It seems strange that moulders in those days receiving those wages were able to start foundries when they cannot attempt to start them now? A.—Well, it takes capital or money to start a foundry, but if a man is very careful and very saving, and works a good many years, he can get enough money to make a start. It will take \$2,000 to \$3,000 to start in a small way. You cannot start without a steam engine, and big iron patterns, &c., and that all costs money.

Q.—I understood you to say, also, in speaking about ten hours a day, which you thought enough for a day's work, that you worked more than that? A.—Yes; I have.

Q.—Was it the same kind of work those men are working at to-day? A.—At the same kind of work they are working at to-day. I have worked at moulding not later than last summer. When they were on strike, myself and partners worked on the floor, and ran the shop, to a certain extent, in a small way.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—What kind of iron do you use? A.—Three or four different brands. Our work is different from other shops. We use No. 1 Scotch, two or three brands, and also Londonderry mixed with that, and for the malleable iron parts we use Welsh iron.

Q.—Do you constantly use Londonderry? A.—Yes; all the time.

Q.—You only use it as a mixture? A.—We also use it alone.

Q.—How does it compare with the other? A.—Well, it is rather hard to use alone for certain classes, though for other classes it is all right. It is probably the best iron we have to handle for certain goods. It makes very nice work, very clean in the grain. It is better than Scotch for general purposes, but we use Scotch to soften it down, to tone it down a little.

Q.—Where do you get your coal? A.—We use mostly coke, excepting engine coal for firing up, when we use soft coal.

Q.—Do you use lower Province coal? A.—It has never been offered here. It has never been offered further west than Toronto.

Q.—Never made any enquiries? A.—I think, from enquiries, it costs a little too much to bring it up this far. We have not taken much trouble to find out.

Q.—What does other soft coal cost to lay it down here? A.—About \$4.75, I think, speaking from memory; it depends on the quality. Fairmount is probably the best.

Q.—Are you aware you can buy Springhill coal, of the lower Provinces, for \$1.25 a ton for steam purposes? A.—I am not aware of the exact figure, but I know it can be bought cheap; but it costs so much to bring it here it will bring it up to the other. We have always understood so, though we have not inquired minutely into it.

Q.—You never had any? A.—No; I do not know any body who ever had any.

J. S. ANTHES, Berlin, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You live in Berlin? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is your business there? A.—Manufacturer of children's carriages and buggies.

Q.—Of what are children's carriages made? A.—Well, the bodies are principally of reed at present.

Q.—Can you tell us precisely what this reed is? A.—There is quite a difference of opinion as regards reed. Some call it rattan. It is rattan pith, or inside. The enamel or bark is taken off, which is the stuff used in cane-seated chairs. The inside is called the reed.

Q.—How many factories, within your knowledge, are there in Canada using this reed for furniture? A.—Six, I think, in Ontario.

Q.—You don't know whether there are any others in other Provinces? A.—No; I do not. There was one in Quebec, but it came to Toronto last season.

Q.—Do you know how long any of them have been in existence? A.—It is only four or five years probably.

Q.—Do you know why they did not exist before? A.—Well I suppose there was a demand for those goods at that time, and especially for carriages. The reed bodies have not been in existence in this country until the last few years, and now they are nearly all made of it.

Q.—Are many men employed in this industry? A.—Yes; there would be quite a number employed.

Q.—Are they skilled workmen? A.—Well, of course it varies very much. The work is divided into different classes. For instance, a man who makes the frame work has to be a skilled workman, but different parts are done by cheap labor.

Q.—Are those men, or boys? A.—Boys and girls are often employed on them for the cheap work.

Q.—What wages can these boys and girls earn? A.—Probably \$4 or \$5 a week. It depends how long they have been at it. After they have been at it a certain time they can do it very quickly.

Q.—Is this trade increasing, decreasing, or stationary? A.—Well, it has been increasing this last number of years. I suppose it has probably reached its highest point.

Q.—From what countries do the reeds come? A.—Principally from Hamburg, Germany. It comes to New York and I buy it there. It comes in as ballast for vessels, and comes to New York in that way from Hamburg.

Q.—Where is it grown? A.—Well I don't know, but I suppose in some tropical countries.

Q.—You have said reeds are the central parts of rattan? Is there a full supply of that in the country? A.—Yes; I have no difficulty in getting it. I cannot get it in this country, but I have always got it in New York.

Q.—The supply of reed left after the rattans have been taken off cannot all be used by manufacturers? A.—No; you see there is not sufficient cane used, or it comes in rather more than is used in the country, and there is a surplus of it.

Q.—You are compelled to import the reeds as they are? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the duty on the cane? A.—20 or 25 per cent.

Q.—That is for the ordinary cane? A.—No; rattan is free when it is combined, but when it is separated it is not.

Q.—When the outside is taken off to make cane-seated chairs the reed is left? A.—Yes.

Q.—If you import it, what is the duty? A.—There is a difference of opinion. Some say it is free, and it has been imported as free, but of late nearly all of it pays 25 per cent. Even the round reeds have to be manufactured for winding, and of course some look at it in that way. In fact, it is not reed until the cane is taken off, and they look upon that as not manufactured, but when it is split up it is manufactured.

Q.—Do you think more hands are employed in making furniture from reed and rattan than would be employed in making like furniture of wood? A.—I don't know about that; likely there would be far more. They cannot apply machinery, whereas if you made it of wood you could apply a number of machines. Take these carriages and make the body of wood—they could make six while we are making one of reed.

Q.—Where do you find your market? A.—Principally in the towns and cities of Ontario, and some of the Maritime Provinces.

Q.—Are reed chairs coming into general use? A.—Yes; but they are rather dying out. They have got rather overdone, and the better class of people don't buy them so much.

Q.—Are baby carriages of reed coming into general use? A.—Yes; very general, almost exclusively.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—How will the prices of reed-ware or rattan-ware compare with the prices before these factories started in Ontario? A.—Well, before that I had not had experience. The first year or two I imported my bodies and did not buy my chairs, but the duty was raised so much I was compelled to manufacture. If it had not been for the duty I could have imported them as cheap as making them.

Q.—Has it stopped importation of these goods? A.—Yes; to a certain extent.

Q.—How many hands are employed in your establishment? A.—Of course in the reed department we have only four to five. Of course, in the wood department we employ more.

Q.—Can you give us any idea of the value of the goods manufactured in your line in Canada? A.—No; I don't believe I can. There would be 200 hands employed, I should think. It would be hard to give any idea.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you make any hand-sleds? A.—Yes; I make them, but there is no money in them, on account of prison labor coming into competition.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Where does it come in ? A.—In Toronto.

Q.—If those sleighs were not made by prison labor, or if they were put on the market at market value, could you manufacture to compete with them ? A.—No ; I could not compete with them in such a thing as a sleigh. In carriages we could. It does not require any skilled labor to make a hand-sleigh.

Q.—Supposing this work was put out at market value, at the same value as free labor would produce them, could you compete with them ? A.—Yes ; but they could not sell their goods.

Q.—That does not necessarily follow, does it ? A.—Yes ; it follows. Any dealer will give the manufacturer and employer of free labor the preference over prison labor.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What kind of work do you think prison labor should be applied to ? A.—It is hard to say. I said when asked that once before, that manufacturers should know what kind they are making and stay out of those lines.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Should the labor of prisons be let out by contract ? A.—I don't know as that would make very much difference. As long as they manufacture a certain line of goods let people know it. Of course, when they began making hand-sleighs I just dropped that line except a few.

Q.—Do you think it would be a good system for the Government to manufacture on their own account and the surplus between the cost of production and the manufactured value be given to the families of prisoners ? A.—I never gave any thought to that, but it may be feasible.

Q.—Do you think such a system would create as much dissatisfaction as the present system of letting the labor out cheaply to the manufacturer and letting him make all the profit ? A.—No ; probably it would be a very good idea, though of course I have not thought much of it. I think they should do work, and if they will work they will clash with somebody certainly.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What might be the ages of the young girls who go into your business ? A.—From fourteen years upwards. Of course, we cannot employ them under fourteen.

Q.—Are they employed by piece work ? A.—As a rule they are.

Q.—What will be the average which a young girl will make ? A.—It depends on how fast she can work. She may earn 50 to 75 cents a day after being at it a couple of weeks. It is easy work and easily learned. I think a girl should earn 75 cents in a short time.

Q.—How long do they work ? A.—My hands all work ten hours.

Q.—Sixty hours a week ? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there any of these factories in Ontario exempt from taxation ? A.—I do not hardly think it, unless it is Hay, of Woodstock, who has been exempt : I don't know whether he is now.

Q.—Have firms received bonuses from the people for starting that line ? A.—No ; I don't think so. It is generally in connection with other work—for instance, with the making of carriages. Reed work is generally bought, and the same with chairs. In Woodstock, for instance, they have a large furniture factory.

Q.—Is rattan work coming into vogue in Ontario ? A.—It is going out a good deal now, simply because it is getting into auction rooms.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Is it to that or to the inferior quality of goods it is owing ? A.—No ; I think we manufacture a class of goods equal to American goods. At the first start it was of inferior quality, and probably that was the cause why it was run into the auction rooms.

SAMUEL GREENING, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What is the title of your firm? A.—B. Greening & Co.

Q.—In what business are you engaged? A.—Wire ropes, wire cloth, wire-work and general permeated metals.

Q.—Your business is in Hamilton? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long have you been engaged in the business? A.—About twenty-nine years—and my father before me. I succeeded to the business about ten years ago.

Q.—Does it grow, decrease or remain stationary? A.—We are increasing.

Q.—In what form do you import your wire? A.—We use raw material.

Q.—Just as you use it? A.—Yes.

Q.—You simply weave it or fashion it? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are many hands employed in this industry? A.—We employ about 110.

Q.—Are they skilled or unskilled? A.—I think 60 per cent. would be skilled labor.

Q.—What wages can skilled men earn? A.—It depends on what they are—machinists \$2 a day, carpenters \$2, wire-workers \$1.75, and weavers are mostly the best paid. The regular average is about \$2.

Q.—Is it possible to make this wire in Canada? A.—Well, there is wire drawn in Montreal of certain sizes only,

Q.—Is it possible to make all the sizes you use in Canada? A.—It is possible; but I don't think it would pay to do it. There is not a sufficient quantity required, not sufficient demand. There are a great variety of wires required in Canada.

Q.—What kind of wire do you use here mostly? A.—Cast steel, Bessemer steel, charcoal iron, ordinary iron, and the same galvanized and tinned—almost every kind which is made, excepting special brands, such as piano wire.

Q.—Do you employ many boys? A.—Yes.

Q.—What can those boys earn? A.—It depends upon their age, and the time they are with us. They usually commence with \$2.50 a week and increase 50 cents every six months.

Q.—Are they learning the trade in this time? A.—They leave us at times. Most of our journeymen we educated ourselves.

Q.—How many years are required to make a skilled workman in this? A.—Four to six years.

Q.—When they have finished their time and become skilled workmen do you retain them in your employ? A.—Yes.

Q.—You have plenty of work for them, as a rule? A.—Yes.

Q.—Where do you find your market? A.—In Canada.

Q.—Do you export any? A.—No; none.

Q.—Is your Canadian market mostly in Ontario or throughout the Dominion? A.—Throughout the Dominion.

Q.—Do you sell much in the North-West? A.—Yes.

Q.—As far as British Columbia? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you employ much machinery? A.—Yes; we have all machine work, except the wire-working branch.

Q.—Are the machines properly protected against accident? A.—Yes; we take out an accident policy for our men. The inspector had to make very few suggestions, which were carried out.

Q.—Is that the provincial inspector? A.—No; for the Citizens' Insurance Company.

Q.—You took out those accident policies at your own cost? A.—Yes; it is a manufacturer's indemnity against claims for accident. We have never had an accident from any fault of the machinery since we have been in business.

Q.—You simply transfer your liability back to the company? A.—Yes.

Q.—Was the provincial inspector satisfied with the protection of those machines? A.—I believe so, though I did not see him personally.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You would have heard if he had made any complaints? A.—Yes; there was not a complaint, I believe.

Q.—Have you heard of any establishment where the factory inspector was not satisfied? A.—No; I have not.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—You have never had any accidents? A.—Not through any fault of the machinery or appliances.

Q.—In case of accident in your factory do you or the employes receive the benefit of the insurance? A.—Our insurance is only to protect us against an action at law.

Q.—Simply to protect yourselves? A.—Yes.

Q.—They would have to sue the insurance company? A.—Yes.

Q.—Or rather they would sue you, and the insurance company would have to bear the expenses? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—What line of goods do you lean heaviest on? A.—Wire cloth and wire rope.

Q.—What is wire rope used for? A.—Vessel rigging, passenger elevators, and for public works, in derricks.

Q.—And the cloth is used for? A.—Fanning mills, sieving machines, tops of locomotives, smoke stacks, window screens, &c.

Q.—Do you make any for funnels? A.—No; we import it.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What size of steel wire do you manufacture? A.—We don't manufacture wire. Wire is our raw material.

Q.—Don't you manufacture steel wire rope? A.—Yes.

Q.—What sizes do you make? A.—From $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches

Q.—And all sizes between? A.—Yes.

Q.—You manufacture the same sizes of the iron? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—You speak of shipping to the North-West. Do you find any market in the Maritime Provinces? A.—We have a large number of customers in Montreal; it is one of our best points.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have any accidents happened in your establishment? A.—Yes; but not through the fault of the machinery. A man working a saw had his fingers badly cut one time, and lately a boy lost three fingers by falling over a saw and his hand coming in contact with it.

Q.—Do many boys run saws? A.—No; we have men on purpose for it.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Are your boys indentured? A.—No.

Q.—Don't you think it would be a good plan to indenture them? A.—It will not do, for if they want to go they will go, and if dissatisfied it would be little use to keep them. We never let good boys go, if it is possible to keep them.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Any females employed in your establishment? A.—Yes; we have eighteen.

Q.—What age is the youngest? A.—Fourteen or fifteen.

Q.—What are they working at? A.—They run a very light automatic machine.

Q.—What wages do they receive? A.—\$3 to \$6 a week: They all have the same chance. We have one hand who can make \$7; another finds it difficult to make \$4. There is one thing I might say: we have only been employing girls about six months, and they are just becoming accustomed to it. The one making \$7 formerly worked on the other side.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What is the average wages of those girls? A.—About \$4 a week.

Q.—Do the larger of them live with their parents, or board out? A.—I think the larger live with their parents.

J. S. ANTHES, re-called.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Have you given the subject of profit-sharing any thought? A.—Yes; I have.

Q.—Do you think it can be done? A.—Yes; it can be done in a certain way: for instance, we ourselves for a number of years, are converted into a joint stock company, and by that means, of course, we give our employes a chance to buy stock.

Q.—Do any of them avail themselves of that opportunity? A.—Of course, we are just trying the experiment now. We have not a charter; we have just applied for it.

Q.—In your opinion, that is the best solution of the problem of how to divide the profits of the manufacturers with the workmen? A.—It is the only solution I can see, and I shall certainly give my employes a chance to get the stock.

BENJAMIN CAMERON, Moulder, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You are a machinery moulder, I believe? A.—I am.

Q.—How long have you worked in Hamilton? A.—For five years.

Q.—What are your hours of labor? A.—Fifty-four hours a week.

Q.—Do you believe in shortening the hours of labor? A.—Yes.

Q.—For what cause? A.—I think it would reduce the production and, so doing, you would increase the wages, because when we have an over-supply of labor on the market labor is always cheaper; and for that reason I think the hours of labor should be reduced.

Q.—Provided a system of shortening the hours of labor was in existence, and there was a public library established here, do you think, to the best of your knowledge, the men would take advantage of that library? A.—Provided the hours were shortened, I believe they would. Speaking my own views, I think it would be of great advantage. I was in Hamilton when the vote was taken on the free library question, and I worked hard in favor of it; and I found there were a good many men opposed to it on account of the expense that would be involved, and there were a great many who would like to have it, except for the expense.

Q.—Have you anything to add to the evidence already given in your branch of trade? A.—I don't think I have; I think it has been very well ventilated. There was a big strike last summer, and a great many moulders were under the impression that if they accepted the advance of 5 per cent. they would get steady employment. They thought it would give more steady employment, and therefore they would accept the terms of the bosses; but it has proved that the men have got no more work, as some of them expected they would do. The shops have been shut down—some for a week and others for a longer time, and in fact, some for nearly a month; and I don't know when they will start up again. The masters gave us no definite answer on that point. It would be an advantage to the employe if he knew that the shop was going to be closed for a length of time, because it would give him a

chance of getting out of the city and finding work elsewhere for the time being; but this the masters do not do. They just lay the men off, and when they are ready to work they send for the men. The men are here with their families and they don't like to move out of the city, and although they want to better their condition they don't know whether the works will start up soon or not. That is the position in which they are placed.

Q.—Do you know if at the time of the 5 per cent. compromise the men were promised steady work for a certain period if they would accept those terms?
A.—Not that I am aware of; it was not so; but I think it was the general conclusion that that would be the eventual outcome of it—that being closed so long last summer the manufacturers would have got behind with their stock. It seems now that the work has been decreasing this winter. The men who have been in Hamilton many years say that the foundries used to run steadily all the year round, while now they shut down at Christmas and keep idle two or three months. There is one great evil I see in connection with the strike last summer: so soon as the shops got started again the masters got new hands, in addition to taking back all their old hands. They did this in order to be able to turn out as much work as possible, and therefore the men are left idle now; whereas, if they had continued with the old hands and kept the shop running steadily the men would have been better off, because they would now be at work instead of being idle. Lots of men came here from the other side.

Q.—Is the moulding trade troubled with immigration? A.—Yes; as I think all other trades are. We had a case of that in Toronto some few years ago. When there was a strike at Gurney's the firm imported some men from the old country.

Q.—Were you at work at Gurney's at the time? A.—No; I was in the country at the time.

Q.—Do you know it as a fact? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—It was some years ago? A.—It was some time about the nine-hour movement; but it is generally understood by the moulders that they imported these men from the old country.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Do you advocate the shortening of hours for the purpose of the men obtaining recreation, or with a view to employing the surplus labor of your branch of business? A.—Both; I think there are two good points to be obtained by that. I think if I work less time I will feel in better shape for study, if I wish to devote my time to that.

Q.—Do you mean study as recreation? A.—That is recreation to me. To sit down and read a book or a newspaper is recreation.

Q.—Could the men earn fair wages in eight hours? A.—If it was adopted I think they could. We have countries that are more prosperous than Canada where the eight-hour system is in force—such a country as Australia. The wages are higher; and that is a proof that when the hours are reduced the wages become higher. All those to whom I have spoken on the question seem to think so.

Q.—If the hours of labor were shortened you think the manufacturers and the employes would not suffer? A.—I think so, because the wages would only increase as the demand for labor increased; and, therefore, since the demand for labor increases the prices go up with the price of labor.

Q.—The price of the article would go up corresponding with the rates? A.—Yes; but you will find that when the wages are cut down the price of the article is not cut down in proportion. The rate of wages will go down first, but the price of articles will rise before the wages do.

Q.—This shows that as soon as wages tend to advance the manufacturers begin to raise the prices of the articles. The advance commences at the wrong end? A.—Yes.

Q.—You think that if the wages increased in your business the prices obtained by the manufacturers would go up correspondingly? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you think moulders would take advantage of wash-rooms if they were provided in the foundries? A.—I do.

Q.—Have you ever heard moulders express a desire to have such rooms? A.—I have repeatedly; but I have heard some moulders say that they would not bother with washing; that is the majority of moulders. Such rooms have never been established here, and of course the men do not know the benefit of them. They have them at the foundry of the Baldwin Locomotive Works at Philadelphia. There is a man in charge of the wash-room, and each workman has a wash-basin to himself, and there is a bath. It was found to be very useful to the men.

Q.—Did the men generally take advantage of it? A.—As far as I could hear they did. I was very much pleased with it, and on speaking to several of the men I found they seemed to be very well satisfied with it.

Q.—Is it true that the men in your business take cold very frequently from changing their clothes? A.—Yes; by not having an opportunity to change their clothes. You are liable at present to take a chill if you do change them; of course, they would not be so liable if there was a proper room provided, properly warmed at this time of the year. A mechanic who is at work gets warmed up and when he goes out and has a long distance to walk he is very liable to get chilled through. I fortunately do not live far away. I don't think, with the exception of rolling mill men, there are any men who get more heated up than moulders and laborers in the foundry.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—What is your idea of the indenture system? A.—I think it would be a good idea.

Q.—Do you think it would be a benefit to the apprentices, and to all parties? A.—I think it would be a benefit to the three parties—the boss, the men and the apprentice.

Q.—Do you think technical schools would be an advantage to boys who were intending to go into the moulding business? A.—I don't think it would help them. Moulding is a particular trade to itself. A man wants actual work to make a moulder.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you think it would be more beneficial to pattern-makers than to moulders? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long would you have a boy serve at a trade if he were indentured? A.—It would depend on the branch of business he was to follow.

Q.—Take the machinery moulding? A.—I think four or five years—four years at the least.

FRIDAY, 20th January, 2 p.m.

J. R. PETTITT, Grimsby, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You are a farmer? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have farmed nearly all your life? A.—Yes.

Q.—In the neighborhood of Grimsby? A.—Always.

Q.—Have you employed many men lately? A.—Not just for three or four years back. I have rather retired from farming and the boys have taken it up.

Q.—Do you know what good farm hands receive now? A.—Yes; I think so.

Q.—Suppose a man is employed the year around, with board, what would be a fair wage? A.—I know some men getting as high as \$175 a year with board.

- Q.—Wouldn't that be considered high? A.—That is about as high as is paid.
- Q.—It would be above the average? A.—I think it would; from \$1.50 to \$1.75.
- Q.—A farm hand who boards or lives with his family, what would he receive?
- A.—The farm hands who are employed in that way usually have a house on the farm, and are found house, and perhaps wood, or something of that kind. They have \$220 to \$240, and house, &c.
- Q.—They would have their wood off the farm? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Is the supply of farm hands equal to the demand? A.—Well, I think so, or nearly so.
- Q.—You had no difficulty in getting hands when you wanted them? A.—Sometimes in the summer season there is a scarcity.
- Q.—Are many additional hands taken on in the summer season? A.—Yes.
- Q.—What would these receive by the month? A.—For six or seven months, probably from \$15 to \$17 per month and board.
- Q.—The conditions of farm labor have changed very much within the past quarter of a century? A.—Yes.
- Q.—During that time farm machinery has been introduced? A.—Yes; largely.
- Q.—In consequence of having this machinery farmers don't need to employ so many hands as they used to? A.—Not for harvesting; and on such work we used to require more labor than it does now, or a greater number of hands.
- Q.—Do you remember about what would be the wages paid to occasional hands in the press of harvest time before the introduction of machinery? A.—I remember when \$1 a day was paid to harvest hands in my time. Now it is more.
- Q.—If you employed a man by the year round at that time what would you pay him? A.—May be about \$110 to \$125, twenty-five years ago. Perhaps there might be exceptional times, like the Russian war, when it was higher.
- Q.—Did you ever make a calculation as to what the farm implements would cost a farmer farming, say 100 acres, taking one year with another? A.—Well, I could not say as to that exactly, because some years he might buy a good many implements, which would do him for a number of years, but for an average year I could not speak.
- Q.—About what would be the cost of a good equipment of farm implements for, say 100 acres of land, for an average farm, including farm waggons, sleighs, &c? A.—I should think for a farm of 100 acres perhaps \$500.
- Q.—That would not include threshers, which go from farm to farm? A.—No; they are usually owned by people who follow it for a living. Very few farmers own a thresher.
- Q.—Does it cost more or less, calculating the value of farm implements, to raise grain than it did before the introduction of machinery? A.—I don't think it costs any less, but I don't know that it does any more.
- Q.—Isn't there an advantage to the farmer in having machinery? A.—Yes; they can probably do more work, but there is more expense with a great deal of machinery—the extra cost of the machinery.
- Q.—If there was not an advantage to him in having machines he would not buy them? A.—No; he would not buy them.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

- Q.—Wouldn't there be much less use of machinery if your time was not so short in harvest time? A.—Yes.
- Q.—That is one reason why machinery is used? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

- Q.—Have farmers in your neighborhood made money? Can they be called fairly well off, good men and industrious? A.—I think so; I know so.
- Q.—The class of farmers, taking them throughout the Niagara peninsula, have they, as a rule, been able to live in comfort? A.—I think so.
- Q.—And pay for their places? A.—I know some men who have bought land and paid for it and are living very comfortable. I know others who are not so care-

ful and economical who lost their farms. But it is more through negligence, because they did not work and take care of it.

Q.—Don't some of them try to put on a little more style than they can afford?
A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Haven't some of them got expensive sons? A.—Yes. In the vicinity I live in farming has changed very much from grain-growing to fruit-growing in the last fifteen to twenty-five years. While I farmed I did not follow fruit-growing so much as the last few years.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You have practically retired from farming? A.—Nearly so. I live on the farm, but my son wanted the farm, and having got to that age—I had a small family—I gave the farm virtually up to him. I just keep a few acres for fruit-growing.

Q.—You haven't the appearance of being a worn-out or broken-down man?
A.—No; I haven't. My age is sixty-two and I live in the house, and I generally turn in and farm the farm my father farmed all his life. It is 100 years this last summer since he came to Grimsby.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How many hours a day have you worked in summer? A.—In my younger days we worked long hours.

Q.—How much? A.—From sunrise to sundown.

Q.—A little after? A.—Sometimes. I have worked longer than that. My father was one of the old men who worked all day.

Q.—Even now don't they work about fifteen hours a day? A.—Seldom; ten hours a day. If you hire a man he expects to work ten hours for you. That is the usual thing now.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is that the number of hours which these hands in the harvest season work?
A.—That is supposed to be so.

Q.—For \$17 a month? A.—Yes.

Q.—When harvest is over what becomes of these hands? A.—A good many are hired by the year, though there are odd men working by the day the year around. There are a good many who work on fruit farming by the day.

Q.—But in agricultural farming, what becomes of them after the busy season is over? A.—Often times they are men engaged on other work, and in the summer season perhaps a man may turn in and help on the farm. There are not so many extra hands hired in farming now as before we got machinery, and principally self-binders. Farmers don't hire so much help through the summer as formerly.

Q.—These men generally belong to the cities and towns? A.—Sometimes to the villages; and there are men who work about the village who, in summer time, usually go to work on the farm through haying and harvesting?

Q.—Those men who go out for casual work on the farm don't earn enough to keep them all the year around? A.—They often work about the village throughout the winter, getting whatever work they can.

Q.—Have you heard of many immigrants coming out as farm hands? A.—Not many in this vicinity.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—How much more land are you able now to handle with the use of machinery than before its introduction? A.—Well, you could handle a good deal more land with the same number of men, but I could not tell how much. Before I had reapers and mowers, when I was farming, I often had six to eight men through harvest time, but now if I was farming I would not require nearly so many. With the assistance of the self-binder, perhaps three men might do the same.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—You require to keep your land in a great deal better shape when you use machinery? A.—Yes; but there are few farms now which are not entirely cleared of stumps, &c., so that all the land can be utilized and farm machinery used upon it.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—More acreage and more machinery? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Are there any combinations amongst farmers to raise the price of produce? A.—Not that I know of.

Q.—No combinations to raise the price of produce of any kind? A.—Not that I am aware of.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Have you raised stock? A.—When I farmed I was stock farming principally That was my stronghold.

Q.—How do prices compare to-day with ten or fifteen years ago? Any improvement? A.—In the price of young stock I think it has been better for the last five years than it was fifteen years ago. For a number of years I bred thoroughbred Durhams, which are not higher in price to-day than they were fifteen years ago. That class of stock, when times are hard, shrinks more than beef cattle in price, because they are a class which farmers can do without, and if crops of grain are a little light and poor they rather hold off from buying. I have found that from experience; when times are good, the price of grain good, prices of stock are better.

Q.—Do you find it pays better to raise stock than grain? A.—I do, although I have seen times when grain-growing was very profitable—for instance, during the American war and the Russian war, when they were getting \$2 a bushel for wheat. As a general thing I think stock-raising pays better than grain-growing.

A. H. PETTIT, Grimsby, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You have been engaged in fruit farming? A.—Yes.

Q.—What classes of fruits are raised in the Niagara peninsula? A.—Peaches, grapes, apples, pears and other small fruits, berries, &c.

Q.—This constitutes the industry very much in your section of country? A.—Yes; it does.

Q.—You have thought fruit-raising pays better in that part of the country than general farming? A.—Yes; I think so.

Q.—Of these fruits, which do you consider most profitable? A.—Peaches, I think, are acknowledged the most profitable.

Q.—Can peach-growers find a good market for all their fruit? A.—Generally. There are times when the supply would appear to be almost more than the demand, but that would be only for a few days.

Q.—Do you sell the bulk of your fruit in the natural state or can it or otherwise treat it? A.—We ship it principally in its natural state.

Q.—Where do you find the principal markets? A.—Toronto, Montreal, and in fact, all the cities in Ontario of importance.

Q.—Do you export any green fruit? A.—Well, a small shipment was made to Glasgow this year of grapes. These are about the only varieties except apples, which were exported.

Q.—Was that experiment with grapes a success? A.—Not altogether. They arrived in good order, but prices were not sufficiently satisfactory.

Q.—Do Canadian grapes seem to be appreciated in the old country? A.—Some varieties were spoken highly of.

Q.—Where do you sell your apples principally? A.—Either in Montreal or in the old country.

Q.—Do apples generally ship to the old country in good condition? A.—Not always.

Q.—If they don't, what would be the cause of the failure? A.—I could scarcely account for it, unless there is too great heat on board ship.

Q.—Are they ever badly packed? A.—I have no doubt they are, in some instances.

Q.—If they arrive in poor condition are they worth much? A.—No; prices are not very satisfactory.

Q.—If they arrive in good condition are prices satisfactory? A.—Generally so.

Q.—How much of a market is there in the old country for apples. A.—Well, I could scarcely answer that. I suppose there is a limit to it, but it is almost unlimited, from the quantities which go forward.

Q.—Where do you find a market for small fruits? A.—In all our Ontario cities and Montreal.

Q.—Do those pay pretty well? A.—Some seasons they do.

Q.—What kind of help do you require in the fruit industry? A.—Men and women mostly.

Q.—Any children? A.—At certain seasons, at strawberry picking or raspberries, or something of that kind.

Q.—For how long periods of the year do you employ the men? A.—Well, probably the greatest number about three months or three months and a-half.

Q.—Do they have any skill, or will common laborers do? A.—Common laborers will do, though some are much more useful than others.

Q.—Some knowledge is of benefit to them? A.—Yes.

Q.—What would you pay those men? A.—I generally pay them \$1 a day, and they board themselves.

Q.—The women whom you employ, how long do you employ them? A.—Just during the season of peaches and grapes generally. They are useful in picking and packing peaches and grapes.

Q.—Do they board themselves? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they generally live in the neighborhood? A.—Yes.

Q.—What would you pay those women? A.—Seventy-five cents to one dollar.

Q.—How do you pay the children for picking berries? A.—By the quart, generally.

Q.—What can they earn? A.—Fifty to seventy-five cents a day.

Q.—Do many earn over 50 cents a day? A.—Some of them do.

Q.—How long does their work last? A.—It lasts a short period, about three weeks.

Q.—Is the supply ample? A.—Not always.

Q.—Is this a growing industry? A.—Yes; the acreage is increasing throughout this peninsula.

Q.—Is much fruit canned in your neighborhood? A.—Yes; there is quite a quantity. We have one canning establishment doing a large business.

Q.—Do you supply any canning factories in Canada—I mean, your section of the country? A.—I think they do to a limited extent.

Q.—Do you get as good prices from canning factories as from others? A.—Well, I could not say; I have never supplied them.

Q.—Are many of your fruits dried? A.—Nothing but apples, I think.

Q.—By what process are they dried? A.—By an evaporator.

Q.—That is your substitute for the old fashion of drying in the air? A.—Yes.

Q.—It makes better fruit? A.—Yes; much better.

Q.—What comparison is there between the Delaware peaches and the Canadian peaches? A.—I should think they would be very much the same. They may not appear so fine here, on account of the long distance they have been brought and the time they have been on the way. I should judge they were equal to ours.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—And ours equal to them ? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—In what kind of barrels do you generally pack apples for export ? A.—In flour barrel size.

Q.—Is it necessary to have them open for the circulation of air ? A.—No.

Q.—Don't you require some circulation of air ? A.—No.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Flour barrel size ? A.—Yes.

Q.—What kind of wood do you use ? A.—Generally elm for the sides, ash hoops, and almost any kind of timber for the heads. One head needs to be hard to prevent them pressing in.

Q.—It would not do to have pine or resinous wood ? A.—Basswood is used for the end you leave in the barrel, and some hardwood for the other end.

Q.—Where are those barrels made ? A.—Almost every locality has shops for manufacturing them.

Q.—Did you ever use an ash stave ? A.—No ; I don't think we ever did. Elm would be cheaper.

Q.—Do you know what kind of barrel they use in Nova Scotia ? A.—No ; I do not.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Fifty cents a day for children—is that the rule or the exception as regards their wages ? A.—A good many of them would earn that, they would pick 50 quarts.

Q.—How many earn less than that ? A.—Probably one-half of them.

Q.—How many would that be ? A.—Well, it is very hard to explain. Strawberries are grown by many people, some in large quantities and some in small.

Q.—How old would those children be ? A.—Six or eight years old.

Q.—They work out in the patches ? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you known those who work on the patches afterwards to go into those canning factories ? A.—I have no doubt some of them do.

Q.—At six and eight years ? A.—No ; probably not so young. I think our factory employs them at eight and twelve, in fact, all ages.

Q.—Do you know what wages these girls, eight and ten years, get at those factories ? A.—No ; I do not.

Q.—Is there as much pains taken in making an apple barrel as a flour barrel ? A.—You can use a coarser stave, not so well jointed.

Q.—How are they bought ? A.—By the hundred generally.

Q.—What are they worth ? A.—Apple barrels are worth 30 cents.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Is that wholesale or retail price ? A.—Wholesale. We manufacture what we require.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Hand or steam ? A.—By hand.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You have a cooperage ? A.—Yes ; a small one.

Q.—Do you make any tight work ? A.—No ; just apple barrels for our own use and some to sell.

Q.—How many do you produce ? A.—Six thousand barrels last year.

Q.—Of apples ? A.—No ; of barrels themselves.

Q.—How many barrels of apples do you produce on your own place ? A.—Well, we have had rather poor crops for the last two or three years.

Q.—The average crop ? A.—One hundred to three hundred barrels.

Q.—How many crates of peaches ? A.—We ship them in 12-quart baskets. I had over 3,000 baskets last year.

Q.—How much did you produce of other fruits? A.—I think I had eight and a-half tons of grapes this year of different varieties.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Are the barrels made by the piece or day? A.—By piece.

Q.—What can a man make a day making these barrels? A.—Our man makes \$2, and some days more. We pay him 8 cents for making them, and he can make thirty to thirty-five.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—How many hours would he work to make thirty-five? A.—I could not tell you.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—They work over-time, don't they? A.—Just as it suits him.

Q.—Do they begin at 4 o'clock in the morning? A.—No; just as it suits. He may turn out forty barrels a day if he likes.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—In ten hours? A.—No; not in ten hours.

Q.—Would he make thirty in ten hours? A.—I think so.

Q.—Would that be hard work? A.—No; I don't think so.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—You have staves and hoops, &c., manufactured ready for him? —A. Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Turning out forty barrels, would it be necessary to work from daylight to dark? A.—I am not sure about that. This fall we ran out of barrels. We had not sufficient to turn out our fruit. I asked him how many we could count on and he said we could count on forty a day.

Q.—You pay him pretty liberally? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Did you ever try the experiment of shipping apples to the old country in boxes? A.—No.

Q.—Would not the danger of spoiling be lessened if shipped in boxes, something like oranges, rather than barrels? A.—No; I would not think so. Barrels are handled much more easily and readily than boxes, and the handling must be done as carefully as possible.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Freight would be less with barrels? A.—Yes; I think so.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are not apples injured a good deal by pressing? A.—No; they should not be.

Q.—Do you press them with a screw? A.—They may in many instances be injured by too much pressing. Our plan is to take the barrel on a plank, and as each basket goes in shake the barrel well. They will carry much better than when pressed too hard. Shaking is better than pressing.

THOMAS A. GREEN, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You have been captain of a lake vessel? A.—Yes.

Q.—What vessel was that? A.—I have commanded quite a few; I have been master for twelve years.

Q.—Are you master now? A.—I have classed for the last season with the "Lake Michigan."

Q.—How long have you sailed the lakes? A.—Since 1864 or 1865.

Q.—Is the "Lake Michigan" a Canadian vessel? A.—Yes; she belongs to this port.

Q.—Have you commanded sailing vessels as well as steam vessels? A.—Yes.

Q.—What rates of wages are generally paid to sailors? A.—When I first came on the lakes, the time of the American war, they got big wages on the other side.

Q.—But now, what would be fair average wages of sailors? A.—They only take payment by the day; they don't get proper wages. They are paid by the day whenever they touch port.

Q.—What would be a fair day's wages? A.—From \$1.50 to \$3 through the season.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—For ordinary seamen? A.—No; for able seamen.

Q.—These sailors are shipped with the vessel leaving port and discharged at the end of the trip? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long a time would elapse before they could, in the natural order of things, get on another vessel or back on the same vessel? A.—A vessel is generally from two to three days unloading. In the grain trade it is only a few hours and you go right to an elevator.

Q.—How many days in the year does an ordinary sailor expect to be employed, taking an average case? A.—Our insurance is from the 1st of May to the 30th November.

Q.—But a sailor cannot be employed all this time? A.—If he is not discharged. When I first came on the lakes we had no discharge, and when they had the union they made big wages. Owners paid up the men every trip.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you think that is an advantage for the shipping trade? A.—No; I do not think so. I think the other plan was better. Freight rates were so low owners had to compete with the men, because wages were so high.

Q.—Do you think it is better or not, for the vessel and the management of vessels, that sailors should understand they are engaged from the spring to the fall? A.—Yes; that is the best way.

Q.—This old sailor used to form a connection with the ship? A.—Yes; and get used to one another.

Q.—And have some pride in the vessel? A.—Yes.

Q.—Now they have none? A.—Yes.

The CHAIRMAN—And that is one of the causes of disaster.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What do you think would be a fair season's wages for a sailor—a fair average one? A.—The way things are now I should think \$35 a month would be good wages for able seamen.

Q.—That would extend over seven or eight months? A.—Seven months.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You give him board, too? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—This average salary in cash would run less than \$250 a year? A.—They would make that before the mast.

Q.—Are the hands on propellers paid for every trip? A.—No; we generally get a tariff from the owners what to pay. They pay so much a month.

Q.—They remain during the season? A.—Yes; and get lower wages if they leave.

Q.—Who are the highest paid men? A.—Captains and engineers.

Q.—Do you employ many sailors on propellers? A.—If they are good wheelmen we take two or three.

Q.—How do the wages of these men compare with those on sailing vessels?
 A.—They are not so large. I paid \$25 last year.

Q.—The "Lake Michigan" is a propeller? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do propellers keep afloat longer than sailing vessels? A.—Yes; they run as long as they can.

Q.—Are sailors on propellers able to earn as much money as those on schooners?
 A.—Where they have been brought up on propellers they will hardly go on schooners unless to take lessons.

Q.—How is the food on lake vessels? A.—Very good.

Q.—What about the sleeping apartments? A.—Some are good and others not so good.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Are vessels, as a rule, as fully manned as they should be? A.—Yes; when they have a full crew on board.

Q.—Are they generally supplied with as many hands as they need?
 A.—Generally they are.

Q.—Are the sailing vessels as well manned as they should be? A.—Very seldom they are short-handed, except in the fall.

Q.—Are those men on sailing vessels generally competent men? A.—Yes; they hand, reef and steer. There is little else to be done, except keeping the ship in order.

Q.—Are not men shipped sometimes who cannot hand, reef and steer. A.—Well, any man who can handle the tackle.

Q.—On barges have they generally a sufficient supply of hands? A.—I cannot say, only from what I read; I was not in the business. Vessels I have towed have always a full crew and are able to take care of themselves after we let them go.

Q.—How large sailing power ought a barge or other vessel which is towed to have? A.—They should run six to eight miles an hour before the wind in good weather.

Q.—How many spars have they? A.—Generally two, though some have only one; they should have two. A barge with one mast cannot haul up to the wind.

Q.—Are there many which have only one? A.—Some of those old ones in the lumber trade, but most of them have two; they are generally two. They are generally in the short trade and big barges on the lakes are generally well looked after in their canvas, though there are some which are not.

Q.—In case one of those barges should get adrift would there be a sufficient crew on board to handle her and get her into port? A.—They should if they have four men.

Q.—Are they generally supplied with four men? A.—One we had towing had four men on board, besides the captain and mate. I am now speaking of a steam barge.

Q.—What inspection of the hull is there in Canada? A.—Clifford Lloyds.

Q.—Is it thorough? A.—They bore into the bottoms every year where they think they are most apt to rot.

Q.—Do you think there is a very practical and satisfactory inspection of the hulls every year? A.—Well, if they wish they can cut pieces out.

Q.—Do they ever do so? A.—Yes; I saw them do so last year.

Q.—Do the same inspectors inspect the hulls and rigging? A.—No; they are different.

Q.—Is the inspection of the rigging as thorough as it should be? A.—Not in all cases.

Q.—Do vessels ever go to sea with improper rigging? A.—Often, I am sorry to say.

Q.—And that leads, doubtless, to the possibility of disaster in the case of the owner? A.—Yes; you cannot always replace them when once carried away. You cannot get on another vessel most of the canvas.

Q.—Is the inspection of boilers and machinery as it should be? A.—Yes.

Q.—You think it is very careful? A.—I think they are very careful about boilers. I do not know whether there is any inspection for machinery.

Q.—Don't you think it is necessary to have the engines inspected as well as the boilers? A.—Engineers all have to pass an examination for that, and so they are under his care, and I do not think anything but the boilers is inspected by the Government.

Q.—What qualification is required of engineers? A.—They must understand the pressure on the boiler and gauges.

Q.—Do they have to pass a rigid examination before getting a certificate? A.—Yes.

Q.—If an engineer loses his vessel, or if the vessel is lost through his fault, is his certificate taken from him? A.—I believe it is, though I would not be certain. I know they are very particular about taking care of all these things.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—To your certain knowledge, are there many bottoms leaving Canadian ports which, if inspected properly and with a consideration to the safety of the crew, would be condemned? A.—Well, I am not in a position to say, because they have so many classes.

Q.—Take any of those classes? A.—I have heard of some condemned, but they have been running since.

Q.—Have you known many of that kind? A.—Not many.

Q.—Which went out with bad bottoms? A.—I have only known one in particular.

Q.—Is the law as strictly enforced as the sailors' organization would have it, to your knowledge?

The CHAIRMAN.—There is no law about the sailors' organization.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—There is a law about bottoms. Is the inspection as thorough as sailors as a body, would like to have it? A.—Sometimes they go to sea not altogether in ship-shape order.

Q.—Would that be frequent? A.—Not generally. In hard times owners like to make them run another trip, and in some cases the gear is in bad shape.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Where is the inspector of hulls at that time? A.—They generally come round in winter.

Q.—They don't come near the vessel all summer? A.—I have seen them sometimes in Kingston.

Q.—The inspector lives in Kingston? A.—Yes; one of them, and another in St. Catharines.

Q.—Do you know of any of them inspecting the hulls of vessels during the summer? You say they make an inspection in the winter? A.—They take a look around sometimes when you are in Kingston.

Q.—Have you seen them outside of Kingston or St. Catharines? A.—Yes; I have seen them when a vessel was on the dock at Port Dalhousie.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—The mate is the principal hand on board? A.—Yes; he is second in charge, and is in charge when the captain is below.

Q.—The law compels the mate to have a certificate showing his qualification? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you ever know that law to be violated? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—The captain is also required to have a certificate? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you known masters occupying such a position on board without a certificate? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Have you known masters, according to your experience in the case, take charge who were incompetent? A.—I never was with one.

Q.—You cannot speak from facts? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—We have heard evidence to the effect that the forecastles and sleeping berths are very bad? A.—It is their own fault; they will not keep them clean; it is hard to keep them clean. They get a clean bed.

Q.—I am speaking of sailing vessels? A.—Yes.

Q.—On the barges, are the decks always water-tight? A.—On some of them that carry lumber I will not say always; they are supposed to be.

Q.—As a matter of fact are not many of those lumber vessels unseaworthy, and should not be allowed to run sail. A.—There may be some of the old ones which may be unfit to sail.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Isn't it more the fault of the sailors than the fault of the inspectors if a vessel goes to sea unseaworthy? If he is in a position to know the vessel is unseaworthy wouldn't it be right to make a complaint to the authorities? A.—Yes; but like every body else there are too many ready to take his place if a man wants to "kick." I think there is some fault of the Government with regard to fogs and fog-horns that we find a danger on the lakes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Just tell us about that? A.—We have three courses on Lake Ontario from here to Kingston, and we have to change two courses before we get to the third one.

Q.—That is in sailing from Port Dalhousie? A.—No; from Hamilton. There should be a long fog-whistle at Long Point. It is very necessary.

Q.—At any other point? A.—We have a little bell, but when the wind is from the westward we cannot hear it. It is at Nine-mile Point, Simcoe Island.

Q.—What would you suggest? A.—A fog-whistle which we could hear, especially on Lake Erie, coming from Long Point to the Dummy, where so many disasters have been. We have no fog-whistle. It is a bad place, and there is ample ground between that and Pelee Island. There should be a fog-whistle there. But we have to go to the bottom with our leads. They don't show any bottom on the Canadian side, though they give the soundings on the American side. From Point Alpena, on Lake Erie, to Point Pelee, we have no soundings. We have to throw in our leads. We get bottom, but we cannot tell where we are.

Q.—In a fog you determine your position by soundings, and your chart shows it again. A.—Yes; that should tell, if we know how fast we are running. It is the same on Lake Erie. I think the shore has soundings after passing the Ducks along the north shore back of Port Dalhousie, and then you go along down on the American side.

Q.—Would it be a matter of great difficulty or expense to lay down those soundings? A.—I think Canadians and Americans should pay for it together when they sound the lakes.

Q.—Do you think it would be a difficult or expensive job to do so? A.—They are at it now on Georgian Bay. I do not know what it costs. It costs quite a bit to survey.

Q.—Surveying in Georgian Bay is more difficult than in other waters? A.—Yes; on account of the rocks.

Q.—Have you anything more to suggest? A.—I do not know of anything more.

Q.—I mean with reference to the signals and lighthouses wanted? A.—It would be a good thing to have one at Burlington Pier, because we cannot pass it right; we are apt to get right upon it. We should have something there, especially in a north-east gale. Port Dalhousie has nothing at all at the entrance to the Welland Canal.

Q.—In foggy weather how close will you be to Burlington Pier before seeing the light? A.—I have been right close to it, and though I knew I was close to it, I could not see the light.

Q.—In a north-east storm if the weather was foggy you might run on to the piers before you knew you were near them? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the law regarding deck loads? A.—I never heard of any in particular.

Q.—Do many vessels carry deck loads? A.—Yes; I have carried many heavy ones.

Q.—Is the danger of disaster increased by carrying them? A.—I never found it so—that is, in carrying coal or stone. I did not find any danger. I have the vessel always level. Sometimes, if you carry too big a deck load of lumber it will slide off.

Q.—Slide the vessel over, too? A.—No; I never knew a vessel capsizing with a deck load of lumber, though I have heard of them capsizing with wheat.

Q.—It is customary to carry deck loads? A.—Yes.

Q.—What tonnage will those vessels carry? A.—Some 500 and some 4,500.

Q.—What draught of water would a 500-ton one have? A.—About 11 feet; 14½ or 15 feet for the larger draught vessels.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What is the qualification for a sailor? A.—To hand, reef, steer, and put in long and short splices.

Q.—Don't men ship as sailors who have been land lubbers all their lives? A.—If they can manage to steer.

Q.—Men who make their first trip? A.—We don't ship them as men, but as ordinary seamen; they have to learn. They don't go so young to sea as when we were on salt water.

Q.—You say that you will ship them as seamen though it is their first trip? A.—As ordinary seamen, not as able seamen.

Q.—You said the lowest crew should be composed of four men? A.—Yes.

Q.—Suppose one of those men should be one of that kind, would that be right in a storm? Supposing the hawser breaks and the vessel is left to herself, wouldn't you require four men? A.—It should be, but as long as a man is strong and can pull or hold he will do.

Q.—You are willing to trust a good deal to Providence?

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—The mate of a vessel is responsible for the proper performance of their duties by the sailors? A.—Yes.

Q.—And is it his place to see the hands out on duty? A.—Yes.

Q.—First starting, is he as competent to do that? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are the duties of the mate? A.—To look after the ship in general; to see that every thing is in good order aloft, so that nothing is chafing, so that nothing is carried away. Of late years wire rigging and iron bound blocks have come in, and there is not so much chafing.

Q.—The mate must be a thoroughly practical man? A.—Yes.

Q.—And I presume so must the master? A.—It is expected so.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Is there any law requiring vessels to carry yawls or life-boats? A.—Yes; they are all carried and looked after.

Q.—Are some of them improperly hung, so that they cannot ship them? A.—On propellers they are always hung to the tackle; on schooners to the davits. They should have life-preservers on board.

Q.—Are they hung in such a way to the davits that they can be lowered into the water? A.—Yes; with a man who is any way smart they can unhang them quickly.

Q.—Have you known vessels to go out when the tackle was out of order? A.—Generally you will always see them have good tackle for the boats.

JOHN BERTRAM, Machinists' Tools Manufacturer, Dundas, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You are head of the firm of John Bertram & Sons, of Dundas? A.—Yes.

Q.—You manufacture iron-working machines and tools? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long has your business been in existence? A.—A little over thirty years.

Q.—It was started by yourself and Mr. Macheeran? A.—Yes.

Q.—You were mechanics yourselves when you started the business? A.—Yes.

Q.—You started, I believe, in a small way? A.—Yes; we worked in the foundry a long time ago.

Q.—And you built up the business to its present proportions? A.—Yes.

Q.—About how many men do you employ at present? A.—One hundred and fifty just now, fully more than we ever had previously.

Q.—About what wages do skilled workmen earn in your establishment? A.—Machinists and machine hands average from \$1.75 to \$2 a day; a few go above \$2, up to \$2.25

Q.—Do you employ any other class of skilled labor? A.—No; just machinists.

Q.—Do you employ pattern-makers? A.—Yes.

Q.—What do they earn? A.—From \$1.80 to \$2.25 a day in the pattern shop; there is one at \$2.25 a day.

Q.—Now, as to your laborers: what do they earn? A.—I think the highest is \$1.50 a day; they run from \$1.25 to \$1.50.

Q.—You spoke of boys: have you many boys in your employ? A.—We always keep a proportion of apprentices so as to keep the firm supplied because there are so many coming and going.

Q.—At what age do those boys begin work with you, as a rule? A.—We have them from sixteen, but latterly we do not care about having them before seven-teen. We like them to have some strength and stability.

Q.—It requires some strength to do your work? A.—They are steadier when they have got up to about seventeen years, and then we have them on a four years' apprenticeship.

Q.—Do you indenture them? A.—Yes; they are all indentured with a bond.

Q.—What is the nature of that bond? A.—The bond is given by a reliable party, either the father or guardian. He engages, under a penalty of \$200, to see that the lad carries out the conditions of the usual apprenticeship agreement.

Q.—Are you equally bound on your side? A.—We are both bound. There is a clause binding us to fulfil certain conditions.

Q.—Are you bound to teach the boy his trade? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do the boys, as a rule, stay with you and fulfil the conditions? A.—Yes, generally; there have been some cases where they have left our employ.

Q.—When they have left, has it been a matter of understanding between you that the indentures should be broken, or have the boys run away? A.—We have had one or two cases in which the boys have run away. In some cases they were arrested and compelled to find further security to work out the term. If he could not find further security we informed the bondsman.

Q.—You enforce the penalty of the bond? A.—We have never had to enforce it; but it has generally brought them to time.

Q.—When those boys who remain with you have finished their term do you consider them good workmen? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you consider them as good as those who come to you from other shops? A.—We like them better. We like to keep them in our employ.

Q.—How do Canadian workmen compare with foreign workmen as regards ability and willingness? A.—We regard the foreign workmen, that is the Scotch and English, as having to learn something when they come here about our style of work, which they have not had from that to which they have been accustomed. We find them generally good workmen, that is those who are regular workmen.

Q.—How are those coming from the United States? A.—I could not say; we have not had many from the United States, except our own coming back again.

Q.—Your hands who have left you and gone to the United States do come back at times? A.—Yes; several have done so. We had some men go down to near Cincinnati last summer and they came back again, and they are good hands, too. They received higher wages there but they preferred to stay here.

Q.—They express themselves as better satisfied in Canada, after all? A.—When they went there malaria and the heat and some other things bothered them, and they seemed to prefer to work here for us.

Q.—How promptly do you pay your men? A.—Every two weeks, on Friday evening.

Q.—Have there been any requests made for more frequent payments? A.—No.

Q.—Would it not be to the advantage of the men if they were paid weekly?

A.—I do not think it; the question was never asked us by the men. We formerly paid on Saturday, and we changed it to Friday because the paying on Saturday prevented the wives of the men from purchasing their supplies on Saturday morning. We made it Friday on that account. While speaking on wages I did not mention the moulders.

Q.—You have a moulding shop also? A.—Yes; we pay them higher wages.

Q.—Do they work by the piece or by the week? A.—They work by the day.

Q.—What do they earn? A.—They earn \$2.50 a day; a few earn \$2.25, but all the good hands earn \$3 a day. We never had a demand for an increase of wages that I remember; we have always kept the wages up to the maximum given.

Q.—Have you ever increased the wages voluntarily? A.—We always do that if possible. We never care about the men asking for an increase.

Q.—Have you ever had a strike? A.—No; never.

Q.—Have you ever had any negotiations or conferences with your men over trade matters? A.—Yes; we did. Some of the men asked us our opinion about the apprentice system. There was one man who was apprenticed to machinery. We were pushed for hands at the time and we allowed him to work on the floor for a while; the men thought that was a grievance and not in accordance with our rules. I told them the facts of the case and they were quite satisfied. Since then we have had that man on what he was brought up to—machines. I told them the rule was in all places a four years' apprenticeship.

Q.—Do you consider it a good plan for employer and employes to come together in conferences to discuss matters? A.—If any misunderstanding arises I think it is right.

Q.—Do you think strikes may be avoided in that way if there is a mutual interchange of views? A.—Yes; if there is any grievance we, of course, endeavor to remove it, if it is a fair one; but we have never had any complaints. This is the only case in which we have had any difficulty.

Q.—Where do you get the iron and steel you use in your establishment? A.—The iron we have now in the yard is Canadian—Nova Scotia iron—and the balance is Scotch scrap such as car wheels, that we buy from parties who negotiate with railways for their old metal.

Q.—Does the Canadian iron give you satisfaction? A.—Generally. It has given satisfaction when we get the proper brand. Of course, this we have now we had to supplement with a large allowance of other iron. It was a harder grade—too hard; the general Canadian iron is good.

Q.—Where do you find the market for your products? A.—Our market is from Halifax to Vancouver.

Q.—Do you export any goods? A.—We have not exported much. We have exported only in a few instances. We sent some few machines to the old country and sold them at the Colonial Exhibition.

Q.—You sent them to the Colonial Exhibition? A.—Yes; we had a full list of our machines there.

Q.—How do they compare with English tools shown there? A.—At that exhibition there were no English products, they were all Colonial products, and of course we could not make any comparison with English machines. While in England I examined a great many of the English shops, such as Whitworths and the Manchester shops, and I think our tools, which are based to a great extent on American styles, are more handy than the English; in fact, the English are introducing American styles.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have the wages of your men ever been garnisheed? A.—I think in one instance, if I remember rightly.

Q.—Do you not think on general principles that the payment of wages weekly would decrease garnisheeing? A.—I could not say, because we never had that difficulty to contend with very much, except in that one case. There may, perhaps, have been one or two cases, but I do not remember of any other than the one.

Q.—Those boys who ran away, and whom you had arrested: did you ever hear from them the reasons why they ran away? A.—There is one case I remember and he ran away by the advice of some of the hands, I think. He admitted that. It was simply because there was a man working on a machine who had not served his time. That was a long time ago, and the boy thought he was not bound to carry out his agreement. But this man had worked machinery for a long time and had been for a number of years on machines so as to know all about them. He had worked more than four years, and if he has done so in a regular shop that stands for learning the trade. For instance, if we take on an apprentice who has been unable to fulfil his agreement with another shop we allow him the time he made in the other shop. The man in question had worked four years at the trade.

Q.—You never heard it stated by any of the boys who went away that they did so from being over-worked or from a little ill-treatment? A.—No; in fact there has been so little of that with us that just two cases of boys running away have happened with us.

Q.—Do you think your men live comfortably? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many of them have houses of their own? A.—A great many. We get a better class of men in Dundas than they do in the cities; we get better skilled labor at the same money, for they are able to live cheaper in Dundas.

Q.—Is house rent cheaper in Dundas than in Hamilton? A.—Yes; and they can buy their own properties here. A great many of our men have houses of their own.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Do you do any thing in the tool line? A.—Our business is machinists' tools—lathes, planing machines and so on, not hand tools.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you believe in a compulsory indenture system? A.—Yes; we think it is the right way to make workmen. In the United States they have dropped that system to a great extent and it is doing injury to the trade; in fact, the mechanical journals speak about it as an evil. They have to draw their men from other countries and consequently Canadian workmen going over there are considered better than workmen who have learned their business in a make-shift way.

Q.—Are the apprentices placed at one part of the business and afterwards at another part, or do you keep them continually at one class of work? A.—When a boy is apprenticed for four years his time is divided into two classes of work; he begins with one and goes to another. If he agrees to learn vice-work and fitting we give him one year afterwards, which makes five years, if he is satisfied to do it.

Q.—Do these three branches complete your entire business? A.—Yes.

SAMUEL LENNARD, Hosiery Manufacturer, Dundas, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

- Q.—Your place of business is in Dundas, I believe? A.—Yes.
- Q.—What is the name of your firm? A.—Lennard, Sons & Bickford.
- Q.—Do you make cotton and woollen goods? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Underware and hosiery, and that class of goods? A.—No; we do not make shirts or drawers, but ladies' goods—mits, ladies' hosiery, boys' suits, and goods of that character.
- Q.—What class of labor is employed by you? A.—We employ a great deal of female labor.
- Q.—Do you employ young men? A.—We have about fifteen men, fifteen boys and sixty girls.
- Q.—Are those all employed in the factory or do they take work to their homes? A.—These we employ in the factory. We give a certain amount of work outside.
- Q.—The men who work for you, are they skilled workmen? A.—We have educated them since we commenced.
- Q.—They had no particular skill in this work before they began to work for you? A.—No.
- Q.—What wages are they able to earn, on an average? A.—Young men and those who are older will get \$1.50 to \$2 a day.
- Q.—Do the boys who work for you learn any particular business with you? A.—Yes; we educate them in the art of knitting.
- Q.—What are they able to earn? A.—When they commence they generally earn \$3 per week; we usually give them that sum.
- Q.—Are they indentured? A.—No.
- Q.—How long do they work before they become skilled workmen? A.—That depends upon the individuals themselves. Some are much more apt than others. There are some who have been more or less familiar with the machine; others have never seen one before.
- Q.—Women and girls both work for you, I suppose? A.—Yes.
- Q.—How long experience do they require before they become fairly skilled? A.—It depends upon the class of work upon which they are engaged. As sewers they will learn to be good operators in six months, but efficient in two years.
- Q.—After two years, what wages will they earn? A.—Eight dollars per week.
- Q.—Are many of them able to earn as much as \$8 per week? A.—Yes.
- Q.—What do the young girls that just begin earn? A.—About \$3 per week.
- Q.—What hours do they work? A.—We make sixty hours in the week. We commence at a quarter before seven in the morning and discontinue at 6.30 in the evening, taking one hour for dinner.
- Q.—Are those hours not rather long for young girls to work? A.—They never complain: they seem all healthy and lively.
- Q.—Do many of them become ill or lie off on account of want of strength? A.—No; it is not the amount of bodily labor they have to perform; the machines are all self-acting.
- Q.—It is not hard work, then? A.—No; not at all; it is merely the application.
- Q.—Do the girls mostly live with their parents? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Do you know, as a rule, whether they have their own money to spend or do they take it home to their parents? A.—That is a question into which I have never inquired.
- Q.—What kind of wool do you use? A.—All kinds.
- Q.—Do you use Canadian wools? A.—Yes; and foreign wools also.
- Q.—Do you use Cape wools and imported wools, for example? A.—Yes; of course. Southdown is the best grown here for our purpose.
- Q.—Do you use that for the finer hosiery and grades of the better class? A.—It is the finest Canadian wool and is the most useful in our business. But there is a finer wool which is imported, which we use to a great extent.

Q.—Is that merino? A.—It would be perhaps as fine as Australian wool, and these come under the same class with regard to fibre; one may be as fine as another, but it is not as suitable for our purpose.

Q.—You require high grades of wool in your business? A.—We use from the very lowest up to the most expensive—the very best.

Q.—Where do you find the market for your goods? A.—From the Maritime Provinces all through to British Columbia.

Q.—Do you export any goods? A.—We do not export any.

Q.—Are your establishments warmed in cold weather? A.—Yes; we always keep the steam running through the pipes and the engineer is supposed to be there three-quarters of an hour at least before we commence work, and my son will be there at least twenty minutes before they commence. Every thing is in running order before we think of starting.

Q.—Have you separate conveniences for males and females? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are the machines at all dangerous to life and limb? A.—Not at all. The hands can run into danger, of course, with the most simple machinery, but ours are so well protected that we never have an accident.

Q.—When the factory inspector visited your factory did he find fault with any of the machinery, as regards want of protection, and so on? A.—Not the slightest.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Did he visit your factory? A.—He did.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Have you heard whether he found fault anywhere? A.—No; I have not heard.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How many hands have you in your establishment? A.—About one hundred.

Q.—How many of those one hundred receive \$2 per day? A.—There might be twenty.

Q.—What are the wages of the youngest child on going to the business? A.—It depends a great deal on the capacity. Some will take to it very quickly as compared with others.

Q.—Those whose capacity enables them to take it up quickly, what do they earn when they go to work? A.—We will put them down at \$5 per week.

Q.—Do you pay any under \$3 per week? A.—They are just there for sweeping.

Q.—How much per week do you give them? A.—Two dollars per week.

Q.—Then \$2 per week is the lowest rate of wages you give to young girls? A.—Yes. There may be as many boys as girls engaged in that capacity.

Q.—Do those all work sixty hours per week? A.—They are all supposed to work sixty hours per week.

Q.—And a young woman, a good hand, what wages would she get—take one there for two years? A.—They are mostly employed on piece-work, and the more skilled they become the more money they can earn.

Q.—Taking such a girl on piece-work, what would be her average wages? A.—We have girls who can earn \$8 or \$9 per week, quite a few of them.

Q.—Are any of your hands connected with any labor organization in Dundas? A.—We never enquire into that; we allow them to please themselves.

Q.—You never interfere in that matter? A.—No; not at all.

Q.—Are there many young women who can earn \$4 per week? A.—There will be some, of course. If they had any ambition it would lead them to earn more; and they are naturally anxious to do as much work as those beside them, and the more work they can do the better we like them.

Q.—Did you ever hear them complain about working too long on Saturday, and that they would like to have Saturday afternoon? A.—They always get Saturday afternoon. That is the reason why they work till 6:30 in the evening; it is to close on Saturday at 1 o'clock.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—That gives you the five hours? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do those young girls eat their dinners in the factory, or do they all go home? A.—They all go home, except one or two who stay there.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Was it at your suggestion that the hours were changed, or was it the desire of the hands? A.—I have been accustomed to run a factory, and it was our suggestion. We would rather that they have a half-day.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are any of your hands fined if they are late in the morning? A.—If they are five minutes late we would not take any notice of it, but if it is more than that, and it is continued, it would not do to have it occurring frequently, because we require the production of the mill in all its departments.

Q.—Have you ever fined them? A.—If they are working on time and they are away for so long they expect to be fined; if they lose one hour it is deducted from them.

Q.—Do you deduct only one hour? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do the piece-workers go under the same rule? A.—No; we keep a time-book for all time-hands. We are supposed to know when they come to work and when they leave.

Q.—I suppose they are fined the same amount in proportion to what they earn per hour? A.—Yes; in the same proportion.

Q.—Do you think the working people spend Saturday afternoon for their benefit and improvement by having a little exercise, and so on? A.—Yes; we have a very respectable class of hands and we are very particular with them.

EDWIN S. GILBERT, Book-keeper, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You have a statement to make to the Commission, I understand? A.—Yes; I, with two other gentlemen, represent the Hamilton Land Tax Club.

Q.—Will you make your statement, and we shall feel obliged if you will make it as brief as possible? A.—The club has been in existence here for only a few months. It has been organized as a protest against the existing system of taxation. We think the present system of taxation is responsible for a great deal of the poverty that exists, and although we have no fault to find with the way in which riches are accumulated in certain hands, yet we have a great complaint to make against the way in which opportunities for acquiring wealth are afforded.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Tell us the principles of your association—what you seek? A.—We seek to have the present system of taxation entirely abolished.

Q.—How do you propose to do it? A.—We wish to have the present taxation gradually shifted from the products of labor to land, so that eventually the whole tax will rest on land. This, in fact, is the substance of our claim.

Q.—How do you mean to carry out those principles? A.—We simply propose to carry them out by legislation.

Q.—You say that taxes should be put upon land. Do you mean to say that all the revenue required for the Government is to be obtained from taxes on land? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Do you believe a single tax would accomplish all necessary purposes?

A.—We believe that it would. Of course, it is impossible to give figures. It is impossible to go to any country where this system has been adopted and give figures from the experience there. It is simply a theory at present.

The CHAIRMAN.—Yes; and therefore it is beyond our authority to hear anything on that point.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you know whether the taxes in Hamilton are placed mostly on the buildings or on the land? A.—No; I do not.

Q.—You have not been able to separate that portion of the taxes? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know what the increased taxes on land would be under your system? A.—It would be impossible to give a direct answer to that question now, I think.

Q.—Do you know whether a man occupying an average residence, worth \$1,000, would pay more taxes or less than he now pays? Have you studied the matter out so as to be able to give facts? A.—I could not give figures.

Q.—Would you levy this tax so as finally to take from the present owner the whole of his individual interest in the land? A.—Yes.

Q.—Would you reimburse him for that? A.—Not at all.

Q.—Would you simply take from him the property of which he is now possessed? A.—No; we do not propose to take away his property; we would leave him in possession.

Q.—You would leave him in possession, but you would tax him to the full value? A.—We would tax him up to the full annual value.

Q.—How would you ascertain the value that would remain in the property? How much taxes would be imposed on any particular lot? A.—In much the same way as the landlord would find out at the present time how much he could calculate on obtaining.

Q.—Does he not find that out by the saleable value of the property? A.—No; I think by the amount of land he can get for it.

Q.—Then you would put up the land, from time to time, to the highest bidder?

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you know that that Henry George says that would be the practical effect of his plan? A.—What?

Q.—That the land would be put up to public auction? A.—Yes; I am aware that he claims that would be the effect in regard to vacant land.

Q.—Are you aware that Henry George says that the practical effect of his plan, which you have given, would be that the owners of property would, without distinction, put their properties up to auction in order to get rid of them? A.—No; I do not exactly understand the question.

Q.—He says that if taxes are imposed which a property owner cannot pay he will put up his property to auction. A.—That is, so far as a house is concerned.

Q.—But you cannot sell a house without selling the land. If the land belongs to you and the house to me, I do not see that I can have very much use of the house? A.—The holder of a piece of land might offer it for sale, but under the system we advocate it would not be worth any thing more than the value of the improvements on it, that is, when the system was in full operation.

Q.—How would it be worth the improvements if I am not the holder of the land? A.—We would leave you the holder of the land.

Q.—And I would have to pay all the taxes on it? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then what would the improvements be worth to me? A.—The community would be benefited rather than individuals.

Q.—Then there would be really no change? A.—No; the fact that the land in the neighborhood, which may be now held vacant, would be thrown into the market, would make it impossible for you to retain it.

Q.—But where there is no vacant land, such as in the large towns, your rule would not apply? A.—It would apply, I think, in most of the cities.

Q.—There are very few vacant lots in large cities? A.—If this city extends further it might apply.

Q.—But in many streets it would not apply? A.—No; in the streets, certainly.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Have not the owners of vacant property been taxed in this city? A.—Yes.

Q.—For what purpose have they been taxed? A.—I presume, for the purpose of raising revenue.

Q.—They have been taxed for the construction of streets? A.—Yes.

Q.—Also for the building of sewers? A.—I presume so.

Q.—Also for the construction of public buildings? A.—Yes.

Q.—Also for the construction of waterworks? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think it is just to ask those men to pay taxes, and then to take away from the value which those taxes have created? A.—We would not propose to take away the value of them.

Q.—What would you leave them? A.—As members of the community they would have the same benefit in regard to those public buildings and sewers, as they had before.

Q.—What value would a man have in a sewer if he had no property? A.—If that mistake has been made in the past we see no reason why it should be continued.

Q.—Assuming it to be a mistake, was it made with the consent and approbation of the whole community and the law? A.—I believe it has been so made. The people who own this land and have been paying taxes on this vacant land have had a voice in making the laws.

Q.—Has not the whole community been a party to this mistake, if it be a mistake? A.—No.

Q.—Who has dissented from it? A.—Perhaps none have dissented, but there are always people coming into the country and being born into the country.

Q.—But I ask, who have dissented from the existing order of things under which the people have been taxed for local improvements on vacant property? A.—Those people I have mentioned have not had an opportunity to dissent.

Q.—They have not had an opportunity to dissent? A.—Yes; because they were not here.

Q.—The community which has been here has been a party to this taxation, has it not? A.—Yes.

Q.—Without having been a party to this taxation has it not? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you consider it just, the whole community having been a party to this state of things, to take away values created by that taxation and those payments without compensation? A.—Yes.

JOHN PEEBLES, Shoe-maker, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You are another member of this deputation, I believe? A.—I come from the Hamilton Land Tax Club.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What have you to say more as to facts. We cannot go into discussions on theories; we leave that to books and pamphlets? A.—The land tax is one which has not had a practical demonstration, and you cannot give a practical demonstration of it until it is tried.

Q.—If it is a mere essay you wish to deliver you can read that in a book, and its publication will cost nothing to the Government. Have you any facts? A.—What we propose telling you is what we wish to see done.

Q.—What is that? A.—We wish to see, in the first place, the taxes collected on the land values because we believe the land belongs to the people. Another reason is, that we believe that the income tax and personal property tax is a tax which it is almost impossible to fairly collect, because it is impossible to get the exact income of every individual or the proper amount of his personal property. We therefore claim that this would be more a just system of taxation, because a land value is a value always there and one which cannot be altered; it is always outside and cannot be seen. The value of personal property and of merchants' stock is always a matter of doubt, and the question of its value entirely rests with the owner himself, and depends upon whether he is an honest man or not. As a rule, he does not give an honest value.

The CHAIRMAN.—What you are telling us has been published. We have not come here to listen to extracts from Henry George's book.

Mr. FREED.—I desire to remind the witness of the object of the Commission. (A circular stating the objects of the Commission read). I grant that theories respecting land have a certain connection with the condition of the working classes. As one member of this Commission I am perfectly willing to hear facts bearing upon the contention of the witness, but I submit that theoretical essays ought hardly to be received by the Commission.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Where it is known that lands in cities are held for speculative purposes you think large taxes should be placed on such lands? A.—I do not know that large taxation should be placed on those lands or on particular lands in certain localities; but we hold that the value of the land, without including any improvements, should be taxed to its full annual value. This would result in making it unprofitable for any one to hold land for speculative purposes.

Q.—And you think the result would be that house rent would be cheaper? A.—Yes; it would have the result of cheapening the rents.

Q.—Do you believe a single land tax would serve all purposes, without any other special tax being levied for Government? A.—Yes; a single land tax. The value of the land in New York city is estimated at ten times the taxes at present raised by the revenue of that city. That is an estimate made by Henry George.

Q.—You believe in taking off taxation from improved property? A.—Yes; and placing it on the value of the land without improvements; a value is added to it by the community.

The CHAIRMAN.—We can find all that in Henry George's book. Please tell us some facts connected with Hamilton.

WITNESS.—A number of years ago, when this city was scarcely a city at all, a portion of land on the corner of James and King streets was sold for a barrel of whiskey. The other day, one of the two stores on that lot was sold for \$25,000. The building is undoubtedly not worth more than from \$5,000 to \$7,000, so that the balance is the increased value of the land. We claim that the value of the land belongs to the community, and the community should reap the advantage by levying a tax equal to its full annual value.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What store was sold for \$25,000? A.—The one Treble is in, I understand.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Did it belong to the same owner, or did it belong to the man who bought it for a barrel of whiskey? A.—No; I suppose it has changed hands.

Q.—Supposing the man who held it paid \$25,000 for it and sold it for \$25,000, what is the harm? Supposing I bought a house for \$25,000 last year and sold it for \$25,000 this year on credit, do you think I should lose the \$25,000? A.—We think if the land value belongs to the community it matters not in whose hands the property should be, but it should be taken from him.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Is it within your knowledge that the land was sold for a barrel of whiskey?
A.—I can give as an authority Mr. Brieley, a druggist, who is an old resident.

Q.—Is the fact within his knowledge? A.—I believe so.

Q.—How long has Mr. Brieley lived in Hamilton? A.—A great many years.

Q.—Is it within your knowledge that the property was sold for \$25,000? A.—I received that knowledge from the same source.

Q.—Then what you are telling us about this property is mere hearsay? A.—Yes; it is what Mr. Brieley told me.

Q.—If a wealthy man owns a lot of land and builds an expensive house upon it, and if a comparatively poor man owns a lot of land adjoining and puts up a small house on it, would you have them, in proportion to the size of the land, pay equal taxes? A.—Yes.

Q.—Would not that make the position of the workingman or the comparatively poor man worse instead of better? A.—No; I think not, because the tax upon improvements is a tax upon industry and the building of smaller houses, and the benefit that would result to the poorer man on account of the application of such a tax all over the city would more than compensate him for what he might have to pay additional in taxation.

Q.—You believe the taking away of a man's property would be for the public good? A.—We do not consider it so. We do not consider it as wronging a man to put taxes on his property for the benefit of the people at large.

Q.—In that way the taxes would amount to the value of the property? A.—In time, no doubt, we propose to bring it to the annual value of the property: that is the regular value minus the improvements, together with the value added to it by the community.

The CHAIRMAN.—We cannot republish Henry George's book in our evidence.

WITNESS.—We understood the Commission was in Hamilton to hear evidence of the material and intellectual prosperity of the working classes. We consider Henry George's theories are sound.

The CHAIRMAN.—If every man comes here with a pamphlet, we cannot be expected to publish it.

WITNESS.—I suppose it remains with you to say what shall be heard—we do not question that right. If you do not wish to receive any more evidence, or theory, as you call it, we cannot help it.

Mr. FREED.—That is what we wish to receive—evidence, not theory. If you come here with facts we will hear them. All I object to is listening to mere theory, which cannot be demonstrated.

WITNESS.—The great difficulty in a matter of this kind is to draw the line where facts stop.

Mr. FREED.—I am sure we will be pleased to hear any member of the deputation, all of whom are respectable or influential citizens of Canada, if they have facts to tell us. I think they will see we cannot receive mere essays here, because our time is valuable on the one hand, and printing is expensive on the other, and the Government will certainly hold us to a responsible account for the expenses we incur.

GEORGE METCALFE, Painter, Hamilton, called and sworn.

I am here on behalf of the Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators to give information in regard to the painting trade in Hamilton. The wages in the city at the present time are from \$1.50 to \$2.50 a day.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How many hours constitute a day's work? A.—Ten hours in summer; in the winter time, about eight hours here.

Q.—And how much do you receive per hour? A.—From 15 cents to 22½ cents per hour.

Q.—According to the ability of the man? A.—That was the agreement we entered into last February with the bosses in the city.

Q.—Does that hold good still? A.—Yes.

Q.—During how long a portion of the year can a man work at painting? A.—A man could work the year round provided he got the right kind of work—provided he got inside work during the winter time; but as a general thing the average time put in by men amounts to about eight months in the year.

Q.—Do you not think the average painter will work longer than eight months in the year? A.—No; we have averaged it up, and the average amount received by a man who receives 20 cents per hour was about \$360 for last summer. There are some who have earned more; some have made \$500; there are others who have not made over \$300, but the average is about \$360.

Q.—Is painting very hard work? A.—In the spring time it is, that is in the house cleaning time, when there is much harder work than the rest of the year.

Q.—Are the men much exposed to heat and cold while they are doing outside work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there danger to the painters in regard to the scaffolds? A.—Yes; there is danger from the breaking of scaffolds or ladders. In fact, as a rule, painters have worse scaffolds and ladders to work on than any other mechanics.

Q.—Is that to any extent their own fault? A.—The scaffolding is always put up for them. In the case of scaffolds and of ladders they have to work on whatever the bosses give them.

Q.—Is the trade unhealthy? A.—Some men appear to think so, but there are men I have known who have worked at the trade up to seventy years of age. Of course, they had very strong constitutions.

Q.—Are painters very subject to lead poisoning? A.—It depends on the class of work. If it is inside work, what we call flatting, they are likely to get lead poisoning, provided they are kept at it for any length of time, as the turpentine carrying the fumes of the lead goes into the lungs with every breath they draw.

Q.—A witness in another town told us that if the men were careful to wash their hands, and not put their hands to their mouth they would not be subject to lead poisoning. What do you think as to that? A.—Of course, I have not had experience to say whether such would be the case or not; but from what I have heard and from what I think myself, I believe that a man working on flatting will be liable to get lead poisoning in the course of a few years, as there is always a certain amount of odor arising from poisonous material, and lead and some-greens are very poisonous. Of course, at the present time the paints used are not so poisonous as they were in the past.

Q.—Why? A.—Because the manufacturers make up the paints by a quicker process and without using so many poisons.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—They dry sooner? A.—I cannot answer that question, as it all depends on the oil used.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Is it not to some extent because barytes is used instead of lead? A.—Yes; but there has been more lead used in the city now during the past three years than during the past twenty years.

Q.—Have you a trades union? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do most of the painters belong to it? A.—We have only been organized since May last into a new organization called the Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators. Before that we were attached to the Knights of Labor, but we did not think we could have an organization on as satisfactory a basis in that way as if we were by ourselves, as in the case of arbitration we would have men to arbitrate for us who did not know anything about the business.

Q.—Are the rates of wages fixed by compromise between the men and the employers? A.—They were last winter. Most of us wished to have a basis of 20 cents per hour all round for good and bad, as it has been know to be a fact that where there was a graded scale of wages a poorer class of men received more work than the better class did; and as in the winter time, when there is mostly ordinary painting to be done, men receiving 15 cents per hour would be kept on in preference to men receiving 20 or 22 cents per hour, for one could do that class of work as well as the other.

Q.—If employers send men out to do work do they charge by the hour for the men's time or do they charge by the job? A.—In some cases they charge by the hour and in other cases they take the job by the lump.

Q.—If they send out men whose time they charge by the hour will they send the highest priced man or a cheap man? A.—It depends on how busy they are, I suppose, and the ability of the men to do the work required.

Q.—If they send a low-priced man out to do the work will they charge the same rate per hour as if they sent a high priced man? A.—I have reason to believe they would.

Q.—Do you know it as a fact? A.—I am not sure.

Q.—Are there many apprentices taken to your trade? A.—Last spring, in February, when we had a meeting with the bosses we had an understanding that no shop should have more than two apprentices at the trade, and that all the apprentices should be bound for four years.

Q.—Did the employers agree to that? A.—Yes; at least their deputation did.

Q.—They have carried out that agreement, I suppose? A.—They have not.

Q.—In what respect have they voided the agreement? A.—Some shops have taken on more apprentices than that number, and none of the shops have, so far as I know, bound any apprentices.

Q.—Is it not reasonable that employers having a larger number of men should have more apprentices than those who employ a smaller number of men? A.—It is reasonable in one way, but it is desirable to look at both sides of the question. We do not wish to have the trade over-run with young men who have put in a couple of years at the business, and who then start out as journeymen painters, which is the case at present.

Q.—How long do you think a boy should work at the trade before he becomes sufficiently skilled to become a good journeyman painter? A.—Four years.

Q.—You think he cannot acquire the requisite skill and training before that time, taking a boy of fair average ability? A.—Some boys learn quicker than others. While one would be a good painter in three years another boy would take five years to learn the trade, and there are a great many who never learn what some others do.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Suppose you were going to learn the trade to-morrow, would you be willing to serve four years? A.—I cannot hardly put myself in that position.

Q.—But supposing you were placed in that position? A.—It would depend on circumstances.

Q.—If you were seventeen years old, would you like to apprentice yourself to serve four years? A.—Yes; with a good man.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What class of hands receive \$2.25 per day? A.—Men who can do first-class paper-hanging, and graining and sign-writing.

Q.—Are all those apprentices in one trade or are they distinct trades? A.—They are all in the one trade. Some men are better than others at certain branches and have had, perhaps, better advantages.

Q.—You are a branch of the International Body formed last year, I believe? A.

—Yes.

Q.—Can you tell us some benefits of organization? A.—There is a sick benefit; each separate union pays a certain amount for sick benefit, according to their dues. The sick benefit is \$3 a week, with doctor and attendance if required. There is a wife's death benefit of \$25 to three months' members and \$50 to one year's members. Then there is a death benefit of \$50 on a six months' membership and after one year's membership \$100. Those are the benefits derived.

Q.—Are those benefits derived out of the ordinary fees? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much is that fee? A.—Forty cents per month.

Q.—Since May last, when you were organized, have you received any benefit in Hamilton through organized trade? A.—I am sorry to say that one of our members lost his wife the day before yesterday and he will receive a benefit of \$25.

Q.—I refer to trade matters? A.—No; we do not wish to put our members to the test of asking anything at the present time from our employers, although we have not been dealt with justly in the past. Our membership is not large enough to admit of our asking for anything at present.

Q.—Do you think the painting business, as a special skilled industry, is paid as well as other highly-skilled industries are in this country? A.—I do not. It is not so much in regard to the rate of wages as to the amount of time we lose during the year. A great many members of the trade do not receive sufficient to keep them on anything more than the bare necessities of life all the year round. A man has got to put by all he can during the summer to keep him during the winter.

Q.—In case of labor troubles, have you any rules that compel the members to resort to arbitration before they go to the extreme measure of a strike? A.—Yes; our rules lay down that there should be arbitration before anything else.

Q.—In the case of a demand for a raise of wages, is it the rule to give notice for any length of time before hand? A.—We have done so always.

Q.—Do you believe in that?—Yes; six years ago when we first formed an organization here, a painters' union, we sent notice to the bosses three months in advance that we would ask for a raise. That worked hard on us at the time, because the bosses picked out the weak ones, and when the men went out the weak ones staid in. We did not understand unionism then, or a great number of us did not, as some of us were too young to understand the workings of unionism, which you have to learn by experience. I do not think there are any painters in the union who would resort to violence or do anything to the bosses but what they would think was right, both as regards themselves and the bosses.

Q.—At present I believe there is a harmonious feeling existing between the employers and the employés? A.—Amongst some of them; there is not amongst the lot, on account of the way in which some of the men have been used by the bosses and on account of the violation of the apprentice system and the hiring of cheap men, who do not know the business.

Q.—Do you find any immigrants in your trade coming to Hamilton? A.—No; I do not know of any—yes; I know of immigrants, in one sense of the word.

Q.—Do they belong to your trade? A.—Yes; there are some few, but they do not come directly here.

Q.—Do they come to other parts of Canada? A.—Yes; they come from the old country and different parts of Europe to the United States and then they strike here and sometimes stop here. There are some few at present here who have been immigrants.

Q.—Have you in Hamilton a federation building trade? A.—We have not, but the different organizations are made for that purpose.

Q.—Do you think it would be best for all concerned? A.—I do.

Q.—Is there a federation of trade among employers of labor in the building trade in Hamilton? A.—No; not unless the Central Labor Union could be called so.

Q.—I mean of employers? A.—No; not that I know of.

Q.—There is no connection with the board of trade? A.—I cannot say; there is an association, but I do not know one boss belonging to it, so I cannot say that it can be claimed as such.

GEORGE METCALF, the previous witness, was re-called, and said :—I think I gave a wrong impression about the highest wages. I merely gave the highest and lowest wages received. I did not say how many or how few received them. I did not wish to give any wrong impression.

The Commission then adjourned till 8 o'clock.

J. HOLMES, Painter, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You have heard the evidence of other witnesses in your trade—do you confirm their evidence? A.—I approve of everything, except in regard to the high rate of wages paid. I don't believe men are receiving \$2.25 a day here, except perhaps about four.

Q.—What will be the average amount earned by an ordinary journeyman the year round? A.—The average for the year round will be \$1.20 or \$1.25 a day for a first-class painter.

Q.—What would be the average for an inferior hand? A.—Sometimes they get as much as the first-class hands—that is, so far as my opinion goes. I believe there are times in winter when the bosses put inferior hands on the outside jobs. They will cover more ground and are not so particular in doing the work in good style.

Q.—Those are men who only know how to paint a barn? A.—Yes. I served my apprenticeship here; I did not quite fill out my time; I served two years and nine months, and three years afterwards I became a practical man. I do not want to take the bread out of any man's mouth who understands his business.

Q.—Do you say you served your time here. A.—Yes; in Hamilton.

Q.—Have you ever worked in your business outside of Canada, in the United States? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the difference between the wages here and the wages paid in a similar city in the United States? A.—Twenty-five or thirty per cent. difference.

Q.—Is that difference in favor of the United States? A.—Yes.

Q.—Take the same class of house in an American city of the same size as compared with a house here: what would be the difference in rent? A.—That is a difficult question to answer. There are different parts of the United States where the provisions may be a little higher.

Q.—I have reference to house rent? A.—That depends on where you are located.

Q.—In an ordinary locality, I am supposing? A.—I have travelled through the United States single a good deal, and I have also kept house there. When I kept house in Brooklyn I paid \$14 a month rent. My wages then were \$3.25 a day.

Q.—Can you get a superior house in Hamilton to that you were occupying in Brooklyn for \$14 a month? A.—No; I could not. I was in a tenement house in Brooklyn.

Q.—Can you get a better house in Hamilton for that money? A.—Yes; I could not begin to hire a house for \$14 a month out of my wages here.

Q.—Do you know if there is a material difference in the cost of the necessaries of life in Brooklyn, as between Brooklyn and here, to a married man? A.—There are some things cheaper and some things dearer. I would say that in Brooklyn I would pay 25 per cent. over and above what I pay in Hamilton.

Q.—Did you work in New York? A.—No; I worked in Brooklyn.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—On what articles would you pay 25 per cent. more? A.—Mostly on meat and potatoes, and everything like that.

Q.—How about flour? A.—I find it pretty nearly the same in Hamilton.

Q.—How about butter? A.—That is a little dearer.

Q.—On the whole, you think the difference is about 25 per cent.? A.—Yes; taking everything together—and I was 50 per cent. better paid there.

Q.—How do you come to that conclusion? A.—I managed to save about \$75 inside of eight months there, and I was a married man.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Do you not think you were more economical there? A.—No.

Q.—You spent just as much there as here? A.—Just as much.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Would you get a house as near your work in Brooklyn as in Hamilton. A.—No.

Q.—You would have to pay street car fares? A.—Yes; but I lived right in a neighborhood where a 5-cent car fare would take me to any part of Brooklyn; that would amount to 10 cents a day. I could have got a house probably a little cheaper in the outskirts, probably \$3 a month less; but of course you do not get any house to yourself there; you are in a tenement. A man of this country naturally cannot make a home there, as regards comfort and everything of that kind.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—In this tenement house how many rooms would a man get for \$14? Would he get a whole flat? A.—My flat was on the third story, and consisted of four rooms.

The Commission resumed at 8 p.m.

THOMAS TOWERS, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What is your occupation? A.—Carpenter.

Q.—You are the District Master of the Knights of Labor for Hamilton? A.—Yes.

Q.—Will you state the principles of the Knights of Labor?

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Have you a printed declaration that you call a charter? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you leave the book? A.—Yes. (Put in). The declaration of principles of the Knights of Labor of America is as follow:—

To the Public.

The alarming development and aggressiveness of great capitalists and corporations, unless checked, will inevitably lead to the pauperization and hopeless degradation of the toiling masses.

It is imperative, if we desire to enjoy the full blessings of life, that a check be placed upon unjust accumulation and the power of evil of aggregated wealth.

This much desired object can be accomplished only by the united efforts of those who obey the Divine injunction, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread."

Therefore we have formed the Order of Knights of Labor, for the purpose of organizing and directing the power of the masses, not as a political party, for it is more—in it are crystalized sentiments and measures for the benefit of the whole people; but it should be borne in mind, when exercising the right of suffrage, that most of the objects herein set forth can only be obtained through legislation, and that it is the duty of all to assist in nominating and supporting, with their votes, only such candidates as will pledge themselves to vote for those measures, regardless of party. But no one shall be compelled to vote with the majority. And calling upon all who believe in securing "the greatest good to the greatest number" to join and assist us, we declare to the world that our aims are:

1. To make industrial and moral worth, not wealth, the true standard of individual and national greatness.

2. To secure to the workers the full enjoyment of the wealth they create, sufficient leisure in which to develop their intellectual, moral and social faculties; all of the benefits, recreations and pleasures of association—in a word, to enable them to share in the gains and honors of advancing civilization.

In order to secure these results, we demand at the hands of the State:

3. The establishment of bureaus of labor statistics, that we may arrive at a correct knowledge of the educational, moral and financial condition of the laboring masses.

4. That the public lands, the heritage of the people, be reserved for actual settlers, not another acre for railroads or speculators, and that all lands now held for speculative purposes be taxed to their full value.

5. The abrogation of all laws that do not bear equally upon capital and labor, and the removal of unjust technicalities, delays and discriminations in the administration of justice.

6. The adoption of measures providing for the health and safety of those engaged in mining, manufacturing and building industries, and for indemnification of those engaged therein for injuries received through lack of necessary safeguards.

7. The recognition, by incorporation, of trades' unions, orders and such other associations as may be organized by the working masses to improve their condition and protect their rights.

8. The enactment of laws to compel corporations to pay their employes weekly, in lawful money, for the labor of the preceding week, and giving mechanics and laborers a first lien upon the product of their labor to the extent of their full wages.

9. The abolition of the contract system on national, State and municipal works.

10. The enactment of laws providing for arbitration between employers and employed, and to enforce the decision of the arbitrators.

11. The prohibition by law of the employment of children, under fifteen years of age in workshops, mines and factories.

12. To prohibit the hiring out of convict labor.

13. That a graduated income tax be levied.

And we demand at the hands of Congress (in Canada, of the Federal Government):

14. The establishment of a national monetary system, in which a circulating medium in necessary quantity shall issue direct to the people, without the intervention of banks; that all the national issue shall be full legal tender in payment of all debts, public and private, and that the Government shall not guarantee or recognize any private banks, or create any banking corporations.

15. That interest-bearing bonds, bills of credit or notes, shall never be issued by the Government, but that, when need arises, the emergency shall be met by issue of legal tender, non-interest-bearing money.

16. That the importation of foreign labor under contract be prohibited.

17. That in connection with the post office, the Government shall organize financial exchanges, safe deposits and facilities for deposit of the savings of the people in small sums. (Secured in Canada).

18. That the Government shall obtain possession, by purchase under the right of eminent domain, of all telegraphs, telephones and railroads, and that hereafter no charter or license be issued to any corporation for construction or operation of any means of transporting intelligence, passengers or freight. And while making the foregoing demands upon the State and National Government, we will endeavor to associate our own laborers.

19. To establish co-operative institutions such as will tend to supersede the wage system, by the introduction of a co-operative industrial system.

20. To secure for both sexes equal pay for equal work.

21. To shorten the hours of labor by a general refusal to work for more than eight hours.

22. To persuade employers to agree to arbitrate all differences which may arise

between them and their employés, in order that the bonds of sympathy between them may be strengthened and that strikes may be rendered unnecessary.

Q.—Your association is a secret association? A.—Not necessarily what you would call a secret association.

Q.—Do you admit the public to your meetings? A.—No.

Q.—Do you make known to the public what transpires at your private meetings? A.—It depends entirely upon the nature of the business.

Q.—You have business which you keep entirely to yourselves? A.—Of course; we have a ritual merely for our own protection.

Q.—You don't admit the public to witness the working of this ritual at all? A.—No.

Q.—Are you affiliated with the body in the United States? A.—Yes.

Q.—The General Master Workman lives in the United States? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you governed or controlled by the laws of the body in the United States? A.—Well, the body does not belong to the United States. The principle upon which it works is that it recognizes no national boundary; it is intended to unite workers of all countries. A Knight of Labor is supposed to be loyal to the institutions of his country, and to try to obtain all reforms through constitutional methods.

Q.—The question is, whether you, as a Knight of Labor, are not bound by your duties as a British subject, or by the laws of other countries? A.—We help to make those laws.

Q.—Do you help to make those laws—I mean, the laws of the association, not the laws of the United States? A.—We are bound to obey the laws of our association.

Q.—When an order is given in the United States, supposing the Hamilton association were against it, would you obey it for all that? A.—Well, I don't know; it would depend to a great extent on the order.

Q.—In some cases you would and in some cases you would not? A.—Yes; if it was constitutional we would obey it.

Q.—Constitutional with your constitution? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—I see the 11th article calls for the prohibition by law of the employment of children under fifteen years of age. Are you aware what the Ontario law is at present in that respect? A.—No; I am not.

Q.—It calls for the prohibition of the employment of children under fourteen years of age. Would you still ask for the extension of the law to the age of fifteen? A.—Yes.

Q.—You ask for the prohibition of the hiring out of convict labor. Do you hold that prisoners should be kept idle? A.—No, sir; I do not.

Q.—How would you manage the employment of them? You are giving us views of the Knights of Labor now, not your own individual views? A.—Well, there is great diversity upon that question, the same as many legislators hold as to that question—convict labor.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What are your own views? What are you going to do with convicts? You will admit they cannot be kept idle? A.—I should think if they were employed—

Q.—Do you say they could be kept idle? A.—No.

Q.—Mention your own views? A.—I believe the State should provide the necessary work for those convicts, and that the surplus that they would create over and above their keep should go towards maintaining their families.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Would you have the products of their labor sold in open market in Canada? A.—No, sir; we should object against that. I think that the products of convict

labor should be labelled as such, in order that those who want to buy anything may know what they are buying.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Might it not have a bad effect? Might not some of those who wanted to help the convicts be encouraged to buy their goods? A.—That may be.

Q.—It might pay any one to buy them? A.—Yes; but not in the present state of the labor market. I think they would rather purchase those manufactured by respectable industries. The state of the labor market would not warrant members of labor organizations purchasing outside their own circle, in order to keep up our strength, respectability and industries.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—I see the 16th article says that the importation of foreign labor under contract should be prohibited. Are you aware of the present state of the Ontario law on that subject? A.—I believe it is against foreign labor.

Q.—It declares that contracts made for labor in foreign countries shall not be binding in Ontario, as far as regards the men themselves. Is that satisfactory to the Knights of Labor? A.—No; we wish a Dominion Act on that question, because foreign labor under contract can be brought into Quebec, and competition with Quebec has a very injurious effect on Ontario markets.

Q.—Is it your opinion the Dominion Parliament has power to make such a law under the British North America Act? A.—Well, I fear——

Q.—Have you ever considered that several rights are held under the control of the provincial authorities? A.—Well, the line seems to be pretty finely drawn sometimes.

Q.—I see the 17th article says that in connection with the post office the Government shall organize financial exchanges, safe deposits and facilities for deposits of savings of the people in small sums. You are aware that has been done by the Dominion Government? A.—Yes; that affects the United States.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—There is not anything more secret about your organization than there is about trades' unions? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are you aware that the Federal Government has placed an embargo on the importation of Chinese into this country? A.—Yes.

Q.—You believe, too, on that principle, that it is within the power of the Federal Government to place an embargo on foreign truck labor? A.—Well, they have got some power; I know that; I cannot see where there is a difference.

The CHAIRMAN.—We are discussing a question of law, which requires a pretty strong man to decide. Perhaps it may have to go to the Privy Council. I know we asked for an opinion, but if an opinion is given by the Supreme Court, it will go to England, so we need not decide it here.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—The law is drawn, as far as Chinese labor is concerned.

The CHAIRMAN.—It is quite a different thing for us considering main wants.

Mr. FREED.—It is not Chinese labor but Chinese comparisons.

WITNESS.—Of course, the difficulty is the prohibition of the nationality.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—You are not bound by anything or afraid of any order from the heads of the organization to which you belong falling injuriously on your country in any way? A.—No; on the contrary, we are bound to uphold the institutions of that country.

Q.—Are not the clergy admitted into your order, the same as any person else? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know of any combination of manufacturers where everything they

do is done in secret? A.—Of course, I have never been admitted. I could not swear to it, or be positive as to that fact, but I know that the Ontario Iron Founders' Association is something of that nature. It is a secret association, just as much as the organization to which I belong.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Have they a ritual? A.—I don't suppose it is necessary. Identity of interests holds them fast.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Is there a combination of builders' trades? A.—Yes; there is the Master Carpenters, the Master Builders (bricklayers and stonemasons). In fact, in almost every branch employers have combined as well as workmen.

Q.—Could any one get in there who is a workingman? A.—I don't think so; I have never tried. Even the corner grocers have their association. Lawyers have theirs, and doctors have theirs.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Lawyers and doctors are incorporated by Act of Parliament? A.—Well, the District Assembly to-day, I believe, is incorporated.

Q.—Legal incorporation under the Ontario Act? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you find any benefit accruing from that incorporation? A.—Not much. We could own property but the law is not defined very well to suit our case. I think it would require some amendments before it would be of any service to us. We got into difficulty once with a storekeeper we had in a co-operative grocery, and before we got through with the case there was no grocery.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Are you trying to make the Order in Canada a national association? A.—There are some members in favor of that, but there are others who are not. Those who are in favor of it run more into politics, while those who are not are more of the intellectual reformers. They would rather work on an industrial basis, getting co-operation and working on that line, and waiting for the intelligence of the people to assert their rights—waiting for the development of intelligence.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you think it would start industrial co-operation, provided there was a national organization of the Knights of Labor for the Dominion? A.—It would, to a certain extent.

Q.—How, please? A.—You will understand there is a good deal of feeling exists between people of different nationalities. Now, I have been working in the United States for a couple of years, and I found over there that just because I was a Canadian there was a great deal of harshness used towards me which would not have been used if I had been an American, or if I had kept my views to myself. But the Order of the Knights of Labor is trying to do away with that feeling, which, I think, does no good, as it keeps working people apart, when they should be united, upon questions of vital importance to themselves, as working people in both countries. Their interests are identical, and I cannot see where a doubt should be created; and in the matter of co-operation it requires such an immense amount of capital for the development of the scheme, and the Knights of Labor think if we were to form a General Assembly for Canada it would remain an Order to a large extent composed of men who would go into this movement in Canada, but they would not understand the real principles of the organization so thoroughly as men who have worked in the Order from its inception. I think it would be best to maintain the connection between the Order in Canada and the Order in the United States. As it is to-day, we have power to form provincial assemblies, and govern ourselves—as you will see in our constitution—and the different States have the same power, and we are merely governed by the General Assembly, just the same as the Supreme Grand Lodge of

Oddfellows govern their body. The General Assembly has certain essential features that these smaller bodies have not, and we look to the superior body entirely for these benefits.

Q.—You need not answer this question unless you like: Have you ever known money to come from the other side to assist co-operation in Canada? A.—Yes; I believe there was money went to Montreal. I would like to make a reference to some points about my own work and the shops where I work.

Q.—Certainly? A.—I work for the Grand Trunk Railroad. We are paid monthly. The employés would rather have their pay weekly, because it would make them financially more independent. We find that in a great many instances workmen have to run monthly accounts, and that puts them entirely at the mercy of the corner grocers. You feel under obligation to the man; you have to take what he has got and you cannot go any where else; you are obliged to stay there. A man who once begins to run credit like that gets into financial difficulties and cannot get out of them. He is in deep water all the time. If a man could get his wages weekly he could run his business more on a cash basis and go where he pleased.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Do you think you are expressing the views of the larger portion of your fellow-workmen? A.—I am pretty certain I am.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have the employés petitioned the Grand Trunk Company to make payment more frequently? A.—Yes.

Q.—What answer did you get? A.—Mr. Hickson answered that he would be only too glad to do anything in his power to help the employes, but present circumstances would not warrant it.

Q.—It would not suit the Company? A.—No, it would tack too much expense into the work of the clerical help.

Q.—Are men's wages ever garnisheed? A.—Yes; every time the pay boss comes down he has a list of young men before the cash boss. The men to be garnisheed have all to pass by so that he can see them.

Q.—Do you think if the men were paid weekly or fortnightly it would have a tendency to decrease this garnisheeing? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—What is the result of that garnisheeing? Is it carried any further? A.—Well, if you get garnisheed more than once you are discharged.

Q.—Do they give you to understand that when you are garnisheed the first time? A.—I have never been garnisheed, but I know men who have been discharged.

Q.—Is that the rule on the road? A.—I could not say positively, but I know they will discharge you for that. Of course, it may make a difference in the case of the old employés.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—It may not be a written rule, but is it the unwritten law of the company? A.—I think it is.

Q.—Supposing a man is discharged by the Grand Trunk for that or any other offence, and he applies to be employed by another railroad, is it the case that he must get recognition from his last employer before he is accepted? A.—That is the rule amongst railroad men.

Q.—You mean railroad companies? A.—Yes; railroad men—of course, I do not mean a shop hand, but a road hand. If he has been discharged by the company and is seeking employment elsewhere he must produce a certificate of recognition from his last employer.

Q.—Is that carried out to any extent in connection with the Grand Trunk? A.—Yes; I think it is.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you think that the superintendent in Hamilton would refuse recognition to a man who deserved it? A.—No; I do not. Our present mechanical superintendent I do not believe would. I think he is a very fair man.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Is a workingman running a monthly account for groceries more apt to buy things he does not need or could do without than a man paid weekly? A.—Yes; he is. I find from those men who run monthly accounts that they are all pretty well ashamed to acknowledge exactly how much they are in debt, and when you go round for statistics, asking about these things—of course it is necessary in our organization to get these things—we cannot get any statement on that item from them. I might say also, in relation to shorter hours, that there was a movement on foot to establish Saturday afternoon as a half-holiday, but I find amongst a great many workingmen they would rather have the hours of labor shortened each day than have the half-holiday, because their employment is so tedious and irksome it becomes unhealthy from long confinement and other causes. It is more so especially to female labor in the large milling establishments in the city.

Q.—How many hours do you think would constitute a fair day's work? A.—I have been educated to the idea that eight would.

Q.—Now, as a workingman, working from day to day from the beginning to the end of the year, do you think you could do sufficient in eight hours to constitute a fair day's work? A.—To give you my own individual opinion, I think it should be done in much less time. I think six hours or five hours would be plenty, because with the machinery we have at present I think it is almost unnecessary to employ men longer than five hours.

Q.—Do you think you, as a working man, have a fair share of the product of your labor, taking into consideration the lessening of the cost of production by the use of machinery? A.—No; I do not think I have.

Q.—Then the manufacturer gets rather too much—he gets more than a fair share? A.—I do not say the manufacturer gets it, but somebody does. The employer is not alone to blame. He is under obligation to other people. I know lots of people in this city who are merely agents of banking corporations. They have to meet their payments. If they cannot, they go under.

Q.—That is coming back to the credit system again. He is in the same fix as the man working by the month. The credit system needs to be done away with entirely? A.—I believe it should. The only credits we should have in this country should be based on actual value.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Supposing you were getting \$2 a day in your work, and for five hours you got \$1, could you support your family on that? A.—Well, of course we don't take into consideration the many other things that you might say hinge on that question also. There would be a great many more workmen employed.

Q.—It is your own actual case I mean? A.—I think I could.

Q.—You could not save any money, could you? A.—Yes; I could, because bread is 11 cents now, but if I could only earn a dollar probably I could buy a loaf of bread for 5 cents. The actual amount received by the individual don't constitute the basis of value.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Has it come to your knowledge in some instances that the shortening of the hours of labor had a tendency to raise wages? A.—Yes; I could tell you on the Grand Trunk it has a tendency to raise wages, I believe, with all the outside competition we have.

Q.—From your knowledge of the working classes in Hamilton, if there had been a public library established here do you think if the men had Saturday

afternoon they would take advantage of that public library? A.—I think so. Of course, they might not do so at first, but with the educational influences that are at work now-a-days I think it would be only a short time before it would be well supported; and in fact we as an organization supported a by-law to get a public library. It was defeated by the large property-owners, on the score that it would raise taxation.

Q.—Were the parties who voted for this by-law property-holders and lease holders, or those who had votes for municipal elections? A.—Property owners and lease-holders, because they are the only ones who can vote on a by-law of that nature affecting the financial affairs of the city.

JOHN BELL, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You are connected with the Ontario Cotton Mill? A.—Yes.

Q.—In what capacity? A.—I am secretary-treasurer.

Q.—You employ a large number of hands in the mill? A.—Yes.

Q.—Into what classes generally would you divide those hands? A.—Boys, youths and men, and girls and women.

Q.—As to the work which they follow, how would you divide them? A.—They are distributed all over.

Q.—Weavers and spinners? A.—Carders, spinners, weavers, dyers and finishers.

Q.—At which of these do boys or girls work? Are there any carders? A.—Yes.

Q.—Spinning? A.—Yes.

Q.—Dyeing? A.—No; not any dyeing.

Q.—Finishers? A.—Yes.

Q.—And weavers? A.—Yes.

Q.—At what age do boys and girls begin to work in the mill—the youngest age at which you take them? A.—None under fourteen.

Q.—How do you determine they are not under fourteen? A.—We require a certificate from their parents, if we have any doubt about it.

Q.—Is that a rigid rule with you? A.—By law it is.

Q.—About what wages can a skilled adult (a man) earn in the mill, taking an average case? A.—A man would earn from \$8 to \$10 a week.

Q.—These are skilled workmen? A.—Yes; good workmen.

Q.—An adult woman who is skilled, what would she be able to earn? A.—\$6 to \$8.

Q.—At what distribution of work would the women be employed who earn from \$6 to \$8? A.—Weaving and drawing in. These are the two highest paid departments of work.

Q.—And girls from fourteen to sixteen, how much would they earn? A.—They would earn from \$2 to \$4 per week.

Q.—And they would earn more as they continue? A.—Yes.

Q.—The youngest boys, from fourteen to sixteen, what would they get? A.—Just the same as the girls.

Q.—How many looms does one adult weaver have charge of? A.—A good weaver takes charge of four looms.

Q.—Is that more or less than is the custom in the United States? A.—I think it is the same, but I am not quite sure.

Q.—Is it more or less than is the custom in the old country? A.—I don't know as to that.

Q.—Is the work in cotton mills considered unhealthy? A.—No; I do not think so; I never heard so.

Q.—Is the temperature very high? A.—It is comparatively warm.

Q.—Not uncomfortably warm? A.—I think not.

Q.—Do you keep the air moist with steam to keep the cotton pliable? A.—We do in some rooms.

Q.—Do you think alliance is more frequent with operatives in cotton mills than operatives in other callings? A.—I don't think so; I am not aware that it is.

Q.—Do you employ any hand weavers? A.—Yes.

Q.—What do you pay them? A.—One dollar and ten cents per day.

Q.—What are the hours of labor in the mill? A.—Sixty hours per week.

Q.—You lengthen five days and shorten the sixth? A.—Five days, eleven hours; each Saturday has five hours.

Q.—How frequently do you pay? A.—Every two weeks, on Friday evening.

Q.—Have there been any requests to make the pay-day more frequent? A.—No.

Q.—Would the labor of paying weekly be much greater than the labor of preparing the lists now? A.—Yes; it would be a little more—not a great deal.

Q.—How long have you been connected with the mill? A.—For six years.

Q.—During that time have your wages increased or decreased, or remained stationary? A.—There was a decrease made between two and three years ago.

Q.—And that decrease remains? A.—Not entirely; it has been to some extent removed.

Q.—I am not going to ask you what price you receive for your goods, but can you tell me in general terms whether cotton goods have increased, decreased or remained stationary in price? A.—The price just now is rather better than it was two years ago.

Q.—How would it compare with the prices when the mill was established? A.—I think they are a little higher, but very little.

Q.—Before you were connected with the mill you were in mercantile business? A.—Yes; in the wholesale dry-goods business.

Q.—Can you tell me how prices of cotton range now compared with similar cotton ten years ago? A.—I think they are lower than they were ten years ago.

Q.—How would they compare with prices fifteen years ago, taking the lower grades of cotton? A.—I could not go back so far.

Q.—How do Canadian cottons compare for purity of material with imported goods? A.—They are very much like American cottons, and are purer than English cottons.

Q.—Are Canadian cotton goods loaded down with China glue, and starch, &c.? Not at all.

Q.—They are pure cotton? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it true of foreign cottons? A.—Not at all, generally.

Q.—So, if a man buys cottons by weight, the goods being similar in other respects, he gets better value for his money in Canadian cottons than he would in imported cottons? A.—Yes; excepting American, which are much the same kind of goods. He gets better value than in English imported goods.

Q.—Can you tell me whether the margins of profits between the mill prices and the retail price ordinarily are greater or less than the margins of profits between the importers' prices and the retail prices on the other hand? A.—The mills sell to the wholesale houses, not to the retail.

Q.—Are you familiar with retail prices at all? A.—Yes. I don't quite understand your question.

Q.—Does the middleman make a greater profit on domestic goods than he does on imported goods? A.—Meaning the wholesaler?

Q.—Either or both—say the wholesaler? A.—His profits as a rule on home-made goods is smaller than on imported goods.

Q.—Can you say how the retailer does? A.—The retailer, I think, gets as good a profit on the home-made goods as on the imported.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—You spoke about a reduction of wages in your mill? How much was the reduction? A.—Ten per cent.

Q.—Men who run four looms, what are their average wages? A.—He will make from \$8 to \$10 a week on an average.

Q.—How much for women? A.—\$6 to \$8.

Q.—Is there any piece-work in your mill? A.—It is nearly all piece-work.

Q.—You pay so much a piece? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do your company object to employ any person belonging to a labor organization? A.—No; we employ a number who belong to those organizations.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What are the sanitary arrangements of the mill, generally? A.—The mill is heated with steam. There are in each floor of the main mill two sets of water closets, one for males and one for females, and drinking water and washing places on each floor.

Q.—When the factory inspector was around did he find any fault with the sanitary condition of the mill? A.—No; he did not.

Q.—What means are provided for escape in case of fire? A.—There are three towers in the main building, one at each end and one in the centre, with stairways by which the hands could escape.

Q.—Is your machinery recently protected against accident as well as it is in the best mills? A.—Yes; it is provided with all safeguards, according to the requirements of the Canadian Factory Act.

Q.—Did the Inspector make a careful inspection of these when he visited the mill? A.—He went all over the mill, and made no objection or suggestion contrary to what existed.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Did he make any remark while he was going through your establishment about any other places which were not up to the standard? A.—I don't know that he did. I did not go with him; it was the manager, and his visit was more a formal one than will be another, which he said he would make later on.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—He went around with the manager? A.—Yes.

Q.—Those girls from fourteen to sixteen, do they get \$2 to \$4 when they enter the mill? A.—They get about \$2 to begin with.

Q.—What would a young woman pay for her board per week in Hamilton? A.—I could hardly tell you. The younger women, I fancy, mostly stay with their parents. It is only the older that live in boarding houses I think.

Q.—I suppose you don't know any of their affairs in their homes? A.—I do not.

Q.—You don't know whether they pay their parents for their board? A.—I could not say.

Q.—Is the temperature in the mill the same heat in winter as at the present time? Is that the temperature for the whole year? A.—It is kept uniform as nearly as possible.

Q.—Then isn't it much warmer in July than it would be in winter? A.—Well, a hot day it would be hotter.

Q.—You have some rooms warmer than others? A.—The bulk of the rooms are about the same.

Q.—How long have they for dinner? A.—One hour.

Q.—Do many of them eat their lunch in the factory? A.—Not many.

Q.—There are some? A.—There are some.

Q.—Is there any fining in your establishment when employés are late in the morning or at noon? A.—No,

Q.—You understand what I mean by fining? A.—Yes; there are only fines for bad work.

Q.—Are they charged full value for work they spoil? A.—They are fined if work is very bad—a moderate fine and paid nothing for doing it.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Are they allowed to keep the work? A.—No; it is merely that their labor is lost upon it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is work ever spoiled and sold to the wholesale men at a lower rate? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any association of manufacturers in your business to keep up prices? A.—There is a Cotton Manufacturers' Association for the Dominion.

Q.—Do they hold secret meetings, to which the general public are not admitted? A.—They hold meetings, and the public generally get hold of what passes at them.

Q.—Does that embrace all cotton manufacturers in the Dominion? A.—Except Mr. Gibson's in New Brunswick.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Do these meetings arrange any prices of cottons, and agree that one shall not sell lower than another, and fix prices at a certain figure? A.—Manufacturers' prices are fixed.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do they meet annually? A.—They meet as often as is necessary.

Q.—You have rules and regulations to govern the association? A.—Yes.

Q.—You fix the minimum rate? A.—Yes.

Q.—If a manufacturer sold under this rate would he be fined? A.—Yes.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Don't you think it is pretty hard on the consumer that he should pay three prices on value for his labor before receiving the benefit of it? A workman or workwoman in your mill wanting any of your goods has to pay three prices before he or she can get that article? A.—With the work people, work, that they make themselves, we sell to them.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You pay more than three prices? You have to pay plunder in the United States, and haven't you to pay transport of the cotton? A.—Yes.

JOSEPH JAMES WHITELEY, Machinist, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—At what trade do you work? A.—At the machinist trade.

Q.—What particular kind of work do you do? A.—I served my time in the old country at turning, but I am on the planing machine at present at Beckett's.

Q.—You work machinery? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you been long at the business? A.—Thirty-two years.

Q.—What wages do you receive? A.—We will average \$1.50 all through the shop in the year.

Q.—How many hours a day do you work? A.—We work ten hours, but they work only nine hours, taking the year through—they drop us off one hour.

Q.—You work fifty-four hours? A.—Sixty hours we have to work to make it a full week. In England they work fifty-four hours.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Does it take a skilled mechanic to run one of those planers? A.—I can give you a little experience about that; I have been thirty-two years at the business, and before I came here they had had a man four years at it, but they could not run it satisfactorily till I came. He spoiled work which had to be done over again.

Q.—Does the shop close down during the year? A.—No; they put us on short time.

Q.—Do they keep you employed all the time? A.—Yes; so they can keep their hands on.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—You said the man was unable to run the machine after four years' experience? A.—There is no man who can run a machine properly after three years' apprenticeship. I served my time seven years at Whitworth's, of Manchester, the finest shop in the world, and I then found I had something else to learn.

Q.—Do you believe in an indenture system for apprentices? A.—I do.

Q.—It is not common in this country now, I believe? A.—No; that is what surprises me.

Q.—Does it tend, in your opinion, to improve workmen or to deteriorate them?

A.—An apprentice system tends to improve them.

Q.—Under it, the master is bound to instruct the apprentice, and the apprentice is also bound to learn his trade, I suppose? A.—From what I have seen, and I have been only a few years in this country, it appears that the masters leave it all to the foreman, and he does not so much as know the apprentice.

Q.—Do you consider that a good system? A.—It is one of the worst systems that could be imagined. A boy, after he has served three years in that foundry, knows as much as he did when he commenced.

Q.—Are the skilled mechanics increasing or decreasing in the country? A.—I think they are decreasing. In our firm we have four apprentices to ten men, and half of the men are only half skilled, what I call handy men.

Q.—Then skilled workmen are decreasing, although the number of workmen is increasing? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any idea of what would change that irregular style of doing business? A.—Yes.

Q.—What would do it? A.—I think what would improve it would be to have apprentices serve seven years, as is done in England.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Would you have the employers compelled to teach the boys their trade? A.—Yes; and there should be a regular indenture system drawn out, as was done in my case.

Q.—How do the wages in Hamilton, and in Canada generally, compare with the wages paid in England in your trade? A.—I will give you the wages I received myself. I worked at the *Times* office, in England, and received £3 per week. I came out here to see a son and daughter of my own. I got the enormous sum of \$1.75 a day here, because I have grey whiskers, and they do not want to employ old men. But I find that when they get me into the establishment they do not want me out again. They want young men, who know nothing, but men with grey hair they do not care much about. I have experienced that at two shops in Hamilton.

Q.—Do you mean that the employe's wages are higher in London than here? A.—I do; I mean as regards the amount of money paid. If you get 38 shillings or 36 shillings a week in England it is worth more than \$12 or \$14 here.

Q.—That is, when you take into consideration the difference in the price of house rent, I suppose? A.—Yes; house rent, coal and provisions. I could get bread at 2 cents per pound in England when I came away, and I have been here only three years.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—How can you get the bread cheaper in England, when the flour comes from here? A.—How can you get your own cheese cheaper there?

Q.—Can you buy Canadian cheese in England cheaper than here? A.—Yes; on the market in Manchester I can get the best Canadian cheese at 5 pence per pound (10 cents), and they charge me here 12 cents for the same.

Q.—At that time was not cheese cheaper? A.—No; Cheshire was selling at something like 1 shilling per pound (24 cents).

Q.—Have you any theory to account for that? A.—I forgot it, or I would have brought here a catalogue of Deer Brothers' wholesale list of prices. Lump sugar is 6 cents per pound, ready cut, and they will charge me much more here. I have to pay here 28 and 30 cents for butter per pound.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is your trade organized? A.—I belong to the Amalgamated Society of Engineers.

Q.—Is there a branch in Hamilton? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do all the journeymen of your trade belong to it? A.—No.

Q.—The headquarters are in England? A.—Yes; as I have said, I came out here only to see a son and daughter.

Q.—Suppose you were taken ill and your dues were paid up, would you receive any benefit from headquarters? A.—Yes; I am a Forester as well. Yes; they would look after me the same as if I was in England, because I pay in and the money is sent to the head office.

Q.—Is there any fund to assist men who are idle through no fault of their own? A.—There is.

Q.—Can you give us the estimated strength of your organization? A.—I can, but I would have to go into millions, for it is spread over all parts of the world.

Q.—In regard to fines accruing with the branch in Canada: are they dispensed by the branch in Canada or are they sent home? A.—Each pays their own money.

Q.—They make a statement for headquarters? A.—Yes; and they send the amount to headquarters.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You have said that the average wages throughout the shop would not be more than \$1.50 a day: does that include the wages of skilled and unskilled men? A.—Yes; we put in one with the other.

Q.—What are the highest wages paid to the skilled men in your shop? A.—Two dollars a day. There is another point to which I would like to refer. I think it would be the best thing in every way if they would adopt the English system of fifty-four hours a week's work. If a man will take and use a hammer nine hours a day that hammer must strike lighter towards night, and if the time was limited to nine hours, instead of ten hours, it would go a little quicker.

R. R. MORGAN, Miller and Whip Manufacturer, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You are a member of the firm of Morgan Bros., I believe? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are many men in your employ? A.—We employ in the mill about ten hands.

Q.—Are those skilled hands, or are they both skilled and unskilled men? A.—About two-thirds of them are skilled men.

Q.—Do your millers work night and day? A.—Part of the season, during the fall and during navigation, we run night and day; two gangs of men are on then.

Q.—How many hours constitute a day's work in your mill? A.—When running night and day they go off and on at twelve o'clock day and night. They change round every other week—that is, the gangs do.

Q.—Each runs during twelve hours? A.—Yes; during the season.

Q.—Are they actually at work during the whole of those twelve hours? A.—No; they are just looking after the machinery. During six hours they are pretty actively engaged at work. During the night they do nothing, except keep the feeds going. In the day time they are shovelling and doing such like work.

Q.—What do skilled millers receive? A.—We pay from \$8 to \$10 per week. The head miller gets a little higher wages, but my brother takes charge in the mill.

Q.—What do you pay unskilled men at your mill? A.—Seven dollars and a-half per week.

Q.—What wheat do you use principally? A.—We principally grind Ontario wheat. We have been grinding a little Manitoba wheat this season.

Q.—Mixed? A.—No.

Q.—Do you not mix the wheat, in order to produce certain brands of flour? A.—Yes; we mix our wheat. We use red and white winter wheat; we get very little spring wheat.

Q.—Where do you find your market for your flour? A.—About half our stock is sold locally; the balance goes to the Maritime Provinces. We have shipped some to Scotland, but we have not done so this last two or three years. We have sent some to Newfoundland.

Q.—Did you ever pay a higher price for grain than shippers pay? A.—Yes; we generally pay a little more, because we select our wheat. We like to take the best of it, and so we pay a little more for it.

Q.—Is that only at certain seasons of the year? A.—No; all the year round we calculate to pay a little more. We do not pay more in proportion to the quality; probably we would be 1 or 2 cents more.

Q.—How does the price of flour compare now with prices in former years? A.—The prices are, I think, about 5 per cent. higher than during the last two years.

Q.—How do the prices compare with prices ten years ago? A.—A barrel of flour that was sold for \$5.50 ten years ago will bring only \$3.70 to-day, and it will be a better article to-day than it was then, for now it is roller flour; then it was stone flour.

Q.—Do you employ many hands in your whip factory? A.—From fifteen to twenty, but we have generally about fifteen.

Q.—Are they skilled or unskilled hands? A.—About half of them are skilled hands.

Q.—Are they men, women or boys? A.—There are some women. The skilled hands are all men.

Q.—How much can they earn? A.—From \$9 to \$15 per week.

Q.—How many hours a day do they work? A.—Ten hours a day.

Q.—Sixty hours a week? A.—During the summer and winter we only run from eight to five for three months.

Q.—You reduce the wages accordingly? A.—We pay the hands accordingly.

Q.—Do you employ many young persons? A.—Five or six girls, sometimes; perhaps a dozen; I don't know any very young girls—none under sixteen.

Q.—How much can they earn? A.—They can earn from \$2.50 to \$5 per week.

Q.—I suppose it would range according to the skill they possess? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they work by the week or by the piece? A.—They work by the week.

Q.—Where do you find your market for your goods? A.—All over Ontario and Quebec; we send a good many whips down to Quebec and Montreal.

Q.—Has your whip factory been long in existence? A.—We have been running it now about twelve or thirteen years.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—In your flour mill: how many hours a day do the miller's work? A.—In the day time we only run twelve hours. If we run day and night they are put on full time; we put in twenty-four hours.

Q.—Do you change hands? A.—Yes; at 12 o'clock every day and night.

Q.—In your busy time, does a man working at night work twelve hours? A.—Yes. The day hands go on at 12 in the day and the night hands at 12 at night, and every other week we change hands.

Q.—Do you pay extra for night work? A.—When we hire a man he knows that we only run three or four months that way.

Q.—Do you do any Sunday work? A.—No; if it is done one of the bosses has to do it. We have to do it once in a while, but my brother does it himself, and a man does not care to take that part of the work.

ALFRED MILLER, Shoemaker, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You are working at a shoe factory in Hamilton, I understand? A.—I am at present.

Q.—How long have you been working at that trade in this city? A.—On and off, going on eighteen years.

Q.—What is the branch of business at which you work? A.—At the trimming.

Q.—What are the average wages of a trimmer in this city? A.—I suppose from \$10 to \$15 per week; we work piece-work.

Q.—Do the men prefer to work by piece-work? A.—Yes; they do.

Q.—Did you ever calculate the number of days in a year a man works at that business in your factory? A.—The factory generally shuts down during the year about two or three weeks for stock-taking. Of course, piece-hands are not employed steadily all the time—there are slack seasons in the trade.

Q.—How many hours per day do the men work piece-work? A.—They work piece-work ten hours a day.

Q.—I presume when one branch of the business is going they all must go? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there many boys employed in the factory? A.—No; not many; altogether, about seven or eight.

Q.—When a boy comes into the factory does he go into the factory under the impression that he is going to learn the shoemaking trade? A.—No; they could not learn it.

Q.—Why could they not? A.—There is no way of learning it.

Q.—When a boy goes in and is put on a machine is he kept on that machine until his apprenticeship is over? A.—They do not put boys on machines.

Q.—How do new-comers learn the business? A.—Whenever there is a new machine put into the shop they generally take a man who will be most likely to learn the machine.

Q.—As a general rule can one man work all the machines employed in making a perfect boot? A.—I have only known one man who can learn the machines. As a rule, a man can run only one machine.

Q.—They remain at that so long as they are at the business? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—What wages can that man earn who is able to run all the machines? A.—He is guaranteed \$15 per week for fifty weeks in the year.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Does he occupy a position higher than that of a journeyman? A.—No; that man who gets \$15 a week is the only man in this city who can run the kind of machines we run—that is the Goodyear machine. It is a new machine, and there are not many who understand its working.

Q.—Do the wholesale manufacturers in Hamilton make all their own goods? A.—No.

Q.—Do they import any? A.—Yes; they import some from the Maritime Provinces.

Q.—And from the other side? A.—I don't think so.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Can the manufacturers make their boots and shoes here as cheaply as they can import them from the Maritime Provinces? A.—No; there are nine-tenths of the boots and shoes worn in Canada which are made in the Maritime Provinces.

Q.—Both men's and women's wear? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the business that female operatives do? A.—No.

Q.—Have you any knowledge in connection with custom work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there much custom work made here now? A.—No; there is not.

Q.—Does a factory hand or a custom hand earn the largest wages in this city?
A.—I have made just about the same wages at the custom trade as I have in the factory. In the custom trade I made larger wages than the majority of men.

Q.—How do the prices in Hamilton compare with the prices paid in Toronto, so far as men and women's work is concerned? A.—On men's work we are working on the Toronto list of prices. It is the same throughout the Province.

Q.—Do you speak in that way of London? A.—Yes; I think it is so in London.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Can you tell us, as a matter of fact, the difference between the bill of prices throughout Ontario and the bill of prices in Montreal? A.—I don't think they have a bill of prices in Montreal.

Q.—Is your trade organized? A.—Yes; it is.

Q.—Do you think it has been a means of keeping up the prices of wages paid to employés? A.—Yes.

Q.—How has it been in that regard with respect to women's work? A.—I think it is the same.

Q.—It is kept up from the same source? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you had any difficulty in the shoemaking trade in Montreal? A.—They had a little difficulty in one of the firms.

Q.—How was that difficulty settled? A.—It was settled by arbitration.

Q.—By the men and their employers coming together? A.—Yes; by the employers and the District Assemblies of the Knights of Labor.

Q.—What is the feeling existing between the employers in your trade and their men? Is that feeling harmonious? A.—Yes.

Q.—There is a good feeling existing between the men and their employers in Hamilton, then? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What wages do men get who run the pegging machines? A.—Twelve dollars a week.

Q.—And those who run the sewing machines—machines to sew soles on?
A.—They receive \$12 per week.

Q.—What do the lasters get per week? A.—They work by piece-work.

Q.—What is their average wages? A.—From \$10 to \$15 per week—that is, in the busy season. Of course, I will not say that they average that much the year round, because there are dull seasons in their trade, as in every trade.

Q.—Is there any stamp that the men allow the firms to use on their goods?
A.—We have a stamp, but it is not used.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is there much kid work made in Hamilton? A.—Yes; a good deal.

Q.—What would be the wages of a first-class female operator on women's kid uppers, working by the piece, taking, of course, an average hand? A.—I was asking the foreman that question this morning and he told me the earnings were from \$5 to \$9 per week.

Q.—Are there many who make wages to that amount? A.—I could not say.

Q.—You cannot tell us the wages a young girl would earn at what they call pasting? A.—No; I could not.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Whose factory do you work in? A.—There is only one factory, McPherson's.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of that factory? A.—The sanitary condition is first-class.

Q.—Where are the stair-cases located? A.—Outside of the main building. The stair-cases are separate, and shut off from the main building altogether.

Q.—Are they exposed to the weather? A.—No.

Q.—Where are the water-closets situated? A.—They are off from the main building, too.

Q.—Will you describe briefly the manner in which the stair-cases and water closets are located? A.—The water-closets and wash-room are in connection with the stair-case.

Q.—That part forms really an addition do the main building? A.—Yes.

Q.—What kind of doors are between this addition between which the stair-cases are located and the main building? A.—Sliding doors, covered with tin.

Q.—If a fire were to take place in any floor, how would the people in the building escape? A.—Down the stair-way.

Q.—They can go from each floor to the stair-case? A.—Yes.

Q.—Could the fire pass through those doors to the outside? A.—Yes; there is hose in connection with every flat.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do I understand you to say that the doors are sliding doors? A.—Yes; they are sliding doors.

Q.—If the doors were shut in case of fire, how could they be opened? A.—They could be opened on either side. The main door at the bottom of the stair-case opens outward; above, the doors slide on pulleys.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you ever known the doors of the establishment to be locked, so as to prevent those who came late from entering? A.—Yes; it is so in almost every shop. The doors are locked at eight o'clock in the morning, but when they are locked you can go in by the front door.

Q.—Is it a regular custom for the young women to go into the establishment through the main counting room? A.—If they come later than eight o'clock they do.

Q.—And they do that as a general thing? A.—Yes.

Q.—Who carries the key after the door is locked? A.—The man who runs the engine.

Q.—Have you ever worked in Toronto? A.—No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Does the buffing machine make a great deal of dust? A.—No; not now.

Q.—How does it make less dust than it did formerly? A.—They have pipes connected with all those machines running into the chimney.

Q.—And the dust is carried up the chimney now? A.—Yes; it is.

Q.—How does the dust enter these pipes—does it enter by fans, or how? A.—No; the draught of the chimney is sufficient to draw it up.

Q.—Is any of the machinery dangerous to life or limb? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do accidents frequently occur? A.—No; not frequently.

Q.—Do you know anything about the factory inspector's opinion with regard to the condition of the establishment? A.—No; I do not. I do not know whether he has been around this new building or not.

Q.—How does this factory compare with others in which you have worked, as regards comfort or convenience? A.—I never worked in any factory outside of this city, but of those I have seen it is the best.

Q.—How frequently are you paid? A.—We are paid once a week.

Q.—Are you paid in cash? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—On what day are you paid? A.—We are paid on Saturday.

Q.—Would you prefer any other day as pay-day? A.—I don't know. There would be an advantage, perhaps, in being paid on Friday.

ROBERT COULTER, Shoemaker, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You have heard the evidence of the last witness (Miller) ? A.—Yes ; it is correct in the main.

Q.—Have you anything to add to it ? A.—So far as regards prices paid in Quebec, I may say that while we get 40 cents a case for taking lasts out of boots they get 10 cents, and the wages are about in that proportion as between the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario. In Hamilton, at one time, this was growing to be an important industry, but for some cause we have only one factory left out of five or six factories. The firm for whom I have been working this last year have gone to Toronto, and the reasons they gave for going were because they had greater facilities in Toronto, and the freight is less, and this was a sufficient object to cause them to go there. There might be something in that.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Is not this factory in Hamilton considered the best factory in Ontario ? A.—It is the only one here. It is the best built and the best adapted for boot and shoe manufacturing. Of course, there are only 300 shoemakers in Hamilton, and this firm employs about 150. Some time ago, as I have said, we had six shops in this city, but they have dwindled down to one factory.

Q.—Are there any machines used in the factory on which there is a royalty paid ? A.—I don't know whether the royalty is paid now or not, but it used to be paid.

Q.—Where do the machines come from ? A.—The Goodyear machines come from Boston.

Q.—Has the patent been extended to Great Britain ? A.—I could not say as regards that. I know they have an index on their machines to indicate every stitch put in.

Q.—Have you heard the statement of the last witness in regard to the wages of young women ? What do you know in regard to that statement ? A.—That statement is about correct. I know in other factories in which I have worked that the girls earn from \$9 to \$7 per week.

Q.—Are those Toronto prices ? A.—Toronto manufacturers pay on some lines perhaps a little less.

Q.—But on the whole, you think the Hamilton prices are less ? A.—On the whole, Hamilton is a little bit ahead in regard to the bill of prices.

HAMILTON, 21st January, 1888.

EDWARD H. HANCOCK, Carpenter, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How long have you worked at your trade in Hamilton ? A.—I have worked at my trade, more or less, for the last ten years.

Q.—About what are fair wages for a carpenter in this city ? A.—That is a question I am not prepared to answer, for there are such a variety of prices that I am not in a position to do so. Unfortunately, we have a lot of foreigners at work in our trade, and that is what does not suit us.

Q.—You are not able to give us an idea of what a fair day's wages for a carpenter would be in this city ? A.—I can give you a fair day's wages for a good carpenter—it would be \$2.25 or \$2.75 a day ; but they are not all paid that.

Q.—What are they paid ? A.—Some of them \$2.25 a day.

Q.—During what part of the year are you employed ? A.—That is according to a man's abilities.

Q.—What would be the average, do you think ? Could a man work the year through ? A.—No.

Q.—Do you think he would work ten months ? A.—No ; I cannot work ten months myself.

Q.—Are there many apprentices working in the carpentering business in this city? A.—There is no apprentice system at all; that is one of the drawbacks to our branch of the business.

Q.—Are there many boys learning the trade? A.—That I could not say, as I am not very well posted in the business.

Q.—How many hours constitute a day's work in your trade? A.—Ten hours a day, but I believe the organization in our trade has been laboring very hard to reduce the hours; whether they will accomplish it or not I cannot say.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—How many hours would you consider a fair day's work? A.—Eight hours; that number I have been taught from my infancy to consider as a day's work.

Q.—From your experience, do you find eight hours sufficiently long? A.—Yes; when I have worked thirty years out of thirty-eight.

Q.—Did you go to work at eight years of age? A.—Yes; I never had any schooling.

Q.—Then, you ought to know something about labor? A.—Yes; that is what I came here to talk about.

Q.—Do you think a workingman receives a fair share of the product of his labor? A.—I do not.

Q.—Do you know any reason why he should not receive a fair proportion? A.—I have a good reason right here.

Q.—Give us that reason? A.—That is what I came to give you, and I will proceed with it. You will look over this paper and you will see that \$578 wages were stolen from the working girls of Hamilton, and there is no law in this fair Dominion of ours by which to collect the amount. There is the document. (Document handed in).

Copy of Claims for Wages, made by these parties on the Hamilton Knitting Co. (limited), which failed in June, 1883,—Jas. Parks, President; Oliver C. Sircee, Manager:—

NAMES.	April.	May.	June	Total.
Henderson, John.....		\$36 40	\$ 3 00	\$39 4
Work, John.....		30 62	2 25	32 87
Young, John.....		14 12	1 18	15 30
Bissonnette, Frank.....		21 20	1 80	23 00
Mitchell, John.....			3 35	3 34
Sewert, Herman.....			3 35	91 81
Sweet, A. M.....	\$32 94	35 31	23 56	13 87
Johnson, Nettie.....		4 74	9 13	4 97
Farrell, Lizzie.....			4 97	5 06
Heeney, John.....			5 06	3 00
Banks, Thomas.....		11 77	14 04	25 81
McMurphy, John.....		16 56	31 58	48 14
Hancock, E.....		41 40	3 50	44 90
Dawson, H.....			16 60	16 60
Milligan.....			13 75	13 75
Mitchell, H.....			2 20	2 20
McHagg, William.....			2 35	2 35
Dewsberry, H.....	54		2 16	7 00
Reynolds, Annie.....			2 04	2 04
Johnson, Thomas.....			10 95	10 95
Christine, Emily.....			10 38	10 38
Mullen, Emma.....		2 00	9 81	11 81
Ival, Mary.....			14 16	14 16
Brown, Mary.....			14 16	9 30
Carlyan, Martha.....		9 48	9 30	17 52
Laplough.....			8 04	8 48
Hopkin, Mary.....			8 48	4 64
Johnson, Mary.....			4 64	9 00
Johnson, E.....			9 00	15 30
Sullivan, H.....			15 30	14 15
Seager, Minnie.....			14 15	21 00
Millington.....	16 50		4 50	7 04
Prescott, Thomas.....			7 04	2 02
McCarthy, Patrick.....			2 02	3 45
Total.....			3 45	\$565 78

The firm was that of James Khells, and the case was carried up to the highest court in the Dominion. I wish this Commission would make a report, so that in Ontario, as well as in the rest of the Dominion, no claim should have preference to claims of employés for wages. You will find my name in that list, I believe.

Q.—Will you explain this list? A.—You will understand that when we started out the lawyer told us distinctly that we could get no wages, and fully and faithfully has that word been kept up to the present time.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—What is that document? A.—It is a list of stolen wages. What I wish to impress on this Commission is, that there is no law in this Dominion to collect these wages under these circumstances. I would like to say that some arrangement should be made that wages of every description due to employés, whether it be by an incorporated establishment of any kind or any company whatever, should be collected from the assets, previous to any sheriff taking charge of the estate and having it sold under an auctioneer's hammer; that the heavy creditors must either see the wages paid or must pay them themselves before they dispose of the plant of the establishment and other assets.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—What you want is that wages shall be the first lien? A.—Yes; on everything, and before any action whatever can be begun the wages must be paid. I think in Great Britain before an auctioneer can raise his hammer the wages must be satisfied.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Those amounts stated in this document are wages due to employés in Hamilton? A.—By a Hamilton company that failed in June, 1883.

Q.—Are those names of the employés of the company? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know anything about the provincial lien law? Do you think it is operative, and have you had any trial of it? A.—You mean the lien law in the building trade? The lien law I never tested, either on this side or on the other side of the line.

Q.—Did you ever give any thought to the formation of a lien law for the Province? A.—I believe the building trade is pretty fairly protected, but a stock company or an incorporated establishment, or anything of that kind, is very shaky under the present law. Laws may be good enough, but they are most difficult often to carry out.

Q.—Do you think an amendment to the present lien law, which covers the building trade, should be extended so as to cover all branches of industry? A.—Yes. Protection of the wages of the laborer must come first, so that no sheriff, no auctioneer, and no one whatever shall be able to dispose of the property without first paying the employés' wages.

Q.—You believe that the lien for wages should be the first claim? A.—Certainly. Two-thirds of those employés have left this country. I can give you the addresses of three or four of them.

Q.—You are of the opinion that a lien law should not only cover the building trade, but all other branches of industry, and be arranged so that claims for wages would be the first claim? A.—I am. Why should those girls be wronged out of the amount of wages due to them?

Q.—What is the lowest rate of wages paid in Hamilton to what you would call a carpenter? A.—The lowest wages paid to a man that I would call a carpenter is \$2.25 a day, but the amount paid to some of the men who work as carpenters is about \$1.25 a day. That is a fact—that is where the apprentice system fails.

Q.—Do you believe in the apprentice system? A.—I do.

Q.—What benefit would it be to apprentices, and journeymen and employers? A.—It would keep men on the farm. It would make men skilled mechanics, and not butchers.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you think that grocers and provision merchants who have supplied employés and laborers, and kept them alive, should not be paid before the men employed? A.—I think about the time this thing occurred I owed \$25 for a grocery bill, and I since have paid it.

Q.—If the grocer has furnished one of those laborers with food and the means of living, should he not be paid before the laborer? A.—Please explain yourself?

Q.—If the grocer has sold you provisions, should he not be paid before you? A.—I do not think it, because if you rob me of my earnings I cannot pay the grocer.

Q.—Is there a large quantity of intoxicating liquor drunk in Hamilton? A.—I do not know anything about that.

Q.—Do you think a strict law of prohibition would benefit those employés and employers—would it benefit all classes? A.—My idea is that the claims for wages should come first; then a man would be able to pay his debts.

Q.—I am asking you if you consider the law of prohibition would benefit all classes? A.—I have nothing to do with prohibition. I do not believe in tying a man for nothing.

B. R. NELLES, Fruit and Vegetable Canner, Grimsby, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—During what portion of the year is the canning industry active? A.—From June till December and January.

Q.—What class of fruit do you can? A.—Strawberries, raspberries, peaches, apples, plums and, in fact, all classes of fruit.

Q.—Do you pay higher or lower, or the same prices, for fruit that growers would get if they put the fruit on the general market? A.—We pay the same price usually, less the freight and commission.

Q.—What class of labor do you employ in the canning of fruit in a factory? A.—Women and girls principally; some men and boys also.

Q.—Where do you get the help? does it come from the neighborhood? A.—From the neighboring villages and neighborhood.

Q.—Can you get an ample supply of labor? A.—Some years we have had difficulty in getting what labor we require, while other years we get all we require.

Q.—What can grown women earn during the season? A.—From 50 cents to 75 cents a day. A great deal of the work is done by piece-work and what they earn depends on how fast they can work. Those who work by the hour we pay 6 cents per hour.

Q.—They board themselves? A.—Yes.

Q.—What can the girls and children earn? A.—They earn from 40 cents to 60 cents a day. We find some young girls who will earn as much as grown women on piece-work.

Q.—Do they get paid at the same rate as journeymen for the work they do? A.—Yes; on piece-work.

Q.—When are your cans made? A.—In the winter season.

Q.—Do you make those or do you buy them? A.—We make them ourselves; we have can-makers.

Q.—You do not employ many hands in making the cans? A.—We employ four on an average.

Q.—What do those men earn? A.—They earn about \$1.50 a day making cans.

Q.—Where do you find your market for your goods? A.—We find our market in Canada.

Q.—Do you find your market throughout the whole of the country? A.—Yes; some of our goods go to Winnipeg, some to the lower Province. They are sold principally in Toronto and Montreal.

Q.—Have there been any changes in this trade within the past six, eight or ten years? A.—Yes; there has been a great change in it.

Q.—What is the nature of the change? A.—Factories are fitted up to give greater capacity, and we turn out goods cheaper than we did in 1879 and 1880.

Q.—Are there more or less of these goods imported than formerly? A.—There are less imported, I think. I think there are very few canned goods imported, with the exception of peaches, which is due to the failure of our peach crop some years.

Q.—Can Canadian canners compete with foreign fruit? A.—Not without a protection.

Q.—With the protection they can? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it an advantage to fruit growers to have fruit canned in Canada? A.—Yes; I think it is a great advantage. It gives them a larger market for their fruit. One year I had about 3,000 baskets of peaches, and certainly if they had been on the market they must have made quite a difference in the price of peaches sold.

Q.—Do the people who work for you get employment for the rest of the year at any other occupation? A.—Most of them have their homes, and they will not go out to work at any place else. The women and girls are willing to work at the factory who would not be willing to go to service.

Q.—Were they daughters of farmers or mechanics? A.—They are daughters of mechanics and laboring men.

Q.—Farmers are getting so well off that their daughters will not do any such work, I suppose? A.—In our section they will not.

Q.—Can you sell all the fruit you can can? A.—I have always done so, up to the present time.

Q.—What is the character of the fruit canned in Canada as compared with the canned fruit imported—is it as good an article in every respect? A.—I think, taking the average run of canned fruit, the quality is better than a good deal that was formerly imported into this country.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Those young girls, you say, earn from 40 cents to 60 cents a day. Do they work six days per week? A.—Yes; they actually work more hours in the week than would form six days, because sometimes they work till 10 o'clock at night.

Q.—Do they receive extra pay for over-time? A.—They get so much per hour, and if they work till 10 they earn more money, but they earn at the rate of 40 cents or 60 cents for ten hours work.

Q.—The over-time is paid at the same rate as day work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do young girls work over-time? Not many of them, they are mostly women; occasionally the oldest ones will.

Q.—Have you any young girls who earn only \$2 a week? A.—There may be a few; there may be an odd one.

Q.—How old would those girls be? A.—They are twelve to eighteen years.

Q.—You are sure they will not be girls of twelve? A.—I do not think we have them under twelve.

Q.—Is it a very healthy occupation in those factories? A.—Yes; so far as I know. I have never known any one to be sick in my factory.

Q.—Do you use much machinery? A.—Yes; we are using a great deal more now than formerly.

Q.—At that branch of the business are the men employed? A.—In capping and handling cans, taking them out and stowing them away, boxing, and so on.

Q.—You have found your business to be on the increase during the past year or two? A.—Yes; it is on the increase.

MARK LIMEMBECK, Cotton Spinner, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You work in the Ontario Cotton Mill, I believe? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long have you been employed there? A.—About seventeen months.

Q.—What hours a day do you work? A.—We work eleven hours a day for five days a week and five hours on Saturday, averaging ten hours a day for six days.

Q.—Do you work by the day or by the week? A.—I work by the week.

Q.—Do all the spinners get the same rate of wages? A.—I could not say as to that; I know what I get.

Q.—About what will be the wages of a good spinner in your trade? A.—They get paid by the day.

Q.—About what amount do they receive? A.—I could not state what the rest of the spinners get; I get \$1.50 a day.

Q.—How long will a boy have to be employed before he becomes expert as a spinner? A.—He will have to start when a boy and work until he gets to be a man.

Q.—He does not get a journeyman's wages before he is grown up? A.—Not until he gets to be a spinner.

Q.—Are there any female spinners? A.—No; not in the mules; there are spinners on the frames.

Q.—Is the work on the mules so hard that only men can do it? A.—It is men's work.

Q.—Take the women who work on the frames; what do they earn? A.—I do not know; I do not know anything about that branch of the work.

Q.—Are the people in good health who work at spinning? A.—Yes; usually so.

Q.—Is the mill a comfortable one in which to work? A.—Yes; it is.

Q.—Do you know how the rate of wages are in this neighborhood compared with other mills in Ontario? A.—I do not.

Q.—Have you any association? A.—No.

Q.—You just take the rate of wages going at the mill? A.—I do not belong to any association; I do not know what the rest do.

Q.—Are any spinners members of a union? A.—I could not say.

Q.—Do you know of any spinners' union or cotton mill operatives' union? A.—Not in Canada.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You have met with young girls coming out of the mill? A.—Yes; I have.

Q.—What might their age be—take the youngest of them? A.—I do not think any of them are under fourteen years.

Q.—Do you know the wages a young girl will receive coming into a mill? A.—No; I could not say—not the young girls, for I have never worked where they are.

Q.—Some of those rooms are quite warm in summer? A.—Yes; of course they are warm.

Q.—Some of the rooms are warmer than others? A.—Yes.

Q.—The rooms where the young women work are considered very warm in July and August, I believe? A.—Yes; very warm.

Q.—Do they eat their dinner in the factory or do they go home? A.—Some of them eat their meals in the mill.

Q.—Both young girls and young women? A.—I think they do.

Q.—Is there any fining system in the mills in Hamilton, fining for being late in the morning or at noon? A.—I never knew of a case in our mill, although there may be for all that, but I never knew of it.

Q.—For any work that might be spoiled in the estimation of the manager, are there fines imposed? A.—Sometimes they are fined.

Q.—Could you estimate what their fines might amount to in a month? A.—I have never been fined and I do not know.

JOHN VANCE, Cotton Weaver, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How many looms will one weaver manage? A.—Four looms.

Q.—Is that universal throughout the mill? A.—Yes; they do not get any more to look after.

Q.—Have you worked in cotton mills in any other country than in Canada? A.—No; I have not.

Q.—You are not able to tell us how many looms a weaver in England would manage? A.—No; but when I worked in Dundas on white cloth I knew them to run six looms, but on check work only four.

Q.—Check work is more difficult than white work? A.—Yes; it is more particular.

Q.—What wages does a weaver receive? A.—It depends on the number of looms they run; some run four and some three, but all around they would average \$1 a day the year round.

Q.—A man who runs four looms, how much would he receive? A.—One dollar and fifty cents a day the year round.

Q.—And a man who runs three looms, how much would he receive? A.—Not many run three looms—generally girls do that.

Q.—What proportion of hands are men and what women? A.—There are more women than men.

Q.—What will be the average earnings of a woman weaver? A.—Some can earn just as much as men; it depends on how they work.

Q.—Is it very hard work in the weaving room? A.—Not very hard, but it is tiresome.

Q.—Have you to keep close watch? A.—Yes; your eyes have to be wide open.

Q.—Not much muscular exercise is required? A.—No; if you do not watch you will have a piece to pick out about a yard long.

Is there any reason why women's work should not be as good on weaving as men's? A.—There is no reason whatever.

Q.—Are watchfulness and care required throughout the day up to the time you leave at night? A.—Yes; you are on your feet all the time, and watching, and that makes you tired. It is not hard work, but it is tiresome being on your feet all the time.

Q.—Are you required to be in a standing position? A.—You have to stand all the time.

Q.—Can you sit down at all? A.—If the work is running good you can sit down occasionally.

Q.—What would be the youngest age at which a boy or girl would be in the weaving room? A.—The youngest there will be about fifteen years.

Q.—What are the wages they receive when they go to weaving? A.—They get nothing when they begin. It depends on how rapidly they pick it up. Some will pick it up in two days; others will not pick it up in three weeks.

Q.—Will they pick it up in three or four months? A.—You cannot run three looms in three months unless you are very smart in picking it up.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you think an ordinarily intelligent person could pick it up in a year? A.—I should think so.

Q.—How long do you think it will take a man to tell whether a girl or boy is fit for the business? A.—It is the foreman who does that.

Q.—How long do you think it would take the foreman to ascertain? A.—He does not put them on to run looms until he sees fit—sometimes it will be in six months.

Q.—Will they get paid for those six months? A.—No.

Q.—If they ask for a loom will a loom be given them? A.—He will give them a loom, provided they can run it.

Q.—If they are judged not competent to run a loom, and leave, are they paid for the time they have spent in the mill? A.—I could not say whether they receive

any money for the time they remain in the mill at work or not. They will learn within six weeks at all events, and then they will probably get looms. But they are not put on piece-work at first, and they give them stated wages, and it is only when they are able to run three looms that they are put on piece-work.

Q.—What will be the lowest wages a girl will receive? A.—Four dollars a week.

Q.—How many hours a day will she work? A.—She will work from half-past six in the morning till half-past six at night, eleven hours a day, and on Saturday short time, making in all sixty hours.

Q.—Do they go home to their meals? A.—Yes; unless there is a good deal of work, and then they bring their meals.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Do you think the hours of labor excessive? A.—Yes; I think they are too long; they are too many hours for work.

Q.—How many hours would you consider sufficient for a fair day's work. A.—Ten hours a day is plenty; it is just as long as any one can work. After getting out at half-past six at night you must get your supper, and go to bed for your full time of sleeping.

Q.—Do you think that laboring men can get any proper recreation? A.—Yes; after a man has been closely engaged all day he wants some recreation.

Q.—Do you consider it is a proper time to take it after night-fall? A.—I do not know. Married men do not find much time for recreation, but they should get a little.

Q.—That is your honest belief—that a workingman should receive some recreation. A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Does your mill shut down any time during the year for the purpose of taking stock, or for any other purpose? A.—They do sometimes for half-a-day, that is on Saturday, and they have stock-taking, and the mill is ready to start again Monday morning.

Q.—Is that the system all the year round? A.—When they take stock they shut down the mill.

Q.—For how long do they shut down then? A.—Just for half-a-day.

Q.—With this slight exception is the mill running all the year round? A.—Yes; barring the general holidays.

Q.—Do you know if that is the general system of cotton mills throughout Canada? A.—No; I think not.

DOMINIC WINN, Dyer, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are there many men employed at dyeing in this city? A.—There are sometimes more and sometimes less; there are sometimes eighty and sometimes twenty four.

Q.—Are they all men? A.—Yes.

Q.—There are no boys employed? A.—No.

Q.—Are there any women employed? A.—No.

Q.—What wages would a good dyer receive? A.—A boss dyer receives different wages from the men who are regularly at work. Some boss dyers receive as high as \$7 a day; others receive \$4.

Q.—Take an average workman who is not a foreman: what does he receive? A.—Some receive only \$1.25 a day and some \$1.15 a day.

Q.—Does a good man, who is not a foreman, working a number of years, not receive more than that? A.—He will probably receive \$1.25 a day.

Q.—How long must a man work at dyeing before he becomes skilled at it?
 A.—It depends whether he is a yarn hand or a raw cotton hand.

Q.—Which is the most difficult work? A.—That of a yarn dyer.

Q.—What would a yarn dyer receive? A.—One dollar and twenty-five cents a day.

Q.—And those dyeing the raw cotton, how much would they receive?
 A.—One dollar and fifteen cents a day.

Q.—How long do they work at this before they receive such wages? A.—They get it right away.

Q.—Then it does not require any great length of time to learn it? A.—Not raw cotton dyeing. At the other work they must have a little experience at it before they can do it; they can do it in a short time—a few days.

Q.—Is the dyeing room very warm? A.—No; it is cold enough—sometimes too cold. We do not have any hot air in there.

Q.—Are there any fumes from the dyeing baths? A.—No; not in any way injurious.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Could you tell us the duties of a boss dyer who receives the large amount of wages you have stated? A.—He must have great experience in colors and he must be able to take a section of yarn of any color and match it. He must be a man who can do that or he is no use there.

Q.—Do the dyers work the same hours as the other hands in the mill? A.—No.

Q.—How long do they work? A.—They work ten hours a day, but if the work only keeps them nine hours they get through it and go home.

Q.—Then they have what you call a stint? A.—There are so many lots to do, and when they are done they can go home, or else there is so much raw cotton and, as soon as that is done they can go home. Sometimes they go home at 5:30.

Q.—What will be considered a day's work for them? A.—It is not in that way. They have so much to do, and the sooner they get it done the better it is for them.

Q.—Do you feel very much fatigued when the work is done? A.—There are some men there who work black goods who have very hard work indeed. They work a little time and then they get a rest.

Q.—Have you worked in any other country besides Canada? A.—I have worked in Ireland.

Q.—What are the wages in Ireland in your business as compared with the wages paid here? A.—I never worked at this business in Ireland.

Q.—Do you know the rate of wages prevailing as between the two countries?
 A.—No; I do not know anything about that subject.

Q.—Do hands working around vats and other appliances find it a healthy occupation? A.—I never heard any of them complain. They will not take any but healthy men there, and they all seem to be so. They will be no use unless they are good men;—they must be good men or they would have no use for them.

HAMILTON, 23rd January, 1888.

WILLIAM BIRKETT, Secretary-Treasurer of the Dundas Cotton Mills Company,
 Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How are the wages generally in the Dundas cotton mills as compared with those in the mills in Hamilton? A.—They are much about the same.

Q.—I do not suppose, then, it is necessary to go into particulars of all the classes of employes in the Dundas mills, as we have had those particulars in regard to the Ontario mills? A.—I would not be able to give you that information; the rates are very much about the same, however.

Q.—What is the youngest age at which boys or girls are received at the Dundas mills? A.—We are acting strictly in accordance with the requirements of the

Ontario Act. I think, speaking from memory—I have not looked at the Act for some time—the age is fourteen years.

Q.—How do you satisfy yourself that the children are of the full age required by the Act? A.—If there is any doubt about it we require a certificate from the parents or from a teacher.

Q.—How long have you been connected with the mill? A.—I have been connected with it ever since it was incorporated, five years ago.

Q.—Do you know whether children younger than fourteen years were employed in the mill before the Ontario Act went into operation? A.—I think they were.

Q.—What number of hours do you work in the factory? A.—We work sixty hours a week.

Q.—Is that ten hours per day, or is the time shortened on Saturday? A.—We shorten the hours on Saturday, and we perhaps are a little different from the other mills. We commence at a quarter to seven in the morning.

Q.—Are those hours not too long for children of fourteen years? A.—I do not think, looking at the labor they do, they are too long.

Q.—Is the work very difficult? A.—No; it is not very difficult; it is simple. The children are simply employed in the spinning room, or almost altogether in looking after the bobbins, and that kind of thing. In fact, it would be a great grievance to some parents if we refused to employ their children. Their work is a great assistance to them.

Q.—Do many of those children live with their parents? A.—I think in all cases they do, so far as I know.

Q.—You think the parents are in such a position that the wages of the children are important to them? A.—They make it a matter of importance to them, whether it is or not.

Q.—Did you ever give the subject of technical instruction any thought? A.—I have, but I have not been able to go into it so closely as I would have liked to.

Q.—Would it be an advantage to the mill or an advantage to the children themselves if they had some general technical instruction before entering the mill? A.—Most unquestionably so.

Q.—In what way would it benefit the children? A.—It would enable them at once to enter upon a higher class of work. They would have a practical knowledge, to a certain extent, as to what they were doing.

Q.—In what way would it benefit the company? A.—You would by that means have placed in your employés the power to get out with the same machinery a much larger amount of work.

Q.—Would it be possible, do you think, to impart to children technical instruction while they were going on with their ordinary English education? A.—I think so—undoubtedly.

Q.—What would be the character of the technical instruction which you think would be valuable to those children? A.—Whatever would enter into the process of manufacture in which they were employed, principally carding, spinning and weaving.

Q.—Would it be possible to teach them anything in the way of designing and drawing? A.—Unquestionably.

Q.—That would be of importance in cotton mills? A.—Yes; it is an instruction we want very much.

Q.—If some portion of their English education were neglected in order to obtain this technical instruction, do you think those children, at the age of fourteen years, would be as well equipped for the battle of their life as they are under the present system? A.—I think there can be no doubt about it.

Q.—Do you think the same subjects that are taught in schools to children under fourteen years of age are not valuable to them if they become mechanics? A.—I think so.

Q.—How do the prices of cotton goods compare with the prices, say ten years

ago? A.—Do you mean any particular goods, or the average of such goods as are manufactured in Canada?

Q.—Such goods as are manufactured in Canada? A.—On an average we get 20 per cent. less than we got nine years ago.

Q.—How did the prices nine years ago compare with the prices before that time? A.—They were about the same, and had been about the same for some time. Of course, many branches of the cotton manufacture are comparatively new and were only then beginning to be introduced.

Q.—Were not cottons very cheap about the years 1873 or 1874? A.—I do not know. I have not gone back quite so far as that, but I question very much whether there were many cottons made in Canada at that time. Certainly there were some classes of goods, which I have in mind now, that were not then made here at all, that is in 1872-1873.

Q.—If cotton is cheaper to-day is that not largely due to the fact that raw cotton is cheaper than it was nine years ago? A.—No. In December 1878 and January 1879 the average price of raw cotton, as bought by our company, was then five points of what we bought in December, 1887.

Q.—What do you mean by five points? A.—One-twentieth part of a cent.

Q.—Before you were actively connected with the cotton mill you were in the wholesale dry-goods trade, I believe? A.—I have been connected with that trade as a buyer for twenty-five years—in fact, longer than that.

Q.—Can you tell us whether the profit between the mill and the producer on the one hand is greater or less than the profit between the importer of foreign goods on the other hand? A.—You mean the mill and the consumer on the one hand and the importer and the consumer on the other?

Q.—Yes? A.—That does not need a moment's consideration. The prices are about half on domestics as compared with imported goods. In fact, we could go even further than that, because some lines of both staple and cotton goods are sold, you may say, without any profit whatever. This fact struck me on Saturday evening when walking down James street, where I saw a lot of checks at some retail store marked down to 11 cents. In 1879 or 1880 we could not have bought those goods under 14 or 15 cents, and then the goods would not have been of such good quality.

Q.—What is the character of Canadian cottons, taking all our goods manufactured right through, compared with like goods imported from abroad? A.—They are very much better adapted to the people of the country and they give more satisfaction to the wearer.

Q.—Is there any difference in regard to their being pure cotton? A.—Unquestionably.

Q.—Which is the purer cotton? A.—We have not arrived yet at the use of materials such as are used for domestics in England, or the use of a very large quantity of China clay; at all events, to a very slight extent as yet. Generally speaking, Canadian goods are as pure as it is possible for them to be.

Q.—Is it an advantage, as regards the wearing quality of the goods, not to use those filling materials? A.—Yes; there is great destruction caused by them.

Q.—Owing to the injury to the goods? A.—Yes; and the stuff is soon washed out, and what is there left?

Q.—What is the effect of a manufactory, such as the cotton mills, upon the morals of the community? A.—That is a wide question. So far as I am aware, I think I can safely say, without fear of contradiction, that the morals of the people employed in the factories are quite as good as those of any other class.

Q.—Supposing the same number of mechanics and work people were employed in a town, are they better off or worse off by the introduction of a manufacture like the cotton mill, where there are a large number of young people employed? A.—I do not precisely see the drift of your question.

Q.—Are the people already at work better off or worse off by reason of the

opportunity afforded them to get their children into a cotton mill? A.—I think they are better off.

Q.—Are you able to tell us how wages in cotton mills in Canada compare with wages paid in cotton mills in Great Britain? A.—I looked into that question some time ago, and, speaking from memory, I think wages here are better.

Q.—Do you know whether they are materially better or slightly better? A.—I should say that there is quite a percentage of difference. I am speaking subject to correction, but my strong impression is, from figures I had before me some time ago, that the wages here are from $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 per cent. better.

Q.—Can you tell us how wages in cotton mills in Canada compare with wages in cotton mills in the United States? A.—I think they are very much the same.

Q.—Have you had any labor trouble in the mill? A.—Yes; once.

Q.—How was it settled? A.—By allowing people to go who did not choose to work.

Q.—Was it a demand on their part for higher wages? A.—No; we were paying for certain classes of work higher rates than were paid in other mills.

Q.—And you desired to reduce the rates? A.—Yes; to bring them to the same level as were paid in other mills.

Q.—And not lower? A.—Not lower.

Q.—Did any of your hands go? A.—Only three or four, I think.

Q.—Were any efforts in the direction of arbitration made? A.—No; none at all. Our company would not have cared for anything of the sort, with the state of things then existing.

Q.—Are there any of your people organized into labor unions? A.—Not that I am aware of. I believe a considerable number of them belong to the Knights of Labor; I have been told so, but whether it is a fact or not I do not know.

Q.—You have not come into direct relations with it as such? A.—No.

Q.—Before those mills were established, where were the young people employed and what did the children do? A.—I am not aware that they did anything. I think they were running about the town.

Q.—Were they not able to get better education than they obtain now? A.—No.

Q.—How were the parents of those children able to live before their children had an opportunity to earn anything? A.—I do not think they were as well off as they are to-day.

Q.—Do you think they are better off by the wages their children earn? A.—I think so. That is proved by the anxiety of the people to get the children employed.

Q.—Where do the children live mostly—where do they come from? A.—They live with their parents, in Dundas.

Q.—Have you an ample supply of labor? A.—All we want; in fact, we have applications from a great many more than we can take on.

Q.—But when they grow up and have obtained some skill in connection with factory work, do they continue, as a rule, in your mill? A.—Some of the people have been employed there ten or fifteen years. They advance from one department to another, just as they are qualified.

Q.—I am not going to ask you anything concerning the private affairs of the mill, but generally, are cotton mills making much returns now? A.—I should say not; the competition is too keen altogether to permit of it.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Has not the employment of children at such an early age a tendency to deteriorate the individual physically? A.—No; if you were to see some of the young people who come out of the Dundas mills you would not think so.

Q.—Do you think early employment is a benefit? A.—Take, for instance, the winter time, when they are working in a well-warmed place, they are better off than they would be in their own houses.

Q.—Do you not think your mill is a little too warm sometimes? A.—No; it is kept at a proper temperature, so as to enable the hands to work with ease and comfort.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Is there not a tendency for the hands to catch cold on leaving a warm mill?
A.—They wrap up well. You see the girls leaving there with their ulster cloaks and their wraps drawn about them.

Q.—Are many hands laid up with illness of any kind and is there a larger percentage of sickness among cotton mill operatives than there is amongst other classes? A.—I do not think it.

Q.—Have you kept any percentage of the hands idle from sickness? A.—No; we have not kept any record of that kind.

Q.—Is it so large as to attract attention? A.—No.

JOHN FOTHERGILL, Farmer, Burlington, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How long have you been farming in the neighborhood of Burlington? A.—I was born in that neighborhood fifty years ago, and I have lived there ever since.

Q.—Are the farmers able to live at the present prices they receive for their products? A.—It is pretty hard work, owing to the low price we have to accept for our products, and the increased cost of producing those products leaves us very little profit.

Q.—Do you think the farmers among your acquaintance, as a rule, are getting into debt, or are they holding their own? A.—They are, I think, going the wrong way; I think they are getting into debt, the majority of them—that is where they have to employ labor. Those who are able to keep clear of debt are those who have a family of their own and have not to hire labor.

Q.—What wages do you pay a farm laborer? A.—On an average, about \$150 a year.

Q.—With board? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there married men employed? A.—Yes; a great many are.

Q.—What would they receive? A.—There is very little difference. Of course, there is a little item in the shape of house rent, but the majority of those who are married are those who have been with the same employer probably two or three years, who are looked upon as more valuable than strangers, and these get very nearly as much wages as single men, with the house thrown in. I have done that way with married men myself, and my neighbors have done it also. There is not more than \$10 or \$15 difference.

Q.—If a married farm laborer is working for you on a farm, what does he get in addition to his house rent? A.—In the majority of cases they get firewood; that is thrown in. They have to take their own time for cutting it, but they get the wood for cutting.

Q.—Do they get any garden patch? A.—Yes; a quarter of an acre, on which a man can grow potatoes for the need of himself and his family, together with other vegetables. If a man has not the privilege of a garden in addition to his house he will receive the privilege of planting a couple of bags of potatoes with his employer's potatoes in the summer time.

Q.—Are the men largely employed the year round? A.—Yes; in the majority of cases. There is a scarcity of help of that description. The trouble with too many of them in Canada is that they want to work a few months during the summer at as high wages as they can obtain and do nothing in the winter—there is too much of that altogether in this country.

Q.—Why do they not want to remain on the farm all the year? A.—They like to go to the city and do nothing in the winter.

Q.—Could not farmers employ them during the winter? A.—Yes; a great many will not engage in that way. They will obtain \$17 or \$18 a month for seven

or eight months—that was about the amount paid last year. Farmers are compelled to pay this high price in consequence of the scarcity of labor during the summer season.

Q.—Did you ever make any calculation as to the cost of keeping your farm machinery up to the standard? A.—No; of course, we have always taken good care of our machinery. I think the average lifetime of a machine on my farm is about seven years; that is about as long as it will pay to have them repaired. We have run machinery almost that length of time with very little repairs.

Q.—Will ploughs and harrows last longer? A.—Yes; but we do not consider them machinery.

Q.—With the improved machinery, can you raise grain for less money than you could formerly, considering the cost of the machinery? A.—Yes; owing to the present rate of wages. Wages were not so high when we had not those machines as they have been of late years, and the price of grain was higher.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—You raised a great deal less grain in those days, did you not? A.—Yes; there is more raised on the whole.

Q.—Is it a great advantage to the farmer to have a city near in which he can sell his dairy products, and so on? A.—Yes; I consider that to be a great advantage.

Q.—Is there more profit in that sort of farming than in grain farming? A.—Yes; there is.

Q.—Have you done dairy farming at all? A.—Yes.

Q.—How does that pay? A.—We have been dairy farming, but not on the same scale as I am into it now. We always keep a certain number of cows and come to Hamilton market every week with butter. This last year I went into keeping cows to sell their milk. I have had, unfortunately, a bad season to contend with, so far.

Q.—That was owing to what? A.—It was owing to the drought.

Q.—It destroyed the grass? A.—Yes.

Q.—In an ordinary season would a farmer be better off selling his milk to a cheese factory or a butter factory than he would by working it up himself? A.—I think it would be more to his profit to sell it to some factory.

Q.—Have you considered whether there is more profit in selling your milk to a cheese factory or a butter factory? A.—No; I have not considered that.

Q.—If you were to sell your milk to a butter factory you would get the skim milk back? A.—Yes.

Q.—Could you not put that to good use on the farm? A.—I do not know, I get the benefit of the skim milk from the party who gets my milk. I can get that milk after the butter is extracted for $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents a gallon. I do not know whether it would be better if it was taken to a factory.

Q.—Does not the party to whom you sell your milk run the butter factory? A.—He is making cheese as well.

Q.—If he is making cheese you cannot get the skimmed milk back? A.—Yes. This year we have as nice a lot of pigs as I ever had, and I never gave them any milk, except the refuse of the house, which does not amount to much. They take a lot more of other stuff, like shorts, and I do not think a great deal of feeding them on skimmed milk. I do not think much of skimmed milk, except for rearing calves. It is all right then.

Q.—Do you raise much fruit in your section? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there much money in fruit? A.—I could not say, I do not do much in that myself.

THOMAS BLANCHARD, Farmer, Appleby, County of Halton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You have heard the testimony given by Mr. Fothergill: do you corroborate that generally? A.—Yes; I do.

Q.—Are you able to tell us whether a man can rent a farm and make money

our of it and buy a farm of his own? A.—Quite a number have done that since I have known Canada.

Q.—That has been done within your knowledge? A.—Yes; and many a one has done it.

Q.—In order to do that they must be pretty economical, I suppose? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the state of comfort in which farmers live now compared with the condition in which they lived twenty or twenty-five years ago? A.—As a general thing farmers get better off in the world; they generally get more comforts, such as improved buildings, for instance, and they live in better houses. I recollect when I first came to Canada there were log houses; then the farmers got into frame houses, and now they have brick houses, as a rule.

Q.—Do they wear as good clothes as they formerly did? A.—Yes; when I first came to Canada everything was home-spun and home-made.

Q.—How are they fed now as compared with formerly? A.—I do not think there is much difference.

Q.—Are they able to buy as many luxuries now? A.—I suppose so. There are quite a number of luxuries obtained now such as we had to do without when I first came to Canada, and of course now-a-days people have all the luxuries that people can have in any country. I lived in the county of Peel many years ago, and hundreds came there from the old country, and many of them have farms now. There was nothing to prevent a man getting a farm if he was steady and industrious.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Did you come out from England as a farmer? A.—No; I came out in 1814, and when I got to Toronto and had paid my bill I had £5 in my pocket, and that was all the money I had in the world. To-day I have between four and five hundred acres of land of my own.

Q.—Have you been remarkably successful? A.—Yes. I do not know of any man who came out from my part of the country in Great Britain who has not been successful if he was an industrious and steady man.

Q.—What kind of farming do you do? A.—Mixed farming. I never went extensively into any one kind of farming. I never believed in it, and I do not believe in it to-day.

Q.—Not even on a large scale? A.—I do not think so. I like to see good stock and nice crops, and it is good stock that makes good crops. I like a variety, so that if one misses another will hit.

Q.—Do you do anything in the way of stock-raising for the market? A.—Yes; and for the improvement of stock. I like to have a little better stock than any of the other farmers around; I generally raise stock for breeding purposes, and have pursued that through life.

Q.—You found it better to feed grain on the farm than to sell it? A.—Yes; I never have been in the habit of selling a bushel of grain, but have generally consumed it on the farm. I thus improve the farm and have my eye on it, and I like to have good cows, sheep and horses. The only grievous drawback we have to contend with is the lack of farm laborers, and it is a great drawback and misfortune. When I came here thirty or forty years ago I was only a young man and I had to hire with my employer; but we never knew such a thing as having bad men; they were all good hands, as good as you would find in the country. Unfortunately, I am sorry to say, we have poor men to-day, and it is impossible to hire a good man to-day; there are exceptions, of course. Some years ago I never had a bad man in my employ, and they were all men who knew well how to work on a farm and who could plow. I am sorry to say the men we now get are, as a rule, poor men.

Q.—Have you ever thought what was the reason for that? A.—I understand

that wages in England have risen to such an extent that the farm laborers can do as well there as they can in Canada.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—That is an advantage to the men ? A.—Yes.

R. B. OSBORNE, Secretary of the Osborne-Killey Manufacturing Company, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What does your firm manufacture, principally ? A.—Engines and boilers, principally.

Q.—Do you employ a large number of hands ? A.—We employ on an average in one shop about fifty-five hands and in our other shops about fifteen hands.

Q.—Are they men or boys, or both ? A.—They are both.

Q.—Do you employ many boys ? A.—Not many boys ; we employ in the machine shop, on tools, some apprentices.

Q.—Are those apprentices indentured to your firm ? A.—We have gone out of that lately ; we do not do it any more.

Q.—Why do you not indenture them now ? A.—Because it was not satisfactory. Boys, after they had served a year or two, thought they were full-fledged machinists, and they could do better elsewhere, and they wanted to go away. They wanted to break their indentures and rather than have any trouble we would always let them go. Now we retain a certain percentage of their wages and they can go at any time.

Q.—Are the men skilled or unskilled mechanics ? A.—We have very few unskilled ; we have a few laborers, for instance, around the foundry.

Q.—What wages do you pay a first-class mechanic ? A.—We pay a first-class mechanic from \$2 to \$2.50 a day.

Q.—What wages do you pay an unskilled laborer ? A.—We pay an unskilled laborer from \$1.15 to \$1.50 a day.

Q.—Do you get as many men as you require ? A.—Yes ; we get quite as many.

Q.—You have a good supply of men ? A.—Yes.

Q.—How frequently do you pay their wages ? A.—We pay their wages every two weeks.

Q.—On what day do you pay them ? A.—On Friday night, for they prefer Friday night.

Q.—Would not the men rather be paid weekly ? A.—We have never been asked to pay them weekly.

Q.—Would it be a great deal of trouble to make weekly payments ? A.—Yes ; it would be about twice as much trouble as at present.

Q.—The work of making up the pay-rolls for seventy or eighty men would not be very great ? A.—It makes twice the work, whatever that labor may be.

Q.—Would not the advantage to the men more than compensate for the trouble in making up the pay-roll ? A.—I think it would not.

Q.—Do you know whether any of your men save money ? A.—They do—that is to say, our regular hands do.

Q.—What evidence have you that they are saving money ? A.—I know some of them who have bought property here.

Q.—Do you think many of them own the houses in which they live ? A.—Yes ; a great many of them do. I know some of our laborers own the houses in which they live.

Q.—Do you mean that some of your day laborers own the houses in which they live ? A.—They are what we call steady laborers ; they do laborers' work.

Q.—Where do you find the market for your machinery ? A.—All over Canada.

Q.—How far west have you sold your goods ? A.—We sell our scales clear west

to British Columbia. We have sold engines in various parts of Manitoba, and east as far as New Brunswick. We shipped a pair of engines to Chatham, N.B., the other day.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—For the pulp mill? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What size of engine can you build? A.—Any size of engine required.

Q.—What is the largest you have built? A.—About 700 horse-power. The wages in our machine shop will average about \$9.70 a week, taking the foremen and apprentices all through the shops, boys and all.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Do you say that is the average wages of the hands? A.—Yes. I understand that in machine shops and car shops in New York the average is about \$10.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What wages do you pay in the scale factory? A.—We do a good deal of piece-work there.

Q.—About what will those men earn? Do they do as well as the machine department? A.—Yes; they do as well.

Q.—What hours do they work? A.—They work nine and a-half hours per day at present; ten hours in summer.

Q.—Are the wages correspondingly reduced in winter? A.—Yes; we pay at the rate of so much per hour, except in the foundry, where they shorten the noon hour in winter so as to get the full time in.

Q.—Is your business increasing, decreasing or stationary? A.—Our business is increasing steadily every year.

Q.—What class of iron do you use? A.—We use Canadian iron and Scotch iron, for pig-iron.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—That is Londonderry iron? A.—Yes; we find it very good indeed, for our work.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you use much special iron for boilers? A.—We use steel for boilers.

Q.—You do not make any iron boilers? A.—No; there are none made now.

Q.—Where do you get the steel? A.—It is imported from Scotland.

Q.—Your bar-iron: where does that come from? A.—It is Canadian.

Q.—Do you consider that equal to English or Scotch iron? A.—Yes; superior. We get bar-iron made in this city as good as any we can possibly obtain.

Q.—Is it made from scrap? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you get any Londonderry bar-iron? A.—No; I do not use it.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Is that Londonderry, Nova Scotia? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Where do you get your coal? A.—We import it through dealers.

Q.—From what country? A.—From the United States. We asked for prices of Canadian coal, but the figures on freight prevented our using it. The prices of the coal were all right.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—How much more does it cost to land Nova Scotia coal here than it does American? A.—On the quality of coal on which we got the quotation the cost was about \$2 a ton more.

Q.—Then it would cost \$5 or \$6 a ton laid down here, I presume? A.—It would be according to the quality of the coal. We wanted steam coal.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—For what can you get the same quality of American coal laid down here?

A.—The cost varies from \$2.50 to \$2.70 a ton.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Where did you get the quotations in regard to Nova Scotia coal—from what mines? A.—I do not distinctly remember the name of the mines, but they are not far from the iron mines at Londonderry.

Q.—That would be at Spring Hill. How long is it since you got those quotations?

A.—It is about six months.

Q.—Do you recollect the figures? A.—No; not the exact figure. I can supply you with the exact quotations.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Does your coal come by rail or water? A.—By rail.

Q.—Does any coal come to Hamilton from Cleveland through the Canal? A.—In boat loads?

Q.—Yes. A.—I do not know. It principally arrives here, so far as I know, in schooner loads.

Q.—That would be all anthracite coal, would it not? A.—I could not say. The kind of coal I mentioned was anthracite screenings; we use it for steam purposes.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—You mentioned the figure as \$2.75 a ton? A.—Yes.

Q.—How about bituminous coal? A.—That costs us about \$4 delivered here.

J. H. KILLEY, of the Osborne-Killey Manufacturing Company, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED —

Q.—Have you heard the testimony given by Mr. Osborne, your partner? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you corroborate it? A.—I do. Two years ago I made a set of drawings for the pumping engine of this city. I worked every night for three or four months to finish the work. I prepared the drawings and the newspapers got to know I had done so.

Mr. FREED.—I do not know that we should go into this matter.

WITNESS.—I am not going into politics; I am only going into a matter entirely connected with myself.

Mr. FREED. I do not think we can go into a private matter.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. CLARKE).—I do not think we can take evidence of that kind.

WITNESS.—It is only in regard to a matter of interest to the workmen of this city and to myself. In fact, the whole matter has been enough to ruin us; it has ruined my health already.

The CHAIRMAN.—We will be glad to hear any evidence that may be offered bearing on subjects within the scope of this Commission, but I do not see that we can take any evidence of that kind.

Mr. WALSH.—The gentleman had better ventilate the matter through the press.

WITNESS.—I have done that already, I have done everything I could with the press; but they do not leave me alone; they go for me at every opportunity.

JOHN MCKENNA, Broom-maker, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are many persons employed at broom-making? A.—There may be about fifty in Hamilton, boys included.

Q.—What proportion of those are men, and what are boys? A.—About a little more than half are journeymen.

Q.—Are any women employed at the business? A.—No.

Q.—Just men and boys? A.—Yes; just men and boys.

Q.—Does it require a great deal of skill to work at the trade? A.—No.

Q.—How long does a boy work at it before he is considered a good broom-maker? A.—Some of them are never skilled broom-makers.

Q.—I mean an ordinary broom-maker? A.—It requires certain adaptability.

Q.—About how long do they serve at the trade before they become ordinarily proficient? A.—They serve two years.

Q.—What wages do the skilled broom-makers earn? A.—From \$10 to \$12 a week.

Q.—Do they get that amount here in Hamilton? A.—When they are working full time they can get that amount.

Q.—Do they not make full time? A.—They have not made full time for some time past.

Q.—Are more people employed now than formerly at the business? A.—There is a much smaller number.

Q.—What is the reason for that? A.—The state of the trade, but largely it is due to convict and prison labor employed at the trade.

Q.—Are many brooms made in prison? A.—The product is not less than 60 dozen a day.

Q.—In what prison are they made? A.—They are made in the Central Prison, Toronto.

Q.—What class of people in the prison make brooms? A.—Any one whom the authorities think smart enough; it depends a great deal on the state of trade as to who are employed. If the business is pretty brisk they will put more hands on the broom trade; if it is not brisk they will employ them on something else.

Q.—Do those prisoners work for the Government or for a contractor? A.—The Government, I think, farms out the labor to Nelson & Sons. They contract for so much a dozen.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do you refer to the Nelsons of Montreal? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you know what price the employers pay the Government for the labor? A.—I understand they pay 25 cents a dozen.

Q.—What will be paid in Hamilton to a free broom-maker a dozen for brooms? This 25 cents a dozen includes all the labor required? A.—It takes another 25 cents a dozen to prepare the material before the men get it.

Q.—Is that the case in Hamilton? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then what would the broom-makers get? A.—A journeyman broom-maker would get from 45 cents to 72 cents a dozen; the amount depends on the quality.

Q.—Do you know what is paid to the apprentices by the day? A.—The average is in the neighborhood of 32 cents a day.

Q.—How did you get that knowledge? A.—The last return that I could get was in 1884.

Q.—Those returns show about 32 cents a day, you say? A.—Yes; in that neighborhood.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Does it state in the contract what shall be paid to the Government for

the labor of those men? A.—The contract states that. My information I got from a broom-maker, who went down to see about obtaining a situation as guard at the prison. That was what he informed me at the time. The effect of Messrs. Nelson & Sons getting that contract has been to close their factory at Montreal; they had a very large shop there. They also had a shop in Toronto, but they closed that up.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How long have Messrs. Nelson had that contract? A.—I think the first contract was for five years; the second for four years. I understand it has yet to run a year from next May.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do the Government supply the broom-makers with all the necessary accommodation, a building and rent free? A.—Yes; I believe so.

Q.—Is there any machinery in connection with the industry and trade there? A.—I think Nelson & Sons find the machinery. They have got to keep the tools in good order, and every thing with which they are supplied.

Q.—Do the Government include all that in 32 cents a day? A.—I think the Government gave what they had. They undertook to run it themselves, if I mistake not, at first, and they had this plant on hand; you might say that they are fixtures belonging to the place. The tools, knives, and every thing with which the men work, are furnished by the Nelsons, and they have to keep them good.

Q.—If that broom contract was not in force how many more men would be employed than what are employed now? A.—Of course, the work would be distributed over the country, more or less. We would probably employ not quite as many as the prison employs, but about two-thirds of that number. Of course, men working under compulsion do not work so hard as men working piece-work—they do not make as many brooms. They have a certain number to make, and they will not make any more.

Q.—Would it have a tendency to raise the wages of broom-makers if the prison contract was done away with? A.—Yes; it would give us steady work, for one thing. Now, if there is a good market the prison will flood it right away and throw all the rest of the broom-makers of the country out of work, for the ordinary employer cannot compete with the contractors. There is a difference of 60 cents a dozen in favor of the contractors over what the other employers pay, without considering the rent of the place and the other extras.

Q.—I understand from what you say that the contractors have the building without rent and have the engines and machinery all supplied? A.—So far as I know they have the advantages of which I have spoken, which an ordinary man in business has to supply himself.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Suppose this work was not done by prison labor and men were allowed to employ the full amount of hands here, what would be the difference per dozen brooms as between the cost to the employer and that to the contractor—in other words, what would Messrs. Nelson get by their contract? A.—They have an average of 60 cents a dozen.

Q.—Is that the price at which they sell them? A.—That is what they cost the contractors—or rather that much less than any one else.

Q.—Do you know at what the contractors profess to supply brooms by that labor? A.—They can undersell any makers here at any price they like.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How much cheaper can they be bought from the contractors? A.—From 25 cents to 50 cents less.

Q.—That would make 2 cents or 3 cents per broom? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does the retailer get any of that benefit? A.—Certainly.

Q.—Is it a boon for the retail dealers? A.—I do not think so; I do not think, at all events, the consumer gets the advantage.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—You think the consumer does not get the advantage? A.—No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Suppose those brooms are marked “Central Prison” or “Prison-made” what would be the effect? A.—They would not sell so many. If people knew they were made in the Central Prison they would not buy them.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You think the people would not buy them if they were so stamped? A.—They would not buy them; they would hardly take them home for nothing. They know the effect it would have on them.

Q.—Is there any distinguishing mark now by which you can tell brooms made by prison labor? A.—They use letters, I think. Only those connected with the trade get to know them; the public at large do not know them. Some large dealers will furnish their own labels and have them put on the brooms.

GEORGE SWANTON, Broom-maker, Hamilton, called and sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You have heard the testimony given by Mr. McKenna: do you corroborate it? A.—Yes; I think it would be a very good thing if the Central Prison, or Messrs. Nelson, were compelled to put a special mark on their brooms.

WELLAND HOUSE, St. CATHARINES, 23rd January, 1888.

The Commission met at 9:30 a.m., present: the Chairman, Mr. Heakes and Mr. Kerwin.

WILLIAM McILWAIN, called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You are Inspector of Hulls? A.—Yes; I inspect for the Canadian Lloyds. I am employed by the Government to examine masters and mates of any vessels.

Q.—Who examines hulls of steam vessels? Aren't you employed—appointed—by the Government to examine hulls? A.—No.

Q.—Who examines them? A.—Captains Harbottle and Dick, of Toronto.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What do you consider the proper test in examining a vessel's hull? A.—Boring, sounding, and if listing, taking out a plank at each end, outside and in.

Q.—Is it always done? A.—No; very seldom done here.

Q.—Is it possible to tell the condition of a vessel without opening her up in some place? A.—Well, yes; where you bore you can tell. In inspecting we bore between wind and water so many frames.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Are there many sailing vessels which you refuse to class? A.—Yes; there are several Canadian vessels which have no class.

Q.—There are several vessels now sailing on Canadian waters you would not insure? A.—We don't recommend them any class, and therefore the companies will not take any risk on them.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—When you inspect sailing vessels do you examine the standing and running gear, canvas and ground tackle, and everything about the vessel? A.—Yes.

Q.—And everything has to be in proper condition before the insurance companies will take a risk? A.—Well, there are different ways of grading them—A 1 with a star, is highest; A 1 next; A 2 and A 2½ are next.

The CHAIRMAN.—This is American Lloyd's.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What is the lowest class you insure—B 1½? A.—She will only be insured against total loss.

Q.—When a vessel goes down to B 1½, how long will she be fit for service? A.—Not very long. She is only fit to carry something which will not sink.

Q.—What I want to get at is how long will a vessel be classed as fit for insurance after going down to B 1½? A.—She will go that season for which she is recommended. We cannot recommend longer, because even a new vessel might fall through an accident. We inspect every year.

Q.—Can you tell us if there are any vessels sailing on inland lakes which have been refused insurance? A.—Yes; there are.

Q.—Would you consider a vessel not fit to be classed B 1½ safe? A.—No; not seaworthy.

Q.—Can you fix in your mind any vessels during past seasons which have been lost which were not up to the standard of B 1½? A.—Yes; there are two I could mention which were lost which were below B 1½.

Q.—Did you know those vessels? A.—Yes.

Q.—You know of them? A.—Yes; I inspected one of them last year.

Q.—And in your opinion they were not sea-worthy? A.—Yes.

Q.—Were there any lives lost? A.—On the one I inspected there was not; on the other there was.

Q.—Did you ever know anything of a vessel that lay sunk in the canal for two or three years and was raised last year? A.—Yes; there was one lay on the bottom. She was seated on mud the last three or four years and went away from here last fall.

Q.—What would be her general condition? A.—Unseaworthy.

Q.—Is she back here? A.—No; she is in Detroit. She was sold to some parties in Detroit. They patched her up with canvas and tar and towed her up the lake.

Q.—You don't know what became of her? A.—She is some place on the American side.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you know vessels you have examined which had not proper gearing that went to sea, although you would not insure them? A.—No; there are not many of them. The general outfit of the vessel, her appearance, bearings and rigging, are all taken into consideration to make her class.

Q.—By you—and are there vessels which sail which are not properly fitted in that way? A.—There are.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You have been an old captain yourself? A.—I sailed thirty-four years—twelve years on the ocean and the balance on the lakes.

Q.—Do you consider that the inland vessels are sufficiently manned? A.—They are not.

Q.—Is there difficulty in getting skilled sailors to go on vessels here? A.—Well, sometimes there is; sometimes there is not. Sailors are difficult material to handle, sometimes.

Q.—Taking an old canal-sized single vessel, what would you consider would be a proper crew for her? A.—Ten men all told—the captain and two mates, the cook and six of a crew before the mast—five men and a boy.

Q.—What about those barges? A.—I claim they should have as good men as if they were sailing.

Q.—As many men? A.—Yes; just as many.

Q.—How is that? A.—All they take for is the handling of the gaff, topsails and jibs. There is no climbing to be done. They do their sail-raising on deck.

Q.—Does it frequently happen when a vessel is in tow she breaks away? A.—Yes.

Q.—When she has not sufficient crew on board to handle her, what chance has she? A.—Not much.

Q.—Do you think there is a sufficient number of unseaworthy vessels afloat to warrant the Government in prohibiting the use of this class of vessels? A.—Yes. There are a great many of the vessels which are afloat now made unseaworthy by over-loading. They are seaworthy enough to carry what they were built for, or to carry down to 10 feet of water, but when they load to 12 and 14 feet they drown them.

Q.—Taking a vessel of 375 tons, that would be about the old canal size? A.—Yes. Some go 400 and 410.

Q.—Say 400 tons. How much space over and above her cargo should that vessel have in her hold? A.—I like to have them full. Shift the bulk-heads and shorten the length of the hold and put in a safe cargo from end to end and load as high as the rail. If it is grain, the whole carrying space wants to be filled to keep it from shifting. If I understand the drift of the question, it is how much more should a vessel carry than her registered tonnage.

Q.—Yes? A.—About one-third more. When they go to carry double it is too much.

Q.—Some people claim a vessel of that kind should have space for 100 tons of water and still float? A.—Well, I would not like to be in her with 100 tons of water.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Do they load as deep in October and November as other months? A.—Just the same. Owners say, when freights are low, "Put on all you can; freights are low." When they are high, "Put as much on as possible; freights are high."

Q.—Don't they have a larger crew in those months? A.—No; just the same.

Q.—To what do you attribute the loss of the vessels you spoke of? A.—Over-loading.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What would you suggest as a remedy for over-loading, or to guard against it? A.—You have heard of the Plimsoll load line. They used to drown them on salt water until the Government took hold of it and passed an Act, and the same principle should apply to the lakes, especially from the last of September until the close of navigation.

Q.—How does this system regulate the loading? A.—According to the depth of hold, breadth of beam and length of the vessel, and there are so many inches to the foot of the depth.

Q.—How many inches should there be to a foot on these barges? A.—They should have 3 inches to the foot of the depth of hold.

Q.—What sail do you consider it is necessary for a barge to carry? A.—If she has two masts she should have mainsail, foresail, staysail and one jib. If she has a bowsprit outside she can only carry three.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Mates and captains have all certificates? A.—They are supposed to have. The law claims they shall, but they have not. The law came in force the 26th May, 1883.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Who is the proper officer to enforce the law? A.—Collectors of Customs have the order to do so, but many of them don't do it. I know cases in which uncertificated officers have borrowed certificates of regular qualified mates, for the purpose of getting a clearance at the Customs office.

Q.—Is there anything we have not asked you which would be of importance to us? A.—I think, in the first place, that this masters' and mates' law should be strictly enforced—that all masters and mates that the law requires to have certificates on a certain class of vessels should have them.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You think that every vessel sailing should have certificated officers?
A.—From 100 tons upwards they should carry certified officers.

Q.—Every vessel having a certificated mate and captain should be examined by the hull inspector? A.—Yes; all vessels, large and small, should be examined by the Government inspector. I claim the Government should do all inspection of vessels, sail and steam. It should be done when the vessels are running, when they could see every thing. The Welland Canal is a good place to examine them, as every thing can be seen. They should carry so many men to each 100 tons register. On salt water it is three men and a boy to the 100 tons, but here they need not force them to carry so many, but they should have enough to handle the vessel.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Who would be the proper person to examine the vessels to see if they carry competent crews and officers having certificates? A.—I say a man outside of the Custom officers.

Q.—A port warden, or some such officer? A.—Well, they might call him what they liked. It should be a practical and independent man; it should be a practical sailor to inspect vessels and say whether they are over-loaded. We will soon be able to tell whether sailors or cowboys are aboard of her.

Q.—Do the average vessels carry a yawl boat sufficiently large for the crew in case of shipwreck? A.—Yes; the boats are big enough. It is not the size; it is the state they are in; it is the condition of the boat.

Q.—In the inspection for insurance is the yawl included? A.—Yes; every thing.

Q.—It has to be in good condition? A.—It is supposed to be. With regard to the forecastles of many of the barges, they are not fit for human beings to live in. Some of them are so bad that temporary forecastles or “dog-houses,” as sailors call them, have to be put up on the deck for sleeping in; it is impossible for a man to live below.

The Commission resumed at 2 p.m. in the Welland Canal Office.

ROBERT DONNELLY, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What is your occupation? A.—A ship carpenter.

Q.—Employed on the Welland Canal? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there many ship carpenters in St. Catharines? A.—Quite a few.

Q.—What wages do they earn here? A.—Two dollars a day.

Q.—Do they have constant employment? A.—Not all the time.

Q.—What class of work are you principally engaged on here? A.—Mostly all repairing work now.

Q.—Not many new vessels? A.—No; we are not building anything new for three years this winter.

Q.—Are there many vessels repaired during the season here? A.—Very few; we do a great deal more in Port Dalhousie in that line.

Q.—Have you a general knowledge of the condition of the vessels passing through the canal? A.—Well, no; not altogether. Some I know pretty well; others I do not.

Q.—Do you know if there are many vessels passing through the canal you would consider unseaworthy? A.—There have been some; but a good many have been done away with this fall.

Q.—How? A.—Lost in the winds and storms last fall.

Q.—Can you tell us some, without mentioning names, of vessels, that you know to have been lost which were not in a seaworthy condition? Do you know of any such?
A.—One especially I know of; that is the——

Q.—Have you seen any vessels leaving the canal during the past season which

were not fit for trading purposes? A.—Well, yes; there are some I consider were not fit—one of captain Norris. That is about all around this part, and he did not bother much about the lower end of the canal.

Q.—Is there any system of inspection of vessels? A.—Captain McIlwain is our inspector here for insurance companies.

Q.—When a vessel is not classed I suppose the insurance companies will not cover her? A.—No; they will not have anything to do with her, as far as I know. She is supposed to be classed before she is entered on the books.

Q.—Do you know of vessels that have not been classed which are trading on the lakes? A.—No; I do not.

Q.—When are these vessels generally inspected? A.—When laid up in winter, in the month of January, or later on in the spring.

Q.—What is the course generally pursued in inspecting vessels? A.—They are supposed to bore them, try them and see if they are sound and good.

Q.—Do they ever open them up? A.—They don't, that I am aware of. I never saw them do it.

Q.—Do you think the present system of inspection is a satisfactory test? A.—I do not.

Q.—Is the standing and running gear of a vessel inspected? A.—Certainly it ought to be.

Q.—Is it done? A.—Very seldom, to my knowledge.

Q.—Do you know if the canvas is always inspected? A.—No, sir; I don't think so.

Q.—Among the craft you have been in the habit of working upon, how many do you think are unfit for service at present afloat? A.—None that I have worked upon. They are all fit for service that I have worked upon the last year or two, except the one I mentioned.

JOHN T. CAREY, Secretary of the Seamen's Assembly of Canada, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—You are chief of the Executive in Canada? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there many sailors having their headquarters in St. Catharines and Port Dalhousie? A.—Quite a few. The Welland Canal is, at the present time, the headquarters for Canada.

Q.—During the season of navigation do all sailors report to you? A.—All sailors, members of our organization.

Q.—Are there many sailors outside of your organization passing through the canal? A.—Not competent men. There are a great many outside, but we don't consider them capable to go aboard a vessel and do the work required of seamen.

Q.—What is the standard for membership in your assembly? A.—A man must be able to reef, steer, splice, wind and unwind canvas, and shape a boom or spar if necessary.

Q.—Are there any benefits in the society? A.—A sick benefit of \$4 a week during a man's illness, and a death benefit of \$50 to bury him, or to give his friends, as the case may be.

Q.—Has the organization been of benefit to the sailors? A.—Yes.

Q.—In what way? A.—In raising the standard of morality among them, in bettering their condition financially, and, in fact, giving them a better acquaintance with each other and their wants.

Q.—Speaking of the wants of sailors, would you tell us what in particular sailors are desirous of getting by way of improvement to their present condition? A.—In the first place they want a better inspection of vessels, so that they will be more seaworthy, and the danger of their losing their lives less. Vessels at the present time, as a rule, are over-loaded and under-manned.

Q.—What would you consider a full complement for a vessel, say 400 tons, old canal-size? A.—Five men before the mast, a captain, one or two mates and a cook. In times gone by, ten or twelve years ago, vessels which are now carrying three men before the mast, a boy and one mate, at that time carried five or six men and two mates, and also a boy.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is there always a man cook? A.—No; we don't include the cook as one of the crew, and it may be a woman.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do sailors prefer a man to a woman cook? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there many vessels lost, to your knowledge, through not carrying a full crew? A.—Well, I have no certain knowledge, that is, I could not prove it, but I feel satisfied, from reports of crews on board some of the vessels, that there are not men enough on board capable of handling a vessel in time of need.

Q.—In your opinion, had these vessels had a full complement of men would it have been possible to save them? A.—My opinion is, the chances would have been two to one of their being saved.

Q.—Is there any law regulating the number of men which shall be carried on board? A.—None that I know of. I have looked the law over; I find there is none. (Book sent for.)

Q.—Do you know if there are many vessels afloat which have not been classed by the Canadian Lloyds? A.—Yes; you will find in the book I own—Polks' Marine Directory, 1884.

Q.—When a vessel is refused classification, what is the general condition of her? A.—Bad.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Supposing a vessel did not ask to be inspected, it would not appear in this book? A.—Whether they asked or not insurance companies put them in, in case they should come during the summer to insure the cargo of the vessel.

Q.—Can you fix in your mind any of these vessels which have been refused classification which have been lost within the last season or two? A.—Yes; the— is one, with all hands.

Q.—Do you know of any others? A.—No Canadian vessels this last season.

Q.—Do you know if the system of inspection on the American side for insurance is the same as the Canadian? A.—I think it is, but I am not positive.

Q.—If a law were placed on the Statute Book making it compulsory to examine all vessels, irrespective of insurance, would it be a benefit to the sailors? A.—It would. I also firmly believe it would benefit the owners. My reason for that is, that those vessels which have not class and cannot insure will cut freights on vessels which are classed. They carry a poorer class of men; consequently the running expenses for keeping the vessel in trim, and the wages, are less, and it gives a man who owns a poor vessel a better chance to cut rates than a man who owns a good one.

Q.—Do you think it would be better to inspect a vessel, say, while she is passing through the canal, after being fitted out, than in the winter season? A.—For canvas and rigging, I believe it would. For the hull and frames and inside ceilings, &c., they could not very well get into the vessel's hull, though I believe it would be best to examine vessels and class them after being fitted out than it would before it.

Q.—In your experience of inspection under the Lloyds system, do they examine the standing rigging thoroughly? A.—I never knew them to do it.

Q.—The running rigging and canvas? A.—I never knew them to do it.

Q.—The ground tackle? A.—Well, I don't know that I could say I ever saw that done.

Q.—Don't you think it is necessary the ground tackle should be examined as well as the hull? A.—I think so.

Q.—Have you ever known of a vessel going ashore from a defect in the ground tackle? A.—Yes; I was in one myself.

Q.—What was the matter with her? A.—The bolts in the chain-plates on the starboard side were carried away, and she drifted ashore at White Lake, on Lake Michigan. Eleven were drowned and only two of us were saved.

Q.—You consider the present system of inspection is altogether unsatisfactory? A.—I am positive of it, that is, from a life-saving point of view.

Q.—Have you seen vessels leave the Welland Canal you knew to be unseaworthy? A.—Yes.

Q.—When you ascertain a vessel is not fit to go to sea what course do you take? A.—We never take any course, only if we had any men on board, and we had their lives insured in our organization, and they were in our sick benefit arrangement, the only thing we could do that we know of at the present time is to order them ashore, and if they did not go we would cancel their insurance. They know that is our law if a vessel is unseaworthy.

Q.—Have you ever refused to allow men belonging to your organization to go on board a vessel from unseaworthiness? A.—Yes; last summer.

Q.—Have you ever seen a vessel leaving St. Catharines with her seams covered with canvas? A.—Yes; one of them left the dry dock last summer.

Q.—Can you tell why they put canvas upon her? A.—It must be to cover up seams which they could not caulk. The seams were so rotten they would not hold the oakum, and they tacked canvas on with shingle nails, I think, and covered the hull underneath the canvas with paint and painted the canvas on the outside. She had several strips, one reaching from the starboard to the aft-plate of the fore-rigging. On the starboard bow there were four or five patches on the bow. I saw only the one side. When I went aboard she had no hatches, but pine hatches made of rough pine boards, and in pumping her out they had a trough running over the sides, so the water would not go on the deck and go into the hold again. She went from here, I think to Detroit. I understood she was going to Cleveland to load coal. Some of the members of our organization were working at her in the dry-dock, and when I went aboard to see her, in climbing over the rail I was afraid it would fall into the dry-dock; the stanchions were so rotten I could have shoved them over. I could move it 6 or 8 inches without any effort, just by pushing it. I believe some of our men went on her, although I told them if they did sick and insurance benefits would be refused.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—She got to the American ports? A.—I could not say for certain where she went.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—She never came back here again? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—Masters and mates of all vessels are supposed to pass an examination? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is a vessel allowed to leave port without officers holding certificates? A.—By law they are not, but they have done it, though. The law up to the present time, to my certain knowledge, has been broken, and last fall in a great many cases. I hear a vessel which was lost last fall with all hands was reported for breaking the law last September to the Custom house officers in Toronto, but still was allowed to clear after being reported.

Q.—Have you known many instances of vessels passing through the canal without proper officers on board? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever known a case in which the captain of a vessel borrowed the certificate of the mate in order to get a clearance? A.—I could not prove it, although I am satisfied it has been done. Instances of that kind have come to our notice, but that is something I could not say positively, although I am satisfied it has been done often. In the case of one, where the vessel was lost last fall, I believe

it was done nearly all last summer. It was reported to me by one of the men holding a certificate.

Q.—Is every facility given to sailors to qualify as captains and mates? A.—Well, the way vessels towing now are getting, in a short time there will be no sailors at all on the waters. There is not one in five, at least, which carry competent men on board those vessels towing. They are green men, whom we call boys, not knowing the trade. Not more than half could tell the port from the starboard, or one point from another of the compass.

Q.—Have you ever made any representations to the insurance companies to the effect that vessels were under-manned? A.—No. Our reason for that is, that the insurance companies are, to a great extent, composed of vessel owners, and it would be useless.

Q.—What remedy would you propose for vessels going to sea without competent officers and a proper crew? A.—Well, that is something I have not stated. I think the part of the law at present concerning officers, if it was enforced by the officers already appointed, would work all right.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You don't complain of the law, but its administration? A.—Yes. The under-manning of vessels is what we complain of. There is no law respecting the number or quality of a steamboat's crew.

Q.—How about loading vessels—aren't they frequently over-loaded? A.—Yes; especially those old canal-sized vessels.

Q.—Why do we hear so much of that kind of vessels being over-loaded when they were considered safe a few years ago? A.—My belief is this: that when they were built they were built to go through the canal drawing 10 feet. Since the canal was made they had 2 feet more, and consequently they loaded them down that distance, if possible, so a vessel built to draw 10 feet, when she was loaded to 11, 11½ or 12, was overloaded, and consequently had not the buoyancy she was intended to have when built.

Q.—How much free board should a vessel of 400 tons have, when loaded, to be safe? A.—One inch or 2½ inches over water to every foot under water would not be too much. It would be as little as it would be possible to have and have a vessel safe in any kind of bad weather.

Q.—What remedy can you suggest to prevent over-loading? A.—The only way to do it, I think, would be to appoint some inspector from the Government, and lay down a basis, a sort of Plimsoll mark. We count from amidships; we don't count from the end of the vessel, because some are built with more sheer than others. That mark once made would stand good for all time.

Q.—Are vessels over-loaded as frequently after as before the 1st of September? A.—Yes. In the case of the vessel which was lost I saw by the published reports at the time she had 700 tons. If that is so it was more than she should carry when she was a new vessel. We have no reason to doubt that, as it is the statement of the purser.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—What kind of compartment is the fore-castle on these craft as a general thing? A.—Twelve to fourteen years ago they were very good. At the present time they are very good in a great many cases. There are exceptional cases where they are still good, but as a rule they are bad—leaky and not fit to live in.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Are they worse on vessels which are towed than on others? A.—Yes. As a rule, those which are towed at the present time are those which were sailing ten, twelve, and some over twenty-five years ago.

Q.—They are more liable to leakage from the strain put on them? A.—Yes; and by coming in contact with each other at docks and piers, or in coming through the

looks at the canal. It weakens them at the bows, where the fore-castle is, and they rot quicker by getting slivered.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—How many men are employed in this business at St. Catharines? A.—Well, on the Welland Canal altogether, probably not less than 1,000.

Q.—How many men do you think are employed at this kind of work, say from Kingston up, in Canada? A.—I should say 15,000 to 20,000—that is Canadians and Americans—including the different harbors on Georgian Bay, Lakes Huron, Erie and Ontario.

Q.—You have not got a constant rate of wages? A.—No; we make wages according to the freights which vessels are getting. When freights go up wages go up, and so on.

Q.—For the two months, October and November? A.—Freights are up then and wages go up.

Q.—You don't have any extra hands on in those months—the same number of men as in June, July and August? A.—Yes; the same number of men as in the summer months will have to man them all fall.

Q.—Have crews any difficulty in receiving money? A.—Sometimes they do, but since the law was enacted by which the man can stop a vessel anywhere for wages it makes it easier to collect.

Q.—You get paid by the day and are paid at the end of the trip? A.—Yes; so much a day for the trip—10, 12 or 14 York shillings a day.

Q.—How many hour's work in the twenty-four would you have to do for those wages? A.—A great many times you work all twenty-four; you always work at least sixteen. I think you average sixteen, if no more, during the season. You get no rest at all in the canal.

Q.—Do you know of any body who has been black-listed in your business for being too prominent in matters of this sort? A.—Yes; I do.

Q.—Can you state the circumstances, and why? A.—Well, it was for taking too active a part in labor organizing, and asking for wages and demanding them.

Q.—Have you ever been black-listed? A.—I was.

Q.—How long did it last? A.—I don't know but what it lasts yet.

Q.—How long ago was it? A.—Nine or ten years ago. I am satisfied if I went to look for a "sit" on board a vessel to-morrow morning, a great many vessels which know me would not ship me.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What provision is there made for saving the life of a crew in case of wreck, other than the yawl boat? A.—None that I know of.

Q.—No life-buoy? A.—I never saw one on board a sailing vessel, and the yawls, in a great many cases, are not fit to carry the number of men which are on board of them, in bad weather. It would be all that some of them would do would be to carry a crew on smooth water, without being in rough water. Some of them would not even do that, on account of the rottenness of the boat and unseaworthiness, all being dried up with the sun.

Q.—Have you any suggestions to make with regard to the seaworthiness of ships, &c.? A.—Well, I feel satisfied if a law was enacted compelling vessels to be seaworthy, and not load above a certain mark, and to carry a certain number of men, it would benefit not only the sailors but the men who employ them, as property would be safe in the hands of men when there were enough of them to handle it in case of danger. I might state, also, that the steamboats are manned just as badly as the vessels are. They have a larger number of men, but the quality is not there. I don't believe one-half of the men on steamboats this year—I don't believe one-third of them—outside of the captains and mates, are capable of lowering and launching a life-boat or yawl-boat.

Q.—Engineers have certificates? A.—Yes; for a certain class of work, but they

are not capable of handling a yawl any more than the men, because it takes practice to make perfect.

Q.—Do mates commence in your trade as sailors and work themselves up?

A.—Yes; pretty much.

Q.—Do you know of cases where they have not done so? A.—I know of a man who went from engineer to captain. There are instance of men who have gone from the purser's desk to the pilot-house. They have not had experience, and consequently in bad weather they are not capable of using the good judgment required.

Q.—They had certificates? A.—Yes; they have got them, but I don't know how they have got them, as we have had men we were satisfied were capable of taking charge of them who could not obtain them.

Q.—A certificate of service is different from a certificate of competency? A.—Some of them hold certificates of competency. I also know the case of a man holding a mate's certificate, who, when he was asked, did not know whether it was for river or lake. He was mate of a large passenger steamboat. He did not know the number of the certificate, or whether it was for river or for the great lakes.

PETER NELSON, St. Catharines, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What is your occupation? A.—A sailor.

Q.—You have heard the testimony of Mr. Carey? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you approve of all he said? A.—As far as I can see, I can approve of it, and I believe there are a great many things about which he was very easy.

Q.—Can you add anything which will be of use? A.—One thing, I think, should be looked into, as far as I have experience, and that is the testing and classing of vessels. They generally do it in the spring, boring three or four holes fore and aft, but they don't look at the rigging, canvas or gear. We start out in the spring—if we have sail or running gear aboard it is all right, and there is no inspector to look upon it. I think that should be inspected as well as anything else. I don't see any use in building a house without windows, or anything, and so with a schooner.

Q.—Have you known instances where either the standing or running gear of a vessel has given out? A.—Yes; I have. There are more of our men sailing in American than Canadian vessels, on account of wages being higher, and, as a rule, sailing vessels being in better condition.

The CHAIRMAN.—Just tell us about Canadian vessels.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you know of any Canadian vessels which have been upset in a storm through defective gear? A.—I do; it is a few years ago. Lately, any employ I have been in I cannot complain, because they have kept them in good shape. I have seen schooners, but not belonging to them; I did not take a great deal of notice, remarking in passing that "That will be a coffin for some man or another."

Q.—Do you think there are many vessels in an unsatisfactory condition? A.—I think there are, if they were looked at properly, taking it all through—over-loading and everything else, their bad forecastles, not cubic feet enough to give air for the crew, and such things as that. Of course, a good many of them, as far as I hear and have seen, have shifted the fore-castle down forward. The hold was not big enough and they shifted the fore-castle to give more room.

Q.—What is the average size of a fore-castle in a steamer of 400 tons? A.—About 16 feet. Then they have to take away the chain locker. They keep them about 4 feet wide from the side to the fore-castle ladder. Before that they used to have them below in the fore peak, so it is now in the fore-castle, and it takes some room off.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Have these craft got strong chains and anchors? A.—Yes; I cannot complain; as far as I have seen, I have confidence in them.

Q.—How many anchors do they carry? A.—Two. I think Canadian vessels carry more chains than American, on account of loading more timber, &c., carrying perhaps 20 to 45 fathoms more chain than the American vessels.

Q.—The anchors, and chains, and windlass on deck are all right, but the rigging aloft is in bad condition? A.—They don't look after them. I have been on Canadian schooners where the rigging would come down on the cross-trees where a man was taking his rest, and it came down on his head about two minutes after landing on the cross-trees.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Is it often the case that a vessel's gear is kept in bad condition through the captain's desire to keep down expenses? A.—I could not answer that question exactly, because generally they say the owner don't allow it. That is his excuse: "I have to run it cheap, because the owner will not allow it." It might be the captain's fault, but it would be a hard question for me to answer.

Q.—You have never known a case where the captain was at fault? A.—I know one instance where a leg was broken in the canal on account of the owner not allowing a line.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Can you tell me the average earnings of a sailor in St. Catharines on Canadian vessels? A.—Well, for a sailor before the mast it is a hard thing to say, because generally they lose more or less time through the summer, but the general pay now for a mate is \$3.50 to \$3.75.

Q.—How many months? A.—About seven months; you cannot figure any more; and \$50 to \$55 a month.

PATRICK GALLAGHER, St. Catharines, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What is your business? A.—Sailing.

Q.—You have heard the evidence given by Mr. Carey and the last witness. Do you agree with what they have stated? A.—Yes; I do.

Q.—Have you anything new in regard to the business of sailing that you could tell us which would be of interest in this enquiry? A.—Nothing; only I don't suppose there is a vessel going out of the canal which is seaworthy. There may be one or two, but any more I don't believe there are.

Q.—Are there any vessels leaving the canal that are classed A1, A2? A.—I don't think so.

Q.—What would be the principal defects of the vessels here which you consider unseaworthy? A.—Well, their hulls, and gears, and canvas are all defective, and spars also. I have seen lots of vessels here you could not fasten a plank to the frames of, because they would not hold it.

Q.—Have you know vessels going out of the canal where they had to pull timbers right through to fasten it to? A.—I have.

Q.—Are there many vessels in the canal in that condition? A.—Yes.

Q.—They use them every season? A.—Every season.

Q.—What proportion of the number of wrecks which take place every fall would be attributable to that cause? A.—Well, I suppose three or four out of the whole number; that is, if they are caught out in any kind of bad weather.

Q.—As a rule, vessels which have been converted into barges, what is their condition? A.—Some of them are bad; some are good, but not so good as they should be.

Q.—Isn't it a rule to keep a vessel under canvas as long as she is classed? A.—

Well, I don't know as to that; I don't think so. I think they can make barges of them if they want to.

Q.—But what is the practice? Are they converting good vessels into barges?
A.—The way I look at it is, there is more money in it that way; they get men cheaper. They pick up farmers, who will go for little or nothing, and deprive men who have followed up this occupation all their life.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—This is in summer time, when the water is like a mill pond. They don't hanker after it in fall, in bad weather? A.—Not many of them.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you know what was the general condition of the barges which were towed last fall? A.—Yes; I would call them bad.

Q.—Do you think if there was a person appointed to inspect the hulls and rigging of vessels coming in and leaving the port you could do away with that class of vessels? A.—I think so; I am satisfied you could make it a great deal better, anyhow, than it is at the present time.

Q.—What canvas would you consider it absolutely necessary for a barge in tow to carry, in order to be perfectly safe? A.—I would consider fore-and-aft sails, with two or three jibs, would be safe.

Q.—What canvas, as a rule, do they carry? A.—Some of them carry what they call fore-and-aft sails, but they are not, some of them, bigger than a dish-towel. They take on canvas of old worked-out vessels.

Q.—Is it necessary for a barge towed by a steamboat to carry a full complement of a crew? A.—Yes; just as much as it is when she is sailing, for you cannot tell the minute when she will go, and when you will want competent men.

Q.—Do you know the case of a vessel in tow which has been lost through not having a competent crew on board? A.—Well, I don't know as I do, unless it is the ——— last fall. I do of American vessels.

Q.—Not Canadian vessels? A.—No.

Q.—Is there any information you could give us in addition—tell us in your own way. A.—Well, I know, taking this class of vessels, they run them as cheap as possible—run them for little or nothing. They will run them without gear until something drops overboard and kills somebody. I have been in a few Canadian vessels. I happened to be caught on a lee shore, when they did not expect a blow. It started to blow. We lost our canvas; we had good canvas. We came near going ashore, but one of our anchors was good enough to hold us; we happened to drop anchor and struck anchorage, which would only be once in a hundred times.

Q.—Do you agree with what Mr. Carey said about over-loading vessels? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think there should be a difference in the amount of cargo a vessel carries up to the 15th September and that she carries to the end of October? A.—Yes; she should carry less, but they don't generally do it.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—How much a day do you receive, on an average, in the season, before the mast? A.—Average, from 10 to 12 York shillings.

Q.—How many hours do you have to work? A.—On an average, about sixteen hours a day.

Q.—About how many dollars do you earn during the season, on an average, for seven months? A.—I should judge about \$200 to \$250. Of course, we don't work every day.

Q.—If you go to some port you are paid at the end of the trip? A.—Yes.

Q.—They don't keep you on for the remainder of the season? A.—No.

ROBERT JAMES MILLS, Cigar Maker, St. Catharines, called and sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

- Q.—How long have you been working at your trade? A.—Eleven years, I think.
- Q.—What wages do you receive now weekly? A.—On an average, about \$10 a week.
- Q.—Do you get paid every week? A.—Yes.
- Q.—How many hours a day do you work? A.—Eight hours.
- Q.—Didn't you formerly work ten hours a day? A.—Yes.
- Q.—How many apprentices are there to each man? A.—One apprentice to five men.
- Q.—Are they all union men in your shop? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Isn't it a fact that you almost do as much work now in eight hours as you formerly did in ten? A.—Very nearly.
- Q.—Do you know of any body getting paid in store orders? A.—No; I cannot say I do.
- Q.—Has that been the practice around this place? A.—Not of late years; the truck system used to be at one time.
- Q.—How is it now? A.—There is none in my business. Some three years ago it used to be the case.
- Q.—There is a law in the union against the truck system? A.—Yes.
- Q.—What led to the adoption of that law? A.—Really I could not tell you. I presume it was for the benefit of the manufacturer. He was not the one who introduced it; it was, for his gain, I presume.
- Q.—Do you know any members of your trade who have been black-listed by manufacturers around this place? A.—Yes.
- Q.—How long have they been black-listed? A.—Well, I have reason to believe they were. I could not positively swear to it, because I did not hear it from the men themselves. I have good reason to believe there are men who used to be employed here at one time who could not now get a job if they wanted it, all through their standing up for their rights.
- Q.—How many men are working in your establishment? A.—Three men and one apprentice.
- Q.—Are there many cigar-makers in this place? A.—Ten.
- Q.—Isn't there some establishment where they make cigars by female or child labor? A.—None in this city.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

- Q.—What tobacco do you generally use for manufacturing? A.—All imported tobacco—New York State, Pennsylvania, Connecticut—no Canadian.
- Q.—Has Canadian tobacco ever been tried for cigar-making? A.—I believe it has in the Lower Provinces, but I don't think it has here.
- Q.—What becomes of the waste from cigar-making? A.—It is bought by leaf dealers and shipped to the old country.
- Q.—Do you know of any place where female cigar-makers have taken the place of men? A.—It has never been coming under my observation.
- Q.—Is it a standing rule of your organization that female labor, where it is employed, shall be paid equal wages with the men for the same work? A.—They should, be but they are not.
- Q.—Does your organization try to make that a rule? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Is it possible for a female to become as proficient a cigar-maker as a man? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Can you give a reason? A.—I have worked with some; I have always found it so.
- Q.—Do you know if cigar-makers would generally favor the establishment of a bureau of statistics? A.—I think they would.

Q.—Is there any such thing as iron-clad documents in your business? A.—Well, I don't thoroughly understand your meaning.

Q.—Are men required, in any place in St. Catharines, to sign a contract that they will not belong to any labor organization before they are employed? A.—Not in my business.

Q.—Do you know if prison labor comes in contact with cigar-making? A.—Not in Canada, at the present time, I believe.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Where do you find a market for cigars? A.—In the city, principally, and some in the country.

Q.—I suppose the reason they are sold here is on account of having a blue label on the back? A.—Certainly.

Q.—If they had not a blue label they would not buy them? A.—I don't know where they would sell them, only to men who did not know anything.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Has the cigar-making business decreased through the adoption of the Scott Act? A.—I rather think it has in the country. You see we have not had much experience of it in this part of the country. In the county, I believe, it has decreased some.

Q.—Do you know if there is an inferior grade of cigars in demand now since the Scott Act has been adopted? A.—I could not say.

JAMES ROBINSON, Cigar Manufacturer, St. Catharines, called and sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Do you employ union or non-union men? A.—Union men.

Q.—How many? A.—Three.

Q.—How many hours do they work? A.—Eight hours a day.

Q.—What is the rate of wages for eight hours? A.—I should judge they would average the year round about \$9 or \$10 a week.

Q.—They are always paid in cash at the end of the week? A.—Yes.

Q.—On what day? A.—Saturday afternoon.

Q.—Are union men more reliable workmen than non-union men? A.—Yes.

Q.—More sober and industrious? A.—I have always found them so, and better workmen.

Q.—What is your opinion of apprentice labor? A.—My opinion is, it is very poor; I would not have them around me.

Q.—Have you had any personal experience of the system known as the truck system? A.—Yes; not in this city, but in the city of London.

Q.—How long ago? A.—About 1881; I was on strike there against the truck system.

Q.—How long did the strike last? A.—I left town after three weeks; I don't think they gained it. One man who had a widow and two sisters to support had to go to a hotel to board or else lose his job, so we struck.

Q.—You find a ready market for your cigars around here? A.—Yes; in the city, but outside it is pretty hard to compete against cheap labor.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Who are your principal competitors in the cigar trade here, outside St. Catharines? A.—London and Montreal undermine us a good deal in selling cheap.

Q.—Why can they sell cheaper than you can? A.—Labor is a good deal cheaper.

Q.—What is the difference in wages between London and St. Catharines? A.—I should judge it would be \$3 to \$4 a thousand cheaper.

Q.—How do you account for that difference in the price of labor? A.—I blame it on the men for allowing it.

Q.—Do you know how many hands are employed making cigars in London?
 A.—There must be along about seventy, or probably more, with girls and boys. Very few journeymen cigar-makers work there.

Q.—You find that the labor of girls and boys brought into competition with men enables the employer to undersell you in the market? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know why there are so few men employed in London in the cigar business? A.—Well, I worked there twice, and I always found them the meanest lot to work for I ever saw. They either let you off for a week, or would not give you a steady job. When they ran journeymen they would let them off three or four days in a week, saying they had no stock.

Q.—Do you know the difference in wages between St. Catharines and Montreal?
 A.—Union wages, I believe, are about \$2 a thousand. I have not seen the Montreal bill of prices for some time. Hamilton comes nearest to St. Catharines' prices of any place that I know of, for union shops.

Q.—Speaking of strikes, what system would you recommend for the settlement of disputes between capital and labor? A.—A labor bureau would be a good thing.

Q.—That would cover the ground, and the strikers would not have any power to settle the difficulty? A.—I think the Cigarmakers' Union has about the best plan of any for gaining a strike.

Q.—Tell us what it is? A.—If a union wants to go on strike the different grievances are sent into the International President, who lays it before the Executive Board. If they don't see fit to sustain the strike the men then have a chance to appeal to all local unions, so the cigar-makers in Canada and the United States have a chance to vote; but if they sustain them they strike. They take bills of all labor towns, and if it is lower than other towns they sustain it. They always sustain it in the case of the truck system.

Q.—Do you think a system of arbitration would give satisfaction? A.—I don't know about that. Men may think that cigar-makers working piece should do day work; other men might not understand the matter so well as they would. Probably there are thirty or forty different kinds of cigars to make. One would make something of one class, but not of another.

CHARLES TANSEY, Cigar-maker, St. Catharines, called and sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—You heard the evidence of Robinson and Mills in regard to your business?
 A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you substantiate all they said with regard to it? A.—I do.

Q.—Is there anything you would wish to say in regard to the business? A.—No; I worked under the truck system, and got discharged because the landlord and I had some words. He complained to the boss and he discharged me.

Q.—Do you know any place in this city where the truck system is in vogue?
 A.—No; I do not.

Q.—Is it a thing of the past here? A.—Yes.

Q.—There are laws in your union against the truck system? A.—Yes; we have a system to govern. In a great many places where a cigar maker has not enough money to pay his board the Union advances that and he deposits his card, and he cannot get it back without getting a receipt from his landlord.

Q.—What led to the adoption of those rules? A.—The truck system was all over. At the time they tried to introduce it here we shut down on it.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you any complaints to make of the condition of your trade? A.—Not in this city.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—How about apprentices? A.—There is one to the shop, two to every five men, three to ten and one for each additional fifteen.

Q.—Any Sunday labor? A.—No.

Q.—Those who work at the cigar business all belong to St. Catharines? A.—Yes.

EDWARD SMILLIE, Port Dalhousie, Sub-marine Diver, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Where do you find your chief employment? A.—From the Government, up to the 25th day of last month.

Q.—Were you ever engaged in diving where vessels have been lost? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you tell us, from the general appearance of vessels you have examined, what has been the most frequent cause of founder or some of the causes—I do not mean those that struck on a rock after you examined them? A.—I examined the—.

Q.—In what condition did you find her? A.—Pretty bad.

Q.—Do you think, under any circumstances, vessels like her would be fit to go to sea? A.—No; I do not. That is my opinion.

Q.—Have you found, in your experience as diver, many others? A.—I have found others classed in A 2 class, and when we came to raise them we would find weak points in them; we could not tell until we came to raise them. No matter how good a vessel may be, if she is in a certain depth of water and you want to raise her, something will give, unless she has stanchions to keep up her deck.

Q.—So you cannot tell what her general condition is? A.—I can tell the condition of the timber, what state it is in, what was gone, and every thing like that.

Q.—Are you frequently engaged in examining vessels which are foundered? A.—Foundering is caught by a sea. If a vessel strikes a pier or rock, what would you call that?

Q.—I mean vessels which have been lost in the open, where there are no rocks? A.—I have never examined only three.

Q.—Of the others you examined, were they in any better condition? A.—They were a better class of vessels.

Q.—Would you consider them seaworthy? A.—Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—You were talking about the loss of a vessel you saw. You say she was in bad condition. I don't consider that any kind of an answer. Was the rail gone, or the deck stove in, or what? A.—You want me to tell the whole thing. I went down and put a ladder down from the deck. I found 22 feet of water on the deck, as near as I could judge. There were no hatches on. I came along and found her decks were good, and three or four planks gone here and there. The clamps and combings were gone, leaving a space of about 6 feet. I travelled along, walking on the covering board, or on the rail, until I got to where the cabin was. There was nothing but combings of the cabin all around. We got the aft taffrail, but everything above deck was gone, except the wheel, which was standing.

Q.—In what condition did you find the woodwork? A.—I did not notice that. Her bulwarks were gone—I will not say all were gone, but the biggest part of them were.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—To what would you attribute the loss of that vessel—what cause would you give for her foundering? A.—I don't know. She was not a fit vessel to sail in that time of year.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Do you judge that by the look of the vessel on the bottom—did you know her before? A.—I knew her before.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—It did not surprise you to hear she had gone down? A.—Not a particle, in that gale of wind.

Q.—Are there many divers engaged around the lakes? A.—I only know of three or four.

Q.—Do you find pretty constant employment? A.—I don't know about general work.

Q.—I mean general. If a man is a diver, does he generally obtain steady employment? A.—He has sometimes to turn his attention to something else, unless he is with the Government, and then, of course, he has steady.

Q.—What wages do divers generally get? A.—It is all owing to the diving; it depends on the depth. You hire for a deep-water diver and get probably \$200 a month; if you want a job very bad you get \$150. Then you get men for \$5 a day for four or five days in the week.

J. E. CUFF, Mayor, St. Catharines, called and sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—You are Mayor of the city? A.—Yes.

Q.—We want to enquire about the sanitary condition of the city generally? A.—Well, it is in a fair way of being exceedingly good. Extensive drainage operations have been commenced, and will be continued the next three or four years, then we will be in very good shape. We have a very fine system of waterworks, probably the purest water and best supply in the country, so far as I know. Analysis recently made shows it to be almost without trace of impurity.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Where do you bring water from? A.—From near Decew Falls, about three miles west of St. Catharines. The water comes by gravitation.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—What is the condition of trade? A.—Trade has been very fair this year. There has been a manifest improvement in nearly all branches of manufacturing business during the past year.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What are those falls from which you get your water fed from? A.—From rainfall, and by direct communication with Lake Erie.

Q.—It is a small inland lake? A.—No; it is an artificial pond.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Has the condition of working people improved in this locality? A.—I think so; I have not heard any complaints in that direction.

Q.—Has labor organization anything to do with their improvement? A.—I think it has improved the labor people themselves. I think the various organizations they had have been beneficial to them as a class.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What is the general condition of the working people here—their circumstances? A.—They are very fair.

Q.—Do they appear to be comfortable in their homes? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you many cases of application for assistance? A.—Not more than what would be the average in an ordinary place of this size.

Q.—Do you find that those people who apply for assistance from the city are a class who would bring that distress on themselves? A.—Some of them are, and some of them from being out of work through sickness, &c.

Q.—Are they principally men or women? A.—Principally women who make applications for relief.

Q.—Some of them widows, with families? A.—Yes; and some with intemperate husbands.

Q.—There is no very great extent of poverty existing amongst the people here? A.—No.

Q.—Do you notice, in the case of immigrants coming to the city and this district, many people who would be called paupers, or who would become a charge on the county or city? A.—There have been a few, but very few.

Q.—Do you have many immigrants settle in this neighborhood? A.—This last year or two not a great many that I know of. There may have been quite a number go out through the country, but not in the city, that I know of, though they might be here without my knowledge.

Q.—They have not come before you, to any extent, as applicants for assistance? A.—No.

Q.—Don't you think labor unions act wisely in restricting the number of apprentices to every trade? A.—Well, I think it is essential to any craft to have fewer apprentices and have them properly taught. The position has been heretofore, for quite a while, that young people have gone into learning trades, spent a year at the business, think they are worth journeymen's wages, and gone off some where else. This has been bad for the young men and bad for the occupation or trade, because they don't become efficient workmen. That is my experience.

Q.—Do you believe in having apprentices indentured? A.—Yes; for a term of years, having conditions attached which will insure good service on one side and a beneficial result in learning a trade on the other.

Q.—As a newspaper man, what is your opinion of those stereotyped plates they bring from the United States? A.—Well, I have not used any of them in my business.

Q.—There are places all around the country which use them? A.—Yes; they are coming into very general use all over the country, owing to the cheapness with which they can be produced. There is a difference, probably, on a rough estimate, of about 75 per cent. in favor of the publisher using them. Of course, it is bad for the workmen. It takes away from him that much more employment he would otherwise have.

Q.—Isn't it a fact there is sometimes something in this plate reading matter not fit for the eyes of some people? A.—It has not come within my observation, though there is a good deal of matter which is not of much value to the general reader.

Q.—It helps to fill up the paper? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever given the question of profit-sharing with employes any thought? A.—No, sir. It has been done in some places, but wherever profits are small, and in small establishments, I don't think it has had much consideration. It is more confined to large manufacturers.

Q.—In the case of disagreement between employers and employees what in your mind do you consider the most satisfactory mode of settlement? A.—I think the most satisfactory mode would be by arbitration.

Q.—Do you think if a bureau of statistics were established in Ottawa it would meet with general acceptance by the people? A.—To what end?

Q.—Giving labor statistics, mercantile statistics collected by the Government, and published annually? A.—You mean for the Dominion?

Q.—Yes? A.—Because there is such an organization in Ontario.

Q.—Yes; but it only covers Ontario? A.—I could not say as to that. I should think it would depend a good deal on the accuracy of the statistics at first.

Q.—Do you find in St. Catharines many of the working people go and hang around bars? A.—Yes; quite a large number, but I find also, as far as this locality is concerned, a general increase in sobriety.

Q.—Can you attribute that to any particular cause? A.—Well, I don't know what cause it is due to. It may be due somewhat to the labor organizations, which

endeavor to promote temperance. I think it is a leading platform in their societies that they shall be strictly temperate, and that would only produce good results.

Q.—Did you ever notice a tendency amongst workmen to waste time they have to themselves, speaking generally of the whole class? A.—They have so little time to themselves, excepting Sundays, I don't see how they could.

Q.—Do you think, then, if workmen had more leisure they would be inclined to waste it or employ it usefully? A.—I don't see why they should not, if means were provided. I think, for instance, the establishment of a free library in a place is quite an inducement to people to spend their time profitably.

Q.—You have no library here? A.—Yes; we have a good library. We have just made it free.

Q.—Do the people of St. Catharines take general advantage of it? A.—A great many do. It has not been free in the past, but we are now organizing it.

Q.—Have you any idea of what proportion of the readers are workmen or their families? A.—I think there are a large number of them.

ANDREW J. CARROLL, Printer, St. Catharines, called and sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Are you a member of the Typographical Union? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the wages per day you receive? A.—The weekly rate of wages is \$10 a week; piece-work 28 cents per thousand ems.

Q.—Do you get paid on Saturdays? A.—Yes; in the establishment I am employed in.

Q.—In cash? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there many apprentices in your trade? A.—There are more than there should be. Having recently organized the Typographical Union we have endeavored, and will continue, to limit them to a certain number. The apprentice system has been very much abused in this city, in our trade, up to the present time. Some offices have been run entirely by apprentices. Our experience is that they would serve sometimes two years at their trade, then wander away either to another office or to outside towns.

Q.—What is the law of the union with regard to apprentices? A.—Subordinate unions are enjoined by the International Union to limit the number of apprentices, and it recommends the plan of indenturing them wherever it can be introduced.

Q.—About how many hours per day do you work? A.—In the office I work in I would average it at eight and a-half hours a day.

Q.—Is that the case in the other offices? A.—I could not speak positively, but from what I observe in a general way it is not the case; ten hours and over is the time there. Week hands in the office I am employed in are supposed to work ten hours, except Saturdays, when they work until four.

Q.—Are there any female printers in St. Catharines? A.—Not in the town itself, but in what we consider is in our jurisdiction there are three employed—that is in Thorold, which is considered within the jurisdiction of our union.

Q.—Have there been any strikes in your business within the last few years? A.—We have had what might be termed a strike. The principal cause was an attempt to prohibit the use of stereotyped plates in the newspapers of the city. They were introduced some eighteen months ago by one paper. We made some effort then to prohibit their use, but it was not successful owing to an agreement we had entered into with the then proprietors of a certain paper not being carried out. About a year ago this time another paper entered the fight, and some two or three months after it was started it introduced them to a small extent.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Where do they come from? A.—From Buffalo and Toronto.

Q.—Where do most of them come from? A.—I believe there is a claim of

holding a monopoly to the plates produced in Buffalo by a certain newspaper in town, I think, which likewise gets plates from Toronto. I notice in one paper the plate matter it uses is Buffalo and other days Toronto.

Q.—What remedy do printers propose to remove this objectionable matter?
A.—The remedy which has occurred to us is a duty high enough to exclude it from the country altogether.

Q.—Wasn't there an increased duty put on last Session? A.—There was some correspondence between a member of our union and the Minister of Customs. It was stated there had been a slight increase, but it was a mere nothing. It would in no wise tend to keep them out.

Q.—If the duty were raised to prohibit the introduction of American plate what benefit would it be to the Canadian compositor? A.—It would be doubtful in my own particular line, because I think they should be prohibited from manufacturing as well as importing, and if they were prohibited from importing there would be more engaged in manufacturing than at present.

Q.—Do you know under the present system of publishing, if this plate matter would be excluded would they be able to get out many of the country papers that are now published? A.—They would not be able to get out as many, but they would be able to get out a better class.

Q.—Would the cost be materially increased? A.—The cost of publishing a paper without the use of plates?

Q.—Yes? A.—It would.

Q.—Have you given any thought to the matter of the lien laws existing in this country? A.—To a slight extent.

Q.—Do the present lien laws meet the requirements of the working people?
A.—I don't think they are satisfactory.

Q.—Do you know of instances where mechanics or laborers have failed to recover wages under the lien law? A.—That I cannot say. I think that a claim for wages should come in ahead of every other matter.

Q.—Would you favor the extending of the lien law to every branch of business; at present it applies only to the building trade? A.—Certainly. Any person who is working for a living and depending on wages to be received, if he is in any danger of losing them I think should have some safeguard so he could recover the amount coming to him.

Q.—Would not that come under the insolvency law rather than the lien laws?
A.—It would be better for working people if it was all under the lien law.

Q.—Are printers in this district paid in cash always? A.—In the office I am employed in they are, but in another office I believe they are not, from what those employed there formerly say. Whether it is compulsory on them or not I don't know, but I have been given to understand that they have taken orders on certain establishments, and that, of course, was on wages account.

Q.—Has that been recently? A.—Yes; quite recently.

Q.—Do you know if that system prevails to any extent in St. Catharines? A.—I don't think it prevails to any great extent. There are no cases come under my own observation. Of this particular case I refer to it is hearsay only, as I don't know if actually to be the case.

Q.—Do you know if your organization would favor the establishment of a bureau of labor statistics? A.—It would.

Q.—Do you know if they are in favor of arbitration for the settlement of disputes between capital and labor? A.—In the Knights of Labor it is one of their principal planks. It is also recommended to subordinate unions by the International Typographical Union.

Q.—Can you tell us what system of arbitration would be most acceptable? A.—I think the system of arbitration which would meet any case of difficulty should be a compulsory system on both parties to the arbitration.

Q.—And how would you proceed in selecting arbitrators? A.—Let both parties to the difficulty select one and the Government appoint another.

- Q.—Would you make the Government appoint a permanent one? A.—I think so.
- Q.—You have no profit-sharing in St. Catharines? A.—None.
- Q.—Any workmen's co-operative societies? A.—No; not immediately here.
- Q.—Are there what might be termed building societies here for working people?
A.—No.
- Q.—Are there any points of interest to the workmen of St. Catharines we have not touched upon? Perhaps you could give us information you desire to be placed on record? A.—From what I have heard here this afternoon you have covered the ground very thoroughly. I know, in one case you were taking evidence upon, that is with regard to the complaints of sailors, there is undoubtedly a great deal of foundation for the complaints they make. It is common talk with people even knowing nothing of the business of sailing, that vessels go out of this canal which are not fit for people to sail on. Labor organizations have done a great deal for this city. I think every trade of any consequence in this Niagara district is thoroughly organized. Members have been benefited by such organization, and their connection therewith has tended to make them better citizens. In the mayor's evidence before the Commission he referred to the remarkable increase of sobriety among the working people, and I claim it is due almost entirely to their connection with the Knights of Labor, as it recommends and advocates the practice of sobriety.
- Q.—Isn't it one of the qualifications of a person joining a labor organization that he must be a sober man? A.—I don't find it exactly that, but his standing in any labor organization is better on account of that. Those concerned in the cause of labor, from being persons of sober habits—I don't say total abstainers—are looked upon with more favor by persons belonging to the Knights of Labor and trades unions. I have one more suggestion, and that is in regard to the factories—I do not think the present law is as thoroughly enforced as it should be. In this district it is undoubtedly violated.
- Q.—Is that the fault of the law? A.—No; it is the fault of the law not being enforced. The law is good enough, as nearly all laws are, if only administered properly.
- Q.—Do you know of cases where men and women are working all together in this town, in the same rooms? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Do you know if they have separate conveniences? A.—I don't know that. My opinion, from the general run of such establishments, is they have not.
- Q.—Where men and women work together in the same rooms do you consider it is conducive to morality on the part of those working there? A.—That is rather a hard question to answer, as it would depend more on the parties themselves than on any incidental circumstance of that nature.

JOSEPH KEEFER, Compositor, called and sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

- Q.—You have heard the testimony and remarks of Mr. Carroll just now? A.—
Yes.
- Q.—Do you corroborate his statement right through? A.—I agree with his statement.
- Q.—Is there anything else that you would wish to suggest that he might have omitted? A.—Not that I can recollect. I think that he went over it very thoroughly as to the general condition of the working people; also with regard to printers.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q.—Are there any questions which have been agitated by workmen upon which you would like to give testimony which we have not mentioned? A.—There are so many agitated here and so few settled, that it would be a long story.
- Q.—Have you given the inspection of boilers in factories any thought? A.—
I have given considerable thought to it. I think there should be an inspection for

stationary engines also, but I believe that is a provincial matter. There have been cases in this vicinity (for instance at Jordan) where, through neglect, or something being wrong, a boiler accident occurred. Also another: a man lost his life through the same thing at Decent's.

Q.—Does child labor prevail here to any extent? A.—Not to any extent here, but it does at Merriton.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Is it according to the law we have? A.—It has been brought to the notice of the union. The inspector has not been around to this district yet. In this immigration question I should think the Government should settle that immediately. It is a very important one in this connection. I might state that last fall work was good in this city, and the men made a demand for the old rate, but they were forced to accept a reduction, on the threat that he would send for immigrants to the sheds in Toronto and bring in men to fill their places.

Q.—Were there immigrants in the sheds at the time? A.—As far as I know, there were some.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you find, when immigrants come to this country, they are more willing to take the places of men on strike than men living in the country? A.—It depends on the country they come from. Some of them are better men than those who are born and raised here, as regards the labor question and how to settle it.

The Commission then adjourned till 8 p.m.

The Commission resumed at 8 p.m.

WILLIAM NESBITT, Pressman, St. Catharines, called and sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—You are employed as pressman on a newspaper in this city? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much a week do you receive? A.—Ten dollars.

Q.—What day do you generally get paid? A.—Saturdays.

Q.—Do you do any night work? A.—Only once in a great while.

Q.—Do you get paid for it? A.—As a general thing, we take it off in the mornings. We are expected to work fifty-eight hours a week. We quit at 4 on Saturdays, and don't generally go to the shop until 7.30.

Q.—Does the office you work in use plate matter? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know where it is brought from? A.—From Buffalo.

Q.—How many apprentices work in your office? A.—Two.

Q.—Are you always paid in cash at the end of the week? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has that been the rule right along? A.—Yes; as far as I know.

Q.—You don't know if any of the employes in that office receive payment in store orders? A.—No, sir.

Q.—There are no union men employed in your office? A.—Yes; I am a union man.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are there any objections to the employment of union men in the office? A.—No; union men are preferred.

Q.—Do they pay the scale of wages asked for by the Typographical Union? A.—They pay a weekly scale.

Q.—Do you consider your wages of \$10 per week enough to meet all your expenses? A.—Well, I have to make it meet all expenses at the present time. Printers have got an increase of \$1 per week. We have short time—that is weekly hands.

Q.—Was it voluntary on the part of the proprietors? A.—No; the scale was presented to them and they pay a weekly scale.

- Q.—Do you have any female labor as printers in this city. A.—No.
- Q.—Are there any working on presses? A.—No.
- Q.—Have you had any strikes in connection with the printing business in St. Catharines? A.—Well, I believe there was some trouble, but I believe it is pointing to a settlement now.
- Q.—Do you know of any printers or pressmen in St. Catharines who have saved money enough to buy their own houses? A.—No, sir.
- Q.—There are none? A.—No.
- Q.—Are there many pressmen employed in St. Catharines? A.—I think I am the only one following that branch of business entirely.
- Q.—You are a member of the Typographical Union? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Do the union here confer on the benefits of their principles. A.—Well, the union is not long started, so it would be hard for me to say.
- Q.—Now, in the matter of apprentices, what is the rule in your business? What is the number of apprentices allowed to the number of men? A.—Well, I forget at present. There has never been a constitution or by-laws printed.
- Q.—You are not aware what is the practice in other cities? A.—No.
- Q.—Have you heard of dissatisfaction amongst printers in consequence of this plate matter being brought in? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Do you receive plate matter from any other cities except Buffalo? A.—Not that I know of.
- Q.—What objection do printers raise to handling this Buffalo plate? A.—That it is an injury to printers.
- Q.—Does it displace men? A.—It has never displaced any in the office I am working at. In that office it has been a benefit instead of injury; they don't have to work so hard. I am certain that the laws of the Typographical Union state that there should be no strike when plate matter is used, unless somebody is discharged by the use of it, and that has never been done in the office I am in.
- Q.—Do you think the paper you are engaged on could be printed as cheaply without the use of this plate? A.—Well, if they were to allow "dead ads" to run on in the paper they could if they were to use the "dead ads" instead of the "stereo" for publishing.
- Q.—Do you know anything of black-listing in St. Catharines? A.—I have heard of it.
- Q.—Do you know of any being done in St. Catharines? A.—Yes.
- Q.—In connection with the printing trade? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Is there any black-listing to-day? A.—Yes; there is by the Typographical Union.
- Q.—Have you ever known employers of labor in St. Catharines to object to the employment of men because they belonged to trades organizations? A.—No, sir; I have heard of some.
- Q.—When a pressman or printer offers himself for work, does he stand on an equality with the employer in the transaction? A.—When he applies for a situation?
- Q.—Yes. Or do you think the employer has any advantage? A.—I don't think my employer does; I think I am just as good a man as he is.
- Q.—You stand on an equal footing? A.—Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

- Q.—You say you are as good a man as he is? A.—Yes; I mean it in that way.
- Q.—Do you think he thinks so? A.—That would be hard to say, I never heard him find any fault with my work.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

- Q.—What are the hours of work? A.—Fifty-eight hours a week is the time set by the Typographical Union.
- Q.—Is that rule generally carried out in the business? A.—As far as I am

concerned it is not. It is very seldom I am there at 7 in the morning, and I quit at 4 on Saturday.

Q.—Do you get paid for time you are not working? A.—I have never lost any time.

Q.—You are paid for a full week's work if you put in fifty-eight hours? A.—Yes.

Q.—You say the Typographical Union have black-listed men in this town? Would you tell us the reason? A.—I could not go into the details of that fully as I am not a compositor myself.

Q.—You don't know, then, what the particulars were? A.—The particulars were they were called out and the men didn't go.

Q.—And they were black-listed for remaining in. Is that it? A.—Yes.

Q.—You have no females working at the business? A.—No.

Q.—Have you any children working at it? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know anything of the operation of the Mechanics' Lien Law? A.—No, sir.

W. R. JAMES, Printer, St. Catharines, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You have taken some interest in trade matters in this town? A.—Yes; I have.

Q.—Have you anything to offer in connection with the printing trade? A.—No.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—I would like to hear your opinion with regard to this plate matter. Just give us your opinion with regard to the importation of it into those offices. Does it keep a certain amount of work out of the hands of the men? A.—I think so; I think without plate more compositors would be employed.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

P.—Has the introduction of plate matter decreased the wages of compositors? A.—Full wages were never paid in St. Catharines, except by the *Journal Printing Company*, until the *Star* started; but, to the best of my knowledge, they have been paying union wages. Other shops don't pay union wages.

Q.—You don't know that the plate matter has worked injuriously, except by taking a certain amount of work from the men? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do you know of any black-listing in the printing business? A.—No.

Q.—You are a member of the Typographical Union? A.—Yes.

Q.—You know of no black-listing? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know anything of the factory laws which now exist? A.—I have not paid much attention to that; I have a little.

Q.—Do you think those laws are sufficiently stringent to protect working people? A.—I think if the law was enforced at the present time it would answer the purpose pretty well; they have hardly had time to get it in working order.

Q.—Do you know anything of the lien laws? A.—I have paid no attention to that.

Q.—They don't cover your business? A.—No.

Q.—Are there such things as iron-clad contracts in St. Catharines? A.—I think it is pretty well done away with in St. Catharines.

Q.—Do you know whether workmen in St. Catharines, at times, have to take orders on stores, instead of cash? A.—I find they do; they do it in the printing business.

Q.—Do you know if it preys to any extent? A.—Not to a great extent.

Q.—Have the men ever protested against it? A.—Well, I don't know whether the men working in those places have protested against it. They protest against it in the union.

Q.—Are these orders paid to the men at the request of the men at any time?
 A.—I think not; men would prefer getting cash.

Q.—You don't know whether the men who receive those orders go to their employers and ask them to accommodate them in that way? A.—No; I do not.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Have those men who get orders just to take what the order asks them?
 A.—Yes.

Q.—They will go and take an article they really don't want? A.—They have had to do that, but not of late years.

Q.—They may buy an article which they don't like? A.—Yes; they may take it at a certain store.

Q.—But if they had cash they might buy it cheaper? A.—Yes; and buy a better article.

Q.—Does the truck system prevail in St. Catharines to-day? A.—No; it does not prevail; it is the exception.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you any child labor in St. Catharines? A.—Very little; there is some in large factories, but it does not amount to a great deal.

Q.—Do you think many of the children who are employed are under thirteen years of age? A.—I cannot answer that.

Q.—Now, about female labor—do you know if there are any large numbers of females employed in shops? A.—No; excepting the tailoring business.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the prices which are paid women in the tailoring business? A.—Well, I cannot call over the figures for sure. I was mixed up with the matter of submitting a price-list to the bosses lately; but female labor is away below that of men.

Q.—Do you know the average weekly earnings of the women? A.—You could not average very well, because they do not work steadily. Some girls will earn \$10, \$11 and \$12 a week, but have to take work home and work to ten or eleven o'clock at night. Other weeks they will not earn anything. Some will probably earn only a few dollars a week, while those working as high as sixteen hours a day will get \$10, or \$11 or \$12. A sister of mine, by working eighteen or twenty hours, has earned \$16. They have to do the work at a certain time; they are just told that, and they have to do it.

Q.—Do they make shop goods here? A.—Not a great deal.

Q.—Have you any over-alls? A.—While the Welland Canal work was going on, and there were many laborers, we had a good deal, but not lately.

Q.—What prices did women get for making them? A.—I don't know; it was a hard competitive price. There was a man who got the work done and he employed the girls. It was a sort of sub-contract. There was a good deal of grumbling at the time, but as trade was not organized we took no interest in it specially.

Q.—Are there no women employed as shirt makers? A.—Only a few.

Q.—Do you know anything about prices? A.—No; I don't. The great trouble is we can't get women organized. If you ask one what she is getting she will tell you far astray; one will tell you one thing and another another. Each one wants to make out she is getting as much as another, and she tells you more than she is actually getting; so it is impossible to get at the price.

Q.—During the time that you have been connected with labor organization have you ever given the subject of the settlement of disputes between capital and labor any thought? A.—I have given it a great deal of thought.

Q.—What do you think would be the best means to adopt to avert strikes? A.—I think if the Government were to appoint arbitrators, and refer all cases to them, it would be best, because men would be appointed who were not interested and supposed to know the business, and would give a just decision.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—It would be hard to get a man to understand all the trades? A.—I suppose the Government would appoint three or four, or a dozen—enough to let the parties decide who would take hold of it.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Would you prefer the Government to nominate the members of the board, or leave the selection to the parties to the dispute? A.—I think when the parties nominate, one they each nominate a partisan, and it is really left to one man; so I think it would be better the other way.

Q.—Do you know of any law at present providing for arbitration? A.—I believe there is a law in some of the old countries, but I am not acquainted with how it works.

Q.—You have seen the Ontario Act? A.—No.

Q.—Do you think that an Act which would not give arbitrators power to decide the rate of wages and hours of labor would be of any use? A.—No, sir.

Q.—What are the chief causes of disputes between capital and labor? A.—Well, disputes arise from different causes. They arise sometimes from bosses trying to grind men, to force too much work from them—more than they are able to stand. Other times they arise through not paying sufficient money. There are different causes.

Q.—Frequently the wage question is connected with the dispute? A.—Yes; that is generally the question it arises from.

Q.—You have been for some time in the ranks of organized labor. What is the effect of organized labor on the working people? A.—The effect of it throughout this section has been to increase wages and reduce the hours of labor.

Q.—Have they conferred any other benefits on the people? A.—I don't know if there are any other benefits. Morally, I think we have improved the working people. We have brought into our organizations, wherever we have had an opportunity, temperance and morality, and I think it is carried out to a great extent.

Q.—You have never seen anything in those organizations which would tend to demoralize the people? A.—No.

Q.—Have you ever found in them a spirit of antagonism to employers? A.—No, sir. In answering that question, there are a number of people who are antagonistic to employers at all times, but I mean the general mass of the people.

Q.—I mean of the principles of the organization? A.—No, sir.

Q.—You have no workmen's co-operative societies here? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know if fining of employes prevails in St. Catharines? A.—I never heard of one being fined yet.

Q.—Any Sunday labor? A.—Not to any extent.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—What is it principally confined to? A.—Any factories doing repairing, cleaning boilers, &c.

Q.—And the railroad business? A.—That is what we call a necessity, though it could be done without. We have found it convenient sometimes.

Q.—If you could not get in on Sunday, you would get in on Saturday? A.—Yes.

Q.—Now that you know you can come on Sunday you don't come on Saturday? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever given the subject of technical education in the public schools any consideration? A.—No.

Q.—Have you any opinion on the subject which you would like to express? A.—No; not on that subject.

Q.—There are no building societies on the mutual plan in St. Catharines? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know if immigration has displaced many working people in St. Catharines? A.—It has displaced a few.

Q.—To any extent? A.—Well, I cannot say to any extent, because it lowered wages, and when they found wages were lowered they took steps to prevent them introducing more of them. It has been the means of lowering wages in that way.

Q.—What particular class of work do you refer to? A.—The laboring class.

Q.—Was that during the construction of the canal? A.—Yes.

Q.—Leaving the construction of the canal out, are you of the opinion that immigration is injurious to the interests of the working classes? A.—Immigration of the laboring classes is injurious to the working classes. Immigration of mechanics, especially aided immigration, is injurious.

Q.—You have no knowledge of how many immigrants came in here last year? A.—I have read, but I don't remember the figures.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—What percentage of them have remained here? A.—There are a number brought to this country who go to the other side, because they cannot find work, and a great many are aided here.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What class do they belong to? A.—The labor class especially.

Q.—Do you know if labor organizations in this section are favorable to the establishment of a bureau of statistics? A.—No resolutions have been passed, but from discussing it with men who take a leading part, I think they are favorable to it.

Q.—Do you not think it would confer a benefit on the working classes if statistics were published annually? A.—I think it would be a benefit. The great trouble with bureaus of that kind is if they take up a political idea they would be an injury instead of a benefit.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the working of those bureaus in the United States? A.—No; I have read a little of them, but not to any great extent.

Q.—On the question of prison labor, can you give us any suggestions as to the best mode of dealing with that? A.—I have heard it discussed, and have discussed it very often, but never could come to a satisfactory conclusion.

Q.—If a system was encouraged whereby the Government was to do all manufacturing, and place the goods on the market at market prices, and any profit which would accrue from the sale of goods to be given to the families of convicts, do you think it would be a satisfactory solution? A.—That is a hard one. Sometimes the families of the convicts are as bad as the convicts. Wouldn't it be better to give the surplus to our charitable institutions?

Q.—That is just a question, of course. I want to get your idea upon it? A.—I would not be in favor of that. Sometimes the parents of those convicts would be the people who would receive the benefit, and they are sometimes the cause actually of the prisoners' punishment, in being brought up in that way.

Q.—Leaving out of the question the disposal of profits, do you think that a system such as I have outlined—that the Government should do the manufacturing and sell the goods at market prices—would be the solution of the prison labor question? A.—No; I don't think they should sell the goods at market prices, because they would come in competition with free labor. The profit would be larger, because the goods are manufactured cheaper.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Can you tell us what should be done? A.—I have discussed it for some time, but I never could arrive at a satisfactory solution.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—On the question of prison contract labor? A.—I am opposed to it.

Q.—Is there anything else of interest to the trade you would like to put on record? A.—There are some of our factories employing boys. Of course, they

are not under the age. They employ them to run machinery, which is injurious, and in a very little while we find a boy with a finger cut off, sometimes a boy killed, and in my opinion I think it is a shame. It is caused by neglect of the employer.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Was that boy killed since the Factory Act came in force? A.—No; not that one, but several have had hands and fingers taken off.

Q.—Has there been any complaint to the Government? A.—No; I think not. The great trouble is that when they meet with an accident, while many are willing to lend assistance and bring it before the Government those who are injured are not willing, for some reason or other.

Q.—What class of machinery are those boys put to work at? A.—Running different kinds of mills.

Q.—Planing mills? A.—Yes.

Q.—Shapers? A.—I don't know such machines.

Q.—Principally wood-working? A.—Wood and iron workers.

Q.—What age would those boys be? A.—Fifteen and sixteen, thereabout.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—How long would they be working there before being allowed to take charge? A.—I could not say positively; I could only say from hearsay.

Q.—They are asked to do so by employers? A.—Yes; they are compelled to work to support a family. The first job which turns up they are obliged to take it. After they have run a machine for a little while they think they are master of it, but after a while the machine masters them.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you think co-operation could be successfully introduced in business? A.—It might in larger cities; I don't think it could in smaller places.

W. B. BURGOYNE, St. Catharines, printer, manager of the *Star*, called and sworn:—
In regard to the use of plates principally—I differ from some of the statements made here to-day, as I read them in evidence, although I was not here. Of course, I do not approve altogether of the use of plates, and yet I think sometimes they can be used with advantage to the trade and without injury to the printers employed in the business. In our case—our paper is the one referred to by one of the witnesses this afternoon, where he stated a paper was started a year ago, and after three or four months began to use plate matter—we had it as a matter of convenience at that time, and afterwards, when the Typographical Union introduced a clause in their scale of prices which, in effect was intended to prohibit the use of plate, we dropped it for a time, and afterwards introduced it again on Saturdays, and Saturdays only, making a supplement to our paper. We used it in the supplement only, for some time, until the Typographical Union called out the men in our employ, and only one man left the composing room because of that difficulty, and while his place remained vacant we used an extra quantity of plate matter. We would have used it only on Saturdays had he been left at his case and his employment not interfered with. Very little plate would be used in our place to-day if he had been left at his place. Plate can be used as a benefit. Perhaps you have come across it in your investigations. There is a class of advertisements offered to printers at different seasons of the year, and particularly at this season of the year, from patent medicine houses and other houses, at a rate of advertising perhaps 75 per cent. of that asked by local men; and publishers, when advertising is slack, are tempted to take this class and continue them on during the year. I have in my office to-day a letter from a house offering an advertisement for eighteen months, which I refused, on account of its low price. I prefer to use plate matter for the benefit of the readers rather than take advertising matter at this low rate. In that sense I consider I am not injuring printers.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You mean, if you did not get this plate matter you would publish advertisements? A.—Almost necessarily. We would probably do as 90 per cent. of the publishers in towns of this size do, where rates are not maintained firmly. So I have refused quite a number of these patent medicine advertisements because of the rates which we are offered, preferring to fill the columns up with plate matter. Of course this is cost to the office. The offered advertising would pay a revenue, even if a small one, while plates are actually an expense. We never reduced the number of compositors or expense in the composing room because of the plate matter.

Q.—Now you use it only as a weekly supplement? A.—That is the way we used it after the men were called out, but now we are using it every day, because a number of advertisements run out on the 1st of January, and until business improves we are using more than we otherwise would.

Q.—New advertisements are much scarcer now than they are during the holidays? A.—Yes; every publisher finds that.

Q.—In summer time you have more new advertisements than in winter? A.—Yes; but from the 1st of March there will be an increase in the number.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Isn't there a large profit on that plate matter to you? A.—There is profit in the matter, if we were to pay the regular price of composition, yet there is a just limit to which the employer can go in his composing room and make profit to himself. We have employed as large a number of compositors in our office when there was no trouble in it as any other office in town, and we felt that in doing this we were inflicting no injury upon the employés. We have given employment there to a number of printers at the going rate of wages, and of course wages were increased at the request of the men.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Previous to the introduction of this plate, didn't newspapers in small towns have one side of the paper printed in cities? A.—Yes; in many cases; but not daily papers. Prior to the manufacture of plate matter there was a great business done by the manufacturers of what was called patent insides or outsides, and one side of the paper would be supplied to the publisher completely printed at small cost, comparative to the actual cost of the paper; but of course the publisher had control of only two pages out of four. I consider that the privilege of the publisher to obtain plate matter in columns, just as he wants it, is a benefit to the publisher in a place where he was using patent matter.

Q.—If the introduction of plate matter became general wouldn't it, to a large extent, displace composition? A.—I do not think it will ever become so general as really to displace any considerable number of printers; I doubt if it will displace any. I believe it is a fact to-day there are more printers employed in the country because of the introduction of plate matter than there were previous, or than there would have been if plate matter had not been introduced.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—What kind of literature is in this plate matter? A.—General literature, as a rule, but there is also general news, such as the Central News Company, Toronto, gives, which furnishes six columns a day of news.

Q.—Where do you generally get those plates from? A.—We get ours from Buffalo.

Q.—Sometimes aren't there stories of a rather small, trashy sort in it? A.—No; I don't think so.

Q.—I have heard of such things with regard to the plates in Buffalo? A.—I don't know that in our experience we have come across any literature of that sort.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—No immoral literature? A.—No; I have not come across anything of that kind.

Q.—Nothing is objectionable about it on the ground of immorality? A.—No; we have never heard any objection of that nature.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—You consider plate matter a benefit to you and no disadvantage to the printers employed? A.—Yes.

Q.—And it will not eventually do away with any printers? A.—No; I think not. There is another feature of this plate matter. I think it will probably have a tendency to decrease the number of apprentices in the printing business. There are a large number of apprentices in the country. A number of offices turn out men who are not efficient compositors. It is easy to learn the case, and in a few months a boy can attain quite a speed, and goes off, because he thinks he can get more wages.

The Commission then adjourned, to meet at 2 o'clock on Tuesday in Toronto.

KINGSTON, 30th January, 1888.

JAMES VOLUME, Shoemaker, Kingston:—Has been twenty-one years in Kingston, and one year in Toronto. Wages are from \$6 to \$10 a week, almost all piece-work. All custom and no factory work; ten hours constitute a day's labor. Know of only two females at sewing machines at \$3 per week who work ten hours per day. There are apprentices who have some kind of agreement, and who are required to serve four years. Wages are paid every Saturday; thinks that Saturday should be pay-day. There is no truck system in Kingston. Mechanics with family of three pay rent of \$5 to \$8 a month for a comfortable house. Quite a few shoemakers own their own houses; some have made money in California. Cannot say how long it would take a mechanic to buy his house at \$8 a week wages. He would have to live economically to save \$2 per week; it would take ten years. Shoemakers are steadily engaged, except in January and February, when they work part of the time. Cost of living about the same the last five years; house rent a little dearer; wages about same during that time. I think purchasing power of a dollar to be the same, except for house rent. Boots are imported from Montreal, Toronto, and the finest quality from Boston and Rochester, where they can be bought cheaper. The shoemaking trade is partly organized; I don't know that the trade has benefited by it, and it has been organized for a year.

JOHN DODS, Steamboat Engineer and Machinist, Kingston.—I have been nineteen years a machinist, and thirteen years of that in steamboats and in propellers. The tariff of wages is \$65 per month, and \$70 if all season, and travelling expenses to places where boat is fitted up. My own wages are higher, and I work by the year. All passenger boats, and all freight boats over 150-tons, require certificated engineers. The inspector of boilers is bound to see that engineers have certificates. I rather think the inspector here is too particular. Steamers are inspected every twelve months, usually before the opening of navigation. I went out in November on a new boat; it was inspected; the certificate will be good for twelve months. I believe hulls of steam vessels are well examined. There are no organized engineers here. If the men require it they will be paid every month; I could get money as fast as earned. When owners of vessels have failed the seamen have generally lost their wages. I am satisfied with my wages; I have no grievance, matters being fair and times good. I work by the year and receive higher wages than \$70 per month.

WARDEN LAVELL, of the Kingston Penitentiary:—I have been warden for the last three years, and for thirteen years before that was surgeon. The following is the distribution of the convicts:—

Carpenter gangs.....	45
Blacksmith shop.....	25
Stone-cutters.....	61
Mason gangs.....	32
Quarrying gang.....	36
Tailor shop.....	42
Shoe shop.....	24
Bakery.....	6
Farm and gardens.....	31
Engineer's gang.....	16
Laborers, stone-breakers, orderlies, domestic work, such as washing, cleaning, &c.....	174
Hospital.....	8
Insane ward.....	30
Women.....	23
	553

Many are employed in domestic service. There are thirty in the criminal asylum, and nineteen are used as orderlies, while thirty are occupied in the wash house. When men come in, if I find a skilled man, I generally apply him to the kind of work in which he was engaged. I should say that two-thirds of the men are of the laboring class, without any previous trade. Up to date, this month, we have received thirteen men, nine of whom are laborers, one a farmer, one baker, one carpenter and one painter. For the previous six months, 1st July to 1st January, of eighty-one men only seventeen were mechanics, and of these seventeen mechanics I question if one was a skilled workman, in the sense we talk of skilled labor. About two-thirds of the men are under thirty years. I think 11 to 12 per cent. of criminals are sent back to us. Of the thirteen men above mentioned one is over thirty and four under twenty. I believe we send out men worse than when they came in, unless they are taught intelligent labor, fitting them for future usefulness. Confirmed criminals are not those trained to some useful occupation. There is no contract system. About a year ago the system came to an end; it was in force then owing to a five years' contract. That was the only contract, and it was for block-making. The work done is for our own use, except, on rare occasions, for other men. We make no work but such as we require. We could do more work. A few months ago I received an order for twenty-five convict suits for the North-West. I think the percentage of work done in the penitentiary is so small that it would not perceptibly affect free labor. The compensating advantages in having men prepared to work is much greater than any loss arising from competition. We have no machinery, except that absolutely necessary. We make our own machinery, and boilers when we have men fit to do so, &c. Manual labor should be used when possible. I think it has advantages, as it gives more work and there is less competition. We use very few agricultural implements. The farm contains 120 acres. We use ploughs and harrows; our roots are put in with manual labor. We only use implements that we cannot dispense with. We have a mower, but no reaper. I am of opinion that all efforts should be made to reform. We have a planing machine, circular saw, and things of that kind. We have trade instructors who employ men at machinery who have not been accustomed to it. Accidents are exceedingly rare. If a man were to lose a hand at machinery we put him in hospital and give him work. When I was surgeon, and when there was more machinery used than now, I do not remember a case where a man was seriously injured by work on machinery. It would be a matter for the Government to decide whether compensation should be given in the case of an

accident. In some instances a given portion of work is given to prisoners. No remuneration is given to prisoners. When put out of jail men are sent back to the place where they were tried, travelling expenses are paid, and the warden is authorized to give money up to \$20—it is seldom I give \$20—a complete, respectable suit of clothing and under-clothing; a complete outfit is also given the man. I am not partial to the contract system; it is all for the contractor; prisoners now come less in competition with free labor. I am now employing prisoners outside to keep them at work. If I had work inside it would be less expensive and better for prisoners. I think remunerative labor for the Government is the best. I prefer that to labor bringing competition with free labor. There are 1,800 convicts in Joliette, Illinois; calculations there, brought down mathematically, show one-half per cent. of the prisoners come into competition with free labor. I believe the country would be in a worse condition from maintaining prisoners idle than allowing competition; I can hardly find words to express what I think of keeping prisoners in idleness. The general opinion of all wardens whom I met in the United States is in favor of intelligent labor. In Sing-Sing, after convict labor was abolished, there were 700 in absolute idleness, and about the same number in Auburn. The prison authorities were crying out against breaches of discipline. I think it unjust that prison authorities should be expected to maintain discipline when prisoners are idle; no moral authority can be used, and they leave the prison worse and more vicious. The prisoners now work in these jails on what is called "State Account"—that is, the men work at various trades and the product is sold on State account. It seems fair that prison goods should be labelled as such. I think that a portion of the profits should go to prisoners, as it would have a tendency to encourage them in hopefulness. It has been suggested that these earnings should go towards restitution, but I don't think that could be successfully carried out. I am not aware of any convict product being sold in this city. The great difficulty in not coming into competition is to find Government work. I believe that prisoners should be employed working for the penitentiary. We have several prisoners under seventeen; one of eighteen came in this morning; under sixteen, in Ontario, they are sent to the reformatory. If I had 100 convicts more than I have I would not know what to do with them. I don't approve of any plan by which any part of the Dominion would be made a penal colony. I would not place prisoners where they could be black-balled by any community. I know several who learned trades in the penitentiary who have done well. I meet them often—carpenters, moulders, and others of various trades. I believe they are as competent as the average man. I met a man at Niagara Falls who had been seven years in the penitentiary; he was doing well, working as a joiner. He had a family, and spoke in grateful terms of his treatment here. The man had told his employer of his former conduct, and I saw the employer, who stated that he was hard-working, and one to be trusted. He was one of those who became criminal by accident (by drink). *i. e.*, one of those who have been made tools of and misled. The confirmed criminal does not touch liquor; he never reforms. Prison work is at this season of about eight hours a day. Prisoners are locked up at a quarter past five; they have to be all in before any are locked up. The women do domestic work, and sewing and knitting for prisoners, and also make their shirts and drawers. I think that we could successfully manufacture blankets for the mounted police. The Government might give us all the work we can do, such as militia clothing, &c.

HENRY BAUDIN, Farmer, of Pittsburgh:—I grow hay and barley. Barley opened at 55 cents and rose to 72 and 73; there is a great difference in the local market, owing to want of competition; I sell every thing in the local market. Apples are my principal fruit; I have sold some for export. I have nine acres in orchard—about 1,000 trees; it is a young orchard. Fruit-growing is on the increase. Farmers in this vicinity sell in Kingston. I am three miles from the city. There is a scarcity

of fit men for agricultural purposes. I use what machinery is necessary—mowers and reapers; I have no binder. Every spring there is a number of farmers who apply to the immigration agent. We have not had a good class of laborers for some years; for the last ten years the majority has not been of a good class. The majority of agricultural laborers drift to the city; they very seldom come back to the farm. I know a few who have gone to the free-grant lands; they were invariably good men, who had no trouble to keep their places, because farmers wanted them; they are making a comfortable living from their own farm, and working in the bush in winter. The monthly wages of a good farm hand is \$16, with board; and without board, with wooden house, vegetables and milk, \$200 to \$250 per year. There is no limit for work; I have worked eighteen hours per day, and worked cheerfully.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Suppose a man has got six hours to rest, what can he do to improve his intellect? A.—He has a long winter to study in. Harvest is a busy time; we work eighteen hours. The men are compensated. Work generally is from sunrise to sunset. Machinery has displaced labor to a large extent on well-cleared farms. The self-binder has not done away with many men in this section, but where binding has been used it displaces four men in the field. I have conversed with immigrants. On 2nd January I overtook a young man lightly clad; he had just come out of Kingston hospital. He came out last spring from Dublin. He said he had a good situation in Dublin, and was advised by an immigration agent to come to Canada. He was deceived. If I had no machinery I could not raise produce so cheap. The tendency here is to enlarge the farms, so as to make a cheap use of machinery. Hay is my most profitable crop for the outlay.

ROBERT BAIRD, Carpenter, Kingston:—I have worked as journeyman for fourteen years. The wages are \$1.75 per day for carpenter and joiner, one man in fifty may get \$2 for ten hours. We have to contend against men from the country; they get \$1.25 a day. The average number of working days is, from 1st April to 1st November, ten hours per day; and from November to April, shorter hours; we are paid by the hour; we work in summer fifty-nine hours and are paid for sixty hours. Carpenters are not organized to a great extent, and not organized enough to make labor trouble. I cannot say that where labor is organized there is less trouble. I have known wages to be cut down in the fall, when hours are shorter. Organized labor would likely have prevented this. I know an average man to be out of work. Union men are better informed as to wages. There was a carpenters' society; it never got very strong. There is not much machinery in the shops; the contractors do not use much; they get their supply from mills. Laborers are sometimes put on to work on planers, but there is generally a foreman in charge of machinery. Planers are not as dangerous as others. A carpenter's shop is generally cold in winter. As a general thing, wages are higher in the United States and cost of living about the same. In Watertown \$8 would be paid, instead of \$6 here, per month. The wages of a carpenter there would be \$2 to \$2.25, as I have heard. There are very few apprentices here; boys will go from one employer to another; the introduction of machinery has a good deal to do with that. Quite a few journeymen carpenters own their own houses. Many of them built their own homes after work hours. It would require one quite a while to build a house out of his earnings; and I believe convicts should be employed on Government work. Wages are lower now than they were six years ago; rent is higher.

JOSEPH WILD, Painter, Kingston :—A brush hand gets from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per day; the last is standard wages for fifty-nine hours per week. There is employment for seven months. I started out about the end of April and worked to within two weeks of Christmas. I have worked since then on odd jobs. I am fifty-two years old; my wages have been reduced on account of my age. I have been nine years in Toronto. I think that Kingston is about the worst place for painters. The painters are not an organized body as such; they are connected with other building societies. I believe that the organizations of laboring men are beneficial and necessary, but I believe that if left to themselves the employed and employers would go together better. Canadian workmen are not so united as the English. I only know of two or three painters who have come from the old country; immigration has not interfered with us. Apprenticeships are not common here. I don't think four years is sufficient for an apprentice; it ought to be seven years, as in England. Canadians will employ a boy who can merely use the brush. As a rule, the Canadian is not equal to the English painter. Canada is a better place than England for any kind of workman. I don't believe that painters get a fair share of wages for their work. Rent and fuel are very serious matters in Kingston.

W. G. KIDD, Inspector of Schools, Kingston :—I have been inspector for twelve years. There is not sufficient accommodation for schools; a large building was erected last year. All the schools are occupied; we have not refused admission to any child. A teacher above the third class should not have more than forty scholars. We have not established a kindergarten; we may have one this year. The school laws say that children of three years may be admitted; I think that four years is quite young enough. We do not give technical instruction, but we are giving more practical education, and more fitting for those who have to work, and more useful in every-day life. The children are taught what they ought to know. There is a good deal of work, which, although considered unnecessary, is useful in training the mind. I think that anything which will teach the child to observe will do him good. From what I have read, the teaching of the Hebrew Technical Institute of New York would do good here and would not interfere with the ordinary education. In some school buildings the rooms are rather small; in the new buildings they are larger, and proper attention is paid to ventilation and heating. The smaller rooms are occupied by younger children, and they ought not to have more than thirty-five occupants; they sometimes have more. The average attendance is about 1,800, and we have about 2,000 attending at times. I speak of the public schools only. The whole school population is 5,065, from five to twenty-one years; this includes all schools, collegiate and otherwise. The head schoolmaster gets \$1,000; others, \$600; females, from \$225 to \$600. The head master trains young teachers for three months. The female teacher gets a first-class certificate, B; the headmaster, A. Male teachers get a higher salary; they are all principals. Females do not get as high a salary as the men; the latter have more work to do. One female teacher gets \$450; another \$475. I think they will get higher salaries if they succeed. Our school board supplies children who appear to want books. It would be an advantage for the schools if books were supplied by the board, and I think in some cases the children would remain longer at school, and particularly those in the higher classes. I remember one or two telling me last year that they were taking away their children on account of the price of books. We have no night schools—we had them two years ago and found them useless; there are private night schools; the working class did not take advantage of the night schools. A class of girls, taught by women, was successful for one year. We have a mechanics' institute and a free library in Kingston; the latter is successful. I do not approve of the class of books generally read. The library connected with the public school is free to all public-school rate-payers. I believe that there is a good deal of light reading taken out of the mechanics' institute; I think a Saturday afternoon holiday would give more time for reading. The school library is open from 10 to 11 every day, and on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons.

A. P. KNIGHT, Rector of Collegiate Institute:—The number of subjects now taught in the common and secondary schools of the Province might be lessened, and in place of these more prominence might be given to free mechanical drawing, to modelling in clay, working in wood and sewing for girls. I mean that these studies might be made the means of mental training as well as having a practical value—in other words, the education should be two-fold—the education of the mind as well as of the senses—the training of the hand and of the eye chiefly, and sense of touch also. The kindergarten does give prominence to these in a limited degree, but I think the training of the senses in our public high schools should be greater. Drawing and writing do this partly now. In the secondary schools more prominence should be given to science, physics, chemistry and other kindred sciences. The women ought to be taught cookery, sewing, &c. The teaching of history and geography might be curtailed. I think it would be a good thing to supply the children with school books. Very few children of mechanics go to the institute, on account of the fees and expense of the books. The institute gets a Government grant. I prefer the school books to be bought by the municipality rather than they should be supplied by the Province. There is not a uniform fee for the collegiate institute. In the New England States and in New York the board supplies books to the public schools. I suppose that the difference of fees in the institute is owing to a difference of opinion in the several localities.

KINGSTON, 30th January 1888.

GILBERT JOHNSTON, Engineer, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How long have you worked as an engineer in Kingston? A.—It is fifteen or sixteen years since I first started steamboating here.

Q.—Is it in connection with steamboat engineering that you wish to give evidence? A.—No; I am at present foreman of the Transportation Company in Kingston.

Q.—How many men have you got under your control? A.—About ten.

Q.—What wages do you pay to the first-class men? A.—About \$2 a day; they range from \$1.75 to \$2 a day.

Q.—Are they constantly employed? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are the number of hours a week they work? A.—About fifty-nine hours.

Q.—Is their work paid by the week or by the piece? A.—They are paid by the day—by the hour.

Q.—I presume a single hour lost is deducted from the wages earned during the week? A.—No; it is not; they are paid for sixty hours during the week.

Q.—Have you any apprentices in your business? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long do they serve before they become competent journeymen? A.—Four or five years.

Q.—Are the apprentices indentured? A.—No.

Q.—Is it the wish of the men that the apprentices should be indentured? A.—I would not like to express the opinion of the majority of the men on that matter.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Is that your opinion? A.—I don't see that it would be a very great advantage.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Would not the indenturing of an apprentice, for, say, a period of five years, have a tendency to make a young man more steady in his habits and ultimately turn him out a better journeyman? A.—I don't believe it would; I don't think the fact of a boy being indentured would alter his position, so far as that is concerned. I believe it lies altogether with the young man himself.

Q.—Under the indenture system is not the employer compelled to teach a boy the trade? A.—I expect he would be compelled.

Q.—He would not consider himself compelled, I suppose, if the boy was not indentured? A.—Yes; but it lies with the young man altogether whether he gets a proper trade or not; if he is able to learn it he gets it, as a rule.

Q.—Is it not the place of the foreman to see that a young man who has intellect and talents enough to learn the trade should become familiar with it? A.—Yes; he should see to it.

Q.—Do you not find that some boys are much more apt at the business than others? A.—Yes.

Q.—What do you pay indentured apprentices to the business first? A.—About \$1.50 a week.

Q.—How old might they be when they can learn the trade? A.—They run all the way from fourteen to eighteen years.

Q.—Do you take any under fourteen? A.—No; I don't think that we have any as young as fourteen.

Q.—After the boy serves his time do you keep him on as a journeyman? A.—Yes; as a rule.

Q.—Do many of your men stay with you for a length of time? A.—I am not in a position to speak, so far as that is concerned, as I have only been foreman since last July; but I may say that a great many of the men have been there fourteen or fifteen years, while others have been seven, eight or nine years.

Q.—Are the men paid weekly, fortnightly or monthly? A.—Weekly.

Q.—In cash? A.—Yes; in cash.

Q.—Is there any day of the week upon which they prefer to be paid? A.—They are paid on Friday night, which they consider the most desirable for them to be paid.

Q.—Have you given the question of profit-sharing any thought? A.—No; I have not. Do you mean a co-operative system?

Q.—No; not exactly the co-operative system. I mean the payment to a man of his wages and also a profit made by the firm, by which a man will become more saving and take a greater interest in the business? A.—It depends not on the number of years but on a man's own industry and carefulness as to what salary he gets.

Q.—Have the wages in your business increased during the past few years, or have they decreased, or are they stationary? A.—The rate of wages has not increased in my estimation.

Q.—Can you tell us if the cost of the necessaries of life has increased during the past few years? A.—From my own experience. the cost of living has been increased.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—In what way? A.—By higher tariff.

Q.—How do you mean by higher tariffs? A.—Well, the revenue has to be got in some manner or other.

Q.—Does it cost any more for house rent than it did two or three years ago? A.—I don't know; I have not paid house rent in ten years.

Q.—You are not a married man? A.—Yes; I am.

Q.—Do you board? A.—I happen to own the house I live in.

Q.—Does it cost any more for board than it did two or three years ago? A.—Well—

Q.—Say five years ago? A.—On the whole, I believe it does cost more.

Q.—Why does it cost more to board. How much did you pay for board five years ago? A.—I did not pay anything for board; I have always been unfortunate enough to have to board others for the last ten years.

Q.—Do you pay more for groceries than you did five years ago? A.—Yes; I believe so.

Q.—What goods are higher? A.—Tea will be higher.

Q.—How much higher—what would you give for tea? A.—The number of

brands is so great that I cannot tell you; but this I know, that in our house we know one year after another what things cost, and of late years it has been a little higher. Whether we have been more healthy and have eaten more or not I am not prepared to say. As regards the exact cost of dry-goods, I am not in a position to give it.

Q.—Did you pay more for a pound of beef five years ago than you do now?
A.—I don't believe so.

Q.—Do you pay more for a pound of sugar now? A.—I think the line is drawn very finely there. The grades are so far apart that I am not able to tell you what a particular grade was five years ago.

Q.—Is clothing dearer now than it was five years ago? A.—Yes; I believe so.

Q.—What would a suit, take a good tweed suit, cost five years ago? A.—You could get a good tweed suit for about \$15.

Q.—What would you pay now for a good tweed suit of clothes? A.—I am not here to say my views as to what the cost of silks, and cottons and teas is.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do any of your men belong to labor organizations? A.—I believe they do; a great many of them do.

Q.—Does your establishment make any difference between unorganized or organized labor? A.—Not any.

Q.—Do you think organized labor is a benefit to the engineers? A.—The engineers are not organized; if they were the case should be different with them.

Q.—How—to their benefit? A.—Yes; I think it would be so.

Q.—Have you had any labor strikes here lately? A.—No.

Q.—Suppose that a difficulty should occur in your establishment, how would you like to have it settled? Do you approve of the principle of arbitration? A.—Yes.

Q.—To the best of your knowledge, do you think that a bureau of labor statistics for the Dominion would be beneficial to the laboring classes? A.—I believe it would be.

Q.—What, to the best of your judgment, is the sanitary condition of your shop?
A.—It is in a fair condition.

Q.—There are no complaints about it? A.—Not that I know of.

Q.—Has the factory inspector visited your shop? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any Sunday labor down there? A.—None.

Q.—Is there any fining of employés in case they are late to work? A.—If they are late one hour they lose one hour's pay; if they are late half an hour they lose half an-hour. They are paid for the work they do.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How are they paid for over-time? A.—They sometimes work from seven to ten o'clock; there is half an hour for supper. They get half a day for working to ten o'clock.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Have you ever worked on the other side of the river, in the United States?
A.—No; most of my time has been spent in steamboating, until last year or so.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you know anything about workingmen's co-operative societies? A.—I do not.

Q.—Do you know anything about convict labor—does it interfere with your business in any way? A.—I think convicts should be obliged to earn their bread; in what way it should be done I am not able to tell you.

Q.—What should they do? A.—Convicts should not be kept in idleness, I think, but I am not prepared to say what they should do.

Q.—Do you believe in work being given out on the contract system, or do you believe in the Government taking hold of it? A.—I think the Government should handle it.

Q.—You have not given very serious consideration to the matter, I suppose?
A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Has immigration affected the engineering industry in Kingston? A.—Not in any way.

Q.—Do any of your men own the houses in which they live? A.—Some of them do; I think the majority of them do.

Q.—Have they earned money with which they bought the houses by their own wages? A.—Yes.

Q.—As to the prices of property, have lots, such as workingmen would like to buy on which to put up houses increased in price during the past few years. A.—They have.

Q.—Have your men paid for their houses? A.—I expect they have; I don't know exactly in what position they are in the matter. I own my own house.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—How long would it take a workingman before he would be able to buy a lot and put up a house? A.—I think a great deal depends on his own habits and the helpmate he has.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Particularly the latter, I suppose? A.—Yes; most likely.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Can you give us any information on this point: provided a mechanic in Kingston had his own lot, and wanted to borrow \$1,000 with which to put up a house, what interest would he have to pay for the loan of that amount. A.—I consider he could get the money for 6 per cent.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—When you held the position of engineer on the steamboat I suppose you were obliged to take out a certificate? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is your idea as to the desirability of having examinations for stationary engineers? A.—They should be examined, I think; that is my opinion.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You think they should hold certificates from the Government? A.—I think so.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Is the man who runs the engine in your shop a skilled engineer? A.—No.

Q.—Is he a boy, or what? A.—He is a young man.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You believe, then, that stationary engineers should be just as competent as steamboat engineers? A.—No; I don't think that they should go as strong as that; but such a system would help to raise the standard of the men, and would enable them to help themselves, as it were.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—While you were engineering on a steamboat did you ever hear any complaints from the men engaged on those boats about the boats being unseaworthy—in other words, did you ever consider that the boat on which you were was unseaworthy? A.—That is a rather peculiar question. I have often been out on a steamboat when I would rather have been on shore.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—The question was, whether the boat was fit to go to sea or not? A.—It is just for that reason, because I think that sometimes a more seaworthy boat would have been a little more safe just then.

Q.—Do you know anything about sailing vessels? A.—No; not very much.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you any information to give the Commission that will be a benefit to the Government in connection with your line of business? A.—No; nothing particular. In connection with steamboat engineering, I may say that the Government a short time ago passed a law to the effect that any man might run a tug of any size. I think they made a mistake in that case; it helps to put inferior men in these positions, and there are some very large tug boats on the lakes. If the men were subject to an examination it would help to keep up the standard.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You think that tugs of a certain size should have certificated engineers?
A.—Yes; a tug of any size should have a certificated engineer.

SAMUEL ANGROVE, Pattern-maker, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You are employed as a pattern-maker in the foundry here, I believe? A.—I am in the locomotive works at the present time.

Q.—Do you receive steady employment? A.—Latterly we have.

Q.—Generally speaking, are you employed throughout the year? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are the weekly wages of a pattern-maker? A.—About \$2 a day for a good man.

Q.—Is \$2 the outside limit? A.—At present.

Q.—And what is the lowest rate of wages? A.—About \$1.75 a day.

Q.—Are there many pattern-makers employed at the locomotive works? A.—I have four men working there at the present time. I don't suppose they served their time as pattern-makers, but we are using them as such.

Q.—How are the men in your establishment paid—weekly, fortnightly or monthly? A.—Fortnightly.

Q.—Are they paid in cash? A.—Yes; they are paid in cash.

Q.—Are the men, or any of them, ever garnisheed for debt? A.—Sometimes they are.

Q.—Do you think that if the men were paid weekly it would do away with the garnisheeing, to a great extent? A.—I don't think it.

Q.—Will you give us your reasons for holding that opinion? A.—My reason for saying so is this: I believe if a man wishes to pay his debts he can pay them fortnightly as well as he could weekly.

Q.—Do you not think it would be more convenient for a man and his family if he were paid weekly, so far as marketing is concerned? A.—So far as our men are concerned, no doubt we would do so if they wished.

Q.—You would do so if the men desired such a change? A.—Yes; if they wished it.

Q.—Have any of your men desired to be paid weekly? A.—They applied to be paid fortnightly—they used to be paid monthly—and they got what they wished.

Q.—And they consider it is an improvement to be paid fortnightly instead of monthly, which was the old system? A.—They consider so.

Q.—Are the men ever discharged because they are garnisheed? A.—Not that I am aware of; I never knew a case of it.

Q.—When a man is discharged from the locomotive works of Kingston is he required to get a certificate of good conduct and good workmanship from the works before he can take his next place? A.—There have been applications for that, and the men have got certificates. I don't think it is a usual thing with us for men to make application.

Q.—Will your company employ men without asking for a certificate of character and workmanship from the last locomotive works where they worked? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has there been any labor difficulty lately in the locomotive works? A.—There was during the last summer.

Q.—What was the nature of the difficulties? A.—I think it was a difference about wages.

Q.—Did the men apply for a raise in wages? A.—I think so.

Q.—What was the action of the company in that respect? A.—The company did not think they would pay it at the time.

Q.—Did the men strike? A.—They went on strike.

Q.—Before they took that extreme measure did they propose to arbitrate in the matter? A.—I cannot answer that question; I don't know.

Q.—That is to say, you don't know? A.—I am not thoroughly posted in regard to it.

Q.—What was the result of that strike—how did it end? A.—It did not amount to a great deal, I think, in the long run.

Q.—Did the men get what they desired? A.—In some cases I think they did; not all through.

Q.—Were the men who went out on strike taken back to work again? A.—I think some of them were; others got employment at other places and did not come back.

Q.—Did the company refuse to take back any of those who were leaders in the difficulty? A.—I think not; matters were settled so that every thing was arranged all right.

Q.—Is the company opposed to employing men who belong to labor organizations? A.—I think not.

Q.—It is not a question whether a man belongs to a labor organization or not? A.—No questions are put of any kind.

Q.—It is simply a question of competency? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Was foreign labor brought here at the time of the difficulty? A.—No.

Q.—Are locomotives, as a general thing, manufactured here for Canada? A.—I think so.

Q.—Are there many locomotives manufactured here? A.—I think there is one business besides our shop.

Q.—Are there many locomotives manufactured here? A.—Quite a number.

Q.—How many would you turn out a year? A.—We have turned out fifty-two.

Q.—I suppose the trade fluctuates, and is not steady all the time? A.—It is not steady.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—How long have the locomotive works been in operation here? A.—I have been here since 1870; the works were in operation a good many years before I came here.

Q.—Since the time you have been employed here have the works been extended and have the company taken on more men? A.—They have.

Q.—Has the establishment been greatly extended? A.—It has.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Did you ever work in the United States? A.—I never did.

Q.—Did you ever work in England? A.—I never worked outside of Kingston.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—You were always satisfied with Canada? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are there any pieces of locomotives imported? A.—Not manufactured pieces. There used to be some brass work, such as mountings, but I think they are all manufactured in Canada now.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Are you a married man ? A.—I am.

Q.—Do you hold the same views with respect to the cost of living as were held by the last witness—do you think you can live cheaper or dearer now than you could formerly ? A.—It does not cost me any more to live now than it did five years ago, any way.

Q.—Do you think you can live just as well, or better ? A.—Just as well.

Q.—Are your wages higher than they were ? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much higher ? A.—Twenty per cent.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—From your knowledge, are the working classes in Kingston on as good a footing as they are in any place else of which you are aware ? A.—I think they are, so far as Kingston is concerned.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—You do not know what wages are paid outside of the city ? A.—Just from hearsay.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you any further information you could impart that would be of benefit to the Commission ? A.—No; I don't think I have.

RICHARD McMILLAN, Piano-maker, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Has your business as a piano-maker increased in volume during these past ten years ? A.—No; in Kingston it has not. It has in the country all through.

Q.—Do you mean in the Province ? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there as many pianos imported into Kingston now as there were some years ago ? A.—No.

Q.—Can you speak in that regard for the entire Province ? A.—I could not speak for the entire Province, but I know that for Kingston there are not.

Q.—Are there more men employed at the piano business to-day than there were five years ago ? A.—No; not in our shop, there are about the same number.

Q.—Do you know the reason ? A.—The reason, I think, is that competition is greater in the country. There are now about seven shops in Toronto where there was only one at that time, and in other places shops have been established.

Q.—What are the wages of a first-class polisher in Kingston ? A.—I do not know exactly what they pay here; I think about \$2 a day, or something about that figure.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Can you give us the average earnings of a man in the piano factory, taking all the hands through ? A.—That would be a hard matter to do, because the largest part of the men work piece-work, and you cannot average men on piece-work. A man might make twice as much in one fortnight as he would in another. His earnings are in accordance with the quantity of work he has to do, and sometimes the factory is not run at full blast.

Q.—Do any women work at the business ? A.—No.

Q.—Do any boys ? A.—A few boys; I could not say how many. They are not boys exactly, for they are fifteen, sixteen, seventeen or eighteen years of age.

Q.—Is there much machinery employed in your factory ? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has it a tendency to lower wages ? A.—No; it lowers the quantity of work, but not the wages, according to the work you do.

Q.—Has the factory inspector been through your factory ? A.—I think there

was an inspector through it about a year ago, a Government inspector of some description.

Q.—Did he find everything satisfactory? A.—It seemed so at the time.

Q.—In your estimation, is the machinery in the factory properly protected? A.—I think so; if a man is careful I don't think there is any danger in it.

Q.—There have not been any accidents? A.—There has been a slight accident happened, but it was through carelessness. It did not amount to much.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—When the factory inspector was passing through your factory had he any conversation with the men? A.—No; I think not; only with the foreman.

Q.—Did he go through in company with the employer or foreman? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did the men know that he was the factory inspector? A.—Some knew it, those to whom the foreman imparted the information.

Q.—After he went out? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—When he was passing through your factory did he closely examine the different machines as if he was taking an interest in them? A.—Yes; I have been told so.

Q.—Would you be willing to work nine hours a day for nine hours' pay? A.—I work ten hours.

Q.—Supposing your hours were cut down to nine, would you be willing to accept nine hours' pay? A.—No.

Q.—You would rather work ten hours for ten hours' pay? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever worked in any other country besides Canada? A.—Yes; in the old country.

Q.—How do you think the working classes in this country compare with the working classes in the country where you were formerly employed? A.—They are a long way ahead of them as regards comfort, and as regards everything else.

Q.—You are in a good deal better circumstances here than in the old country? A.—Yes; certainly.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How do the wages compare? A.—The wages are nearly double, that is for a good man. Of course, there are some rates of wages which go down as low as they did there.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You believe the shortening of the hours of labor has a tendency to elevate the intellectual standing and social condition of the workingman? A.—I believe it would. The workingman would have more time to himself, and if he were fond of reading he could improve himself.

Q.—Do you believe the workingmen in Kingston, so far as your knowledge goes, would appreciate a shortening of hours, and would use the time for their own benefit? A.—No; I don't think they would, not the generality of them. I think they would put it to a very poor advantage, a great many of them.

Q.—Do you believe that a man, putting in a long, arduous day's work, is more liable to get intoxicated in the evening going home than if he had a few hours more in the evening, from his time of work being shortened? A.—I don't know; that is a question that would be very hard to answer.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—He need not become intoxicated at all, I suppose? A.—He need not. But I think if you will allow men to go out and run around the streets one or two hours before the regular time for stopping work had come they would be very apt to fall in with friends and get a little off, which he would not do if he had his regular full day's work to attend to. That is my idea of it.

Q.—You believe it would be a benefit to the working classes if they just went from bed to work and from work to bed? A.—No; I can find time enough from 7 o'clock in the evening till 9 o'clock to do all I require, and then I can go to bed. I can read the newspaper, I can read a book, I can go out and walk around a while, if I wish to do so, and so on, and that is all I require. I consider the money I can earn in that extra hour is more useful to me than an extra hour would be.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Do you think the moral standing of the working classes will compare favorably with that of any other class of society? A.—I do.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you mean to say that when a man leaves off work at 6 o'clock he can go home and have his supper and clean himself up and have plenty of time? What time do you think it would be when he had got cleaned up? A.—He can go home, if it is not too far, he can get his paper and be cleaned up by 7:30 o'clock. He can afterwards go out and walk around for an hour or an hour and a-half, if he wishes, or if he has any other business to attend to, and he can go in and sit down and read his newspaper to 9 or 9:30 or 10 o'clock, and then he can go to bed; and he has lots of time.

JOHN MCNEIL, Iron Moulder, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You are a stove moulder, I believe? A.—No.

Q.—Are you a machine moulder? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it by piece-work or by day-work that machine moulders are employed in Kingston? A.—By day-work.

Q.—How many hours per week do they work? A.—About fifty-nine hours per week.

Q.—What would be the average rate of wages of a machine moulder? A.—The average rate of wages would be about \$2 a day.

Q.—Can you give us the average rate of wages of an agricultural implement moulder? A.—No; I don't think I could; they generally work at piece-work.

Q.—Are stove moulders employed on piece-work in Kingston? A.—Pretty much so.

Q.—How are plate moulders employed? A.—On piece-work a little; some time ago they used to work day-work.

Q.—Will you tell us the average number of weeks in the year a machinery mill works? A.—So far as our establishment is concerned, they work pretty steadily all the year round; sometimes the men lose a day some weeks.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—If so, they do it voluntarily, I suppose? A.—Certainly.

By Mr. MCLEAN :—

Q.—There is no shutting down of the works? A.—No; not unless there is a panic or slackness of trade.

Q.—Did you shut down any this last year? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Has machinery moulding increased in volume during the past few years? A.—No; I don't know that it has; it stands about the same.

Q.—Are there any apprentices at the trade? A.—Yes.

Q.—What might be the age at which apprentices go to learn machinery moulding? A.—Fifteen or sixteen years.

Q.—What is the length of service you consider that a boy should serve in order

to become a proficient journeyman? A.—I think it necessary that a boy should serve five years in order to get an insight into the trade.

Q.—Is five years the standard? A.—No; not here.

Q.—In what manner are the men paid? A.—They are paid fortnightly.

Q.—Are they paid in cash? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Are they paid the full amount of their wages? A.—Yes; the full amount.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you ever heard any talk about the men preferring to be paid more frequently? A.—No; I have not; they seem to be satisfied.

Q.—Do they work over-time? A.—No; not in our department. Some may work an hour or two during the busy season.

Q.—Do you know anything about their social condition, whether they live comfortably? A.—I believe they do.

Q.—Have you worked in any place outside of Kingston? A.—Yes.

Q.—Where? A.—I have worked in a good many different places throughout Canada and the United States.

Q.—What is the difference between the wages paid in Kingston at the present time and the wages paid in a city of the same population on the other side? A.—I am not prepared to answer that question, for I do not know the rate of pay in other cities. There are higher wages paid in other cities than here—that is, to some men.

Q.—Do you think the moulder in Kingston receives a proportionate share of the products of his labor? A.—I think they do, that is if the standard of wages of other mechanics in the city be compared with the standard paid to the moulders.

Q.—That is in comparison with other trades in the city? A.—Yes; with other trades.

Q.—Do you consider that the moulders are as well off to-day as they were five years ago, as regards living and every thing else? A.—I think they are; there may be a very slight difference.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of the shops in which the men work? A.—They are pretty fair.

Q.—Are the shops not comfortable in the winter? A.—I cannot say that they are very comfortable.

Q.—Have you known the men to be laid up with throat and lung diseases on account of the heat and cold in the shops? A.—No; I don't know much about men being laid up through cold.

Q.—Do you think the men would appreciate baths if they were introduced into the factory? A.—I am not sure; I could not answer that question. It would greatly depend on the men themselves. If the men wish to have a bath it would be very convenient; some would wish it and others would not.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you think, as a general rule, they would take advantage of a bath-room if there was one there? A.—In the summer season they might, but I don't think they would in the winter, because moulders are generally warm when they get through their work and their clothes are damp from the extreme heat, and so on. If the men took a bath and put on the same clothes it would not be an advantage; of course if they had a change of clothes it would make the men a little more comfortable.

Q.—Don't the moulders suffer a great deal from steam that arises when they take castings out? A.—In the winter season they do, especially if the shop is not ventilated properly.

Q.—Do they suffer much from what they call blind staggers? A.—No; not in our department. It has occurred in some shops in which I have worked; but where I am working at present it is a well ventilated shop.

Q.—Have they suction fans? A.—No; we have fans, but we don't use them for that purpose.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—For what are the fans used? A.—They are used as blasts for the furnaces.

Q.—They are used for the benefit of the employer and not for the comfort of the men? A.—It is necessary to have those fans in order to get through the work.

Q.—Do you not think it necessary to have fans to take away the dust when the men are working? A.—I think the proper ventilation of the shop is necessary for that purpose. If it was a low, dark shop a fan would be a benefit.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—What class of machinery does your concern turn out—wood-working or iron-working machinery? A.—Iron-working machinery, locomotive castings principally, and general work.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Have you ever given the subject of convict labor any thought? A.—Yes; I have. I think it is something that should be abolished out of the country.

Q.—What would you do with the convicts? A.—I would have them applied to the best advantage for the benefit of the Government. I would rather pay the equivalent to keep the convicts idle than see their labor compete with outside contractors.

Q.—Do you think the prisoners should be kept in idleness? A.—No; I don't think so.

Q.—You only object to their work coming into competition with free labor? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think they should be kept employed? A.—Yes; they should be kept employed.

Q.—At what should they be kept employed? A.—At any work that could be brought conveniently to them. For instance, if there were smelting works. For the present it would be a great advantage to keep the convicts employed there, and such would not interfere with outside labor to any account, for I don't think we have in Canada any smelting works, except one.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you think if there were smelting works in connection with the prison it would give more work to skilled industry in the iron trade? A.—Yes; I believe it would.

Q.—Have you any further information to give the Commission? A.—No; I have not.

EDWARD PERRY, Moulder, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What is your business? A.—I am a stove moulder and bench worker.

Q.—On piece-work, what would be the average rate of wages a moulder would receive? A.—I don't work piece-work, but day-work. Our wages every day of the week run from \$1.60 to \$1.85.

Q.—Are men in your shop employed throughout the year? A.—No.

Q.—Suppose that your wages were divided by, say 360 days, how much would they amount to per day? A.—I could not say exactly, because we have so much lost time at the beginning of the year; we only worked three or four days a week at the beginning of last year.

Q.—How many weeks in the year are the moulders employed on an average, to the best of your knowledge? A.—To the best of my knowledge, I should say about forty or forty-five weeks.

Q.—How many hours per week do they work? A.—When we get through ^{we} go home—may be nine hours, eight and three-quarter hours, or eight and a-half hours, as it happens.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—When you get your blast off you go home? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are there any apprentices at the stove moulding business? A.—Yes.

Q.—What may be the age of an apprentice going to the stove moulding? A.—
There have been no apprentices taken on there lately; I should judge sixteen; ^{some} may be up to eighteen or twenty.

Q.—Is there a uniform time for an apprentice to serve at the stove moulding?
A.—They are supposed to serve four years.

Q.—Are stove moulders organised in Kingston? A.—They are.

Q.—Do you belong to the International body? A.—No; to the national union.

Q.—Has immigration affected the stove moulding business in Kingston, to the
best of your knowledge? A.—No; it has not, to any extent, in Kingston.

Q.—Can you speak for any other places in that respect? A.—No.

Q.—How are the men paid? A.—The men are paid weekly?

Q.—Do they prefer weekly payments? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—On what day are they paid? A.—They are paid on Saturday.

Q.—Would they not prefer Friday? A.—Not particularly myself.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Are you a married man? A.—I am.

Q.—How does the cost of living now compare with the cost of living five years
ago? A.—Five years ago I was on the other side.

Q.—How do the wages in your trade compare with the wages in the United
States? A.—They are lower.

Q.—Take the wages in a city of the same size—take Oshawa, Galt, Guelph?
A.—The wages in Kingston are lower than the wages there.

Q.—Are the wages in a city in the United States of the same size as Kingston
higher or lower? A.—I never worked in a city in the United States of the same
size as Kingston.

Q.—Do you own the house you live in? A.—I do not.

Q.—What rent do you pay? A.—Five dollars per month.

Q.—Do you know anything about the sanitary condition of the workingmen's
houses in Kingston? A.—I do not.

Q.—What kind of a house would a man get for \$5 a month? A.—He can get a
first-rate house here for \$5 a month; that is, he cannot get every thing, I suppose.

Q.—What kind of a house could he get for \$8 a month? A.—He could get a
better one.

Q.—How many rooms? A.—I could not say.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How far from this place would a house be renting at \$5 per month? A.—
I am living over one mile from here, or about one mile, I should judge.

Q.—Do you think stove moulders are receiving a fair proportion of the profit of
the product of their labor? A.—Not the same as compared with other places.

Q.—With the same sized cities in Canada? A.—No; even taking larger cities.

Q.—Do you think the fact of the moulders being organized has a beneficial effect
in keeping up wages in Kingston? A.—It has.

Q.—Do you think the wages would not be as high were it not for organization?
A.—Yes.

- Q.—Are the employers of Kingston favorable to organization among workingmen?
 A.—They don't say anything against it.
- Q.—Does your organization believe in the principle of arbitration? A.—No.
- Q.—In any kind of arbitration? A.—We can settle it among ourselves.
- Q.—You mean between the men and their employers? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Would your organization resort to arbitration before ordering a strike?
 A.—They would.
- Q.—Is that one of the principles of the union? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Have you any knowledge of co-operative benefit societies? A.—Nothing whatever.
- Q.—Are there any other benefits connected with your organization? A.—There are.
- Q.—Please state what benefits there are? A.—Death and sick benefits.
- Q.—Is that a special branch of your organization, or is it a general rule that all members participate in these benefits? A.—All local unions have a sick benefit and a death benefit.
- Q.—Those benefits are derived just from the payment of the simple dues? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CARSON:—

- Q.—Are the men employed in your shop generally satisfied with their position?
 A.—They are satisfied as workingmen.

GEORGE BONNY, Foreman Blacksmith, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q.—At what branch of the blacksmithing trade are you employed? A.—At the locomotive works here.
- Q.—What is the average rate of wages blacksmiths receive in the locomotive works? A.—We run from \$1.50 to \$2.20 per day.
- Q.—Is that the standard rate of wages? A.—Yes.
- Q.—How many hours per day do they work? A.—Fifty-nine hours per week.
- Q.—Are they paid weekly, fortnightly or monthly? A.—Fortnightly.
- Q.—Do the men prefer that system? A.—They seem to like the fortnightly paying very well.
- Q.—Had they been paid monthly previous to that? A.—Yes; previously.
- Q.—The men's request for fortnightly paying was complied with by the company, I understand? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Have you worked at other places outside of Kingston? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Have you worked on the other side? A.—Yes; I worked on the other side for a short time; I have also worked in England.
- Q.—What is the difference between the wages paid blacksmiths in Kingston and the wages paid in a city of about the same size on the other side? A.—They are much about the same in cities of the same population—that is, where I was working on the other side, at Battle Creek, Michigan.
- Q.—Wages were about the same there, you say? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Is there any difference in the cost of living in the two places? A.—Things are cheaper in Kingston than they were there.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

- Q.—Is house rent cheaper? A.—Yes; and groceries are cheaper than at Battle Creek, where I was.
- Q.—How does the cost of living here compare with the cost of living in the old country? A.—It is cheaper in the old country.
- Q.—Do you get as good accommodation in the old country as you get here?
 A.—Yes; I think so; a little better accommodation.

Q.—Are the wages higher there than here? A.—No; they are lower.

Q.—How much lower than here? A.—About 10 or 15 per cent.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You consider, then, that a blacksmith in Kingston is as well off as a blacksmith in the United States or the old country? A.—Yes; they are better off than what they are in the old country.

Q.—And how about the United States? A.—It is so in regard to the one place where I was working. I could not say in regard to other places.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Was that a locomotive shop? A.—It was a repairing shop.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Can you tell us the wages of a blacksmith's helper? A.—The average wages here, I think, are from \$1.10 to \$1.15—some of them more and some of them less.

Q.—Are the helpers paid by the company or by the blacksmith? A.—By the company.

Q.—To your knowledge, can a man live comfortably in Kingston, pay his house rent and support his family on \$1.15 a day? A.—I could not say.

Q.—You have no knowledge as to that matter? A.—No; so far as regards their average, I think it would be about \$1.18 or \$1.19.

Q.—Do you think he would have to exercise very strict economy in order to be able to support his family on that pay? A.—Yes; I do.

Q.—Are there any apprentices at the business? A.—One.

Q.—What was his age when he first went to work? A.—Sixteen.

Q.—Is the work laborious work? A.—Not over laborious work.

Q.—What would an apprentice receive the first year? A.—Three and a-half cents per hour, 35 cents per day.

Q.—I suppose apprentices generally board at home? A.—Generally.

Q.—What would be the rate of rise in his wages from year to year until he had completed his time and become a journeyman? A.—His wages would rise 20 cents a day for every year.

Q.—How many years would he have to serve before he would be recognized as a journeyman? A.—Four or five years—four years.

Q.—Have you got any further information that would be a benefit to the Commission? A.—None that I know of.

RODGER GREER, Laborer, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What kind of a laborer are you—do you work for the corporation or for the contractors? A.—I have worked for masonry contractors, for the last five years.

Q.—You are, in fact, a builders' laborer? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you work by the hour or by the week? A.—We work by the hour from the 1st of January to the 1st of May, and from the 1st of November to the last of December.

Q.—How much per hour does a laborer receive? A.—The highest rate is 12½ cents per hour.

Q.—And what is the lowest rate? A.—The lowest is 10 cents per hour.

Q.—Then there are two grades? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you give us the rate of wages paid to laborers who do corporation work? A.—I think they run from 65 cents to a \$1 a day. There are a few at \$1.25.

Q.—Do they receive that, as a general rule? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know that for a fact? A.—Yes.

Q.—How are the corporation laborers paid, weekly or fortnightly? A.—I think they are paid once a fortnight, to the best of my knowledge?

Q.—Did they ever petition the Board of Works in this city to be paid more frequently? A.—Yes; they have asked them, but they did not get it.

Q.—They were refused? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the condition of the laborers? A.—Nominally poor.

Q.—Are the builders' laborers organized in this city? A.—A good part of them are at the present time.

Q.—Do they find it a benefit to themselves to be organized? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do many of them own homes? A.—Not many.

Q.—Can you give us a general idea of the comforts of their homes? A.—It is very easy to estimate the buildings when you consider the amount of money they receive.

Q.—I suppose they have no bath-room? A.—Not likely.

Q.—Are the builders' laborers and the skilled artisans in the building trade as socially connected with each other here as they are in other cities? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you find immigration affecting the laboring classes in Kingston, such as builders' laborers? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How does it affect them? A.—By over-glutting the market.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do they offer their services at a less rate per day than the men who are here already? A.—Yes; or at least contractors pay them less, because they are, as a general rule, not competent men to do their work.

Q.—In connection with the building trade—take your branch: who erects the scaffolding for the buildings? A.—Generally, if it is a building of any extent, there is one man appointed for that purpose.

Q.—Is he appointed by his fellow workmen or by the contractor? A.—By the contractor.

Q.—Does he receive more wages than builders' laborers? A.—Yes.

Q.—On general principles, how do you find the scaffolding, is it secure and safe? A.—It is generally secure, so far as I have seen it.

Q.—Have you ever known an accident to take place in Kingston through defective scaffolding? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did the laborer who was injured apply for damages under the "Employer's Liability Act"? A.—No; I think the man injured was the man who erected the scaffolding.

Q.—That was the man who erected the scaffolding? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have the laborers ever lost any wages through the failure of a contractor, or from his leaving town? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you say there have been laboring men who have lost their wages in that way? A.—Not many; there may be some half a dozen here one summer.

Q.—Have the laborers ever taken advantage of the Lien Act to recover their wages? A.—Once, that I know of.

Q.—How did they find the Act to operate? A.—On that occasion it did not go to court.

Q.—Was the amount paid to prevent it going to court? A.—It was a sort of a special contract job, and the owner paid the money rather than have his name appear in print.

Q.—And the lien was taken out? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did the laborer apply for a lien within thirty days? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any information that would be a benefit to the Commission in regard to your calling? A.—Yes; there might be a great deal done to benefit the condition of the working classes. There could be better sanitary conditions provided for working men's houses. There could be a better system in connection with the lien

law, because at the present time it is pretty much a dead letter, because workmen's claims under the lien law come under the general garnishee Act.

Q.—Then you believe the lien law is not satisfactory? A.—As it stands now.

Q.—In regard to the sanitary condition of which you have spoken: is that in connection with the tenement houses in Kingston? A.—Yes; that is in regard to the lower class of houses.

Q.—You believe they are not in a proper sanitary condition? A.—I do.

Q.—Is there a health officer in connection with the corporation of Kingston? A.—Yes.

Q.—You consider that officer does not do his duty in that respect? A.—He does his duty.

Q.—You consider there can be improvements made in these two matters, the Lien Act and the sanitary condition of the houses of the poorer class? A.—Yes; the lien law I consider a dead letter.

Q.—Do you speak the opinions of others besides yourself in this regard? A.—Yes; I speak from facts.

JOHN LITTON, Driller, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Tell us the nature of your business? A.—Well, sir, I am an iron driller in the locomotive works.

Q.—Are many drillers employed in the locomotive works? A.—Eighteen.

Q.—What wages do they earn? A.—From \$1.20 to \$1.30 a day.

Q.—How many hours a week do they work? A.—Fifty-nine hours.

Q.—Do many of the drillers save money—have many of them got their own homes? A.—So far as my knowledge leads me, there is only one who has his own home. He is a man without a family—that is, he has only his wife.

Q.—Did he earn what paid for that home out of his own wages as a driller? A.—I believe not.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of profit-sharing? A.—No.

Q.—Have you worked in other places besides Kingston? A.—Not at that business.

Q.—What business have you worked at in other places? A.—I was working as a general laborer before I was drilling.

Q.—In Kingston? A.—In the locomotive works.

Q.—What are the wages of a general laborer in the locomotive works? A.—They average \$1.10 a day.

Q.—Do you find that the cost of living in Kingston is greater to-day than it was five years ago? A.—Decidedly.

Q.—Could you tell us those necessaries of life that are dearer? A.—Meat, for one, butter and provisions that constitute the material for breakfast.

Q.—Has house rent increased? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much per cent. has house rent increased during the past five years? A.—About 20 per cent.

Q.—Have you known immigrants to affect the laborers in Kingston? A.—I believe not; the laborers are constantly coming and going.

Q.—Could you give us any information regarding the condition of laborers here as compared with the condition of laborers in the old country? A.—It is a decided improvement.

Q.—It is to the advantage of Kingston? A.—Intellectually and morally.

Q.—How is it financially? A.—And financially, too; that is, for those who are steady.

Q.—Do you find any intellectual improvement in the past few years in connection with the laboring classes in Kingston—I refer now to unskilled labor? A.—There is a little improvement.

Q.—Do you think that improvement would increase if the men worked shorter hours? A.—I believe it would.

Q.—Do you think that a decrease in wages would follow the shortening of hours of labor? A.—I believe not; I hope not, any way.

Q.—Do you believe that matters would be equalized in that respect? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any information that would be a benefit to the Commission with regard to the workingmen? A.—No.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—At what kind of laboring work were you engaged when you were in the old country? A.—I was a steam sawyer, what we call a lumber manufacturer here. The sawing in the old country is vastly different to the work in the lumber mill here. All the sawing there takes place by steam and is prepared for joiner work. There is less joiner work there made by machinery and more by hand.

Q.—What might a laborer get there in a saw mill? A.—I was not a laborer, but a steam sawyer. My wages there were 5 shillings a day.

ROBERT B. McPHADDEN, Boiler-maker, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you worked long at your business in Kingston? A.—Latterly, between nine or ten weeks.

Q.—What is the average wages of a boiler-maker in this city? A.—From \$1.50 to \$2 a day.

Q.—How many hours a week do they work? A.—Fifty-nine.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Is that in summer and winter? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do they receive constant employment? A.—No; some do.

Q.—Take it as an average—how many weeks in the year are they employed? A.—The works have been shut down here for some time; they have only lately started up again, and how they are going to run now we don't know.

Q.—Does the work depend upon the number of orders the firm receive? A.—Yes; undoubtedly.

Q.—Are there any apprentices employed at the business? A.—I don't know of any in Kingston—that is, indentured apprentices.

Q.—Do you think that a boy having a technical education relating to mechanics would become, at the end of his apprenticeship, a better journeyman? A.—It depends entirely on the foreman as to what kind of a hand he is going to be. If he is an unscrupulous and overbearing foreman he will do more towards over-riding the boy than making him a good mechanic.

Q.—It depends, then, upon the foreman as to whether the boy turns out a good hand or not? A.—Entirely so.

Q.—Does it depend on the foreman to teach the boy his business? A.—Yes; it depends entirely on the foreman.

Q.—Are the apprentices indentured? A.—No.

Q.—How many years is a boy supposed to work before he gets to be a journeyman? A.—A boy who serves on an average four years becomes proficient.

Q.—What is the social condition of the boiler-makers in Kingston? A.—On the average, pretty fair. They compare pretty favorable with any other class of mechanics.

Q.—Have you worked on the other side of the line? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the difference in the condition of a boiler-maker in the United States as compared with Canada? A.—There is a difference of about 20 per cent.

Q.—Do you mean an increase? A.—Yes.

Q.—In behalf of which country? A.—In behalf of the United States.

Q.—Do you speak from knowledge—comparing the cost of living with the difference in wages? A.—It depends entirely on where they are working. The expense is greater in a large than in a small city; for instance, the expenses in New York are greater than in Oswego.

Q.—Is there any difference in the wages received? A.—There is a slight difference.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the condition of the boiler-makers in the old country? A.—No; I never was in the old country; but I am led to understand that a boiler-maker in the old country, who is a boiler-maker, can live as well as he can here.

Q.—Can you speak of the fact that immigration has affected boiler-makers? A.—Yes; I can, from personal experience.

Q.—Tell us in what respect? A.—Over-crowding the market.

Q.—Is that the only objection? A.—That is about all.

Q.—Do you find boiler-makers in the old country to work at lower wages than they do; a man, however, is generally paid according to his abilities.

Q.—Who is the judge of a man's abilities? A.—The representative between the employer and the workingman—the foreman.

Q.—There is no standard rate of wages paid boiler-makers among themselves? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—I suppose among yourselves you know whether a man is a competent mechanic or not? A.—Yes; a man knows himself.

Q.—His fellow-workmen can soon tell whether he is competent, I suppose? A.—They can generally tell by a man's work whether he is a qualified mechanic or not.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do the men generally know what each one receives? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have the men ever come to the conclusion that a new man, if he is a good hand, should receive larger wages than he received before? A.—I don't know that they did.

Q.—It has never come to the knowledge of the men that a certain man was working under wages, and that he should receive larger wages on account of his ability and efficiency? A.—I don't think it has.

Q.—Do you know if there is any truck system in Kingston? A.—No; not that I know of.

Q.—You understand what I mean—store orders, and so on? A.—Yes; I understand; paying by store orders instead of cash.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—They pay you every week in full, I believe? A.—Yes; every two weeks.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you had any labor troubles here? A.—Not since I have been here.

GEORGE LEE, Piano-maker, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You have heard the evidence of the piano-maker a little while ago—Richard McMillan. A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you corroborate his evidence? A.—I corroborate most of his evidence.

Q.—Have you anything to add to it? A.—Nothing.

Q.—Can you give us the rate of wages for a polisher in Kingston? A.—I think in our factory it is from \$1.50 to \$2 a day.

Q.—Are there many polishers employed in Kingston? A.—I can speak for the factory where I am working; there are one or two.

Q.—What is the lowest rate of wages for a piano-maker? A.—We principally work on piece-work, and it is hard to judge what the average would be.

Q.—Have you any information to add to what has already been given? A.—None in particular.

Q.—Have you any information that would be of benefit to the Commission in regard to your branch of industry? A.—None, that I am aware of.

ALFRED PERRY, Machinist, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are there many machinists in Kingston? A.—Yes; quite a few; I suppose some 180.

Q.—Do they find constant work? A.—No; one of the largest firms has been shut down for three years, and during that time the machinists, as a rule, had to seek work elsewhere.

Q.—How many hours per week does a machinist work? A.—Fifty-nine hours per week.

Q.—What is the average rate of wages paid machinists in Kingston? A.—The average rate of wages is about \$1.60 per day.

Q.—Is there any Sunday work? A.—Yes; for repairs.

Q.—Do men receive extra wages for that time? A.—A time and a-quarter.

Q.—Have you got any apprentice system of trade? A.—There is a kind of loose apprentice system; they are not indentured by the present system.

Q.—Do you think it would be a benefit to the boy, the journeyman and the employer, if the apprentice was indentured? A.—I do.

Q.—Will you tell us in what respect? A.—The principal reason is this: when a boy goes to learn the machinist business he works at it, probably, six or eight months or a year, and then there is some difficulty in the shop, or something of that kind happens, and he leaves his work; he loses the time he has been at it and he loses his trade also.

Q.—Are the men favorable to having the apprentices indentured? A.—I think so.

Q.—Did they ever request the employers to indenture the apprentices. A.—No; not to my knowledge. I may say that five years ago it was the regular system in the locomotive works to indenture the apprentices. Since they have opened up again they have not indentured them, so far as my knowledge goes.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Whose fault was it—was it the fault of the parents or the employers? A.—A.—I don't know whether it was the fault of the parents or the firm.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are the machinists in Kingston organized? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are they organized as a distinct body by themselves? A.—They are in a distinct body by themselves.

Q.—Do they find any benefit from organization? A.—Certainly.

Q.—In what respect? A.—In the increase of wages, and also helping one another generally; it brings a more harmonious feeling among the men.

Q.—With respect to the apprentice system, do you think that a knowledge of mechanical drawing and a knowledge of all kindred subjects would be a benefit to apprentices going to the machinists' trade? A.—I should certainly say so.

Q.—Do you think there should be schools for imparting that knowledge, schools in which mechanics could be taught? A.—I do.

Q.—Do you think that it would be a benefit if such teaching were introduced into the common schools, to a certain extent? A.—I do. I think it would increase the

usefulness of the boy as a man. As it is, a boy goes into a shop to learn the trade and is as green as grass. If he had a knowledge of freehand drawing it would be a great benefit to him individually, or if he possessed a technical knowledge of any kind, or a knowledge of mechanical drawing.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the wages received by machinists in the United States or the old country? A.—Yes.

Q.—Could you tell us the difference between the wages paid in these places and in Canada? A.—I should say that in the United States a man earns, on an average, 20 per cent. more wages than he does here. I can only speak for the large cities in the United States where I have worked. I have not worked in any city with a similar population to Kingston. I may add that the price of the necessaries of life are higher in the United States; rent and fuel are higher.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Take the condition of both: take the wages, and the comparative cost of living in both countries, and in which country would a man be on the better footing? A.—For a married man, I would say they are about equal; for a single man the conditions are considerably better in the United States.

Q.—Were you a married man when you were there? A.—No; I was a single man.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What are the conditions of a machinist in Canada and a machinist in the old country? A.—The condition of a machinist in the old country is, to my mind, quite equal to the condition of a machinist here. I differ from the previous witness in that respect. I have earned, and have had just as good wages in the northern part of England as I have had here. The cost of living is cheaper there in some respects than it is here; in other respects it is dearer; but on the whole I should say that the condition of a machinist in England is at least equal to that of a machinist in Kingston.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—You say you work fifty-nine hours per week: are you paid for fifty-nine hours? A.—We are paid for fifty-nine hours. We were paid for sixty hours, but some five years ago, during the stagnation in trade, that hour was taken from us. The other shops in the city pay for sixty hours and work fifty-nine.

Q.—They quit at five on Saturday? A.—Yes; and they are paid that hour in the other shops.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do the men take advantage of their spare time to improve themselves? A.—Yes; I think so. There is a class of men, of course, who will get drunk, no matter what time they quit work, but as a rule the men seem to take some intellectual enjoyment if they can possibly get the opportunity of doing so.

Q.—Do you believe, on general principles, so far as your knowledge of the working class in Kingston goes, that if they had shorter hours they would take advantage of them for their own improvement, and for the benefit and improvement of their families? A.—I do. I believe it would be an advantage to workmen physically and financially.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Would you be willing to work nine hours a day for nine hours' pay, or would you want the employer to pay for ten hours and you work only nine hours? A.—I would be very happy if he would do so; but still I would be willing to work nine hours, and receive nine hours' pay.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You consider that shorter hours would give employment to surplus labor? A.—I do. We have a number of men at the present time out of employment who would find employment if shorter hours were adopted.

Q.—And when all the men were employed you believe, as a consequence, the wages would rise? A.—I do. From my own experience in that regard, I have known that to be the case.

Q.—Things find their own level? A.—I have found that things find their level. I know places where I worked when shorter hours were adopted—for instance, the adoption of the nine-hour system in England; we soon had our pay the same for nine hours as we previously had received for ten hours. The statistics of the Post Office Savings Bank and all other banks proved that the people were a little more economical than they had hitherto been when they were working long hours.

Q.—Do you know if the mechanics of Kingston take advantage of the library of the Mechanics' Institute? A.—They don't to the extent they should do.

Q.—Do you think would it give a greater advantage if it was completely free? A.—I do; and I believe they would take greater advantage if the knowledge that there was such a library were widely diffused. There are a great many workmen in this city who do not know there is a mechanics' institute here at this present time.

Q.—Is there any mechanical teaching in connection with it, such as mechanical drawing classes? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are the lessons free? A.—No.

Q.—Do you think that the cost of going to these classes is beyond the means of mechanics here? A.—I certainly think it is beyond the means of apprentices; I don't think it is beyond the means of skilled mechanics, of journeymen. If there were better facilities for the apprentices getting a knowledge of drawing, and so forth, they would be more able to avail themselves of it.

Q.—Are there many mechanics who take advantage of the public school library? A.—No; that is the first knowledge I had of such a thing being in existence.

Q.—What is the nature of the literature that is read by the working classes in connection with the Mechanics' Institute library? A.—I could scarcely give you any idea as to that.

Q.—If you have any information that would be a benefit to the Commission or the Government, perhaps you will furnish it? A.—I am strongly in favor of arbitration; I know of no better way of settling a difficulty between the employer and the employé.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—What system of arbitration would you like to see adopted? A.—A local system of arbitration. I certainly would not favor a board of arbitrators, because I don't think anyone outside of those interested in the grievances would have a full knowledge of the facts and be in a position to settle the difficulty.

Q.—Are you in favor of compulsory arbitration between the two parties interested? A.—Yes.

Q.—That they should be compelled to arbitrate by law? A.—Yes; I am in favor of arbitration in that way; but I am not in favor of a board of arbitrators appointed and sitting, we will suppose, in Ottawa, and sent from there here to settle disputes.

Q.—Are you in favor of the formation of a bureau of labor statistics for the entire Dominion? A.—Yes.

Q.—What benefits, in your opinion, would be derived from such a bureau? A.—It would diffuse knowledge among the workmen generally of the run of trade and condition of the people generally. I have read the reports of the bureau of statistics with great interest, and I may say that in the assembly rooms and elsewhere the men take advantage of these statistics. I have received information from them that I could not have obtained from any other sources.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—What bureau was that? A.—The Bureau of Labor Statistics for the Province of Ontario.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you any other information to furnish the Commission? A.—I have none

ROBERT CHARLTON, Foreman Boiler-maker, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You have heard the evidence of the last boiler-maker? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you corroborate his evidence? A.—Partially so.

Q.—In what respect do you disagree with it? A.—Where he speaks about apprentices not receiving good training. I have been foreman boiler-maker in the locomotive works here for upwards of ten years, and I have been employed over twenty-two years, and I have turned out as good boiler-makers as you can get in Canada. Those who were apprentices with me are holding good positions throughout this country.

Q.—You disagree with the witness when he said that it lies entirely with the foreman to teach the apprentice his trade? A.—It lies a good deal with the boy himself.

Q.—How long would it take a foreman, knowing that a boy is competent to learn the trade, to teach him? A.—Probably six months.

Q.—When the foreman, sees that he is not fit for the business, and that it is likely not to be his calling, would he discharge the boy? A.—Not always.

Q.—What is your opinion in that respect? A.—The general rule in our branch of business is, that a boy will not learn the branch of trade unless he has some aptitude for it, unless he has some technical education.

Q.—You believe, then, that technical education would be an advantage to him? A.—Decidedly.

Q.—Have you any information to add to the evidence of the last boiler-maker? A.—No.

Q.—Have you any information to give the Commission in considering your trade? A.—No; not beyond what has already been given.

KINGSTON, 31st January, 1888.

SIMON OBERNDORFER, Cigar Manufacturer, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How many factories manufacture cigars in Kingston? A.—There are two.

Q.—How many are there employed? A.—I don't know what the other factory employs; I employ from twenty to twenty-five hands.

Q.—How many men do you employ? A.—I employ six men, that is, over twenty years of age.

Q.—Are those the journeymen of your factory? A.—Yes

Q.—How many boys do you employ? A.—I employ five or six boys.

Q.—How many girls do you employ? A.—About ten.

Q.—What is the age of the youngest girl in your employ? A.—Past fourteen years of age.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What is the age of the youngest boy? A.—The boys are from sixteen years up.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—At what kind of work are the young girls employed? A.—They are employed at stripping tobacco.

Q.—How much wages do they receive at that branch of business? A.—The lowest wages paid is about \$2 a week. They are paid by the week.

Q.—Do you have any young women making cigars? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they make as good cigars as are made by the men? A.—They make a cheaper class of work; I don't give them the same work that the men have.

Q.—Do they make the cheap class as well as the men could make them? A.—I don't depend much on the girls working—not so much as on the men's work.

Q.—Do you pay those young women by the thousand or by the week? A.—We pay them by the thousand.

Q.—How much do you pay them by the thousand cigars? A.—They only make a certain part of the cigar. One girl will make the bunches and another girl will roll them in. They will make from \$4 to \$5 per week, those who roll them in. They don't work so hard as the men do; they are not so ambitious; they could make much more than they do, but there is too much nonsense about them.

Q.—Do those young girls make cigars by the mould? A.—It is all mould work.

Q.—What are the wages made by your journeymen per week? A.—They can make from \$12 to \$15 per week.

Q.—How many weeks in the year are they generally employed in your factory?

A.—They are always employed, except during the two weeks in the year I close up for stock-taking, one week before January and one week before 1st of July. I have to give a strict account to the Government, and I have to wind up my business so that the Government can take stock on 1st July. I therefore take stock on 1st January to see how I come out with the Government.

Q.—Are the men employed fifty weeks in the year? A.—Yes; they are.

Q.—Are your men connected with organized labor, so far as you know. A.—No.

Q.—Have you got the blue label on your cigar boxes? A.—No.

Q.—Where do you generally find a market for your goods? A.—All over the country, between here and Ottawa, and then back to North Bay; I go as far as Hamilton and Port Perry, and all that section. I have two men on the road taking orders all the time.

Q.—Do you find any difficulty in selling your cigars at certain places, such as Toronto and other labor centres, because the blue label is not on the boxes? A.—I don't go as far as Toronto.

Q.—How many hours do the girls work in the week? A.—They usually begin at 7 and work to 6. They really work to 5:30, and then we clean up, so that they can get home at 6 o'clock. On Saturday afternoon, in the summer time, we close at 3 o'clock, so as to give them a chance to get out.

Q.—Do the girls and the men work in the one room? A.—The girls are in one part and the men in another.

Q.—Have you separate conveniences for both sexes? A.—Yes; certainly. I could not start without them; I find it necessary for my own satisfaction.

Q.—Do you take any young boys to learn the trade? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are those boys indentured? A.—Yes; for three years or four years, according to circumstances.

Q.—Do you think a boy can learn the cigar-making business in three years? A.—Yes.

Q.—You take it upon yourself to teach a boy his business properly? A.—Yes; I am bound by indenture to do so, and I always turn out good workmen.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of your factory? A.—It is first-class.

Q.—Has the factory inspector visited it? A.—Yes; I have got plenty of ventilation and three large rooms.

Q.—When the factory inspector went through your factory did he speak to any of the men? A.—Yes; he made enquiries of them.

Q.—Was it in your company when he went through? A.—He was in company of my foreman.

Q.—He was well satisfied with what he saw? A.—He was well satisfied.

Q.—He expressed himself in that sense? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Has your business improved during the last five years? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has it improved in the last year? A.—I don't know; it is about the same; I sell as much as I did. I have to keep a tally for the Government to see how much I sell each month. I have gone back, and I see it is about the same amount this year as I sold last year.

Q.—Has the duty that has been placed on cigars helped you? A.—It improved the business; It has done away with imported cigars, from which we had a great deal to contend. I have been in the business twenty-five years, and I can say that we had a great deal to do when the duty was only \$1 per thousand—we could not compete with those cheap cigars. I could then buy cigars for \$4 a thousand and I could not manufacture them for that price.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What are the prices of your cigars per thousand, taking the different grades? A.—My price is, by the case, from \$17.50 to \$50, according to the different grades.

Q.—Do you find a good market for your cigars at \$50 a thousand? A.—We find a very good market; of course, I don't expect to sell so many of them as of the other cigars. It has been very fair, however, considering.

Q.—Of what grade do you sell the greatest quantity? A.—All the grades running from \$25 to \$30; that is a good quality of a 5-cent cigar by retail.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Has the Scott Act interfered with your business to any extent? A.—It has hurt the business considerably. I must say that if they keep it on it will ruin the cigar business.

Q.—How is that? A.—The people do not use so many cigars. If they cannot get whiskey it appears that they will not smoke cigars.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You think that one stands in with the other? A.—I have first-class customers who buy a few, but business is not as satisfactory in this place as formerly. If the Scott Act had not been enforced in certain sections I could have sold 50 per cent. more goods than I now sell.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How many more hands could you employ under such circumstances? A.—I could employ double the number I have at present. The condition of affairs is very much disturbed now. The men get fined, and they get discouraged and close up for a few weeks, and then they begin again; and this hurts the business.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Where do you get the tobacco you use in your factory? A.—From the United States.

Q.—Do you get all your tobacco from there? A.—There is another line, the finest, I get from Holland, Amsterdam. That is Sumatra, the finest leaf for wrappers.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you ship your cuttings? A.—No.

Q.—What do you do with them? A.—I keep them. The older they are the better they are.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you had any labor troubles with your men? A.—No; never.

Q.—Are you opposed to employing men who belong to labor organizations? A.—No; so long as they work under the same rules. I want to be boss of my shop, and I intend to be so. I will dictate to my men, and tell them what I desire them to do and what I can afford to pay them, and I may say that my men have always been satisfied. The men who have worked with me have always been glad to stay with me.

Q.—Have the cigar-makers in this city a standard rate of wages? A.—No. I don't know anything about the other factory. I mind my own business.

Q.—You would have no objection to employing men connected with labor organizations if they applied to you? A.—No; not the least, so long as they did not interfere with my interests.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Do you not think if we had total prohibition both of the liquor traffic and the use of tobacco that it would be a benefit to the country? A.—I don't think it would be a benefit to me. If beer and wine were allowed to be sold, it would be a benefit to the cigar-makers in general. I suppose I am not the only cigar manufacturer who holds this opinion, but that you gentlemen have heard others tell the same story.

JOHN GASKIN, Forwarder, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What position do you occupy in the Montreal Transportation and Forwarding Company? A.—I am outside manager.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Where do the vessels sail from or go to? A.—They run from here to Montreal, sometimes Quebec, and to Lake Superior.

Q.—They run from Quebec to Lake Superior? A.—Yes; and most of the time from Montreal. Sometimes they go to Chicago and the upper lakes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you employ many men? A.—The company with which I am connected employ in the summer season in the neighborhood of five hundred men—that is, men employed on the boats, and in the shipyards, and grain shovellers, and all that kind of work.

Q.—What wages do you pay grain shovellers? A.—Last summer grain shovellers were paid in the neighborhood of \$15 a week. Sometimes within my recollection they have made as high as \$40 in a week.

Q.—How many weeks would they find employment at that rate of wages? A.—The grain trade lasts probably in the neighborhood of seven months.

Q.—How many hours per day do they work? A.—Grain shovellers have no particular time. When there is a fleet of vessels in they work till the vessels are loaded. Sometimes they work twenty or twenty-four hours without stopping, and afterwards they don't work at all for another twenty-four hours. They work when the grain is here and when the company has barges to load, and we endeavor to prevent the boats being delayed. Sometimes they work even thirty-six hours.

Q.—I suppose they are not paid for the time they remain idle between the loads? A.—They are paid according to the amount of work they do; they are paid by the thousand bushels; the more they do the more they get paid. On the average they make from \$15 to \$20 a week, and to do that they have to work half the time. When they are shovelling grain on vessels they calculate to make from 60 to 65 cents per hour.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Who makes the scale for them? A.—They make it themselves; there is a standard wage for discharging vessels.

Q.—Have the men ever asked for an increase in the rates? A.—No; there is an agreement made in the winter season, and they agree to shovel the grain for the following season at a certain price. They soon take to that fact. Of course, some vessels discharge more than others; the price is stated in the agreement. Generally in February or March the agreement is made for the following season. They agree to shovel the grain from the vessels going to our vessels.

Q.—Do the people employed belong to Kingston? A.—Yes; they are Kingstonsians; we generally give them the preference.

Q.—Have you any objection to employing a man who belongs to an organized labor society? A.—We have not felt much of those societies yet. I have not made any objection up to the present time; but if they commence to interfere and make a

demand I would not hire a man who belongs to those Societies and I would certainly kick.

Q.—Have you ever had any labor troubles? A.—We had one last spring, but it did not amount to anything.

Q.—Have the company imported men on that or other occasions? A.—No; we have always got smoothly along with our men.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Do you ship men for your vessels, captains, mates and seamen—I mean in connection with the company's boats—masters, mates and second mates? A.—I ship the masters and the mates.

Q.—Have those certificates for serving in your vessels? A.—That is for vessels going through canal; we must have certificated masters and mates in those case.

Q.—Are those vessels inspected? A.—Yes.

Q.—All of them? A.—Yes; our boats are inspected here.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Not the sailing vessels? A.—No; they are inspected by the man who represents the underwriters—Capt. Taylor.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—He only inspects the hull, I believe? A.—Yes; and there is a Government man who inspects the machinery, and if we have a boat carrying passengers she is inspected by, I think, Capt. Dick, in Toronto.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Talking of sailing vessels: are not those only inspected by Lloyds' agent? A.—Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—The spars and rigging of the vessel are never inspected, I understand? A.—Yes.

Q.—Who inspects them? A.—A marine inspector.

Q.—How often does he inspect them? A.—He can go aboard at any time; he inspects them in the winter season.

Q.—Do you think that is a proper time to inspect the spars and rigging of a ship? A.—I cannot say; they are open to inspection at any time. A vessel may meet with an accident in the summer, and he would go aboard and he might make an objection to spars or sails.

Q.—Do you think the summer is the proper time to inspect spars and rigging? A.—He goes round in the fall, and in the spring again. I think the summer is the proper time.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—He can see the hull to better advantage in the winter? A.—Yes; he goes round in the fall, and then he examines the vessel and notifies us if he wants any repairs, and he gives us an opportunity to make them. He goes round after the close of navigation. I got a notice last fall saying that if certain work was not done to certain vessels he would not be able to class them in the spring. We invariably follow his instructions, and make the repairs mentioned. So I think the winter season is the proper time.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Are they inspected after the repairs have been made? A.—Yes; if he finds fault with a vessel in the fall of the year, and if she is to be repaired, we have to pay him for inspection again. We do that.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you know as to the seaworthiness or unseaworthiness of vessels outside

of those belonging to your company? A.—No; I have about all I can attend to with our boats; we have fifty-five boats, and they are enough for one man to look after.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Are they all covered by insurance? A.—No; some of our lake vessels are insured, but our river barges are not.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What do you call river barges? A.—Those going between Montreal and Kingston. We have about forty. We do the principal carrying trade down the St. Lawrence River, and we do it by barges.

Q.—Do you know if uncertificated masters run vessels sailing on the lakes? A.—No. There was an objection raised some time ago to them.

Q.—I am not speaking of your vessels? A.—I do not.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Did you ever hear of a mate borrowing a certificate? A.—No; I never did.

Q.—Has such been the case? A.—It might have been the case, but I have never done so.

Q.—It is easier to borrow one than to earn one, I suppose? A.—Yes; I suppose it is.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you ever known masters and mates to take cargoes without holding certificates? A.—We have done that, I think, ourselves. A year ago we sent a vessel through the canal without an officer holding certificate, but we were notified, and had to stop, and we conformed to the law. A year or two years ago I think this provision was not enforced.

Q.—When the inspector has ordered repairs or alterations to be made with a view to securing the safety of the vessel and the crew, are you aware that such vessel has left port without those alterations having been made? A.—Not with my knowledge.

Q.—Could they leave without your knowledge? A.—No; our captains could not. If the Inspector notifies me that certain things have to be done to such and such vessels to fit her for sea I do it; I carry out his instructions.

Q.—Have your vessels ever carried too heavy deck loads? A.—Not in my own opinion; not to my knowledge.

Q.—Do you think an over deck load is dangerous in stormy weather? A.—How do you mean? Do you mean the vessel is too deep in the water?

Q.—Do you know of cases when a vessel had too much cargo on deck? A.—Our vessels very seldom carry deck loads. They are in the grain trade principally, carrying grain from Lake Superior, and they carry their cargoes in the hold. The time when they carry a deck load is when they are taking lumber, and they very seldom do that.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Have you ever known of man being taken from the engine room or from the purser's office and placed in charge of a propeller? A.—I have.

Q.—Do you think such would be a proper person to handle a craft in all weather? A.—If they qualified themselves for that position. Young men go on board as pursers and make up their minds that they will be captains before they finish. They go to learn, and they handle a boat whenever they have an opportunity of doing so.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you think they can learn it in that way? A.—They have a better education than an ordinary hand, because in order to be a purser a man requires to have an education. They make up their minds to learn the navigation of a boat,

and they can do so more rapidly than men who have had no education. Sometimes they have gone from the purser's office to be captain and they have been a success.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you ever known of a steamer with a captain of that sort to be wrecked on account of the master not knowing how to handle her? A.—I never did.

Q.—Was not that the case with a vessel very recently? A.—No; I don't think so. To what boat have you reference?

Q.—Was not that the case with the "Oriental"? A.—The captain, in that case, was, so far as I know, an old sailor.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—The captain had a wooden leg? A.—He can give a good many orders with a wooden leg, although he has a wooden leg; true, he cannot get round as quickly, but he is supposed to have the work done by other men principally. He sailed a great many years—Captain Stewart—and should be qualified. He may not be as smart as he was a number of years ago.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—For the safety of the public and traffic, don't you think the captain should learn his trade as a sailor, and rise from that to be second mate and first mate, and up to the position of captain? A.—That does not always apply.

Q.—Would that system make better captains, having men coming up from the ranks? A.—No; I have a man in our employ who went from the engine room, and we consider him one of our best men. Captain McMaugh, captain of the steam barge "Glengarry," I consider as good a man as ever was in charge of a barge, and he went from the engine room to be captain. Then there is the captain on the "Sir Leonard Tilley"; he is a brother of Captain McMaugh, and is one of the best men in the company's employ, and he went from the engine room to be captain. He is considered one of the best men we have.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Did all these men have to pass an examination? A.—No; they didn't; it was not necessary. The law provided that if a man had sailed a boat before 1853 it was not necessary for him to pass an examination afterwards, and this man sailed a boat before that year.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—How many men would constitute a crew on a propeller? A.—When I sailed we used to carry about five deck hands—that was a freight boat—two firemen, two engineers, two wheelmen, a captain, a mate, a cook and a boy.

Q.—There is no law established to regulate the number? A.—No. They do not carry as many hands now, because they do not handle so much freight as they did then, and in a great many cases they carry only two deck hands, just a sufficient number of men to handle the lines.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—How many men do you think are necessary to handle a boat properly? A.—A captain, mate, two engineers and two firemen.

Q.—Do they not have two skilled seamen on propellers? A.—No. So long as the wheelman can steer by compass the course is given him; the captain and the mate know how to navigate the boat.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—In what condition are the forecandle of barges and propellers kept? A.—They are kept all right. Steamboats that we run on the lakes have not got fore-castles. The sailors bunk on deck, in the same house as the captain and mate live in. Several of the boats have not forecastles.

Q.—You would have no objection to employing men belonging to organized

labor, I suppose? A.—My own opinion is this: that it is not necessary to have an organized body to place every man on a par. Some men are better than others, and I believe in every man according to his merits, according to what a man is worth. If a company employs a man and he does not receive good wages, or wages he is worth, he should not work for the company any longer.

Q.—If a man connected with organized societies came to you for employment would you give him work. A.—I am not prepared to answer a question of that kind.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You seem to believe in paying a man according to his abilities? A.—I believe a man should be paid according to his merits.

Q.—You are judge of the men's merits I suppose. A.—Yes. A short time ago, in the spring, there was going to be a strike, and I went up to the men and told them it was reported that there was to be a strike. I said it was not necessary to have a strike in this yard, as I am prepared to pay any man according to the work done. If you go and do any more work than you are doing now I will pay you for it. Some are getting too much and some, perhaps, too little.

Q.—Did the company fix your salary or did you fix it yourself? A.—It has been increased several times without my asking for it.

Q.—Do you not think a man has a right to pocket the value of his own labor? A.—Yes; and I believe if he has placed a price on it that you need not purchase it, unless you please. A man is master of his actions in that respect, and we are also master of ours. Up to the present time I have had no trouble with the men; I do as nearly right as I know how. We have during the last two years increased the men's wages, when there was work for it, 50 or 60 cents.

Q.—Did you anticipate any strike on the part of the men that caused you to give higher wages? A.—No; I found they had risen in other places a little. The men in our yard generally make up their minds to stay with us, and I think it right to increase their wages whenever we can.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You make it an object for them to remain? A.—I want the men to feel that they can do as well with us as they can do elsewhere, and stop with us.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Have you any trouble to get men? A.—No; not now.

Q.—Have you any trouble in the summer time, when you are busy? A.—At this time of the year we can get men to any extent. From December to March we employ more than any other firm at the ship carpentering and ship joinering trade.

Q.—How is it during the navigation season? A.—There are sufficient men. Sometimes some of our captains and engineers say they are short of a man, but we generally find one. The men stay pretty steadily with us. The company has been in existence for a long time, and we generally try and raise our own men as much as we can, and that is encouragement to the men to remain in our employ.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you any other information to give the Commission that would be useful to it? A.—No.

Miss MACHAR, Secretary of the Relief Association, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You are secretary of the Poor Relief Association? A.—Yes; it is a society of ladies, and it is chiefly to help those women and families where there is no bread-winner. We have also, within the last two or three years, been called upon to relieve families in which there were bread-winners, and we only do that in times of great emergency. We have to make very particular enquiries in every case, and that is done by the committee of the society.

Q.—Have you had much demand on the resources of the society during the past winter? A.—We had larger demands last winter than any winter before. I don't know how it will be this winter. The expenditure last winter was the largest reached yet.

Q.—Could you give us an estimate of the expenses of the society last winter? A.—About \$800; but there is another society, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, belonging to the Roman Catholics, and their expenditure was additional to ours.

Q.—What kind of applicants were they? Were they people who reside here? A.—The families without a head or a bread-winner are nearly all residents; but a good many of the families where there are men are families who have recently immigrated—families who arrived a month or two before the winter began.

Q.—In the case of the men, what is their condition? Were they idle through no fault of their own? A.—Yes; they could not get work. They even arrive in August, September and October, and perhaps they get a little work before the winter sets in—before the idle season sets in—hardly enough to enable them to get a little furniture, and when the winter comes they can hardly get any work at all.

Q.—Do you have many applications from the immigrant class? A.—The last year we had about six families; this year we have about the same number.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Six out of how many? A.—We don't have many families with men—perhaps there are about sixty families altogether. A large proportion consists of widows and old people who cannot support themselves, and I think half the number of the others is composed of immigrants.

Q.—Were the applicants belonging to the immigrant class recent arrivals? A.—Yes; they had arrived late in the summer. We had hardly any of those who came the season before this winter; those this winter are nearly all new arrivals.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—They were both male and female, I suppose? A.—I am only speaking of females where there are men. We found a family in great need, with hardly any covering, and the father had been a coachman in Cornwall, receiving £20 a quarter and a free house; yet he had been induced to come out here, where he had not been able to get a coachman's position, and had been out of work till his family was nearly starved. Some have assisted passages given them, and some are helped by their friends, and some of them are helped by people who are kind to them at home. One woman told us that £16 were given her to send her out, and if her friends had only started her in a little business at home it would have been much better for them.

Q.—Can you inform the Commission whether the demands on the charitable societies are on the increase or on the decrease since its formation, and how long it has been in existence? A.—It has been in existence about twenty-five years.

Q.—Say during the past five years? A.—During the last year we had our largest expenditure I know of since I have been secretary.

Q.—What are the prospects this year? A.—The prospects are that we will use about as much as last year, I am afraid. Of course, it will depend on the severity and length of the winter, but there are a great many on the fund.

Q.—Could you tell us, in the instance of the coachman from Cornwall, who were the parties who induced him to come out to this country? A.—No, sir; I cannot. I went to try and find out, but I did not find them at home. I know that two men who came last year told us that they had Government assisted passages. One of the men said he was certified as an agricultural laborer and he had never worked at that.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Then he committed an actual fraud? A.—He said he never told them so.

Q.—He got his certificate and was brought out to this country as an agricultural laborer, and he committed a fraud? A.—I suppose so.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—The man did not say he was an agricultural laborer.

The CHAIRMAN.—The man committed a fraud, and should be prosecuted for having obtained money under false pretences.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Did he get a certificate from the steamboat agent or from a Government agent? A.—From an agent, I understand, from a steamboat company's office; he expressly told us he was not an agricultural laborer. He said they give him the certificate as an agricultural laborer without him asking for it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Was he able to read and write? A.—Yes; because he said he had read a book giving a glowing account of the wages paid here, 6 shillings a day, and that for common laboring men, and he found it very different when he got here.

Q.—Are there many small children in those families that have come out? A.—Each had about four or five children with them. Last year there was three or four children in each family.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you know what amount the Government gives for assisted passages? A.—I do not. I understand they give half the passage money, but I am not positive.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—How much of this poverty and misery is attributable, in your opinion, to strong drink? A.—I could not say; some men seem to be quite sober men and others are not; I suppose just as much so as it is with the residents here. Some are sober and some have evidently been accustomed to drink a good deal.

WILLIAM WILLSON, Manager of the Kingston Cotton Company, Kingston, called and sworn.

I desire to make a brief statement to the Commission. Our company employs 208 helpers, of whom seventy are men, and 138 females; including thirty-six men, thirty-four boys, ninety women and forty-eight girls. The wages paid by the company for the full two weeks' work is about \$1,200. Twenty men's wages range from \$20 to \$10 a week, average \$12.50; sixteen men's wages average \$7.29 per week. The boys' wages from \$5.70 to \$1.90 per week. The women will average \$5.70 per week. About twenty boys average over \$6 per week. The girls' wages range from \$5 to \$1.90 per week. With regard to ventilation and over-glutting: the part of our mill in which we have the largest number of help is the weaving room. It is 190 feet long, 72 feet wide, and 13 feet high, or in other words, it has 170,800 cubic feet of air space, in which there are seventy-two persons employed, which gives an air space to each individual of 2,470 cubic feet, less than one-quarter of the space being occupied by the machinery. In a cotton mill there is a source of ventilation which is not very often noticed—that is, we have large pulleys and straps working at perhaps a speed of 2,000 feet a minute, and they give good circulation to air, and whether the windows are open or not you have ventilation from that source. Our sanitary arrangements are very fair. We have seven good water-closets, four appropriated entirely for the use of females, but separate and apart from the others; three to the males, in addition to three urinals. I may just say a word with regard to morality of our helpers. I am proud to say that there is not a single individual, during the four years of my servitude there, who has been hauled up for any act committed at the cotton mill. D. unken characters we do not keep about the place—habitual drinkers. If we cannot cure them we discharge them. One reason why I have made this statement is on account of insinuations that are thrown out now and then, which have a tendency to create an unpleasant feeling between the employers and the employés, and I am rather sorry to say that our local papers are sometimes guilty of publishing

such insinuations, and it would be well if they were stopped. I received a note from the Commission the other day, requesting me to attend here and bring certificates with regard to certain individuals. For some of those children mentioned we have not got certificates, and I must explain how that came about. Until November I did not know anything about the Factory Act being in existence—we had never received any official information. My first intimation was the visit from the factory inspector. He made his business known to me, and I went round the mill and showed him all the help, and more especially the children. At that interview there were only two whom he requested us to discharge; one was a very small boy under age, and another was a girl—a very large girl for her age—but he found out it was not a matter of necessity for her to be at work, that her parents were able to keep her, and probably that was why he requested us to discharge her. He requested us in future to get certificates of age from all the employés, and I believe we have complied with his instructions to the letter—to which these certificates I now have will testify. These are the certificates we have received from all the children we have employed since we got instructions to do so from the inspector. I believe we have not a boy now under twelve years in the mill. We have some girls under fourteen, but they were employed before the inspector visited there, and he did not tell us to discharge them. In fact, he hinted that we need not do so, but that in future we must comply with the Act.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you any boys under thirteen years of age? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is that in compliance with the Act? A.—I understand the boys must not be under twelve.

Q.—How many girls have you under fourteen? A.—I don't think there are more than six under fourteen years, and they have worked at the mill a long time.

Q.—Did the company, a few days ago, send home several young girls who were under age, knowing that the Royal Commission of Labor was going to visit this city? A.—No.

Q.—Have you got certificates of the age of all the girls in your establishment? A.—No; I have certificates of those we have employed since the inspector was there.

Q.—How long ago was that? A.—Last November. That was the first intimation we had that there was a Factory Act in existence.

Q.—Could there be any girls whom you employed before last November, and who were under age then, who are under age now? A.—I dare say there are a few of them who were employed then, and who are still under age at the present time.

Q.—Have you got any certificates for them? A.—No.

Q.—You still keep them in your employ, and they are under the age required by the Act? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many times did the factory inspector visit your mill last year? A.—Once.

Q.—Did he make a thorough inspection? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did he make any suggestion that you should make alterations, or anything of that kind? A.—No; I don't know that there was anything he instructed us to do very particularly. We had a general conversation after he had been around the mill. I told him about what we had done, and he seemed to be satisfied. He spoke about the sanitary arrangements. I showed him our system, which appeared to be satisfactory to him, and on the whole, I think, he made a very general inspection.

Q.—What facilities have you for escaping from the upper floors of the mill in case of fire? A.—Our mill is a three story mill. Our bottom story extends about 40 feet further than the two stories above. Out of the second flat you can step on to the roof of the flat beneath, and we have ladders, in addition, so as to reach the upper story. In other words, we have exits at each end. If the staircase was blocked after an alarm of fire we have an exit at the other end.

Q.—Do the doors open outward or inward? A.—They open inward.

Q.—Are you aware that that is contrary to the law? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did the inspector inform you of that fact? A.—I am not aware. He left me a copy of the Act, and I saw it mentioned there.

Q.—Are they still in the same condition? A.—Yes.

Q.—Why do you have your doors arranged that way when it is contrary to the Act? A.—The doors are never fastened; they are always open. They are large, folding doors, and they are always open.

Q.—Are they open in the winter? A.—No.

Q.—Are they closed in the winter? A.—No; they are never locked.

Q.—Are you aware that accidents have been in factories like yours? A.—I discovered it by reading the Act.

Q.—Have you not got some rooms where young girls work where the temperature is higher than in others? What is the highest temperature of any of the rooms?

A.—About 80; but let me tell you that very recently we have arranged that without knowing that question would be put by the Commission here. I find the upper room to be sometimes unpleasantly hot. We closed the mill a fortnight at Christmas on account of dullness in trade, and we made alterations to regulate the heat during the time the mill was closed, about three weeks ago.

Q.—At this season of the year is it uncomfortably warm? A.—No.

Q.—Do you consider it is uncomfortably warm in July and August? A.—No; not on account of the excessive amount of ventilation they get. We are surrounded by the lake. Again, the temperature best adapted for working on cotton is the temperature best adapted to our system. If we get a room over-heated it makes the cotton tender; if it is too cold it always places it out of condition. If we regulate the temperature according to our own bodies the work goes on better.

Q.—No doubt the product goes on better for the producer? A.—Yes.

Q.—How does the health of the young girls go on—the health of the operatives? A.—I am pleased to say there is very little sickness with us; I dare say there is less than in any other factory employing the same number of hands.

Q.—Have you ever known the temperature of those rooms to rise over 90? A.—No.

Q.—Is there a thermometer in the room? A.—Yes; in the room that gets hot now and then.

Q.—How many hours do those young girls work per week? A.—Sixty.

Q.—Do they all work sixty? A.—Yes; except the few who are on piece-work, who leave when they have finished their work. Those who are on daily wages work sixty hours per week.

Q.—Have you any girls employed on piece-work? A.—The weavers are on piece-work; the winders are on piece-work. Sometimes they get ahead with their work and then they are allowed to go home.

Q.—You have stated that some of them receive from \$1.90 to \$5 per week? A.—Yes.

Q.—What would be the age of a girl who receives \$1.90 per week? A.—They are small girls. When they are first put to learn we give them about \$1.90, and as soon as ever they are fit to work they are advanced.

Q.—How long would it take a young, intelligent girl, with an aptitude for the business, to be promoted from \$1.90—how long would she work at \$1.90 before she got an advance? A.—Not more than two weeks, if there was a vacancy.

Q.—When there is no vacancy, how long would she have to work? A.—That would be left to her own discretion—they can leave if they like. It is, of course, to our interest to put them on higher wages and piece-work as soon as possible.

Q.—Do you know of any of those young girls who have to pay their own board out of \$1.90 per week? A.—I do not. They are generally girls belonging to families.

Q.—Do you not think that their assistance towards their families would be very meagre when they have paid for their eatables, and their clothing, and their boots and shoes, out of \$1.90 per week? A.—That is a thing with which we have nothing to do.

Q.—I am only asking your opinion in regard to it? A.—My opinion is that \$1.90 will not maintain a young girl; but where there are three or four of a family, and one who is receiving \$1.90, and another \$3, and another \$4, then it all comes in.

Q.—Would it do for the whole family to be employed at the mill? A.—No; certainly not.

Q.—In cases where young girls are late in the morning, are they fined, or is the door closed upon them? A.—Neither; I am glad to say they are very good attenders; I don't think they are three or five minutes late in the week, on the average. I am there always, and see them in. We don't allow habitual late-comers. If they cannot cure themselves of that habit we discharge them.

Q.—Are they paid their wages in cash? A.—Yes. I don't wish you to understand that we discharge them for coming once or twice late; if they are habitually late we tell them that we cannot allow it, and if we cannot cure them by plain talking we discharge them.

Q.—Is the output of your factory increasing? A.—Not much; I am hoping it will do so. We are about to make some improvements which, I think, will have a tendency to increase our output.

Q.—Where do you generally find a market for your goods? A.—All over Canada.

Q.—Is there any understanding between the cotton mill owners in Canada? A.—In what respect?

Q.—Such as the formation of an association? A.—There is.

Q.—That is in the formation of a cotton company, I believe? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does the association regulate the prices of cotton? A.—Yes.

Q.—You need not answer this question unless you like, but I would like you: If a member of that association sells cotton under the price is he fined or punished by the association in any way, or does he cease to be a member. A.—He is subject to a fine. But I would not mind stating a word or two in regard to this matter. Two years ago the price of grade cloth got down very low indeed, so that the mills were losing all their capital. At that time it was absolutely necessary that a combination should be formed, or some of the mills, in my opinion, would have had to cease work altogether. I am sorry to say that one mill was compelled to do so; I now refer to the St. John, New Brunswick, mill. It is pretty well known that in consequence of the state of trade the whole stock, something upwards of \$270,000 worth, was sacrificed. I believe there was a mortgage on the mill for \$70,000. The directors tried to raise the money from the stockholders, but the stockholders would not subscribe it, and they were obliged to close the mill. After that they tried to sell it, and they could not get a buyer, and then it was handed over to the mortgagee for \$70,000. Since then it has been started under a new company, and it now stands, I believe, with a capital of about \$90,000.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—The stockholders lost all their money? A.—Every cent, and that was in consequence of the bad trade. I believe the combination is a very reasonable one, and the price of cloth is put at such a limit that a mill will have to be very careful to make both ends meet. What I mean by this is: paying a reasonable interest on capital invested, not less than 15 per cent. outlay of the stock will do that. In this country, where the mills are most numerous, they allow for depreciation on machinery at the rate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and on boilers and steam engines, shafting and belting, $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., or you might say all round 6 per cent. for depreciation. If you take 7 per cent. for interest, that necessitates 13 or 14 per cent. to make ends meet.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you think there is a cotton mill in Ontario that should run ten hours a day for one year? A.—I don't know what your question refers to.

Q.—In regard to the demand, I ask you whether any cotton mill in Ontario could continue running ten hours a day for a year? A.—My opinion is that we are

not suffering now from over-production. My opinion is that the bad harvest and open winter in the country have somewhat retarded purchasers. I believe the dry goods men have got it into their heads that the combination is likely to break up, and be followed by a reduction of prices. I believe that is the cause of the present stagnation, but I don't think it is over-production. That will rectify itself as soon as all the parties get satisfied that our mill owners intend to hold on to their combination.

Q.—Do you not think that if the cotton mills in Ontario could run at, say eight hours per day, would they be as well, and at the same time keep their employés more steadily employed, by spreading the work over the year? A.—They could not afford to do it.

Q.—For what reason? A.—Competition, and competition from England. They can beat us now in our production. I will explain why they can do so as well as I can. In the first place, the outlay of our company is over 60 per cent. more than with English mills; about 30 per cent. of that goes to the Government. If we import our appliances from England we have to pay 25 to 30 per cent. duty in addition to freight. Then, again our climate is not as well adapted for cotton manufacturing as the Lancashire climate; neither are the adaptabilities of the working people quite as good as the Lancashire people, and if we hadn't a slight advantage over the English mills by way of running longer hours I believe they could beat us, notwithstanding our present production. They are cutting irons to day in England at about 15 cents per pound, and I can tell you that some manufacturers in England pay more especially in Lancashire, to-day, are selling their goods for less money than they do for their yarns. That is caused by adulteration. Of course, it cannot be detected by people who are not accustomed to it; few people in Canada could detect it for a moment. If they get in here their low priced cloth they would sweep us out, and we could not exist.

Q.—What would you call it—shoddy? A.—I cannot tell you; they call it domestic cloth. I received this through a circular from the agent, who wanted to sell me materials by which we could adulterate cloth to the extent of 80 per cent. They can do it at home. We cannot do it here. It is not necessary to do it here; and there is no need to do it at the present prices. If we can maintain our cotton goods at the same prices, working the same number of hours in the mills, we will be able to make both ends meet. I am sorry to be able to express my opinion that the cotton mills in Canada during the last four years—I am speaking generally now—have not returned, on an average, 2 per cent. on the capital invested. That is unreasonable to the stockholders. Some mills have done much better; some have gone behind. I can give you a case in point, and I saw in print a few days ago. It is the case of the cotton mill in Windsor, Nova Scotia. I saw that last year they made \$15,000, but they could not declare a dividend, for they had to appropriate it to the payment of debts which they had incurred when trade was very bad. The Moncton mill has been in existence five or six years, and I believe has only once paid a dividend of 2½ per cent. You know very well, I think, that the cotton mill at Cornwall has not paid any dividend, and is not likely to pay any. And the mills at Stormont, Brampton, Dundas and Merriton have all not paid dividends; and unless we can keep cottons at the present price and find a market for them we cannot pay dividends. I believe the Gibson mill is not in the combination, but they have promised, I believe, and so far have been faithful, to adhere to the rules of the combination. Another mill, the Chambly mill, is not in the combination. They also promised to adhere to the rules of the combination, but I am afraid that they have not done so.

Q.—Have you ever known a mill to receive a large bonus from the municipality and when the bonus was exhausted the mill failed? A.—I have not.

Q.—What was the history of the mill in the neighborhood of Galt? A.—I am not familiar with it. I have only been here three or four years.

Q.—But that mill failed a few years ago? A.—I don't know anything about it.

Q.—Do you know the number of cotton mills that received bonuses from municipalities when they first started? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know any mill that has been exempted from taxation for a number of years as an inducement to commence operations? A.—I know only one, and that is in Kingston.

Q.—Have you any objection to employing hands that belong to labor organizations?
A.—We never make any enquiries.

SAMUEL ROWCROFT, Mill Overseer, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—You have heard the evidence of the last witness : do you corroborate it?
A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you anything to add? A.—No.

Q.—Do you work in the same factory? A.—Yes; I work under the last witness.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you the girls under your charge in the cotton mill? A.—I have quite a few.

Q.—Do you know that girls under fourteen years of age have been sent home recently, during the last seven or eight days? A.—Not one.

Q.—Could they have been sent home without your knowledge? A.—No. There was a girl sent home last week, but went on account of a lot of girls getting in the hallway and making a noise at noon-hour. I sent for her to come back in two days. She was sent home as a correction.

Q.—Are there girls in other departments who are not under you? A.—Some few.

Q.—You are only speaking of your own department? A.—Of the spinning and weaving.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Do you know of any dissatisfaction existing in the factory among the hands?
A.—No; I do not know of any.

Q.—Or complaints of unjust treatment on the part of their employers? A.—No; I do not know of any.

Q.—From your position you would know it if there was any discontent? A.—I think I would.

Q.—You think you would know if those girls had been sent away? A.—Ys.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Are you in the habit of sending girls home for playing during dinner hour, during time for which you do not pay them? A.—We are not in the habit of doing it; we have only sent one home, only one, and I took her back a few days afterwards. The manager sent her home, and he came to me and told me to send for her again.

Q.—Are there any fines inflicted on those girls for a little laxity such as you mention? A.—No; I have never seen it done since I have been there.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How many girls under fourteen are employed in the factory? A.—I think six or eight; I could not be positive about the number, but they were all working there when the inspector came.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Did not the inspector tell you it was contrary to law? A.—He did not want hard and fast lines with respect to help that he saw there. He said if it was a family that was poor that it was unreasonable to send the girls away.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Did the inspector speak to any of the hands? A.—Yes; he spoke to quite a few.

Q.—In whose company was he when he was going through the factory? A.—I believe he was with the manager or the manager's son; I could not be positive just now.

Q.—You have girls there who have not got certificates of their age? A.—The girls who worked there before the inspector came.

Q.—And the last witness has stated that they work there still, and even at this time they are under age? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long do the girls have for dinner hour? A.—One hour.

Q.—Do they all go home to their dinner? A.—No; some of them live quite a distance off, and they bring their dinner with them.

Q.—All those girls have to take their dinner where they work? A.—They can please themselves; they can do it if they want to do so.

Q.—Outside of their own room; can they get some other place to take their dinner? A.—They can go into any of the other rooms; they are not prevented from doing so.

Q.—They have to take their meal in one of the rooms in the factory, where there is dust, and so on? A.—When the machinery has stopped you would not notice any dust.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—There is no dining room prepared for them in the mill? A.—No; there is a place to warm their tins; we have coils of stove-pipe on purpose.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are they charged for that privilege? A.—No.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Suppose your engine or any part of your machinery broke down, and work was stopped for an hour or two, would you pay the hands while they were there even if they were not at work, or would they have to work over-time? A.—We don't, as a general rule.

Q.—But do you? A.—They have worked some over-time; it was when the mill was stopped, three or four days, or something like that.

Q.—You always keep the hands around there three or four hours? A.—When there they have been paid if they have not worked. The wages have not been deducted.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—The piece hands have not been paid anything, I suppose? A.—The piece hands do not receive pay.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you stop the wages of the hands for breakages, or anything of that kind? A.—No.

Q.—Is the water drank by the hands good? A.—We get all the water from the outside, from wells around.

Q.—Is it good water? A.—Yes.

Q.—How far are you from the lake? A.—We are right on the edge of the lake.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have the hands to go out for water, or is it brought to them for drinking purposes? A.—We send out boys or girls who have not much to do to bring in water.

Q.—Are those hands employed by piece-work or by the week? A.—By the week.

PETER MONCRIEF, Tinsmith, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG —

Q.—Are you a journeyman tinsmith? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long have you worked in Kingston? A.—I have worked ever since I started, when I was about nine years of age. I served my time here.

Q.—What are the average wages paid to journeymen tinsmiths in Kingston? A.—I should think the average would be \$1.50 a day—\$9 a week. Some get as low as \$1.25 a day and some get over \$10 a week. You might strike an average at about \$1.50 a day.

Q.—How constantly are you employed throughout the year—how many weeks would you be employed on an average during the year? A.—Some are employed the year round and others are not. The foremen of shops are kept on all the year round, but the majority of journeymen lose two or three months every winter; some of them lose even more, even four months.

Q.—Are there many apprentices going to learn the trade? A.—Yes; there are too many; there are five apprentices to one man in some cases.

Q.—Are there any shops in Kingston where there are regulations as to the number of apprentices to be employed in accordance with the number of men employed? A.—No; there are not, but there should be.

Q.—What is the average term a boy would serve as an apprentice? A.—Some serve four years, some five years, according to the agreement—the agreement they make with the boss. The majority serve five years.

Q.—Are they indentured? A.—No.

Q.—Do journeymen tinsmiths prefer the indenturing system to the way things are conducted now? A.—Yes; because a great number of the men who are around now have served two or three years at one shop, and have skipped to another institution, and they have kept wages down.

Q.—Is the trade in Kingston affected by immigration? A.—No; I don't see that it is.

Q.—Are the men organized? A.—Some of them are; they belong to the labor organization. It is too bad they all do not.

Q.—Do you know the condition of tinsmiths in the United States or Great Britain in comparison with their condition in this locality? A.—Yes. My brother mechanics now who are on the other side are making very nearly treble the wages we are making here. I speak of New York and Chicago. At Rochester they are making almost double, and the city is pretty nearly the same size as Kingston.

Q.—Do you know the difference in the wages paid in Rochester and in Kingston? A.—They pay from \$2.50 a day up in Rochester, as a friend of mine wrote me. It is according to the class of work they are employed at, whether it is inside or outside.

Q.—Do any of the shops in Kingston object to employing men belonging to labor organizations? A.—I don't think they do.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Is there any truck system existing here? A.—I don't know of any.

Q.—Does convict labor interfere with your work, or has it done so in the past? A.—No; not to my knowledge.

Q.—Did you ever give the subject of convict labor any study? A.—No; I am not prepared to answer in regard to it at present.

Q.—Do you know anything about workmen's co-operative or benefit societies? A.—I think they would be a great benefit to workmen.

Q.—Are you conversant with them? A.—No.

Q.—What are the sanitary arrangements of the shops in Kingston? A.—I can not say that they are altogether bad; they are not bad, yet they are not extra good.

Q.—How are the water-closets in connection with the shops? A.—In some cases you can almost step into them from the shop window; in other cases they are almost right in the shop—they are bad places.

Q.—Are they connected with the sewers? A.—They are supposed to be.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You have a health officer in the city? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Have you directed his attention to the defective sanitary matters? A.—No; I have never done so.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you any information that would be a benefit to the Commission in connection with the tin-smithing trade in Kingston? A.—Yes; I think there should be something done in regard to boys being sent out carrying heavy loads—such as stoves. A small boy, a boy of fourteen, is not fit to carry a stove weighing three or four hundred pounds.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—You say that a man gets higher wages in Chicago and New York. Have you any idea of the cost of living there and the cost of living here? A.—The young man with whom I served my time lived at the rate of \$5 per week in Chicago.

Q.—Have you any idea what a suit of clothes would cost them there? A.—Yes. A suit of clothes for which you would pay \$20 here would cost about \$35 there.

Q.—And a pair of boots, I suppose, would be correspondingly high? A.—Yes. Woollen cloth is dearer and cotton cloth is cheaper.

Q.—Coming down to facts, what is the difference between the position of the men there and here, taking everything into consideration? A.—I could not say; the advantage, I would say, would be with them there.

JOHN HEWTON, Manager of the Kingston Hosiery Company, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How long have you been manager of the Hosiery Company? A.—About five years; since the mill was started.

Q.—How many employés have you in your establishment? A.—Between 130 and 140.

Q.—How many males? A.—I should say, perhaps about half that number.

Q.—And the balance females? A.—Yes.

Q.—What would be the age of the youngest girl in your employ? A.—The inspector asked her her age, and she said she was going on fifteen; in fact, he asked two girls, and both of them said they would be fifteen next birthday.

Q.—How many hours per day do they work? A.—Ten hours per day—sixty hours per week.

Q.—For what portion of the year do they work ten hours a day? A.—Last year they worked all but one week.

Q.—Do they ever work eleven hours per day? A.—If you take the days singly they do, for we shut at noon on Saturday, and they work eleven hours a day for five days. We have not worked that length of time this year so far; we don't know what we will do for the balance of the year. They prefer to work in this way, so as to have the Saturday afternoon.

Q.—How is the ventilation of the mill? A.—The ventilation is good.

Q.—How are the sanitary arrangements? A.—The inspector was fairly satisfied with them.

Q.—In case of fire at the mill, what escapes are there for the hands? A.—We have three roads to the main door from the other flats in case of fire. There are two other ways. There is the main door on the west side of it, and we have an entrance out towards the lake and another one towards the yard.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How do the doors open? A.—Outwards—that is the main door opens outwards. The doors open into the wings of the main building.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—The doors that open into the street, how do they open? A.—Outwards; that is the door at the end. The door which is at the office end opens inwards. The doors the employés use open outwards.

Q.—Is your drinking water good? A.—I never heard any complaints about it.

Q.—Is the drinking water on the premises? A.—No; it is across the road, we get it from a well. We have given an order for a filter, and we are going to pump it, but we have not got the filter yet.

Q.—Have the operatives to go outside to get a drink? A.—No; a boy brings the water in.

Q.—Has there been any reduction in the wages lately? A.—Not a general reduction—no. There has been a little change; we have increased in some places, and made some changes. Take the men all through, the average amount of wages paid per dozen for goods will be higher to-day than this time last year.

Q.—What departments of the mill have been affected by the change? A.—There has not been a reduction. We generally, at this time of the year, revise the tariff. If we saw a certain class is not getting enough we advance, but if we see that some other class, by means of improvements in machinery, are receiving too much, we make a reduction. We have put in improved machinery in connection with the different processes.

Q.—Has there been a reduction lately in the hemming department? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has there been a reduction lately in the seaming department? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has there been a reduction in the looping department? A.—I don't think there has; I am not certain about the looping department.

Q.—How about the mending department—has there been a reduction there? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has there been a reduction in the buttoning department? A.—Yes.

Q.—There have, then, been positive reductions in four of the departments, with one department doubtful? A.—We will take the hemming department for a moment. In fact, the change made is not a reduction. We used to do the work with one machine, and divided it up. The machinery has been improved; they put in an attachment which does better work. It used to be 1½ cents, and we put it up to 2 cents; it is really an advance on the old system. In the same department we used to sew with the old Grover & Baker machine, which cost about \$5 apiece. We have put in an improved Chicago machine, costing about \$200, and in the place of about eight or nine girls doing the work about four girls do it all, in consequence of the improved machine. So we made a reduction there.

Q.—What does the reduction amount to in the hemming department? A.—In what way?

Q.—Would the reduction in the hemming department amount to 20 per cent? A.—On what we were paying just before?

Q.—Yes? A.—No; I do not think it would.

Q.—How much would it amount to? A.—I could hardly say.

Q.—Would it amount to 15 per cent? A.—It might—no; I don't think it would. I forget exactly what the reduction was—what the original price was. Perhaps it would be 10 per cent., or something like that.

Q.—What would be the amount per cent. of the reduction in the buttoning department? A.—I could not tell you; I forget the tariff on that. The buttoning department had too many hands in it. They didn't work enough, and we thought we had better, as they were working only a few hours a day, make a change.

Q.—Would the reduction in the buttoning department amount to between 30 and 40 per cent? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you mean that the daily wages were reduced that amount? A.—They would not be reduced anything like 50 per cent. I cannot tell you; I cannot answer that question.

Q.—What did you pay last year to persons working in that department? A.—I cannot remember the tariff in that part.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You cannot tell the percentage of reduction in any department of the establishment? A.—No; I don't look into the figures.

Q.—Has there been any increase in wages? A.—Yes.

Q.—In what department did the increase take place? A.—I could not tell you that just from memory; we increased the cutters, and there have been increases in several departments.

Q.—How many cutters have you employed? A.—There are two cutters.

Q.—You increased their wages? A.—Yes.

Q.—What was the percentage of the increase? A.—I am not positive as to the figures, as I am only speaking from memory. I did not prepare myself by looking over the price list. I think we are paying somewhere about 40 cents per dozen more than before, but I am not positive.

Q.—In addition to those two cutters in that department, what other departments have you increased in wages? A.—You were speaking about that.

Q.—I am speaking about lately? A.—Those prices you are talking about have not been cut even yet—they have not come into force. In the last year we increased in several departments.

Q.—I mean lately? A.—This year, 1888.

Q.—Yes? A.—I don't think there is any change in the departments in 1888, that is, except the one you were referring to.

Q.—Have you heard of any grievances on the part of operatives? A.—I sent for one of the girls to come into the office, and I asked her if she had any grievances; she said she was perfectly satisfied.

Q.—Have you heard complaints from shirt and drawer finishers? A.—No; they are not cut. I think we increased some of them. I think there is a change in some of them that will be better. But I sent for one of the girls who cut. She had been drawing very heavy pay, and there was some change in that class of work. She said she was perfectly satisfied with the pay for the work.

Q.—Have any of the hands petitioned the company in any shape or form? A.—I have seen no petition from any of our hands.

Q.—Have you heard there was such a petition? A.—No; not from our hands.

Q.—Do the doors swing outward? A.—Yes; that is, the main door.

Q.—Is there any dangerous machinery or belting in the building? A.—I think not.

Q.—Would you consider the finishing machines and belting dangerous? A.—We have boxes for any portion of the shafting that we consider dangerous.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Has the factory inspector been through your factory? A.—Yes; he was through it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Did he suggest any changes to be made? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Would you make any changes yourself if you saw they were necessary to prevent the machinery from being dangerous? A.—We always make changes ourselves if we think there is danger.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Does the putting in of new machinery reduce the number of hands or the wages paid? A.—The putting in of new machinery, of course, tends to reduce the number of hands. For instance, we have machinery in the department that would require a certain number of hands to do the work, and by putting in new machinery it would cause some of them to leave. One machine may do the work of seven or eight hands, sometimes, and thereby might throw six hands out.

Q.—In regard to those hands who would remain, would their wages remain the same as they were getting previous to the introduction of the new machinery? A.—Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Referring to your hemming department I heard the other day, quite accidentally, that one of the girls worked in the morning and worked all the forenoon until dinner time, and earned only 40 cents? A.—I don't think it.

Q.—Could it happen and you not know of it? A.—It might and I not know of it. The matter was not called to my attention.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you think if she had been there and worked steadily she would have earned more than 40 cents? A.—Yes; she may, however, stay at the machine all day and do little.

Q.—Do you say that if she had worked during those hours steadily that she would have earned more than 40 cents? A.—She would, if she was a smart girl. I took an average for three months out of the pay-list, and found the average in the seven departments to run as high as \$1.30 a day.

Q.—Have you discharged any of your operatives lately? A.—No; I don't think we have, but I don't remember any going away lately. I have not given instructions to discharge any.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How is the door leading from the tower to the street fastened? A.—That door will be locked three-quarters of an hour after we start work.

Q.—Is it held by a bolt and staple? A.—Yes; there is a bolt and staple at the top and bottom. It is locked at the centre; it is a double door.

Q.—Can the bolts be opened easily in case of fire? A.—Yes; they pull down and the door would go out.

Q.—The doors remain bolted in time of working hours? A.—Yes.

Q.—In case of fire, how would the door be opened if there was a rush? A.—They do not need to go out by that door; all the other ways to get out are open all the time.

Q.—Are the doors locked? A.—That is the door I am speaking of. There is only one door locked; the lower door between the building and the street is not locked.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What is the idea of keeping the door locked? A.—To prevent people coming in who have no business there.

Q.—Do all the hands work piece-work? A.—Not all.

Q.—Do all have time-checks? A.—No; only those who are on piece-work are checked.

Q.—They have to have a time-check? A.—Yes; when they are on piece-work.

Q.—The day hands don't? A.—Yes; their time is kept by the foreman of the room.

Q.—If there are hands who come in late, what is the consequence? A.—She would not be able to get a day's work unless she was required. I don't suppose the foreman is very strict; that part of the business is in his charge. If he gets the work out it suits us, and he can do as he likes.

Q.—Is there any sub-contract system in your factory? A.—No.

Q.—If the piece hands are not there in time they lose their pay, I suppose?
A.—I should say so.

Q.—What is the idea of having a check on them? A.—That is to show what to pay them if they are working by the dozen.

Q.—There is no time-check? A.—No.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—In the event of any of your operatives being connected with labor organizations, would you object to employing them? A.—No; not if they would attend to business.

Q.—Not if you knew it? A.—No; we don't make any enquiries.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Has your business increased in the past five years? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much? A.—It has increased.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Where do you generally find your market for your products? A.—In the Dominion.

Q.—Regarding the machinery employed by you: is there any royalty paid on it? A.—No; we are not running under any royalty just now. The seaming machine has a royalty connected with it, but we have the privilege of paying so much money down instead of a royalty.

Q.—That is an American-made machine? A.—Yes; it is a Chicago make, and the girls are able to make more money with it than they were under the old tariff under which we ran before.

Q.—Is there any fining of the employés in the mill for any causes? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is your business so satisfactory that you have been obliged to employ new machinery? A.—In order to meet the competition we now have we are obliged to get the newest machinery, and any appliances that will enable us to turn out the work as cheaply as possible.

Q.—It is a necessity on your part? A.—Yes; we could not live if we had not it.

Q.—It is necessary, on your part, to get the newest machinery for carrying on your business? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Is there any other factory like yours in the Dominion? A.—Yes; there are other knitting mills.

Q.—Has the duty benefited you? A.—The National Policy?

Q.—Yes? A.—I would say that it is very important that we should continue the tariff. We could hardly exist at the present time with the competition of the United States, if we did not have it.

Q.—Is the factory a Kingston, or English, or American investment? A.—The larger number of the stockholders are Kingstonians.

Q.—Is there any knitting factory in the Maritime Provinces, to your knowledge?
A.—I think there are three down there now.

Q.—Are they in Nova Scotia? A.—No; I don't think there are any down that far. I think there is one down at Coaticooke. Then there are a couple at St. Hyacinthe, and another place.

Capt. THOMAS DONNELLY, Mariner, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—How long have you been in the occupation of a mariner? A.—I have been master of vessels for eleven years, and when I say vessels I mean of all classes of vessels on the lakes. I have been master of passenger boats, of tug boats, of sailing vessels and freight boats.

Q.—If it is not an impertinent question, I would like to ask you if you got your certificate through competency, commencing as a sailor and going up in the scale? A.—I started work at the lowest rung of the ladder, before the mast, as a boy. I worked up till I became master of a vessel in fresh waters. I then went across the salt water in winter time till I put in service enough over there to take a master's certificate of competency before the British Board of Trade, which I hold at present. That was taken out at Bristol, Eng., under their regulations.

Q.—How many months in the year do you work? A.—Do you mean as master?

A.—I presume you are a master? A.—For the past two years I have been sailing my own vessel.

Q.—What is the average time that a captain is employed during the year? A.—They average about eight months.

Q.—They have eight months' work? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much per month do they receive on an average as wages? A.—Their wages differ a good deal in the different class of boats. On the barges, that is to say, barges employed on the lakes and towed after steam craft, they are paid \$70 per month; from \$70 up to \$90, perhaps, would be the outside figure. The sailing vessel masters will get from \$80 a month to \$750, perhaps, for the season. In regard to masters of some of the steamboats, the best wages paid are about \$1,000 a year. I know of several private concerns that pay \$1,000 a year, and the C. P. R. pays that rate to their captains.

Q.—Are you able to give us the per cent. of wages paid here, at St. Catharines and Detroit? A.—Yes; as master I can. I know the wages paid at every port on the lake. The masters' wages at Kingston and St. Catharines are about the same; if anything, the masters' wages here are more than at St. Catharines. When I say that I know that there are very few sailing vessels going out of St. Catharines; they are mostly all barges, and they have reduced the rate of wages within a couple of years there.

Q.—Do you know anything about the rates of wages paid sailors? A.—Yes; I have paid them so long.

Q.—Give us the list, please, of the Kingston rates? A.—Last year, when I started employing sailors, I paid \$1.25 a day. I paid that for about the first two months. The wages then advanced to \$1.50, then to \$1.75 and then to \$2. Before I came to the Commission I took my wages' book and took an average rate of wages for the last year of my vessel, and I found I paid \$52 a month to the men before the mast.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—How do the wages on the lake compare with those paid to seamen on the Atlantic coast? A.—They are a good deal higher on the lakes; they are even higher than those out of New York in the winter, where a man is employed a very few months at what they call very high wages.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Have you any idea of the number of sailors living around Kingston at the present time? A.—I suppose there are about 300, between Kingston, Garden Island and Wolfe Island, all of whom ship out of this port. Of course, we have a large body of men who sail and call themselves sailors; they are men employed on the barges—they don't leave Kingston, or very few of them do.

Q.—There is a good deal of talk just now about the condition of the craft sailing

in the lake waters. Can you give us any idea of what kind of craft is going out—
barges, for instance, and propellers likewise? A.—I try to keep pretty well informed
about the different classes of craft, and I find there is a good deal of complaint, but I
must say that I know of no sailing vessel or propeller on these lakes that is not
stanch enough for the business.

Q.—Do you know of any barges? A.—Yes; I know of some barges.

Q.—What is the matter with the barges? A.—The matter is this: it is very
hard to get barge-owners to agree with me in my opinion on those things. My
opinion differs from theirs. I have made enemies by my present opinion on this point,
but at the same time I have never altered it. Practically I know the difference.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Are vessels that are too old to be run as sailing vessels used as barges? A.
—Yes.

Q.—There is where the trouble is, I suppose? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What is the matter with those vessels that they are not fit to run? A.—It
is not so much the fault of the hold as of the outfit; they don't put enough sail on to
them, and they don't man them sufficiently.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Have you not heard that the forecastles of vessels were not fit for sailors to
sleep in? A.—I have sailed on all classes of vessels on the lakes. I have been on
small and on large vessels and I think the only unfitness I have found, generally speak-
ing—I have found one or two exceptions—was caused by the sailors themselves. If the
forecastle is cold and it is mentioned to the captain that the men want more blan-
kets he will supply them as soon as possible. On the salt water if the men have not
sufficient blanketing the blame rests with them and the captain has nothing to do
with it.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—We have been told that on some of the vessels there are forecastles that are
not fit for dog cabins? A.—It is not the case on the lakes. You could not get men
to go on vessels if they were in such a condition as that.

Q.—We have had that evidence? A.—I will stake my certificate if that can be
proved on any lake vessel, and I know every vessel on the lakes. That may be a
very broad opinion to give, but I have tried to make a study of navigation and usage
on the lakes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How are the forecastles in regard to ventilation? A.—I think they have
enough of that.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you known sailing vessels to leave Kingston with bad rigging? A.—
Not, that I know of.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—I believe there is no one to inspect the rigging and spars on a vessel. The
navigation of a vessel depends very much, I guess, on the masts and sails? A.—She
is navigated entirely by the rigging and sails, and her speed depends on whether the
rigging and sails are all right. So there is very little fear of the masts and rigging
of a vessel not being kept pretty well fitted. When you take hold of a barge it is
different. So long as the tow-line holds she is all right, but when the tow-line breaks
she is in a position of a vessel, and then there is found a necessity for proper rigging
and sails, and she has not got them.

Q.—What sails is it necessary for a barge to have? A.—Four mainsails and,
at least, three jibs.

Q.—In regard to the over-loading of propellers, have you given the subject any study? How many inches above water should there be for the number of feet under water? A.—Two would be the limit for the lakes. In regard to vessels navigating salt water, the Plimsoll line is 3 inches above water for every foot draft below; and I would like to call your attention to the fact that in the case of some of the evidence given before the Commission that provision appears to have been stated wrongly. The proper rule is 3 inches above water for every foot draft; some of the witnesses appear to have stated that it was 3 inches above for every foot depth of hold; and it is entirely different.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—How many men do the barges carry? A.—Some of them carry very few; that is a hard question to answer; some more and some less. If you ask how many they should carry, I should say that they should, at least, have four men, a mate and a master.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Should they be skilled seamen? A.—They should be just as competent men as if they were on a sailing vessel.

Q.—Are they generally so? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—In the number of men do you include the cook? A.—She is extra; and if a man, he is extra.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Have you any knowledge of vessels foundering or striking a rock, or being wrecked through having a crew of incompetent men, and cheap men? A.—I cannot say that I have. There are some enquiries by the Government now going on, and perhaps it would not be proper on my part to express an opinion at this time.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of mates borrowing certificates for passing the Customs? A.—I have heard of it being done frequently; I never knew it done.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Who is to blame for that? A.—I have known it done in Bristol. I knew a man who got seven months' imprisonment and a fine for doing that.

Q.—It would be more easy, I suppose, to do that in Bristol than in Kingston? A.—Yes; because the men would not be known at the Custom-house there as they are generally known here.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Whose duty is it to see that that is not done here? A.—The Act says that the Customs shall not clear out vessels until proper certificates are produced, or information furnished that the master and mate are certified.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—The Collector of Customs cannot, of course, know everybody? A.—I don't suppose he can ask, in all cases.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is there much danger attending the carrying of excessive deck loads? A.—Not on the lakes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Not in October or November? A.—There is not very much of it done. The lumber trade is about the only trade in which deck loads are carried.

Q.—How about the lumber trade in October or November? A.—Deck loads will be carried during those months, but not to a great extent. They are carried to some extent.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you ever heard complaints of seamen in that matter? A.—I have been on lumbering vessels, but we have never carried more than three or four deck loads of lumber.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—From your experience, are you aware that any sailors have complained of vessels not being seaworthy? A.—If a sailor wants to leave he will complain of the "Parisian;" if he does not want to leave he will go on and not complain; if he wants to leave he can find complaints easily enough.

Q.—As a general rule, are not sailors disposed to go on board vessels, even if they are not seaworthy? A.—I am sorry to say that no matter what kind of a vessel you run you can generally get hands to run her. I think the Government will have to take some action in this matter, and not drive at individuals.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Speaking of navigating the lakes in October and November: do you carry any extra number of hands during those months? A.—Some vessels do and some do not.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—During those months I suppose really competent men are required on board? A.—I think that in navigation on the lakes it is necessary to have good men at any season of the year.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Are there storms often in September? A.—Yes; very often.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do the wages increase about that time of the year? A.—Yes.

Q.—Although masters have to pay higher wages at that particular time they have to have more men than in the mild season? A.—A captain would sooner go with poor men in the summer than in the fall.

Q.—And he would not like to go without good men in the fall? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You were mentioning that there were enquiries being made by the Government board in regard to certain vessels—I suppose you refer to the "Oriental"? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are enquiries being made in regard to the loss of any other vessels? A.—I understand there is one about the "California."

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Is there any shipping master here? A.—No; but in my opinion it would be a good thing if there was one.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Do you consider craft belonging to this port well fixed in the matter of anchors, chains, and so on? A.—Most of them are.

Q.—What about life-buoys and preservers: are the vessels deficient in that respect or are they well supplied? A.—There are no life-buoys carried, as a rule, on sailing vessels. In regard to the vessel I own, the gentleman who owned her before fitted her up with those appliances. In my opinion they are very necessary to have on board of vessels, for there are many cases when the crew could have been saved if they had been on board. Take the case of the schooner "G. M. Case," that was sunk going into Port Colborne harbor. A tug got among the wreckage five minutes after it happened and picked up a couple of men, but three or four were drowned. I think there had been life-buoys they could have drifted around and been picked up. I think it very necessary that sailing vessels should have them.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Are the sailors engaged by the trip or by the month? A.—By the day, generally, on the lakes.

Q.—Do you think, as a matter of safety to vessels, it would be better, or other wise, that they should be employed by the season? A.—Yes; I think so, and I have thought over the matter a good deal. I would prefer the shipping of men by the month, and I think the general run of the vessel owners prefer to do so, because you would get to know more about the quality of your men than you do by paying them off whenever they touch port. We have, in times past, shipped men in that way; we did it until the union was established. I am not against any union, and I have never suffered any bad effects from union organizations, but it has had that bad effect against vessels, that they compel men to go ashore whenever they strike port—that is one of the standing orders of the organization. A vessel cannot unload its cargo with its men, that is, at present.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—It is not long since the sailor was almost considered to form part of the ship? A.—Yes; and that is done away with a great deal now. It does not seem to exist at all. The men are shipped simply from port to port. If a captain wants them to work two days more, sometimes he gets them and sometimes not. I have a man who shipped with me on the 20th March last and I kept him on till the 10th December.

Q.—Are you acquainted with the sailors and crews of Norwegian and Jersey vessels? A.—I have been among them a good deal.

Q.—Is it not a fact that they stick to their vessels all the year? A.—Yes.

Q.—And they do well on board those vessels? A.—Yes; we have a class of small vessels on the north shore and in the Bay of Quinté that pick up their crews in the neighborhood, and the men stay with the captains all the year, and they give better satisfaction than do the men they can pick up at the largest ports, and fewer expenses are incurred.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Why does the union desire men to go ashore after each trip? A.—Because it is so hard for one part of the union to agree as to the work of another. Stevedores do one part; so we must do all the grain shovelling and the lumber handling, and do all the work connected with handling the cargo. If I have men on my vessel I cannot get them to touch the cargo—I don't want them to go over the side of the vessel—although part of the work could be easily done by them and they could earn the money that is paid out to other organizations that do it. On reaching Toronto my men are paid off directly we strike the port, and they will not do anything around the dock and not do anything in port. The dock laborers, in fact, do all the work, and so soon as the cargo is all on board they will come aboard.

Q.—Does that work properly belong to the duty of a seaman? A.—There is a great deal of it that could be done just as well by those men as the men on shore. As we now ship a seaman on the lakes, it is not his duty to do it, and as we know he will not do it we don't figure on his doing it.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How long has this system been in operation? A.—It did not come into force until we had a union organization on the lakes.

Q.—How long ago was that? A.—About ten years.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—It is the custom not to do that now, I believe? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Can you suggest anything that would forward and protect the interests of seamen and the shipping interests generally? A.—Yes; I think the men should be shipped and paid off at a shipping office. It would be better for the men and

better for the vessel owners, and better for the captains, and would cause less trouble. There would be no such thing as beating men out of their wages, which may possibly be done, and it would settle all disputes to ship the men at the shipping agency, and pay them off at such an agency, the same as is done at Atlantic ports.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you mean, then, engaging them all the season? A.—On the coast of Great Britain they engage them by the month or for the run.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—How would you say that men's wages would be paid by the year compared with the way the men are now paid and discharged? A.—I think that a man could earn almost ten times as much as he does when he is paid off at every port. It simply means that he makes a short run and then spends two or three days in the saloon, and when he gets out he has very little money.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You think the Canadian sailor is a good bit like the English sailor? A.—They are a good deal like that all the world over.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—While that might be desirable, would it not be interfering with the liberty of the seaman? A.—I am speaking of the benefit it would be to the sailor.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You do not mean to say that the Government should force men to stay on board the vessel? A.—No; this is a free country, and he could do as he pleased.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Suppose he was engaged by the season, or by the month, would it be at a uniform rate of wages for all the season round? A.—Do you mean, would it be better for them to do so? There is no such thing as it being done, because we cannot regulate the rate of wages; that depends on the supply and demand.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is one man better than another as a sailor, and do you give him more than you give another? A.—It has never been done on the lakes; they all get the same rate of wages. There is a difference between the sailing business and any other class of business, in regard to labor organization. When you leave port you, perhaps, have only four men on board. Now, if you had a certain number of men on shore and a difficulty occurred you could discharge them. In the case of a sailor, however, it is different; half an hour after you have gone out of port, you might require the best work out of your men; of the men, perhaps, there are only four in all, and if one or two turn out to be inferior hands there is great danger both for themselves and the vessel; for, of course, these men cannot be replaced. In that respect it is quite different from any other business on shore.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you not think that a good man is worth more during the dangerous season than in the summer, when there are not any gales? A.—I think a good sailor is worth all the money he can get for his wages. I think a poor sailor ought not to be aboard a vessel at all. I know I have been in places where it was the crew's work that got the vessel out of danger.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—You are always anxious to get a good sailor, and to keep him? A.—I have always been satisfied to get him and keep him. I find this, that legislation in the shipping interests in Canada has been nothing, since I can remember—there has not been proper legislation in the shipping interests.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is that not a great deal the fault of the seamen in not making proper representations? A.—I don't know of any representations made in regard to this labor organization, yet here we find a large Labor Commission, and not a sailor on it, though we have a very large shipping interest in Canada. Another remark I may make is that the Acts passed of late years have not been properly constructed; there should be several changes in the last Seaman's Act—the Marine Act.

Q.—Have any representations been made by any one to the Government in that regard? A.—If I, or some one else, who was a little better informed than the general run of sailors, make any representation, I find that there are a great many capitalists who run barges, and men interested in the fitting out of boats, who have different opinions compared with us, and I could give the names of them right off. I want to be able to speak and to prove my case, and yet these men are ready to jump on my neck right away.

Q.—Why not go to the newspapers? A.—I have done so. The large marine association that met in Toronto last year wanted to petition the Government that the masters and mates should be done away with on barges. I was elected a delegate by the sailors of Canada to go to Ottawa and mention the matter to Mr. Foster, and through the position he gave it there the vessel owners did not succeed.

Q.—How were they going to man their vessels? A.—By men engaged for \$8 per month; by anybody they could get hold of; that was the idea.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Do you not think the Government should appoint a sailor as inspector of Hulls, rigging and all the standing gear of a vessel? A.—I do; and when they do appoint an inspector they will not appoint a man by competitive examination, but some fellow who has a good deal of political influence, and who will not be in a position to speak for us, as he should do in the matter. I think I can prove that by the positions that are held on the lakes at present by similar men.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You think the duty is not honestly performed? A.—I do think it is not honestly performed.

Q.—You want a Plimsoll at headquarters? A.—You might call him what you like, but we want a man who is not afraid to do his duty.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is the Lloyds' agent here a sailor? A.—He is a sailor, but Lloyds' only inspect the vessel for their own purposes.

Q.—Lloyds' agents are capable men, I suppose? A.—Yes; they are capable men.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you ever known masters and mates to accept positions on vessels not having certificates? A.—I have known of several cases where they have been stopped on the lakes, and I have heard of other cases, but that is almost stopped by the Government.

Q.—Do you not think the inspector should stop at once any one if the case was made known to him? A.—Yes. In saying that I will add that it seems very easy, during the past year, for a man to slip down to Ottawa and get a certificate for a man to whom he wants to give a position, and then, of course, the inspector could not take any action.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Is it within your knowledge that vessels that have been refused certificates by the Kingston Lloyds are carrying grain cargoes, or have been carrying grain cargoes since that time?

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—That is to say that vessels that were pronounced not fit to be insured have afterwards carried grain cargoes? A.—When Lloyds' inspector refuses to

give a vessel a certificate that vessel would be afterwards employed in carrying grain cargoes by the owner of the vessel giving an extra insurance; but if they cannot carry grain the vessel will be put in the coal trade, and the insurance companies will then have no control over them; Lloyds' inspector has then nothing more to do with the vessel.

Q.—You think as good a vessel is required to carry coal as to carry grain?
A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you ever known vessels ordered in for repairs by Lloyds' inspector to leave port without such repairs being made? A.—He has to examine them again, for which he has to be paid, before they can get a classification on his books. They can go when they like, but if they do so they have no classification. Lloyds' inspectors are very particular.

Q.—Do you not think that if the vessels can go when they like that the crew is in danger when the necessary repairs to the vessel have not been made? A.—Yes.

Q.—You think the Government should step in in a case of that kind? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you think there should be a regular inspection of the hull of sailing vessels, as there is of steam vessels? A.—I think so. They go to work and put me on a steamboat of 150 tons and thirty horse-power with a crew of perhaps fifteen men, and the most incompetent men in the world could blow me sky-high, but as soon as one passenger is on the boat it has to have a certificated engineer. Is there any justice in that?

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Is it not just the same on the Atlantic coast, that vessels are running there without certificates? A.—No; it is not. No vessel can clear or get cleared at the Custom house that has not properly certificated men on her.

Q.—Are there not a number of vessels in the Atlantic service to-day, sailing without certificates from Lloyds? A.—Carrying cargoes of freight that Lloyds did not insure?—Yes. Those certificates they have to get as regards their offices, however.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you mean to say that vessels will pass inspection in England that are not fit for insurance? A.—No; they are well looked after in England—they are very well looked after there.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—There are vessels that carry timber from our ports to England, and come back in ballast, that are not insured? A.—That may be. There is one question that I would like to call the attention of the Commission to, and it is in connection with the wrecking laws of this country. I think it is very important that our vessels should be placed in a proper position in regard to this work. On 19th July, 1878, the United States passed an Act, which they called "An Act to aid vessels wrecked and disabled," which reads as follows :—

"An Act to aid vessels wrecked or disabled in the waters conterminous to the United States and the Dominion of Canada."

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that Canadian vessels of all description may under aid or assistance to Canadian or other vessels wrecked or disabled in the waters of the United States, contiguous to the Dominion of Canada; provided, that this Act shall not take effect until proclamation by the President, declaring that the privilege of aiding American or other vessels wrecked or disabled in Canadian waters, contiguous to the United States, has been extended by the Government of the

Dominion of Canada, and declaring this Act to be in force: and provided further, that this Act shall cease to be in force from and after the date of proclamation by the President to the effect that said reciprocal privilege has been withdrawn or revoked by the said Government of the Dominion of Canada. Approved 19th June, 1878."

I think the master of a vessel who is present when she goes ashore or the owner to whom he can telegraph should be the best judge as to the necessity of obtaining quick relief for that vessel, and very often valuable property is lost by there not being proper means of relief at hand. If half a dozen Canadian tugs were in the neighborhood, and a Canadian vessel should get wrecked on the American side, they cannot touch her, because the Dominion of Canada has not met this United States Act in the proper spirit.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—I thought they had done something? A.—They have done nothing at all. The bill proposed met with opposition from interested members in committee, and it is a dead letter, and nothing has been done, with regard to the matter. I speak this way because those members have not the same interest now, and they will not give it opposition.

Q.—You had better renew the agitation at the present Session of Parliament? A.—I thought the Labor Commission would take some action in the matter.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you consider that those members of Parliament who were interested in giving opposition in this matter bucked against it and were the means of stopping the measure being passed? A.—Two representatives were sent from here to support the matter, one of whom said: "I will take off my coat and lick the whole committee before I will have this thing go through."

Q.—There must have been considerable lobbying, too? A.—That is the objection, we met with. If I am captain of a vessel on the American side, and I get ashore, and there is a Canadian tug near at hand, they would pass right by us. I think some action should be taken by the Government to give effect to this Act, and I could never see any objection to it. It is a somewhat curious statement I have to make with regard to the late Marine Act. It says that a vessel that has sails and rigging must carry a certified master and mate. Now, I have a vessel in dock, and under that law she has to have a certified master and mate aboard. Perhaps the master and mate want a little higher wages than I care to pay, or perhaps I cannot get them at the time. My vessel is quite seaworthy with her rigging on. Now, what do I do to get over the law, and what does the law allow me to do? By taking the sails and rigging off the barge I can send my vessels all over the lakes with the crew on board of them in an unseaworthy condition, and there is nothing to prevent me doing it. The more unsafe the vessel is the easier the Government allows it to go. I should like the Commission to take some notice of this matter.

DAVID ROGERS, Farmer, Kingston, called and sworn.

One the greatest drawbacks we have as farmers is the lack of help in the farm and agricultural laborers. One of the principal suggestions I have to make to this Commission is that the Government should see that some farmers' exchange and association with respect to help between employer and employed should be established. This is as necessary for the cities as it is for the agriculturists. For instance, when a farmer wants help there is no place he can go to look for it, except around the taverns. Every person knows that the position of the farmer is an isolated one, they having no chance of meeting any farm laborer, out of employment.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—In the busy season do the farmers employ extra help? A.—They do.

Q.—How long does that busy season last? A.—About four months in the year, spring and harvest.

Q.—When the busy season is over what does the farmer do with his men? A.—All the farmers retain a certain number of their men all the year round. At the extra busy time they give extra wages, enough to compensate the men for the lack of constant employment.

Q.—What do the men who constitute the extra help do when the busy season is over? A.—In some instances, many instances, they are discharged. At the present time there is so much machinery used that we do not employ so many extra hands as we did formerly.

Q.—Still, farmers do employ some? A.—Yes.

Q.—And when the extra work is over I suppose they are discharged? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Where do the men work afterwards? A.—Some go into the city after they have got bigger wages for the summer.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do the farmers keep them at lower wages during the balance of the year until the busy season comes around the following year? A.—They have help all the year round, which they employ.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you know any laboring men who work as such in the city, but who leave the city during the busy farm season and go into the harvest field, because there are higher wages paid then? A.—Yes; many.

Q.—And they go back into the city again to their old jobs? A.—I do not know that. Many leave and come to the city and walk the streets and say: "These hard times." I can give you four instances of men who have been in my employ and I can state the wages—they were good men, good fellows to work, and I have nothing against them. I gave them \$220 a year, a free house, free wood and garden.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How many hours a day do you work? A.—On an average, just as many as they do in the city.

Q.—During seven months in the year how many hours do you work? A.—From twelve to fourteen hours.

Q.—You, yourself, do that? A.—I have to do it. If we did not do it we could not run the farm.

Q.—You have done it for a great many years, I suppose? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You do that as owner of the farm? A.—Yes; I could not own the farm and run it if I did not also lead in the work. I have been employing men for twenty-two years.

Q.—In regard to the laborers you employ during the busy season: after the busy season is over and they are discharged, what can they do, except to go to the city to seek for employment? A.—These men to whom I have referred are employed by the year. They are living in the city now, and I know four of them who have not been doing anything for two months. They were paid wages by me all the year round. They say there is no work in town.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Have the generality of men got on pretty well after they have left you? A.—They have not done as well as they did with me in the country.

Q.—I am speaking of those who have gone to open new lands, and so on? A.—In many instances they have; in many cases I employ immigrants who come to me with nothing. They have come out themselves at first, and have afterwards sent for their families. I can quote five or six instances.

Q.—How are they doing? A.—They are doing for themselves now; I think four or five are living in the cities.

Q.—They are helping on the wealth of the country, and I suppose they are increasing their own wealth by coming into it? A.—Yes.

Q.—And they are giving employment to laborers themselves? A.—Yes; in some instances.

Q.—They buy goods in the store, I suppose? A.—Yes.

Q.—They buy clothes and provisions? A.—Yes.

Q.—So you think some of the immigrants who come here are not nuisances? A.—I do not know what the farming community would do except for the immigrants that come in.

Q.—You think, then, that we should not prevent any one from coming into the country? A.—There may be plenty of people in the cities, but there are plenty of avenues for labor in the country.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You have read the report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Provincial Government in regard to agricultural labor? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it correct, to your knowledge? A.—Yes; so much as I can remember of it.

Q.—It states that there is a scarcity of farm laborers? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you believe that? A.—Yes; I am sure of it.

Q.—Those farm hands who come into the towns and cities, you say, are not so well off as they were formerly in the country. Is that your opinion? A.—It is my firm opinion. I know farm laborers well, and I have asked them if they could do better; they have answered that the hours were shorter. I have asked them if their hours in the country during the twelve months were as long as they are in the city, and they have replied that they could not say they were. That is, they were not so long, taking the twelve months through.

Q.—But there is not as much work on the farm in winter as in summer time? A.—There would be a great deal more work done if the men were willing to stay at a reduced rate of wages, but they demand such wages that the farmer is not able to pay them from the returns he has.

Q.—Is it not possible for the farmer to spread over the entire year the work he now endeavors to do in nine or ten months? A.—It is impossible.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You do not think that you could raise root crops by working so many hours a day? A.—No.

Q.—During the summer time I suppose the farmer has to do almost everything connected with raising crops? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Did the farm laborers to whom you have referred leave the farm voluntarily? A.—Voluntarily in all instances, except one. I never had any man, except one, in my twenty years' experience, who did not leave voluntarily; we have always got along together on the best of terms, and they left simply because they thought they could do better.

Q.—Are those farm laborers who come in from the country the men who stand around idle in the streets? A.—In many instances they are; I could mention hundreds of cases in my experience. Four or five men I have employed have gone to Toronto.

Q.—Then the workingmen in the city have to suffer? A.—Yes.

Q.—By those men coming in? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How can the workingmen in the city suffer when those men remain idle? A.—They compete with them when they are in the cities.

Q.—Then they must be employed in the cities? A.—Only for the summer; that is the trouble.

Q.—It is a natural consequence that they either must not approve of farm life

or that it must be excessively laborious when they prefer city life to that in the country? A.—I think the work is more laborious. But they do not look upon living in the city the same as they do in the country.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—What crops do you principally raise? A.—I do mixed farming.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What crop do you raise that pays you best with the least outlay? A.—Hay.

Q.—Did you ever give the raising of stock any thought? A.—Yes; I raise quite a number all the time.

Q.—Do you indulge in that industry? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you make it pay? A.—No; not during the last few years—with the exception of cheese only.

Q.—Do you think that cattle raising is on the increase with farmers? A.—During the last two years it has not been.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you think farmers have not enough burdens to bear in this country without being called upon to pay any additional one? A.—He would not be able to stand any more, I assure you. There are many farmers now living in this city who have sold out their farms for the reason that they cannot get help.

Q.—And consequently cannot manage their farms as well as they desire? A.—Yes; and cannot make them pay.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you ever noticed that the help that has come out to you and other farmers in the busy season has returned in the following year to the same position? A.—Yes; in many instances.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—And have some gone to work themselves? A.—Yes; they have started and worked themselves.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is there a scarcity of farm domestic help? A.—There is a great want. It is one of the reason why farmers sell their farms and leave, because the female portion of the house cannot do the work and keep the house going, which is owing to the fact that they cannot get hired help.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You think if there was more help of different kinds you could manage your farm more profitably than you can do now? A.—Much more so. If there was some place of interchange between employers and employes there would be much more work done in the country, especially if the farmers know where to go to obtain the men. Farmers have to pick up men who are walking about the road as tramps. He is compelled to ask a neighbor if he knows of any one, or he has to go to an hotel and ask around if there are any men wanting work; there is no other way for the farmer otherwise to obtain help. There is plenty of extra work that could be done and much more labor could be employed.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are the wages of a servant girl as high in the country as in the city? A.—They are not paid as much.

Q.—What does an average good girl receive per month in the country? A.—Six dollars.

Q.—Do you know the average rate of wages in the city? A.—Probably about \$7.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—About \$10.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—The fact is, I suppose, that girls prefer to live in cities? A.—That is the case.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you think the farmers would get a better class of hands and more competent hands if they paid higher wages? A.—Yes; if they could afford to pay higher wages.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You pay as much, I suppose, as you could reasonable be called upon to pay? A.—Yes; and more. No farmer in this section of the country can make farming pay unless he leads his men. The trouble with regard to men coming into this country is this: good men command good wages, but men are not all equally good, and some new comers do not understand or will not understand that they cannot expect to receive as much as if they were qualified men and had experience. Then, of course, they cry out that they cannot get wages. If you pay some men \$10 a month it will be more than \$18 or \$20 to others. Farming is the hardest kind of work to learn. Let a green hand go into business in the city and they would have to get a training before they would practically receive anything; whereas a farmer has to impart the information and show the man how every thing has to be done—in fact, teach him, and have to pay him as well. That is the trouble. The difference is that there is no union to represent the case of the farmers to the Government in that place. I really think one of the practical points for the Commission would be to get some labor between employers and employes.

ALEXANDER BENNETT, Baker, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How long have you worked at the bread and biscuit business? A.—Twenty-two years on the 24th of November. I landed here in 1866, and I have been working at the business ever since.

Q.—Is the trade divided into two classes? A.—I don't know how I can answer that question in order to give you a proper idea of the matter. In all branches of business there are some men better than others, and of course that is the case in our business; and we have two classes into which we generally divide men—the first and second-class hands.

Q.—What are the weekly wages of a foreman? A.—Ten dollars.

Q.—What are the wages of a second-class man? A.—Nine dollars; but there are some of our foremen getting \$12 a week, and so on; our lowest wage is \$10 for foremen.

Q.—How many hours do you work per week? A.—Bakers can hardly measure their hours. They may get through their work in eight or nine hours, or ten hours, or it may last ten, twelve or fourteen hours; they have to work according to the fomentation.

Q.—They have to get ready for the sponge? A.—They have to allow the fomentation to take its own course.

Q.—What will be the average number of hours that they work? A.—About sixty hours.

Q.—At what time do they commence work in the morning? A.—In Kingston we only commence very early one day in the week; and that is owing to the privilege being given to the bakers here to have Saturday afternoon. On that morning, of which I speak, they commence at 3 o'clock in the morning; other mornings they commence at 5 o'clock.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of the bake-shops in Kingston. A.—I think you had better put that question to the health officer.

Q.—As a practical baker, what is the sanitary condition of the shops? A.—Honestly, they are very poor.

Q.—Does the health inspector come around and inspect them? A.—I never saw the health inspector in my bake-house since there was one appointed.

Q.—Is there much machinery used in the bake-shops in Kingston? A.—There is none of any extent, except in two shops.

Q.—Is the machinery dangerous? A.—The whole of the machinery is dangerous.

Q.—Have any accidents happened through that dangerous machinery recently? A.—There are a number of them happening regularly every year.

Q.—Do you know that the factory inspector has visited the bake-shops in regard to the protection of this machinery? A.—No; not in my time.

Q.—Has he ever visited Kingston, to your knowledge? A.—No; I have heard of his being here, but I don't know of my own knowledge.

Q.—Do you consider that the machinery should be better protected than it is? A.—Surely, and it is very simple to do it.

Q.—You are acquainted with the running of machinery, to some extent? A.—Surely, I am.

Q.—Is there as much machinery used in making bread as in making crackers? A.—We don't use machinery in making the bread, only in making biscuits. In some other towns they do use it for bread-making, but it is not done in Kingston; here we do it all by hand.

Q.—Do you think that this dangerous machinery could be protected by a small outlay of money? A.—Yes; and a very small one, too. I can give the idea if it is required.

Q.—Are the engineers who run the machinery competent men to be in charge of it? A.—I have seen some engineers who have run engines in Kingston who knew as much about engines as I know about taking a ship from here to Norway, and I don't think that I could do that very handily.

Q.—Are the boilers to your engine in a dangerous condition? A.—I cannot say that; I believe there are two boilers here at the biscuit works, and they are both pretty good boilers, so far as I understand.

Q.—Do the bakers in Kingston belong to organized labor? A.—Yes; they do.

Q.—Has the condition of the bakers improved since they connected themselves with organized labor? A.—Greatly.

Q.—In what respect? A.—Financially.

Q.—Have they ever attempted to make the hours they work in the twenty-four more convenient? A.—We have just been organized a few months, and we have not got things as well fixed as we might have. We have not got so much done in that way to our advantage.

Q.—Have there been any labor troubles between employers and employes? A.—Quite the reverse. The master bakers have been all well pleased with what we have done.

Q.—And there has been good feeling existing between both parties? A.—The very best; I have not heard any one complain.

Q.—Has the price of bread risen since the rise of wages? A.—No; it is just the same as it was before we got the small rise.

Q.—Are the masters organized? A.—Not to my knowledge.

ISAAC OLIVER, Shipwright, Kingston, called and sworn.
By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is there much demand for shipwrights in Kingston? A.—The demand is pretty fair.

Q.—How long are they employed during the year? A.—On an average, I guess about ten months.

Q.—Do they work by the day or by the job? A.—By the day.

Q.—What will be the wages for a first-class shipwright? A.—One dollar and seventy-five cents a day.

Q.—Is that the standard rate of wages? A.—In some cases they get a little more.

Q.—Do any of them receive less than \$1.75 a day? A.—Oh, yes. Some of them get down to \$1.10. The rate is just according to the demand for men; at a particular time it may be paid to a first-class man or to a poor man.

Q.—Does it require apprenticeship to the trade? A.—Yes; it should be so, by all means.

Q.—Have those men who receive \$1.10 served an apprenticeship to the trade? A.—Some very few have.

Q.—In what part, in repairing a vessel, are shipwrights generally engaged? A.—On various parts of vessels, more particularly at the two ends.

Q.—To your knowledge, have you met with vessels that were in a very bad condition? A.—We have run across an odd one or two.

Q.—Would that bad condition be in connection with the hull of the vessel? A.—Sometimes; just according to the age is.

Q.—Have you ever found the deck of vessels getting into a rotten state? A.—In some cases, but very few. Generally speaking, they have to keep up the deck in the best state.

Q.—When they are found in such a state, what is the nature of the repairs? Do you put in new planking or do you caulk? A.—Sometimes we strip it all off completely; sometimes we caulk; it depends on how far it has gone.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—It depends, I suppose, on the state of the deck itself, whether it will stand caulking or not? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you ever known a vessel to leave this port that required repairing in your line of business? A.—No; not unless there was no convenience for taking her out, or something like that; I mean for docking her after hauling her out.

Q.—Have you been on board of a vessel which, from a practical point of view, required repairing and which, nevertheless, went out of this port?

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—In other words, was she unseaworthy? Do you know of any vessel leaving this port in an unseaworthy condition? A.—I don't know of any going out of this port at the present unseaworthy—that is, so far as regards their condition in our line, which is all I speak of.

Q.—If particular repairs are required are there proper facilities in this port for having them done? A.—No; we have not proper facilities for repairing?

Q.—What would you call proper facilities for repairing? A.—A dry dock—a marine railway for taking out large vessels.

Q.—You think the construction of a dry dock would be a great benefit? A.—I do.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—What do you know about the inspection of vessels that leave this port? A.—I don't know whether there is a Government inspector, but I know there is an insurance inspector.

Q.—Do you not think a better inspection would be conducive to the safety of vessel and steamship, and to the safety of the crew handling such vessel? A.—I think it would be.

Q.—What proportion of carpenters are skilled mechanics in this city? A.—There are not very many of them.

Q.—Where do you get your supply of men when there is a rush of work during the busy season? A.—We generally get them out of the bush.

Q.—Those are the \$1.10 a day men? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Where is the repairing done for the lake vessels? A.—Very few come here.

Q.—Is the repairing done here limited to vessels owned here? A.—That is all. There are no facilities here for it, nothing except for parties who own the vessels here.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Has there been any movement on foot for the construction of a dry dock at Kingston? A.—There was at one time.

Q.—Have you got any information to give to the Commission that would be of benefit to your trade? A.—So far as I am personally concerned, I think there should be some protection for shipwrights in the line of apprentices; that is my particular point.

Q.—You think there should be an indenturing system introduced? A.—Yes; I think so. I know I had to serve my time at the trade.

Q.—How long do you think the apprentice should serve with a shipwright before he would become a competent workman? A.—He should be, at the lowest calculation five years.

Q.—Do you think he could learn his trade properly in this port? A.—I rather think, he could, if he was any way active or smart. I don't think he could go into a better place.

JOHN DWYER, Laborer, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Where are you employed? A.—I am a laborer at the locomotive works here.

Q.—Are there many laborers employed in the locomotive works? A.—I don't know what you class as laborers there.

Q.—Are there many men who follow the same calling as you do there? A.—There are none at the present time, but myself.

Q.—You call yourself a laborer? A.—That is what I am.

Q.—What is the nature of your work? A.—I clean up the shop I work in.

Q.—What would be the average wages per day of a laborer in the locomotive works? A.—The average wages would be in the fortnight—we get paid every two

weeks—that is, I get paid for the twelve days' work \$11.80, which would be 98½ cents a day.

Q.—How many hours per week constitute a week's work? A.—Fifty-nine.

Q.—Do you think it would be more convenient to the laborers if they were paid weekly? A.—I don't think it would.

Q.—Are you a married man? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you feel that you have to pursue a course of strict economy to support a family on 98½ cents a day? A.—Undoubtedly so.

Q.—What kind of a house, and what will be the rent of it per month, will a man have who has 98½ cents a day, in order that he may live within his means? A.—I don't believe he would want any house at all at that wage.

Q.—Have the laborers in the locomotive works ever applied for an increase of wages? A.—Yes.

Q.—What was the answer they received? A.—I have as one; I have applied three times for an advance of pay inside of three years.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—When was the last time you applied? A.—I think it was about last Christmas.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Will you tell us the answer that was given you? A.—The foreman told me I was worth more money than I was asking, but at the same time he had not the power to give it to me. That was the answer I got.

Q.—Did the laborers apply to higher authority than the foreman? A.—The superintendent was a man who would not listen to common laboring men, and he would not speak to me. As a consequence, I thought it was no use in speaking to him, as I would get no answer, and I think the foreman was the man to judge what a man was worth.

Q.—Is it within the power of the foreman to employ and discharge men under him? A.—I believe those are the conditions.

Q.—Do you consider that it is within the power of the foreman to increase wages? A.—I do.

Q.—Are there any apprentices, young boys, working at the same business as you are at? A.—No; there are not any apprentices, because it is very easily learned.

Q.—Do the laborers remain long in the employ of the locomotive works? A.—I cannot say that they do, because the wages are so small that they cannot live on them. As soon as there is an opening for them they leave, unless they are tied down by a big family and cannot help staying, as I am.

Q.—Has the volume of work increased in the locomotive works during the past few years? A.—I think it has.

Q.—The output of the products of the company is greater? A.—Yes; than when it first started.

Q.—Do any laboring men receive less wages than 98½ cents per day? A.—No.

Q.—You consider, then, that when the volume of work has increased that the wages should increase? A.—Yes; I think so.

Q.—Did the company pay the laborers less frequently than they do now, at the rate of 98½ cents per day? A.—Not that I am aware of.

Q.—Did they ever pay once a month? A.—Not since I have been there.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Were not these works shut down for some time? Do you remember when that was? A.—Yes. I remember when they opened; I don't remember when they were shut down.

Q.—They were shut down for some time? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Can you tell us the reason why they were shut down? A.—No; you must go to a higher authority than I am to get that information.

Q.—Do you consider that the works were shut down for want of orders? A.—I don't think so. As well as I could hear, and as far as I could judge, they had plenty of orders, but they had been accustomed to getting big prices for engines and they did not like to come down lower. That was the principal reason.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—So they refused to make money? A.—Yes; or the works would not have been closed up.

SAMUEL ROBINSON, Baker, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Did you hear the evidence of the last witness, Alexander Bennett? A.—I did.

Q.—Do you corroborate it? A.—I do, except in regard to the wages. At the time we got the advance it was understood between the bosses and the men that they were to raise the bread if we were to get the wages—if we got the wages they

would raise the bread. It was through the labor organization that we got it in that way.

Q.—What is your knowledge in connection with the sanitary condition of the bake-shops? A.—It is very poor.

Q.—Do you think there is good room for improvement? A.—Plenty of it.

Q.—Are there any women employed in any capacity in connection with the baking of crackers? A.—Yes, there are girls employed.

Q.—What wages do they generally receive? A.—One dollar and fifty cents or \$1.25, which is according to how long they have been there, and their smartness.

Q.—Do you mean \$1.25 a week? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do any of them receive less than \$1.25 a week? A.—I think they do when they first go there. I don't know what they first get.

Q.—What might be the age of those who are receiving \$1.25 a week? A.—About fourteen or fifteen.

Q.—How many hours per week do they work for that amount of wages? A.—Ten hours a day.

Q.—Have the bakers or cracker-makers ever asked from their employers shorter hours, or hours more convenient to work? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—Do the men eat their meals in the workshop? A.—Not the cracker-bakers; they have their hour for dinner.

Q.—Do they go home to their meals? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you hear the evidence of a previous witness in regard to the condition of the boilers in the bake-houses? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you agree with that evidence? A.—Yes; so far as I know about the boilers, and that is not very much.

Q.—Have you any further information connected with your business that would be of interest to the Commission? A.—No; I think it is very satisfactory now. I think, however, the bake-shops should be seen to; they are not fit for a man to work in—that is, the majority of them.

Q.—Your health officer is a corporation official? A.—Yes; I believe so.

Q.—Have you always worked in Kingston? A.—No.

Q.—Have you worked on the other side? A.—I have worked in Toronto.

Q.—What is the difference in the wages of a cracker-maker in Kingston compared with the wages of a cracker-maker in Toronto? A.—I never worked on crackers in Toronto.

Q.—Well, take the wages of a baker? A.—They get \$10 or \$12 there, while we only get \$9 and \$10 here.

Q.—What is the difference in the hours? A.—They work nine hours a day; they are ten hours in the bake-shops, and there is half an hour allowed for each meal.

Q.—Do you consider the condition of bakers in Toronto preferable to the condition of bakers in Kingston? A.—Yes; I think so.

Q.—You think so, taking everything into consideration? A.—Yes.

THOMAS BARLOW, Machinist, Kingston, called and sworn.

By MR. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You are, I believe, a machinist in the locomotive works here? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you a journeyman machinist? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are the highest wages paid to the machinists in your shop? A.—Two dollars and twenty-five cents a day.

Q.—What is the lowest? A.—I cannot tell you that, for I don't go round asking men their wages.

Q.—Do the majority of machinists receive \$2.25 a day? A.—Oh, no; there are only a very few receiving that.

Q.—How many machinists are employed at your works? A.—I could not tell you that.

Q.—Is any portion of the wages of a machinist kept back from them? A.—No; we are paid fortnightly, on Friday, up to the end of the previous week; there are only five days kept back.

Q.—Would the men prefer to be paid up fully at each pay day? A.—I never heard them express an opinion. It is done that way for convenience in keeping the books.

Q.—At what age is an apprentice taken on at the locomotive works? A.—They are from fifteen up to twenty.

Q.—Does he serve a stated time? A.—I think he does; I think it is three years. I am not positive about it, but I think so.

Q.—Do you believe three years is a sufficient time to make a competent machinist? A.—No; I do not.

Q.—Is it the wish of the boy that he should only remain three years, or is it the wish of the company? A.—I expect it is the company—I could not say.

Q.—When the boy is out of his time, that is, at the end of the three years, is he retained as a journeyman at the works? A.—Generally.

Q.—Do you know the wages a boy would receive on going to the trade in the first instance? A.—I think 50 cents a day—either 40 or 50 cents; I am not sure.

Q.—Have you got any information for the benefit of your trade that would be of interest to the Commission? A.—No.

R. MEEK, Journalist, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You are considered in Kingston to be a representative of organized labor? A.—Yes.

Q.—Could you give us your experience in regard to matters between capital and labor in connection with employers and employes in Kingston? A.—You mean in regard to difficulties between employers and employes. The policy of the Knights of Labor, with which I am identified, has been to advocate in all cases a policy of peace and conciliation. We also advocate concessions, when such are necessary.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—I may tell you that we had a representative of the Knights of Labor before us in Toronto or Hamilton, and the principles of the order were incorporated in our evidence? A.—That has been our policy here.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have any employers of labor in Kingston refused conciliation or arbitration in cases of difficulties? A.—We have only had one case within my recollection in which a reference was made to arbitration, and that case never reached a head. We appointed an arbitrator on behalf of the Knights of Labor, and the employers appointed an arbitrator; there were two or three meetings of an unimportant character. As to that, the arbitrator of the company did not show any inclination to pursue the case to the finish, and the arbitrator on behalf of the Knights of Labor reported to the Knights that his mission had been a failure, and he was released from duty.

Q.—Do you know that a portion of the operatives in the hosiery mill in this city have petitioned their employers to rectify their grievances? A.—Yes.

Q.—What was the result? A.—The employes of the hosiery mill had what they claimed to be very serious grievances, and these grievances were referred to the executive committee, of which I am a member, and the committee in that case, as in all cases coming before it, advised a respectful appeal to the president of the company. We at first thought the employes themselves should sign the document, but as there had been some expression of ill-feeling towards the Knights of Labor as

we understood it, on the part of the management, the case was referred to the executive committee, and the chairman and the secretary of the committee signed the appeal to the president on behalf of the whole employés.

Q.—Have you given any thought to the training of youths in technical education, and of young boys, in connection with the kindergarten system? A.—Yes. I may say that the Knights of Labor deem it a part of their duty to encourage educational matters as far as possible; but some time ago last year they discussed the advisability of urging upon the school board the introduction of the kindergarten system. After satisfying ourselves as to the advisability of this system, of its utility generally, we appointed a deputation to wait upon the committee of school management, and after explaining our views at some length, after, in fact, giving some information in regard to what we meant by the system of kindergarten instruction, the committee assured us that they would take it into their respectful consideration; and at a subsequent meeting, and since, from conversation, we have learned they are so favorably disposed to it that in all probability it will be introduced this year. It is simply a question of ways and means, of dollars and cents, and we have urged the school board to take the time necessary to ascertain all the facts, to make the best calculation possible, and by all means to secure a good teacher, so as to give the system a proper trial, and only until they are in a position to do this they should be kind enough to defer action.

Q.—You speak, then, on authority, that the working classes of Kingston are in favor of the introduction of such a system? A.—Most decidedly so. We have submitted a motion at our meetings and carried the vote by hundreds.

Q.—Has it come to your knowledge that a reduction of wages has taken place in establishments when there was no necessity for it? A.—In the case of the hosiery mill we did so. At first sight the reduction seemed to be a blow made at our organization, for the reason that the larger number, nine out of twelve, of those effected by the reduction were connected with our body. We did not desire to take that view of it, however, and on looking into it again, and thinking it might be simply by accident that the reduction had effected so many organized and so few unorganized, we made a comparison of figures, which seemed to indicate that the reduction was not fair all round.

Q.—Taking it all round, what was the percentage of the reduction? A.—I have not got the figures with me now, but the percentages ran from 20 to 50 per cent., according to the different classes of work.

Q.—Have you ever given the subject of public libraries any thought? A.—Yes; I think the workmen of this city should take advantage of our public library to a greater extent than they do. Our Public Library is open to everybody who can get a certificate of respectable treatment of books, and our mechanics' institute is open to all who can pay a small fee—it is a very small fee, and it should be taken advantage of by a large number. Our public library is open to every family in the city, and a larger number of the workmen's families should take advantage of it.

Q.—What is the fee for the mechanics' institute library? A.—I think it is \$2 a year for adults and \$1 a year for apprentices.

Q.—From your knowledge and acquaintance with organized labor, do you believe those libraries would be taken more advantage of if there was a shortening of the hours of labor? A.—I should hope that would be the result. The labor party in this city has been advocating for some years shorter hours of employment, in the belief that if the men had more leisure than they have now they would take advantage of our public library and improve themselves, mentally as well as socially and physically. That is a reasonable deduction.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Can you give us some information with regard to child labor and female labor in this city, because it is impossible to get children to come here before us and you, as a representative of organized labor, are doubtless in a position to give us the facts? A.—You have had to-day two managers before you, one of whom has admitted,

as I see by the evidence published, that there have been a certain number of girls employed under age at the cotton mill. We have had the same information before us, and we have been looking to this Commission to make enquiries into those facts in order that there may be some rectification of it. There is an evil there which we desire to have rectified.

Q.—Can you give us any information with regard to the black-listing of employes in this city? A.—I don't believe it exists in the city; I have had no information on the matter at all.

Q.—Do you know if men are made to sign what is called an iron-clad contract? A.—I have had no case of it brought before me; there may have been an occasional case, but it has not been reported to me.

Q.—As a representative of labor, what is your opinion in regard to arbitration? A.—We desire it by all means, and we will prefer it, if we can get a local man who understands our case and our grievances. We have thought the cost of arbitration makes it cumbersome, and perhaps not easily available in all cases; but if arbitrators can be got in our city, local men, who understand all the points of the case, we would prefer that they should arbitrate; and we prefer arbitration always.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you know the arbitration system in New York State? A.—I believe they have an arbitration system in effect there, with a board of arbitrators, of whom an eminent journalist is a member. I have been watching their proceedings with some interest, but such difficulties as we have had to deal with as an executive committee—and I may say that we decided many such difficulties amicably—would be beneath the notice of a court of arbitration; they are matters involving a few hundred dollars, or a matter of a few cents on a day's work. We can arbitrate in regard to them in a local way, and we could never hope to get them decided by a regular board of arbitration.

Q.—In New York the Government bears all the expense of the arbitration? A.—In that case I should be in favor of Government arbitration; but in all cases the workingmen should be relieved from the responsibility of costs in connection with it.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Is Sunday labor carried on to any extent in the city? A.—I do hear of some Sunday labor here, but it is only done, as I understand it, as a matter of necessity—such as break-downs in machinery, necessary repairs, and so on.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—There is no regular Sunday work? A.—We have the steamboats and railways running on Sundays, but they are run as a work of necessity. Our steamboats do not run, except for public convenience.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—What is the effect of organized labor on the working classes in Kingston? A.—When properly understood it is a real benefit. We have a number of employers who, I am satisfied, are fighting the Knights of Labor, and they are doing so under a mistaken sense of duty. They seem to think the organization is fighting them under cover of the order. I can assure this Commission that in every case brought before the Knights of Labor we have urged conciliation and peace; we have taken employes who have left themselves out of the order, who would probably create trouble, who would have left their employers and done something desperate. We have talked with those men, and talked them into good common sense, and in a great many cases we have prevented disturbances in that way. I think the effect of organized labor on the community has been beneficial.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—As a representative of labor, have you ever given the subject of convict labor any thought? A.—I have.

Q.—At what do you think the convicts should be employed? A.—I certainly advocate the employment of convicts on Government work, as far as possible, so far as it can be done by convicts without interfering with free labor. I have discussed this matter with the warden of the penitentiary and he coincides with me in the opinion that there is some work that the convicts should do for the Government that would not interfere very much with free labor.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Have you had occasion to read the summary of the warden's evidence? A.—I have. I have also had occasion to think of convict labor as a workingman in regard to public works, such as a dock in the harbor here, and so far as it would interfere with free labor I am opposed to it. That is my own private feeling; I am not speaking on this point on behalf of the labor party.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you know if there are any prison-made goods coming into Kingston? A.—I have not heard any complaints; there is no convict work turned out at the prison now.

Q.—Is there any prison work coming into Kingston from outside? A.—Not that I am aware of; it is quite possible that such may be the case, but no complaints have been made to me.

Q.—You have never heard of it? A.—No; I would have heard if there had been anything of that sort interfering with trade.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Has it come to your knowledge that there is any truck system in Kingston? A.—I don't think there is; I have not heard of it.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do many workingmen in Kingston own their own homes? A.—Quite a good many; I don't know the proportion; I know a good many workingmen who have got their little homes. I think it is a great struggle for a man to obtain a home, and he must make a great many sacrifices before he accomplishes it. The wages are not very high, as a rule, especially the wages of the common laboring man, and the men cannot save a great deal out of \$1 or \$1.25 a day. It takes a good while for a man to obtain a home on wages of that amount.

Q.—Do you think the workingmen's condition is better now than it was five years ago? A.—I think it is a little better, and I think that has been very largely brought about through the Knights of Labor organizations. I think they have corrected grievances that would never have been corrected, in my opinion, except through them.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you know anything about the sanitary condition of the workingmen's houses here? A.—The sanitary condition might be improved. Sanitation is a matter that has not been as deeply thought out by the workingman as it should be.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—According to the doctors, we have not good sanitation? A.—Some of the doctors do not know much about it themselves, as I have had occasion to learn before now. This is a particularly healthy city, and if the houses are constructed with any regard to health they are in pretty good shape. The city lies on high ground; it has good water and good drainage.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you a health inspector here? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is he constantly employed in that occupation? A.—No; he is not entirely employed at it. He has certain duties to perform.

Q.—Is he a doctor? A.—Yes. I can say that he performs his work efficiently. He is the only medical man who could give the time to it.

Q.—Then you think that if complaints were made to him he would remedy them, so far as lay in his power? A.—I believe so.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—How many hours, in your opinion, constitute a day's work? A.—We are most seriously advocating the nine-hour system. We have, in fact, voted on it in some of our assemblies, and have decided in favor of it, and it will be adopted, I have no doubt in connection with some of our local industries. It seems to be the desire of the proprietors that this should be done. The men are anxious to take advantage of it.

By Mr. MCLEAN:—

Q.—Do you think the workingmen would be willing to take one hour less pay in the day by working nine hours instead of ten? A.—There are some who are not willing—there are some who are most reluctant to lose 40 or 50 cents, which the change would mean; but we have great hope that in a short time the lessening of the hours of work will have a tendency to even up the wages, and so with this in view they are disposed to make a sacrifice for the future; there are some who are not, however, very willing to give up that small amount.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you know of instances of a shortening of hours of labor being followed by an increase in wages? A.—Not in this city. We have had advices to the effect that it has had that effect in other places, and we hope it will have that effect here.

By Mr. MCLEAN:—

Q.—Do you know instances of the sub-contracting system in this city? A.—Not of which we would complain. There is some small contracting done in many trades, but I don't think it interferes with labor in any respect.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—As a representative of labor, have you ever given the subject of lien laws or the garnisheing of wages any thought? A.—Yes. Generally the lien law gives satisfaction. We had last year, in this city, in connection with one of our public institutions, evidence of its beneficial character, whereby the workingmen were protected from loss in a manner they could not have been protected in any other circumstances. The lien law stepped in and saved their wages after they had performed their work, the contractor himself not being very good pay.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Do you think the law respecting the protection of machinery is stringent enough at the present time to prevent accident? A.—I have made some enquiries in this matter. I have heard this question discussed in our meeting, and I have had the assurance that with the exception of one or two cases the machinery of our workshops is pretty safe; so that, with reasonable care, there is no danger of accident. Of course, machinery is dangerous at any time, when it is carelessly handled.

Q.—What day, in your opinion, is the best day for paying employés? A.—That is a moot question. There are some who want their pay on Saturday, and there are some who like Friday. Generally, I think if the matter was put to a vote Friday would carry, that being deemed the best day for domestic purposes. I may add, that so far as the foreign contract labor is concerned I have been instructed—I take it to be an instruction from the labor party—to prevent that as far as I can, and to advocate such a law in Canada as is now before the United States Congress, and demand it in such manner as Mr. Powderly suggests.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you ever given the subject of immigration any thought? A.—Yes; I have had drawn to my attention two or three cases of very indiscreet immigration;

that is, cases of men being sent to this country without means or aims and perfectly penniless. Those people, in my opinion, as a workingman, should not be sent here to add to the glut of labor in our market.

Q.—You mean mechanics? A.—Yes; and laboring men, too.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—You are not opposed to immigration? A.—Not to the immigration of good men. We want in Canada good farm laborers and good mechanics; we don't want the country full up with unskilled labor, which simply adds to the burdens of the workingmen. There is, of course, our great North-West open to all.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What is your opinion in regard to the establishment of a Federal bureau of labor statistics. Do you think that it would be beneficial to the working classes? A.—I decidedly think so. We are unanimously of the opinion that that is one of the best things that could be provided by the Government. We have had a great deal of experience with the publications of the Ontario Government in regard to their bureau of statistics, and just now we have to look at the reports published by the bureau for what information we can get in regard to wages, and so on. We want a similar bureau, or a better bureau, if we can get it, at Ottawa.

Q.—Have you given the subject of co-operative benefit societies any thought? A.—We have discussed that at some length, and if this Commission had not come here quite so soon we might have been able to tell the Commissioners what we thought of its practical effects here, because I think it is only a question of a short time until, acting on the advice of the leaders of the Knights of Labor, we would have given it a trial here. You must bear in mind, always, that the Knights of Labor is a comparatively new organization. Although we have been in operation only a short time we have already done more than many older organizations in Canada. This question of co-operation has been before the labor party, and they are determined to try what benefits there are in it, and that before very long. They have had a good deal of testimony before them, and they have obtained a good deal of information in regard to the matter.

Q.—Have you given the subject of profit-sharing any thought? A.—That is a question we have not discussed. I have my own views in regard to it, and they are decidedly in favor of profit-sharing, but we have to live a long time in such a community as this, and talk a long time, and advocate questions a long time, before we can make our employers and others believe, as we believe, in the profit-sharing system.

Q.—Do you think that if the leading factories in the city, and the employers of labor, would try this system, that the employes, the workingmen, would be better off than under the present system? A.—Decidedly so. If we had the profit-sharing system in Kingston employers would not be suspicious, and when a man asked for a job he would not consider whether he was a union man or whether he was simply a workingman without any union connections. If he took his men into his confidence and gave them a share, no matter how small that share might be of his profits, his establishment would, in my opinion, be more productive.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you think if there was a loss that the workingmen would be willing to stand their share of it? A.—I, for one, would be; I would take my risk with my employer. I cannot, of course, speak for the party generally, because as I have said, this is a question that has not been discussed by the party. Personally, I would take my risk with my employer every time.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—So far as the banking system of the country is concerned and its effects on the working classes, have you given the monetary system any thought? A.—Yes; but it is a little in advance of our time yet. I will not venture to speak on behalf of

the party on that question. Banking is a question that is not very well understood by the workingmen. They have not got much of it to do, and they have not studied it up. If they were banking they would understand more about it.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Those who do banking, do they put their money mostly into the Post Office Savings' Bank? A.—Yes; and into the building societies we have here. They put it into the Post Office Savings' Bank out of a sense of security. A Government savings' bank seems to be safe, and although the percentage of interest is smaller than might be obtained in other quarters, still they deposit it there for safety and convenience.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Would the two other institutions you have mentioned pay interest? A.—Yes; they pay about the same interest as the Post Office Savings' Bank. We have had considerable dealings with the building societies as laboring men.

Q.—As a representative of the working classes, would you advise a workingman to put his money into the Post Office Savings' Bank? A.—I don't know; I have advised all who have consulted me to put their money into the building societies. They get such courteous treatment there and such liberal terms, quite as liberal as the Post Office Savings' Bank. I rather have encouraged them to go there, although, of course, the Post Office Savings' Bank is a good and safe institution.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What is the rate of interest given on deposits in those building societies? A.—We had a small sum of money there last year; I think we got 4 per cent.

Q.—Does the Post Office Savings' Bank give that rate? A.—It may; but we had a special arrangement by which we drew and deposited money quite freely, and it was a great convenience, for it could be done after the Post Office Savings' Bank had closed.

Q.—You say that 4 per cent. interest is given by the building societies. Now I desire to ask you this question: provided a mechanic had a lot clear of debt and had good security, and wanted a thousand dollars to improve his property, at what rate of interest could he borrow that money? A.—I think the rate is now 6 per cent.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—You said that the labor party decided by a large majority to work for nine hours instead of ten hours? A.—Yes; at the meeting at which it was discussed.

Q.—What prompted them to ask for nine hours? Was it a desire to obtain time for recreation, or was it merely to get rid of one hour's work? A.—Originally—and I scarcely think I am breaking any confidence in making this statement—they had decided to work for payment for time that had been taken from them, and while this matter was under discussion it was suggested by the employers of one institution that if the workingmen desired Saturday afternoon they would be perfectly willing to let them have it. The matter then came up, and it was discussed and carried, that the majority of the working people would prefer Saturday afternoons, believing the wages would, in the course of time, even up.

Q.—Do you know anything about the wages given to clerks in dry-goods stores and the hours of labor they are employed? A.—The hours, I think, are better now than they were.

Q.—What are they now? A.—From eight to six, except Saturday night, and then up to ten or eleven, or whatever time business closes. The wages run from about \$5 to \$12 a week. There are some junior clerks getting small wages and there are good clerks getting very good salaries.

Q.—What would be the average wages of a good clerk with some experience in a retail store? A.—I think \$400 a year. I have not made an average, but I should think that would be about it.

Q.—Could you give us the average rate of wages that a female clerk in a dry-goods store—millinery or dry-goods—would receive? A.—Millinery stores are

institutions I don't know much about just now. We have had the wages of nearly every other kind of institutions, except millinery departments.

Q.—What is the wages of young women in stores? A.—They run from \$3 up to \$5, \$6 and \$7 a week.

Q.—Are there many in the city who get \$6 a week? A.—There are quite a number, I think; the number I could not approximate, but it is not a very large number. The dressmakers probably fare the best in this city—that is, among the working girls; a good dressmaker will make 75 cents a day and her board.

Q.—That is those that work out? A.—Yes; a good experienced hand. They are better off, in my opinion, than those who work in the stores.

Q.—You mean they are employed on their own responsibility? A.—Yes.

Q.—About what would be the wages of a dressmaker who would work in the store and also in the work-room? A.—Probably \$4 or \$5 a week.

Q.—Is that the outside figure? A.—I have not got the figures by me just now.

Q.—How many hours would a young lady work behind the counter? A.—The girls in the stores, I think, have the same hours as the clerks; perhaps they come half an hour later in the morning, but they continue in the store as late as the clerks do. There are not a great many female clerks in the city.

Q.—Are they allowed to sit down when there are no customers in the store requiring to be attended to? A.—I think they are, although I am not positive on the point. Of course, there is not much time to sit, because, as a rule, the employers keep a limited number of hands, and when they are not actually serving over the counter they are engaged in fixing up.

Q.—Do you think some young women have more customers than they can readily serve? A.—I have heard nothing to the effect that they have.

Q.—Did it ever come to your knowledge that these young women behind the counter, if they could reconcile their minds to it, would prefer to be domestic servants rather than clerks? A.—I should think so. They would be far better off as domestic servants; but some of them are physically so light that I am afraid they would not stand domestic service, such as some people give them, especially if they go with an employer who expects them to work from daylight to dark, and even all night, too.

Q.—Do you think it is as trying on the constitution of a young woman to stand on her feet in a store eight or ten hours a day as is ordinary domestic service? A.—Yes; but you cannot convince a young woman of that fact. A great many would be better off in domestic service; they would be more healthy; there would be more change in their occupation, and they would be better fed; but you cannot make them believe it.

Q.—Is there any kind of antipathy on the part of young women to becoming domestic servants? A.—I cannot say that there is, except that their training is all the other way; I think it is just a matter of taste in training.

Q.—Do you think one of the reasons is that domestic service is looked on as a menial occupation? A.—I think there is, probably, something in it. Some girls, who are not in very good circumstances, would prefer even a little harder service in a store than domestic service.

Q.—And do you also think that another cause why they do not desire domestic service is because they cannot have all their evenings to themselves? A.—That is a strong case, too. Those employed in stores, of course, have their evenings to themselves, except probably Saturday evening, and they are, therefore, in a position to make any engagements they like without constantly consulting with their employer, as they are obliged to do if they are domestic servants.

Q.—Is there any other information you would like to give the Commission? A.—I did intend to speak on the apprentice system. We have had that matter under consideration, and I think the impression of most skilled men is that the decline of the apprentice system has been an injury to mechanics. I don't know whether an indenture system is a good system, that is the system in all its branches; but I do think that if there was some sort of an understanding between the employers

that the boy should put in a certain time at the trade, it would be a great deal better for the trade itself and for those engaged at it.

Q.—Would it have a tendency to elevate the trade itself if a compulsory indenturing system were introduced by the Government? A.—I may have doubts as to how far we should adopt the indenturing system, although it seems to bind a certain young man to a trade for a certain length of time.

Q.—Which of the parties seems more favorable to the indenturing system, the employers or employés? A.—I don't think the question of entering into indentures has been really proposed by either party latterly. It seems to be the tendency of the age that boys going to trades should, if they are steady and amenable, remain there and learn something of the trade, and if they are not good and amenable they have been got rid of as soon as possible. There is nothing binding on either side. Some people advocate that system, and think it is a good one to be continued.

Q.—Has it ever come to your knowledge that employers of labor object to the indenturing system because under it they would be obliged to teach a boy his trade? A.—I have not heard any employers say so, but I believe some are of that opinion. I had to-day a declaration on the part of a mechanic that the only way to make a man efficient was to bind him an apprentice by indenture.

Q.—Do you think that the system of indenturing apprentices would have a tendency to make boys and young men more steady in their habits? A.—I do know, from my early recollection of the printing business, that those who were indentured when I was a boy became good mechanics, while a good many men are not mechanics.

Q.—Are you in a position to give us information in connection with the printing trade of the city? A.—I have been for a long time in connection with it.

Q.—Is there much plate matter used in newspapers in Kingston? A.—Considerable.

Q.—Has it a tendency to keep work from the men? A.—So far as the office with which I am connected is concerned, it has not that effect.

Q.—When those stereotyped columns are introduced into the paper do the men remain idle to any extent? A.—The calculation is not to do so. We have been temporarily using telegraphic plates, but we have endeavored, as much as possible, to keep the men occupied, by using matter for the columns that we formerly filled with advertisements.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Would not the space in many case have been filled by advertisements? A.—Yes; that is what the space would have been filled with. We have, since the enlargement of the paper, placed all the advertisements on the first page, and are now using some stereotyped matter. If the stereotype plates were not there the matter would not be set; they are not intended to do any injury to the men.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do the printers prefer stereotyped plates to the advertisements standing in the paper? A.—When the paper was enlarged it was with the wish to arrange the reading matter in its present form. It is no great secret that if all the columns now filled with reading matter were set by hands there would not be so many printing offices here and not so many printers.

Q.—The setting of the advertisements, and what is technically called fat matter, is that done by boys or men? A.—There is a man paid for that, so far as the newspaper is concerned.

Q.—It is set, as it were, by the piece? A.—By a man on day work.

Q.—The men on piece-work have no benefit from that work? A.—They set all, except the advertisements.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Where do you get the stereotyped matter? A.—Most of it now from Toronto.

- Q.—Have you got any from Buffalo? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Would it not be better for Canadian printers if the duty was raised on stereotyped plates coming into the country? A.—Yes; though we could make nothing like as good plates as the Buffalo plates. We can scarcely use Toronto plates now; but we endeavor to use them from force of circumstances.

By Mr. CARSON:—

- Q.—What is the reason you cannot make as good plates? A.—Because our mechanism has not reached that perfection it has in Buffalo.
- Q.—Could stereotyped plates not be made in Kingston? A.—The industry could not be made to pay here. The men who started out here would go up "Salt Creek" within a month.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q.—There are no stereotyped plates here? A.—No. So far as using stereotyped telegraphic matter is concerned, that is simply an emergency, which we expect to overcome in a short time.

- Q.—The newspapers of Kingston have imported plate matter from the other side? A.—Yes; they have done that for years.

- Q.—Did you ever observe that some reading plate matter has an immoral tendency? A.—We have had matter from Buffalo that we could not use and which we did not use. We had it sent back.

- Q.—Are you aware of any matrix coming over here? A.—Not to Kingston. I understand that some came to Toronto some time ago. I don't know whether they have come here or not.

- Q.—Has the organization of printers in this city proved a benefit to them? A.—Yes; I should think so. I think it will benefit them more when they are longer organized and have a more perfect understanding of what organization means.

- Q.—Like all new institutions, there is a little friction in regard to it. I have encouraged organization among printers, and I think it has proved decidedly beneficial to them.

- Q.—What is the feeling between employers and employés in the printing trade here? A.—It is very good, so far as I know. The feeling is such that when the printers sometimes ask for an advance of wages in the office with which I am connected they don't have to haggle five minutes over it.

JAMES D. THOMPSON, Mayor of the City of Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q.—Is there much corporation work of this city given out by contract? A.—No; the only portion that is given out by contract—that is immediate contract—is that portion for re-laying, paving or planking the sidewalks.

- Q.—With respect to unskilled labor: is there much of it unemployed during the winter months? A.—At the present moment there is.

- Q.—Do you think that if contract work for the corporation was done away with, and the work was carried out under the immediate supervision of the city engineer, it could be spread over the slack months of the year, and men thereby constantly employed? A.—That portion which is now done under contract could not be done during the winter season; it is the laying of plank sidewalks and crossings. That work ceases the moment the frost sets in.

- Q.—How is it about the matter of draining? A.—In regard to work on drains that has taken place, I may say that previous to my holding the position I now hold in the city I was chairman of drains for the best part of three years, and when I came into office—a new engineer came into office the same time, owing to the death of the previous engineer—all work connected with the building of drains was done by contract. After discussing the matter with the engineer and going into details—and here I might state that the city engineer is a practical builder and a man of

considerable attainments—we decided to test the question as to the relative cost of contract work and day labor, and the experiment which was made on the first street confirmed us in the opinion that while the cost might be a little greater the increased value of the work was of much greater importance to the city. I think, if you will allow me a moment, I have some figures here in regard to the difference between contract and day work. I may just state, however, that the work that had been previously performed under the contract system was of a very unsatisfactory character to the city, namely, that portion relating to the construction of drains. For reasons which are not necessary here to mention, the work was slighted and was not of a durable character. I found from figures which were prepared for me by the present engineer that the relative cost, comparing the contract work and the day labor, would be in the neighborhood of about 10 cents a yard difference in the construction of drains. These drains would average $2\frac{1}{2}$ by 4 feet—stone drain, dry masonry.

Q.—You believe, then, that if the work was done by day labor there would be less scamping of work? A.—I have no doubt whatever about it, because from the time I took charge of the streets' department as chairman of streets, I used every effort possible to abolish the contract system. I argued on this basis—that first, from a knowledge of a large contract that was given here in connection with the money obtained from the divisional municipal loan funds by the Provincial Government, a contract for a drain that was built in the city at an expenditure of some \$13,000, while our own men and tax-payers were at that time in distress and looking for work around the city; still it was found that in a great many cases foreigners, American tramps, were employed, while our own people were left idle. Now, under the day system a perfect control of the employment of the men can be kept. You cannot dictate to a contractor, and the fact is evident that if a contractor takes a contract he takes it with a view to making money, not to lose it. It is much better to divide that profit between the men living in the city, and at the same time you will have the service much better performed.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What do you pay your laborers? A.—The lowest wages we have paid laboring men—and there are few exceptions to this—was about 90 cents a day. I might say, for the information of the Commission, that these men were given employment to prevent them applying for charity, to create a spirit of independence among them—it was with that view entirely that they were kept on. We have paid as high as \$1.75 to \$2 a day to men on corporation work. The statement made by a witness, which I observed in the papers, that the corporation paid 65 cents a day, is incorrect. No such wages have been paid by the corporation. It is an untrue statement, if that statement was made.

Q.—With regard to the rates of \$1.50 to \$2 a day—is that for unskilled labor? A.—We have had a man in the corporation employed who started at 10 cents an hour (\$1 a day), and that man, owing to his ability, has worked himself up until he receives \$2 a day. He was cunning in his work—he would put his brains in his work.

Q.—What is about the average wages made by corporation laborers? A.—About \$1.12 $\frac{1}{2}$ a day.

Q.—Have you a relief officer in connection with the corporation? A.—For the relief of distress—no. The work of relief that is carried on in this city is in the way of grants for different institutions; for example, the House of Industry, which last year received in the neighborhood of \$700; and also to the hospital, of \$300, which gives the city permission to send cases of sickness and distress there. The city actually erected the building belonging to the House of Industry, and it gives it a grant of \$300, which gives the mayor, as representing the council, power to send people there in case of sickness and distress, or requiring medical treatment.

Q.—How do you act in the case of a family wanting relief? A.—In the case of a family it would depend entirely on circumstances. I presume the charity would

partake of a religious work. A man would come to me, perhaps, for relief. It is necessary, I may say, to use considerable discretion in dealing in such cases, so as to see there is no imposition. If I find he belongs to the church to which I do there is a provision made by the endowment of the church for the relief of distress, to a certain extent, and similar provision is made by other religious denominations in the city. The moment there is a case of actual distress here, Kingston has the character of immediately relieving it.

Q.—Still you have not a regular system of relief? A.—Yes; there are poor societies.

Q.—I mean in connection with the corporation? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—In point of fact, relief is given? A.—There are relief societies existing. There is one called the St. Vincent de Paul Society, in connection with the Roman Catholics, and it relieves distress—not only among the members of that church, but among people belonging to other religious bodies. Then there is a Ladies' Poor Relief, which meets here once a week, and there is a City Missionary, who does not belong to any church, but goes around among the poor people and reports to that society, and immediate relief is furnished. However, if a distinct case of distress occurred, and it was brought to my notice, relief would be immediately afforded. The Commission need not have any anxiety about that matter.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Could you give us some idea of the work connected with the corporation given out by contract that could not be done by day labor? A.—It is possible to build plank-walks by day labor, but it would require skilled labor, which is not very available during the season the work is to be done.

Q.—Where do the contractors get the skilled labor? A.—They procure it themselves, and they are directly responsible to the engineer.

Q.—What are the works required to be done by skilled labor, except the laying down of side-walks? A.—Crossings. There are drains also requiring skilled labor, in connection with the masonry, and that is under the direct supervision of the city engineer.

Q.—Are there any young men employed by contractors for doing this work? A.—Not any.

Q.—Are they all men? A.—They are all men.

Q.—Did you ever give it a thought that as tax-payers pay for this work a contractor should not be given corporation work, unless he paid the prevailing rate of wages that the trade called for? A.—I cannot say that that view ever struck me, but I would have confidence in the intelligence of the skilled laborer working for the contractor to see that he gets the rate of wages prevailing while he was at work.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—As a general rule, do not the rate-payers want the work done as cheaply as possible? A.—That is their desire, but I may say now that there was considerable objection in certain quarters against work being done by contract labor. The question was discussed at the council board, and contract and day work were respectively advocated, both sides being here. This took place immediately before the election, and the decision was sufficiently gratifying to those who advocated the day labor. The people of Kingston feel satisfied if they get the value of the money expended.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—They are satisfied with the work done if it is equivalent to the value of the money, and they don't consider the religions, or the nationalities, of the parties who do the work? A.—Not at all.

Q.—Would they be satisfied, provided the work was satisfactorily done, if it was done by Chinese labor? A.—No difficulty in the question of residence would come up.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you give others than citizens or rate-payers work under the corporation? A.—As a secondary condition only. Provision has been made during the last three winters, whereby work in connection with the construction of drains was given first to men who were married men or those who had fathers or mothers or sisters to support; next to young men who belonged to the city, the sons of rate-payers; and next to those who did not belong to the city and were looking for work.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Work was given to outsiders only when the others had been supplied?
A.—Yes; when there was a surplus of work.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you know anything in connection with the assessment of the city?
A.—I have a slight acquaintance with it.

Q.—Do you consider that the system of levying assessment is equitable? A.—As to what portion of the assessment? That is a large question.

Q.—A man's income may be \$2,000, and he may put his income down for taxable purposes at \$800. Is not that so? A.—He would be a dishonest man who would do that, and provision is made under the Assessment Act that a statutory declaration shall be furnished by each rate-payer.

Q.—Is it furnished? A.—It is not, but the assessor, if he wishes to take severe measures, could make it compulsory. The law provides the means to have that furnished.

Q.—Does he often take severe measures? A.—No.

Q.—Has it ever come to your notice, as mayor, that the income tax of certain persons was lower than it should be? A.—My knowledge as mayor only extends over a week.

Q.—Has it ever come to your knowledge as an alderman that the income tax is much lower in some instances than it should be? A.—I think the income tax is evaded as much as possible; at the same time I think it is a wrong tax, any way.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Are you aware in the State of New York there is a great objection to the income tax? A.—I think it is the wrong principle of taxation.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—As the system exists, in your opinion it should be made equitable? A.—Yes; as nearly equitable as possible.

Q.—Do you think the publication of the assessment lists every year would obviate the trouble? A.—The publication of the assessment roll was introduced here about four years ago, and no doubt it had a beneficial effect, as it increased the assessment. I think if there was an interval of one or two years between the publication of the lists it would have a better effect, as the publication every year makes it almost common place, the subject becomes threadbare; whereas if the list is published every other year or so the rate-payers will be anxiously looking for it.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you think that some people are taxed for larger incomes than they really have? A.—I would not be surprised to learn that people—I may state now that my opinion is formed entirely from my position as a member of the court of revision—I say that I would not be at all surprised if there were certain people in town who would not appeal against a wrong assessment, owing to the fact that they would not wish their credit reduced.

Q.—I suppose a merchant would not like to say that he had lost money, say \$10,000, during the last year? A.—He would not like to have his credit reduced.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Which class is the more numerous? Are there more over-assessed than

there are under-assessed? A.—My opinion is that the city now has got pretty nearly to an equitable assessment. I think we have got in the neighborhood of half a million of the assessment of the city. The rate of taxation for income tax is limited by law, but the assessment is not.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You can tax any amount of income? A.—No; there are certain amounts that are not taxable.

Q.—What amounts? A.—It was \$400; now it is \$700.

Q.—So it is those who do not pay income tax that place the tax on others. Are they the majority? A.—A man who earns wages which run up to \$700 would be exempt. Up to last year the amount was \$400.

Q.—Then up to \$700 he pays no income tax? A.—No; he pays no income tax.

Q.—Is there a majority in Kingston who can earn more than \$700? A.—I could not say as to the number. A large reduction is taking place.

Q.—There are a large number who are not paying income tax? A.—Yes.

Q.—And those persons fix the amount that those who earn more than \$700 shall pay? A.—No.

Q.—They vote the aldermen in? A.—Yes; but the aldermen have nothing to do with it. They are simply guided by the requirements of the statute.

Q.—Can you tax to any amount? A.—Up to 2 cents.

A.—A majority of voters are those who do not pay anything at all? A.—No; because, although they may pay no income they may pay on realty. I cannot tell you the number who escape on income; there may be a large number, but I would not like to say there is a majority. The new law came into force on the 1st of January, and we assess a year in advance.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You say that the assessment is getting more equitable. That is scarcely an answer to my question, which is, whether in the majority of cases the people are over-assessed or under-assessed. How is that, to the best of your knowledge? A.—

I could not answer you that question. According to that statement you would think some people were laboring under hardships and others were escaping.

Q.—Yes? A.—I don't think so. I think the assessment is nearly as equitable as possible now. I don't think most of the city is taxed up to what it should be taxed.

Q.—Is the assessment increasing every year? A.—The assessment has increased nearly a quarter of a million dollars from 1885 to 1886. It has increased from \$4,250,000, in 1870, to \$6,500,000, in 1886.

Q.—From your knowledge, has the volume of all kinds of industry increased during the past twelve months in Kingston? A.—I think so, during the past twelve months. The cotton mill, no doubt, is doing a larger business; for what reason they are the best judge, whether it is from the combination, or from additional orders or not. Then there are the locomotive works, the knitting mill and the tanneries.

Q.—Have you observed any improvement in the condition of the working classes? A.—For nearly twenty years I have associated a good deal with the workmen, being in the forwarding and shipping business up to three years ago, and I was in a position to judge pretty clearly as to any improvement. It is gratifying to be able to say that from 1865 to the present time the improvement among workingmen has been simply wonderful.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of Kingston, as a whole? A.—It is second in Canada.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Which is the first? A.—A place named Chatham, and I think it is so by accident. We used to be second in the British possessions as a military station. We

held that position for years and years; there was one place in Scotland that was more healthy than Kingston.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is your estimation of that obtained from the death rate? A.—That is the way it is got at. I may quote now, from the last Dominion Report, which stated that Kingston was the second healthiest city in Canada.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—How do you explain that? A.—I think Providence has done a good deal for us in the location of the city, and the intelligence of the rate-payers has done a good deal towards improving it during the last three or four years.

Q.—By the expenditure of much money? A.—There has been considerable money expended. We have good water and good air here, and the disposition of the people is to be kindly and contented.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of the public schools, to your knowledge? A.—I might state that since my residence in Kingston I have only been in two schools—that is, since I came here in 1865. My experience had not been of a very favorable character up to two years ago, for the schools suffered from over-crowding, which caused sickness among the children. In my own case I had two or three children laid up with colds, which superinduced low fevers, and after two years' agitation in the council I secured the passage of a by-law, which granted us the new central school, which has relieved the congestion in the other schools, by providing for 300 or 400 pupils.

Q.—What is the rate of taxation? A.—Sixteen and a-half mills on the dollar.

Q.—Out of that, what is the school rate? A.—I could tell you the aggregate, but not the details, because that is established by the school board, which has nothing to do with the council.

Q.—It is not levied on the assessment? A.—Yes; it is included in the 16½ mills.

Q.—Is the assessment paper itemized? A.—Yes; it is itemized on the assessment roll, but not in the assessor's report. There is one rate for a separate class and another for public schools. There are many items which go to make up the aggregate, such as the consolidated debt, the floating debt, and different items which go to make up the total amount.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—What is the total debt of the city? A.—Three hundred and sixty thousand dollars—that is approximately the debt.

Q.—Has the city given any bonuses to factories or exempted any from taxation? A.—The city has given a bonus to the Kingston and Pembroke Railway of \$300,000, and \$18,000 interest, making altogether \$318,000. It has exempted, I think, about ten institutions from taxes, some of which by-laws are about to expire, and will not be renewed, as a vote was taken two years ago last January on the question as to whether the people were in favor or whether they objected to further exemptions, and the people emphatically declared that they were against the exemption system.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What is the nature of these institutions? A.—They are manufacturing institutions; their names are all published on the assessment rolls.

Q.—Did the city grant those exemptions under certain conditions, such as that the company was to employ a certain number of hands? A.—The provisions for exemptions are covered by a by-law. They have been taken from one or two institutions, owing to their not having carried out the provisions of the by-law in regard to the employment of men, and one has become a close corporation.

KINGSTON, 1st February, 1888.

FREDERICK JAMES LEIGH, Engineer, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You are superintendent of the locomotive works here, I believe ? A.—I am.

Q.—How many men do you employ ? A.—About 300 men at present.

Q.—What are the wages paid to engineers in the locomotive works ? A.—I am hardly prepared to answer that question ; I have just come here, and have not had an opportunity of getting up those matters. I have only been here a month. I have a general idea, of course.

Q.—Where do you come from ? A.—From Glasgow.

Q.—Can you give the Commission a relative idea of the wages paid here and in Glasgow ? A.—No ; I have no experience in wages paid out at home. My evidence would not be at all reliable on that point ; I have a general idea, of course.

Q.—Will you please give us your general idea ? A.—I am afraid it will be very unreliable, for I have had nothing to do with wages. I have a general idea, of course.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—It is no use taking evidence that is unreliable ? A.—My evidence would be unreliable, for I have no figures, or anything of that kind, to go by.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you know if the orders for work are increasing in the locomotive works here ? A.—We have only had one order since I have been here.

Q.—Does the company expect an increase in their orders during the coming year ? A.—I do not know what the company expect. I think it is a question I cannot answer. Of course, we hope we will get an increase of work.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Have you plenty of work just now ? A.—We have twenty-four engines just now in the course of construction.

Q.—Do you consider that plenty of work—sufficient, at any rate ? A.—It is a fair amount of work ; it will last us six months. Some engines are nearly completed.

Q.—There has been a change in the company, in the proprietors, or in part of them, I believe ? A.—There has been a change in part, a change in shareholders.

Q.—Some Scotch people have taken a share in the concern ? A.—Yes ; they have taken a certain number of shares.

Q.—That is within a short time ? A.—About three months.

Q.—And when did they take possession, or when did you come out here ? A.—I came out a month ago to take charge, to take the management.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Are those engines in the course of construction intended for the American market, the Canadian market, the Australian or the South American market ?

A.—Five are not sold ; the remainder are for the Canadian market.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Could you give us any ideas that would be of interest to the Commission ?

A.—On what subject ?

Q.—On your business ?

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Have you been here long enough to recommend anything to be done on behalf of your industry ? A.—No.

Q.—You could not undertake to say anything on that point ? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you entered fully into your position ? A.—Yes.

Q.—What do you do there ? A.—I am manager—superintendent.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Are you a practical engineer? A.—I am.

Q.—Are engines made in your establishment as good as are those made where you worked in Glasgow? A.—I have not seen an engine built here right through from the beginning yet. I could not answer that question until I have done so.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you many foremen under your control? A.—Yes; there is the works foreman, the foreman of the machine shop, the foreman of the boiler shop, the foreman of the pattern shop, the foreman of the smithy shop and the foreman moulder.

Q.—Could you give us the salaries paid to those heads of the departments? A.—No; I could not—that is, from memory.

Q.—You are not aware of the cause which led the company to close down some time ago? A.—I have no knowledge whatever of it.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Did you serve your time as an engineer? A.—I did.

Q.—How long did you serve? A.—Seven or eight years.

Q.—As an apprentice? A.—In the usual way—as a pupil.

Q.—Cannot you tell us what a journeyman engineer would get in the old country. A.—I have no knowledge of wages in the old country.

CAPT. PARSONS, Mariner, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Capt. Donnelly was here yesterday and gave us some information in regard to navigation on the lakes, and it is hardly worth while to go over the ground again. If you can give us some information that will be of benefit to the shipping interests we shall be very glad to receive it? A.—I do not know that I can give you much information that is going to help it any.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Did you hear Capt. Donnelly give his evidence? A.—No.

Q.—Did you read it? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What is the state of sailing vessels on the lake, so far as seaworthiness is concerned? A.—I think the class of vessels we have here is very fair; very fair indeed much better than it was two or three years ago.

Q.—We understand that they are inspected by Lloyds' agents when they apply for insurance? A.—Yes; they are inspected by a marine agent who is here.

Q.—And any vessel that would not pass the insurance agent, what would you think of it? A.—I should think if the agent would not class her she should be condemned, and not allowed to sail again.

Q.—Are you aware that such vessels are sailing on the lakes? A.—Yes; I think there are.

Q.—We are now speaking of the Canadian side? A.—Yes; exactly.

Q.—Do you know that there are such? A.—I do not know them.

Q.—What about the certificates of mates of sailing vessels? A.—Those got certificates—that is, captains and mates on board of sailing vessels? A.—Those vessels are supposed to carry certificated masters and mates the last two years; sometimes it is very difficult to get a certificated mate, and occasionally we have had a great deal of trouble in that way. For instance, a master comes in here and his mate does not suit him; or, perhaps, the vessel and the captain does not suit the mate, and he determines to leave, or the captain does not want him any longer. There may be one mate or two mates ashore, but the company may know that those men

are not fit to fill the position of mate, though they hold a certificate, and yet the vessel is compelled to take one of these men in order to leave port, or lie over and wait till some one else comes along. That is a great wrong we have had to put up with. They have no such restrictions as that on the other side of the lakes. They have certificates, but they apply them to steam only at the American side.

Q.—Do you not think it better to apply the rule to sailing vessels? A.—It would be, if it could be justly done, but a great many men holding certificates are not fit to hold them.

Q.—Whose fault is that? A.—I could not say.

Q.—Is it the examiners who do not do their duty? A.—I could not say. If I came here with a recommendation to you, or somebody else, that I am a sober man, and one who can be mate of a vessel—

The CHAIRMAN.—I would not give you a certificate.

WITNESS.—There are many who get certificates in that way.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you know of masters who have received certificates without passing an examination? A.—They were not supposed to pass an examination till comparatively recently.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—That is, if they had been in service before the law came into force? A.—They get certificates if they were in the service up to that time; but after the passing of the Act they have had to pass an examination.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you any knowledge of sailing vessels leaving Kingston in an unseaworthy condition? A.—No; I have not.

Q.—Have you known sailors to complain of the condition of vessels in which they were employed? A.—No; I cannot say that I have.

Q.—Do you think it is necessary that the Government should appoint an inspector of hulls and sailing vessels? A.—No; I do not think it is necessary. We have a very competent man at the present time.

Q.—I mean a Government inspector? A.—I do not think it is necessary.

Q.—You are speaking for Kingston? A.—No; I am speaking for the Canadian side.

Q.—You have said that there are vessels that are unseaworthy? A.—Yes.

Q.—Would not an inspector, who was a proper man, prevent that? A.—This man does not class those vessels that are running; therefore they run at the risk of their owners.

Q.—And at the risk of the lives of the crew on board? A.—Of course, if there was a Government inspector, and he had instructions to condemn those vessels and not allow them to run, he would not allow them to run. This man has not that authority.

Q.—Do you consider this necessary for the safety of the crew that the last should be done? A.—I do not know that it is. I do not see why Canada should want that any more than any other country; they have not got it on the other side; nor have they it in Europe on the coast.

The CHAIRMAN.—I think they have it in England?

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Two wrongs do not make one right. Has the question not been raised as to the desirability of having such a law passed for the safety of the seamen? A.—Yes; I have heard of it. I have heard a good many complaints among seamen.

Q.—I mean complaints in that respect—of the want of inspection? A.—Yes; I heard a complaint through the paper that the seamen wanted lounges in the fore-castle and wanted boys or women to take care of them. It is very hard to please sailors.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you think it would be proper for the Government to appoint an inspector of hulls, so as to prevent sailors going on board unseaworthy vessels? A.—Yes; if you want to prevent men doing so it would be well to have that, because I do not care what kind of a vessel it is, so long as she will float, you can always get a crew for her.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—How often are the spars and riggings looked after by an inspector—there is no inspector, of course, but I mean by the persons who have to look after them? A.—On the lakes it is mostly all wire riggings that is used, and the inspector looks after the spars every time he inspects, to see that the spars, booms, and so on, were sound. I was with the inspector who inspected a vessel lying along side of my vessel. He bored her masts to see if they were sound and he found them all right. Of course, he does not bore every vessel's mast, for he probably knows that she had a new mast last year, or the year before, and in such case it is not necessary to look at them.

Q.—Does he look to see if she has a proper amount of canvas, and if it is in good order? A.—He takes the statement of the owner, or the captain who sailed the vessel last year, as to the condition of the sails and the age of them.

Q.—The inspector, then, never sees them, but the captain says they are here, and that is all the inspector knows about it? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—The inspector is satisfied with the statement of the captain? A.—Yes; because many of the sails are stored in the sail-loft, and some are put away in the vessel's hold.

Q.—Did you ever know of a case where the inspector ordered repairs to be made and the vessel left port without this being done? A.—I have not.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What about the condition of the barges? Do you know anything in regard to the barges used on the upper lakes? A.—Yes.

Q.—What about them? A.—I could not say in regard to the barges. Of course, I know a number of barges, but I could not tell you anything about their being over-loaded or their condition.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Did you ever use a barge that you consider was over-loaded? A.—No; I do not think I ever did on this side. On the American side I have seen many a one that I considered over-loaded; not on this side.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Do you not think there should be some law regulating the loading of barges, that they should be only allowed to be loaded up to a certain depth, and no more? A.—It would be right if there was such a law.

Q.—How many inches above water would you have for feet under water? A.—I should say 3 inches to the foot would be satisfactory.

Q.—Of course it would be easy in the summer months for a barge to go along even when deeply loaded? A.—Yes.

Q.—But they do the same thing in October and November, I understand? A.—Yes; very often, particularly if the freight is any way high.

Q.—I understand they do not carry any more of a crew in those months? A.—Sometimes they cannot very well get a crew. A steam barge may be ready to go out in tow of two or three barges, and perhaps she is one man short, and yet she has to remain to hunt up a man.

Q.—Is that through scarcity of men? A.—Sometimes. Sometimes there will be twenty men around, and not a sober man who would want to go.

Q.—Is it not often a question of wages? A.—No; because I have known men full of liquor who would hardly go out of port on any terms.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How are the men engaged—by the season, by the day, or by the month?
A.—Sometimes by the month, but most of them are engaged by the day, from port to port.

Q.—Formerly, I understand, they were engaged by the season? A.—When I first commenced to sail on the lakes, just about twenty-eight years ago, we generally engaged a crew in the spring, and it staid with the vessel, but since then it has got to be from port to port.

Q.—Is it better to change your sailors? A.—No; I think it is better to keep sailors by the month; I always like a crew to keep by me.

Q.—Do you prefer to have a crew remain with you all through the season?
A.—Yes.

Q.—You think you can thereby manage your vessel more safely? A.—Yes; and with less trouble. You ship a crew and go outside, and perhaps when you get outside you cannot do anything with them. Some of them are not sober—that is the way it is most of the time. Sometimes you ship a crew and there is scarcely one man among them who is able to steer the vessel.

Q.—Have you ever been on the Atlantic? A.—Yes; I did my first sailing from Newfoundland.

Q.—When you were there did you meet with dangerous vessels? A.—I did the first of my sailing there, but I was very young, only eleven years old, and I have not much recollection of it.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—You have no shipping master in Kingston, I understand? A.—No.

Q.—Would you support the appointment of such an officer here? A.—Yes; I think it would be a great benefit if there was a shipping office established in such ports as Toronto and Kingston, the Welland Canal.

Q.—Have you any fault to find with the system of lights on the lakes? A.—No; I think our lakes are very well lighted.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you generally find trouble with men here you want to ship? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is that the rule or is it the exception on their part? A.—A sailor on the lakes who has a family to support cannot support his family and be paid off at the end of each trip from Kingston to Toronto. Immediately a vessel arrives there he is paid off. The sailors will not ship any other way now. It is true that sometimes you meet with a man who wants to do something for his family, and he will ship that way rather than any other way; but the majority will ship from port only; they will then get their money and go ashore and spend it. That is a great trouble with us.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—There is no law, I suppose, concerning the shipment of men by the month or by the voyage, as there is on the Atlantic coast? A.—No; if there was it would be a great deal better for the men.

Q.—You would like that? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Will you tell us the reason why the men prefer to make engagements from port to port? A.—I do not know anything more than they like to get ashore to spend their money. The majority of the men are young men, and all they want is money to go ashore and spend.

Q.—Do you not think if they were employed from month to month, and they were engaged on the understanding that they would do other things outside of their present duty, something would be gained? A.—I do not know what you mean them to do, outside of handing the vessels.

Q.—For instance, shovelling grain? A.—I consider a sailor's duty is to do every thing and any thing for the good of the vessel and the men.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—When you were a young man, I suppose you did everything? A.—Yes.

Q.—I suppose you thought you were a sailor all the time? A.—Yes; I have handled stone, lumber and grain.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you not think if the seamen did the work they would be encroaching on the work of the longshoremen? A.—Perhaps they would be; of course, while the sailor was doing that work he would be throwing some one else out of employment, but when he was not doing something he was throwing himself out of employment.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—When the vessel is at the wharf, and there is no one to handle the cargo, is that a benefit to the community at large? A.—No; I do not think so.

Q.—You think it would be better that the sailor should do his part, and that the vessel should be loaded and go away on another trip, especially considering our short season. A.—Yes; my idea about the seamen is that they are better off when they ship for the month and they keep aboard their vessel. Of course, if the vessel does not suit them at the end of the month they can get their money and leave.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Do the men generally prefer to ship in the way you have mentioned? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they invariably refuse to ship any other way? A.—Yes; they invariably refuse to ship in the way I have just mentioned.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Should you engage men from month to month, would you give them a uniform rate of wages the season through? A.—I would.

Q.—Do you not think that seamen's wages should be more in the latter months of the season? A.—Yes; I suppose so.

Q.—Do not the wages generally rise in those months? A.—Yes; in the fall of the year.

Q.—But you would like to pay them uniform wages? A.—Yes; but I would pay them more in the fall or I would employ them at certain terms for the season.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Have you ever known cases in the fall where wages have gone up, and masters have taken incompetent men, for the sake of saving money, and at the same time the vessel has been lost? A.—I have not, from taking incompetent men.

Q.—You were speaking of the luxuries desired by sailors, in the way of couches, and so forth, in the forecabin: have you been through the forecabin of all the crafts around here? A.—No; I have not. I spoke of this, because I saw it in the paper this winter; I think it came from Detroit. Some sailors, speaking about the condition of the forecabin, allowed that they were kept very dirty; it is the men's fault, I think, if they are kept dirty, for they would not want the master, or the mate, or the cook, to go and clean them out.

Q.—The forecabin may have been dirty when the men went there? A.—Then the men who were there before left it dirty.

Q.—It might have been dirty for years? A.—Yes; that is a fact.

Q.—Is it not a fact that in warm weather on barges the crew have to come up on deck to get rid of the unhealthy smell, and so on, that is down below? A.—Yes; I have been on board a vessel when I have had to do so. It is very close under the deck, especially when you get a load of grain on board. I have been on board such vessels.

Q.—The sailors evidently have some grievances? A.—Yes; of course, sailors have their grievances as well as any body else.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you ever known a case in which, at the commencement of the season, the masters have met and arranged wages? A.—No; I never did.

Q.—They meet and arrange freight rates, I believe? A.—No; I have never seen them accomplish anything. I have seen a few captains get together with the intention of doing something, but I never saw anything accomplished. Some one of them always jumps over the traces; it is very hard to get them to do anything.

Q.—Have you known masters and mates to be in charge of vessels without holding certificates? A.—I have had mates on board my vessels without certificates.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Since the law was enforced? A.—I have had masters and mates on board my vessels without certificates since the law was in force.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Did they rise to their positions before the mast? A.—Yes. I have been in a position where I could not get a certificated mate, and I have taken a man from the fore-castle, a good, steady man, and have made him acting mate.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Is there not a penalty for vessels going to sea without having a properly certificated mate? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Then you consider the law was violated? A.—Yes; I consider it was.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You have violated the law? A.—Yes. Last summer I was at Hamilton, and was reported as having a mate on board without a certificate. The Collector of Customs sent word to the running waiter, and he came to me. I had to go and see the collector. He instructed me to get a certificated mate, but I went out without such. There was not such a man to be got in Hamilton. I offered a man who was not sailing then \$5 if he would go with me as far as Toronto and I would pay his way back, but he would not do so; I went to the collector and told him I could not get a certificated mate and he gave me a permit to go on. I went on, and coming to Kingston I got a certificated mate here. Is it very hard, sometimes, when you come into a port, and cannot get a certificated mate, or perhaps there is no one, except a drunken, worthless man, whom you are obliged to take.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you any information to volunteer that would be of benefit to the Commission, in regard to shipping interests? A.—I do not know that I could say anything that would benefit our occupation. I would like to say something to raise the freights, but I suppose that cannot be done, unless we can do something with the railways.

WILLIAM HARTY, Managing Director of the Canadian Locomotive and Engine Company, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You are manager of the Locomotive Company Works? A.—I am managing director.

Q.—Have you foremen of various departments under your control? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are their duties? A.—To superintend the work being done.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Each in his own department? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—They are all practical men? A.—Yes.

Q.—Could you give us the average wages they would earn per week? A.—Two dollars and fifty cents and \$3 a day, or I would say from \$2.25 to \$3 a day.

Q.—Those men have under their control engineers? A.—They have under their control all the employes in each department. Each foreman of a department is the head of the department.

Q.—Is it within their province to employ and discharge men? A.—It is.

Q.—To increase or decrease wages? A.—Yes; I could not say that it is within their province to increase or decrease wages of the men, but it is so conditionally, upon the superintendent allowing it.

Q.—What are the wages paid to engineers? A.—What do you mean by engineers?

Q.—To the practical men who work in the shops? A.—We have them under different headings. I would understand what you mean if you would designate them as fitters, moulders, carpenters, laborers, and so on. I presumed you would ask such a question, and I have prepared a list accordingly. The rates of pay are as follows: Fitters from 15 cents to 22½ cents per hour; that is \$1.50 to \$2.25 a day; fitters' assistants, \$1.10 to \$1.25; turners, \$1.50 to \$2.50 per day; Planers, \$1.50 to \$1.75 per day; drillers, \$1 to \$2 per day. I might qualify that by saying that \$1 is what will be paid to a young hand in the department. General pattern-makers receive \$2 per day, that is to say good pattern-makers. Blacksmiths, \$1.20 to \$2.50 per day; boiler-makers, \$1.50 to \$2 per day; boiler-makers' assistants, \$1 to \$1.25 per day; moulders, \$1.40 to \$2 per day; carpenters, about \$1.35 per day; and laborers about \$1 per day.

Q.—Do you pay any laborer under \$1 per day? A.—I think not.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—There was a witness before us who stated that he was in your employ and received \$11.80 cents for twelve days' work, which would be at the rate of 98½ cents per day? A.—In all probability he had been docked some lost time; he arrived late, or something of that kind. I am speaking from personal knowledge and I say that I never knew a man engaged at that rate. If they were given to me in writing I would take an opportunity to investigate the matter and to know the exact results. Of course, I am quite sure that time has been docked or that time has been lost; I do not remember of any man who has been in our employ at less than \$1 since I was here.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How do you dock a man if he is late? Do you dock him the actual time lost or, say a quarter of a day? A.—I could not tell you what the regulations now are, because my connection with the company practically ceased since the 15th of December and I am not acquainted with the regulations that may govern the work now.

Q.—What was the system in force under your control? A.—If they were not in their places when the whistle blew for seven o'clock they were docked a quarter of an hour, and after a quarter of an hour they were docked half an hour, and after that for a full hour.

Q.—The men are supposed to be right on time—there are no minutes of grace given? A.—They are supposed to be in their places and prepared to commence work when the whistle blows. They are not to be coming in the gate when the whistle blows.

Q.—Have laborers in your employ ever requested the company to increase their wages? A.—I think so.

Q.—What became of their request? A.—When you refer to laborers, do you refer to employes, or to the particular class known as laborers?

Q.—To the laborers? A.—Yes; the laborers we had last summer asked for an increase of pay. The superintendent, to whom those matters were referred, considered that the men who were asking for an increase of pay were getting all they were worth, and he refused to give any more. He told them that if they did not like it they could go and do better where they liked.

Q.—What kind of men were they? Were they old and infirm men? A.—Some of them were pretty well up in years.

Q.—What was the average age of the laborers? A.—I could not tell you that. Some are old and some are young; some are past sixty, perhaps up to seventy, and some are young.

Q.—All were getting a uniform rate of wages of 98½ cents per day? A.—All were receiving a uniform rate of \$1 per day—that is, all the laborers; there are not more than eight or nine of them. What we call a laborer is a man who is liable to be called to any particular department to assist in any work.

Q.—Did you ever enquire into the home comforts of this class of your employés, as to how they were doing—I mean those men who earn \$1 a day? A.—I cannot say that I have, unless enquiring from the gentleman who prepares statistics for the department in Ontario—Mr. Blue's department.

Q.—Are they family men? A.—Yes; some of them.

Q.—Have you ever had any labor difficulties in your establishment? A.—The only thing that amounted to anything was last summer.

Q.—Will you tell us the nature of that? A.—There was more or less of a demand for a rise of wages—I mean in all the departments. The superintendent was instructed to raise the pay, or rather to see if there were any cases in which the men were working for less wages than the work was considered to be worth, or less wages than we were able to ascertain were being paid at other places, and if so, to increase the pay up to that level. He did so, and in every case the result was satisfactory, except as regards the lowest class we employ—that is, the laboring gang. There were four or five of those who were in receipt of \$1 a day who demanded an extra 10 cents. The superintendent would not pay it, considering that they were getting all they were worth, and he advised the company not to assent to the demand.

Q.—With the exception of that class of unskilled labor, were the men entirely satisfied? A.—With one other exception I was going to make, that is the moulders. The moulders walked out last summer upon us on one occasion making a demand for increased wages. I think myself they were somewhat hasty; perhaps there was a little haste on both sides; a little hastiness perhaps on the part of the superintendent, in the way he asked them, and a little haste on their part in the way they made the demand. The matter could have been very easily arranged and settled if there had been better understanding between the two parties, when they came together, as to their rights. It was settled satisfactorily to the men within a fortnight, and we had no trouble since.

Q.—Did those men who were dissatisfied offer to settle the matter by arbitration? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did they appoint their arbitrator? A.—They appointed an arbitrator and we appointed another. That is the last I have heard of it since.

Q.—Did they come together? A.—The arbitrators came together and called on me in my office to ask some questions. I gave them the information, and I have never heard anything more of it to this day.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You settled the matter without them? A.—The men went back to work at just the same pay as they struck against.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Did they go to work on the understanding that the arbitrators would report on the matter? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did the arbitrators ever report? A.—Never; they never summoned any body, to my knowledge, to appear before them.

Q.—Was the understanding between the moulders and the management this: that if they would go to work a report of the arbitrators would be laid before them?
A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Not to your knowledge? A.—Not to my knowledge. The settlement was made through me. The superintendent, properly speaking, was the man they should have dealt with, but for some reason they objected to go to the superintendent who was there at that time, and they came to me, and I arranged the matter with them.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—The moulders to whom you referred are machinery moulders, I believe?
A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the difference in the rate of pay here as compared with the rate in Toronto or Hamilton paid to machinery moulders? A.—I am not aware of the rate paid in Toronto, I think we are paying the same rate of wages as is paid by any body else for the same class of work. I have repeatedly had to write and ask other moulders thorough out the country their rate of wages, and I know that on comparing them I have almost invariably found that we were giving just about the same as they were.

Q.—Are you aware that machinery moulders in Toronto do not work as long hours as the machinery moulders in connection with the locomotive works here?
A.—No; I have no personal knowledge of the number of hours they work at Toronto. When our men have finished they can go out. It is not with them a question of waiting till 6 o'clock; they go away when they are through with their casts for the day.

Q.—Do they work by the day or by the piece? A.—They work by the day; still their day's work is considered to be finished when they get through with their day's casts.

Q.—How many hours do they generally put in for a week's work? A.—Fifty-nine hours; ten hours every day, except Saturday, when they put in nine hours.

Q.—Has there lately been any change in that system? A.—Not to my knowledge. The gentleman who gave evidence just before me could have informed you on that matter, because he is now superintendent.

Q.—He did not seem to understand anything about the business? A.—He has been here only one month and is not fairly in harness yet.

Q.—Have any officials of the company objected to employ men who belong to labor organizations? A.—No; it never was questioned, to my knowledge. They are just as welcome as any body else, so long as they do their work and obey the rules.

Q.—Do you fine the employés for any other cause than being late in the morning?
A.—I think not.

Q.—Are any men garnisheed for debt? A.—I do not think there have been more than three or four cases of that kind within the last seven years.

Q.—Have they never been discharged on account of their wages having been garnisheed? A.—No; I do not think so. I cannot remember anything of that kind.

Q.—Do you think the men would be in a better condition financially, and be able to look after their comforts better and the wants and necessities of life if they were paid once a week instead of once a fortnight? We are paying them just as they asked for it. They were formerly paid only once a month, and they made a request to be paid fortnightly, and that has been done.

Q.—I suppose you did not wish to come down to once a week all at once? A.—I suppose, so far as trouble is concerned, it would not matter to the company whether the men were paid weekly or fortnightly.

Q.—Have the men, when they have any grievances, a right to petition the company? A.—Yes; they have the fullest access to the heads of the company, to the directors and officials, at all times.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—In case of the men having grievances you are always approachable, I suppose?
A.—Yes; I think they will all tell you so. I consider the man who works just as good a man as I am, and that he is just as much entitled to be spoken to and to be respectfully received by me.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—How is the condition of the men? Have they comfortable homes of their own, or not? A.—I think the bulk of them have their own little homes. It is one consideration that weighed with us in deciding to allow the works to remain in Kingston, instead of removing from here when we bought them, that the employés in the establishment have all their own little homesteads, and that anchors them here; and so long as they receive the same reasonable consideration as the same class of labor gets in other place there is not much difficulty in keeping them. There have not been many removals during the long time the company has been in existence.

Q.—How long would it take a mechanic with a family of three to purchase a home for himself on the wages of one \$1 a day? A.—I could not answer that question. We have a notable instance here, however, of a man working at \$1 a day and accumulating property in this city.

Q.—Out of his wages? A.—Yes. I can show you a carter who has twenty or twenty-five houses—he is now carting, and I knew him when he was a porter in a store for many years. He now owns twenty comfortable homesteads in this city.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Is property dearer now than when he bought them? A.—He is every year building more or less.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG—

Q.—How long is it since he purchased that property? A.—He is building every year, generally.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—This is not a very exceptional case of a poor man getting rich is it? A.—No.

Q.—And you also hear of rich men getting poor? A.—Yes; we have cases every day. I say I knew that man thirty years ago as a porter in a store at \$1 a day—I question whether he was getting even that much.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Did any body die and leave him money? A.—Not to my knowledge.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Can you tell us the rate of increase in property in Kingston within the last thirty years? A.—No; I do not think there has been much increase in property in thirty years; there probably has been within the last six or seven years.

Q.—In purchasing the necessaries of life is \$1 as valuable now as it was thirty years ago? A.—I do not think so. That is, however, getting into economic questions; that would hardly come in the scope of the enquiry, I suppose, and they would be liable to lead to too much discussion.

Q.—That is one of the important questions we want to enquire into, the purchasing power of \$1. A.—I am not able to speak from personal experience of the value of \$1 thirty years ago, as I was only ten years old at that time and had very little knowledge of the purchasing power of money; but judging from what I have read and what I have heard of the prices of the commodities forming the necessaries of life at that time, the purchasing power of \$1 would be greater than it is now.

Q.—Could you tell us about the rate of the increase of house rent in Kingston among the working classes? A.—No; I could not.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Where have your company sent their locomotives? A.—All over Canada.

Q.—Has it made any for the Dominion Government? A.—Yes; for the Inter-colonial and Prince Edward Island Railways.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you shipped to the colonies? A.—We have never exported any engines.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Where do you get your iron? A.—During the last year, since the change in the tariff, our pig-iron and bar-iron have all been bought in Canada.

Q.—What part of Canada? A.—Nova Scotia for pig-iron and sometimes for bar-iron; sometimes Hamilton for bar-iron. Our boiler-plate has all come from Great Britain, Scotland.

Q.—How does Londonderry pig compare with other pig-iron? A.—During 1881–82–83, when we were working to the full extent of our capacity, we, for some reason, could not get our moulders to be satisfied with working Londonderry iron. We bought sample car-loads several times—two or three car-loads at a time on three or four different occasions—to induce our workmen to take hold of it, as we would rather purchase from the home industry, because as a home industry we wanted to be patronized for the same cause. But invariably the report of our foreman was that the iron was not satisfactory, that it would not work as satisfactorily as Scotch pig-iron. I made that report to Mr. Patterson, manager of the steel company in Canada, last winter, at Ottawa, and he sent a man here to investigate, and after having made enquiries of our foreman as to the nature of iron we wanted, he has made a brand of iron especially for us, as I understand him, and since that time we have been able to use it, and it has given great satisfaction.

Q.—You do not mix it with other iron? A.—No; not with Scotch.

Q.—Where do you get your coal? A.—This year from Cape Breton. Prior to that time, with the exception of 1881, we have got it every year from the United States.

Q.—Does it compare favorably with American coal? A.—I cannot say that it does. The report to me from the engineer in charge is that if he forces his fires at all it runs on the bars. We have had to throw it out altogether from the scrap in the smelting department, and we use the best quality of American coal.

Q.—You are able to lay down the Nova Scotia coal cheaper here than the American coal? A.—Yes; cheaper this season, which is the first time we have been able to do so.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do the men in your employ, and who are good, skilled mechanics and belong to organized labor, ask that men of the lowest ability shall be paid the same wages as they are, because they are organized? A.—I do not know how to answer that question.

Q.—Is there any arrangement of that kind? A.—Of course, every man is paid according to his merits. They are not paid all the same wages; they are paid according to their ability.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Who is the judge as to their ability? A.—The manager.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Not some stranger to your establishment? A.—No.

Q.—You want to manage your own business? A.—Yes.

Q.—In your own way? A.—Yes. So far as I am concerned, you may always be satisfied that we will do that so long as I am there.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Has not the workman a right to put a price on his own labor? A.—Yes. I have nothing to say against organized labor. They have a right to do everything to improve their condition, the same as capitalists have a right to do everything to improve theirs. But, speaking on that question, I may say that I simply draw the line at a body of men undertaking to dictate to their employers what wages they shall pay any body.

Q.—Certainly. But do you not believe in a body of men stating that they will not work under a certain scale of wages? A.—Yes; certainly. What I have in

mind is the strike last summer, the walking out of 230 men who were formerly satisfied with their wages, every man saying he was quite content, except those four or five men who wanted 10 cents a day more, and because the company would not concede this 10 cents to each of the four men, 230 men walked out.

Q.—I suppose it was not on financial grounds, but on a matter of principle?
A.—The company took the stand on their rights, and I presume it was a matter of principle with them.

Q.—Before they walked out, did they interview the company in regard to the matter? A.—They did.

Q.—Did they offer in any way to settle the matter before the strike was resorted to? A.—No. It was: pay the 10 cents extra or we walk out.

Q.—To four men? A.—To either four or five men. It was rather a mistaken policy, and I think they found it out after a little while.

Q.—How long were the men out? A.—Two weeks, I think.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—The men did not get the 10 cents extra? A.—No.

Q.—Did the strikers go back? A.—I think other men took their places—I think they disappeared. They went sailing, or something of that sort. All of the other men went back. I am happy to say that we have not had any trouble with them in seven years, and that is the only little bit of friction we have ever had during that time, which I think we may call a fair average.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Do you manufacture your own brass goods? A.—Yes; not the brass mountings; we generally buy them.

Q.—Are they made in Canada? A.—Yes; in Montreal and Toronto.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—When the factory shut down three years ago were many men thrown out of work? A.—We had at that time, and had at a short time before closing down, about 400 hands.

Q.—Those hands were all thrown out of work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Could you state to us the cause of shutting down? A.—Want of orders. If you take the trade and navigation returns of the country for those two years during which we were closed down you will find that only ten engines were brought into Canada.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Did that involve a loss to the company? A.—Yes; the company was, of course, losing interest on its investment.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Was that the main cause of closing down? A.—Yes.

Q.—The reason I ask you this is, because several members of the Commission have been informed otherwise? A.—I have given you the reason, to the best of my experience, and I think I have some little knowledge about it. It was almost impossible to get orders at that time for our class of manufactures. The evidence of that is afforded by the trade and navigation returns and an examination of the quantity of that class of goods that were imported into this country.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Of course, it would have been to your interest to continue work? A.—Yes.

Q.—You were deprived of the services of experienced and skilled men by being obliged to shut down? A.—Yes; we lost the services of our trained men.

Q.—And, of course, many of the men went away? A.—Yes. We started again at prices we had never paid before for the sake of getting our old men, many of whom were driving carts around the streets and carrying the hod.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Do you feel capable of competing with goods manufactured outside of Canada? A.—We have no fear of anything on this continent in our own class of manufacture.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do American goods in your line come into this country? A.—Nothing to speak of. If American goods do come in it is because they are wanted so quickly we cannot make the delivery.

Q.—This is not a profitable market just now for American goods, I suppose? A.—No; not in our class of manufactures. We are safely shut against them, as they are against us.

WILLARD STEPHENS, Sailor, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—How long have you been employed as a sailor? A.—I have been sailing, I guess, about sixteen years.

Q.—Did you hear the evidence given by the sailor yesterday? A.—I did not.

Q.—What kind of craft are you accustomed to? A.—Sailing vessels.

Q.—Can you tell us the wages of sailors during the summer months? A.—They range from \$25 a month, I think, to \$1.50 or \$1.75 a day. Sailing vessels pay more than barges, as a rule.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—More than steamers, too? A.—Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—At the end of the month, do you get paid? A.—In sailing vessels we generally ship by the day.

Q.—And you get paid at the termination of the trip, I suppose? A.—At the end of the trip. If we go from here to Chicago we leave the vessel there and get our money.

Q.—How many hours per day does a sailor work? A.—When he is outside he is there when he is wanted all the twenty-four hours. Of course, in fine weather, and four hours on deck.

Q.—Can you give us any idea in regard to the hulls of those barges you have been on lately in the upper lakes? A.—As a general thing, the American class of barges is better than the Canadian. Some of the Canadian barges are kind of poor, especially as regards their hulls; they are mostly vessels that have been sailing vessels and could not be classed as sailing vessels, and now the owners have made barges of them.

Q.—Have you ever known cases where sailors have refused to go in such craft because they were unseaworthy? A.—No; I cannot say I have.

Q.—Do you know anything about the forecastles of those vessels? A.—Yes; a little.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Give us your opinion in regard to them—you are speaking of barges? A.—Yes; barges are a class of boat I have been very little on. Barges, and sailing craft's forecastles are pretty much all alike; some of them are good and some of them are not fit for men to be in.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Which is the rule and which is the exception? A.—Both on vessels and barges, because the fore-castle between decks is in the fore part of the boat, and coming through the Welland Canal there is always such snubbing that there are generally

leaks in the fore-castle deck. There are, however, few vessels that have perfectly tight decks, and when they get into the sea-way or into dirty water they ship water more or less. Of course, in fine water it is all right.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Are the owners of vessels very particular as to the class of sailors they employ? A.—Some are and some are not.

Q.—In the fine months of the summer, I suppose they have an inferior class of sailors on board? A.—Some of them do; as a rule, the captain of a vessel will get a man as cheap as he can. But mostly in sailing vessels now the wages are fixed according to a rule of the seamen's union.

Q.—How many sailors do you consider it necessary to have on a barge in tow? A.—It is supposed to carry four men, a mate and a captain.

Q.—Do they carry that number always? A.—I could not say; as a rule I think they do.

Q.—How many sails would they carry? A.—They are supposed to have enough sails to handle themselves if they are let go.

Q.—How many do you think are necessary? A.—That is according to the size of the vessel. A vessel is supposed—that is, a boat which is at the mercy of the winds and waves—to have enough canvas to enable the crew to handle her; if not, she is not seaworthy; she is not in a fit condition for a crew to be on board of.

Q.—Have you ever known those vessels to leave port loaded improperly? A.—I have seen them outside when I thought they were over-loaded; I thought they were over-loaded as we passed them.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you think it would be a benefit, as regards the safety of the crew, if the Government appointed an inspector of hulls? A.—Yes; I do.

Q.—You think it is a need? A.—It is a need in a way; a vessel should just be loaded down to a certain depth so that there will be enough out of water to float her.

Q.—Have you ever known deck loads to be dangerous? A.—I have.

Q.—Over-loaded? A.—Yes.

Q.—When the sleeping apartment of the men is in such a bad condition as you state, whose duty is it to make repairs? A.—It is the duty of the master of the vessel; when a master complains he is supposed to remedy the complaint.

Q.—What would you think if the master of a vessel said it was the duty of the men to see that their quarters were clean, and in good order and repair? A.—It is the duty of the men to keep themselves clean.

Q.—But as regards their sleeping apartment? A.—Yes; their sleeping apartment. Of course, there are lots of men who never think about sweeping up and washing up, or anything of that kind; I think it is the duty of a captain or a mate to see that their place is kept clean.

Q.—Have you ever noticed a vessel with its rigging in a dangerous condition? A.—I have often known of boats leaving here with bad gear, sails, and so on.

Q.—Have you ever known of vessels that have been ordered to be repaired by insurance inspectors which have left port without the repairs being done? A.—No.

Q.—What time of the year is the best to make an inspection of a vessel? A.—They inspect in the spring time, generally in the winter months, but of course I could not form an opinion as to when it ought to be done. I would not want to do so. I think when a vessel is fitted out ready for use that is the time to inspect her, for she then has got the whole of her fittings.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—That is when she is ready to leave port? A.—Before she leaves for her season's work.

Q.—When she is fitted and ready to leave port, that, you think, is the time to inspect her? A.—Yes; and see if she is seaworthy. Of course, if a boat requires repairs, that has got to be done during the winter.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—With regard to sailors : is it not the general practice to ship from port to port ? A.—Yes ; it is the general system.

Q.—Could you give any definite reason why they prefer that way ? A.—No ; I could not. It is the rule of the organization to ship that way.

Q.—Do you think that masters prefer to ship men from month to month ? A.—Some do, and some do not.

Q.—What advantage would it be to a master to engage that way, and what disadvantage would it be to the men ? A.—If the men got wages enough it would be better for them to engage by the month ; it would be better for the masters, because they would get just what kind of men they wanted. When men make a short trip the master cannot tell what kind of men they are before they are paid and off again.

Q.—Is it the duty of the seamen, when the vessel is in port, to assist in unloading her ? A.—Not as a rule. No ; it is not compulsory.

Q.—Do you think that, properly speaking, it is the duty of the seamen or the longshoremen ? A.—I think it is the duty of the longshoremen to load and unload a vessel.

Q.—Have you known masters of vessels to ask sailors to do this kind of work ? A.—I cannot say that I have ; not lately.

Q.—Do the wages generally rise at the approach of the end of the season ? A.—Yes ; they generally do.

Q.—It is the general custom to do so ? A.—It is the custom in the fall to give them more than in the summer time.

Q.—Do you think that this rise at the latter end of the year would take place, as a general rule, if the men were employed by the month or by the season ? A.—I do not think it would, not unless it was specified to that effect.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—If you were engaged on the 1st of October do you not think that you would ask more for October and November ? A.—I would.

Q.—You would have a right to do so ? A.—Yes ; because the weather is rougher and there is more hardship to put up with.

Q.—If the men get a certain price to sail up to September, I suppose there is no reason why you should not ask for the same money afterwards ? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—It requires, in that rough weather, to have good seamen on board ? A.—It does.

Q.—And have you known masters to employ, during that season, inferior men for the purpose of saving money ? A.—That is a question I would not want to answer. I have known men to be on a vessel who were not good men—not proper sailors for the fall of the year.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Do you consider life-buoys and life-preservers on vessels to be requisite for the safety of sailors ? A.—No ; I do not.

Q.—You have none on board of sailing vessels ? A.—No ; very few vessels I ever was on had a life-preserver on board. A life-preserver on board a sailing vessel is a very rare thing.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Those men you speak of as being incompetent men : do you suppose they were shipped by the masters or the owner knowing they were incompetent, or do you suppose they were deceived by the men ? A.—There are times when they ship them and the masters know them ; it is just according to where a man is acquainted.

Q.—Would the sailors, as a body, prefer to have a shipping master's office established in the different ports? A.—That I could not say. Of course, the men belonging to the union do not want any master.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Are you a member of the Seamen's Union? A.—I am.

Q.—What financial benefits are attached to that union? A.—We can get more wages on a sailing vessel, as a rule, and we are entitled to a sick benefit; and if we happen to get drowned there is \$50 towards our funeral.

Q.—What was the rate of wages before the union was formed? A.—They were pretty poor. Wages were down low and we had to do something to get enough on which to exist.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—How much higher wages have been paid since your union was established? A.—They have come up, and they are a great deal better since the union.

Q.—How high—from \$1 to \$2? A.—One dollar and fifty cents to two dollars. Before the union was in existence some of us were sailing for \$25 a month, and \$22 a month one summer.

Q.—What wages can a sailor now command when he ships by the month? A.—That I cannot say.

Q.—Not many ship that way? A.—No; not on sailing vessels. On barges they generally ship by the month.

Q.—Do you know any masters or mates who have left ports without passing certificates? A.—No; I do not.

Q.—Do you consider it is a good law to have masters and mates pass a certificate? A.—It is, in a way, if it is properly carried out.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Have you any idea of the number of sailors who are living in this vicinity? A.—I have not; I could not say.

Q.—Did you ever hear of a case where the sailors on a barge when they got into difficulty launched the boat and did not know how to apply the oars? A.—I never did.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is it customary, or has it happened frequently, that when the master would go to ship men he would find them all in a state of intoxication? A.—I do not think so; as a rule—no. I do not think the sailors in the community are that

much given to liquor. There are exceptions where you will find men around a boarding house or a saloon drunk, but they are not supposed to take those men.

Q.—What would you think of the evidence of a man who had to leave port short handed—

The CHAIRMAN.—You are asking a witness to run the risk of perjuring himself.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Has it come to your knowledge that a sailing master had to leave port short-handed owing to his inability to obtain necessary help? A.—Yes; I have left in vessels when they have not got all their men, when they have been one man or two men short.

Q.—Was that through any dissatisfaction? A.—Not between the master and the sailors. That has happened when a master could not get men.

Q.—Was it because the men could not be got? A.—Yes; because the men could not be got.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—As a class, are seamen of intemperate habits? A.—That is a question I would not like to answer. Some are and some are not. As a general thing, they like to have a glass of beer once in a while as well as any body else.

Q.—Would you consider it a rare occasion that a vessel would go out of port short-handed on account of there not being sufficient men on board, such insufficiency being due to the intemperate habits of the men? Would it be a frequent case or a rare case? A.—I think it would be rare.

Q.—A rare case? A.—I think it would be.

LEWIS W. SHANNON, Newspaper Proprietor, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you know the rate of wages paid in a news office? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much per thousand is paid? A.—Twenty-five cents.

Q.—Have the men lately received an increase? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does the copy of advertisements or of tabular work go to the piece hands or to men employed by the office? A.—The advertisements are set by an advertisement man—a man paid by the week.

Q.—Have you a special man for that work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know if it is the universal custom throughout the craft that where men are employed by piece-work on newspapers all the matter that comes into the paper is given to the men? A.—Including advertisements?

Q.—Yes? A.—I do not know that; it has never been the custom here.

Q.—Do you use any plate matter in your paper? A.—I do.

Q.—Is the plate matter manufactured in Canada? A.—Some of it is and some of it is not.

Q.—Is there any difference in the quality of the plates, between American plate and Canadian plate? A.—There is; the American plate is, I think, the best.

Q.—Have you ever met, in those American plates, literature of a light nature, immoral, tending that way? A.—I have never bought any of it.

Q.—When those plates were used in the paper, does such fact keep the men out of employment? A.—I do not think so.

Q.—I suppose your foreman would be in a better position to give evidence on that matter? A.—I do not think he would; I know pretty well what goes on in the office.

Q.—The men are not idle any time the plates are used? A.—No; they are not idle.

Q.—Could you tell us the number of columns of matter you use per day? A.—At present we are using more than we usually do, because just after the new year there is a lull in the advertising patronage; but we use, on an average, I suppose, about seven or eight columns, probably ten.

Q.—Do you issue a weekly in connection with your daily paper? A.—Yes.

Q.—I presume the matter that goes into the weekly is culled from the daily? A.—Yes; it is.

Q.—Do any of your men work after hours? A.—No; except in the very busy season.

Q.—How many boys do you employ? A.—In what way do you mean?

Q.—As apprentices on the paper? A.—Three.

Q.—How many men do you employ? A.—We have eight men; we have eight journeymen; there is one in his fourth year. There are two boys—one in his first year and one in his second year.

Q.—What is the rate of wages you pay job hands? A.—Nine dollars a week.

Q.—How many hours per week do they work? A.—They are supposed to work ten hours a day; on Saturdays they get off when the paper gets out.

Q.—At what time does the paper get out on Saturday? A.—Half-past four or four o'clock.

Q.—At the time of the rise of wages, in what manner were the proprietors approached—was there any difficulty? A.—There was a difficulty. The men sent a petition to us asking for an increase.

Q.—Was it then complied with? A.—Yes; there was no trade difficulty over the rise. There was no strike; the matter was amicably settled between employer and employed.

Q.—Do you find the volume of job work increasing in Kingston? A.—Since I have been in business I think it has increased; I could not say how much. We do about a steady trade.

Q.—Is the style of job work getting more artistic—is it of a dearer nature? A.—I do not think it is getting dearer, it is getting cheaper; but it is more artistic.

Q.—It is increasing in taste? A.—Yes; we have better appliances now than there used to be—we have more artistic styles of type.

Q.—Is much ornamental work being done here? A.—Very little.

Q.—Are your apprentices indentured? A.—No.

Q.—Would you prefer an indenture system to the slip-shod manner in which boys go to the trade at the present time? A.—I never gave it much thought; I do not know how it would work.

Q.—When a boy goes to the business, do you ascertain from him his qualifications, so far as regards his common school education? A.—Yes; always.

Q.—Do you think that is requisite in boys going to the printing business? A.—I do. I may say there has never been a strike in my office.

HUGH DOUGLAS, Stone-mason and Bricklayer, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are there many stone-masons employed in Kingston? A.—Yes; there are quite a number. Of course, in Kingston they work also at bricklaying; the general rule is that they are masons and bricklayers both.

Q.—Do they work also at stone-cutting? A.—Yes; some of them work at stone-cutting, but not many; I do not think there are very many who are both first-class stone-cutters and builders, although there are a few.

Q.—A man having the knowledge of a stone-mason and a bricklayer, what wages would he receive? A.—Last summer, wages were from \$2.50 to \$3 per day. I think there are one or two who earn more than \$3, but I do not know more than two.

Q.—How constantly do the men in your trade work during the year—in other words, how many weeks in the year do they work? A.—I do not think they work more than eight months in the year; I am certain they do not work more than nine, any way, that is, taking the majority of them; there are a few who work more.

Q.—If you spread the wages that a stone-mason would earn over the entire year, how much per week or per day would it amount to? Have you ever thought of it in that regard? A.—I think for the year round I would be doing pretty well if I earned \$500; some of them may get pretty close to \$600, but I do not think the majority of them do. I do not think the majority would earn over \$500.

Q.—Do they generally engage with contractors, or do they take jobs of their own? A.—They generally engage with contractors.

Q.—Is there much corporation work in the line of stone-mason and bricklayer? A.—No; I do not think very much. Only lately they have been building dry drains, dry walls, etc.

Q.—Are the stone masons in Kingston organized? A.—No.

Q.—Are there many apprentices in the business? A.—Yes; there are quite a number. In fact, I know of one employer who has three apprentices, and he does not employ two journeymen on an average. So I think that is pretty good.

Q.—That employer has more apprentices than he has journeymen? A.—Yes.

Q.—At what kind of work are those apprentices employed? A.—They are employed at all kinds of work they can do. You can imagine the kind of work they are out.

Q.—And an employer of that kind of hand, does he ever get contracts for

corporation work? A.—There have been no corporation contracts given out during the past year or past two years.

Q.—Is such a hand ever good, to your knowledge? A.—No.

Q.—In the bricklaying part of the trade, do you find scaffolding good—is it generally secure? A.—Yes; I have never been on a building where there have been any accidents through defective scaffolding.

Q.—Do the men put up their own scaffolding, or is there a man especially selected by the contractor to do that work? A.—The men generally erect their own scaffolding on small jobs; if it is a large job there are generally one or two men told off to erect the scaffolding.

Q.—Could you tell us the wages a bricklayer's laborer would receive, one who would carry the hod and brick? A.—The average wages would be \$1.25 a day in the summer time.

Q.—Do the wages decrease towards the fall? A.—Generally they do.

Q.—Will you tell us the reason? A.—I suppose the reason is that there are more men to be had.

Q.—Then it is on account of the supply of labor, not on account of inferior work? A.—No; I think they do quite as good work; there are some men out of work and that runs the wages down.

Q.—It is in that way the contractor takes advantage of the surplus labor? A.—Most of them do.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—On the other hand, do wages rise when men are scarce? A.—Yes; if a man wants men, and must have them, he will offer them more.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—It is according to the law of supply and demand? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—In that case, the man takes the advantage? A.—A man will not refuse to go if a boss offers him a quarter more than he is getting—not as a general rule.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You are a member of the labor organization in connection with the building trade, I believe? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does that body rate all men on the same equal footing as regards wages? A.—I do not know that there has ever been any rate struck.

Q.—They generally make their bargains separately themselves? A.—Yes; so far.

CHARLES M. MORRICE, Blacksmith, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—At what branch of the trade do you work? A.—I work at the locomotive works; I have worked at another branch, the ship-building branch.

Q.—Have you worked at horse-shoeing? A.—Not very lately; just a month or two one summer.

Q.—How many blacksmiths are employed at the locomotive works? A.—I should say about twenty.

Q.—What are the average wages the men receive there? A.—About \$1.70 a day.

Q.—How many hours constitute a week's work for blacksmiths? A.—Fifty-nine hours.

Q.—What are the wages of a blacksmith's helper? A.—We have some of them at 90 cents, some \$1, \$1.10, \$1.15 and \$1.20.

Q.—You have some at 90 cents? A.—We have one.

Q.—Do they require to be skilled, more than that of ordinary laboring workmen, to be a blacksmith's helper? A.—Yes; they do, but apparently not down there; they do not apparently care what sort of a helper they get.

- Q.—Has each blacksmith one helper? A.—Yes; some of them have two.
- Q.—How many laborers are there at 90 cents a day, the lowest wages?
A.—There is one I know of.
- Q.—Are there any apprentices at the blacksmithing? A.—There is one.
- Q.—What age was that apprentice when he came to work first? A.—I think he was about sixteen.
- Q.—Is the blacksmithing work in the locomotive works more severe and fatiguing than is ordinary blacksmithing work, such as horse-shoeing—is it severe work? A.—Some parts of it are severe, but I consider horse-shoeing the hardest work.
- Q.—Have blacksmiths, to your knowledge, received an increase of wages at the locomotive works? A.—I believe some have received an increase.
- Q.—Who employs the blacksmiths at the works? A.—The foreman employs some, I believe, and the rest are employed by the company; the manager or superintendent employs some, I believe.
- Q.—Did you ever calculate the amount of money a blacksmith would receive in a year at the average wages, provided he worked every available day he could possibly get work? A.—It would be according to the pay he got. If he got \$1.70 a day I suppose he would earn between \$400 and \$500. Of course, I never calculated it up; that is what I would judge to be the amount.
- Q.—When the men have any grievances are they allowed by the foreman or manager to have the right of petitioning the company and laying their grievances before them? A.—Yes; they can lay their grievances before them, but they may lie there, for all the notice they will give them. They do not take much notice of them, I think.
- Q.—Have ever any grievances, to your knowledge, been laid before the manager or superintendent and those grievances were not looked after? A.—There were some last summer. There were letters for an advance of wages put before Mr. Harty, and we never heard of them at all.
- Q.—Were you in the employ of the locomotive company at the time of the difficulty last summer? A.—Yes.
- Q.—When the difficulty was over, how many men went back to work? A.—There were two-thirds who went back; some went away and got work elsewhere.
- Q.—Did any of the men who went out on strike make application to return to work and were refused work? A.—I do not think so.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

- Q.—You work nine hours a day on Saturday, I believe? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Do you get paid for ten hours' work? A.—No.
- Q.—Just for nine hours? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q.—Have you worked at blacksmithing in any other place besides Kingston?
A.—Yes; I have worked in the old country. I have also worked in Hamilton.
- Q.—Can you tell us the difference between the wages of a blacksmith in Scotland, and the wages of a blacksmith in Kingston? A.—There is a great deal of difference. The wages in Scotland range at about 25 shillings a week for an ordinary blacksmith; 30 shillings for a good blacksmith.
- Q.—Do you consider that the condition of a blacksmith in the old country is better than his condition here? A.—I do not consider he is better off, but if he can get as steady work he is as well off. I would not say he is better off, but he is as well off, that is, if he can get steady work.
- Q.—If he could get as steady work as you receive at the locomotive works, how would his position be then? A.—It would be as good.
- Q.—That is considering the cost of living and house rent? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Have you worked in the United States? A.—No.
- Q.—You said you worked in Hamilton—is that so? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are the wages for a blacksmith higher in Hamilton than in Kingston?
A.—Yes; about 8 per cent. higher.

Q.—Do they work the same number of hours as they do here? A.—I worked in the bridge works in Hamilton; we get two hours off on Saturday; we stopped at 4 o'clock.

Q.—There is an advantage, then, you believe, of one hour in Hamilton? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you ever give any thought as to the cost of living in Hamilton, and the cost of living in Kingston? A.—Of course, I was only boarding in Hamilton. There is no difference in board between the two cities; you can get board for the same price here as there.

Q.—In regard to a family man, what is your belief? A.—I consider you can get a house as cheap in Hamilton as you can here; but I have not had experience in that.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Did you get paid for the two hours in Hamilton? A.—No; I believe in the Western shops they get paid for the hour they have off; they work nine hours per day or fifty-four hours per week.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—With the two hours off in Hamilton, wages are still higher there than in Kingston. Did I understand you to say that? A.—Yes.

Q.—Even working fifty-five hours here? A.—Yes; they will average higher.

Q.—Have you any information in connection with your trade that would be of benefit to the Commission? A.—No.

Q.—Do you think, on the whole, that a blacksmith receives a fair day's wage for a fair day's work? A.—I am not prepared to answer that question, because I have not had much experience in blacksmithing, for I am a young man yet.

JOHN WILKINS, Grocer, called and sworn.

I appear to give evidence to the Commission in connection with the order to which I belong—the Knights of Labor.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Did you hear the evidence of Mr. Meek last evening? A.—I did.

Q.—Do you corroborate that evidence? A.—I agree with everything he said in connection with the order, as to their action and the course they have pursued in regard to any matters brought before them.

Q.—Have you anything to add to his evidence in connection with organized labor? A.—In connection with organized labor I would like to say that I believe it is of great benefit to the workmen, not only by raising their wages but by raising their moral tone. I have noticed, since the order has been established in Kingston, a great improvement in this respect.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—How long is it since the society was organized? A.—Just a year ago the 17th of December. Of course, in the beginning they were a little hasty and there were some strikes and troubles entered into rather hastily, before the members really knew the rules of the order; but with the exception of those few mistakes I think everything else has been conducted satisfactorily. I have, owing to my official position on the executive, our statistician's reports of wages in the various industries in the city, if the Commission would like to hear them.

Q.—Have they decreased or increased since the order was organized? A.—I have the reports for the last two or three months. Of course, wages always advance with the approach of winter.

The CHAIRMAN.—We have heard evidence in regard to wages.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Could you give us the wages that are paid in the knitting mills to all classes of operatives? A.—I have the wages as presented by our statistician, that is previous to the reductions that have been made since the new year.

Q.—Have you got the rate of wages after the reduction? A.—No; I have not got the rate since the reduction.

Q.—Do you know the amount of the reduction? A.—Only according to the reports sent in to the executive. It ranges, I believe, from 20 to 50 per cent. At present the wages paid there are very small; in fact, I know personally of some girls who have to board themselves and who are making 25 cents a day—that is according to my personal knowledge.

Q.—How old might those girls be? A.—I guess they are all of eighteen. They have to board themselves. Their parents live in the country and they have to pay their board in town. I know of some days that they only earn 25 cents a day; some days they will make a little more.

Q.—Those figures you have got are authoritative? A.—They are officially obtained from employés of the institution and given to our officer, and I think they will be information to the Commission.

Mr. CLARKE.—If the witness can swear to them; at present they are only hearsay evidence.

The CHAIRMAN.—Let it go on the record for all it is worth.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Can you give us the prices, to the best of your knowledge and belief? A.—It is information given to the parties interested. Of course, there is one thing that should be understood, and that is, that a week's work at both the knitting and cotton mills previous to this year was sixty-one and a half hours. That is a point I would like to impress on the Commission. I have heard it stated that they work sixty hours a week; that is not true. I live just a short distance from the knitting mill and I know the time they go to work, and employés in the mill, who are present, know that such is the case. They work eleven hours a day, and on Saturday from half past six to one. This makes sixty-one and a-half hours. They are only paid at the rate of sixty hours per week.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—At what hour do they start in the morning? A.—They are working short time now and go at seven o'clock. Previously they started at half past six and quit at half past six, except on Saturday, when they work till one o'clock.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do those girls who only earn 25 cents a day do so during the long and short time? A.—At present.

Q.—How much would be earned when the mill was going the full number of hours? A.—I guess they will average about \$3 a week—from \$2 to \$3. As they work on piece-work, it varies.

Q.—At what class of work are those young girls employed who earn that amount? A.—I believe they are in what is called the finishing department.

Q.—Have those young women informed you that such was the rate of wages they were receiving? A.—I have had it from the party they board with; they board just a few doors from where I live, and I have it from the party they board with, and who works in the establishment along with them.

Q.—Can you tell us, as a fact, the age of the youngest girl employed in that knitting mill? A.—The youngest girls are between fourteen and fifteen. I know them personally. I have it from their mothers that they will be fifteen next birthday.

Q.—How long are they allowed to eat their dinner? A.—One hour.

Q.—Are there any who eat their dinner in the mill? A.—Yes; I believe there are quite a few, who have a long distance to go.

Q.—That is through necessity? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know that they eat their dinner in the room where they work, or is there a room set apart for that purpose? A.—I understand there is no such room set apart for that purpose. I have been given to understand that by the employés of the mill.

Q.—As a representative of labor in Kingston, what is your opinion in regard to the shortening of the hours of labor? A.—I think the shortening of the hours of labor would be a great advantage to many. I also have my opinion that it would be a disadvantage to many. Of course, there is no opportunity of judging. A working-man's time is his own when he is not employed and he can do what he likes with it. I have not observed in those establishments that have given the Saturday half-holiday that the people employed have derived any great benefit from it. It gives the boys, in the summer time, an opportunity of playing base ball on Saturday afternoons; that is about the greatest benefit I have seen from it. Of course, there are a number of girls employed in the mills who board themselves, and they take Saturday afternoons for doing up their house work.

Q.—What do you mean by boarding themselves—do you mean living on the European plan? A.—No; they engage a room and cook their own provisions in their room; they cook enough of an evening to do them the next day, and on Saturday afternoons they get time to clean up and put things in order. That is the only advantage I see derived from that half-holiday.

Q.—The girls do that from a point of economy? A.—Yes; they have got to economize, because they cannot afford to pay board. They cannot afford to pay for having it done. As I have heard a number of mechanics express a strong opinion in regard to the apprentice system, I desire to go on record as decidedly opposed to it—that is, the indenturing of any men or boys to learn trades. My experience, and I have known a few who have been indentured in that way, is that it has not been successful in this country.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Have you been long in this country? A.—I am a native of Canada. Another way I would look at the matter is this: I do not believe in any organization having the power to close up any avenue for earning a livelihood to any body. If you give the members of the union the authority to have apprentices indentured, the next step will be to compel boys to pay a bonus, as is done in the old country.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you ever seen parents of boys, having their children taught, pay for that under the apprentice system? A.—No; not in Canada, but I know it is done in the old country. I know the parents of my father had to pay a premium to have him taught a trade. He worked for a short time at it and then he skipped out.

Q.—How many years ago was that? A.—It was about thirty years ago.

Q.—Do you believe that system will be adopted in this country? A.—That is my impression.

Q.—Do you not think that by the indenture system a boy will better learn the trade than he otherwise would? A.—In the small shops he would; in the large shops he would not. In a large shop, such as the locomotive works, he would not. You put a boy in a small shop, where he is working with his employer all the time, and he will learn a good trade; but put him in a large shop, where the machinery does all the work, and he will not learn the trade. I have been informed by mechanics that the men who are now receiving mechanics' highest wages are men who did not serve an apprenticeship, but who went in as laboring men, and got a show from the foreman to learn the trade. Of course, it is well known that a boy cannot learn a trade in a place where there is much machinery—as, for instance, in a boot and shoe factory.

Q.—But you have not exactly answered my question. It is this: does the fact

of a boy being indentured not give him a better chance to learn the trade than a boy who is not indentured? You are aware that under the indenture system the employer is compelled to teach the trade?

The CHAIRMAN.—Where is the law?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—He is bound under law.

The CHAIRMAN.—Just as he chooses to do it.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—There have been cases decided to that effect before the courts.

The CHAIRMAN.—Yes; according to agreement.

WITNESS.—I have known cases where the boys have been indentured, and after they have worked a short time the establishment has shut down and there has been nothing to do. It is an advantage that when the establishment shuts down they will have to keep the apprentices on doing something.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you know whether, in that case the parents got damages from the proprietor? A.—They did not.

Q.—Do you know, according to law, if they could have secured damages if they had sought to? A.—I do not know how that is; I do not swear to that. I have heard parties complain that those contracts were one-sided; that they bound the company to nothing.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Apart from that, you say you are a native of Canada? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think there are many mothers or parents who would bind their children four or seven years? A.—No; I do not know of any one. Every one to whom I have spoken condemns the system, and would not consent to follow it. I know of men who have been bound to trades who would not bind their sons, because, as a rule, they have received such treatment themselves that they would not subject their children to the same.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you ever known of a case where the parents would not allow their sons to go to a trade unless they were indentured? A.—No; I have not. In fact the indenture system is received with very little favor here. I believe, myself, that the advocates of the indenture system are simply trades union men, who wish to restrict the number of workmen in their particular line.

FRED. EDWARD, Blacksmith, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Where do you work? A.—At the locomotive works.

Q.—Have you heard the evidence of the witness who gave evidence before the last? A.—Only during a few minutes.

Q.—Do you agree with the evidence you heard? A.—Yes; I believe something about the same.

Q.—Have you anything to add to his evidence? A.—Nothing more to what I heard.

Q.—What, to your knowledge, are the wages paid to a blacksmith's helper? A.—They are paid from \$1 to \$1.25 a day.

Q.—Do any of them receive 90 cents? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many? A.—There is only one case I know of.

Q.—Have you any information in your line of business that would be of benefit to the Commission? A.—No; I do not think I have any.

Q.—Do you think a blacksmith receives sufficient wages for his labor in comparison with the wages received by other skilled mechanics in Kingston? A.—In some cases he might.

Q.—But does he? A.—Some do.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—On the whole, then, you think that blacksmiths are paid a good, fair day's wages for a good, fair day's work? A.—Some are and some are not; some are kept down quite a bit; they cannot get the chance to keep ahead.

Q.—How is it in your own case? A.—It is something like that in my own case.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Will you explain what you mean by being kept down? A.—Other men getting better chances over those who have been in the company's employ probably longer, a great deal longer, perhaps.

Q.—Have those who have received a low rate of wages ever asked for an increase? A.—Yes; they have, but they have been put off time and time again, till the thing has died out among them.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Did you ever ask Mr. Harty himself for an increase of pay? A.—No; I never did.

Q.—Have you ever known a man to ask Mr. Harty himself? A.—Yes; I have.

Q.—In what way did he receive their application? A.—The answer was something like this: that he would see into his case.

Q.—And he never saw into it? A.—Yes; I believe he did, as far as my knowledge goes; it occurred some time ago.

Q.—Did he get an increase? A.—Yes; I think it was granted in that case.

Q.—Did Mr. Harty receive the application with the courtesy that was due to the man? A.—Well yes; he did.

ROBERT MARSHALL, Marine Engineer and Boiler-maker, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is there much work in the winter time at boiler-making in Kingston? A.—I have always got work during the last five or six years here and other places.

Q.—What are the wages paid in Kingston to a good boiler-maker? A.—About \$2 a day.

Q.—Are they constantly employed during the year? A.—No; I follow steam-boat engineering in the summer time.

Q.—What are the wages of an engineer in the busy season? A.—It depends a great deal on what class of boats you are on. On the larger class they average from \$65 to \$70, while they get less for the barge class, which does not require a qualified man to run a boat up to 150 tons burden. The owners got the law changed some years ago, and they can employ who they like.

Q.—A certificate is required for an engineer on a steamer? A.—Yes; on passenger steamers and freight steamers, up to 150 tons.

Q.—Is the law properly carried out? A.—I think the lives of the men on boats are just as much liable to be sacrificed as those of passengers. The law, as it is, is carried out.

Q.—Do you think the law should cover barges as well? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did the law ever cover tugs? A.—Yes; some four or five years ago.

Q.—At whose instance was the law altered? A.—It was altered by a certain class of steamboat owners petitioning the Government to change it.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Were there a good many engineers in the employ of the owners, who at the time objected to doing away with the certificates? A.—They objected to it. They sent a deputation to Ottawa to that effect.

Q.—They did not want to lose their employment? A.—Certainly not. Americans can come in here and run a boat, and there is no objections raised, but we cannot go over there unless we are American citizens.

Q.—How is that? A.—I say an engineer from Canada cannot run an American boat unless he is an American citizen, but engineers can come here and be employed on our boats—that is, on our tugs.

Q.—That is, when no certificate is required they can be employed? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What is the rate of wages an engineer would receive on a first-class steamer or propeller? A.—On the larger crafts between \$65 and \$70; that is what they call the tariff rate. They have a tariff for the tugs that runs from \$40 to \$45, and \$50 and \$60.

Q.—Who makes that tariff? A.—It is prepared by parties in Toronto and Hamilton—steamboat owners.

Q.—Are the marine engineers organized in any form? A.—I think there is a branch of the organization in Toronto, but it does not come down this far; it takes in Toronto, Hamilton and St. Catharines.

Q.—Do you think that a complete organization among the marine engineers would be a benefit to them? A.—Yes; I believe it would be.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Do the engineers think the inspection of boilers and hulls necessary? A.—Yes; they believe so; it gives satisfaction.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you know anything of the condition of hulls used on the upper lakes? A.—Some of them are of a very poor class.

Q.—You say some of them are of a very poor class. Do you mean they are unseaworthy? A.—There are some of them that are just holding together. They were condemned years ago.

Q.—Those barges are generally vessels worn out in service? A.—They are worn out vessels that will not qualify for inspection.

Q.—And they run them in the dangerous season, even in October and November so long as they will float, I suppose? A.—They run them so long as navigation is open.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you any information in connection with marine engineering you wish to impart to the Commission? A.—I think it would be a good idea if the Government would bring all tugs under qualified engineers. There are some people who try to have engineers run twenty-four or forty-eight hours on a stretch. If they will not do that the masters put in incompetent men to do the work, if the law does not prevent them.

Q.—Provided an engineer works an extraordinary time without sleep, do you think his vessel is placed in a dangerous condition? A.—It would be better if they had what we call regular watches. Of course, when a man has been on duty twenty-four hours—he is unable to get sleep.

Q.—Have you ever known any mishap to take place on vessels on account of the negligence of engineers, that carelessness or negligence being on account of want of sleep? A.—No; I do not know that I have.

Q.—Have you ever known when an inspector of vessels would visit a steamer and order repairs to be done that the steamer would leave port without such being done? A.—No. You generally report in the fall any deficiencies to the owner and inspector. You are obliged to do it; you are supposed to do it, any way.

Q.—Do you consider inspection is satisfactory once a year? A.—Yes.

Q.—In your opinion, what is the best time to make an inspection? A.—I think the fall of the year would be the best, for if there is any defective part to be repaired there is the winter in which to fix it.

JOSEPH SHAW, Laborer, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are you a corporation laborer or a contractor's laborer? A.—I work in the locomotive works.

Q.—Did you hear the evidence of parties from the locomotive works in regard to the wages paid to laborers? A.—Some get \$1; some \$1.20 a day. All get about \$1 a day; the wages run about \$5.90 a week for the most of us.

Q.—How often are the men paid? A.—Every fortnight.

Q.—Would the men prefer weekly payments? A.—I cannot say that, I am sure; I never heard them grumble about fortnightly pay.

Q.—What is your opinion in that respect? A.—It would be very good, I think, to have it every week.

Q.—You personally prefer weekly payments? A.—I do not know; weekly would be very good.

Q.—Are there many laborers owning their own homes in Kingston? A.—I could not say; that question is more than I could answer.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Do you know any one working in the same branch as you who owns his own home? A.—I own one, but I have not paid for it—for the whole of it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you a family? A.—No.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—After supporting yourself out of your own wages that you earn at the locomotive works, how long would it take you to pay for your home. A.—Twenty years.

Q.—You have no other income besides your pay? A.—Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Twenty years from now? A.—I have been twenty years in Kingston now, and I have been all that time saving to pay for a house.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—What other income have you besides your daily pay at the works? A.—I have a pension from the Government.

Q.—What does that pension amount to? A.—Eighty dollars a year, and a few cents over.

Q.—Under those circumstances, how long would it take you to pay for your own house? A.—I guess it will take me twenty years altogether; it might take less.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—What is the value of the house you are trying to pay up on? A.—About \$800.

JAMES RUSHFORD, Laborer, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Where are you employed? A.—At the locomotive works.

Q.—Have you heard the evidence of the other witnesses? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you corroborate it? A.—In what way?

Q.—In regard to all they have said. A.—I have not heard one laborer speak.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What is the rate of wages paid to laborers? A.—They will average, in the locomotive works, hardly \$1.05 a day.

Q.—Are there any who receive under \$1? A.—Yes; there are. All the laborers in the locomotive works, at the shops, do not receive \$1 a day. They receive between 98 and 99 cents; they only get \$5.90 a week.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Are they paid by the week or by the day? A.—They get \$1 a day, and on Saturday they only get paid for nine hours.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG .—

Q.—Do many laborers own their own houses? A.—I do not know many who do. I know one who owns his home, but I think of only one. I know of a few others, but they do not own, and I don't know how long it will be before they own them. It is very difficult for a mere laborer, who is not employed on any but common labor, to get a house; there are several laborers here who are handy men and make over \$1 a day.

Q.—Do the men, according to your view, prefer to be paid fortnightly rather than weekly? A.—I could not exactly say that; but I know a few who would rather be paid weekly than fortnightly, simply because many of the laborers have to draw before the fortnight's pay come—they cannot wait that long.

Q.—You think, then, that if they were paid weekly this drawing would be done away with? A.—Yes; I think so.

Q.—Do you think the laborers are well paid at \$1 a day? A.—No; I am sure they are not, because a laborer who gets only \$1 a day and has two or three small children cannot half support his children and clothe them the way he should, and he cannot pay school taxes to give them an education. There are hundreds of them that way.

Q.—Have you any other information that would be of any benefit to the Commission? A.—The only thing I want to say is that I would prefer shorter hours. I think it would be a great benefit to men to have shorter hours, for they could make good use of the time. To a great many men, one extra hour in the evening would be a good thing.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Do you think your labor is too laborious to work at it ten hours a day? A.—I think so. I think if there was one hour shorter in the day more men would get employment.

Q.—What makes you think that? A.—A man will not do so much work in nine hours as in ten hours, and I think that would employ more men.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Would you be willing to work nine hours at less wages than you get now? A.—I would.

Q.—You would take the reduction? A.—Yes; I would rather take the reduction, for all it would amount to in my pay.

JAMES FLEMING, Sailor, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—You have been president of the Sailors' Union, I believe? A.—I have.

Q.—Will you tell us about what the rate of wages is here for a sailor in the shipping season? A.—A man would make perhaps \$1 a day, provided he sailed the whole summer.

Q.—From May to December? A.—Yes; of course, it requires a little explanation on that account. A man who ships here goes perhaps to Chicago or Duluth, or some other place, and gets paid off there. There will be three or four days during which he will be idle, and he will not be getting wages, therefore the wages will not amount to so much as will appear on the surface.

Q.—Then you think he would average about \$1 a day? A.—If he did that in the summer he would be doing well.

Q.—Tell us what the wages are of a crew leaving this port on barges? A.—From \$10 a month to \$1 per day.

Q.—Do you ever have any difficulty in obtaining the money due you at the expiration of the time? A.—Very little. Sometimes there is a case that occurs when it is hard to get your wages, but since the new law has come into effect the case has been altered considerably, and a sailor can generally get his wages. There has been a law that a mortgage was payable before sailors' wages, but lately it has been decided that the sailors' wages must be paid before the mortgage, and therefore the sailor can always get his pay now.

Q.—Do you think a craft should leave this port without having a proper mate on board who has a certificate? A.—No; I do not.

Q.—Have you ever known of any vessel to be lost through improper loading, or through the grain shifting? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you ever known a vessel to be lost through the mismanagement of a mate or master, they not knowing their business properly? A.—Yes; not from a mate and master; perhaps from one—either one.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Does not that happen all over the world? A.—I suppose it does; perhaps it does; not to my knowledge.

Q.—I suppose some captains of foreign vessels are not competent commanders? A.—No; I do not think so.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Do you know of any vessels in the service now that are not classed? A.—Not vessels, exactly. I do not know whether you mean barges or not.

Q.—Barges? A.—Yes; there are barges sailing now that are not classed.

Q.—What time do you think the barges should be inspected—in the spring, or at any other time? A.—I should say that they should be inspected in the fall of the year, when they are laid up; that is the only time you can tell whether there is anything wrong with them or not. In the spring the inspector would not be able to tell the difference, unless he bored them, and then he would hardly be able to decide. There has been one barge lost this last summer, on which the Government have appointed a commission of enquiry; that was not in a seaworthy condition, and there are several other barges of which I am aware that are not seaworthy.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Are you talking about barges going to the upper lakes? A.—Yes; I am speaking of the lakes; I know nothing about the river barges.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—In regard to the inspection of tackle and running gear: would you have it take place in the spring, when the vessel is ready for sailing? A.—Yes; that would be the correct way, I think; but so far as the hull is concerned, I do not think that would be right. I think there is a little too much latitude allowed to vessel owners, so that they can put vessels on the lakes that are not seaworthy.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—You say you are president of the Seamen's Union? A.—Yes.

Q.—You say a man would average about \$1 a day? A.—Yes; throughout the season.

Q.—And that is owing to their losing so much time at the end of each run? A.—Yes.

Q.—Why does the Sailors' Union, of which you are president, discountenance the employment of sailors by the month? A.—Because they would get less wages, and be just as liable, if they were shipped by the month, to be paid off, as if they shipped by the day.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How is that? If a man engages by the month, starting from Kingston to

go to Chicago, he will be in the same position as a man engaged by the trip? A.—
Because the articles are not worth the paper on which they are written.

Q.—Why? A.—I do not know the reason.

Q.—Is not that very strange? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is this the only part of the English dominions where such is the case. A.—
The articles can be broken in any port they go.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is that one of the reasons? A.—The articles can be broken. Take the
case of a man shipping from Chicago to Kingston: if the vessel is detained in
Chicago for two weeks the man is liable to be paid off, just as much as if he had been
shipped by the day, and therefore the union has decided in favor of the present
system. Further, the men always get more wages by the day than by the month.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You believe that if a sailor is engaged in Kingston by the month a master
can pay him off in a week or ten days? A.—Yes; I have had my experience in
this matter, for I have been paid off myself.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You know it as a fact? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—Did you ever go to court about it? A.—The courts where?

Q.—In Kingston, where the agreement was made? A.—I have never gone
there, because I do not think it would be worth my while, and after I got paid off
at foreign ports I could ship there as well as here.

Q.—Did you ever know of a case tried? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you believe the man could not recover from the owner of the vessel who
engaged him here? A.—No. It has been a law made—not a law by the Government
—it has been a law between the sailors and captains of vessels that you can be paid off.

Q.—Of course, it is a different thing if you make an agreement. A.—There is
no agreement, but there is an understanding.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Among the masters and seamen? A.—Yes; that you can get paid off at any
place. A man engaging by the month is not more safe than if he engaged by the day.

Q.—Do the masters prefer to ship their men by the month, or simply from port
to port? A.—Most generally they want to ship them by the day, so that if they
happen to be detained for any time at a port they can pay them off.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q.—You are sure of that? A.—Yes; I am sure of it.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—If you went to the captain of a vessel, and offered to ship with that captain
by the month, and you said to the captain: "I want a written agreement," and that
written agreement was drawn up in good faith and signed, do you mean it could be
broken? A.—Yes; I do not say that just from my own knowledge, but I know it for
a fact, although the two parties would have made an agreement in that way.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you think it is a necessity for the Government to appoint an inspector
of hulls and sailing vessels? A.—Yes; of course.

Q.—With respect to the inspection that is done now: is it a thorough inspection,
considering what is done? A.—There is an inspector appointed in Kingston and I
think he does his duty, so far as vessels and hulls are concerned; but there are some
vessels allowed to go out that I do not consider as seaworthy.

Q.—Generally speaking, is the forecandle in a proper condition? A.—That is a very hard question to answer. I have not been in all the forecandles, but there are some that are not fit to live in, for the simple reason that whenever there is a sea breaking over forward it is deluged with water, and you cannot sleep there; neither can the men rest or keep a dry shirt in the forecandle. I think I could say safely that there are two-thirds of the vessels on the lakes that are in a bad state as regards the forecandle. When they are going through the Welland Canal there is so much bumping against the locks that the vessels become strained forward, and that makes them leak when they come out of the canal, and I can therefore say that two-thirds of the vessels that go through the Welland Canal are not fit to live in, because you cannot keep a dry stitch of clothing in them.

Q.—When a vessel arrives at a port, is it the duty of the seamen to handle the lumber or cargo? A.—No; not generally. They do not handle the cargo at all, with the exception of the lumber trade; in the lumber trade they do.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How long has the custom been changed—was it not always done at one time?

A.—Yes; it was done formerly, but of late years it has not been done.

Q.—Do you know how many favor that change? A.—I could not say. The only vessels where the crew handle their own cargo are lumber vessels, and on them the crews are supposed to handle their own cargoes.

Q.—Is that the understanding, according to the rule of the Seamen's Union?

A.—Yes; The Seamen's Union is merged into the Knights of Labor at the present time, and that is why there is no seamen's union here now. It is an organization, but there is no seamen's union here now. I repeat that the only branch of the cargo trade in which the sailors handle the cargo is in the lumber trade.

Q.—The handling of the cargo in the other trades you would consider belonged to the work of the longshoremen? A.—Yes; all other work of that kind belongs to the longshoremen, with the exception of the lumber trade, and then it is not unloading but loading, because when a vessel goes to Georgian Bay they cannot get a hired man to do the work, and therefore they use the crew for that purpose. That is the understanding before the crew leave—they are supposed to handle the lumber on leaving.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—And the Seamen's Union allows them to do so? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you ever known vessels in danger on account of an over deck load of lumber? A.—Yes. There is a class of vessels that is built—I was on one last summer—that when they are loaded to 9 feet 6 inches of lumber, and loaded to 13 feet of timber they would roll with no swell on—these are barges—and their covering board would be under water. I do not think they are capable of being handled, unless a steam barge was ahead of them all the time. If the tug let go of them in the gale of wind it would be altogether impossible to be on board of them.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Is there any other information respecting your union that would be of any benefit to the Commission? A.—There is only one thing I would like to say, and that is that the Government should enforce the law—if there is a law in force; I do not know whether there is or not—by which barges would not be allowed to go out of port except they are properly managed and equipped. They should be not only properly managed and equipped, but they should have on board certified masters and mates, and a crew capable of handling them in case a tug had to let go of them—they should be equipped and have a sufficient crew to handle them.

ROBERT MEEK, re-called.

Some of the witnesses who have appeared before this Commission in the interests of employers have stated that labor organizations were not well thought of by employers, because they demand that equal wages shall be paid to all men belonging to them. I desire to say that the labor organizations of the city do not make any demands of that kind on the employers. The organizations believe in the classification of labor, as they believe in the classification of everything else, and we have had notable instances in which the employes have been classified, with their own consent and by arrangement with the employers.

Q.—You mean grades? A.—Yes; graded, classified. We have had, no later than December, just before Christmas last, an instance before us in which a large number of men employed by one firm asked for an increase of wages. The employer said he was perfectly willing to grant it, but the matter of classification seemed to be difficult. They stated to him: you make this classification to suit yourself, and when you have made submit it to the men, and they will see what they think of it. I am glad to say that the classification was prepared and submitted to the men, was endorsed unanimously, and it provided for class No. 1 and class No. 2, and laborers, unskilled. This little document which I have here has the concluding sentence or paragraph of the petition sent to the employers asking for a readjustment of wages. It reads:—

“And now, sir, will you please give to these points your serious consideration. We believe that you are a just man and that you will see that justice is done. We request that you will not, in disposing of the matter, be influenced by any prejudiced opinion; ascertain what the employes made under the old tariff—not in the busiest week of the year only, but in the dullest as well, and in dealing with this wage-test be good enough to ascertain what service, in detail, each one has had to render, in order to earn the money that has been paid to her.

“In conclusion, the success of the mill is the desire of every employé for their own selves, and in the promotion of their welfare they would not have it otherwise. They seek to be content, but conceive, as a necessary condition of contentment, that they should be paid a wage calculated to make them more appreciated.”

Such is the manner in which they have been dictating to their employers in this city. Then as to arbitration in a certain case referred to: I have only to add that that arbitration was not completed because the workingmen's arbitrator reported to the workingmen of the city that he had ran after the other arbitrator until he was totally tired, and asked, as a favor, to be released from the agreement, which was granted. That is the reason why arbitration failed. For that arbitration failing a reason is wanted, and that is the reason.

CHARLES MOORE, Shoemaker, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you work at store work or custom work? A.—I am carrying on business for myself at present.

Q.—How many men do you employ? A.—Sometimes four; at present only one.

Q.—Do you employ them on custom work. A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you employ them fully throughout the year? A.—There are few men who stay a year with the same employer. There are some who stay a number of years, and so on.

Q.—Do those men who work for you work by the week or by the piece? A.—It is all piece-work at our trade.

Q.—What would be the weekly wages of a good hand on piece-work? A.—As Mr. Meek has just explained, the whole trouble is classification. We have men working at our trade who are experienced, and who earn exceedingly good wages,

and there are some men who earn very poor wages, as much as \$4 and \$4.50 per week. I know a certain shop in this city where a man has taken his \$12 a week, and I know shops in this city where men have had to work hard to get \$4.50 or \$5. In the spring of the year the trade increases, and in the fall it is very busy. At this time of year trade is very slack, and there is scarcely a shoemaker who is getting full employment. It is the same in the middle of the summer, unless the employer wishes to make up work for fall, which some do and some do not.

Q.—You believe, then, in classification? A.—Most decidedly. That is the great object of our society; that is what we wish to promote as between employer and employé. I hold the second highest position in the Knights of Labor, and I can give a fair statement in regard to all matters connected with them, and I can say that that is the difficulty under which we labor at the present time.

Q.—There may be two classes of classification, a classification made by the men themselves, and a classification made by the employers. Which do you think is most beneficial to the men? A.—A practical workman carrying on business is a better judge of the classification of work than a man who works at it. Every man is most concerned in his own work, and if he was told it was not such a good job as another man had made, of course he would differ from him, for it is his duty to speak up for himself as much as possible. I wish to state, further, that there is a great encouragement, a great advance to be made in mechanical science in regard to this classification, and it is simply this: There is No. 1, and there is No. 2. No. 2 will struggle as much as possible to become No. 1, and No. 1 will also meet under the same head. If he sees a second-rate workman trying to make a job as good as he can make, he will certainly endeavor to cultivate his own mechanical ideas and bring out a still better job than he is doing. Therefore, it is an advancement to both, and to progressive mechanical science.

Q.—Do you think if a classification of that kind were made in Kingston the employers, as a rule, would act fairly by it? A.—I have nothing to say against any employer in the city of Kingston. They are always willing to get their work done as well as they can, I believe for the benefit of themselves and their customers; but this work will not pay the employé without he gets an advance of wages. There are different rates of wages in Kingston. There are at present about four shops where people can get a first-class article in our trade. There are other shops where the public consider that if they go into them they cannot get a first-class article; and, therefore, they patronize those shops with the best men.

Q.—Can you speak of any bad effect on your trade? A.—Yes. I wish also to mention in regard to pauper immigration, and also to speak upon indentures to trades. I shall confine myself to my own trade; I can speak truthfully in regard to it in every respect. I do not hold with the system of indentures, simply for this reason: a boy is put along with a man to learn his trade; he is a well-disposed man, and the boy is a good, intelligent lad—his own common sense teaches him to benefit his master or his employer. The employer certainly takes an interest in the lad, seeing he is a good boy, and he will teach him. There are other ways a boy is affected when he becomes an apprentice, and one of these ways is this: a man carrying on business in our trade has a boy apprenticed to him. There are some men in this city carrying on business that if they only have a boy for a short time they will demand him to be bound, and in many instances the boys have skipped to the other side. Now, for instance, if a man takes a boy, and his business is so arranged that it takes him the whole of his time to cut out and measure and do certain things in the front shop, and the apprentice is all the time in the back shop. The men are working piece-work; the boy wishes to be instructed in his trade; it is no interest to the men, unless they are well-disposed men, to teach that boy, and, therefore, at the conclusion of his term he is not a journeyman, and after he leaves his employer's shop, in ninety-nine cases out of one hundred, he has to go under instructions to some man who works on the bench. But it is a good thing for a boy not to learn to be a practical workman in shoemaking, because there are factories and custom shops. If a boy

only knows how to put an upper on a last and last it, and he goes to Rochester, it is possible for a boy to earn \$20 a week. If a workman works here all night and all day, he could not earn that much. I have heard a good deal spoken here about shorter hours. It is impossible for a shoemaker to work shorter hours. They commence at seven o'clock in the morning and work till nine or ten o'clock, in the fall; and I have known them to work up till twelve o'clock, and all on purpose to earn a miserable livelihood. It is one of the most oppressed trades under the sun, unless the man is an experienced and quick workman, and then he can get along very nicely.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Why do you point to Rochester as the place where a factory hand can do better? Are there not factories in Canada where he could go? A.—Because there are sixty-two factories in Rochester and one in Kingston.

Q.—Are there not some factories in Canada where a man could better himself? A.—The shoe factories of the United States are conducted on different principles from what they are here. I was connected with factories there, and was foreman cutter in a factory for a number of years. I worked at the trade in England, Scotland, Ireland, France and Germany. I have a thorough knowledge of the trade in all its branches.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You say that a boy who only knows how to fit an upper on a last could make \$20 in Rochester, which would be more than a man who can make a full boot could make here in Kingston? A.—Yes; double as much.

Q.—Then you think it is now no use for a man to learn to be a practical shoemaker—that is, to be able to manufacture a complete shoe? A.—The man who works on the bench learns to be a practical workman, and that is not the way the trade is conducted now-a-days.

Q.—You are not, then, in favor of the indenture system? A.—No; certainly not.

Q.—Is not the indenture system one of the platforms of the declaration of the principles of the Knights of Labor? A.—It is not.

Q.—It is not laid down as a rule? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Your opinion, at all events, is formed from experience? A.—Yes.

Q.—And it is according to your own view of the case? A.—Yes; I never was apprenticed in my life, and I do not wish to praise myself, but at the same time I am a practical workman. The only branch of our business that is profitable is that of an experienced cutter. He can demand wages wherever he goes. There are cutters who are practical men also, but it is a gift; designing and cutting in our trade is certainly a gift.

Q.—When he has got that gift he had better stick to it, I suppose? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You consider that in those factories where there is so much machinery it is a matter of impossibility to learn the trade thoroughly, on account of the manner in which the trade is cut up? A.—No boy ever learned his trade thoroughly in a factory there never was one yet; there are so many apprentices. There is a foreman cutter, who sorts the stock, a man who cuts out; there are fitters, lasters, stitchers, trimmers and bottom finishers, and every one of those processes is distinct and separate from the other.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—And each of those hands ought to be perfect at every part of the business? A.—Yes; that is what makes the work come through so uniformly as it does. It is the same on the other side in the moulding of stoves. If there are nine pieces there

are nine branches. I wish to say a few words on the subject of pauper immigration, from personal knowledge. In London and other parts of England there are placards posted up in every convenient spot, stating that hundreds of mechanics are required and dozens of laborers are wanted for Canada. The wages are stated to be 20 shillings a day and 15 shillings a day, and all kinds of inducements are held out. The people have no funds to come out here with and they apply to the emigration office, and so forth, and they are sent out. This country is taxed for the purpose of bringing out mechanics who are not perfect in their business to compete with us, and I can safely say, further, that all the poor law guardians of London, all the benevolent institutions of London, and those who come round trying to assist and relieve the poor, are constantly annoyed by this class of individuals. They try to get all they can from charitable people, and in regard to those who cannot obtain home employment they make it up in this way, to a certain extent. The benevolent people get so annoyed that they say: "Would you like to go to Canada, where you can earn good wages?"

Q.—Are you going to prevent that? A.—Yes.

Q.—How? A.—The only way is for those agents to thoroughly question them, and find out whether they are practical workmen before they send them out here.

Q.—You want the people in England to examine everybody who is coming out here? A.—No; I do not want that, but there should be a proper paper filled out, on the principle of an affidavit.

Q.—An affidavit of what? A.—Of their capacity.

Q.—Do you know how much an assisted immigrant gets from the Government? A.—I do not exactly.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you know what class of immigrants the Government assists? A.—They are supposed to assist all classes that are recommended.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What is your authority for that? A.—There is Countess DeGrey.

Q.—We are not talking about Countess DeGrey. You say the Government assists all classes. Where is your authority for that statement? A.—Because I came out here along with a great number of others, and they nearly all come out by charitable institutions.

Q.—That is not the point. You say the Government assists all classes: what is your authority for that statement? A.—The ladies there make enquiries and recommend them. I have no authentic proof of how the Government ascertains its knowledge.

Q.—You have just been saying that the Government assists all classes, and I ask you what is your authority? A.—I will tell you: the ladies are appointed by the Government.

Q.—By the Canadian Government? A.—No; at home—I am speaking of England.

Q.—We cannot prevent the British Government and ladies from assisting people? A.—I can say that all the immigrants coming out are received by this Government and forwarded to their respective places.

Q.—That is your opinion. What is your authority for that? A.—My authority for that is by seeing them passed along. The immigrant agent at Quebec sees them and calls their names.

Q.—Let us come to facts? A.—The facts are there.

Q.—What is your authority for saying that the Government passes these people to their respective places? Even if the immigration agent assists them, that surely is no proof that the Government assists them? A.—He has names, and he calls out their names; he knows who are coming there, I should think.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you know whether the Dominion Government put up those placards in the old country, or the steamboat companies? A.—I am laying no charge whatever

against the Dominion Government; only I am telling you how people are sent out here by charitable institutions.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—We can read such statements in the newspapers—have you any facts? A.—There are Countess DeGrey, Lady Gladstone and Lady DeBathe all sitting in a room. There are also a number of applicants who have to be examined.

Q.—We really do not care what Countess DeGrey does in England. Have you any facts? A.—They are sent out here for farm work. They are asked their trade, and they distinctly tell their trade. I say mechanics come out here who have given their names and their trades distinctly.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do they get assisted passages from the Government as mechanics? A.—No.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How can the Dominion Government prevent those charitable people from sending out those people? A.—I am protesting against unqualified workmen being sent out; that is what I am protesting against.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Please inform the Commission how you are going to prevent British subjects from coming out to Canada? A.—I cannot tell you that; but still, at the same time, I think it a great pity to have this country crowded with such men. I think the evil should be put a stop to.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How can you stop it. You cannot prevent British subjects from coming here? A.—Certainly not.

Q.—Then how can you stop it? A.—I do not think the Canadian Government should take action in the way of receiving them, because they give them land and money when they come.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Who is the agent at Quebec who receives them when they land? A.—I forget the gentleman who is there.

Q.—Whose agent is he? A.—He is the Canadian agent, certainly.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—How many years ago was that? A.—Seventeen years ago.

Q.—There have been a great many changes in the world since that? A.—No doubt of it; but the Government has given land and money when they have come here; and, no doubt, it is paid out of the taxes.

JOSEPH THORNE, Carpenter, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How long have you worked in Kingston as a carpenter? A.—I am not working as a carpenter. I have charge of a saw mill and other machinery in connection with the Montreal Transportation Company's yard. I have only been about two and a-half years in the city.

Q.—Are you a journeyman? A.—Yes. At present I am engaged as foreman of the mill and machinery, and the men employed there.

Q.—What wages does a carpenter receive? A.—From \$1.25 to \$1.75 at present.

Q.—What is the average? A.—About \$1.50.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What kind of carpenters do you get for \$1.25 a day? A.—I am speaking of the place where I am working. That would be the amount received, perhaps, by

a first-class house carpenter and joiner. They are not so good at the business as a millwright. In the winter season there are a great many of them idle and we employ them there, and of course they would not obtain the wages there they would at their own trade. They get about \$1.25 a day. They would be first-class men at their own trade, no doubt.

Q.—How many men do you employ there? A.—I do not know just the number. I think, between laborers and mechanics, there are about seventy.

Q.—Any boys? A.—None very small. I do not think there are any under seventeen or eighteen.

Q.—Does any unskilled labor run the machines? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Any boys? A.—No.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—What kind of machinery does that unskilled labor run? A.—There are machines in connection with iron work, and drilling holes in iron, and for threading bolts. At present the man who is running it is a skilled man—there is only one man employed at it. At times there is unskilled labor employed at this machine.

Q.—Is unskilled labor employed at saws or planers? A.—No; all skilled mechanics.

Q.—Has the factory inspector been through the premises? A.—No; I have not seen him.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is the machinery dangerous, for want of proper protection? A.—All machinery is dangerous, but we have taken every precaution to protect it. We have protected it as much as possible.

Q.—Have any accidents happened there? A.—Not for about a year. I think about a year ago a man lost his arm by a jig-saw.

Q.—Was he working at it when he lost his arm? A.—He was helper at sawing; he had been there some time. At the time he was hurt he was under the saw, where he had no business to go. He had to crawl in under a piece of timber to get there.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—What was he doing down there? A.—The sawdust drops down there and he was forbidden to go there. That place is not cleaned out, except once a month, when the mill is idle.

Q.—It is generally considered a very dangerous place? A.—It is not a proper place to go when the machinery is running.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

A.—Are belts generally put on and changed when the machinery is running? A.—No.

Q.—He was a helper who had his arm taken off? A.—Yes.

Q.—Was he taking the place of the sawyer at the time? A.—No; the sawyer was there.

Q.—Have any other accidents happened in addition to that? A.—No; that is the only one I can think of.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Is the business increasing down there? A.—I think it is.

Q.—Do any of the hands belong to labor organizations? A.—Some of them do. There is only one of the men working under me who belongs to the Knights of Labor.

Q.—Are there any objections in that respect with the company—to their object to employing men who belong to labor organizations? A.—Not to my knowledge.

WILLIAM DUFFY, Moulder, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Have you heard the evidence of any previous witness in your branch of business? A.—Yes; on Monday night.

Q.—Do you corroborate what they stated? A.—I do.

Q.—Have you anything to add? A.—No; nothing that I think of. I did not hear the whole of the evidence, exactly.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Are you a machinery moulder? A.—A machinery moulder.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do machinery moulders receive as high wages in Kingston as moulders receive in Toronto? A.—In some places they receive more. The way we have been guided in regard to wages is to get a scale of wages from different places and compare them with our wages here. We consider we are not paid according to that scale.

Q.—Are you paid under it? A.—We were out on strike last summer and we got part of what we went out for. The rest we will look for in future. They take the advantage of us when they are slack and run us to a pretty low point.

Q.—Before you went out on strike did you approach the manager for a settlement? A.—The mechanical superintendent did.

Q.—What was the result of the interview you had? A.—Short and snappish.

Q.—And the men considered that the only resort left to them was to strike? A.—That is what they gave us to understand—to get out.

Q.—After the difficulty was over were any of the men refused work because they took part in the labor trouble? A.—Not in our department.

Q.—Do you know for a fact that that took place in other departments? A.—I could not say. I do not wish to speak for any other shop or department except where I work.

Q.—What would a machinery moulder earn, spreading his wages over the entire year? A.—On an average, a moulder in our department will not lose much time; the general run of them will work pretty steadily the year round, that is at piece-work. The establishment for the last twelve years has been up and down pretty often. It has been closed down for one year, two years, three years, and so on; so to estimate what a man actually makes there in the year is a difficult matter, but the general run of men work pretty steadily.

Q.—To your knowledge, were the works shut down for lack of orders? A.—That was the principal thing, the depression in the trade. At the time it was supposed that the locomotive works were so well equipped with machinery and had been so long established that the Government would have given them orders and kept them going. We supposed there were any amount of locomotives coming into the country that could have been made here just as well. We got credit for turning out as good castings and machinery in our line as is turned out in any part of Canada, and there is nothing superior turned out in the United States.

Q.—Have you worked outside of Canada, in the old country? A.—No; I am a Canadian.

Q.—Take a term of say, ten years: has the condition of the mechanic materially declined during the past ten years? A.—Take it on an average, it has improved slightly. During those ten years a certain class of men, I suppose they were superior to the others, had the same wages as they have to-day, but there might be only one of them at that time.

Q.—Do you think, from your practical knowledge, that machinery moulding in your trade is on the increase? A.—I think it is.

Q.—Do you think the output is increasing yearly by the company? A.—It is. When the new company took hold five or six years ago they did a rushing business

for about three years. Then they shut down for two or three years for want of orders.

Q.—Does the company receive any patterns from the United States? A.—Not that I know of.

Q.—Have you any further information that would be of benefit to the Commission? A.—Not any.

JAMES AINSLIE, Shipwright, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Did you hear the evidence of the shipwright who was up here? A.—I did.

Q.—Did you agree with that evidence? A.—Not altogether.

Q.—In what respect do you disagree from it? A.—About apprentices, and about shipwrights.

Q.—In what respect? A.—I do not believe in binding a boy down as an apprentice; and I disagree with the remark that there are only four shipwrights in this town, for I can name sixteen.

Q.—Do they get constant work? A.—They do, if they like to work at it.

Q.—What are the wages of a good shipwright? A.—Two dollars a day, that is for a first-class shipwright.

Q.—Do they work by the day? A.—Yes; by the day.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you have constant employment all the year round? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are those the only points you wish to contradict? A.—And about the nine-hour system.

Q.—Do you believe in the nine-hour system? A.—I do not. I believe in men getting paid for every hour they work; if a man works ten hours he should get paid for it.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—That is, if he chooses to work more? A.—Let him get paid for the number of hours he works. If a man chooses to work nine hours his pay should be deducted.

Q.—And if a man chooses to work eleven hours he should get paid for it? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you believe in the principle of shortening the hours of labor? A.—No; I do not—nothing less than ten hours a day.

Q.—How many hours a day should a man rest to give his employer the following day a good day's work? A.—Six hours' sleep; that is what I call rest.

Q.—Do you think all mechanics could put in an honest day's work for their employer a week in and out on six hours' rest each night? A.—Yes; I do on six hours' sleep.

Q.—After working a full day's work of ten hours, what time would a man have to enjoy himself with his family? A.—On an evening like this he would have two hours to enjoy himself around the city, and that would be long enough.

Q.—Provided he had some clothing to purchase for himself: would he not have to do that kind of thing at night? A.—He could do that between six and eight o'clock, and I call that only in the evening.

Q.—Provided there was a statute compelling men to work ten hours per day, would that have a tendency to raise the moral standing and intellectual standing of the working classes? A.—I do not know; I could not answer that question.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—You would not be satisfied to improve your mental condition at the expense of your family? A.—I could not answer that question.

EDWARD PENSE, Newspaper Proprietor, Kingston, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You are proprietor of the *Whig* printing office, I believe? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you a printer yourself? A.—No.

Q.—How much per thousand do you pay your men employed on the newspaper?
A.—Twenty-five cents per thousand.

Q.—Do they receive anything for their idle time when in the office? A.—No; if claims are made they are very small; I have never known a claim to be disputed. I have had no wage complaint made to me for a year.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that the plate matter that enters your paper has a tendency to decrease the quantity of matter given to the men? A.—I think not, practically, with us.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What would you do if you did not have the plate-matter? A.—We would have to do without it.

Q.—How would you fill your paper? A.—We would not put so much in it. We have not decreased the quantity of matter set up since we got the plate. As a matter of fact, wages in our composing room have increased \$18 to \$20 since we introduced plate.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You mean to say that the men receive from \$18 to \$20 a week? A.—No; I say that take the year's average, the total expenses in our composing room are \$18 to \$20 a week more than formerly.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What would journeymen printers average on piece-work? A.—Three or four make over \$10. If one is off half a day his pay will run down to \$9. Our week hands are paid \$9.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How many apprentices are working on the paper? A.—I cannot say; seven, at most.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How many journeymen? A.—I have seven up stairs; three or four in the job-room; four is my proper number in the job-room. I have only one small boy in the job-room as an apprentice.

Q.—There are seven apprentices to seven journeymen? A.—Some are two-thirds. Practically, I have eleven journeymen to seven apprentices, as the job boy is a mere helper.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What would you call two-thirds? A.—A boy who had probably served three out of five years.

Q.—But still he is an apprentice until he has served his five years? A.—We consider him so; there are no bound apprentices.

Q.—Does the Typographical Union of Kingston recognize two-thirds as working at the trade? A.—There is no official recognition; but the union has never made any objection. In anything my printers have asked me I have met them.

Q.—Have you ever had any labor trouble? A.—I had one little difficulty in the job-room two or three years ago.

Q.—How was it settled? A.—The men were wrong, and they admitted it; it is a matter you can easily understand. I found something wrong, and I asked the foreman to make a return.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Did he refuse? A.—He worked in with the men and they refused to do it; I locked them out.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Who does the work of setting the advertisements, and the tables, and the markets? A.—The advertisements are set by an office hand.

Q.—He does not set that kind of matter by the piece? A.—No.

Q.—By the week? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it only the advertisements? A.—I think he corrects the markets; we have very few markets here—not many are required.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of your office? A.—I believe it is very good. The composing-room, I think, is as fine as any in Canada, except that of the *Mail*.

Q.—How is the press-room? A.—It is a little dark, but there is nothing wrong with the sanitary condition of it.

Q.—Is the drainage good? A.—Yes; the office is one of the finest buildings in Kingston.

Q.—Is there sufficient light in the job-room without the aid of gas? A.—There is on ordinary days; it is only on rare occasions we have to use a little gas.

Q.—What is the feeling existing between the proprietors of newspapers in the city and their men? A.—I never have any difficulty with my men; I have always conceded everything they asked. I must say they have not asked anything but what is fair.

CORNWALL, 3rd May, 1888.

ARCHIE GAULT, Secretary of the Stormont Cotton Mills Company, Cornwall, called and sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—How many people have you employed in the Stormont mill? A.—Four hundred and ninety.

Q.—How many of those would be women? A.—There are 228 females, and 262 male.

Q.—Would the children be included in that list? A.—Then there are fifteen children besides,—that is, fifteen under fourteen years of age. All the others are included in the numbers that I have mentioned.

Q.—About what would be the age of the youngest employed? A.—The youngest would be between thirteen and fourteen, in the whole mill. We have got thirteen boys under fourteen, and no girls.

Q.—What hours does the mill run? A.—We start at half-past six in the morning and knock off at half-past six in the evening. An hour is allowed for dinner; and on Saturday the working hours are from half-past six to twelve.

Q.—Are you able to tell us what the earnings of the various operatives are—the highest to the lowest or the lowest to the highest? A.—We average 93½ cents per day over the whole mill; that is, without the management, and without the office expenses.

Q.—That is including the overseers? A.—Including the whole mill.

Q.—Not the superintendent? A.—It is without him.

Q.—Ninety-three and a half cents all over? A.—Yes; it rather averages 94 cents a day. The average of mill hands, all round, is 93½ cents. The lowest pay in the mill, for the boys, is 35 cents per day.

Q.—Just give the highest you pay? A.—We pay the highest to our designer, for instance—\$4.25 per day; and we pay \$3.50, \$2.50 and \$2, and so on; that is to the overseers of each flat.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do the weavers work by the piece or by the day? A.—All by the piece.

Q.—How much per cut do they get? A.—We sell a very large class of goods. We pay different amounts of wages. We paid last year \$123,662 in wages; and the amount of fines last year was \$545.44.

Q.—Was any amount of the operatives' wages confiscated during last year for leaving without giving proper notice? A.—Not one dollar, sir.

Q.—Are you able to tell us what treatment your operatives receive from the overseers of the various flats—the various departments? A.—Well, I never saw any harsh treatment in any way; I naturally suppose they treat the hands remarkably well. I never heard any complaints; there have never been any complaints lodged in the office by operatives of ill-treatment, during the past nine years.

Q.—Was there any trouble in the month of April last, occasioned by ill-treatment by overseers? A.—I am not aware of it.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Would you readily receive any complaint? A.—Oh, yes; decidedly.

Q.—You think it is your duty to receive any? A.—Decidedly; if any operative made a complaint against an overseer we are bound to look into it.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Y.—If an overseer grossly insulted female operatives would you take steps to prevent its recurrence? A.—It would not be allowed for any of the overseers to do that; I would look into it right off. I do not think it reached my ears. I heard that some young women did not do what the overseer told them—that they refused to do it—and were paid their wages and went away quietly, without any hubbub or noise.

Q.—Do you know if the male and female operatives in your mill use the same closet? A.—There are two on each flat, one for the males and one for the females, with a continuous stream of water running. I do not think it would be possible for them to do that.

Q.—How are these closets separated. A.—One on the one side is for the males, and the other, at the extreme end, is for the females.

Q.—Are there any closets in your mill divided by a board partition only? A.—No; none. There are only two on each flat.

Q.—Is there a sufficiency of water provided for the employés? A.—I think so.

Q.—Do you know if the company furnishes cups, or do they drink out of the pail? A.—I do not know, as a fact; I would not swear to that. I think there is a cup by the water; I never heard any complaints.

Q.—You never heard any complaints? A.—Not the slightest; if they wanted any of these tins they could get them.

Q.—Did you have some trouble in your mill with the operatives during the past winter? A.—There was a little hubbub in the beginning of the year, during the winter. The only trouble we had was by the reducing of the wages a shade. In fact, it was not so much a reduction as an equalizing of the wages. Some of the weavers got more than others, and we equalized it. Some were reduced a little, and they caused a strike by having got theirs reduced.

Q.—How are they paid—at what rate? A.—Different prices. They are not all on the same class of goods.

Q.—Some are paid more and some less? A.—Oh, decidedly. Some attend to two looms, some five, some four, and so on.

Q.—In reducing the wages of operatives, did you try to equalize the wages of those running five looms and those running less? A.—We did. We thought the ones running three looms should not be put at the same as the ones running four.

Q.—You considered that the men running four or five looms were entitled to more than the men running three? A.—Yes; and we equalized it in proportion. The men running three looms would not make as much as the man running five looms; the more he does—the more he should get.

Q.—Was the cut the same? A.—Yes.

Q.—Could you tell us how the difficulty was settled? A.—It was settled amongst them-selves. They saw the justice of our action, and we said "Come in on Monday morning."

Q.—Was there any settlement by arbitration? A.—Not that year.

Q.—Did you during that time, or have you since the strike, increased the number of yards of their cut? A.—No.

Q.—The operatives do no more work now than they did before? A.—No.

Q.—You are not able to tell us as to the language used by the overseers to the operatives? A.—I do not know the language used, but if bad language was used I should certainly hear of it, and would enquire into it; but I do not think I ever remember hearing of any harsh language used by overseers.

Q.—If there was you think you would hear of it? A.—Yes; if the operatives made complaints I would inquire into it. In fact, the overseers we have we have had for many years.

Q.—Could you tell us if operatives are fined for anything but bad work—spoiled work? A.—Nothing but bad work—spoiled work.

Q.—Is every one furnished with a copy of the rules when they are engaged? A.—Well, each one is not, but it is hung up in the rooms, both in French and in English.

Q.—Do the operatives sign an agreement when they go to work? A.—No; they do not. The chief rules are printed on the pay envelopes—the conditions in both languages—so that they see how they stand in connection with the rules of the company.

Q.—Has your company any objection to employ operatives who are Knights of Labor? A.—We would consider that question when it came up.

Q.—No one has ever been discharged from your mills for being a member of that organization? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—In equalizing the different departments as regards wages, did you decrease or increase the wages of the employés? A.—It decreased them a very shade, quite a very trifle, so much so that I did not see that there was any difference in the pay sheets to what it was before.

Q.—What means did you take to ascertain the ages of the children working for you? A.—We asked the ages, and we got a certificate from the parents that they were under fourteen.

Q.—Do these children work eleven hours a day? A.—Yes; and Saturdays until 12 o'clock.

Q.—Do you work at night time? A.—We have not had it to do lately.

Q.—Those who work at night time, do they work by the piece? A.—Those that are on piece-work work by the piece, and those who are working by the day work by the day; but we have had no night work for more than two years. Those working until nine o'clock get a day allowed them in a week, but we have not worked overtime for a long time.

Q.—Are many of the children employed in your mill able to read and write? A.—Yes; a good many of the youngsters are able to read and write.

Q.—Is your mill well ventilated? A.—Yes; in our weaving room and in the other departments there is good ventilation. The mill stands by itself, and it is open all round.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is your mill on the canal or on the river? A.—On the canal.

Q.—Do all your doors open outwards? A.—There may be one or two which do not, but we have got two insurance inspectors, and they keep us up to that.

Q.—Have you a factory inspector? A.—We have; we received a visit from him two or three months ago.

Q.—What facilities have you for leaving the building in case of fire? A.—We have a stairway 7 to 8 feet wide, winding all the way around. There are two flights of stairs, one at each end of the building.

Q.—They form a part of the building? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

- Q.—Do all the hands leave in the evening at the same time? A.—Yes.
 Q.—And do they go down the same stairs? A.—Yes.
 Q.—How often do you pay them? A.—We pay them every fortnight.
 Q.—In cash? A.—In cash and in full.
 Q.—Can you tell us in what condition the water-closets are? A.—Yes.
 Q.—You have a picker-room attached to your mill? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Have you any females employed there? A.—There are no females employed in the picker-room; they are all men.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

- Q.—What do you do as regards the rules, in the case of a person who cannot read or write? A.—They generally get some one to explain them to them.
 Q.—Do you keep any of the wages of the operatives back? A.—Certainly not. We always keep a fortnight's wages back in our hands.
 Q.—What is the reason for that? A.—That has been the custom in mills ever since I know anything about it.
 Q.—How long a notice do you require from your operatives? A.—Fourteen days.
 Q.—And you give them the same? A.—Yes.
 Q.—If they left without giving the fourteen days' notice would you pay them? A.—We would pay them.
 Q.—If you discharged them before the notice was up? A.—We would give them their pay.
 Q.—In the carding room, can you say if the males and females use the same closet? A.—They are not obliged to.
 Q.—Do the doors open inwards or outwards? A.—Well, I am not sure; the doors leading from the towers—I am not sure, but I rather think the doors leading from the towers open inwards; from the other rooms they open outwards.
 Q.—Can you tell us if the wages of the employes are garnisheed at any time? A.—Yes; we have had some.
 Q.—What is the rule as regards garnishment? A.—A debtor cannot be garnisheed for a less wages amount than \$25.
 Q.—What are your own rules? A.—We maintain them. There are plenty of good men garnisheed.
 Q.—If the operatives were paid weekly, do not you think there would be less garnishments? A.—I do not think so, I question but that it is a bad plan even to pay fortnightly.
 Q.—For what reason? A.—I think that when they got their month's pay they were quite as well off as they are now they get it every fortnight.
 Q.—Why did you change the time of paying your hands to once a fortnight? A.—Well, the feeling was that we should pay fortnightly, and for that reason we paid them fortnightly.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

- Q.—If they wanted it oftener would you give it to them before the fortnight came round? A.—Well, in any sickness we would give it to them.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

- Q.—Have you had any accidents in the mill? A.—We have.
 Q.—Would you state the nature of the accidents? A.—Well, the only thing that I remember was a man falling into the vat; that was on account of a staging of his own putting-up falling into the vat.
 Q.—He lost his life? A.—He died a few days afterwards.
 Q.—Is any provision made by the company to aid the families of operatives who are injured or lose their lives—was any recompense made to the widow of this man? A.—Yes; we recompensed her considerably.
 Q.—Have you any objection to state the recompense? A.—We gave her eno

month's pay, and paid the funeral expenses—in fact, I believe, we gave her \$100—paid the doctor's bill; paid everything of that sort—the grocer's bill, even.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—During the working hours, does the machinery get out of order?
A.—Very rarely.

Q.—Have you know such to be the case? A.—I have know some of the gear to give way—I have know some of the gearing below to give way.

Q.—Have you ever know any of the operatives to give in work during the day?
A.—That is very rarely the case.

Q.—If such was the case, would they be compelled to work overtime. A.—Oh, no; we would pay them if the machinery broke down. I am very sorry to say that trade is so bad that we do not require to work extra time now.

Q.—How many months steady work is there in your factory. A.—Nine to ten months regularly. The only time we lose is during the spring floods, and back water and so on.

Q.—You do not stop through any fault of your own. A.—Never; unless forced into stopping.

Q.—If any complaints were made to you of bad treatment or foul language on the part of the overseer you would rectify it at once. A.—Invariably; and if it was the fault of the overseer he would go at once—immediately.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Has your business increase. A.—Yes; it has increased. Since five years ago—four and a-half years ago—we have doubled our mill.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Did the Ontario factory inspector approve of every thing he saw in the mill?
A.—He gave a very good report—that he was thoroughly satisfied.

Q.—Have you known the factory inspectors of Ontario object to any mill. A.—I have no means of knowing what he thought of any mill, except our own mill.

Q.—Did your manager or one of your firm go with the inspectors? A.—It is a matter of necessity that some one should go with him. Decidedly. We would never let them go by themselves. I think it was one of the overseers that went with him.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Is your company connected with the Cotton Manufacturers' Association?
A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Does that association fix the rate of wages to be paid to operatives. A.—It fixes the price of the manufactured goods.

Q.—Those mills that do not and will not belong to the association, are they placed at a disadvantage in any way? A.—I think there is only one mill in the Dominion that does not belong to the association.

ALEXANDER G. WATSON, Cornwall, Secretary of the Canada Cotton Manufacturing Company, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How many employes are there in the Canada Cotton Company? A.—Seven hundred, in round numbers.

Q.—How would these be divided, as to males and females? A.—Well, I did not know exactly what you wanted of me, but I have a few statistics here; it is a list that I made out in 1886 for the Ontario Government, for the bureau of statistics in Toronto. It is made up to October, 1886. The figures have not varied much since then. The total number was 671 at that time, so that it would be about the same thing

now. Males over sixteen, 285; males under sixteen, 61; total males, 346. Females over sixteen, 298; females under sixteen, 27; total, 325.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Are there any of those children under fourteen? A.—I would not like to say there are any under fourteen.

Q.—What hours do the operatives work? A.—From 6.30 in the morning till 12, and from 1 to 6.30. An hour is allowed for dinner, with the exception of Saturday, when the operatives leave at 12 o'clock noon. Sixty and a-half hours a week they are required to work.

Q.—Do they keep the holidays? A.—Yes; they observe the Dominion holidays, such as Dominion Day, Good Friday, and so on—those holidays that are recognized as Dominion holidays.

Q.—Is there anything deducted from their wages for these holidays? A.—Yes; of course, when they do not work they do not get paid.

Q.—Have you a fire service in connection with the mill? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there many required to work on Saturday afternoon in connection with the private fire brigade? A.—Well, they have not yet; but it is the intention to try the pumps, and that is the reason why the males stop over.

Q.—Are they to be allowed extra for practising? A.—They are to be allowed something.

Q.—How many wash-rooms have you in your mill? A.—One on every flat.

Q.—How much time are the operatives allowed before leaving the mill for washing? A.—I think it is five minutes—that belongs to the superintendent's department.

Q.—Do you know how many operatives are allowed to be in the wash-room at one time? A.—There can not be very many, because it is not very large—it would hold about a dozen or so.

Q.—Supposing there was a room of fifty operatives, would you consider five minutes sufficient time to allow them before leaving? A.—I would suppose the others would wait. But they do not all wish to wash themselves in the mill before leaving.

Q.—Is there any rule by which an operative can be fined or punished for going into the wash-room before five minutes of the hour for leaving? A.—Five minutes is allowed; I do not know of any such rule.

Q.—Has there been a reduction of wages in your mill recently, within a few months? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you have any difficulty with your employes over that reduction, or strike? A.—Yes; a strike.

Q.—Please state the nature of the difficulty? A.—The superintendent will give evidence before you: he has got all the particulars.

Q.—Are you able to tell us how that difficulty was finally settled? A.—By arbitration; the report I have not seen yet.

Q.—Can you tell us how the arbitrators were appointed? A.—One was appointed by the mill and one by the operatives.

Q.—And their decision was final? A.—Yes; without a third.

Q.—Did you have more than one difficulty with the operatives during that past season? A.—Since New Year.

Q.—How was the first difficulty arranged? A.—I must again refer you to the superintendent.

Q.—Was there an arbitrator appointed? A.—A committee of citizens arranged that.

Q.—Do you know that at the close of the first difficulty there were some communications between the towns-people and the superintendents of the mills, and that they wished that the agreement should be carried out by the company? A.—The committee told the superintendent to sign the paper brought down, and nothing

more. He knew nothing more about it, and he signed it. That I had nothing to do with; he will explain that.

Q.—You cannot say whether a breach of that agreement caused the second strike? A.—I could not say, at the present time.

Q.—At the present time there is an understanding between you and the operatives? A.—Yes.

Q.—And that was arrived at by arbitration? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think the principle of arbitration the best for the settlement of disputes of employers and employés? A.—I think it is the best thing.

Q.—Do you think if arbitration was generally adopted for the settlement of disputes between capital and labor it would remove the difficulty, to a large extent? A.—I think it would.

Q.—Do you know if, when the people returned to work after the first difficulty, the cut of cloth was increased in length? A.—No.

Q.—Are you able to tell us whether the closets for the men and women are separate in your factory? A.—In the new factory they are quite separate.

Q.—And in the old one? A.—Well, there is one entrance; but the one is marked "females" and the other "males" entrance. The both are marked.

Q.—Is it just a board partition between the two closets? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever examined these closets? A.—I never have, it is not my province.

Q.—Would you be surprised to hear that there are holes made in the partition, so that the males can look in upon the females? A.—I know that they were lined with tin.

Q.—And that even then a number of holes were cut through with knives? A.—I heard of that.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—I suppose that no one but the operatives would do that? A.—No.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you ever heard that men climb up the partition and look over at the women? A.—No; I have been there very little.

Q.—Well, I have been no time in the town and I have found that out. Do you know if men throw bobbins over at the women? A.—No.

Q.—Do you not think, in the interests of morality, that it would be better if these closets were separated, and that the closets for males were placed a respectable distance from those of the females, so as to prevent the possibility of any young women being indecently annoyed in this manner? A.—I suppose it would.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Have you ever received any complaints of this nature? A.—As I said before, no complaints were ever made to me.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Still, I think the company is to blame when such a condition of things exist? A.—They have all proper conveniences in the new mill.

Q.—Have you ever received any complaints from operatives as to the language used towards them by overseers? A.—No; I must say I know nothing of that.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—And if you did hear it you would consider it your duty to report to the superintendent? A.—Yes; if I heard anything about it I would draw his attention to it.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—During these labor troubles, did the managers and superintendents of the several mills consider it their duty to confer with one another? A.—Yes.

Q.—Were any of the leaders in the strike discharged on account of the promise they took in these labor matters? A.—Not that I know of.

Q.—Do you not think it would be better if the operatives were paid every week? A.—No.

Q.—Have any of the operatives asked to be paid more frequently? A.—No. Up to 1886 they were paid monthly; since then they have been paid every fortnight.

Q.—What do the boys earn a day? A.—Some of the boys earn 30 cents a day.

Q.—What means are taken to ascertain the wages of the operatives? A.—The overseers of the rooms do that.

Q.—Do you not consider the family of a man earning \$5 or \$6 dollars a week would be in straitened circumstances, and that a fortnight is rather a long time to wait? A.—Well, once a month is rather long to wait, but once in two weeks is not very long. I think they can manage very well.

Q.—Can you tell us whether your married people get trust at the stores? A.—Yes; I understand so, and it was to do away with that system that we paid once a fortnight.

Q.—Do you not think that it would do away with that system altogether if you paid weekly? A.—I do not think it would do that.

Q.—Have you a rule in your mill, that any employé should be dismissed who has his wages garnisheed? A.—No; there is something to the effect that operatives who have their wages garnisheed would be warned the first time, and warned the second time, and if it occurred the third time they would be discharged. We have been sometimes put to a great deal of trouble in this way.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you not think if the employés were paid weekly it would do away with the system of garnisheeing their wages? A.—I do not think it would. You cannot garnishee men's wages for a less amount than \$25 and very few would incur a debt of \$25 in two weeks.

Q.—And I suppose very few could pay \$25 in two weeks? A.—No.

Q.—Can you say if wages have increased much during the last four or five years? A.—Yes.

Q.—And has the number of operatives increased, too? A.—Yes; I find in 1883 there were 648 hands, with a pay-roll of \$183,000; in 1884, 490 hands, with a pay-roll of \$129,000; in 1885, 537 hands, with a pay-roll of \$149,000; in 1886, 655 hands, with a pay-roll of \$190,000; in 1887, 696 hands, with a pay-roll of \$208,000.

Q.—Are your operatives principally Canadians, or are they foreigners, or persons from countries outside of Canada. A.—I should say, in round numbers, they are half-and-half that is, they are about half French-speaking and half English speaking.

Q.—Do you find many operatives in your line of business coming from the old Country? Not very many; very few indeed.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you ever engage your overseers or handy men from the old country? A.—No.

Q.—They are all Canadian? A.—Yes. They are of English origin, of course, but we did not bring them from England.

Q.—Do you raise your foreman and overseers from the men in the mills? A.—Oh, yes; when possible.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How many overseers and foreman have you in the factory who have been raised from ordinary workmen? A.—I think just now we have three that used to be hands with us.

Q.—About how many? A.—Ten, I think, altogether.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You say that all your young people, boys and girls, cannot read and write?
A.—Yes. I refer more particularly to the French; I refer to them particularly.

Q.—Can most all the English children write and read? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any night schools in the town? A.—No.

Q.—Those of your operatives who cannot read and write get others to read the rules for them? A.—Yes; they are posted in every room; I suppose the overseers do that for them.

Q.—Do you know for what reason fines are imposed? A.—Very few are imposed with us, but we impose fines for bad weaving: that is the principal thing.

Q.—Is not cloth spoiled sometimes through no fault of the weaver? A.—If the machine did it—if it was done through some mistake or breaking in the machine we would not impose a fine; we would not be so cruel as that.

Q.—As regards these fines, are different amounts levied for different errors; or is it left to the discretion of the overseer? A.—I think that the superintendent will explain all that.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you know if operatives' wages have ever been cut down a few days before they had a knowledge of it? A.—Not to my knowledge.

CORNWALL, 3rd May 1888.

ALBERT T. KNIGHT, Cornwall, Manager of the Mill of the Canada Cotton Company, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Were you superintendent of the mill of the Canada Cotton Company during the recent labor troubles? A.—Yes; I had just come to the establishment.

Q.—Can you tell the cause of the first strike? A.—The cause of the strike was a reduction of wages.

Q.—How was that first difficulty between you and the operatives settled? A.—Well, it was not settled.

Q.—Was there not some understanding arrived at? A.—Yes; this reduction is something that I had nothing to do with. It was instigated and brought into effect before I came to the mill.

Q.—How was it settled? A.—A letter was signed by the general manager of the Stormont Mill to the effect, that he would pay as high wages as other mills in Canada, and I endorsed it.

Q.—And the operatives returned to work upon the understanding that they would receive those wages? A.—Yes; as high as any paid in Canada.

Q.—Do you consider that that agreement was carried out by the company? A.—Yes.

Q.—What was the cause of the second strike? A.—I think it was a misunderstanding.

Q.—Did all your people go out the second time? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What proportion went out? A.—A large proportion.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—How long was this difficulty dragging along before it was settled—the second one? A.—About a month.

Q.—Did the operatives make any offer to the company with the view to effect a settlement during that time? A.—Yes.

Q.—What was the nature of the offer? A.—The operatives met and said that they wanted to go to work in the meantime, and that they would present a schedule that they would work on.

Q.—Did they bring you that list of prices? A.—No; we would not let them go to work until the matter was settled.

Q.—That difficulty was finally settled by arbitration? A.—Yes.

Q.—Satisfactorily? A.—Yes; I think so.

Q.—You have never heard of any trouble since? A.—No.

Q.—Did you have any agreement signed with the employés when that difficulty was settled? A.—No.

Q.—You had no mutual agreement between you? A.—No.

Q.—There was no mutual contract signed? A.—Well, there was a form of contract signed by the president of our company and the chairman of the citizens' committee.

Q.—There was a definite understanding between the operatives and the company? A.—I do not know how much of an understanding—that would be an agreement.

Q.—At all events, an agreement was signed by the representatives of the different parties? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you aware of any man being discharged because he was a Knight of Labor? A.—I do not know, sir.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Could there be, without your knowledge? A.—I am but a new-comer in the town; I am not aware of any.

Q.—No overseer reported to you that he had discharged a man because he was a Knight of Labor? A.—No.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you know of any objection on the part of your company to employ men who belong to labor organizations? A.—No.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Have the overseers full control? A.—Yes; they have full control over their department.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—They are subject to you? A.—Yes; and I would not interfere, except for cause.

Q.—You mean to say you would not interfere in certain cases? A.—Certainly; I make it a point not to interfere with the overseers in the administration of their departments; at the same time, I would have nothing go wrong.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Is it a part of your duty to fix the wages? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever known an operative's wages to be reduced three days before he was told of it? A.—No. What you refer to was done before I came to the mill, and it came into effect after I came here.

Q.—Do you know of any fines being imposed upon the operatives? A.—That went into effect before I went there—no.

Q.—Do you know of any rule binding them not to go into the wash-room until five minutes before the hour of closing the mill? A.—I know of a rule restricting the number that is to occupy the room at any one time.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the number? A.—Four or five; I am not certain.

Q.—Do you consider that that allows sufficient time for them to go into the wash-room and tidy themselves before leaving for home? A.—I could not say; in the weaving room it is hardly sufficient. But there are different arrangements there; each weaver there has a little wooden tub provided; I saw very few go in there.

Q.—Can you tell how drinking water is provided? A.—Yes; it is connected with the city waterworks, and is properly supplied for use.

Q.—Do you know if the water-closets are kept clean? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What company stated that they paid the highest wages in the Dominion, do you know; have you taken any steps to ascertain? A.—Yes; they sent a committee (the operatives).

Q.—Did they present the name of any mill giving higher wages? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did they present a schedule? A.—Well, we sent for the schedule which was signed by the secretary of the Merriton mills.

Q.—And they gave another? A.—Yes; there was a difference of opinion as to whether the wages paid by our mills were as high as those paid in the Merriton mills, we knew that we paid more for some classes of work and less in others, and we did not see how we could reduce those getting higher rates than were paid in the Merriton mill, and they put up this list; that is how the difficulty arose. As a matter of fact, our list is higher, taking the average *en bloc*; I mean the average *per capita*, or the average class of cuts.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you know if, after the difficulty was settled, whether the cut of cloth was increased in length? A.—Yes; I know it was not.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Has the Ontario Factory Inspector been through your mill? A.—Not since I have been there; I came here on the 1st of January.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Are the doors of your factory locked? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are they not locked after certain hours? A.—What doors do you mean?

Q.—The doors which the operatives are supposed to use? A.—The gate is locked, and the door leading into the office is locked; but the door leading into the yard is open, and everyone can have egress from the building.

Q.—If they are late, are their wages docked? A.—We have no rule of that kind. Of course, if an operative is habitually late we would impose some penalty as a punishment—something of that kind, at the discretion of the overseer.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—But if unavoidably late, you would not reduce them anything? A.—No.

JAMES P. WATSON, Secretary and Manager of the Cornwall Manufacturing Company,
Cornwall, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How many hands do you employ? A.—Two hundred and twenty-five altogether.

Q.—How many of these are men and boys? A.—Say, sixty men.

Q.—How many women? A.—About 120, or double the number; and then, under eighteen, say there are forty-five girls and boys, about equally divided as to sex.

Q.—Are there any girls under fourteen? A.—Not that I am aware of; I cannot speak definitely on that subject. But the superintendent can inform you.

Q.—What do you pay weavers by the piece—how much do they get? A.—They are paid by the yard.

Q.—How much do they get by the yard? A.—It depends altogether upon the number of "picks"—how many there is in a yard—so much per inch.

A.—What would be the average earnings of a weaver per day? A.—Ninety cents a day—\$5.50 per week. It depends altogether upon the skill of the operator.

Q.—The average wages are \$5 per week? A.—Yes; and they can earn up to \$7.50 or more.

Q.—Have they steady employment? A.—Not at present; our weavers are running three-quarter time. Our orders are small, but we do not expect that to last long.

Q.—Where do you get your raw material from? A.—From Australia and South America.

Q.—Do you use much Canadian wool? A.—Not much. We are making fine goods, and it is not suitable for fine goods.

Q.—You import your merino? A.—Yes.

Q.—How often do your hands get paid? A.—Every two weeks.

Q.—Are any wages kept back? A.—Two weeks'.

Q.—What is the reason of that? A.—Two weeks' wages we kept back in case they leave without notice.

Q.—Is that the understanding? A.—Oh, yes.

Q.—Suppose you discharge an operator, do you give him notice? A.—Yes; unless he is discharged for improper conduct, or leaves before he is dismissed.

Q.—You pay them up to the time? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are they paid any other way than in cash? A.—No.

Q.—What would be the wages earned by boys and girls—the average wages? A.—Forty-five cents a day.

Q.—Are there any fines imposed in your mill? A.—In the weaving-room we have for incompetent work—certain amounts stated for certain imperfections.

Q.—If a weaver is fined and feels himself aggrieved, has he the right to appeal? A.—Yes; to the superintendent.

Q.—Is that recognized by the superintendent? A.—Yes. In the first place, a fine could not be unjustly imposed, because there is a table to govern the imposition of fines. This is all governed by the rules of the weaving-room.

Q.—Are there separate conveniences for both sexes? A.—Yes; there are separate conveniences and separate doors, with a partition between them.

Q.—That separation or partition does not go up past the doors? A.—There are separate doors.

Q.—Each can see the other enter? A.—Yes; it is in a public place. But the partition does not reach the ceiling; the ceiling is very high. It does not reach the ceiling of the room, but it is sufficiently high that no person can attempt to get up.

Q.—Are your operatives generally Canadians? A.—The skilled labor is imported; that is from the old country; but the unskilled labor we get here. A good deal of it is native and a good deal imported.

Q.—How much do you pay the unskilled labor? A.—From \$1 to \$1.20 a day.

Q.—Can you state the nature of the work? A.—It is what you call laborers' work; there is no skill required. Of course, after they have worked a little while they get used to it.

Q.—This skilled labor from the old country, do you import it? A.—When I say old country people I mean they originally came from the old country. Some skilled labor we import direct.

Q.—Do you give them to understand what they are going to receive? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are your married people pretty well circumstanced? A.—Yes; they have a good reputation in the town, some have houses of their own.

Q.—How do you mean? A.—By the tradespeople—storekeepers.

Q.—Are any of the youngsters able to read and write? A.—That is a point I did not go into much.

Q.—In the room where the fines are imposed, are the fines read to them? A.—The rules are posted up in the mill; we call that sufficient.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you believe that any of the operatives who work by the week do not know what the rules are? A.—No.

Q.—Those parties procured in the old country—do they remain with you any length of time? A.—No; not a great length of time.

Q.—Where do they generally go to? A.—Well, some go to the States and some to other parts of Canada.

Q.—Can you tell us the reason why they leave you? A.—Possibly to better their condition.

Q.—You know of no other reason for it? A.—No.

Q.—Has your factory been inspected by the Ontario Factory Inspector? A.—Yes; last year.

Q.—Was it satisfactory? A.—It was quite satisfactory, so far as I know.

Q.—Did he make any inquiries as to the ages of the younger children? A.—I think he did.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Did he make any inquiries himself or look about him when was in the mill? A.—I cannot tell you; our superintendent is here, and he accompanies them around the mill.

Q.—Have you heard anything as to whether the inspector found anything to complain of? A.—I have not—no.

THEWLIS DAY, Cornwall, Superintendent of the Mill of the Cornwall Manufacturing Company, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Can you tell us what the condition of the mill is, generally, to work in? A.—It is very healthy.

Q.—Is it comfortable? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever had any trouble with the employés in the mill? A.—In what way?

Q.—Any strike? A.—Yes.

Q.—Tell us the nature of the strike, if you please, and how it was settled? A.—They had a strike in the weaving-room last fall. We changed our overseer, and the weavers objected to it, and after three days it was settled.

Q.—Was it settled by conciliation or arbitration? A.—No; we took no outside steps at all. We waited until they were ready, and they came back of their own accord and submitted to our arrangement.

Q.—Were there any operatives discharged? A.—No operatives were discharged.

Q.—Has the Cornwall manufacturing company any objection to the employment of men belonging to labor organizations? A.—None, so far. Sometimes we are apt to feel that way, that it would be for their own good if they did not.

Q.—Can you tell us what the earnings of the weavers are, the average earnings? A.—I cannot tell you on the spur of the moment; I would have to refer to the books.

Q.—When fines are imposed, have the overseers of the different departments authority to impose them, without reference to the management? A.—In the weaving-rooms the fines are imposed by the overseer according to a table or schedule of fines printed, and posted up by the overseers for the information of the weavers. The weavers have access to it, and when there is any damaged work the weaver is brought up to look at it, and he or she sees that work, and they are told that they can see from the table how much they will be fined, and they can refer to the book and see the amount of their fines before pay day.

Q.—Are employés fined for any other cause than bad work? A.—Yes; sometimes they are.

Q.—What for? A.—For destroying property, or neglect of work, going out without due notice, and being absent.

Q.—Are they fined for being late in the morning? A.—No.

- Q.—Have they never been fined for that? A.—No; we may take off the time.
- Q.—If an operative leaves without giving notice to the company are his wages confiscated? A.—No; they are kept until such time as he works out the notice.
- Q.—They have to work out their notice? A.—They work out their notice and get their money.
- Q.—Would the company have any objection to an operative leaving without giving the full notice in a case where the operative wanted to get away? A.—It all depends on the circumstances. If an operative wished to leave and we wanted to keep him, we would not let him go.
- Q.—Even if it was to his benefit? A.—Yes; the business of the company would be studied first. We would have no objection to an operative leaving, provided it did not conflict with the interests of the company.
- Q.—Then, if you could fill his place you would allow him to go? A.—Certainly; we would look to the interest of the company first.
- Q.—Do operatives sign an agreement to that effect? A.—No.
- Q.—Do they work at piece-work or at day-work? A.—Piece-work.
- Q.—When an operative has completed the piece of work he is on, would you not consider the work finished? A.—No; it does not matter what state the work is in, we require two weeks' notice to be given.
- Q.—Do you not consider that an operator on piece-work is at liberty to leave without notice when his piece is finished? A.—No.
- Q.—Do you know that when a person is working on piece-work, and his piece is finished, that his contract is finished also—on the completion of the piece? A.—No.
- Q.—How many months in the year do your operatives work? A.—They work every day. They have constant employment, with the exception of such days as the 24th of May, the 1st of July, Christmas Day, New Year's Day and Good Friday.
- Q.—Otherwise, there is no short time? A.—Well, we are not running full time at the present; we are on three-quarter time, and have been for some six weeks or two months.
- Q.—The holidays are not paid for? A.—Certainly not.
- Q.—Do the weavers or operatives lose time waiting for material? A.—Well, sometimes.
- Q.—Does it occur frequently? A.—No; no more than at other mills. When we have plenty of work they are kept busy and when we have not any work they have to wait; it just depends upon the state of the orders. Taking one week with another, I consider they are kept pretty constantly at work.
- Q.—Has there been any accidents with the machinery at all? A.—No; nothing that I remember.
- Q.—Have you any children working in the picker-room? A.—No.
- By Mr. McLEAN:—
- Q.—Did you go through the factory with the Ontario Factory Inspector? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Did he ask the ages of any of the children there? A.—No; none of them; he saw through the mill and expressed satisfaction.
- By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—
- Q.—Did he consult with any of the operatives? A.—No.
- Q.—Did he examine the machinery? A.—Yes; he took a general oversight of the mill.
- Q.—Can you tell us, from the time he commenced his duty to inspect the mill until the time that he finished, how long it took him? A.—I guess it was twenty-five or thirty minutes. I went with him all through the mill.
- Q.—How many departments are there in the mill? A.—About a dozen of rooms.
- Q.—Did he go into them all? A.—Yes; with the exception of the wheel-house; he was not in there, nor the warehouse; but in the mill proper he was through every room.

Q.—And he declared himself well satisfied with what he had seen? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Did you ever hear that he was dissatisfied with any mill? A.—No; I never heard that he was ever dissatisfied with any mill. He expressed himself satisfied with our mill.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Did the inspector give you notice that he would inspect the mill? A.—I think he did.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Did he intimate to you that he would be around at such-and-such a time? A.—Yes; that he would be back again.

Q.—Can you find a copy of that letter or notice? A.—I have a copy of it, but I would not say that I can furnish it now.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you received a printed bill from the inspector, to be posted up in your factory, since his visit? A.—No.

Q.—That is, the Factory Act? A.—You mean the Factory Act printed on the bill.

Q.—Yes—printed in large type and posted up in the factory? A.—No.

GEORGE MACDONALD, Cornwall, Gentleman, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—You are the Postmaster of this town, I believe? A.—Yes.

Q.—You have been Mayor of Cornwall for some time, have you not? A.—Yes; I was Mayor last year.

Q.—Have you, in the course of your experience, gained any knowledge as to the condition of the working classes of Cornwall? A.—Well, that is out of my line. I am not an employer of labor, but I suppose that last winter there was a good deal of suffering, on account of one of the mills being closed down.

Q.—As a rule, I believe the men do not receive reasonable compensation for their labor? A.—I am not an employer of labor; I am the postmaster, and have not much mixed up in that line.

Q.—Are there many belonging to the working classes who own their own houses? A.—Yes.

Q.—Would it be a large proportion of them? A.—I think the largest number of them are without houses.

Q.—Tenants? A.—Yes.

Q.—What system of assessment have you here in Cornwall? A.—Well, the assessment is high enough; I think it is 2 mills on the dollar; I think that is the rate.

Q.—You mean 2 cents on the dollar? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any statute-labor tax? A.—No; that includes all the taxes.

Q.—Are the assessments all on the property? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—On personal property and real estate, also? A.—On both.

Q.—Are you able to tell us what proportion of the people are depending on the town for relief? A.—I could not really say as to the exact number, but I do not think there are very many that are destitute. Of course, those that are able to labor are, I think, generally employed. The latter part of the winter season is the hardest time for laborers about here.

Q.—How much do the laborers for the corporation earn here? A.—I think they are paid \$1.25 a day.

Q.—They keep them employed all the year round? A.—They do some, perhaps;

but still in winter, when not employed, it is because the corporation has no employment for many hands.

Q.—Are you able to tell whether facilities for drainage are adopted by the corporation? A.—Well, I should say that that improvement is in its infancy. We made a start last fall, but there was not much done in the shape of drainage.

Q.—Do you know if the basements and cellars of many of the houses in the lower portion of the town are flooded in spring, and are full of water, for the want of drainage? A.—I am not prepared to say that; I think there would be some, at any rate. I am not much down that way.

Q.—You say that house drainage is in its infancy in Cornwall? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does the city own the waterworks? A.—It does not.

Q.—Does the city own and control the electric light? A.—No; water, gas, and the electric light are owned and served by private companies.

Q.—About how much are you charged for the electric light per light? A.—I do not know; it was but recently put up; some others can give you that. There is no contract at all; they are building it on their own responsibility, and they get as many as they can to take it.

Q.—The corporation is not, then, bound to take the light and cannot compel them to put up lights? A.—No; I am not aware that they are bound.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Does the corporation pay for their labor weekly? A.—Monthly, I think.

Q.—Is \$1.25 the lowest rate paid to a workingman in Cornwall—I have reference to the pick and shovel? A.—I think it is about the highest and lowest. There is no other grade under that. I think they are all paid the same rate by the corporation.

Q.—They have only the one rate? A.—They have only the one rate for the laboring man.

Q.—Do the men complain about being paid monthly? A.—Well, no; I think not.

Q.—Is such work controlled by the board of works, or is it merely under the superintendence of the town engineer? A.—I may say, generally, that it is under the supervision of the chairman of the road committee.

Q.—I suppose their wages and the length of time they are at work depends upon the amount of appropriation set apart for that work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has not the town recently issued debentures? A.—What for—for what purpose?

Q.—For any purpose? A.—Some time ago they issued debentures for giving bonuses to factories.

Q.—Could you tell how many factories have been given bonuses during the past ten years? A.—I think three.

Q.—Could you tell the amount of the bonus? A.—No.

Q.—Are not stipulations required from those factories before getting the bonus? A.—Well, the stipulations were that they were to employ a certain number of hands. I think in one of the mills they were to put in a certain number of spindles; I think that was the condition upon which they received bonuses. It was the number of spindles; I do not know the number of hands.

Q.—Could you tell us the average number of debentures, and what they were issued for? A.—I do not know the number, but the corporation can give you all these facts in detail.

Q.—Do you consider 2 cents on the dollar rather heavy? A.—Well, the people find it heavy enough—at least they say so.

Q.—Have you any free library in this town? A.—No.

Q.—Have you any night schools? A.—No; there may be private schools.

Q.—But no public evening schools? A.—No.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Is property assessed to its full value? A.—I do not suppose it is. I do not think it is valued at its full value.

EDWARD KING, Cornwall, Mill Operative, called and sworn.
I am a boss-carder in the Stormont Cotton Mills.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How many operatives have you in your department? A.—Between eighty and eighty-five.

Q.—How many of them are females? A.—I guess half only.

Q.—Are there any children in the room? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are their ages? A.—From twelve to fourteen; that is the youngest I have got.

Q.—What number of them would be under fourteen years of age? A.—Two.

Q.—What wages do these children receive when they first go into the factory? A.—Well, they are supposed to be in the mill a couple of weeks to learn before they get wages.

Q.—And in two weeks, what do they get? A.—Forty cents is the lowest a day.

Q.—Do they increase gradually? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are any fines imposed on the children? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are any fines imposed in your room at all? A.—Yes.

Q.—What for? A.—Bad work.

Q.—Who is the judge of this bad work? A.—Myself.

Q.—Are there any other reasons for imposing fines? A.—Yes; negligence or breakages.

Q.—Are any fines imposed for absence from work? A.—No; none.

Q.—In what condition are the closets in your department? A.—Well, I cannot say what they ought to be; I have seen better and I have seen worse.

Q.—Are they sufficiently separated, one from the other—how are they divided? A.—There is one in the old building and one in the new building for boys, and one for girls.

Q.—And they are not permitted to enter any other closet except those marked for their own sex? A.—No.

Q.—About the drinking water: how is it arranged? A.—I believe it is pretty good water—in the tanks.

Q.—Are any cups provided? A.—No.

Q.—Do you have to drink without cups? A.—There is a tank, and a pipe coming from it, and they drink; and there are dippers.

Q.—Have you had any trouble in that factory? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you state the reason for this trouble? A.—I have had trouble because I would not let them run the room as they liked; that is the reason why I had trouble with them.

Q.—Have you had trouble with female operatives during this month? A.—Yes; I paid a man to look after the room, during the dinner hour, to see that order was kept and that they did not damage the company's property, and he went around and told them to sit down quietly. They talked and laughed, and made some noise, and he told them that if they did not stop they would have to take their dinner out-side. After he said this they were worse. The next day I stayed there myself and told this man, in their absence, not to speak to them any more, and that I would watch them. I did so the next day. When they commenced during the dinner hour I told them I did not want to make any difficulty, and that if they could not behave themselves and keep quiet during the dinner hour they would have to take their dinner at home or out of doors, and that it was time for them to see who was boss, whether they were or I was, and thereupon they got up and went out.

Q.—Did you threaten to throw any of these young women through the door? A.—No; I did not.

Q.—Did you call them names? A.—No.

Q.—You did not use any bad language towards them? A.—I acknowledged, and I told them that if I did so I was willing to take it back, but that I did not remember it?

- Q.—Did these young women return to their employ? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Did you send for them? A.—I sent for them on Friday night. I said that if they did not come in the morning I would fill their places.
- Q.—Did you apologize? A.—Yes; on Friday at noon when they went out and were waiting for their money.
- Q.—Can you remember the words that you used? A.—They say that I called them "bitches," and I am not in the habit of using that language to them.
- Q.—When you came there, during this trouble at dinner time, do you not remember what language you used towards them? A.—I was angry, and I spoke sharply to them; I do not remember the exact words. When you are annoyed you do not always think of what you are saying.
- Q.—Is that the only occasion on which you had trouble? A.—No.
- Q.—You say that this was during the dinner hour? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Is there anything in the rules of the company to the effect that young people shall sit still during the dinner hour? A.—Well, there is a difference between sitting still and in talking and laughing and clapping hands when the foreman is in the room and speaks to them. If that was not stopped they would soon begin to throw things at one another, and the result might be damage to the company's property, for the security of which the foreman is responsible during work hours. They are supposed to conduct themselves quietly during working hours.
- Q.—What are the ages of these young women? A.—Eighteen to twenty-three.
- Q.—Do not you think it a good thing for young people to laugh and have a good time when not at work, if they pay attention to their work when they are engaged? A.—I do not see any harm in their laughing and talking, but I think it wrong of them to laugh and clap their hands when the foreman speaks to them.

SAMUEL SHOE FELT, Cornwall, Cotton Carder, called and sworn :

By Mr. HEAKES :—

- Q.—What mill are you employed in? A.—The Canada Cotton Mill.
- Q.—That is not the same mill as the last witness is engaged in? A.—No; I think he is in the Stormont Cotton Mill.
- Q.—How many operatives are there in your room? A.—About twenty-three, I think, including two females, an old woman and a girl that does the sweeping.
- Q.—Of the rest of the boys and girls, are any of them under fourteen? A.—Not to my knowledge; they say they are not.
- Q.—What are the wages paid the hands in your room? A.—The boys get 15 cents a day; the men get 90 cents, \$1 and \$1.25 a day.
- Q.—A dollar and a-quarter is the highest? A.—\$1.25 to \$1.50; some get 90 cents and some \$1.
- Q.—Do you have constant employment? A.—As a general thing, we are employed the year round, and we would have been this year only for the difficulty we had—that is, a strike.
- Q.—Do you ever have any lost time waiting for material? A.—Not very often. Sometimes we lose probably Saturdays, probably five hours and a-half.
- Q.—How are the closets arranged in your department? A.—There is the one entry where you go in, but there is a partition between the closets. There is one way for the men to enter and another way for the women to enter, and then there is a partition between the two closets.
- Q.—The two doors are side by side? A.—Yes; one for the men folks and one for the women folks.
- Q.—What women come in there? A.—They come in from another room that I have not charge of.
- Q.—What is the height of the partition? A.—I could not say exactly the height.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Higher than a man? A.—Yes; I should say probably over seven feet.

Q.—Is this the partition spoken of this afternoon through which holes have been cut? A.—I did not know that holes were cut through it; I did not take any notice.

Q.—Do you know that the men sometimes climb up and look at the girls? A.—I could not say.

Q.—Do you know anything about the men throwing things over at the women? A.—I do not know; that is, of course, but a natural consequence.

Q.—Now, do not you think it possible to have those closets so entirely separated as to have no connection at all? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do not you think, in the interests of morality and decency, it would be better? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think it proper that young women should sacrifice their modesty to the necessities of nature? A.—I should think it would be better to have them separate—placed at a distance from one another.

Q.—What time are the operatives allowed for washing previous to leaving the mill? A.—They are supposed to have ten minutes to wash up in.

Q.—Is there a printed rule? A.—There is no set time. If a man goes and washes, and there is something for him to do afterwards he does it.

Q.—People are not fined for going in earlier than the rules state? A.—No.

Q.—Do you fine any of the employés in your room? A.—Only just for breaking window glass; that is the only fine. If it is shown to be an exception it is let pass.

Q.—Do you consider your employés fairly paid for what they do? A.—I would suppose they are; I do not know that I am a person to judge of that.

Q.—Did any of those who went out on strike go out on strike because they were not fairly treated? A.—I treat them as well as I would like to be treated myself.

Q.—Do you know if there is any objection on the part of your company to employ people who belong to labor organizations—the Knights of Labor or any other labor organization? A.—No; none whatever.

Q.—Have you ever been told to discharge men who took part in any labor demonstration or organization. A.—No.

Q.—You have not been told to discharge any one? A.—No.

Q.—Have you known of any one being discharged on that account? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How many men are there in your department? A.—I have twenty-three hands altogether—five boys and two females, out of that. The rest are all men,—that is, young men and middle aged men.

Q.—How many have you who receive \$1.50 a day? A.—Only one.

Q.—How many men earn from \$7 to \$8 a week? A.—There are four that earn \$7.50 a week; there is another one that earns \$1 a day—that is, \$6 a week.

Q.—Are there any men earning under \$1 a day? A.—Yes; there are four earning 90 cents a day.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—The year round? A.—Well, about all the time the mill runs.

Q.—Are these married and have families? A.—That work for 90 cents a day?

Q.—Yes? A.—One of them is.

Q.—Can you tell us what a workingman has to pay for a house of from five to six rooms? A.—Well; the house I have, has five rooms in it, and I pay \$7 a month.

Q.—Are there any working men in this town that live in tenement houses? A.—I think the majority of working people live in tenement houses in this town.

Q.—I have reference to houses that would accommodate more than one family.— what we would call double houses? A.—There may be some.

Q.—Has the company any houses that they rent to work people? A.—I do not know all of them, but I know of some, because I live in one myself.

- Q.—What accommodation do these houses afford? A.—There are four rooms, two down-stairs and two up-stairs, and a back place for the stove in summer.
- Q.—And what is the rent? A.—That is \$5 a month.
- Q.—Has any of the company's houses less rooms than four? A.—I think not.
- Q.—If a person is discharged from the mill, has he to leave this house? A.—I think it likely. There is one of my help living in one of these cottages at the present time.
- Q.—Is it compulsory for employes to rent those houses? A.—No; there is nothing compulsory.
- Q.—Have you any over-work in the mill? A.—Sometimes.
- Q.—How late do they work in your department? A.—Well, we have had to work of nights for a week up to nine o'clock—not later.
- Q.—Do they work of an evening up to that time without supper? A.—Yes; the company furnishes them with coffee.
- Q.—What time are you told in the day that your services will be required in the evening? Would it be the day before? A.—No; sometimes we get orders in the forenoon that they will run till nine o'clock; that would give them an opportunity to bring something with them.
- Q.—Do not the hands generally go home to supper? A.—No; they do not go home. They take their supper in the factory, and then work till nine o'clock. Some live so far away that they could not go home to supper.
- Q.—Are they compelled to remain and work at night? A.—No; there is nothing compulsory about it.
- Q.—Did you get anything extra? A.—No; I got the same rate as day work.
- Q.—Did you ever hear them express a desire to be paid more frequently than once a fortnight? A.—No; I have not.
- Q.—When the fining took place in your room, when the damage would be done, as it were, would you inform them of the fact that a fine would be imposed, or were they only informed at the time of being paid? A.—No; that is all the fining there is—just for breaking window glass.
- Q.—Do these fines occur often for the breaking of glass? A.—Very seldom.
- Q.—Is there good ventilation? A.—Yes; it is right on the river side, and we can let the windows down on top.

ANGUS BARNHART, Cornwall, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q.—What is your business? A.—Running an engine and firing in the Cornwall Spinning Mill.
- Q.—Are you a practical engineer? A.—Well, no; not extra. I know enough to run one.
- Q.—What wages do you receive? A.—A dollar and a-quarter a day.
- Q.—How many hours do you work a day? A.—Eleven hours.
- Q.—Every day in the week? A.—No; we get off on Saturday, generally, at twelve o'clock.
- Q.—Who fires up in the morning before you get to work? A.—Myself.
- Q.—What time do you go there to fire up? A.—About five or half-past five.
- Q.—What time do you quit work at night? A.—About seven o'clock.
- Q.—That would be twelve and a-half hours a day? A.—Well, some days; most of the time.
- Q.—What is the condition of the boiler? A.—Good condition.
- Q.—Is the engine, also, in good condition. A.—Yes.
- Q.—How many pounds of steam do you carry on your boiler? A.—From eighty to ninety-five pounds.
- Q.—Did you ever plug the valve? A.—No; it is a thing I do not do.

Q.—Did you ever weigh it down with bricks, or anything—you need not answer unless you like? A.—I do not answer.

Q.—If the valve was regulated so as to blow off at eighty pounds, and it was weighted down with bricks, how many pounds of steam extra would it require to blow her off? A.—I do not know; I did not have the right ball on her.

Q.—Did you ever tell anyone around that mill that the engine was dangerous, and that you had a loose pin? A.—No.

Q.—Did you ever tell any one that you were afraid that you would blow off the cylinder-head out of the engine on account of the looseness of the pin? A.—Well, if it was to break it might.

Q.—Did you ever tell any one around that mill that it was unsafe? A.—Well, no; I might have said something similar to it.

Q.—Did you ever have a brother working in that mill? A.—No.

Q.—Did you ever tell any one around the mill, or any one that went to the mill, that it would be likely to blow up? A.—There is no danger of the boiler blowing up if we take care of it.

Q.—Then, if that valve was weighted down with bricks would that be taking care of it? A.—Well, we had not the right ball on it when I put it on. It was not bricks; it was one brick.

JAMES C. JOHNSTONE, Cornwall, Contractor, called and Sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What is your business? A.—I am a joiner by trade? I am a general builder.

Q.—Are you able to tell us what wages the stone-masons, bricklayers and carpenters of the town of Cornwall receive? A.—Yes.

Q.—Will you be kind enough to do so? A.—Well, masons during the last two or three years have been paid \$1.50 to \$3 a day; bricklayers about the same; carpenters from \$1.50 up to \$2 a day generally. There are exceptions; some get \$2.50.

Q.—Carpenters always get the lowest wages? A.—Yes.

Q.—And find their own tools? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do these men in the carpentering business obtain constant employment all the year round? A.—Not generally here.

Q.—How many months do they get altogether? A.—From seven to nine months.

Q.—And the bricklayers? A.—From seven to eight months.

Q.—I suppose stone-masons have even less constant work than that? A.—Yes.

A.—As a rule, do bricklayers lay both stone and brick? A.—There are some; some lay brick and stone and some stone only; I know I had several—perhaps three, four, as high as six, do both.

Q.—Do you employ plasterers? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is their pay, generally? A.—The same—\$2.50 to \$3 a day—the same as the bricklayers. Of course, some work by contract and some work by day work. Contract work is paid for every two weeks.

Q.—Are they paid up to the date of pay. A.—Yes. Time-work is paid for every Friday night; one day is kept back.

Q.—Is there any organization among the carpenters here—any association? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know of any inclination on the part of the employers to refuse to employ members of labor organizations? A.—No; not that I am aware of.

Q.—You did not hear of that among employers? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know if any workmen were refused work on account of the strike in the Stormont Mill recently? A.—Not that I am aware of. Since the strike in the Stormont Mill there has been very little done in the stone line here; and, in fact, it is just opening up now.

Q.—Were any men, during the last season, refused work on account of the difficulty in the mills? A.—No; I am not aware of any. Last year, masons were very scarce in these parts.

Q.—Do you ask men looking for work whether they belong to labor organizations or not? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are any carpenters employed in town at less than \$1 a day? A.—No; I could not employ any man who attempts to handle tools—what we call a handy man—we never employ them for less than \$1.25, to \$1.50 a day.

Q.—What are the average wages paid to carpenters? A.—I should say the average would be \$1.75 a day.

Q.—What wages are paid to builders' laborers? A.—Last year I paid, at the first of the season, \$1 a day, and later I paid \$1.25 a day.

Q.—Did you ever hear of any accidents during the past year in the building trade in Cornwall? A.—No.

Q.—Do any men in the building trade lose their earnings on account of the dishonesty of employers? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—What are the laborers paid? A.—They are paid generally by the week.

Q.—What did they receive last year? A.—Twelve and a-half cents an hour.

* * * * , of Cornwall, Mill Operative, called and sworn.

I am a mill operative in the lap-room of the Stormont Mill.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How many hands are employed in that room? A.—Four.

Q.—How are the hands generally treated? A.—Well, sometimes they are treated good and more times middling.

Q.—Are they at any time treated bad? A.—Yes.

Q.—This treatment would be at the hands of the overseers, would it not? A.—Yes.

Q.—What would you consider bad treatment? A.—Well, fining them for spitting on the floor.

Q.—Anything else? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it in the printed rules that they should not spit on the floor? A.—Not that I know of.

Q.—How are the closets arranged in that mill? A.—Well, sometimes they are in a good sanitary state and more times they are not.

Q.—They are not always kept in a good condition? A.—Sometimes they are not.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Who dirtied them? A.—The hands, I suppose. They get choked up.

Q.—Do the men and women use the same closets? A.—No.

Q.—Did you ever see the men try and get into the females' closets when the females were in there? A.—No.

Q.—Do you think every precaution is taken to prevent that? A.—Yes; there is.

Q.—What wages do you earn? A.—Ninety cents a day.

Q.—Is that the general pay of the people in your room? Yes; that is the general pay.

Q.—Have there been any accidents in that room? A.—Yes.

Q.—What was the nature of the accidents? A.—Men got their hands caught around the rollers and lapper.

Q.—Is that the room the pickers are in? A.—No; the pickers are underneath. It is something of the same nature as a picker—the lapper is.

Q.—Could such accidents be prevented? A.—Not that I know of. It is sometimes caused through carelessness.

Q.—You do not know of any way that it could be prevented? A.—No; the gear is covered.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—It is just through the carelessness of the men, you mean to say? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How long have you been there? A.—Four and a-half years.

Q.—What did you get when you began? A.—Sixty cents a day; I then received 85 cents a day, and then \$1 a day, and now I get 90 cents.

Q.—So you have got a reduction down to 90 cents? A.—Yes.

THOMAS DENNERY, Cornwall, Mill Operative, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What is your occupation? A.—I run the colored slasher in the mill of the Canada Cotton Company.

Q.—How long have you had charge of it? A.—For about nine years.

Q.—Has there been any reduction in the pay of that department? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you tell us if there has been an additional length made to the cut? A.—No; no additional length.

Q.—Have you any complaints that the cuts are longer now than before the pay was reduced? A.—No.

Q.—Are you sure the cuts have not been increased? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many people have you employed in that room? A.—There are five men.

Q.—Are they all engaged in the same kind of work as yourself? A.—Four, and two helpers—slasher-tenders.

Q.—What pay do they receive? A.—From \$1.10 a day to \$2.

Q.—What would be the average? A.—About \$1.80, would it not.

Q.—How many get \$1.10? A.—Two of them.

Q.—Has there been a reduction of wages in your department? A.—Yes; a reduction of 5 and 10 cents per day.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Will you please tell us if the reduction throughout the factory was only a slight reduction, for the purpose of equalizing the charges? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Do you consider that the reduction all round was a considerable amount or only a trifling amount? A.—I do not know how the other departments fared at all.

DAVID FLACK, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are you a coal merchant? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you able to tell us what the present price of coal is? A.—Yes.

Q.—Will you kindly do so? A.—It is \$7 a ton for anthracite.

Q.—Have you a coal dealers' association? A.—No.

Q.—Have you no understanding amongst the coal dealers about prices? A.—Well, there might be in this way: if I sell for \$7 another dealer cannot sell for \$7.50.

Q.—Is he allowed to sell for \$6.50? A.—Yes; if he likes.

Q.—Can you tell us if the coal dealers of Cornwall used their influence to prevent workingmen from getting coal from Montreal dealers? A.—I do not propose to answer any such a question.

Q.—Do you know if the coal merchants of Cornwall used their influence with the coal transportation companies of Ogdensburg to prevent the people of Cornwall, or the workingmen of Cornwall, from getting a consignment of coal through to

Cornwall? A.—Am I obliged to answer these questions? Is there no lawyer here to protect a witness?

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You can please yourself about answering? A.—Well, I decline to answer any such questions.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is coal cheaper since the 50 cents duty a ton was taken off? A.—No; I think coal started off 55 or 60 cents higher than it was before.

Q.—So that really coal costs 5 or 10 per cent. more since the duty has been taken off than it did last year when the duty was on? A.—(No reply.)

Q.—Are you a retail or a wholesale merchant? A.—Retail.

Q.—Is coal always weighed before it is delivered to the consumer. A.—Yes.

Q.—On the public scales? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever heard of any losses occurring from dropping on the streets? A.—I never heard any complaints.

Q.—Does the retail merchant get it from the merchants by the long ton? A.—He gets it by the long ton at the quotations—so much net and so much gross.

Q.—You cannot tell if there is an understanding with the merchants here and the coal exchange in New York in regard to the price of coal here, and elsewhere in Canada? A.—No.

Q.—Do you deal in wood? A.—No.

JOSEPH MOYES, Cornwall, Manufacturer, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What mill are you proprietor of? A.—I am a manufacturer of yarns—the Cornwall Spinning Mills.

Q.—How many hands do you employ? A.—Eighteen, male and female.

Q.—What are the earnings of the females? A.—The earnings of the females range from 40 cents to 75 cents a day.

Q.—What do the males earn? A.—The males earn from 50 cents to \$1.25 a day.

Q.—How many hours do they work? A.—Eleven hours a day, five days in the week and half-a-day on Saturday—sixty and a-half hours a week.

Q.—How often do you pay your hands? A.—We pay them once a month—we pay them every 10th—up to the last of the month.

Q.—Do you retain a portion of the wages? A.—We retain ten days' back pay.

Q.—Are there any rules in the factory imposing fines? A.—No.

Q.—When an operative wishes to leave your employ, does he have to give notice? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much notice do they require to give? A.—Two weeks.

Q.—Supposing they left without notice? A.—We would forward the wages.

Q.—In case an operative wishes to go away, and was to tell you he wanted to go, would you retain their wages? A.—Oh, no; not if he had to go, and could supply another hand in his place. We always let them go under those circumstances.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you ever discharged any for cause? A.—No; I never had any trouble with my hands.

Q.—Have you ever discharged any? A.—Yes; a couple or three.

Q.—Did you give them notice? A.—No; not always.

Q.—Did you pay the men when you discharged them? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you pay them at once? A.—Well, according to the amount of money on hand. If we did not have it in they would have to wait a day or two.

- Q.—Did you have a man name John James Bickley in your employ. A.—Yes
 Q.—Did you discharge him. A.—Yes.
 Q.—Have you any objection to say why you discharged him? A.—I did not need him any more—that was all.
 Q.—Did you ever tell Mr. Bickley that he was discharged on account of certain merchants or employers of labor in Cornwall coming to you and asking you to discharge him A.—No; I did not.
 Q.—Did you ever tell this man Bickley that certain people in town were determined to drive him out of town? A.—No.
 Q.—Did you ever tell him that they intended to boycott him all over Ontario, on account of his belonging to the Knights of Labor? A.—No; I did not tell him that.

JOHN ANDERSON, Cornwall, Weaver, called and sworn.

- Q.—Are you a weaver in the woollen mills or cotton mills? A.—In the Canada Cotton Mills.
 Q.—How many looms do you run? A.—I used to run three. I now run four.
 Q.—Do you make more money on the four than you did on the three? A.—Well; I cannot rightly tell, for I have only got four this week.
 Q.—Do you work by the day or by the piece? A.—By the piece.
 Q.—What would be your average wages? A.—Five dollars a week some weeks, and some weeks it might be six dollars, according to the work.
 Q.—Would \$5.50 be the average? A.—I do not know.
 Q.—Would this be fair average wages? A.—Yes; I think so.
 Q.—Are you constantly employed? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Do you work at night? A.—No.
 Q.—Is there much dust in the weaving room? A.—Not very much—may be there is a little.
 Q.—Is the atmosphere good in the summer time? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Well ventilated? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Are the windows such that they may be taken down? A.—Yes, the windows are allowed to be open; they open at the top.
 Q.—It is not looked upon by the company as injuriously affecting the cloth?
 A.—Not that I understand; I did not hear any complaints.
 Q.—Have you ever been fined? A.—Once—about five years ago.
 Q.—Are there conveniences for both sexes? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Separate and distinct? A.—Oh, yes.
 Q.—Is it separated by a partition? A.—Yes; there is a partition, and it is zinc on both sides.
 Q.—Have you ever known the weavers express a desire to be paid more promptly than once a fortnight? A.—Yes.
 Q.—You have heard them? A.—Yes.
 Q.—You have heard them express a desire to be paid weekly? A.—Yes; all would like that.
 Q.—You think by paying the employés weekly it would be a matter of convenience to the employés? A.—To some it might be; to others it might not.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

- Q.—Have they ever asked the company to pay oftener than once a fortnight?
 A.—Not that I am aware of.

(Translation).

EVENING SESSION—CORNWALL, Thursday, 3rd May, 1888.

ISAIE RATELLE, Barber, being sworn, deposeth as follows:—

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Have you men employed under you, or are you yourself engaged? A.—I have men employed under me.

Q.—Do you take in apprentices? A.—No; not at the present time.

Q.—Would you tell us how much a barber's hand makes? A.—That varies very much, according to the skill of the man—from \$7 to \$9 a week, or thereabouts.

Q.—Have they steady work the year round? A.—Yes, sir; the whole year round.

Q.—Are you allowed here to work on Sunday in your shops? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Are you pretty well acquainted with the French population of this place?

A.—Yes, sir; passably.

Q.—Have you French schools here for children? A.—Not that I know of, except, perhaps, the Sisters' school—at least, so I have been told.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—English must be taught here in all the schools? A.—Yes, sir.

(Translation).

EVENING SESSION—CORNWALL, Thursday, 8th May, 1888.

ALBERT LALIBERTÉ, Tailor, Cornwall, being sworn, deposeth as follows:—

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—What do you do? A.—I am a merchant tailor.

Q.—Have you men under you? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Have you men and women? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Will you tell us how much a woman earns working in tailors' shops? A.—About \$3 or \$3.50 a week.

Q.—And able men, how much do they make? A.—One dollar and fifty cents a day, or nine dollars a week.

Q.—Are there men working at a cheaper rate than that? A.—Oh, yes.

Q.—What wages might they earn? A.—\$5, \$6 and \$7 a week.

Q.—Do you employ children in your shop? A.—No.

Q.—Does your tailor and your foreman know his geometry, and are the tailors able to reduce and increase their patterns? A.—Yes.

Q.—You have no school of art, trades or design here? A.—No.

JOHN J. BICKLEY, Cornwall, called and sworn.

I have for some years followed the occupation of an overseer in the spinning mills. I am not doing anything at present.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You are a spinner by trade? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you acquainted—connected—with any organization of workingmen? A.—I am now and have been for some years a member of the Knights of Labor.

Q.—Do you know if there is any feeling on the part of employers in Cornwall not to employ members of that order? A.—I have heard at different times, from different men, that there was. I could not positively state that such was the case, although I have frequently heard from the men that employers refused to employ them because they were Knights of Labor.

Q.—Did anybody say anything to you about being a member? A.—Yes.

Q.—Would you tell us the circumstances, please? A.—I was dismissed from my situation, and I was given to understand that I was dismissed because I was a Knight of Labor, and because I took an active part in labor matters.

Q.—Since you have been a member of this organization have you ever seen anything in its principles that would be an injury to the workingman? A.—I have not. If the teachings of the order were lived up to, nothing but good could come to the workingman; the result would be good.

Q.—Do you know if they have any principle laid down for the settlement of disputes between capital and labor? A.—Yes; that is one of the twenty-two articles of the preamble, to try and bring about a settlement of strikes and difficulties by arbitration.

Q.—That is a fixed rule of the order? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What do you do when out on strike? Do you take any means of deciding how to go back, or whether you are to go back to work? A.—All local assemblies have an executive board. That executive board tries to bring about a settlement of the difficulty. They try to meet the manager or employer, and try and effect a settlement, and that is one of the things that the executive board at all times tries to do—to have the case settled by arbitration.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you know whether strikes are more frequent in towns that are not organized or towns that are organized? A.—I know that strikes are less frequent in towns where they are organized than where they are not. My experience has led me to believe that if labor is properly and thoroughly organized strikes will seldom occur. For instance, if the hands employed at one of these mills were Knights of Labor the Knights of Labor would have control over them and could keep them at work, but as they are partly organized and partly disorganized we can exercise no control over those that are not organized.

Q.—Is there any "boycotting" or "black-listing" in this town? A.—I know of one case; that is my own. I was given to understand that I would be "black-listed" all over Canada.

Q.—For what reason? A.—For being a Knight of Labor and taking part in labor matters.

Q.—Did you have anything to do with the settlement of labor disputes? A.—I had considerable to do with it, and took an active part all through, and finally acted as arbitrator for the help.

Q.—Can you state if the agreement entered into after the first difficulty was carried out? A.—It was not. Mr. Knight, of the Canada Cotton Mills, refused to live up to that agreement when waited upon with the price-list of the Merriton Mills. It was a true list of the wages of the employés, to which was attached the signature of every overseer of that mill. He refused to recognize it, and refused to agree to the terms already agreed to.

Q.—Would the second strike have taken place if they had lived up to the first agreement? A.—I feel safe in saying it would not.

Q.—How much of a reduction in the prices paid to weavers took place? A.—As I understand it, it ran from 28 to 33 per cent.

Q.—Are you able to tell us what wages they earned previous to the reduction? A.—I cannot say the whole. I can give it just as I heard it, just as I heard others state. I heard weavers state that they could not make more than \$4.50, and they set up the claim that they were first-class weavers. I know that there are weavers in the town who made \$9, and others who made \$8.50, and some \$7. Some do fairly well, and others are poorly paid.

Q.—Over what part or department were you overseer? A.—Spooling, spinning and warping.

Q.—What were your average wages? A.—The last I had to do with was a small mill, and could not be taken to set prices from. In that mill, for spooling, spinning and twisting, the average wages were 90 cents a day, taking the whole mill, superintendent and all. There were about twenty hands employed.

Q.—Was the agreement, finally, between yourself and the mill, a satisfactory one? A.—When I made the statement to the operatives I can say that I heard but very few complain. There are among the men a few that were dissatisfied, but very few, when you take into consideration the number engaged in that strike.

Q.—If the mill owners had resorted to arbitration previous to forcing the people out on a strike, would there have been a necessity for a strike? A.—I do not think there would be; I do not think the strike would have occurred.

Q.—Were the mill owners furnished with a copy of the arbitrators' award? A.—Yes. When I refer to the usefulness of labor organizations, as an instrument for promoting peace in the times of excitement—for instance, I might say: I have known cases where certain persons who are in authority in the mills, would have been severely dealt with had it not been for members of the order of the Knights of Labor. I know one particular case where the Knights of Labor were instrumental in preventing a visit to the house of an overseer for the purpose of molesting him. I know of people being very outspoken as to what they would do to men in the mills, and I know that the Knights of Labor went in and prevented much difficulty; that the Knights of Labor, down at Cornwall, met and prevented that it was conducted so and people, in talking about the late strike, were surprised that it was conducted so quietly. There was no trouble, and they claimed that it was due to the Knights, in a very great measure, that there was no trouble—no difficulty. Without having access to the books at the present moment, I feel safe in stating that since the formation of the organization in Cornwall, now bordering on three years, upwards of \$500 has been paid out in relieving distress and furnishing sustenance to individual citizens of the town. I know of many cases where the Knights relieved this distress. Had it not have been so, the town of Cornwall would have very likely have had to do it through its treasurer.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—When your society are out on strike do they have any ability to decide and say whether they will go back or not? A.—To answer that, I will give you the plan laid down by the Knights, and what they follow: We will take, for instance, the Stormont Mill. We will say, for the sake of argument, that it is thoroughly organized, and that there are grievances. Grievances are sometimes imaginary and sometimes real. If there are any grievances the Knights state the case to the executive board of the local assembly. They investigate the matter, and if the grievance was found to be real they would try and effect a settlement with the manager. They would then lay the case before the executive board of the district and bring about a settlement, if possible. If they found they could not, and that the manager would not agree to anything, the executive board could call the help out. From the time the executive board calls the help out they are entitled to the support of the order and always receive it, but they cannot receive any support until they are so called out; so that you see, if a place is organized they cannot jump up at the spur of the moment and leave the company's service. If they did so, they would do it at their peril, because the order would give them no support.

* * * , Cotton Spinner, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How many hours a day do you work? A.—Eleven hours.

Q.—Will you kindly tell us how much you earn in a week? A.—I get 80 cents a day.

Q.—Do you get 90 cents a day on Saturday? A.—Yes; our working day is

supposed to be ten hours every day, but we work eleven, in order to get off half a day on Saturday. It counts the same.

Q.—Are there any children working in the room you are in? A.—Yes; there are a lot.

Q.—Can you tell me what the ages of the youngest are? A.—About twelve, I think.

Q.—These children have to work the same hours? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are the operatives in your room well treated? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any bad language used towards the children or operatives? A.—Well, there is some. There are the second hands. The head overseers do not, but the under overseers do.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—The children under twelve years of age, are they worked by the day or by the piece? A.—By the day.

Q.—Is your work hard work? A.—Yes; it is "Dorfing" frames.

Q.—Do you notice some of them getting tired or fatigued? A.—No; I did not.

Q.—Are the conveniences in your room for the sexes separate? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are they satisfactory? A.—Yes; they are satisfactory.

Q.—The general treatment of the operatives is good? A.—Yes.

Q.—You have no complaints to make? A.—No.

CORNWALL, 4th May, 1888.

ANNIE MARTIN, Cornwall, Cotton Spinner, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Where are you employed? A.—I work in the spinning room of the Canada Cotton Mills.

Q.—Do you work by the day or by the piece? A.—By the piece.

Q.—What are your average earnings by the piece—about? A.—Five, six or seven dollars; some weeks I make seven dollars; that comes pretty good.

Q.—Have you constant work there? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many months' work do you have during the year? A.—I work about ten or eleven months.

Q.—When they stop the mills, is it because there is no work, or because of some other reason? A.—They never stop, unless it is just a day or so—when something is wrong.

Q.—Have you any complaint to make about the treatment you receive in the factory? A.—We are well treated.

Q.—Do they use any bad language towards you? A.—None that I hear of.

Q.—Are the arrangements for providing drinking water all right? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are drinking cups furnished? A.—Yes.

Q.—Supposing a fire took place, how would you all get out? A.—By the door.

Q.—Yes. But what way would you take to go out? A.—I am on the first story.

Q.—That is the top story? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many stairways are there leading to the top story? A.—Two.

Q.—Are there any fire-escapes leading from the building? A.—None that I know of.

Q.—Is the room much crowded with machinery? A.—The one that I am in is filled up.

Q.—In the case of fire breaking out, would it be difficult getting down stairs from the top? A.—No; I do not think it would.

JENNIE MORRELL, Weaver, Cornwall, wife of William Arkwright, of the same place, Laborer, called and sworn

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

- Q.—What is your occupation? A.—I am a weaver in the Stormont Cotton Mill.
 Q.—How long have you worked in that mill? A.—The most of four years.
 Q.—What are your wages there? A.—I get about \$1 a day now.
 Q.—Are there any children working there? A.—Not in the room I am in.
 Q.—Is your work constant? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Do you see any employé there having too much work to do? A.—I think we all have too much work, once in a while.
 Q.—Do you work by the piece? A.—Yes.
 Q.—And you take a little rest when working by the piece—you do not object to take a little rest when working by the piece? A.—Yes; but if we do not do the work we do not get the money, that is all.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

- Q.—I suppose prices are not so good that you can afford to take a rest?
 A.—No; it is only \$1 a day.
 Q.—Do you get as much now as before the strike? A.—Well, I have got back again now.
 Q.—Is it true that the length of the cut has been increased? A.—Not that I know of.
 Q.—Is every thing satisfactory in the room where you are now? A.—Every thing that I know of.
 Q.—Is the treatment of the hands fairly good? A.—Well, he always used me well.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

- Q.—Did any of the overseers ever use obscene or bad language towards you?
 A.—No; he never used bad language to me.

MICHAEL QUINLAN, Cornwall, Electrician, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

- Q.—By whom are you employed? A.—I am employed by the Electric Light Company. I am at present engaged by the Canada Cotton Company.
 Q.—Can you tell us what the rules of the factory of the Canada Cotton company are?
 A.—Not as a whole; there are a few rules that I may remember.
 Q.—Do you know anything regarding the wages of the people? A.—Yes; there is a rule that if a man's wages are garnisheed he is dismissed from the employ of the company.
 Q.—Have you ever known that to be done? A.—Yes.
 Q.—When a man is dismissed for having his wages garnisheed can he obtain employment in any other mill in Cornwall? A.—Well, I have known it to be very difficult for him.
 Q.—Once dismissed, always dismissed? A.—Yes; in a few cases I have known it to be a fact.
 Q.—Are the wages of employés frequently garnisheed? A.—I have known three or four cases in the Canada Cotton Company's mill since I have been there.
 Q.—If the men were paid more frequently would it not prevent this sort of thing?
 A.—In my opinion, it would.
 Q.—Have the operatives expressed any desire to be paid more frequently?
 A.—When I came to the Canada Cotton Company's mill first we were paid every month, and occasionally once in five weeks. Two years ago we made application to be paid every two weeks, and we so received it; but there has not been any application made for weekly payment, that I know of.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you think if you made application for weekly payment you would get it, the same as every two weeks? A.—I do not know,

Q.—How many hours a day are you engaged? A.—Eleven hours, five days a week, and five and a-half hours on a Saturday.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you have to return on any part of a Saturday afternoon for any purpose? A.—Very seldom. During the winter I do, if I should have to make any repairs.

Q.—And in summer? A.—In summer I very seldom have to work.

Q.—How is the water in the Canada Cotton Company's mills? A.—The water is good.

Q.—Where do you take the water from? A.—We take it from the St. Lawrence water-works.

Q.—Did you ever hear of any complaints made by the operatives as to the treatment they received in the Canada Cotton Mill? A.—Very seldom.

Q.—Do you think every thing is done that might be done to make them comfortable? A.—As comfortable as other mills, I think. I think the Canada Cotton Mill compares very favorably with any mill in Canada.

Q.—Did you ever know any man to be "black-listed"? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—Have you known of any man being objected to by employers of labor in Cornwall on account of his belonging to labor organizations? A.—No.

Q.—Have you known of any employers objecting to hiring a man for that reason? A.—Not with the managers; I have not heard of objections being raised by them, but I have, on the part of one overseer, who has the employment of the hands in his room in the department.

Q.—Have you ever known any employé to be dismissed on account of his connection with any labor organization? A.—I have heard this man say that he would get rid of every Knight of Labor working for him, and since then he has discharged four or five.

Q.—Do you know of any other reason why any have been discharged—have you known any to be discharged on account of bad work? A.—Well, I understood that some were discharged on account of bad work, through carelessness, but others say that this man simply seized the chance to discharge them.

Q.—He was bound to find a reason any way? A.—It seems so, some way.

Q.—Have not the employés any chance of redress from his decision? A.—Some of the employés that were discharged by this man went to the manager and told him how this cloth was destroyed, and the manager would not listen to them. He said the overseer had charge of his department, and that he should uphold the overseer.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—So that they did not get much good by appealing to the manager in that instance? A.—It seems like it.

Q.—Do you know of any other appeals to the Manager that were not listened to? A.—Not in that mill.

GEORGE WHITE, Cornwall, Stone-mason, called and sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do you reside here? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you in constant employment? A.—I am out of work just now.

Q.—How long is it since you quit work? A.—I have only done five days' work since Christmas.

Q.—What is the cause? Is there no work? A.—Well, there are lots of work, and I am not particular; but some of the employers in town here—because I belong to the Knights of Labor—would not give me work.

Q.—What are your wages? A.—My wages would be \$3 a day when working.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are you a bricklayer as well as a stone-mason? A.—I do not mind brick-work when I can get it, but I do not get a chance here.

Q.—Have the stone-masons been on strike here? A.—Not that I know of. In this work—in the town here—when there was a job doing in town here we were not employed on that job, because we were Knights of Labor.

Q.—Did the men strike on that job, then? A.—No.

Q.—What is the reason, then, that employers will not take Knights of Labor? A.—Well, the reason I say is: they are trying to keep down labor, and we try to get a fair day's wages for a fair day's work. Certain men think that \$2.75 a day is too much; they think you are to put in good, substantial work, and not get paid for it. They think we should take \$2.50, and less, if they can get us to do it; we want every man that is fit for it—that is able to earn it—to get at least \$2.50 a day.

Q.—Did you ever know a stone-mason to be refused work during the strike in the cotton mills? A.—Yes.

Q.—Why? A.—Because they were trying to have a settlement between the help and the employers; they knew we were Knights of Labor, and so we could not get employment.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—You say you get \$2.75 a day for men who are able to earn it. What would you do with the men who are not so able to do it? A.—I mean, if a man was able to get it.

Q.—If a man could not earn \$2.75 a day? A.—He should be able to earn \$2.75 a day if he is a good stone-mason and knows his business.

Q.—Well, he might do his work very well, but not so fast as the other men, and for that reason he would be obliged to take less? A.—For a man who is able to do a day's work he should get a day's pay. How is a contractor to know when he is to have a contract completed if he takes on men who cannot do a regular day's work. Those that are not able to do the work, they call themselves masons, but they are not able to work.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You mean to say that these incompetent men that you speak of have never served a proper term of apprenticeship? A.—Yes; if a man does the same work he should get the same pay.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—If a man who is not worth \$2.75 a day is working with you, what do you do with him? He may be a good man to do his work slow? A.—Well, we would have to give him a show; we would help him, and see what he could do.

Q.—But in other businesses they pay a man according what he is able to earn? A.—Well, if he was put on we would have to give him a show.

Q.—But I want you to say what you are to do with him if he could not do what you call a full day's work. If he is good to earn only 75 cents a day that might be enough for him, and quite enough pay for the work he does? A.—It is cutting down prices, and good men would soon be put on the same level.

Q.—But his work would be worth that price and no more? A.—If he built 2½ porches, and I built 4, I am supposed to give him an opportunity for keeping equal with me.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you understand that the teachings or principles of the Knights of Labor is that a poor mechanic should have equal pay with a good mechanic? A.—I understand that he should get a fair day's wages for what he is able to do.

JOSEPH GRAY, Cornwall, Dyer, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—In what mill are you employed, and in what capacity? A.—I am a dyer in the Canada Cotton Mill.

Q.—Are you able to tell us if the business you are engaged in is a healthy one? A.—Well, it has proved healthy to me, so far.

Q.—What hours in the day do you have to work at it? A.—Ten and a-half hours; we work fifty-seven and a-half hours a week.

Q.—Are the hands in the room in which you work properly protected? A.—Yes; I think so.

Q.—You think that all risks against accidents are reasonably provided against? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are you able to earn as a dyer? A.—Well, all along, up to the cut-down, \$1.50 a day.

Q.—The wages have been reduced, have they? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are you able to earn now? A.—One dollar and twenty-five cents a day; that is at the reduced rate.

Q.—What position do you occupy? A.—I am a foreman.

Q.—What do the help receive if the foreman only gets \$1.25 a day? A.—The foremen get \$1.50 a day. I think I should make a little explanation about that. About one year ago I met with an accident, and of course during my time of absence there was another man put on in my place, but I received the same pay—not exactly the same work.

Q.—Have you any objection to state the nature of the accident you met with? A.—No.

Q.—Was it while you were at work that it took place? A.—It was after we had that flood in the town, and we were replacing the tubs—dye boxes, as we call them—and one of them, more heavy than the rest, needed to be moved. I took hold of it on the top, to prevent it from going so heavy, and the box came down on my foot and took off four of my toes. I was hurt on the Wednesday and I received my pay for the balance of that week.

Q.—You received no compensation from the company? A.—No.

Q.—The only compensation that you received was to have your wages cut down? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there no provision made by the company for employes when sick? A.—No.

Q.—When did you return to work? A.—I went back in March, and was reduced last fall.

Q.—Did the company pay the doctor? A.—No.

Q.—Is the water-closet accomodation all right? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any drinking water? A.—Yes.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Is the water good? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do any of your friends who receive the same salary as you receive, save anything? Are they proprietors of property? A.—No; they do not all receive the same salary exactly.

Q.—Do you think that a man with \$1.25 a day can live quite comfortable on a small salary? A.—If he is single; not with a family. I know I am not making money on it. It takes all that I can get.

Q.—Are you able to state the general wages that dyers earn? A.—A dollar and a-quarter a day.

Q.—And the overseers of the mill? A.—About \$2 to \$2.50, and some get more; some get as high as from \$3 to \$5.

JAMES DALEY, Cornwall, Dyer, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—In what mill are you employed? A.—In the Stormont Cotton Mill.

Q.—Did you hear the testimony of the last witness about the wages? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do the wages in your mill differ at all from them? A.—Well, you were speaking about overseers' wages being from \$2.50 to \$5; I cannot say about that.

Q.—Tell us the average? A.—The men in the mill, the dyers, get from 80 cents to \$1.25 a day.

Q.—What is the general average? A.—The average is \$1.05.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—What is the age of those who receive 80 cents? A.—Between seventeen and eighteen years of age. I have only three young men at that age, the rest are all men.

Q.—How long do they work in the year? Q.—Ten months.

Q.—And how long have those young men worked at dyeing? A.—Only seven or eight months; previous to that they were all men.

Q.—Do you consider the work too heavy for these boys? A.—No; it is very light; not heavy at all.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you ever known employés to be discharged on account of their wages being garnisheed? A.—Well, I think there have been men discharged on account of the office being bothered too much through their wages being garnisheed, but at this mill up here they are not so strict. At the mill below, as I understand, they are discharged, but not so up here. Men are sometimes garnisheed five or six times.

Q.—Do you not think that there is considerable hardship in that rule of discharging the men? A.—Yes; I do.

Q.—It is not always possible to keep free of debt? A.—No; a man may have a very large family and very small pay, and if you lose two weeks' work, as we sometimes do when the mill is shut down, you have to make it up after you get to work again, and consequently you have to run into debt.

Q.—Besides that, I suppose you have to work a month when you first start at the mill before you are paid, and then you only receive a fortnight's pay—one fortnight being kept back as security against your leaving without notice? A.—Yes; that is it, sir.

Q.—Have the wages in your mill been reduced? A.—No; because it was all put back a few days after the trouble.

Q.—There was no reduction in your mill at all? A.—No; not that I am aware of.

Q.—Is the drinking water good? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is the closet accommodation all right? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you ever hear any of the employés complain of bad treatment in the mill? A.—No; I have not. I do not go much around the other parts; I go more around that part that concerns my business.

Q.—Are the vats reasonably protected? A.—Yes; as well as they can be protected.

Q.—And the men that work on them? A.—Yes.

Q.—Were you there when the man that we were told of yesterday lost his life?

A.—Yes; I raised him out of the vat.

Q.—Was that through any fault or carelessness on the part of the company or himself, or was it accidental—was the accident unavoidable? A.—It was through his own fault, in one way, and in other ways it was unavoidable. He might have fixed the staging.

Q.—Do you think he was a steady man, and fully capable of fixing a staging?

A.—I think he was a man of good, sound judgment, although not a first-class mechanic.

Q.—Do you think he knew enough about mechanics to construct a proper staging? A.—I think he did.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Did you have any trouble with your workmen last season? A.—Yes; a year ago next month.

Q.—Tell us what the difficulty was? A.—Yes; they made a demand for one hour a day less work and 10 per cent. of a rise.

Q.—How was the difficulty settled? A.—They struck. A combination of the Knights of Labor caused them to strike.

Q.—And did they succeed? A.—No; they did not.

Q.—Did they go back to work? A.—No; they did not.

Q.—Did you refuse to give them work again? A.—I did.

Q.—What was the reason? A.—Because a "burnt child dreads the fire," and we did not want them again.

Q.—Have you any objection to employ men who are Knights of Labor? A.—I have hired a number of men the last four or five months.

Q.—You will not stand in their way, then? No.

Q.—Not at all? A.—Not at all. There was a time when I refused; that was one time when there was a strike.

Q.—Did you ever offer men work if they left the Knights of Labor? A.—I advised them to leave it.

Q.—Why did you ask them to leave it? A.—I told them as quick as they were through with the order I would hire them, but since then I have not asked the men whether they belonged to it or not.

Q.—When these men asked for an increase of 10 per cent. all round do you consider that that was a fair demand? A.—I do not consider that as my business; my business is to run the mill.

Q.—Do you not consider that sixty odd hours is rather a long week's work? Is that not more work than is put in in other mills? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it possible to do the same work in a less number of hours? A.—Yes.

Q.—They work five and a-half hours more than they do in other mills. Then, the reason for the men putting in for shorter hours was a reasonable one? A.—Well, the men do not work as hard here as in some other dye-houses.

Q.—Still, it is reasonable for them to suppose that they might get away earlier? A.—They have the same hours in other places; and they had worked two years already in this mill without making any demand for more wages or less time.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—You are a foreman dyer? A.—Yes.

Q.—If a man applied to you for employment, and you knew him to be a prominent Knight of Labor, would you give him a situation? A.—I should be a little afraid of him.

GEORGE AUTY, Cornwall, Warp-dresser, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—In what mill are you employed? A.—In the Stormont Cotton Mill. I am a foreman cotton-warp dresser.

Q.—How many hands are in your department? A.—There are about three, besides myself.

Q.—Are these males or females? A.—Males.

Q.—What wages are they able to earn? A.—I have two men at \$1.75 and one help at \$1 a day.

Q.—Is that about the average wages paid for that class of work in other mills? A.—It is about the highest, with one or two exceptions. It is considered good wages for the business.

Q.—Do you measure the cloth? A.—The woof is measured as it goes through my hands? it is done by machinery.

Q.—Are you able to tell us if there has been any difference made in the length of the cut within the last year or so? A.—No; no difference whatever; none at all.

Q.—There is no truth in the statement that the cut has been altered? A.—The cut has not been lengthened or made shorter. They run by the same gear—the gear for measuring? so many teeth in the revolution of the rule.

Q.—Have you been long in that mill? A.—Four years.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—How long have you been staying here in Cornwall? A.—Sixteen years next June.

Q.—Do you know the mechanics generally? Do you know lots of mechanics here? A.—Yes; I know pretty much all of them.

Q.—What is their condition? A.—Generally speaking, their condition is fair.

Q.—Do you think they could save anything from their wages? Do you not think that they could save something? Do you think they are spending a little too much in luxury, or do you think that they are very careful, and do as much as they honestly can with the money they receive? A.—Well, there are a great many imprudent people round here, just the same as in other places.

Q.—Is there any misery here—are there any in want? A.—I would not think there was any real misery. May be there is some misery caused by sickness, but I never knew of any real misery, on account of the inability of any person to get work.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You are always in constant work yourself? A.—Yes.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do you think that more education would be better for the workingmen? A.—I think that the standing of a people is based upon their intelligence; the more intelligent the people are the better their standing, and the more careful they become. I suppose it is on account of intelligence that some people get on much better than others. Of course, education is of great assistance.

Q.—Are the arrangements of the mill satisfactory? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is the closet accommodation good? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there plenty of good drinking water? A.—Yes; I cannot complain about that. There does not seem to be any lack of facilities, and there are separate tanks for males and females, in separate parts of the building.

Q.—That is in your department or in the other departments? A.—It is in all the departments throughout the establishment. There are separate conveniences, and notices over them, respectively, stating which are for males and which are for females.

Q.—Are there separate entrances? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Are they in the building? A.—They are not in the building; they are separate from the mill itself.

Q.—Are they away from one another? A.—They are not away from one another; they are all together.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How are they in your department? A.—In our department there is the mill of the mill between them.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Where do you get the water from for the Stormont Mill? A.—There is a well for the purpose outside the building, and a pump put into the well, and help is obtained in each department to go for water when required. In the spring, sometimes it is a little discolored, as though from surface water, but it seems the general impression that the drinking water is canal water.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Is water supplied in every department for drinking? A.—Yes; there is a man outside for that effect. Every overseer appoints a man, who is charged to see that the water pails are constantly kept filled.

Q.—Do you not believe that every man going to the same place or pail could get ill because of the impurity of the water? There must be some cause where there is so much complaints? A.—It appears that one goes to one place and one goes to another, and naturally they go to the water instead of to the well sunk for the purpose. It is a perfect well, and was properly dug. Before this well was dug there was another well on a different property, where people used to go for their water.

Q.—Do you think the river water is better than the well water? A.—No; it has not the same taste. They are held pretty strictly to the premises.

Q.—How deep is the well? A.—I could not say.

PAUL DANE, Cornwall, Weaver, called and sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—In what mill are you employed? A.—In the Stormont Cotton Mill.

Q.—Have you been there long? A.—This last time I went there the day before Christmas; I worked there before about six years. This is the second time I have been working there.

Q.—Do you work by the piece or by the day? A.—By the piece.

Q.—What are your earnings? A.—My earnings average about \$8 a week.

Q.—Can the men working in the mills here in Cornwall save something on \$8 a week? A.—I do not think a man earning that money can save anything, if he has a family and has to take care of a house.

Q.—What rent do you have to pay for a house? A.—You can get a house for \$6 a month.

Q.—Have you any taxes to pay besides that? A.—No.

Q.—How many rooms do you have in your house? A.—Five rooms.

Q.—And how many children have you got? A.—Seven.

Q.—Are they old enough to go to school? A.—Yes; one is working and two are going to school.

Q.—What age is the one that works? A.—Eighteen years of age.

Q.—How much have you got to pay for water? A.—We have no water in the house.

Q.—How do you get your water? A.—We get it from the well, and the washing water we get out of the canal.

Q.—Is that cheaper than getting it from the waterworks? A.—We have to pay a man so much a month for getting it, if we get it from the waterworks.

Q.—Are the houses generally occupied by mechanics in good condition as to health, generally? A.—Yes; as long as you keep the house all right.

Q.—What is the distance from your house to the factory? A.—Well, going around it is fifteen minutes to walk there.

Q.—Do you not think that women leaving their houses at six in the morning to go to the factory start a little too early for the good of their health? Do you not think they start a little too soon? A.—It is too soon.

Q.—And in summer, do you not think it too soon? A.—It would not make much difference, but I suppose in winter those that live in the west part of the town, where I live, can cut across the canal on the ice, but in summer time they have to go round by the bridge.

Q.—Have you anything to complain of in the factory? A.—Yes; we have bad water and bad light, and the water-closet is not in a suitable place. The place is about 3 feet square, and you can hardly get into it.

Q.—Where is the females' water-closet? A.—The females' is in another room.

Q.—Where do they get the drinking water? A.—The drinking water is taken out of the canal.

Q.—Is it filtered? A.—It is pretty muddy.

Q.—Do they provide anything to drink out of? A.—No; we have some pans, but they went and painted the pans with brown paint and the last three or four days the water has been very bad in consequence.

Q.—Have you heard any of the operatives complain of being ill on account of the water? A.—Well, they did not complain of being ill, but some seemed not very well.

Q.—Did they keep on with their work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do some of the operatives drink out of the pail? A.—All the pails in our part are the same; it makes no difference which you take; you take the first you come to.

OTTAWA, FRIDAY, 4th May, 1888.

ALDERMAN WILLIAM HUTCHISON, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—You are a member of the firm of Thomas McKay & Co., millers? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long have you been engaged in the present business? A.—Do you mean, how long I have been working as a miller or how long I have been a partner?

Q.—How long have you been a partner? A.—About fourteen years.

Q.—Can you give us about the number of men you are employing at the present time—the average number, I mean? A.—Seventy-five.

Q.—Can you classify these men and give us about their average earnings? A.—The laborers, including teamsters, get about \$7 a week the year round.

Q.—Does that include the millers? A.—No; the millers receive \$10 a week.

Q.—You say about \$7 a week for laborers? A.—Yes; that includes shovellers.

Q.—Have you a summer and winter rate of wages? A.—I had not until two years ago, when I was forced to make a change. On the average, they get more in summer than in winter, but not through any difficulty I had with them.

Q.—For what reason were you forced to make the change? A.—In the summer a great many changes were going on. Many men would go into the saw-mills. I found where I hired men at \$7 a week the year round it worked first-rate for one year, but the second year they would not stay. Sometimes bigger wages were paid in the mills in summer, and the men would leave me and go into the mills. I had therefore to protect myself by making the change I have spoken of.

Q.—You found it was necessary to give a set price in the summer time and in winter time you could get men for less money? A.—Yes; but I never went less than \$1 a day on any man.

Q.—Do you employ any boys round the mill? A.—I think there is only one there now. Sometimes there are two.

Q.—He is an apprentice? A.—Just as an apprentice, and then he works up. We put him on to learn the business.

Q.—In taking on boys, you offer to teach them the business? A.—Yes; if they desire to learn the trade they get that advantage.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What age is this boy? A.—The boy that we have on just now is about sixteen years of age. He came on last week.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—When these boys are learning the trade what do you give them a week? A.—We give him about 50 cents a day for the summer, and we advance him along as he is able to do the work. He has to sweep and dust just now.

Q.—When you take them on as apprentices about what do you pay them? A.—
—We make no arrangement; we never have any agreement with the boys at all. If a boy is strong—say a young man of eighteen or nineteen—if he can do laborers' work he gets laborers' pay—that is if he is able to handle the bags.

Q.—When you take those boys on do you indenture them—bind them? A.—No.

Q.—It is just a verbal agreement? A.—There is no agreement. We say, there are the wages, if you like them, take them.

Q.—Have you ever had any trouble with your boys or men? A.—No.

Q.—You have never had any strikes or agitation for higher pay? A.—No.

Q.—If a man is worth more, and asked for it you generally gave it to him, if you felt he was worth it? A.—If he was worth it, of course. We never had any trouble with the men. We never had them asking for a raise, as we calculate to pay the best wages.

Q.—What number of hours do the men work? A.—The laborers work from seven to six.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Ten hours a day? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Do you compel your men to work on the French-Canadian holidays—the statutory holidays? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they ever object to that? A.—No; I give them Christmas and New Year's Day and the 1st of July as holidays, and they get their pay—that is, their pay runs on.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—The pay runs on for the holidays? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—If a man in your employ gets hurt round the mills do you generally pay the doctor's bill? A.—We generally pay him for the time he is off; we have done so all along, so far.

Q.—Can you give the Commission any idea of the condition of your men, financially? Do you know if any of your men own their own property? A.—I think fully two-thirds own property of their own.

Q.—Have they gained this property out of their own savings? A.—Yes; by their own savings.

Q.—Those that are not possessors of property, have you any reason to believe that they have money deposited? A.—I could not answer that question; I do not know.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What are the lowest wages you pay a miller? A.—The lowest is \$9.

Q.—How many hours does that man work? A.—Well, the \$9-men are mostly on from seven to six.

Q.—What are the highest wages you pay a miller? A.—Ten dollars a week.

Q.—Would he be a foreman? A.—No, sir; he would be in charge of the watch—what I mean by that is the grinder. There is the second hand, who attends to the upstairs part—the bolting.

Q.—How many millers have you in your employ? A.—Our business is an extensive one; we have two flour mills and two oatmeal mills.

Q.—Take the flour mills: how many millers have you in them? A.—Seven.

Q.—To how many of those seven do you pay \$10 a week? A.—Five.

Q.—How many hours do they work? A.—One week they work all night; next week in the day time. They change about.

Q.—The wages are the same for night work as day work? A.—The same.

Q.—What would be the length of hours they work? A.—About eleven hours. They have no laborious work, though.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—It is simply walking round watching the machinery? A.—There are two men on the watch; they have little to do.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—When you take an apprentice do you take him to teach him the milling business? A.—If he will learn it of his own free will.

Q.—Have you any boys go on with that object in view? A.—Very often.

Q.—From the time a boy would commence with you until you made him a good miller, how many years would it be? A.—We have had boys on four years that were millers. Others would never make millers if they stayed a lifetime.

Q.—When one becomes a miller do you give him \$9 or \$10 a week? A.—Nine dollars.

Q.—Do those boys, after they consider themselves practical millers, remain with you a length of time? A.—A great many go to the States.

Q.—Do you happen with many accidents around your mills? A.—I do not know of an accident in fourteen years. We are very careful.

Q.—From your experience in the milling business, do you notice improvement in the quality of the wheat during the last five or ten years? A.—Do you mean in the home-ground wheat, or the wheat brought from Manitoba or the States?

Q.—I mean Dominion wheat? A.—Of course, Manitoba wheat is a great improvement on what we have had here—that is this year, but not last.

Q.—Is the highest quality of wheat, that which ranged as the highest quality five or ten years ago, as good as the highest range of wheat to-day? A.—I cannot answer that question put that way.

Q.—Well, take flour, for instance: what you would call first-class quality of flour, is it of a superior quality than first-class flour was five or ten years ago? A.—It is for the baker, but it is not any better for family use. It is stronger, and suits the bakers' trade better.

Q.—Is the demand for Manitoba wheat on the increase? A.—Yes.

Q.—Both for domestic and bakers' purposes? A.—Yes.

Q.—Where do you find the market for your flour? A.—Local.

Q.—It is a local market? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you tell us whether the price of first-class flour to-day is cheaper or dearer than it was five years ago, giving it to us, say in 1877, 1882 and 1887, the same time in the year? A.—We have had lower prices in the last three years than I have known for ten years previous.

Q.—Can you give us the actual figures? A.—Oh, yes; I could do that.

Q.—Is \$9 and \$10 a week the prevailing rate of wages paid millers in Ottawa? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are your men constantly employed, the year round? A.—Yes.

Q.—What class of your employés own their own houses? A.—Millers and laborers.

Q.—You say you pay, on an average, \$7 a week to your laborers. Do those men own property out of wages at \$7 a week? A.—Yes.

Q.—And support a family? A.—I suppose so.

Q.—How much would a laboring man pay for a house of five rooms in Ottawa? A.—I could not answer that.

Q.—Do you know the price of provisions in Ottawa? A.—No; I know the price of flour, but nothing else.

Q.—You cannot tell us what is the rent of houses occupied by the working classes? A.—No.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Have you had the factory inspector through your establishment? A.—The Ontario Inspector—no.

Q.—You never saw him there? A.—No; I have seen any amount of insurance inspectors. The factory inspector might have been there, but I don't think so.

Q.—If he had been there, in all probability, you would have known? A.—I think so.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you employ a practical engineer? A.—We run by water; we employ a first-class millwright, and two assistant millwrights, to keep the mills in order.

Q.—What would be the wages of a millwright in Ottawa? A.—Two dollars and seventy-five cents a day.

Q.—You constantly employ one? A.—Yes.

MELTON W. MERRALL, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—What is your business, Mr. Merrall? A.—Foundryman and machinist.

Q.—How long have you been engaged as proprietor in this business? A.—About eight years as proprietor.

Y.—Can you give us an idea of the number of men you employ? A.—Between twenty and thirty—twenty-five on an average.

Q.—About what would be the average earnings of the machinists? A.—We pay \$2 a day.

Q.—And for moulders? A.—The same.

Q.—Do you take any apprentice moulders? A.—Sometimes; we have not had any for a number of years now.

Q.—How often do you pay your men? A.—Every two weeks.

Q.—On what day? A.—Saturday.

Q.—The men prefer that day? A.—It is not a matter of preference. We have always paid them on Saturday, and I have never heard the day questioned by any of them.

Q.—Have you ever had any trouble with your men in any way? A.—No, sir.

Q.—They are always contented? A.—Seemingly so.

Q.—Do you know if any of your men belong to any labor organizations? A.—Not that I know of.

Q.—Do you dictate to them? A.—No; so long as they do their work that is all I ask of them.

Q.—What would be the number of hours that your men are generally supposed to work? A.—Ten hours a day.

Q.—Do they do night work? A.—Occasionally.

Q.—When working at night are they paid extra? A.—They work an hour less, that is the difference—four hours constituting half a day.

Q.—Have you had the Ontario Factory Inspector through your place? A.—No.

Q.—Have you ever had any accidents in your establishment? A.—We did have one accident a good while ago; one of our men got hurt.

Q.—From what cause did that accident occur? A.—He was putting a belt on the pulley and his coat got caught in the pulley, which drew him on the shaft. His arm was broken and his back was hurt a little. That is the only accident of any account that I remember during my time.

Q.—Did that accident occur from any carelessness, or by exposed machinery? A.—It would never have occurred if the man had taken any precautions at all. It was away up towards the ceiling where he was caught; if he had taken a ladder he would not have been caught at all.

Q.—Have you any boys employed in your foundry? A.—Not in the foundry; we have one in the machine shop.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What age is he? A.—About sixteen.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Is he an apprentice? A.—Yes.

Q.—What pay do you give apprentices for the first year? A.—Fifty cents a day.

Q.—And the second year? A.—It depends altogether upon the boy.

Q.—You have no bargain with them—they are not indentured? A.—No; they are not indentured. If the boy does not suit he goes, or we discharge him.

Q.—Do you give an apprentice every opportunity to learn a trade? A.—More in our trade than in most of the shops, because they do not do any sweeping of floors, or anything of that kind; the watchman does it.

Q.—Do you pay the blacksmith the same rate of wages as the moulders and machinists? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the condition of the men in your employ? A.—Most of our men own their own properties.

Q.—Those men that own their property, are they mechanics? A.—Mechanics—moulders and blacksmiths—or, rather we call them machinists.

Q.—What would be the value of the property some of them own? A.—I cannot tell you that; it depends on the location of the property. One man, Doherty, has five or six properties. He has one double tenement house, one single house, and two other houses in Rochesterville.

Q.—He acquired this property from his own earnings? A.—He and his sons—he has two sons with us.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Have they done any other business? A.—No.

Q.—They have had no help except from their own family? A.—That is all.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How many of the family work? A.—Two, besides the man.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Are your men constantly employed the whole year? A.—In the winter season we have more than we can fairly do. In the summer time we sometimes work three-quarter time.

Q.—You run short-time occasionally in summer? A.—Sometimes we are not able to employ them for ten hours a day.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What class of moulding do you do? A.—No class particularly; we do all kinds of moulding, but mill work principally.

Q.—What would be the wages of a first-class moulder in machinery? A.—Two dollars a day.

Q.—The year round? A.—That is what we pay them.

Q.—When you take on an apprentice do you teach him all the branches of moulding or keep him at one? A.—In our place they are taught every thing they can learn in connection with the business. We have no speciality of any work at all; we let them work at anything and every thing.

Q.—Have you any pattern-makers in your establishment? A.—One.

Q.—How much a week does he receive? A.—Nine dollars.

Q.—How many hours a day do the moulders work? A.—Ten; all our men work ten hours a day.

Q.—Have you got a milling room? A.—No, sir.

Q.—How do you clean the mouldings? A.—You mean the castings. In the small castings we have a rumbler. We place them in that and clean them, but the heavy castings are cleaned by hand.

Q.—Where the rumbler is, what kind of ventilation have you? A.—It is on the outside of the building altogether. There is a coal shed over it, but the men do not work in it at all. There is a space of 12 feet and a wall between that and the foundry.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of the moulding shop? A.—It is about as good as any in the city; there is no stagnant water, or anything of that kind, around.

Q.—Is the water-closet within the moulding shop? A.—It is outside of the flume altogether, right into the stream.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is there a health inspector in the city? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does he go about? A.—Yes; if he does his duty.

Q.—Has he been to your place? A.—I have not seen him.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What do you pay your blacksmith? A.—Two dollars a day.

Q.—And a blacksmith's helper? A.—One dollar and one dollar and a quarter.

Q.—How often do you pay them? A.—Every two weeks.

Q.—In full? A.—We pay them in full.

Q.—You never hold anything back? A.—We pay them in full every time.

Q.—Have you ever known the wages of your employés to be garnisheed? A.—Not lately; we have not had any for a good while.

Q.—Have you ever heard a desire on the part of your men expressed to be paid more frequently than fortnightly? A.—I have never heard a word from any man on the subject.

Q.—What do you pay for unskilled labor? A.—We only have three laborers; we pay them \$1.25 a day. One of them gets \$1.50, but he attends to the firing up in winter, besides his other work; in the summer time he has not quite so much to do.

J. F. Wood, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—You are manager for E. H. Barnes? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How long has your business been established here? A.—Since the 1st of March?

Q.—What is your business? A.—We are manufacturers of box shooks.

Q.—About what number of hands do you employ in your business. A.—At present we have about eighty.

Q.—And of that eighty, how many are boys? A.—About one-third.

Q.—What would be about the average earnings of the men—take, for instance, the filers, sawyers, and men who run saws? A.—It will be hard to strike an average; there are only a few filers.

Q.—Well, class them into about three classes. What would a man who is able to look after planers and re-sawing machines be worth, on the average? A.—One dollar and twenty-five cents a day.

Q.—What are the ages of the youngest boys employed by you? A.—If I were to answer that it would be but guess work. I only asked the age of one boy, I thought he was so young. He told me he was fifteen, some are younger than that.

Q.—What would be the earnings of those boys who are about fifteen years of age? A.—Fifty cents a day.

Q.—Have you been paying this rate of wages since you started? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—You are at present putting in machinery, with the expectation of increasing your business? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—About what number of hands do you expect to employ? A.—About double what we have now.

Q.—I believe your firm, Mr. Wood, also owns mills in the United States? A.—Yes.

Q.—In what part of the States are those mills situated? A.—Two of them are in the Adirondack Mountains; one in St. Regis, the other in Castorland.

Q.—Could you give us about the wages the same class of men employed in those factories receive as compared with those who are employed here? A.—I could hardly give you that; I could give you a pretty good idea in two places—that is, at Oswego and Tonawanda.

Q.—How would the wages there compare with what you are paying here? A.—Where we pay \$7 a week here, in Oswego we pay about \$7.50 a week.

Q.—How does the cost of living compare here with Oswego? A.—That I know nothing about.

Q.—Are you a married man? A.—Yes; but I am boarding at the hotel here.

Q.—Are you aware of a law in the Province of Ontario called the Ontario Factory Act? A.—For accidents?

Q.—Yes; as well as the employment of children in factories? A.—I never heard anything about children being affected by it.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You know the law? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Have you a boy in your employment named George Allen, ten years old? A.—I have not.

Q.—Do you know the names of any of your boys? A.—I am hardly familiar with any of them.

Q.—As far as you know, you are not able to state whether or no, workingmen are in a better position here than in the United States—that is, those who are in the same line of business? A.—You will have to divide the workingmen up; common laborers—I do not think they are paid as much here as in the States, but skilled laborers we pay just the same; I mean, such as filers, engineers and machine men.

Q.—Have you had any accidents in your establishment since you started? A.—One.

Q.—What was the extent of it? A.—A boy had his finger cut off.

Q.—Was he injured by a machine? A.—It was a sliding-top saw-table.

Q.—Was it his business to run it? A.—Yes.

Q.—How old was he? A.—About eighteen.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How long has he been in the factory? A.—Since we first started.

Q.—How long ago is that? A.—First of March.

Q.—How many weeks had he been in the factory until the accident happened? A.—Six weeks—all the time we had been running.

Q.—Did you put him to the machine the moment he went into the factory? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—What would be the earnings of a practical engineer capable of running such an engine as you are running your factory with? A.—We pay \$10.50 a week all the year round; it is a steady job.

Q.—How many hours a day do your men and boys have to work? A.—Eleven.

Q.—You start at 6 in the morning and quit at 6 in the evening? A.—Yes; except on Saturdays, when we take 50 minutes at noon and quit at 5 o'clock.

Q.—How often do you pay them? A.—Every two weeks. We pay on Monday.

Q.—When you pay on Monday is that up to the Saturday night? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is your engineer a practical man? A.—I believe he is.

Q.—Has he a certificate to that effect? A.—I do not know.

Q.—How long has he been acting in the capacity of engineer? A.—I could not

say; he has been with us since we started; I believe he ran on the boats here. He came to us recommended; that is all I know of him.

Q.—What age is the youngest boy in your employ? A.—There may be some as young as thirteen, but I hardly think there are any younger.

Q.—Do you take them on to learn any particular business as skilled mechanics? A.—They commence as boys in taking away from the machines, and as they grow older they learn to handle the machines and feed them.

Q.—How many boys at thirteen have you in your employ? A.—Half a dozen.

Q.—What wages do they receive when they first commence? A.—Fifty cents a day.

Q.—Do you know if those boys can read and write? A.—I guess most of them can write; they have to sign for their wages.

Q.—Have you any rules in your shop for the guidance of the employés? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you impose any fines? A.—No.

Q.—What is the nature of those rules? A.—Instructing them to be careful with the machines; to prohibit skylarking and smoking on the premises.

Q.—Provided they were late in the morning in arriving at work, what would be the consequence—would the door be locked on them? A.—No; if a man is late once in a while we say nothing about it, but if he made a business of it we should have to give him warning or discharge him. We have not done any fining at all.

Q.—Have you any fanning machines to take away the dust? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has the factory inspector visited your workshop to your knowledge? A.—No.

Q.—You are sure about that? A.—I have not heard of it.

Q.—If he had been there you would have known? A.—I should probably have heard of it.

Q.—Do you pay your men in cash? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Where do you find a market for your milling work? A.—In the United States.

Q.—You send everything to the United States? A.—Everything.

Q.—Is it a Canadian wood that you use? A.—Yes sir.

Q.—Is your business or output increasing? A.—We have more business than we can do. I do not know what it would be if we did more. Our trade is more extensive than we can fill.

Q.—Has the volume of the business increased during the past five or ten years? A.—Oh, yes.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—In fitting up your machinery, do you use every precaution to prevent accidents? A.—Certainly.

Q.—Have you a suction fan to each machine? A.—Yes.

Q.—So that you generally use every precaution to protect life and limb? A.—Yes; we have the saws boxed up wherever we can.

WILLIAM GIBSON, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—What is your business, Mr. Gibson? A.—I am a biscuit manufacturer.

Q.—How long have you been engaged in Ottawa as a biscuit manufacturer? A.—About eight years.

Q.—What is the average number of men that you employ? A.—We have a foreman and several men at different priced wages. Then we have girls and boys; we do not employ all men.

Q.—Take a first class biscuit maker: what is his average pay? A.—We have been paying our foreman \$20 a week.

Q.—But the journeymen, what do you pay on an average—I do not mean to a single individual? A.—From \$7.50 to \$9.

Q.—They are employed the year round at that pay? A.—Yes.

Q.—What would be the age of the boys? A.—Fifteen to seventeen.

Q.—Are they there as apprentices? A.—No; we just give them so much a week.

Q.—About what is the average wages those boys from fourteen to seventeen get? A.—Some boys get \$6 a week—some \$4.

Q.—About how many boys have you there? A.—Generally five or six.

Q.—You have an engineer? A.—Yes.

Q.—About what would be his average pay? A.—He gets about \$7.50 per week.

Q.—Is he a practical engineer? A.—I think so.

H.—Has he a certificate as an engineer? A.—I cannot say whether he has or not. He has been a long time at the business; he is a good man.

Q.—What number of hours does your men work? A.—Ten hours a day.

Q.—Do they work over-time? A.—Very seldom.

Q.—Their's is day-work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever had any trouble with your men—strikes, or anything of that kind? A.—I cannot say that I have.

Q.—Have you in your business any dangerous machines? A.—If they put their hands in the rollers it would be serious. We never had any accidents happen. We take care, when a new hand comes in, to show him how to run things, so that there will be no accidents.

Q.—Do the boys run the machines? A.—Some of the biggest boys do.

Q.—Has the factory inspector ever visited your factory? A.—I do not think he has.

Q.—You would have known it if he had been there? A.—Yes.

Q.—How often do you pay your hands? A.—Every Saturday night.

Q.—In cash, and in full? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know any concern in Ottawa, or around Ottawa, that does not pay the men in cash? A.—I do not know of any.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you got any boys that you pay less than \$4 a week to? A.—We did pay \$3 a week to some of the boys; we pay them all \$4 now.

Q.—When boys go on to learn the cracker-making, how much do they receive? A.—Different prices, according to the size of the boy, and what they can do. We would not give them all \$4 a week.

Q.—What is the average amount you give the boys per week when they go on first? A.—We have not any now less than \$4 a week.

Q.—Do you give them \$4 a week when they go on first. A.—Sometimes we get them less than that at first. One boy, who commenced five years ago at \$2, is getting \$6 a week now.

Q.—How long does it take a boy to learn cracker-baking? A.—About four years; but none of them stay that length of time. They get their trade sooner, and obtain bigger wages some place else.

Q.—After serving their apprenticeship they do not stay with you? A.—I have not taken any apprentices. I just give them so much a week, and they do what they are told.

Q.—How many journeymen have you in your employ? A.—Four or five.

Q.—And they receive from \$7 to \$9 a week? A.—I cannot pay \$9 a week—the general price is from \$7 to \$9. I do not know whether there are any now, but they got \$7.50 a week all winter.

Q.—What did you pay those five men? A.—A dollar and a quarter a day—\$7.50 a week.

Q.—When they work over-time do they receive extra for it? A.—Yes; but they do not work over-time; they generally receive the same rate of wages for over-

time; but we do not like to work at nights. We are satisfied if we can keep the factory running for ten hours a day.

Q.—What kind of employment are the girls engaged in? A.—Packing biscuits.

Q.—What age is the youngest? A.—The girls are of different ages—from sixteen to twenty.

Q.—What would be the pay of these girls? A.—They get \$3 and \$4 a week.

Q.—Have you any girls younger than sixteen or eighteen? A.—I never asked one their age, but I suppose they will be sixteen or eighteen—somewhere about that.

Q.—Are they engaged in lifting the boxes when they are packed? A.—Yes; they generally lift the boxes weighing fifteen pounds and set them down.

Q.—Are the boxes which they lift only fifteen pounds in weight? A.—Generally about that—some of them are thirteen or fourteen pounds.

Q.—Do you consider that light work? A.—They all like it very well; they prefer it to working in the house.

Q.—Do any of them work at night? A.—No.

Q.—Are they allowed a full hour for dinner? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do they generally go home to their dinners? A.—Not all; those who live near by do.

Q.—The others stay in the factory. Have you a separate room for lunch? A.—No; they generally eat their lunches in the packing-room.

Q.—Are there any young men and young women in the same room? A.—No; the young men and women are on different flats.

Q.—Are there conveniences for both sex? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of the bake-shop? A.—Fair.

Q.—About what is the height of the ceiling? A.—Between 11 and 12 feet.

Q.—How many windows are there in the shop? A.—Eight or ten in each flat.

Q.—Is the engine in the same room where the hands knead the dough? A.—It is where the mixing machines are—but not on the same flat where it is run through the machines.

Q.—Is the factory warm in the summer time? A.—No; it is just about comfortable.

W. ANDERSON, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—You are book-keeper for Mr. J. R. Booth? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you give the Commission an idea as to the total number of men that Mr. Booth employs? A.—I never could tell that exactly, but it is somewhere between 600 and 700.

Q.—You mean in Ottawa? A.—Yes.

Q.—Taking that number of men, and dividing them up in this way—first, those up the river—what do the men who go up to the shanties as axe-men average per month? A.—At the present time log-makers get about \$21 a month and board.

Q.—When they are in the shanties do they draw any money, or can they draw any of their pay if they wish? A.—Oh, yes; just as they want it. The wives of the married men draw at the office monthly. They arrange for this before they leave. Those who are not married often get orders and money to send home.

Q.—Do the men whom you generally employ in the bush in winter work for you in the summer time? A.—No; they are a different class of men: When the mills shut down we send a good many men to fill up gangs, but it is necessary to have men in the bush before the mills shut down, so we have different men.

Q.—What do men on the booms average? A.—About \$7.50 a week.

Q.—And those on the platform? A.—Those handling deal get about \$9 a week; those handling boards from \$7 to \$7.50 a week.

Q.—What number of hours do they work a day? A.—I think they work from 6 to 6.

- Q.—With an hour for dinner? A.—Yes.
- Q.—That is eleven hours a day? A.—Yes; we shorten some when we are running at night.
- Q.—Do the night gang run the same as the day gang? A.—I think it is an hour shorter. Probably it may be the same, because they only get half an hour at midnight, but I am not positive about that.
- Q.—What would men who run a gang be worth? A.—The slabbermen \$9 and the gang-men \$10.
- Q.—And the men we call the tail-men? A.—The men who do the wheeling away, \$7.50 a week.
- Q.—Does your concern employ boys in the mill? A.—Yes; a lot of boys. I do not know what they do, but I think they are about the shingle and lath business.
- Q.—Can you tell us the age of the youngest of those boys? A.—I can only tell them by seeing them come into the office—twelve or fourteen, I imagine—perhaps there are boys as young as twelve.
- Q.—Do you know if there are any younger than twelve? A.—I do not think so.
- Q.—Those boys at twelve years of age working there—are they engaged by the concern or by persons who have contracts? A.—Principally by the men who have the contracts for cutting the shingles and laths. We may have a few ourselves doing light work in the re-sawing shop.
- Q.—Does your concern pay the same price for pilers as for platform-men? A.—I think they range the same for deal.
- Q.—Is there a general understanding among the mill owners in the spring as to the rate of wages they will pay? A.—I never heard of them consulting at all.
- Q.—Each employer sets his own price? A.—Yes; the different foremen may regulate it in some manner.
- Q.—The teamsters get about the same as the platform-men? A.—I think the teamsters get about \$7.
- Q.—Are the teamsters employed the year round? A.—Yes; they generally go to the bush with the teams after the mills shut down.
- Q.—Have you ever considered as to what the men who work in the mills and in the bush would average a year? A.—I have not given it much thought.
- Q.—Could you, by any record you may have, give what is about the yearly income of the men who are supposed to work by the week the year round? A.—We have men here who work continuously through the year—married men, whom it is necessary to keep about the mill. Do you mean the average of the whole?
- Q.—Supposing a man works in the mill in summer time and then goes to the bush in winter—if he works every day, what would his average pay be? A.—About \$8 a week for thirty weeks, and the balance of the time \$21 a month and board.
- By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—
- Q.—About \$7.50 a week the year round? A.—Yes; or probably it would represent \$8 a week all the year round.
- Q.—Say \$400, on an average? A.—I suppose so.
- By Mr. CARSON :—
- Q.—Can you give the Commission an idea of the cost of supplies in 1877–82 and 1887? A.—I could give it, say in 1877–8, 1884–5 and 1887–8.
- Q.—Will you please give us the figures? A.—Poik, 1877–8, \$16 a barrel; 1884–5, \$15.50; 1887–8, \$18. Flour, first period, \$5.50 a barrel; second period, \$4.30 a barrel; this year, \$4 a barrel. Beans, first period, \$1.25 a bushel; 1884–5, the same; this year \$2.12. Tea, 1877–8, 27½ cents per lb.; 1884–5, 20 cents; this year 18 cents per lb. Sugar, first period, 7½ cents per lb.; second period, 5½ cents; this year 6¾ cents per lb. Syrup, first period, 55 cents a gallon; second period, 35 cents; this year, 50 cents per lb. Rice—I have not the figures for 1877–8; in 1884–5 we paid \$3.65, a hundred pounds; this year \$3.50. Dried apples, in 1884–5, cost 5¾ cents per lb.; and this year 6¾ cents. These would be the average prices for the year. Of course during the winter season we send other stuff up to the woods.

Q.—During the time you have been in the employ of the firm have there been any labor troubles? A.—I do not know that we have ever had any.

Q.—No more than the general go-and-come of the men? A.—There may have been a little dissatisfaction among a few men, but the mills never shut down on account of the men.

Q.—Have you ever had any accidents about the mill? A.—Yes; there have been a few.

Q.—Did they occur from the carelessness of the hands or from carelessly erected machinery? A.—I think largely from carelessness of the men.

Q.—Is it the desire of your concern to use every precaution to protect life and limb in the mill? A.—Mr. Booth is particularly careful in matters of that kind.

Q.—Have you had the factory inspector through the mills? A.—Not that I am aware of.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You would know if he had been there? A.—It is likely he would have called at the office.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you know if there has been any inspection of the mill? A.—I do not think so.

Q.—Do you know if the inspector has been in any other factory in Ottawa? A.—Not that I am aware of.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you a copy of the Factory Act in your establishment? A.—No.

Q.—It is not hanging on the walls of the mill? A.—I do not think it is there.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—So far as your mill is concerned, the Ontario factory law is a dead letter? A.—So far as I know.

Q.—It is a dead letter? A.—I am not prepared to say it is a dead letter; it may be all right—the inspector may have been there.

Q.—But you do not know anything about his being there? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—If the men in the woods require any means to assist their families, do you give them orders on stores? A.—No; usually before going up the married men bring their wives to the office, and it is arranged that we pay them a certain sum, giving their wives, say \$15 a month if the husband gets \$20 a month; the wife draws that.

Q.—You give it to them in cash? A.—Oh, yes.

Q.—Do you supply the men with outfit? A.—Yes; we keep some real necessities, such as socks and mitts.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—That is up in the shanties? A.—Yes; simply because it is necessary for the men.

Q.—Where they are wanted? A.—Exactly.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is it optional with the men to buy them? A.—Yes; but they have no alternative in some cases; perhaps there are no stores within a distance of 25 miles. The goods are sent up for the convenience of the men, and not for the purpose of making any profit.

Q.—Can you tell us, since you have been in the industry, if the wages of the men have increased all round? A.—I have been with Mr. Booth twenty years, and I think wages are better now than they were twenty years ago.

A.—What percentage have they increased within the past ten years? A.—Of

course, in 1878 wages were pretty low. I have no doubt they are 20 per cent. better now than then—probably 25 per cent.

Q.—From 20 per cent. to 25 per cent. better? A.—I guess they are that now.

Q.—Do any men who go to the stump for timber own their own houses?
A.—The men are very largely farmer's sons or countrymen. They come in just when they get their crops saved. Of course, there are a good many Frenchmen who do nothing else but lumber. They go up in the fall, follow the drive, and board in town the rest of the time, doing nothing.

Q.—Where do you generally find a market for your timber? A.—More than one-third goes to the English market.

Q.—Do you ship it yourselves? A.—No; we send it to Quebec.

Q.—Where does the remainder of your output go? A.—Probably 20 per cent. goes to the home trade; the balance to the United States.

R. E. JAMIESON, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—You are a member of the firm of R. E. & J. C. Jamieson? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is your business? A.—Baker and grocer.

Q.—How many men do you employ in the bake-shop? A.—There are three men in the bakery all the time; and we have a confectionery, besides, where we employ two women.

Q.—Do you employ any boys in the bakery? A.—No.

Q.—What is the average earnings of the bakers? A.—The foreman has \$10 a week all the year round and the others \$8.50 each.

Q.—And the women? A.—One is an apprentice, the other gets \$1 a day.

Q.—Do you employ any clerks in your store? A.—One besides ourselves.

Q.—What are the earnings of that clerk? A.—Thirty-five dollars a month.

Q.—What number of hours do the bakers work? A.—Now, from five in the morning to half-past three in the afternoon.

Q.—Do they work night work? A.—Not now.

Q.—How long is it since they ceased night work? A.—Six weeks ago.

Q.—Did you voluntarily give them the day work? A.—They asked for it and I granted it.

Q.—Do you find it any inconvenience to yourselves or your customers in having the men work day work? A.—It is an inconvenience to those who have to be supplied early in the morning. The rest of the day there is no inconvenience, although the drivers are a little later in the evening getting through.

Q.—Can you give them just as good bread by the men working in the day time as at night? A.—I do not see any difference.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is it just as fresh as they want it? A.—The first bread is out by 10:30 in the morning, but from 7 to 10:30 those customers that have to be supplied then have to take the bread of the day before. Some complain considerably about that.

Q.—How is the ventilation of your bake-shop? A.—It is good.

Q.—Do you use machinery? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you had the factory inspector there? A.—No.

Q.—Is there a separate water-closet for the women and men? A.—The water closets are outside.

Q.—Are they separate? A.—No; they are not separate.

Q.—When your men asked you to allow them to work day work, did they simply come to you and make application, and talk the matter over with you, and you granted them day work, or did they threaten to go on strike? A.—They did not threaten anything. They spoke to my son about it, and he had not any great objections to their trying it, so he told them they could do it. They did not come to me at all.

Q.—How often do you pay your men? A.—Once a week.

Q.—In cash? A.—Yes.

Q.—And in full? A.—In full.

Q.—Do you know any concern paying its men in due bills? A.—I do not.

Q.—How many women have you in your employ? A.—Two.

Q.—What might their ages be? A.—I could not tell you that. I suppose one is about twenty and the other probably twenty-eight.

Q.—What wages do you pay the women at the confectionery business? A.—One gets \$1 a day. The confectionery business is in a department altogether separate from the bakery. The bread-baking is in an upper room and the confectionery down stairs.

Q.—The oven is up stairs? A.—There are two ovens. There is a separate one for the confectionery down stairs as well; there is no connection between the two places.

WILLIAM STUART, Jr., called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—You are a contractor, Mr. Stuart? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many men do you employ on an average during the season? A.—That is a hard question to answer. Sometimes we have a lot; sometimes not so many. All winter I have had an average of nine or ten. Last summer I had twenty-five to forty; at the present time I have only seven or eight.

Q.—What class of mechanics are they? A.—I have had stone-cutters, bricklayers, masons, and carpenters and laborers.

Q.—Will you give us the average earnings of the stone-cutters? A.—Yes; I can give you what they get a day and an approximate average for the year's work. Stone-cutters for the present time get 30 cents an hour and work ten hours a day. I suppose a stone-cutter averages about eight months' work in the year. In fact, a good many of them have been working all winter, and all the year round, on and off; but when they lost time I suppose eight months would be about the average.

Q.—What do laborers earn? A.—Laborers in the building trade—I mean bricklayers' and masons' laborers—average, the present time, \$1.25 to \$1.40. Some hod-carriers get \$1.40; ordinary laborers not of any particular branch, \$1.25, \$1.30 and \$1.35; \$1.40 is the highest now.

Q.—What do bricklayers earn? A.—Bricklayers, masons and stone-cutters have been at 30 cents for the last two or three years; that has been the average per hour. Some have got more. They have been paid \$3.25 a day, but the standard wages is \$3 for the last two or three seasons.

Q.—Do you know any men working for contractors who have lost their wages through the contractor or sub-contractor? A.—Yes; in years gone by, and at the present time the men working on a church near here never got paid.

Q.—Have you known anything like that to occur lately? A.—I know last summer some of the men did not get their wages, and at the present time some men have not got their wages. They talk about putting a lien on the building.

Q.—As an employer of labor, do you think a workingman's claim for wages should come in prior to a chattel mortgage? A.—I do. I saw an instance of that in Ottawa about three months ago. A neighbor of mine, a workingman, worked for a concern in Ottawa which failed. The man asked my opinion as to what was best to be done in order to get his wages. I told him his wages came in first, but reading up the law I found a chattel mortgage came in first. I would advocate that a workingman's wages should come in before a chattel mortgage.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You refer to the lien law? A.—Yes; the law in Ontario, as I understand it, gives a chattel mortgage priority before wages. In case a man fails and assigns under chattel mortgage, the workman cannot get his wages.

- Q.—How often do you pay your men? A.—Every two weeks.
- Q.—In cash? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Do you know of any concern in or around Ottawa that does not pay its men in cash? A.—Not within the city of Ottawa or 30 miles of it. I have seen scrip belonging to a certain concern, but I do not know of any business in Ottawa where the proprietors do not pay their men in cash.
- Q.—Do you know, of your own knowledge, that the workingmen are losers through being paid that way? A.—I could not answer that question.
- Q.—Have you ever given the matter of the establishment of a bureau of labor statistics any consideration? A.—I have thought the matter over, and I think it would be a good idea if we want men. I had a large contract two years ago and I could not get men for a month or two. I had to go to Montreal, and rode all over the country to secure men. It would be a good idea to have a bureau of labor statistics, where bosses requiring laborers could write and secure all the labor they want.
- Q.—You come into contact a great deal with the workingmen? A.—I do.
- Q.—Do you know the condition of the working classes in Ottawa? A.—Yes; I am pretty familiar with it. I have worked journeyman for a number of years, and have been connected with the workingmen for the last twenty years or more.
- Q.—What is that condition, as you know it to be? A.—I should say the condition of the working classes in Ottawa, at the present time, is very fair; most mechanics, probably two-thirds, own their houses and the property they live on. Of the laboring class, a few own their own houses; but the mechanics, as a general rule, have all pretty fair homes, and I do not hear any complaints—we have got along very well in Ottawa. We have not had any strikes in the building trade for a long time; there is a kind of mutual understanding between the bosses and the men. There is no regular standard of wages; it goes by competition—it never goes below \$3 a day; sometimes it goes higher; we generally range the men.
- Q.—Is it the practice of the employer to pay a man what he is worth—if he is worth \$2 a day, to pay him that? A.—That is about the experience in Ottawa. Last year and this year I have paid stone-cutters, masons and bricklayers from \$2 to \$3 a day, and have never objected to pay them; it all depends on the quality of the men.
- Q.—About what would be the average value of the dwellings of the mechanics of which you spoke? A.—From \$1,000 to \$2,000; a good many mechanics do not live in the city, but round the outskirts.
- Q.—About how far from the post office? A.—Those that live in the city are probably within the radius of a mile; a good many living outside the city limits are in the suburbs immediately adjoining.
- Q.—Would the average be ten minutes' walk from their work? A.—I should say from ten to fifteen minutes.
- Q.—How much do you pay carpenters—say, good bench hands? A.—I have carpenters in my employment; within the last six months I have had twenty odd carpenters working for me. Their wages range from \$1.65 to \$2 a day; \$1.65 was the lowest and \$2 the highest.
- Q.—What would be the average wages paid carpenters in Ottawa? A.—The average wages is about \$1.75—that is, taking it all the year round. At the present time, 20 cents an hour or \$2 a day is the average for good men.
- Q.—Is there any difference in the wages of the outside carpenter and the man employed on the bench continually? A.—No; some of the outside carpenters get as much as the men at the bench. Generally, however, the men at the bench will get a little more than the outside carpenters.
- Q.—Do you ever employ any plasterers? A.—Sometimes.
- Q.—Are they paid by the day or by the piece? A.—By the day.
- Q.—What are the wages paid a plasterer? A.—His average wages are from \$1.75 to \$2 a day.
- Q.—For ten hours' work? A.—Ten hours is the regular time we work, except that the bricklayers, masons and stone-cutters quit at 5 o'clock on Saturday. The carpenters

have also done that within the last year or two. Bricklayers and masons have been in the habit of doing that within the last five years; we established a masons', bricklayers' and stone-cutters' union about eight or nine years ago, and that was one of the things they got done, namely, that they should quit at 5 o'clock on Saturday. There is an agitation now among the men to quit at 1 o'clock on Saturday.

Q.—Is there any difference in wages between the plasterers' laborers and the builders' laborers? A.—Yes.

Q.—Who receives the highest? A.—The plasterers' laborer receives a little the highest. He gets \$1.40 to \$1.50 per day, and has a little more regular employment. There is considerable work done here in the winter time, and the plasterers' laborers have consequently more regular employment than the builders' laborers.

Q.—Do the men who go on the scaffold to work erect it? A.—Among the bricklayers it is generally the laborers who make the scaffold, and sometimes the bricklayers help them, but generally the contractor keeps some handy men specially for that purpose.

Q.—Do you know of any accidents to happen through defective scaffolding? A.—Yes; I have known some accidents to happen. I have had one or two instances myself, but they are not very often.

Q.—Do you think it would be advisable to appoint a building inspector here? A.—Certainly.

Q.—Whose duties should include the inspecting of scaffolding? A.—Yes.

Q.—If men get injured from falling off scaffolds, do they, as a general thing, receive anything from the contractor? A.—Some of them do, but some of the contractors are not able to pay them anything. Generally, the contractor pays them something, and sometimes a subscription is taken up amongst the men. Unfortunately for the contractors around Ottawa, however, there is so much competition that they are not very rich, and necessarily they are not able to pay a man if he gets hurt.

Q.—Is it the very dishonest contractor or dishonest sub-contractor that the workingman loses most from? A.—We have never had a great deal of wages lost that way. If there has been any, it has been both from sub-contractor and principal contractor, but more, I should say—a little more—through the sub-contractor.

Q.—Supposing before the building is completed the contractor fails, and the workingmen are not paid two or three weeks' wages, can they obtain their wages through the lien law? A.—I will answer that to the best of my ability. I was on a building two years ago when a case like that happened. The contractor failed, and the foreman of the men put a lien on the building; and, as I understand it, the lien law works thirty days' back from the time the lien is put on. Whatever was done before that time they did not get paid for, so that if a man is working on a building, and wants his wages for more than a month, he could not get more than the thirty days.

Q.—The lien law is defective in that way. A.—Yes; defective, because it only works back thirty days from the day it was put on.

Q.—You consider, then, the lien law is defective as regards its pecuniary effect on the working classes? A.—It is a little defective.

Q.—What wages are paid lathers in the building trade? A.—They are generally paid by the bundle.

Q.—How much per bundle? A.—From 10 to 15 cents; 12½ cents would be the average.

Q.—Do the plasterers work by the day? A.—Principally; there is an awful lot of small bosses in Ottawa, and whatever men they have working for them work by the day.

STEPHEN ROBITAILLE, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—What business do you follow? A.—I am a kind of general man round Mr. McKay's establishment.

Q.—Have you any idea of the earnings of a man who works round the concern? A.—It depends on the work they are doing. The laboring men get, on an average, about \$7 a week, I suppose.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is there any skill required in your work? A.—Some parts of the work require it. I attend to the stone-work and brick-work.

Q.—What may your wages be? A.—In summer time \$2 a day, and in the winter \$1.50; about \$1.75 on an average.

Q.—Why are the wages decreased in winter time? A.—Because I do not work at the same work. In the winter time I generally attend to the furnace and boiler.

Q.—Do you work the same hours in winter as in summer? A.—Yes.

Q.—And your wages are decreased 50 cents a day? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it day work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you ever work at night? A.—No, sir; except if it be necessary, but that is very seldom.

Q.—Do you inspect boilers? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Are you constantly employed during the year? A.—Yes.

Q.—What would be the average wages of unskilled labor? A.—About \$7 a week, I should think.

Q.—Can you speak definitely as regard the wages of millers? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Can you tell us what workmen usually pay for a house, say of five rooms, in an ordinary locality, with ordinary conveniences? A.—It depends a good deal on the locality in which the house is situated.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Say, within ten minutes walk? A.—For a five-roomed house, from \$6 to \$8 a month. That would be in Rochesterville. Coming further this way, towards the centre of the city, you would pay \$10 for such a house—that would be about the Chaudière.

Q.—Has house rent increased in Ottawa during the past five years? A.—It has.

Q.—Could you give us the rate of increase? A.—Five years ago I was renting a house for \$5 a month and now the same house is renting for \$8

Q.—Do you think you are receiving sufficient remuneration for your labor? A.—I cannot complain; I am perfectly satisfied.

THOMAS STODDARD, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—What is your business? A.—Pattern-maker and machinist.

Q.—What kind of work? A.—Foundry work, generally.

Q.—You are a competent man in many other mechanical lines, are you not? A.—Yes.

Q.—You are in a position, I believe, to give us the number of men employed in W. H. Baldwin & Co.'s? A.—Yes.

Q.—About how many machinists are employed in the concern? A.—Eight.

Q.—And foundrymen—moulders? A.—Five, besides laborers.

Q.—What would be the average earnings of those machinists? A.—They mostly earn \$2 a day. The average is \$1.85 for machinists.

Q.—And for moulders? A.—One dollar and eighty cents a day.

Q.—And for blacksmiths? A.—We have only one blacksmith; we pay him \$2 a day.

Q.—What number of hours do your men work? A.—The number of hours varies according to the requirements, but usually ten hours a day and sixty hours a week.

Q.—Do they work night work? A.—Often, when they are required.

Q.—What number of hours do they work at night to complete a day—or, in other words, how much per hour is added for night work? A.—One-half their wages is added; for every hour they work they receive an hour and a-half's pay.

Q.—How often are they paid? A.—Every second week.

Q.—Can you give us an idea as to the earnings of the men in the sash factory? A.—I do not know how they pay the men in the sash factory; I have nothing to do with that.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you think it would be a benefit to a pattern-maker if he knew how to design? A.—Oh, yes.

Q.—Have you given any thought to technical education in connection with mechanics? A.—Yes; I have taken every occasion to improve myself in that direction.

Q.—Do you believe it would have a tendency to make apprentices at the various trades more apt if they had a training in, say, free-hand drawing, moulding, designing and modelling? A.—Modelling, moulding and practical work?

Q.—Not practical work, but mere theoretical? A.—Yes; it would be profitable for all mechanics in our branch of trade; that is, it would be very profitable for machinists to know mechanics. I do not know of any institution where they teach moulding and modelling. Not many of our class of people have attained to that degree of perfection.

Q.—Do you think that these subjects could be taught in our public schools without any injury to the present branches taught there, or could they be substituted for some now taught which are not quite as useful? A.—It would be profitable to mechanics, but I do not know whether it would be of general benefit for all pupils entering school to follow out mechanical trade.

Q.—Would you prefer to see them taught in separate institutions or in connection with the public schools? A.—I should prefer them taught in a separate institution.

Q.—Can you speak from a knowledge of how technical teaching is done in the old country? A.—Yes.

Q.—Will you give the Commission some information on that point? A.—I attended the Watt Institution, in Edinburgh. Mechanics, natural philosophy, chemistry and mathematics were taught there, with some other subjects, including mechanical drawing. I have derived great benefit in all my trade experience from the knowledge I acquired there. Mechanical teaching—not exactly mechanics proper, but physics, the laws governing air and water, and so on—a mechanic having that knowledge is more apt to be quick in discerning whether there is anything the matter with steam-engines, boilers, water-wheels, or any part of the machinery.

Q.—What is your opinion as regards the kindergarten system? Do you think it has a beneficial effect in training the hand and the eye of the young? A.—I do not think I would derive much benefit from that; I do not think I would wish to have my children taught that until they could appreciate it.

Q.—What about mathematics: Do you think Euclid should be taught. A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—In fact, every pupil in the common schools should get an outline of that study? A.—Yes; to get a smattering—but the more the better.

Q.—Are there any night schools in connection with the public schools in Ottawa? A.—I am not aware of any night classes in connection with the public schools.

Q.—Is there a free library? A.—None that I know of. There is no library, except the Parliamentary library; but nearly all the churches have libraries.

Q.—Have you any other information that would be a benefit to the Commission in regard to your trade? A.—Not that I know of—beyond what I have said.

Q.—Do you know if wages in your trade have increased during the past five years? A.—I do not think that our wages have increased any during the past five years.

Q.—Do you believe in the indenture system? A.—No.

Q.—Why not? A.—I was an indentured apprentice myself and I had not my trade taught me; but I was bound, nevertheless, to fulfil my term, and when I had finished my apprenticeship I had still to begin to learn my trade.

Q.—Was it the fault of a system, or of the boss, in not carrying out the writings of the indenture? A.—The fault, I considered, lay chiefly in my not being able to go to a public work. When I had finished my time I learned to do, as much work as they required, but it was not done, and it would have necessitated my staying in that line of business or learning to do something else.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What do you think is the feeling of parents about here relative to indenturing their children for a term of years? A.—Not many care to indenture their children.

Q.—Is it a prevailing custom in the old country? A.—I think the custom has changed considerably within the past fifteen years. When I was an apprentice there were about as many one way as another. I do not think there are many indentures now in the old country, but I have not been well acquainted there for the last ten years.

S. SLINN, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What is your business? A.—Baker and confectioner.

Q.—Are you an employer of labor? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many bread-bakers do you employ? A.—Three bread-bakers and two cake-bakers.

Q.—What wages do you pay them? A.—Twelve dollars for the first hand and \$10 for the others.

Q.—How many hours do they work? A.—They have to make one batch of bread each; three men, three batches. They work about ten hours.

Q.—What time do they commence and leave? A.—They have to make a batch; when it is done they quit.

Q.—What time do they go to work? A.—This week, at six or half-past.

Q.—Is ten hours the ordinary day's work? A.—I have worked myself and got through the batch in less time.

Q.—What wages are paid cake-bakers? A.—They get \$10 and \$11.

Q.—Eleven dollars to the foreman? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they work day work? A.—Yes; the bread-bakers want to work day work; they are about striking.

Q.—Would it make any difference to the public? A.—I think so.

Q.—Are there any bakers in Ottawa who work day work? A.—Yes; they have just started it two weeks ago.

Q.—Has it made any difference to the public? A.—Yes; we cannot sell the hotels what they want at all.

Q.—Do the people want fresh bread? A.—If they can get it.

Q.—Have the men asked for more convenient hours to work? A.—Yes; they want to work in the day time, all of them. They have given me a length of time to make my shop convenient to let them work in the day time; it has caused me to spend some money to arrange that.

Q.—Have you any apprentices? A.—I had one started two weeks ago.

Q.—Who runs the rolling machines? A.—I have not one at present.

Q.—Do you use coal in the furnace? A.—No; wood.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of the bake-shop? A.—I think it is first-class; it is a new one.

Q.—Is the ventilation good? A.—Yes; we have all the ventilation we want.

Q.—Have the wages of bakers increased during the last five years? A.—They get \$4 a week more than I did ten years ago.

Q.—Is the price of bread higher than it was ten years ago? A.—The price of bread depends on the price of flour, but the profits on bread at present are not as good as ten years ago. The profits of bread vary according to the price of flour.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Why do the hotels complain of the proposed arrangement with the men? A.—Because they want rolls for breakfast.

Q.—And they have to do without now? A.—They make them themselves, I suppose.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Is it your intention, Mr. Slinn, if you make the improvements, to allow the men to work day work? A.—I guess I will have to. The men are running the bosses now. I had an apprentice who should have been working with me to the 1st of May, but he has been in business for nine months now. It is no use trying to keep them if they want to go. If you do they will spoil the stuff on you.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have the men ever spoiled any baking on you? A.—Yes.

Q.—Intentionally or accidentally? A.—It is pretty hard to prove either. They may put in a bad egg in a batch of cakes, and the whole is gone.

W. H. PENNOCK, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—What is your occupation? A.—I am Savings Bank clerk in the Ottawa Post Office.

Q.—How long have you been engaged in your present occupation? A.—About ten years.

Q.—Are you in a position to tell the Commission what class of people are depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank? A.—Only from my own observation. We do not keep any records in our office; the records are at the head office.

Q.—You can tell us the class of people? A.—Yes; I can tell pretty much. Farmers are the most numerous class of depositors.

Q.—What next? A.—Mechanics come next; then general laborers.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What percentage of farmers, mechanics and laborers are depositors? A.—I could not tell that, but I can tell the average amount deposited by each class.

Q.—Well, give us the proportion of deposits? A.—The farmers have \$300 each, on an average, to their credit.

Q.—In a year? A.—No; that is a total deposit.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—And the mechanics? A.—About \$150.

Q.—And laborers? A.—Less than that—\$100, or so.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Do you mean a year? A.—No; that is the total average to their credit.

Q.—Do these classes make regular deposits? A.—The farmers, as a rule, deposit their money in the summer and fall, and draw it out in the spring sometimes.

Q.—What is the limit of the yearly deposit? A.—Three hundred dollars is the yearly limit.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Up to how much? A.—One thousand dollars.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Do many run up to \$300 in the year? A.—Yes; as a rule, they like to deposit that.

Q.—In what season of the year are the deposits most frequent, and when are the largest deposits made? A.—The fall and early winter, I think, is the busiest season.

Q.—Is there any season of the year more than another when these deposits are withdrawn? A.—Yes; I think the spring.

Q.—Have you any knowledge as to the purposes for which these deposits are withdrawn? A.—No; except that the farmers require money in the spring for seeding and general purposes.

Q.—Do mechanics draw their deposits in the spring? A.—Not so much as the farmers. I do not think mechanics have any stated time when they draw their deposits; there is not any certain time of the year for them.

Q.—Do you find deposits in the local savings bank on the increase or decrease? A.—They are certainly on the increase. They say that last year the withdrawals from the Ottawa office were more than deposits; that was, to a great extent, from cross-checks, the withdrawals from other parts of the Dominion having gone through our office; being sent to different parts of Canada—Manitoba, and the North-West, and some to the States—in that way they largely increase the withdrawals.

Q.—Are you in a position to give us the amount of deposits made last year by mechanics and the working classes generally? A.—I cannot.

Q.—Could you furnish them? A.—I could, if the superintendent would get up a statement.

Q.—Could you obtain his permission and furnish the amount deposited in the Ottawa Post Office by mechanics and workmen generally last year? A.—A statement of that kind is not public, but I might endeavor to secure it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you believe that the deposits from the working classes would be greater were there no limit as to the amount? A.—The farmers certainly would deposit more; we have to refuse their money, sometimes.

Q.—With regard to the working classes in the cities: how do they stand? A.—The average of their deposits is not so large at present.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Do they often come up to the \$300 a year limit? A.—The average does not.

Q.—What is the lowest amount that can be deposited in the Post Office Savings Bank? A.—One dollar.

The Commission then adjourned until the evening.

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EVENING SESSION.

The Commission resumed its enquiry in the the City Hall, Ottawa, 8 at p.m.

W. J. CAMPBELL, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—What is your business? A.—Boiler-maker.

Q.—How long have you been engaged in the business? A.—In Ottawa, about eighteen years.

Q.—How many men do you employ in your trade? A.—On an average, we have about twenty.

- Q.—Do you employ any boys? A.—Yes.
- Q.—What is the age of the youngest of the boys? A.—Fourteen, I think, is the youngest we have now.
- Q.—Are the boys taken on as apprentices? A.—Yes.
- Q.—What wages do you give them? A.—We generally start them at \$3 a week.
- Q.—And the next year? A.—They increase \$1 a year after that.
- Q.—Are they indentured? A.—No.
- Q.—Do you approve of the indenture system? A.—I tried it, but it did not work satisfactorily.
- Q.—What is the average wages of a first-class boiler-maker in Ottawa? A.—About \$2.25 a day.
- Q.—Would that be about the average? A.—For a good man.
- Q.—Have you any men in your employ not earning that? A.—Yes.
- Q.—About how many are earning that? A.—Three or four of them.
- Q.—About how many are not earning that, and what do they earn? A.—The rest earn \$1.75 a day down to \$1.25.
- Q.—Do you employ any unskilled labor in your business? A.—Yes.
- Q.—What would unskilled laborers earn? A.—One dollar and twenty-five cents a day.
- Q.—How often do you pay your men? A.—Every fortnight.
- Q.—Do you pay them in cash? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Do you know of any concern in or around Ottawa which does not pay its men cash? A.—I cannot say I do.
- Q.—Do you use machinery in your business? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Are any of those machines considered dangerous? A.—Not particularly so.
- Q.—When you take the boys on as apprentices are they given every opportunity of learning the trade in all its branches? A.—They are given every facility in the world.
- Q.—What number of hours do your men work a day? A.—Ten.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q.—How long do the boys serve an apprenticeship? A.—As a rule, we ask them to serve four years. They generally do that.
- Q.—After they serve four years do they receive journeymen's wages? A.—Not directly; It scales up, according to their ability. If a boy is extraordinarily smart we do not keep him at the low scale for four years. Some of the boys, during the last year, have been getting \$1 a day, where they are all only entitled to \$4.50 a week.
- Q.—Do you think four years is a sufficient time to learn the business? A.—I do not think it is—that is, not to make a good man of him.
- Q.—Is four years a generally recognized term? A.—It seems to me to be so in Canada; I have never heard anything to the contrary.
- Q.—Do the boys remain any length of time with you after they have served four years? A.—Yes; I have men with me who have been in my employ eleven years.
- Q.—Do you follow any industry other than boiler-making? A.—Not just now. We used to do machine work and foundry work, but not at present.
- Q.—Has boiler-making a tendency to deafness? A.—Yes; a little.
- Q.—I suppose that is inevitable? A.—One cannot avoid it very well.
- Q.—Do any of your men work over-time? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Do you pay them extra for that? A.—Time-and-a-quarter and time-and-a-half.
- Q.—Have you any rules posted up in your shop? A.—Not now; we used to have rules, but they were nothing more than prohibiting smoking, or anything of that kind.
- Q.—What is the sanitary condition of the shop? A.—I think it is very good; we try to keep it good for our own sakes.

Q.—Is it well ventilated. Is there much dust and smoke? A.—Not a great deal, for an ordinary boiler-shop.

Q.—Have you patent ventilators? A.—We have ventilators in the roof.

Q.—Have you ever known your men to be desirous of receiving their pay more than once a fortnight? A.—In rare cases; some would like to be paid every day.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—How many men have you in your employ who own their own property?

A.—I could not tell you that.

Q.—Have you any? A.—I do not know whether there are any or not just now; I could not say.

JAMES OLIVER, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—You are a member of the firm of Oliver & Son, furniture manufacturers?

A.—Yes.

Q.—How long has your concern been in business? A.—Twenty-five years—not under the same name, though. The senior partner has been in the business for that length of time.

Q.—How many men do you generally employ in your business? A.—Men and boys, we have twenty-seven on our pay list.

Q.—How old are the boys? A.—I never asked any of them their ages; they are old enough to do the work; I should judge they are over fifteen.

Q.—Classing your men up, for instance, as benchmen, what would cabinet-makers average a day? A.—One dollar and seventy-five cents a day.

Q.—And machine hands, on an average? A.—About \$8 a week.

Q.—What class of furniture do you manufacture? A.—Principally of the commoner classes. We do some good work, but it is principally of a cheaper class.

Q.—Is every precaution taken in your factory to protect the men from accident? A.—As far as we can possibly do so.

Q.—How often do you pay your men? A.—Once a week.

Q.—What day have you selected as pay day? A.—Wednesday.

Q.—Do you find it more convenient for yourselves, or for the men, to pay on that day? A.—It suits our own convenience. We pay up to the Saturday night previous, so that we are not taken at a disadvantage if a man wants to leave us, having three days' pay in hand.

Q.—Have you ever had any labor troubles in your factory? A.—No; we generally get along all right.

Q.—What do first-class furniture finishers receive? A.—About \$9 a week.

Q.—Do you know anything about the financial condition of your men? A.—None of them are very well off.

Q.—Do you know if any own property? A.—There are instances of men who have been in our employ that do own their own property, but I do not know of any such cases at present.

Q.—Could you form a rough estimate as to the value of that property? A.—No; I would not care about estimating it.

Q.—How does the class of furniture your firm manufactures now compare with what you manufactured, say, ten years ago? A.—How do you mean?

Q.—In quality? A.—It is up to the standard, as far as quality is concerned, and the style is good. I think purchasers get more value for their money. That is accounted for by the increased facilities we have for turning the furniture out.

Q.—Your output is greater to-day than ten years ago? A.—Yes; one-half more, in consequence of improved machinery and the men being able to turn it out faster.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Has this machinery cheapened the article? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has it increased wages? A.—It has. The wages of ten years ago were not so good as they are at the present time. Men were working for a great deal less wages than they are to-day, as Mr. Carson can tell you.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—How do wages compare to-day with ten years ago? A.—They are about one-quarter more.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you had any accidents in your factory lately? A.—No.

Q.—To what kind of work do you put the boys when they commence at cabinet-making? A.—Carrying stuff round the shop, making it up and cleaning up around.

Q.—Do they learn one branch of the business, or do they acquire the whole business? A.—They learn the whole of it, as a rule. Of course, when you say they learn the whole of cabinet-making they learn cabinet-making. Chair-making is a different branch.

Q.—How long do they serve an apprenticeship? A.—We do not apprentice any of them; we expect them to serve about three years.

Q.—At what branch of the business? A.—At any of it. Three years is supposed to be the time when they should be able to command journeymen's wages.

Q.—Can a boy become a good cabinet-maker in three years' time? A.—I do not say he can; I have seen men who would not make good cabinet-makers in ten years.

Q.—What are the ages of the boys you employ? A.—We never ask a boy that question; we want to get them as big as we can for the price we pay them.

Q.—Has the factory inspector visited your establishment? A.—Not that I know of.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—He could not have visited the factory without your knowledge? A.—He might have; a stranger might go there, and I not know it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are they all Canadian woods that you use? A.—If you class black walnut as Canadian woods. It grows in Canada, but we import it from the States.

Q.—Do you import any of your veneering? A.—Yes.

Q.—These are the only two kinds you do import? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it a man or a boy who runs the shaper? A.—It is a man.

Q.—Do you consider that a dangerous machine? A.—It is dangerous, certainly.

Q.—Does one man run it all the time? A.—Yes.

Q.—No boy is allowed to run it? A.—No.

HENRY BARRELL, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—What is your business? A.—Baker.

Q.—Bread baker? A.—Yes.

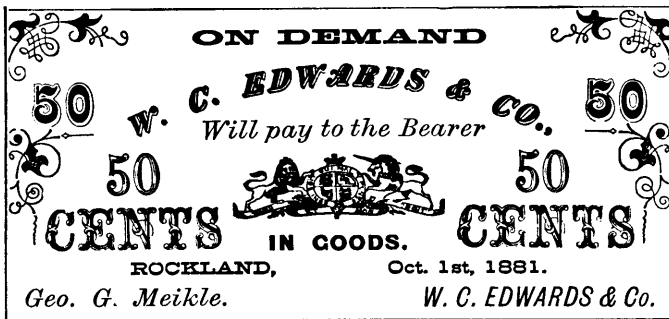
Q.—What do first-class bread bakers earn in Ottawa? A.—A foreman generally earns from \$10 to \$12 a week.

Q.—What number of hours do they work? A.—We have no particular time. We have so much work to do, and when we are through it we are finished.

Q.—Is that work done at night? A.—The majority of the men are working day work now.

Q.—How long have you been working day work? A.—Since last Monday morning.

- Q.—What brought that change about? A.—The bakers organized a union.
- Q.—Did the men strike, or did they simply make a request on the master bakers? A.—They simply made a request.
- Q.—Was it granted? A.—It was, by most of the bosses.
- Q.—The most of them. Have some not granted the request? A.—Yes; two, I think.
- Q.—Do you know if the bakers are generally paid in cash? A.—They are generally paid in cash.
- Q.—Do you know of any concern around Ottawa where the men are not paid in cash? A.—Around Ottawa?
- Q.—In the Ottawa district? A.—Yes; I do.
- Q.—How are they paid? A.—They are paid in what is called “store pay”.
- Q.—Is this store pay scrip, orders, or what? A.—Orders.
- By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—
- Q.—Did you ever see any? A.—Yes; I have one here.
- WITNESS handed in sample of shinplaster, which bore the following inscription:—



- By Mr. CARSON:—
- Q.—When these orders are issued by this concern are they accepted only in their own stores? A.—In some others.
- Q.—On what conditions are they accepted? A.—For goods.
- Q.—You cannot get cash for them? A.—No.
- Q.—Are there not shops which will cash them at a discount? A.—No.
- Q.—Have you known men who refused this scrip as payment for their wages who were unable to get what goods they wanted? A.—No.
- Q.—In the locality where this scrip or orders are given have you ever heard any complaint about that system of payment? A.—I have—a good deal.
- Q.—What were the objections to that system of payment? A.—That they were unable to go elsewhere and get goods.
- Q.—How long has that system been in vogue, to your knowledge? A.—I have known it to be in vogue for nine months, but people have told me it has been in vogue for four years.
- By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—
- Q.—Do you consider the men prefer to work day work rather than night work? A.—Yes.
- Q.—You think the baking business can be done by day without any injury to the public? A.—I think so.
- Q.—What is the sanitary condition of the bake-shops in Ottawa? A.—Not good.
- Q.—Is the atmosphere close in the summer time? A.—No; not in the summer time; the windows are open.

- Q.—Is wood or coal used in the furnaces? A.—Wood.
 Q.—Has there been an increase in wages during the past five years? A.—I believe there has.
 Q.—Is there a bread inspector in Ottawa? A.—Not to my knowledge.
 Q.—How long does a boy serve at the baking? A.—Some of them sign agreements for three years; but very few stay that length of time, though.
 Q.—Who works the rollers—the men or the boys? A.—There are no rollers used in the baking.
 Q.—You have not been through the cake-baking business? A.—No.
 Q.—You have had no connection with the cake or cracker baking? A.—No.
 Q.—Do you think the organization of bakers is a benefit to the men? A.—I think it is.
 Q.—Do you think they have got more advantages by being organized than if they were not organized? A.—I think so.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

- Q.—This order is dated 1881. Is this firm still issuing these orders? A.—Not these.

By Mr. CARSON :—

- Q.—Have they similar orders? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

- Q.—Does the firm always pay in this scrip? A.—Not always.
 Q.—When a man asks to be paid in money is he paid in cash? A.—That I cannot say.

R. CLEMENTS, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON :—

- Q.—What is your business? A.—Carpenter.
 Q.—Are you at present engaged as a carpenter? A.—Yes.
 Q.—As a boss or a journeyman? A.—Journeyman.
 Q.—You are at present employed as a machine hand? A.—Yes.
 Q.—On the machines which you run, what is the average wages paid the men? A.—About \$2 a day.
 Q.—Is every precaution used in your establishment to avoid accidents? A.—Yes, sir.
 Q.—Has the place been inspected by the factory inspector? A.—I think so.
 Q.—How long ago? A.—About two months ago, I guess it was, since he went down there.
 Q.—Who was the inspector? A.—Mr. Rocque.
 Q.—When he inspected the factory was there any body with him? A.—Yes, sir.
 Q.—Who was the person with him? A.—I do not know him; he was an old gentleman.
 Q.—He was not a member of the firm you are employed by? A.—No.
 Q.—When passing through the factory did he examine the machines closely? A.—Not particularly.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

- Q.—What is the standard rate of wages paid to wood-working machinists? A.—I cannot say.
 Q.—Have they a scale of wages? A.—Not that I am aware of. I have been in the employ of one firm for twenty-five years, and cannot speak outside our establishment.
 Q.—Of your own knowledge, can you speak with regard to house carpenters? A.—I could not say exactly.
 Q.—Can you tell us the wages of a good bench hand? A.—About \$2 a day.

Q.—Can you tell us the average wages paid *bona fide* carpenters? A.—Not the outside men.

Q.—Are there a good many men working at the carpentering business who have never served their apprenticeship? A.—Not that I am aware of; at any rate, not where I am employed.

Q.—Have the carpenters organized, or any branch of the trade? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—How many months in the year are carpenters employed? A.—Where?

Q.—On the work throughout the city? A.—I cannot say definitely.

Q.—Well, about the average? A.—I suppose nine or ten months.

Q.—Do any carpenters lose their wages through the dishonesty of contractors or sub-contractors? A.—I cannot tell, of my own knowledge.

Q.—How long does an apprentice serve? A.—We do not take in apprentices where I am.

Q.—You can only speak in connection with your own shop? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—You are familiar with the working classes in the locality in which you live. Can you tell how many men who are in your position own their own houses? A.—That is pretty hard for me to tell.

Q.—What would be the average of those who own their own houses in the locality in which you live? A.—I suppose half.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are they tradesmen? A.—Mostly.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Have they built these houses from their savings? A.—I could not say, but I suppose most of them have.

Q.—Do you think a man who has \$1.75 a day can support his family comfortably if he is sober, and industrious, and intelligent? A.—It would depend upon the size of his family. If he had a small family, of course he could do it by being economical.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Does it not depend a great deal upon the wife? A.—Exactly.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Have you had any accidents in the place where you are employed? A.—No; except, perhaps, a finger cut, which did not amount to anything.

MICHAEL SHIELDS, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What is your business? A.—Marble-cutter.

Q.—What is the average rate of wages of marble-cutters? A.—Two dollars a day.

Q.—How many hours a day do they work? A.—Ten.

Q.—What is the rate of wages paid to polishers? A.—One dollar and twenty-five cents a day.

Q.—Are there any women employed at that business? A.—Not in this town.

Q.—Are the shops kept dry? A.—It is pretty hard to do that in the marble shop.

Q.—Do the men ever get ill on account of the water on the floor? A.—Not that I know of. I am not aware of any cases where there is any sickness that can be traced to it.

Q.—Where do you obtain the marble that is generally used here? A.—From the States, principally.

Q.—Is there much Italian marble used in Ottawa? A.—Yes; for furniture work there is a great deal of Italian used.

Q.—Is it a distinct industry from ordinary marble-cutting? A.—No.

Q.—Can you speak definitely as regards stone-cutting? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the rate of wages paid a stone-cutter? A.—I suppose his average wages would be \$2.50 a day, although they range higher in the summer.

Q.—Is there a difference between summer work and winter work? A.—Generally, work is very flat in the winter.

Q.—Do they turn out poorer work in winter than in summer, consequent upon the decreased wages? A.—I do not think so.

Q.—The reason of the decrease, I suppose, is because the employers take advantage of the unemployed? A.—I think so.

Q.—How many months in the year, on an average, are stone-cutters employed? A.—I should judge about six months.

Q.—Do they turn their hand to any other industry? A.—I do not think many of them do.

Q.—Do any stone-cutters receive under \$2.50 a day? A.—Yes; I believe they do.

Q.—What would be the average? A.—I should judge \$2.50 a day would be the average.

Q.—Are there any stone-cutters that do brick-laying? A.—There may be an odd one here and there, but they are two distinct branches in the building trade in Ottawa.

Q.—Is there more Canadian stone than American used here? A.—Yes; the most that is used is Canadian stone.

Q.—Where does it generally come from? A.—Mostly from Hull.

Q.—Does any Pelee Island or Credit Valley stone come here? A.—Not much.

Q.—Is there much Ohio stone imported into Canada? A.—There may be up west, but not here. Of course, they have superseded it.

Q.—Have the wages of stone-cutters increased during the last few years? A.—Well, I think they are a little higher this last year than they have been for some time, but ten years ago they were higher than they are now.

Q.—What kind of stone do stone-cutters prefer to work at? A.—It all depends on the kind of stone the cutter learns his trade at; he prefers that, generally.

Q.—Do many stone-cutters in dull times leave the city? A.—Yes; a great number of them.

Q.—When a boy is taken on as an apprentice, how many years does he serve? A.—I think the apprenticeship system is not adhered to very strictly here.

Q.—Do the stone-cutters, as a body, prefer the apprentices to be indentured? A.—Yes.

Q.—Could you tell us the reason why? A.—One of the principal reasons is, they are supposed to be made better mechanics if they serve longer at the business.

Q.—When boys become journeymen do they remain any length of time in Ottawa? A.—Not many.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What proportion of apprentices ought there to be employed? A.—I should say, probably one to five.

Q.—And in other trades would that answer the same purpose? A.—I should think so.

Q.—What is the number of apprentices now to the number of employed? A.—I could not tell you, in the stone line.

Q.—Nor in the general line? A.—They are over one to five.

Q.—What would you do with those over one in five? A.—I do not know how I would dispose of them.

Q.—But that is a serious matter—what are you going to do with the young men? A.—We should try and have the boys apprenticed for a certain term of years.

Q.—But you say a greater number are apprenticed now. Supposing there are

two in five apprenticed, what would you do with the second one? A.—I do not know what we could do with the surplus apprentices at present.

Q.—Until what age should they be kept at school? A.—Fifteen years, I should say.

Q.—You do not know what should be done with the extra number of boys above one in five? A.—No.

Q.—If a law was passed to-day we should have to decide to-morrow what to do with the extra boys? A.—If they were indentured I should allow them to put in their time.

Q.—And in five years' time, what would you do with the boys then? A.—Organized labor would have to do something to prevent the passing of the law.

Q.—Have you ever thought of any plan by which the number of apprentices would be limited? A.—I do not know what you could do with them. The majority of employers are, I suppose, in favor of getting as many apprentices as they can.

Q.—I am not speaking of that. You say the apprentices should be as one in five, and there will be a greater portion available as the world grows older—what are we to do with them? A.—That is a hard problem to answer.

JOHN LANE, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—You have just heard the evidence given by Mr. Shields? A.—Yes.

Q.—You are a stone-cutter also? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you agree with Mr. Shields' evidence? A.—To what part of it?

Q.—With regard to your trade? Is there anything you have to add to it? A.—No; I did not hear his evidence very distinctly.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What are stone-cutters paid a day in Ottawa? A.—They are getting from \$2 to \$2.75 at present.

Q.—Would you call \$2.50 the average rate of wages? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many months in the year are they employed? A.—They generally work while they have it.

Q.—Take one year with another? A.—About six months would be the average.

Q.—What is your opinion of the apprentice question? Do you approve of apprentices being indentured? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did you hear the reasons given by the other witnesses on that point? A.—No.

Q.—What is your reason? A.—My reason is this: it gives a boy a better opportunity of learning his trade, because, being indentured, both parties enter into an obligation. The master is bound to teach his apprentice all he knows and all he does not know, or he causes it to be taught by somebody who can; my indenture is that way. The boy, in his turn, is bound to study the interests of his employer to the best of his ability. You see, therefore, there is an agreement on the part of both parties to serve the other, which would not be the case if the boy were not indentured. If he is not indentured he can leave when he wants, or if the employer desires to get rid of him he can let him go.

Q.—Has it the tendency to make a boy steady in his habits? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many years do apprentices generally serve? A.—From three to four.

Q.—Do you consider that sufficiently long to enable a boy to thoroughly acquire a business to which he is apprenticed? A.—That depends on the intelligence of the boy and the class of work he gets where he is serving his time. Some boys would never learn.

Q.—Is there more Canadian stone used than formerly? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any further information which would be of benefit to the Commission in connection with your trade? A.—I do not know, except I would like to

refer to the system of sub-contracting and piece-work. It would be a benefit to us if it were abolished.

Q.—What grievances do the stone-cutters experience through sub-contracting?
A.—A sub-contractor receiving a smaller amount for the work which he undertakes than the original contractor gets for it, is compelled thereby to pay less money to his hands than the original contractor would pay.

Q.—Has it also a tendency to make the men work harder? A.—Yes.

Q.—To get more out of them? A.—Yes; and get less pay for it.

Q.—Do stone-cutters ever lose their wages through the non-fulfilment of the engagement of contractors and sub-contractors? A.—Sometimes they do.

Q.—Does it often happen? A.—Not very often.

Q.—You consider the sub-contract system a failure? A.—I do.

Q.—Do you consider the trade could be carried on just as efficiently if there were no sub-contract system? A.—I consider it could be done better.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—How long is it since boys fit to be apprentices behaved worse than they used to do? A.—I am not speaking of the boys' behavior; I am going into the merits of the case.

Q.—You cannot speak, in fact, from your own knowledge? A.—No.

Q.—How long is it since you were apprenticed? A.—Thirty-four or thirty-five years ago.

HUGH NESBITT, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—What is your occupation? A.—Boiler-making.

Q.—What are the wages of boiler-makers in Ottawa? A.—So far as I know, \$2 a day.

Q.—Are there any boys employed in your trade? A.—There are.

Q.—Do you know if every opportunity is offered to a boy to learn his trade thoroughly when he commences? A.—It is.

Q.—How often are you paid? A.—Once a fortnight.

Q.—On what day? A.—Monday.

Q.—Do you prefer that day as pay-day? A.—For my part I do.

Q.—How is the ventilation of the shops in Ottawa, so far as you know? A.—The ventilation of the shop I work in is good.

Q.—Do you know of any concerns in Ottawa, or in the Ottawa district, who do not pay their men in cash? A.—I have heard of one from the men working for the firm, and they have told me that they did not get paid in cash.

Q.—In what locality is that? A.—It is on the Canada Atlantic Railway.

Q.—What is the name of the place? A.—Castleman.

Q.—What system of payment have they? A.—Scrip.

Q.—What is it like? A.—I could not say; I have not seen it.

Q.—Would you know the scrip if you saw it? A.—No.

Q.—Have you been in Castleman? A.—I have been there.

Q.—What was the complaint made by these men? A.—The complaint they made to me was that when they wanted cash they were obliged to give \$1 worth of this scrip for 90 cents in money.

Q.—To whom did they take the scrip? A.—To any person.

Q.—And they lost 10 cents on every \$1? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—When they wanted 90 cents cash they gave \$1 scrip for it? A.—Exactly.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—If this concern has to pay \$1 they give scrip for it? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have the men objected to take the scrip, and asked that they should be paid in cash? A.—I could not say.

Q.—If they got this scrip, could they take it to any other store in Castleman and get \$1 worth of goods for it? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Do you know how long the system has been in vogue? A.—The first I heard of it was eighteen months ago.

Q.—Do you know, from hearsay, how long it had been in vogue before that? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Was it a general complaint among the men who are in the employ of this concern? A.—It was general.

Q.—And was it the prevailing custom to discount the scrip 10 per cent. and get cash for it? A.—It was.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the concern, to know whether the employes could get as good value for \$1 of that scrip as they could get in Ottawa for \$1?

A.—You must consider that in a country village you do not generally get things as cheap as in a big city, they are usually a little more expensive.

HENRY BARRELL, re-called.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—In what district is this truck system, to which you have referred, in vogue? A.—Rockland, county of Russell.

Q.—Is it in more than one concern? A.—No; that is the only one I know.

Q.—Has the company got stores? A.—One; they have one general store there.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Supposing a man goes to the store with a store order, and they have not got the article in stock, do they get it for him? A.—No.

JOSEPH SHERWOOD, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—What is your business? A.—Sawyer.

Q.—In a saw-mill? A.—Yes.

Q.—At what—circular or gang-saw? A.—I work on what is termed the turns.

Q.—What number of hours a day do you work? A.—Eleven.

Q.—Do all the men in the same business work the same number of hours? A.—Only in the mill. Those who drive the horses in the yard work the same number of hours.

Q.—The men in the gangs work the same number of hours? A.—Yes; all work the eleven hours.

Q.—What is the average earnings of gang-men? A.—I could not tell you that positively.

Q.—Have you knowledge of any of the earnings of the men in the mill? A.—I think they get as high as \$9 and \$10 a week, but I am not positive of that.

Q.—What would be the average earnings of a man in your position? A.—A man in my position would get \$2 a day.

Q.—Would that be the average for Ottawa? A.—I do not know; probably some of them would get more than that in the same business.

Q.—That is the head sawyers? A.—Yes.

Q.—You have not any? A.—I think some of the filers get \$2 a day, too.

Q.—What length of time do the men work, chiefly? A.—Ten hours a day.

Q.—Will you allow me to explain about our mill? We do not run a double watch, or night work, except occasionally. Last year they did run a double watch for only a

short period. The day watch went on at six in the morning, and came off at six at night; the night watch went on at seven and were off at five in the morning. They were working on the circular double watch.

Q.—How often are you paid? A.—Fortnightly.

Q.—On what day? A.—Thursday.

Q.—Have you had any accidents in your mill lately? A.—No; not lately.

Q.—Did you have any last year? A.—I do not know but what one or two got cut.

Q.—Do you know if the factory inspector has been through your mill? A.—I cannot say he has.

Q.—Do you know if there are any workingmen in your locality in the same position as yourself who own their own houses? A.—Yes; several who work in the mill own their own houses in the city of Ottawa.

Q.—Taking a rough estimate, about what average would own their own houses? A.—I would not like to say anything on that, because they are mixed up.

Q.—Have wages increased within the last seven years? A.—I think they have a percentage, but I think it is a very small one.

Q.—What would a man pay in New Edinburgh ward for a house such as a man in your position would live in—say a house of six rooms? A.—I presume he would have to pay \$10 a month.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—What would be the taxes on such a house? A.—I cannot give information on that point. I have five rooms in my house, three bed rooms and two general rooms; the house is insured for \$1,250, including lot.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What taxes do you pay for it? A.—We have only been assessed this past year.

THOMAS EVANS, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What is your business? A.—Carpenter.

Q.—What are the earnings of good bench hands in Ottawa? A.—Two dollars a day.

Q.—Do they get constant employment at that? A.—No.

Q.—About how many months in the year, on an average, will carpenters get employment here? A.—Ten months.

Q.—Would that apply to outside men as well as to the inside? A.—I average the whole.

Q.—What would be the wages of good outside men? A.—One dollar and seventy-five cents.

Q.—Is the same rate of wages paid in winter as well as in summer? A.—Rather less.

Q.—Is it on account of the surplus labor on the market? A.—No.

Q.—How many hours a day do you work here? A.—Ten hours.

Q.—Are you much troubled with men in Ottawa, who are not mechanics, working at the business? A.—There is a considerable number of them.

Q.—Do they, to any extent, displace good men? A.—No; not good men.

Q.—Good men always get employment? A.—Yes.

Q.—Poor men have a tendency to keep the wages of good men down? A.—They have, to a slight extent.

Q.—Do you know if it is the practice, in selecting hands, for the shop to place a first-class man with an inferior hand on the same bench? A.—I do not know that it is a practice, altogether; I do not know if it is studied.

Q.—Do the wages of the good men ever have to come down to those of the inferior men on the same bench? A.—Not that I am aware of.

Q.—Have you any regulations as to apprentices in Ottawa? A.—I do not know anything about apprentices.

Q.—You never had anything to do with any of them? A.—No.

J. D. SHERWOOD, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What is your business? A.—Circular Sawyer.

Q.—What are circular sawyers paid in Ottawa? A.—I do not know what they are paid in Ottawa; I know what I am paid myself.

Q.—Did you hear the evidence of the last Sawyer? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you agree with it in all particulars? A.—Yes; only in the length of hours we have to work.

Q.—What is your evidence in that respect? A.—That eleven hours a day is too long to work.

Q.—Do they work that? A.—That is what he said, and I have to work eleven hours.

Q.—How many hours do you think a workingman should work? A.—Ten hours is a reasonable length of time, I think.

Q.—Do you think a man can do as much in ten hours as in eleven? A.—It depends whether there is a man shoving or whether he is shoving himself.

Q.—Do you think a man would have more vitality in him by only working ten hours a day? A.—I think so.

A.—And would be better able to do a day's work the following day? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you anything to add to the evidence already given by the previous Sawyer examined? A.—I have not.

Q.—Have the sawyers any grievances? A.—That is the only grievance—about the length of hours—bothering me at the present time, and that is, having to work eleven hours a day.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Have you ever worked outside of Ottawa? A.—For a short time.

Q.—Where? A.—In the State of Ohio.

Q.—At the milling business? A.—No.

Q.—Are you aware of the number of hours men work outside of Ottawa, in the Province of Ontario? A.—No; only from hearsay.

GEORGE F. STALKER, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—I believe you have give some attention to the question of technical education of mechanics and apprentices? A.—Yes.

Q.—Will you kindly give us the benefit of your experience on that matter?

A.—All my experience has been confined chiefly to teaching them drawing, as applied to their particular trades. I have had a great many apprentices and journeymen of different trades with me, during the last four years, and they have come year after year with an almost universal expression of their having been benefited in their particular line of business by that kind of instruction. I have taught them practical mechanical drawing, if they are machinists, and construction if they are carpenters or masons; and also I have taught them the elements of industrial design.

This last year I have had over eighty pupils, including twenty-three or twenty-four ladies. I think I can tell the number of the trades: there were ten carpenters, two

cabinet-makers, four electricians, nine machinists, three masons, two plasterers, two jewellers and twelve of other trades; one or two dry-goods men and others of that class.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you include the ladies amongst these? A.—No; there were twenty-three or twenty-four ladies in addition to them.

Q.—What were they? A.—They had no profession. There were fifteen students among them, some belonging to the Collegiate Institute and others to business colleges. I had eighty-four pupils altogether.

Q.—What was the object of the ladies in seeking this instruction? A.—Simply to learn to draw and color. Some learn for industrial purposes; I have some designs by ladies for the industrial work—designs for wall papers, tapestries, &c.—they learn that kind of drawing for the purpose of being designers.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are you able to tell us if the course these people have taken with you has materially benefited them in their trades? A.—I have been informed by a great many of them that they have received positive benefit and advancement in their occupations through their knowledge in that way.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You are satisfied that it is so? A.—I am perfectly satisfied that it is so.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—At what age would you consider it best to impart this technical instruction for boys or men? A.—I should say it ought to begin with boys, in an elementary form, while they were at school—say, about ten years of age—and they should carry it on all through their apprenticeship. They should never give it up.

Q.—Do you advocate the establishment of evening classes for apprentices and mechanics, &c., where this class of instruction could be given? A.—I do. I think the Government should establish a thorough system of technical education in all large centres, at all events.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the benefit of an industrial training to young people? A.—I have no direct knowledge of that, but I have read a great deal about it.

Q.—Do you express an opinion as to the desirability of imparting such instruction? A.—I think it is very advisable, in connection with all these technical schools, that there should be industrial schools, so that the technical knowledge could be brought to a practical test, the two going hand-in-hand, as it were.

Q.—They should have elementary training before going to a trade? A.—Yes.

Q.—When a boy goes to a trade say, at thirteen, how long would it take him to learn the technical portion of his trade in a technical school? A.—It depends on the brightness of the boy himself; but I should say, by ordinary application in evening classes for three or four years he could get a good technical drilling into his business.

Q.—You think a boy could become a good practical draughtsman? A.—He would be able to draw intelligibly, anyhow. He might not be a first-class draughtsman, but he could explain by drawings what he meant.

Q.—Would he be able to scale work off? A.—Yes.

WILLIAM GARVOCK, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What is your business? A.—Carpenter.

Q.—Did you hear the evidence of the last carpenter who was examined as to the wages paid in Ottawa? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you corroborate his statement in that respect? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you able to tell us anything of the benefits of technical training to

yourself or others? A.—I can testify that it has been of benefit to me, and I think it has been a benefit to others.

Q.—Can you tell us how many men engaged in your business can take a plan to an eighth-scale, check their own work off and get it out? A.—I suppose one in every ten.

Q.—Have you ever known good skilful men who were enabled to take a plan and get the work out in that way? A.—Many.

Q.—Is not that one reason why so many good men who are not able to do this receive less wages than their more fortunate brethren? A.—It may be a reason; I think it is a reason, too.

Q.—If technical training were imparted to all branches of trade would it not, to a large degree, remove the inequalities amongst workingmen? A.—I think it would.

Q.—Do you know if there is any general desire on the part of young people to take this course of training? A.—I think there is such a desire; at any rate, here in Ottawa.

Q.—If this course of technical training were made free, and part of the course of public instruction in our public schools, do you think the young men would avail themselves of it? A.—I do not know, if it were made free.

Q.—Would you favor a Government system of education, or by private means? A.—I think it would be better if the Government took hold of it.

Q.—And directed it? A.—Yes; and directed it.

Q.—From your experience, are you of the opinion that this instruction can best be imparted by evening classes? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think that any part of technical instruction can be taught a boy while attending school. A.—Part of it can, but a very limited part.

Q.—Are you able to state what other branches, beside drawing, would be necessary for a thorough technical education in the trade? A.—It would depend altogether on the trade the boy was going to.

Q.—Well, speak of your own trade? A.—I think mechanics, practical geometry and industrial design.

Q.—Mensuration? A.—Yes; but not so much as the others. I think practical geometry, as such, is the basis of all trades. Of course, it is necessary, in learning practical geometry, to learn drawing. I would like to say a few words in connection with the Art School here. Technical education is being partly taught in Ottawa at present. I believe the Ontario Government gave instructions to start technical classes, but those classes are not taught as a benefit to the workingmen, for the simple reason, that incompetent teachers are placed at the head of them in some branches. Practical geometry has not been properly taught, and if any instruction is necessary to be taught it should be by a man who has both theory and practice, as is the case in England.

Q.—Do you know anything of the system in England? A.—Yes; the teachers are men taken from the trades, and are taught in that way.

Q.—You think it is absolutely necessary that teachers should have a practical as well as theoretical knowledge of the subject? A.—Certainly. I think, also, before we get competent mechanics it is necessary that they should be taught theory and practice both. According to the present way mechanics are taught, the men get the practice without the theory, and little attention is paid by the masters to impart the theory. That has been my experience.

Q.—Too little attention is paid to the apprentices by those who teach them? A.—Yes; they try to get all the work out of them possible and, when through with them, discharge them.

Q.—Would an indentured-apprentice system be a benefit to boys going into trades? A.—I think it would be.

Q.—In what way would it benefit the apprentices? A.—It would make him feel his responsibility, and if his master did not train him as he ought to do he would have some reason to complain.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—If he wants a guarantee from the boss the boy would give a guarantee himself? A.—Certainly.

Q.—How would a poor man guarantee that his son would keep his engagement?
A.—I do not know, unless he got some one to go security, as they do in some parts of the old country.

JOHN PEER, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What is your business? A.—Moulder.

Q.—How long have you been engaged in the moulding busines in Ottawa?
A.—Ten years.

Q.—Do you work on stove-plate or machinery? A.—On machinery.

Q.—Day-work or piece-work? A.—Day-work.

Q.—What are the average wages of machinery moulders? A.—Two dollars and twenty-five cents a day.

Q.—Is that the average for journeymen? A.—Yes.

A.—About how many months in the year do they find employment? A.—Twelve months.

Q.—How many hours in the day do you work? A.—Ten.

A.—Are you able to tell us what is the general condition of the moulding shops in Ottawa? A.—I do not know that I can tell you.

Q.—Can you tell us what the earnings of plate moulders are—stove-plate moulders are? A.—They work piece-work.

Q.—Yes; but what do they make? A.—They average \$2.50 a day.

Q.—Do they get as constant employment as machinery moulders? A.—No.

Q.—Are there many apprentices taken on here at Ottawa? A.—Not very many.

Q.—How long do they generally serve in learning their trade? A.—They generally serve about three years.

Q.—Is it possible to make a good, skilled moulder in three years? A.—No. You cannot make as good a man in three years as you would in ten.

Q.—Do you know if there is any difficulty in keeping the boys in the shops when they go to learn a trade—that is to finish their time out? A.—Some stop and some do not; if they do not like it they quit it.

Q.—When boys go to learn moulding here in Ottawa are they taught all the branches of machinery moulding? A.—They learn the whole thing; they work at every thing that comes along.

Q.—Is it the practice, to any extent, to put laborers on plate work? A.—No.

Q.—How frequently are you paid? A.—Once a fortnight.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you hear any complaints from moulders, when they take the castings out of the moulds, about gas or smoke. A.—Not if there is any ventilation.

Q.—How are the shops ventilated? A.—By the roof.

Q.—Have you any suction fans in the roof? A.—No; it is not necessary if we have good ventilation.

Q.—You are not troubled with any smoke? A.—No.

Q.—Is the roof high? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you heard any of the men complaining of what is known as "blind staggers"? A.—We are not troubled with "blind staggers," generally.

JAMES BALHARIE, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—What is your business? A.—Baker.

Q.—Have you heard the evidence given this evening by the other bakers? A.—
Not very well.

Q.—What is the average rate of wages of a baker in Ottawa? A.—I think it
must be from \$8 to \$10 a week. I do not know what it will be since the union was
formed; it was that before.

Q.—What hours have you to work now? A.—Ten or eleven hours a day.

Q.—What hours did you work before? A.—In the summer time we work about
an hour longer; we have more work in summer than in winter. It averages from
ten to eleven hours.

Q.—Last year? A.—Yes, and now.

Q.—Is your work in the day time now? A.—We commence at five o'clock in
the morning, with the exception that on Sunday night we commence at midnight.

Q.—Do you work on Sunday? A.—No; we commence at twelve on Monday
morning, if you like to call it.

Q.—Did you work Sunday work last year? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know of any shops in Ottawa where the men work on Sunday?
A.—I knew shops where they commenced work on Sunday afternoon, and I believe
in some of the shops it is done yet.

Q.—Have the men protested against that? A.—I think most of the men are
against it. I do not know, however, whether they have succeeded in getting it stopped.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you consider Sunday work is necessary? A.—It is unnecessary.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—The men, as a rule, protest against working on Sunday? A.—I am sure
they do not like it.

Q.—How is the ventilation of the shop in which you work? A.—It is well
ventilated.

J. T. HARVEY, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—What is your business? A.—Blacksmith.

Q.—You do plumbing as well? A.—Not the practical part of it; I do some little
repairing, putting in a little odd work.

Q.—What are the average wages of a good blacksmith in Ottawa? A.—Nine
or ten dollars a week.

Q.—Would that apply to plumbers as well? A.—I think the plumbers are a
little in advance of the blacksmiths.

Q.—What number of hours do they have to work? A.—Ten hours a day.

Q.—Sixty hours a week? A.—No; ten hours, except Saturday; they work
nine on Saturday.

Q.—When you work nine hours on Saturday do you lose an hour? A.—No; in
two or three other shops I know they pay sixty hours for the week.

Q.—Do you know if a man earning \$10 a week, and with an ordinary family, can
save money if he is temperate, industrious and active? A.—The price of provisions
and living in Ottawa at present is such that he cannot save any money, unless he is
very, very saving.

Q.—How often are you paid? A.—Once a week.

The Commission then adjourned.

(Translation.)

EVENING SESSION—FRIDAY, 4th May, 1888.

LOUIS GARON, Baker, Ottawa, being sworn, deposeth as follows:—

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—How many bakers are employed in the establishment where you work?
A.—Two; sometimes we are three, but at present we are only two. I am the first, and we have two helps, and sometimes only one, as at the present time.

Q.—What are the wages you usually pay first-class bakers? A.—At certain times our first foreman gets \$9—sometimes \$10 a week—and others get only \$8.

Q.—What makes the difference in these wages—is it ability, or the difference in the establishments? A.—The difference is, that one cannot get more from the bosses.

Q.—A man that makes \$10 in one establishment, can it be that this same man will earn \$6 in another house? A.—Oh, yes, sir.

Q.—How are the helps generally paid? A.—The one who worked with me this winter—at least, one of those who worked with me this winter—had \$3 and his board; then a change was made, and there came another, who got \$6.

Q.—With his board, also? A.—I beg pardon; only \$6, without board.

Q.—At what hour do you begin to work? A. At present you must know that things have changed; we work in the day now, but before this week we sometimes commenced at 5 o'clock in the evening, and at other times at 6.

Q.—At what time do you begin now? A.—Now we begin at 5 o'clock in the morning.

Q.—At what hour do you pull up—do you finish in a regular way? A.—Sometimes we finish at 5 o'clock in the evening, but I cannot say precisely, as I am not working this week. Since things have changed I have lost my place—the boss would not give me any work; he, himself, still works at night.

Q.—The boss with whom you worked last week continues to work by night?
A.—Yes.

Q.—You did not want to work at night? A.—No, sir; on account of my health.

Q.—Do you find that night-work, in general, is unhealthy? A.—Yes, sir; and that is the reason we have given up working at night; it is too harmful to our health.

Q.—Who is the man that splits wood in the bakeries at Ottawa—is it a special man or a working baker? A.—That work is done among ourselves, the bakers—that is the second men.

Q.—Do you do the splitting outside of your working hours or during your working hours? A.—During our working hours.

Q.—Are you bound to go out of the room where the ovens stand, when you are very hot, to go and split wood outside? A.—Yes, sir; outside.

Q.—Is it within your knowledge that workmen have been taken sick in consequence of this difference of temperature? A.—Yes, sir; I have caught big colds myself.

Q.—How many bakers have exchanged night-work for day-work; or, rather, how many were there who did not want to change? A.—Only in the shop where I worked; before that there were two shops, but there is another which will begin next week to work during the day, and that will make only one working at night.

Q.—Do you know, yourself, whether there are young children working in certain bakeries? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you know how old these children may be? A.—I cannot say just exactly; but I think one whom I know is not more than twelve—or, say, between twelve and thirteen years old.

Q.—Do you know whether his work is fatiguing, or if he goes there only to give a hand? A.—His work is partly fatiguing.

Q.—Has that boy been working long in a bakery? A.—I cannot exactly say.

Q.—Did he work when there was work at night? A.—Yes, sir.

(Translation.)

AFTERNOON SESSION—SATURDAY, 5th May, 1888.

ALEXANDER COUSINEAU, Baker, Ottawa, being sworn, deposeeth as follows :—

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

- Q.—Are you working on your own hook or working for another? A.—I am working on my own account.
- Q.—Have you hands under your orders? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—How many? A.—At the present time I have four.
- Q.—How much do these men—the best among them—receive a week? A.—My foreman gets \$12 a week.
- Q.—And the men under him? A.—The men under him get \$10 a week.
- Q.—Are there children employed in your factory? A.—No, sir.
- Q.—Those who make \$10 a week, are those the men who make the bread? A.—They are the bakers of the second-class.
- Q.—What is the price of a six-pound loaf? A.—We make no six-pound loaves; our loaves are four pounds, and they sell at from 10 to 11 cents.
- Q.—Have you bread inspectors here? A.—Here the police are the inspectors.
- Q.—Do they know anything about the quality of bread, aside from the weight? A.—No, sir. In the nineteen years that I am in the trade I have never seen the man come to weigh and inspect the bread who knew anything about it. He knew only how much the loaf weighed, and was ignorant of all the rest.
- Q.—Do you know whether there are bakers here who make use of bad flour, or of foul water, which would be injurious to health? A.—No; I think not. They do not all use good flour, but still it is not a quality of flour injurious to the health. It is only common flour.
- Q.—Have you any idea of the six-pound loaf here at Ottawa? A.—I have been to Montreal, and they sell the common bread of six pounds at 16 cents. Here we do not make six-pound loaves.
- Q.—When you sell your bread at 10 to 11 cents, is it 10 cents at the grocery and 11 cents to customers? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—Do you exact cash from your customers, or do you give credit? A.—We always require cash, but do not always get it.
- Q.—Do you sell much to the working classes? A.—As for me, my custom is almost wholly with the working class. I have, of course, some customers who are not workingmen, who are in business or employed by the Government; but in part they are workingmen.
- Q.—Then the working class here eats nothing—almost nothing—but white bread? A.—Oh, I beg pardon.
- Q.—I understand you to say that you made only a white loaf of four pounds? A.—We have it of four pounds, but brown bread. We made white, and have made bread of four pounds.
- Q.—What are the hours of work in your establishment? A.—There are no fixed hours.
- Q.—They are obliged to make the bread? A.—Yes; the bread which I require, sometimes they will work eight hours, sometimes ten hours, eleven hours, twelve hours.
- Q.—Do you think that these are about the prices, as a rule, of bakeries here in Ottawa? A.—At the present time I am not positive; I fancy that some work at cheaper rates than these.
- Q.—Do you take your men as apprentices, or do you engage men who already know their trade? A.—They are men who know their trade. We take apprentices, sometimes, but very seldom. In the nineteen years that I have been baking I have had only three apprentices who learned their trade with me.
- Q.—Generally speaking, are the bakers' shops in a good condition of cleanliness and health? A.—I do not go into all the shops, but I have been in several shops, some of which are kept pretty clean, and others only so-and-so.

Q.—Have the building inspectors passed your way—to examine your building?
A.—Not yet.

Q.—Have you anything to say to the Commission? A.—I would say a word about the men's wages. Some people hold that the men get too much and others say that they do not. As for me, I consider that they do not get too much to live and pay their debts; but I add that, in a business centre, the men belonging to the union of the Knights of Labor get more than other working men; for there are many laborers not belonging to the Knights of Labor, and their wages are not sufficient to keep their families going. They buy at the butchers and at the grocers and then they cannot pay.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Those who receive small wages complain of those who get big salaries. Why have they not also big salaries? A.—A number of my customers who are working-men make \$1.25 or 90 cents, and they say that we have increased the price of bread, and that they cannot pay the loaf, on account of the small wages which they receive; and then I tell them we are obliged to pay more at present, on account of the men belonging to the union of the Knights of Labor. We are obliged to pay them \$10 and \$12 a week.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Those to whom you give the highest wages are the ones who complain that the bread is dearer? A.—No; it is our customers to whom we deliver bread.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Did you raise the price of bread because of the rise of wages? A.—Yes; and the price of flour has risen and the wages of men have risen, also.

Q.—Did you raise the price of bread in proportion to the increase of salaries and the increase of the price of flour? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then it all comes back to the same thing? A.—Yes.

JOHN GALE, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—What is your age? A.—I am seventeen.

Q.—Where have you been working? A.—I was working in the Dominion Telegraph Office for a little while.

Q.—I see that you have lost one of your arms? A.—Yes; my right arm.

Q.—How did that occur? A.—It was an accident in the saw-mill.

Q.—How old were you then? A.—Between eleven and twelve years of age.

Q.—Were there any other boys working there, at the time you met with this accident, about your age? A.—Yes.

Q.—What were you getting at the time you worked there? A.—I was only getting 25 cents a day.

Q.—What were you engaged at when you lost your arm? A.—Taking blocks away from the circular saw.

Q.—These were large saws? A.—Yes.

Q.—Were they not butting-saws? A.—Yes.

Q.—How large were they? A.—About 2-feet in diameter.

Q.—Two feet through? A.—Yes.

Q.—These other small boys, were they engaged in the same business as you were when you lost your arm? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Did you fall against the saw, or was it taking the planks away that you got your arm cut? A.—It was not at the saw where I got hurt; it was at the cog-wheel behind the butting-table, the morning before the mill started.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Your employer did not do anything at all for you? A.—No.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Was this in Ottawa or in Hull? A.—No; it was in New Edinburgh.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—As you are now, can you earn your living? A.—No; not unless I learn something—not unless I get an education.

Q.—Did you go back to your employer after your arm got well—did you go back to the mill again. A.—No.

Q.—You never went back? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you know of any other boys having received accidents? A.—Yes; about two months after a boy was working in the mill, where I was, and he got both his legs and arms taken off.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Where does he live? A.—He lives in Ottawa; he lives in Chaudière street.

Q.—Could you get him here this evening? A.—Yes; I could bring him here in a cab.

Q.—Will you please do so? A.—Yes.

Q.—How old was the boy when he met with the accident? A.—He was the same age as I was.

Q.—Were you working for the foreman, or a man employed by the foreman?

A.—I was working for a man who was working for the foreman.

Q.—You were working for a sub-contractor? A.—Yes.

THOMAS
HEL LOUIS LEVERT, Ottawa, Laborer, called and sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do you know the last witness, John Gale? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you work in a mill at New Edinburgh? A.—I did work there.

Q.—Do you know if some other boys were employed in the mill? A.—I am not certain about whether there are any now; I have not been down there this summer; I dare say there is; I know that there used to be.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH LEFEBVRE, Invalid, formerly in the Mills at Ottawa, being sworn, deposesh as follows :—

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Did you lose your arm and leg in the same accident? A.—Yes, sir; I fell in a hole, and the axle of the wheel crushed my arm and leg.

Q.—How old were you? A.—Twelve years—going on thirteen.

Q.—How old are you now? A.—I am going on nineteen years.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What is your business now? A.—I have none at all.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Where was this hole that you fell into? A.—It was against the axle of the wheel which turned the machinery. It was over against a stone step, on a level with the axle, about a foot between the axle and the wall.

Q.—How did you fall into the hole? A.—I was working. I was drawing pickets; the pickets stuck in my stomach, and during that time the other pickets pushed on-and-on too fast.

Q.—The hole was behind you? A.—Yes; behind me; a big hole to give light to the millwright who worked below. My foot slipped on a piece of bark and I fell in.

Q.—It was while you were working that this accident happened? A.—Yes; about half-past nine o'clock in the forenoon.

Q.—This was the same mill in which the young man who appeared a moment ago before the Commission was likewise the victim of an accident? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did your boss do anything for you? A.—Well, he gave me \$10 over and above the wages he owed me, and then they got up a collection and raised \$25 for me.

Q.—Was the subscription made up among the workingmen? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did you go back to the mill after being cured? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did you ask for work? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What did he tell you? A.—He said that he could give me none just then, but he would see later on.

Q.—Has he engaged you since? A.—A.—No, sir.

Q.—Did you go back to him again? A.—Yes; two or three times. Even last spring; he told me that he had no need for me then.

Q.—Are there any kinds of work that you could do, although maimed? A.—Yes; I think so. He told me that he meant to give me the job of drawing the tickets of 4-foot lumber when they sell that wood.

Q.—Who paid for the medicines and the doctor's fees? A.—I did, sir, but I rather think that the boss paid the hospital dues for the time that I was there. I was sixteen days in hospital.

Q.—When you say that you paid for medicines, did you pay for these medicines outside of the hospital? A.—When once I got back home I was obliged to pay for the medicines. Dr. Prevost came to see me at home and told me what remedies to take, and I paid for them.

Q.—Have you your father and mother? A.—Only my mother; I have a step-father.

Q.—You do not work for a living just now? A.—No, sir; I should be very glad if I could find some work.

Q.—You returned to the mill. Is it long since you went to the mill? A.—I was there only to-day, fetching my step-father's dinner.

Q.—Are there young children employed in that mill at present? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What age might they be? A.—A dozen of years, or thirteen and fourteen years.

Q.—Have you had occasion to see the hole into which you fell? A.—I went down there and saw the shaft, but to-day it is closed.

Q.—The same accident cannot happen again? A.—Oh, no.

Q.—Do you know whether other accidents have happened in this mill, to your own knowledge? Are you aware of any? A.—I cannot say. Well, yes; two or three years ago two men were killed—a man named Cadieux was caught around the wheel and was gnawed by the wheel, betwixt the wheel and the posts, and the other fell down the dock.

Q.—But you have not heard of other accidents to children? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Do you think that the children working there work too hard? Do you find that they work too hard for their age? A.—I rather think not. The first year that I worked there I was about nine and a-half years old, and I did not work too hard.

Q.—Do you know whether there are children nine years of age working there still? A.—I do not think so.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do you think that the children are ill-treated by the foremen, or something of the kind? A.—No; I think not. It is Mr. Macdonald who is foreman for the children, and he is very gentle with them. When they are hard pushed with work the foreman helps them out.

Q.—Had the children any schooling? Do they attend school before going to work? A.—Yes, sir; they go to school in the winter and in the summer they work.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Can you read and write? A.—A little.

Q.—Could you read and write before you went there? A.—Yes, sir.

JOHN HENDERSON, Manager for J. McLaren & Company, Lumber Merchants, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—How long have you been manager for Messrs. J. McLaren & Company? A.—For about twenty years.

Q.—About how many men do you employ in the New Edinburgh mills? A.—I think, in the neighborhood of 300 men.

Q.—Classing these mill-men and platform-men, about what would be their average wages—for instance, take a gang of men? A.—Well, there is a very great variation in the wages of mill-men, owing to the great diversity of work they perform; and even men who are gang-men, there is a very great variation in the wages; all according to the character of the machines they attend. We have gang-men, head-sawyers, men running gang-saws and circular-saws, receiving from \$8 to \$10 a week, up to \$10.50.

Q.—The men who run the double-edged saws, what do they get? A.—Ten dollars to twelve dollars a week.

Q.—Then, men on the platform—pilers—what do they average? A.—There is another great variation there, too. To a very large extent, they will average from \$1.15 to \$2 a day; the men who are piling are paid according to the nature of their work; they get about \$2 a day. Common hands get \$1.15 to \$1.25 a day.

Q.—About how many get \$2 a day? A.—We have none at all. We give it out to a jobber, who employs his own men; we have nothing to do—nothing to say in the control of them; they vary from \$1.20 to \$2 a day.

Q.—How many hours do they work? A.—In the saw-mill and lumber yard, from six in the morning till six at night, with an hour for dinner. The men in the factory, or mill, work from seven till six at night—ten hours a day.

Q.—Have you ever had any trouble with your men—that is, general trouble? A.—No; we never had any trouble with our men.

Q.—For men going to the shanties—about what are the earnings of these men? A.—Well, they will average, probably, about \$16 a month, and of course they get their board.

Q.—Can you state about the number of months that these men are employed in the saw-mill? A.—Yes; from the 1st of May until about the 1st of December.

Q.—Those men employed in the mills—do they generally go to the shanties in winter? A.—Well, a good many do. There is a number that do object, and prefer keeping around here all the winter.

Q.—The best class of men do not care about going? A.—There is a certain class who do not care about going.

Q.—Are any arrangements made for the families of the men who are away in the shanties? A.—Yes; arrangements are made so that the wives or mothers can draw so much per month while the men are away in the woods.

Q.—In the shanties, do you supply them with what they need? A.—We provision them, and we supply them with what they need, but we prefer that they

should take up what little they need from home, and many of them do so. *If they require anything they can purchase it from us, but there is no compulsion.*

Q.—Do you furnish these supplies for the convenience of the men or for profit?
A.—What supplies we furnish are solely for the convenience of the men; there is no profit in the concern, not any more than any store-keeper; they can be provided just as cheap as at the store.

Q.—In other words, they can buy just as cheap there as they can in the store in Ottawa? A.—Yes; they can buy just as cheap as in the store.

Q.—You are also a member of the school board of the city of Ottawa? A.—Yes; I have been for some time.

Q.—You have also given more or less attention to night schools and technical education? A.—I have to night schools but not to technical education. I have not thought the time ripe for it in Ottawa.

Q.—Can you give us any idea as to the movement at present before the school board with regard to the establishment of night schools? A.—Well, it is only in its first stage as yet. I brought the subject up myself. We found a large class of lads and young men who were very defective in education taken away about the age of fourteen and set to work. Their education was very imperfect, and they have an opportunity allowed them of attending school at night for four months in the year. It would be a very great advantage, and if they (the school board) can carry it out by establishing one or more schools at night during this winter, it would be of great advantage to both sexes—for we intend to offer the same privileges to girls and young women as to men and boys. We intend to commence with the mere elements of a primary education—reading, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping and spelling. We do not know if it will be a success or not, but it has been in Toronto. There they have succeeded in raising a valuable institution in connection with our common schools, and it will be done here under our present public school system. We intend to do this if we can get the necessary encouragement.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you ship any lumber? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you employ any stevedores? A.—No; we ship all ourselves, by our own yard-men.

Q.—How do you pay them? A.—We ship by the day's work.

Q.—Do you know if any of the other companies ship by the job? A.—I do not think so, in this city. I think there is enough of ordinary men to do it under a foreman. We ship by the barge for the American ports in summer and by rail in winter, and by rail and barge to home ports, and in other directions exclusively by rail.

Q.—You do not manufacture deals at all? A.—Yes; we find a market for them in the States; we do not dispose of them at home in Canada.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have there been any accidents in the mill? A.—Very rarely. I have been connected with this firm for the last twenty years and I do not remember any.

Q.—How long ago is it since the last accident happened? A.—It is so long ago that I have no recollection.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Can you state how much it costs to ship this lumber—the handling of it?
A.—Well, I presume 10 or 15 cents the thousand feet. It is a very simple matter; we are favorably situated; we have a high bank and deep water, and we simply slide them from the top of the pile down the slide on to the boat. A child can ship lumber.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Do you employ any boys in your factory or mill? A.—Yes.

Q.—What age would the youngest be? A.—I think some of them employed in the lath and shingle mill are fourteen years of age.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Have you any under that age? A.—No.

Q.—I suppose you are acquainted with the provisions of the Factory Act? A.—My attention was drawn to it, and I gave notice that no boys were to be employed under fourteen years of age, and I am not aware that there are any employed under that age; but last summer the inspector was down, and he has been down twice since, I think, and I was made acquainted with the provisions of the Act.

Q.—Has he ordered you to put up railings? A.—No.

Q.—He has not ordered you to do anything? A.—No; he called my attention to that one point about the lads, and left me a copy of the Act.

Q.—Are you aware if he found any complaints against the mill? A.—No; I am not. I believe he was satisfied with what he saw in the mill.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Was he shown over the mill? A.—Yes.

Q.—Who showed him over? A.—I do not know; I was passing, and I was informed that he called and left it for me.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Was it in pamphlet form? A.—Yes.

Later on in the day the witness re-appears and states as follows :—

In my examination I stated that I did not recollect of any accident having taken place on our works. I wish to say that there was an accident last summer, at which a little boy lost his life. He was not in our employ. It happened in this way: A great many boys come around picking up shavings and chips, and particularly at the mill, during the absence of the men at dinner and other times. This lad had been gathering shavings. He went into the mill and played with the machinery, and came to his death by it, through nobody's fault but his own.

PATRICK GEORGE NASH, Ottawa, Managing Proprietor of the Canadian Granite Company, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—How many men do you employ? A.—I think, on the average, about fifty at our factory in Ottawa. We employ other men at the quarries, but they are not in the city.

Q.—How many men do you employ in the quarries? A.—I should think about thirty-five.

Q.—How far is the quarry from the city? A.—There is one in Kingston; another about eighteen miles down the Ottawa.

Q.—Are you able to give the rate of wages paid to the men at Kingston and down the Ottawa? A.—We pay the laborers and men who handle the hammer and drill from \$1.25 to \$1.50 a day. Then we pay other men who work at making paving blocks by piece-work.

Q.—Are these men employed steadily the year round? A.—With the exception of perhaps, two months in the winter time, and that has only been the case one year—last year—and I don't think they were idle; we kept them working piece-work the whole time. Then the rest would be employed in our works in Ottawa.

Q.—How many men do you employ in the factory? A.—From fifty to sixty-five men in the factory.

Q.—Of that number, how many would be laborers, or unskilled labor? A.—Well, I suppose about twelve.

Q.—Would they get the same as the men in the quarry? A.—We pay them \$1.25 a day.

Q.—What would the cutters earn a day? A.—We pay the granite-cutters from \$2.35 to \$2.65 a day.

Q.—What number of hours do these men work? A.—They work ten hours a day, with the exception of Saturday, when they leave at noon.

Q.—How often do you pay your men? A.—Every second Saturday.

Q.—Do the men complain about not getting paid frequent enough? A.—No; I never heard any complaints; they seem altogether satisfied.

Q.—Has the factory inspector inspected your place? A.—Yes; I think we had two of them there last summer.

Q.—What would the average wages of polishers be? A.—Well, we have had to pay for granite-polishers \$1.50 a day, and we have paid as high as \$2.50 a day. Then we have marble-polishers besides.

Q.—Do you know if there are any men in your employ who own their own property? A.—Yes; there are some.

Q.—How many? A.—Well, that I could not say; I am not positive; I know there are some.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do you work the white marble as well as the granite? A.—We work white marble, fancy marble, all the American marbles (not all the Italian marbles), and the Canadian marbles.

Q.—Where do you get your Canadian marbles? A.—We own a quarry in Renfrew and one eighteen miles down the Ottawa river. It is back from the Ottawa six or seven miles; it is about eighteen miles from here.

Q.—Do you find that marble more compact than American marble? A.—It is altogether a different marble; we call it Serpentine; it is a green marble. I never saw any American marble like it. There is very little quarried in Canada, except by ourselves.

Q.—Do you work any white marble in Canada? A.—No; I do not think it. At Renfrew it is not white marble; it is mottled.

Q.—Have you any young boys working there? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the age of the youngest? A.—I do not think we have any under sixteen; there was one who was under sixteen, but he is not under sixteen now.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you pay all your men in cash? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you employ any women in any part of your business? A.—Not at present. We did employ some women; they worked at piece-work.

Q.—How much did they earn a week? A.—We never paid them more than \$4 a week. Their hours were very irregular, and they did not come at the same hours as the men; they did not work regularly.

Q.—Do you employ any polishers? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any illness or rheumatism on account of the dampness? A.—I never heard of any. There is good drainage all through the building.

Q.—Have the wages of the quarry-men increased during the past five or seven years? A.—I am not prepared to answer; I do not know.

Q.—Could you speak with reference to the marble quarry-men? A.—I cannot answer; I am not in a position to do so.

Q.—Do you polish by machinery? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any dampness? A.—Where one man is it is damp, but there is no illness, and I have never heard of any complaints.

WILLIAM McMAHON, Bookkeeper, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—By whom are you employed? A.—I am book-keeper to the firm of MacLean Roger & Company, Parliamentary Printers.

Q.—How many journeymen printers do you employ? A.—About 150.

Q.—Are they kept constantly employed throughout the year? A.—Constantly.

Q.—Do you employ extra men at the coming on of the Session? A.—Yes.

Q.—What would their wages be? A.—Eleven dollars a week.

Q.—For how many hours? A.—For fifty-four hours.

Q.—Do many of them work at night? A.—We have during the Session night men employed to do night work.

Q.—Are they employed by the hour, week, or piece? A.—By the week.

Q.—How much do they receive? A.—The night men?

Q.—Yes? A.—Twelve dollars and twenty-five cents a week.

Q.—That is in two weeks—100 hours? A.—Yes.

Q.—That is an average of 25 cents an hour? A.—Yes; that is their working price.

Q.—They work 100 hours in the two weeks? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there any piece-hands? A.—No.

Q.—What do you pay your press-men? A.—They get \$11 a week for fifty-four hours, the same price as the printers. Those who work at night, if they work by the week, get 25 cents an hour; if our press-men work over-time they receive 25 cents an hour.

Q.—Have you any women who are looked upon as feeders? A.—We have.

Q.—How much do you pay them? A.—They get from \$3 to \$4 a week.

Q.—Do they work at night? A.—Sometimes they do.

Q.—How much per hour do they receive? A.—It is in accordance with the weekly allowance they receive. All over \$3 receive 10 cents an hour over-time; all receiving \$3 and under a week receive 5 cents an hour for over-time.

Q.—How many hours in the night do those receiving 5 cents an hour work? A.—Well, sometimes they come back and sometimes they do not.

Q.—And if they do not come back, what becomes of them—are they discharged or fined? A.—No.

Q.—Do you impose any fines? A.—None whatever.

Q.—Do you know about the working of the bindery? A.—Yes.

Q.—What do you pay for book-binders? A.—We have no book binders; we do not do any binding.

Q.—What do you pay to book-folders? A.—From \$2 to \$3.75 a week.

Q.—For how many hours? A.—Fifty-four hours.

Q.—Don't they work at night? A.—Sometimes.

Q.—What do they receive per hour at night? A.—Proportionately to what they earn in the day—5 and 10 cents per hour, as stated.

Q.—What are their hours? A.—That would all depend upon the circumstances—the nature of the work upon which they are employed and the urgency for its completion. They work from seven until ten o'clock, if they work over-time at all; that would be the standard; they never go beyond that.

Q.—Have you got any rules in connection with the department where the women are working? A.—With respect to what?

Q.—With respect to fining—your regulations? A.—The greatest of leniency is shown to the girls; if they live at a distance, although they are required to work at night, we let them go.

Q.—Have you a foreman or a forewoman over these girls? A.—A foreman.

Q.—Do you know of his using any bad language in connection with these girls? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—How is the sanitary condition of the office? A.—Good.

Q.—Have you got separate conveniences for both sexes? A.—Yes; one is set apart for girls in the top story.

Q.—For the women working in the press-room, is there a separate place for them?
A.—They go up-stairs.

Q.—How is the ventilation in the composing-room? A.—In the composing-room and press-room it is very fair.

Q.—Are the water-closets for the men in good condition? A.—It is never reported to be otherwise; if there is anything wrong, and it is reported, the defect is always rectified, and any suggestion made by the health inspector, anything that is reported by him to us to do, is done.

Q.—How many times a year is your establishment inspected? A.—Once; I think once or twice a year.

Q.—Are there doors to all the water-closets? A.—There are.

Q.—Is there a water-closet on each flat? A.—No.

Q.—Would you tell us on which flats the water-closets are? A.—The press room is the lowest; that is the first flat. The second is the parliamentary room; there is one on that flat. There is one in the press-room. There is none in the departmental room. On the flat above that there is one; that is the one that the women go to.

Q.—Is that exclusively set apart for them? A.—Yes; that is the one on the top flat.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How many presses does a man have to attend to for \$11 a week? A.—One. He can do it on any one particular press, but he is only called upon to do work on one at a time. The departmental feeders receive \$12 to \$14 a week; and the man at the composing stone \$11 a week.

Q.—He receives the same as a compositor? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does a compositor who sets up both languages receive more? A.—No.

Q.—Have you got any copy-holders? A.—Yes.

Q.—What do they receive? A.—\$5.50 to \$6 a week.

Q.—Are they boys or men? A.—Boys.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Has there been any attempt to drive away your women printers? A.—None that I am aware of.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you had any labor troubles in your establishment? A.—No.

Q.—Do not you think that printing by women ought to be encouraged? A.—No; I do not.

Q.—Do you think that they should be excluded altogether? A.—Well, no; not altogether, but to a very great extent.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do the women do as good as the men? A.—Apparently she might, but practically she would not.

Q.—How long do your women remain with you? A.—We do not make changes very often.

Q.—Is the work very severe on a woman? A.—Well, there is a good deal of standing; they stand all the time, and that is pretty severe on a woman.

Q.—Are the men allowed to sit down? A.—Well, they may have a stool for the purpose, but it is not a recognized thing; they seem to prefer to stand.

Q.—The women need rest, so long standing? A.—Yes; a woman needs more rest than a man. I think the men set more type when standing.

Q.—Have you ever heard practical compositors say anything about that? A.—I have had a good deal of experience for fifteen years, and I think they set quicker standing.

Q.—Can you tell us if the females who feed the presses clean them up and wash them up? A.—A man takes charge of the presses. They are employed because

they are much more cleanly. Then, a man would have to wash the rollers. We do not wish them to take charge of the presses, we wish them simply to feed the presses—simply on account of its being a more cleanly way of doing the work.

Q.—Do I understand that the press-man washes up the rollers? A.—We have a man on purpose. He gets the composition ready, washes the rollers, and gets everything ready, and keeps everything in running order.

Q.—Has the factory inspector been around your premises? A.—He might have been, but not to my knowledge.

Q.—You have not been furnished with a copy of the Factory Act? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do the doors open outwards or inwards. A.—They open inwards.

Q.—Are you aware that by law they ought to open outwards? A.—No; I was not aware of it.

Q.—You know that the Factory Act says so? A.—I have not seen it.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Have you more than one entrance to the premises? A.—Only one.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you any fire-escapes? A.—None.

Q.—How many flights of stairs have you? A.—Three.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How many stories are there to the building? A.—Four stories, and then there is the fifth—it might be. It is a small place on top of the fourth story.

Q.—Are you aware that by the law of Ontario, on such stairways iron doors shall be provided, with a sufficient number of fire escapes! Have you read that law? A.—I never read the Bill; that has not been furnished to us.

Q.—That does not matter. That law was passed on the 20th of March, 1884—that is four years ago, and enforced in 1886. At all events, it has been passed four years, and strange to say, no employer seems to know anything about it.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Not even the parliamentary printers. A.—It has not come under my notice.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Have you ever had any accidents? A.—In my experience of fourteen years I think we have had two.

Q.—What was the nature of these accidents? A.—Fingers caught in the presses by the carelessness of those feeding them.

Q.—As they become familiar with the machines they are sometimes apt to become careless? A.—Yes; but I think I may say we are free from accidents, as a rule.

Q.—Have you had any other accidents besides those you have mentioned? A.—There is one other that I recollect—a man got his arm broken.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is yours a union office? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do the men and the employers work harmoniously together? A.—Yes.

Q.—There is a good feeling existing between employers and employed? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Would a non-union man be allowed to work in the office? A.—No.

Q.—Do you think it just. A.—That is one of the things I do not understand.

ALBERT FRENCH, Woollen Manufacturer, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—You are proprietor of the New Edinburgh mills. A.—Yes.

Q.—How long have you been running them? A.—Five years.

Q.—How many hands have you employed in your establishment? A.—
Seventy-five.

Q.—Of these, how many would be women and girls? A.—I think about half.

Q.—What would be about the age of the youngest person employed—that is, of the girls? A.—I do not think I have any under sixteen.

Q.—Have you any boys younger than that? A.—I have one boy about fourteen.

Q.—Do you consider that the men employed by you are skilled hands? A.—
Yes; they are skilled enough. We have what we call “bosses” in each room, and there are also men and girls.

Q.—Leaving out the “bosses,” what would be the average wages of these men, classing them up—we will commence with the spinners? A.—Well; spinners make \$1.50 a day.

Q.—And the others? A.—The others average from \$1.50.

Q.—What would be the earnings of these girls who work for you as spinners? A.—The men are spinners also.

Q.—The young girls you have employed by you, what do they earn daily? A.—
From 45 to 60 cents a day.

Q.—And the weavers? A.—The weavers make from \$16 to \$24 a month.

Q.—Are they female weavers? A.—Yes; I have only one male weaver.

Q.—Have you any accidents? A.—No; none.

Q.—Do you ever fine your employés? A.—We have to fine the weavers some times for bad cloth; we have promised to fine them; we have a notice up to that effect.

Q.—Do you know of any fines being kept back from them without notification? A.—Oh, no.

Q.—You have a notice that they would be fined? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you have much goods damaged? A.—No; we have a good deal of trouble with new weavers, and then they make so little wages that we could not fine them.

Q.—What do the young girls earn who are also weavers? A.—Forty-five to sixty cents a day.

Q.—What do the hands in the “picker room” get. A.—90 cents to \$1 a day.

Q.—And in the carding room? A.—Forty-five cents the girls get. There are boys who get 90 cents and \$1—that is running on cards.

Q.—What do your men get who have charge of the “filling-room”? A.—Our men working in the filling-room get \$1.25 a day.

Q.—There is another room for “French napping,” is there not? A.—“Napping” and “filling” it is the same thing.

Q.—How many hours a day do they work? A.—Ten hours a day—sixty hours a week.

Q.—How often do you pay your hands? A.—We pay on the second Saturday of every month; we pay them up to the first of every month, retaining in our hands two weeks' wages.

Q.—Is there any rule in your factory compelling employés to give you a fortnight's notice? A.—We ask two week's notice.

Q.—In the event of their not giving you notice, are their wages retained? A.—I have never done so.

Q.—Are your employés only fined for bad work? A.—That is all.

Q.—Do you know how many spinners there are in the spinning-room? A.—
There are jack spinners, and we spin by mules. We have men to look after them.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What is the highest and the lowest wages you pay to spinners ? A.—The lowest is 45 cents a day and the head spinner gets \$2 a day.

Q.—Do you work at night ? A.—We have not worked at night for one or two years.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are there separate conveniences for the sexes ? A.—There are separate conveniences for both sexes in each room.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Where do you get your raw material from ? A.—We get the raw material from foreign countries ; we import it ; a large portion we get in from Liverpool ; we use some Canadian.

Q.—Do you think if we had a mixed race of sheep it would result in your importing less wool ? A.—It is not because we have not got wool in the country, but the fact is, our wool is too coarse, if we grew finer wool we would import less. This climate does not seem adapted for finer wools. Merino is the finest wool.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—The wool you get in Canada is not so fine as that which you get from England and other countries ? A.—No ; English Southdown is a good, soft wool ; and then there is Cape wool (from the Cape of Good Hope) ; we use that as well. We use some Canadian wool which we obtain from the farmers.

WILLIAM GIBBONS, Ottawa, Manager of "The Citizen Printing and Publishing Company," called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are you a practical printer ? A.—Well, yes ; I suppose I may call myself a practical printer. I never learned the trade, but I understand it thoroughly. I am not what you would call a practical printer, but I understand the trade sufficiently for all intents and purposes.

Q.—How many compositors do you employ at the present time ? A.—I suppose about eighteen.

Q.—They work principally at night ? A.—Well, twelve of them do, and the balance work in the day time, jobbing.

Q.—What are the wages paid to book and job hands ? A.—Eleven dollars a week.

Q.—How many hours do they work a week ? A.—Fifty-four.

Q.—Do the printers working on the newspaper work by the piece ? A.—Yes ; by the piece.

Q.—What are they paid per 1,000 ems ? A.—Thirty-six and a-half cents.

Q.—Do the advertisements go to the office ? A.—The advertisements go to the office ; that is an understood thing with the men of the firm—between the men and the firm.

Q.—And commercial matter, which is particular work ? A.—At the present time it goes to the men.

Q.—How long are the men engaged in composition—the night men ? A.—You mean to say up to what time ?

Q.—Yes ? A.—I suppose, on the average, 4.30. That would be the time they would leave the office. Actually, composition, I should say, stops about 4.

Q.—Do the men have much idle time in waiting for copy ? A.—No.

Q.—There have been no complaints on that score ? A.—No complaints at all.

Q.—Do they charge for this idle time ? A.—No.

Q.—In what state are the water-closets ? A.—The closets in the old building are outside. We are just moving into our new building.

Q.—Are they in good condition? A.—They are in very fair condition.

Q.—Are there any women employed around the building? A.—Only one at present.

Q.—What do your proof-readers make? A.—Our proof-reader at the present time makes about \$12 a week. Part of the time he reads proofs; he also sets type.

Q.—Do you take on apprentices? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long do apprentices generally serve in Ottawa? A.—Five years.

Q.—How much do they receive the first year? A.—In the book and job room \$1.50 for the first six months.

Q.—Are they indentured? A.—Well, no; we do not indenture them.

Q.—Do they generally work out the five years? A.—Yes; we have very little trouble with them.

Q.—Do they generally remain with the office? A.—In most cases; quite a number of those who were apprentices and served their time with the firm are with us now.

Q.—Have you experienced any labor troubles? A.—No.

Q.—There is good feeling between employers and men? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—How many hours do the compositors on day-work work? A.—Fifty-four hours a week—nine hours a day.

Q.—Do the compositors go back in the day time to distribute their type? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long does that take them? A.—A couple of hours.

Q.—That would make eleven hours in the twenty-four? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are the average earning in these days? A.—On a morning paper?

Q.—Yes? A.—They vary; they run from \$9.50 to \$17 for a man who is most expert—per week.

Q.—That is the average—from \$9.50 to \$17 per week? A.—Yes; that is the general average.

Q.—Would they average from \$9.50 to \$17 a week all the year round? A.—Yes. There are only a couple of men that get \$17 a week.

JOHN T. BYRNE, Printer, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Where are you employed? A.—I am foreman in the departmental room of the firm of MacLean, Roger & Company.

Q.—Did you hear the evidence of the book-keeper of that firm recently given? A.—No; I have just come into the room.

Q.—Do you know anything in connection with the folding-room? A.—I have just charge of the departmental room. I have seventeen hands and a couple of boys under me—nineteen hands altogether.

Q.—How much do the men receive at night in your department? A.—We have no night work at all. We have only worked nine hours a day for the last two years. We pay them 25 cents an hour when they do work over-time.

Q.—Do you pay the union schedule? A.—Yes; the office is run according to the union principles and schedules.

Q.—What is the condition of the water-closets in your department? A.—They are cleaned out every day.

Q.—Are they all in good condition? A.—They are all in good condition; they seem to be.

Q.—How are the men paid? A.—Fortnightly.

Q.—Is there any part kept back? A.—There is nothing kept back, the fortnight is made up to the Friday night. The week commences on Saturday.

Q.—Is there any piece-work? A.—No.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—You say that only Union men are employed. Can you tell the reason why?
A.—Simply because all the other men would walk out if a non-union man was employed. The proprietors run the establishment according to the union principles, and the proprietors are union men themselves. One of our proprietors used to be vice-president of the union.

Q.—So that he was a prominent union man once? A.—Yes; Mr. J. C. Roger.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you ever had any trouble in your office? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you pay the stone-men more than you do the compositors? A.—No; they are all paid the same rates.

Q.—You keep the same men at the stone all the time? A.—Yes; there is one man we keep at the stone all the time, and there are other men that, according as a job is in a hurry, we take for the work.

MOSES C. EDEY, Carpenter and Builder, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How many men do you employ? A.—That is a difficult question to answer. I employ men according to the amount of work which I have on hand; the average is about ten, sometimes as high as fifteen.

Q.—What is the average wages of a good bench hand? A.—One dollar and seventy five cents a day is the average for outside hands, and we pay the same inside; we pay according to the work a man can do. One dollar and seventy five cents a day is about the average pay.

Q.—How do you find mechanics to-day compare as to skill in the trade to what they were when you learned the business? A.—Very moderately.

Q.—What percentage of what you consider to be skilled men can copy and take off the work from plans and drawings of an eighth scale? A.—Not one in six.

Q.—Do you take on apprentices? A.—Well, in fact we do not take on one in three years.

Q.—Do you experience some difficulty in Ottawa in getting an apprentice to serve out his time? We have learned that that is the great difficulty experienced by employers in other parts of the Dominion? A.—Yes; we do.

Q.—Do you think it possible for a boy to become a good mechanic unless he learns the theoretical and practical parts of his trade? A.—No; he would be better skilled if he learned his trade properly; but a great many do not have a practical man to teach them; they learn one thing in practice and another thing in theory.

Q.—Do you think if a system of technical education was introduced into Ottawa it would be taken advantage of by mechanics? A.—Yes; I believe it would, generally. Of course, if you take men who are inclined to climb to the top of the ladder they will always improve their opportunities, while others are satisfied with less.

Q.—What effect would a technical education have on the work? A.—It would have a desirable effect: for instance, if a man understands drawing you will find more symmetry about his work, as a rule, than you will find in the work of one who does not. A man who understands drawing, or is fond of drawing, has some head, and shows his knowledge by his work; we pay for head as well as body. A man may be a very good workman and have a very poor head.

Q.—Which would you think best: to impart this knowledge before or after they go to learn a trade? A.—Certainly, before they go.

Q.—How far do you think a training of that kind should be introduced into the public schools and imparted to scholars? A.—Of course, perhaps, my ideas would

not correspond with the ideas of others, but I believe we would find that it would pay to give such a training—as far as it can be applied—that is the great trouble with mechanics in particular. Before putting a boy to a trade his parents and friends should carefully consider what he is best fitted for. Otherwise, if he is put to learn a trade, say that of a carpenter, he may have learned things that are of no practical use to him; and the same may be the case if he is going to learn to be an engineer. Their object should be, first, to find out what a boy is best fitted for before he goes to learn it.

Q.—Do you think teachers are capable of teaching the theory? A.—We have had examples in our art schools. They can teach the theory, but the application of the theory they know nothing about.

Q.—Would you suggest the teaching of this course at night schools, or as a part of the curriculum of public schools? A.—I would be in favor of teaching it in the public schools, and then if we had night schools we could take in the night schools also. In the public schools it would be compulsory, of course—in the others, optional. Those who desired to embrace the opportunity could take in the night schools as well as the day schools.

Q.—On what subjects would you teach in these schools? A.—Practical geometry, as applied to mechanics; mechanics for those who are going to learn mechanical trades. Free-hand drawing in particular should be taught as the foundation of all; and then you want mechanical drawing and building construction. A thorough knowledge of these branches would be very advantageous to a practical man. Those having mastered these branches they might take an interest in other subjects.

Q.—Have you had any men in your employ who have taken this course? A.—None—with the exception of one.

Q.—Do you know whether those who have taken the course have been able to command better positions? A.—Yes; they get them in this way. When others are walking the streets they will get work, and will get from 30 to 40 cents a day more.

Q.—If all workmen took this course, would it not have a tendency to equalize the skill of work? A.—Yes.

Q.—It would make them skilled workmen? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think it would do away with the system of grading, at present in vogue? A.—Yes; to some extent. But you must recollect that there are some men who will never make mechanics.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You mean to say that to those who have talent, and a desire to develop that talent, these art and technical schools are a benefit; and at the same time there are other men who will never be good mechanics, from a general lack of application? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you ever visited any of the technical schools in the United States? A.—No; I never had the opportunity.

Q.—Did you ever have any technical schools in Ottawa? A.—No; we have an art school, but the standard is too high for mechanics and tradesmen. Mechanical and art drawing is taught, but nothing of a technical nature. That has been the great trouble in all our schools; the standard has been rather too high.

(Translation.)

EVENING SESSION—Saturday, 5th May, 1888.

* * * , engaged in a Match Factory of Ottawa, being sworn, deposesh as follows:—

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—What are you doing? A.—I am working at the match-shop.

Q.—How old are you? A.—I am thirteen years old.

Q.—How long have you been working there? A.—It will be fourteen days to-night.

Q.—How much do you make? A.—Forty-five cents.

Q.—When do you commence in the morning and when do you finish at night?
A.—We commence at 6 o'clock and let off at noon; in the evening we finish at 6 o'clock, and on Saturdays we finish at 5 o'clock in the evening.

Q.—Does the foreman ill-treat you in any way? A.—No.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Did you work anywhere else before? A.—Yes; I have driven horses and worked in a mill.

Q.—How long since you first worked in a mill, at Booth's? A.—Only half-a-day.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—How old were you when you commenced? A.—I could not say.

Q.—Is it long ago? A.—From the day that I commenced to work this year; it is the first year that I worked.

Q.—Are you able to read and write? A.—I can write a little.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Can you write? A.—Yes; I can write in the books.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Is your hand maimed? A.—Yes.

Q.—How did you come to get hurt? A.—At Booth's, when I worked a half-day there.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How comes it that you had your fingers cut? A.—I was drawing a big piece of plank and I fell with one leg in a hole, and I cut one finger there; I went to make a grab, and I grabbed on to the saw.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do the boys change places often in these manufactories? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you know why they change often? A.—Because some places are better than others; that is the reason they change.

Q.—But where you work at present, do they change boys often? A.—Yes.

Q.—That means that the boys leave? A.—Yes; and others take their place.

Q.—But when they are with you, do they remain there or do they go elsewhere?
A.—They remain there then, but they change places among the little boys in the same factory.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—What kind of a hole was that that you fell into—is it in the shop? A.—No; it is a little slide of water where scrapings are thrown.

(Translation.)

* * * , engaged in a Box Factory at Ottawa, being sworn, deposes as follows:—

By Mr. BORVIN:—

- Q.—How old are you? A.—I do not know.
 Q.—Have you made your First Communion? A.—No, sir.
 Q.—Can you read? A.—No, sir.
 Q.—Have you been in this place long? A.—Yes, sir.
 Q.—Have you got your father and mother? A.—Yes.
 Q.—What does your father do? A.—He is a mechanic.
 Q.—Have you been working long in the mill? A.—No, sir; not long.
 Q.—How long? A.—About a week.
 Q.—Have you worked anywhere else before? A.—Yes, sir; with farmers.
 Q.—How long did you work elsewhere? A.—About three months.
 Q.—How much do you make a day, at present? A.—I do not know; I have not been told.
 Q.—Have you any little brothers working with you? A.—No.
 Q.—What do you do at the box factory? A.—I load up and carry little planks that are cut.
 Q.—Do you go near the machinery? A.—Yes, sir; I work near a saw, with a man.
 Q.—Do the boys get caught sometimes in the saw? A.—Yes, sir.
 Q.—Do you like that kind of work? A.—Yes, sir.
 Q.—Wouldn't you like better to go to school? A.—It's all the same to me.

(Translation.)

* * * , employed in Mills at Ottawa, being sworn, deposes as follows:—

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

- Q.—How old are you? A.—Thirteen years.
 Q.—How long have you been working in the shop where you are now? A.—Fourteen days this evening.
 Q.—How much do you make? A.—Forty-five cents.
 Q.—Have you ever worked anywhere else before this? A.—No, sir.
 Q.—It is the first time that you work in a shop? A.—Yes.
 Q.—What do you do? A.—I carry the cull of timber and planks.
 Q.—Are you over thirteen or not yet thirteen? A.—I am just thirteen.
 Q.—Can you read and write? A.—Yes.
 Q.—At what time do you go to work in the morning? A.—At 6 o'clock, up to 6 o'clock in the evening.
 Q.—With an hour for dinner? A.—Yes.

* * * , Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON:—

- Q.—What is your age? A.—I am thirteen years past.
 Q.—Where do you work? A.—Down at the box factory at the Chaudière.
 Q.—What do you work at? A.—At the board machine for making boxes.
 Q.—Is it a machine where there are saws on it? A.—Yes; there are ten saws on it.
 Q.—Are those saws covered over? A.—Yes.
 Q.—How close do your hands go to the saws? A.—About 1 foot.
 Q.—Is there anything to prevent your hands from being thrown on to these saws? A.—No.
 Q.—Nothing at all? A.—No.

Q.—Have you known any accident to happen in that factory since you came there? A.—No.

Q.—Have any boys been caught in the saws, to your knowledge? A.—Not that I know of.

Q.—Was not a boy caught in those saws there some little time ago? A.—Not that I know of.

Q.—How long have you been there? A.—Two weeks next Monday.

Q.—What are your wages per day? A.—Forty-five cents.

Q.—Has it been that since you started? A.—Yes.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—What time do you go to work? A.—Six o'clock in the morning.

Q.—What time do you go to dinner? A.—Twelve o'clock.

Q.—When do you start work again? A.—At ten minutes to one.

Q.—When do you quit work? A.—At six at night.

Q.—Do you work all day on Saturday? A.—No; we quit work at five o'clock on Saturdays.

Q.—Do you feel tired sometimes at that work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there any boys younger than you are at work there? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the age of the youngest? A.—I do not know.

* * * , Ottawa, called and sworn.

Q.—What is your age, past? A.—I am twelve years past.

Q.—Do you work at the Chaudière? A.—Yes; in the box factory.

Q.—How long have you been working there? A.—Four weeks on Tuesday.

Q.—What kind of a machine is it that you work at? A.—I do not work at a machine at all; I just carry the blocks and another man puts it on the machine.

Q.—The machine you take these blocks from is it a sawing machine? A.—Yes; the boys carry the blocks and pile them on the bench, and I carry them from the bench.

Q.—What hours do you work? A.—From six o'clock in the morning till six o'clock at night.

Q.—How long are you allowed for dinner? A.—One hour, all but ten minutes.

Q.—What wages do you receive? A.—Twenty-five cents a day.

Q.—Have you known any little boys to get cut in the place where you are working? A.—No little boys. There is a man who got his finger cut off.

Q.—Where this man got his finger cut off, could you get yours cut off too? A.—Working around the saw.

Q.—Yes? A.—He was working the edger; it is not the same kind of a machine that I carry the blocks to.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—What size are the blocks? Are they heavy pieces of wood? A.—The blocks are not heavy, they are thin ones.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Can you read and write, my little boy? A.—Yes, sir.

* * * , of Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—What age are you? A.—I am fourteen in August.

Q.—Where do you work? A.—I work at Mr. Booth's mill at the Chaudière.

Q.—How long have you been working in the box factory? A.—Since the 25th of April I have been working in the mill.

Q.—What were you working at last year in the box factory? A.—I was working on the butting-saw last year.

Q.—What age would you be in August last? A.—Thirteen.

Q.—What age were you when you commenced to work? A.—I was twelve and a-half years old when I began this work.

Q.—What hours do you work? A.—From six to twelve; then we have an hour for dinner—not quite an hour, because we start work again at five or ten minutes to one, and then we work until half-past six at night. We quit work at six o'clock on Saturday.

Q.—Are there any boys working there younger than you are? A.—Yes.

Q.—What ages are they? A.—Eleven and twelve years of age.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What mill do you work in? A.—Mr. Booth's. I work at the butting-table.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Did you work the same hours that you do this last year? A.—A little longer.

Q.—How long did you work there last year of a day? A.—Just the same hours.

Q.—You worked for more than six weeks, did you? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you start when the mill started? A.—Yes.

A.—And you stopped when the mill closed in the fall? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Do these little boys who work there work at night? A.—Yes; two or three of the little small fellows.

Q.—Are any of them under eleven years of age? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are some of them under ten years of age? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Do you know a boy named Brady who works in the mill? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know his age? A.—No.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—How long do they work in the mill at night? A.—They begin at seven at night and leave at five in the morning.

Q.—What do they do? A.—They work at the butting-table—they carry blocks away from the saw.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—How much do you make a day? A.—I made 60 cents a day last year; I do not know how much I will make this year.

Q.—Do you know what the little ones get? A.—No.

FRANCIS J. FARRELL, Printer, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you worked long in Ottawa as a printer? A.—Fourteen years.

Q.—What are the sanitary conditions of the printing offices in Ottawa? A.—I cannot speak of any but the office I am working in. I am working for Messrs. MacLean, Roger & Company, Parliamentary Printers. I have been working for them ever since I came here, on the 16th of September, 1874.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of that office, both as regards ventilation and private conveniences? A.—Well, in summer it is well enough, because you can keep the place open, but in winter it is a very close place, almost hermetically sealed. There are no double windows, and they paste them up to keep out the draughts, so that makes it a very close place in winter.

Q.—Are there conveniences on each flat? A.—No; not on each flat.

Q.—Are there separate conveniences for both sexes? A.—Yes; but they have to pass two flats. The women have to go up stairs.

Q.—The men are generally engaged in their work—and the women pass up?
A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any dangerous machinery? A.—Well, machinery, as a rule, is dangerous if not protected. There is a great deal of machinery in the press-room not in a protected state. I would not like to pass through them—that is, between them.

Q.—Have any accidents happened to persons passing the presses? A.—Accidents have happened, perhaps on account of the persons themselves.

Q.—Is the drinking water easy of access? A.—It is easy of access, but it is not always available. We feed the engines from where we take our drinking water, and at times we are delayed.

Q.—Are there water-closets where the hands work? A.—There is one on the flat where I am working.

Q.—How many have access to that water-closet? A.—About one hundred.

Q.—Is there any objectionable smell in the summer time from it? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you known men to be sick and to go home on account of it? A.—I have heard that some men go home on account of it; I do not know personally—that is, those who work close to it.

Q.—How far is it from the frames? A.—I would say 2 feet.

Q.—Have you ever known any men leave the office on account of it—leave the building—the establishment? A.—I believe they have; I could not recall the name of any individual.

Q.—Are you acquainted with the class of houses that workingmen live in?
A.—Yes.

Q.—In what condition are these houses? A.—As far as I am acquainted with them, they are in a healthy condition. This is a small city; it is different from large cities; the houses here are not the same as in larger cities. The tenant has the complete control of his house. The rents were raised with the prosperity of the times, and are high; and there are some houses in some parts of the town where several families congregate together, so as to lessen the rent.

Q.—You say that house rents have increased? A.—Yes; house rent has increased in Ottawa every year for the last five years.

Q.—What would a man pay for a house of six rooms, ten or fifteen minutes' walk from the post office? A.—Well, ten or fifteen minutes' walk from the post office, \$9—perhaps \$10—\$9 is the average.

Q.—Are they very convenient houses? A.—Not always; some have been constructed in a hasty manner, and are kind of damp; others have been remodelled, but have not been improved in the process, so far as health is concerned. They were built at a time when Ottawa was only a village and are not suitable for a growing city.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Are they as convenient as an ordinary farmer's house? Do they contain the same conveniences as an ordinary farmer's house? A.—They are not so convenient as an ordinary farmer's house, for the reason that the conditions are different.

Q.—Have you not very few houses in the city of Ottawa that are not as convenient as a farmer's house? A.—I should think they would not be.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you any further information that you consider would be important for the Commission to know, with reference to the workingmen of Ottawa? A.—Yes; the workingmen of Ottawa might have their condition improved. A great deal might be done towards ameliorating their condition. Outside my business I have little to do with them, on account of having nothing to do outside the printing business; but I find in cases where men do not combine a sort of tyranny is practised by employers, one way or another—if not actual slavery.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What do you mean by actual slavery—I thought we lived in a free country?
A.—By compelling a man to work more than ten hours a day, and to pay him only sufficient for a very bare subsistence at that, where he does not combine.

Q.—That is your definition of slavery? A.—Yes; because some men have no conscience and——

Q.—That will do; I merely asked you your definition of the term “acts of slavery and tyranny.” You consider that a man who voluntarily works fourteen or fifteen hours a day subjects himself to tyranny and acts of slavery? A.—Yes; I consider that he is a voluntary slave.

Q.—You have a sanitary inspector in Ottawa? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever complained to him of the state of the place? A.—He has been there.

Q.—Now, you have spoken of the tyranny practised by employers. A.—Yes; I used the word “tyranny.”

Q.—At this season of the year, do you think it would be tyranny to make a man pay higher wages than he expected to pay when he entered upon a contract—that is, supposing he had a considerable contract to fill? A.—I think that if labor was organized they should demand a fair day's pay for a good day's work; the employers well know what wages the men should receive. Some of them have been working men themselves.

Q.—You have not answered my question. Supposing a contractor has entered into a contract to perform certain work, and he bases his figures upon the current rate of wages, do you not think it would be tyranny on the part of the men to insist upon higher wages than the current rate? A.—If the men were not receiving a proper rate of wages I would not.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—The office that you work in, has it always been considered a safe building?
A.—No.

Q.—You consider it as unsafe to work in? A.—I do not consider it so now; it was at one time. You asked me if I always considered it so.

Q.—Yes; there have been some supports put to the building. If there had not, been serious consequences might have ensued. There was a considerable scare there one time. There are heavy things stored there—heavy machinery, stones and type.

ALEXANDER SHORT, Printer, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How long have you been at the business in Ottawa? A.—About twelve years.

Q.—What is your experience as to the sanitary condition of the printing offices in Ottawa? A.—Taken as a whole, I think they are in a very unsatisfactory condition; I have never met with worse.

Q.—Are there any dangerous elevators in these buildings? A.—Yes; they fall very fast. I have seen, during the last two years, two men nearly killed by them. One saved his head by catching the rail; if his head had been 1 or 2 inches more forward he would have snapped his neck.

Q.—How long is that ago? A.—About a year and a-half ago.

Q.—Is that elevator properly regulated? A.—No; forty miles an hour is about the rate it falls. No one would hardly conceive the danger.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—That is very rapid, indeed? A.—Yes; it is very rapid; it breaks and falls, and is very dangerous to any one using it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you know any printing offices in this town who pay their men by store orders? A.—No; I do not. I know some who have issued orders to men who have asked for their pay in advance. They wanted their clothing, furniture, and so on, and obtained an order for \$20 or \$30, and paid back the proprietor so much a week.

Q.—This firm that you speak of now: do they pay their wages regularly? A.—Not always on pay-day.

Q.—Have you known any firm in this city keep back men's wages two or three weeks and then pay them by instalments. A.—Yes.

Q.—Does that establishment do it at the present day? A.—Yes; they do, but they promise to do better in future.

Q.—Can you give us any opinion—taking the working classes—the skilled working classes of Ottawa: have their wages increased to any extent during the past five years and has their condition improved in any way? A.—I think the earnings of the printers have increased in one way; but when you take the rise in rents into consideration that lowers it; the rise in wages has not been equal to the rise in rents. I am paying rent for a house now. I am paying \$8 a month for a house which, when I first came to Ottawa, I could have got for about \$4.

Q.—How many years ago? A.—Well, eight years ago, I believe. It was \$4 a month; and of course they are getting worse every year, if anything. These houses are of very small value and are in a very poor condition. As far as workingmen's houses are concerned in this city, I do not think I have seen worse. I have lived in Kingston, Toronto, Port Hope and Napanee, and in other places, and I never met with worse—that is, the houses rented by the working classes. I really think it would be beneficial to have some of the Irish landlords imported to Canada.

Q.—Have you anything further to say that might be of interest to the Commission, in your opinion? A.—I think the premises could be made better for the workmen by better ventilation, and the sanitary conditions of the offices could be improved.

Q.—Have you known the sanitary inspector to go around the printing offices? A.—I never saw the inspector; I never heard anything of him.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—I suppose if he went around he would not have failed for something to do? A.—He would have found plenty, but I have never seen him around.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What is the minimum wages that a printer earns in the city of Ottawa? A.—Eleven dollars a week.

Q.—How many hours does he work a day? A.—Nine hours a day.

Q.—That is what is earned? A.—Yes; by the week.

Q.—Are there any printers receiving less than that? A.—Yes; they are in non-union offices. All union men receive \$11 a week—some over that.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do the men have to pass any inspection before they are permitted to join your society? A.—They have to be printers.

Q.—But do you take into your society men who are incompetent printers? A.—We have had to take incompetent men from the employers, and in the long run they have created trouble, on leaving the city and going elsewhere. That is through the avarice of proprietors.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What are the average earnings on an evening paper? A.—Twelve dollars per week.

Q.—And on a morning paper? A.—\$14.00, or \$14.50 per week.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do these men whom you say you are forced to take in, through the avarice of the proprietor, receive the same salary as you do? A.—Yes; if they are competent.

Q.—How is that? A.—Influence often does that.

Q.—Where does the influence come from? A.—That is behind the scenes.

Q.—We would like you to explain how that is, that a man not competent is received into your society and receives the same salary as a competent man? We are a Commission duly appointed to make enquiry into all questions for the benefit of labor, and so we should like to find out where the influence comes from? A.—I will state the case this way: Supposing a young man comes from the country—he comes from a country place, and gets into a printing office through the influence of a member of Parliament, we will say.

Q.—He will have to join the union? A.—Yes.

Q.—And then he is taken? A.—Yes; if that young man goes to another place he cannot call himself a journeyman. He has to wait until he becomes a thoroughly competent man. He has to pass an examination before the foreman of the office, and the word of the foreman is always taken first. It does not matter whether the office belongs to the union or not, the foreman is supposed to be the judge.

Q.—And if the foreman said he was not competent, would you take his word? A.—Yes.

Q.—If the foreman said he was not competent you would take his word and not give him work? A.—The foreman's word would be taken; he is the competent judge.

Q.—But take a man who may not be a very good workman, and the employer wishes to give him work—suppose he does not wish to join the union and the foreman will not take him—what is to become of that man? A.—He will not be taken on.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you ever know employers in this town not to employ union men even no matter how good they were? A.—Yes; I have known them to refuse union men and keep the inferior men; they have done it for years.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Outside the city of Ottawa, what do you think a printer can make in a week at union prices by the job? A.—I do not quite understand your question. Do you mean by the piece—by piece work or by the week?

Q.—What is the highest amount, out of the city of Ottawa, that a man can make by union prices? A.—There is too much in that word. A man might strain himself and do a big amount.

Q.—What is reasonable? A.—A man could make \$12 in a week's work—that is reasonable.

Q.—By working fifty-four hours a week? A.—Yes.

Q.—That is the most? A.—Not the most.

Q.—I asked you what was the highest amount, outside the city of Ottawa, that a printer can earn by working a week of fifty-four hours? A.—That is, supposing he has the work before him?

Q.—That is the question. Supposing he has as much work as a man can do in fifty-four hours by the week? A.—A very rapid compositor may make \$14, but it is only a few that can do it.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Would that be on a morning or an evening paper? A.—On a morning paper; but that is not to be obtained week after week.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—We had evidence a short time ago. A gentleman, in giving his evidence here, stated that he paid some men \$1.75 a day and others \$2.50 a day. I said to him: "How is it that one man is only capable of earning \$1.50 a day or \$1.75 a day and another can earn \$2.50," and he said he paid them according to their ability, and that among mechanics, as in some other things, the more education a man had in sympathy with his work, such as technical schools, and so forth, the higher the wages he could command. Now, what I want to make out is, is one man better

than another in your business? Are there not some men who are worth more money than others to the employer, not only in ability, but in intelligence and knowledge of the business? A.—There are few men in the world but what consider: they know a little more than another.

Q.—I suppose you find among your fellow-workmen some of greater and some of less ability. Do not you think that those who are more able should get more money? A.—Well, allow me; I beg pardon, but you do not understand the printing business. You speak as though a man was working at some of these fancy trades.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—But if the men are working by the day one man might do much more than another, might he not? A.—Well, you will find a man working by the day do what he thinks is a fair day's work.

Q.—Mr. Boivin asks you if, in your trade, there are not some men who work much better than others, and consequently are deserving of better pay than others? A.—I believe in our business, taking one day with another, one man's work would average the same as another's for a week's work. One man might do more to-day and another might do more to-morrow, but taking it the week through, one man is about as good as another.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you anything to suggest with regard to the apprenticeship system? A.—Yes; we are injured a great deal in this city by boys. It is one of the greatest injuries to the printing business that I know of. Boys are taken into the city printing offices without any regard to fitness to learn the trade. Every boy who is about to learn the printing trade should know the general rudiments of an English education—reading, writing, and a certain amount of arithmetic, and English grammar. We find boys come into a printing office who cannot do so much as to spell simple words correctly. They are first employed in sweeping out the offices and running of errands. They receive what education they get in the printing office, and at the end of their five years' apprenticeship we find them to be incompetent workmen. It is an injustice to the employer and to them.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—What would you recommend for that? A.—As a remedy for that, I would recommend the indenture system. Now, if the bosses gave a guarantee, and the parents gave a guarantee that the boy would fulfil his apprenticeship, and the boy, on commencing his apprenticeship, proved on examination that he was properly qualified as to education, he could not but make a good printer.

Q.—We have had the experience of a large numbers in different trades, and they stated before this Commission that the great difficulty was the boys would run away to the States, or some place, and the bosses would lose money by them. How would you remedy that? A.—That is why I would recommend the indenture system. The parents or guardians would have to give a guarantee to the employers. I recommend the same system as the English system. It protects both the apprentice and the employer.

DAVID TASSÉ, Printer, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You are a printer? A.—Yes.

Q.—You have heard the evidence of Mr. Short and Mr. Farrell? A.—Yes; I have.

Q.—Do you corroborate what they said? A.—Well, not in every instance.

Q.—In what respect do you disagree with them? A.—Well, I do not agree with Mr. Short in all that he said about the houses in the city of Ottawa. Though not a landlord, I find the houses of the working people of the city of Ottawa pretty

fair. I have lived in Montreal, and I know the condition of the two places, and the fact is, I would rather live here than in Montreal, as far as the houses are concerned.

Q.—Do you agree with the witnesses as regards the sanitary condition of the printing offices? A.—I do.

Q.—Do you consider that they are in a bad state? A.—They might be a great deal better.

Q.—What is your opinion of what they said with regard to the apprentice question? A.—Well, that is a great trouble. Neither the bosses nor the parents wish to indenture them in our trade.

Q.—Can you tell why? A.—It seems to be a kind of agreement between the parents and the bosses—neither are willing that the apprentices should be indentured.

Q.—Can you tell why? Do you think that one reason why the boy's friends do not wish him to be indentured is because they are anxious to get him on piece-work, so that he should earn as much as possible without learning a perfect trade? A.—Yes; because they come to our place. We have known them to claim to have served four years when they have only served one and a-half years; and by the time they have served two and a-half or three years and a-half they assert they have served five years at the trade.

* * * , Laborer, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What are you employed at? A.—I work on the locks.

Q.—Have you been working long on the locks? A.—Twenty years the 9th of next month.

Q.—What is the average number of hours you put in out of the twenty-four? A.—The lock-men of the city of Ottawa, during 1887, worked from six at night until seven in the morning—that is to say, we were on duty all the time. For instance, during the month of May we worked 108 hours; in the month of June we worked 119; in the month of July we worked 126; in the month of August we worked 104 hours; in the month of September we worked 96 hours; in the month of October we worked 84 hours; in the month of November we worked 32 hours—being a total of 667 hours, which is equal to sixty-six days and nine hours for the season of 1887, at night.

Q.—How many hours do you put in in the day time? A.—All the time, besides the night time. I commenced to work on the 1st day of May, perhaps on the 2nd, and I lived there at the locks until the last day of November. There may be days when I would get a few hours' rest during the day, and nights when I would get a few hours during the night, but there is pretty near as much work at night as there is in the day time.

Q.—What number of hours have you worked without having any sleep? A.—I have worked from twelve o'clock on Sunday night until half-past one o'clock on Wednesday night with two hours' sleep; that was last spring.

Q.—Are you paid by the month, or by the week, or by the day? A.—By the day.

Q.—How much per day do you receive? A.—A dollar and a-quarter.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You are not paid in the winter? A.—No.

Q.—How much do you receive for night work? A.—Nothing; I get \$1.25 a day, and that includes the night. Night and day are both alike to us fellows.

Q.—Do they pay you for Sunday work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any lost time? A.—It is all right, as far as the wages go, but the wages are not sufficient for the work.

Q.—Has more attention to be paid to some locks than to others? A.—Sometimes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You think you ought to be paid something extra for night work? A.—Yes. I would like to give you a statement. There are certain grievances amongst the men. The Government, last year, put the whole of the men on the canal from Ottawa to Kingston on a standing wage of \$1.25 a day. We had \$1.20 a day, and that was given by the other Government in 1872 in lieu of house rent (the 20 cents), during the season of navigation. Now, the men up along the line to Kingston Mills have houses from the Government and a garden, and they can grow potatoes and get a great deal of fuel free, and so on. We at this end of the canal think that this is a grievance. Our expenses are greater, but we simply have our day's pay, no more; and we would like the Minister of Canals to receive our petition. We sent in a petition, and were told that it was received, and that is all we have heard of it.

Q.—What pay do the lock-men receive at the other end of the canal? A.—They receive the same pay and the extra privileges. We get \$1.25 a day and the people up there get the same.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—So you think you are entitled to get house rent free or more salary? A.—

Yes.

* * * , Laborer, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—I understand you also work on the canal, as lock-man, the same as the last witness? A.—Yes.

Q.—You heard him giving his evidence and you understood all that he said? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you approve of it? A.—I do.

Q.—Have you anything to add to what he has said? A.—Yes; I would like to say a little more. I think the hours we work too long for any man to stand it. We work without sleep at all hours, and without meals, sometimes. We may commence at 12 o'clock on Sunday night, and work all night and we have got to stay out until we have done our work for the time, which is generally 9 or 10 o'clock on Monday morning, before we go to breakfast. Sometimes we take breakfast and dinner together, and at other times we take dinner and supper together, and I think it is a very hard thing, after working all night, to have to turn out again and get no rest and get nothing extra for it. I know on the Lachine Canal there is only one lock, and there is a gang of eight men. Here there is a whole string of locks, and there are only eight men for the eight locks, while on the Lachine Canal there are eight men for every lock. Their lock is a little larger; it is a three-boats lock, but at the same time they are boats that are pulled through by horses, whereas here, up in Ottawa, with eight locks, one after the other in succession, they are put through by hand.

(Translation.)

EVENING SESSION—OTTAWA, Saturday, 5th May, 1888.

LOUIS GRATTON, Cabinet-maker and Joiner, Ottawa, being sworn, deposeseth as follows:—

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Are you working for yourself or for other persons? A.—I am working on my own account.

Q.—Have you men engaged in your service? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many have you? A.—At the present time I have five.

Q.—Have you children working for you? A.—No; but I have five men working for me.

Q.—What are the working hours in your factory? A.—Ten hours a day and nine on Saturday.

Q.—Can you tell us, thereabouts, the wages which these men make a week? A.—Ten dollars and fifty cents.

Q.—Have these men continuous work? A.—Yes; the whole year round.

Q.—Are there any of your men who have made savings or laid aside anything? A.—That's more than I can tell you.

Q.—Have you any trouble with your men? A.—No, sir; not at all.

Q.—Do you feel that you have opposition in your trade from goods coming from other quarters? A.—No.

Q.—You have nothing serious to complain of? A.—No, sir; not at all.

(Translation.)

OCTAVE LABELLE, Sub-foreman for Charlebois & Co., Contractors, of Ottawa, being sworn, deposesh as follows:—

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Will you tell us how many men you have employed in your service? A.—That depends; at the present time we have about forty. Sometimes we have as many as 250 and 300.

Q.—Do the workmen that you have at present do the same job, or do they work at different jobs? A.—At different jobs; we have them from journeymen up to artists.

Q.—Will you tell us, thereabouts, how much journeymen make a week? A.—We have some who make \$7 and others \$9.

Q.—The joiners: how much do they make? A.—We have them of different grades, and all depends on their skill. We have some who make \$1.75; others \$1.25 and \$2.

Q.—Do the joiners that make \$1.75 and up to \$2 a day work at the same job? A.—They do the same work as the others.

Q.—Why do you pay some \$2 and the others \$1.75? A.—Because the one who makes \$2 does more work than the others, and when we have a harder piece of work to do we give it to the one who is best able to do it.

Q.—There are some who do a greater quantity of work than others? A.—Yes; there are some men who are exceedingly slow, and to whom I should give no work at all.

Q.—Do you believe that if the workmen had more schooling it would improve their position? A.—Certainly; that would give them many advantages in understanding the plans and working them out for themselves.

Q.—As a rule, do you find the number of able workmen greater than that of common workmen? A.—I find more common workmen than able ones.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are not the men obliged to sign the contracts? A.—Never.

Q.—How often are they paid? A.—Every fortnight; they come to the office and their money is given them in an envelope.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Have you had any trouble with your men? A.—The first year we had a strike that lasted half a day.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—How long is that ago? A.—It was not the first year; it was two years ago. The trouble was about an increase of wages, and among the stone-cutters only; they demanded 25 cents a day more. They said nothing about it; they stopped working without saying anything. They came to the office all together, and I sent them back to work; I gave them their 25 cents. As to the bricklayers: they stopped work one whole day, about two years ago; they struck for an increase of wages, which was not reasonable. I would not give it to them, and they went back to work.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—You are obliged to follow the plans laid down by the architect? A.—Yes.

Q.—When the artist makes a mistake, is there any responsibility whatever incurred? A.—Not at all; all depends on circumstances. If the architect makes a mistake it has to be repaired, and we charge more.

Q.—But it is the client who pays, and not the architect? A.—It is the client, certainly; the architect is never responsible.

Q.—Whether the plan is good or bad, the architect gets his commission? A.—Yes; even for the extras that are made to correct the plan.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Then, he has an interest in making bad plans?

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Are you aware that at Ottawa, or in other towns of the Province, workmen have lost their wages through the fault of the contractor or the sub-contractor? A.—Oh, yes; very often; but I cannot enter into details.

Q.—Does not this happen especially when the contractor or sub-contractor has not the money needful to do the job? A.—That is always the case.

Q.—Or that he has put his contract too low? A.—Yes; that's it.

Q.—Do you think that a law rendering the owner responsible for the materials and the handiwork would be of advantage to the workman and the contractor? A.—Yes; advantageous for the workman and the contractor, only it would be necessary that the owner should have guarantees from the architect, because it is the architect who has to build, and if his plans must be altered, and if the contractor brings on extras, the owner is obliged to pay; but if he is obliged to pay the men over and above this he has a great deal of responsibility. On the other hand, as far as the contractor is concerned, there is another thing which does not look to me right. This is the of way of it: If a piece of land is not good, and you put up a house on it, the house is built and the architect is not liable; it is the contractor who is liable.

Q.—The architect does not point out the nature of the ground? A.—Not at all; you, yourself, are obliged to see that the ground is right, and you are held responsible for all damages which may befall the property; or, again, if there are flaws in the plans, if there are portions of the plans that are weak—something that will give way—the workman is responsible for this and the architect is not.

Q.—Do you know cases in which the architect forced the contractor to follow his plans when the contractor declared that the plan was not good? A.—Oh, yes; that happens almost every year. In that event, you file a protest before the notary, and if the owner, after consulting his architect, tells you to go ahead, then it is the owner that is responsible.

Miss * * * , Folder in a Printing Office, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Where are you employed? A.—In the Parliamentary Printing Office.

Q.—What do you do? A.—I am employed in the folding department.

Q.—How many hours do you work per day? A.—Nine hours.

Q.—Have you ever worked for a longer time than nine hours in the day? A.—Yes; I have work over-time, from 7 o'clock until 10 o'clock at night.

Q.—How are you paid—by the day or by the week? A.—I am paid by the day.

Q.—I receive \$2.50 a week.

Q.—Are you paid anything for over-time—any extra pay for over-time? A.—I am paid 5 cents an hour for over-time—15 cents for three hours.

Q.—You say you work from 7 in the morning until 9 at night? A.—I say I have worked from 7 in the morning until 6 o'clock at night, and then I have gone

to my supper and returned at 7 o'clock at night and have worked until 10 o'clock at night. We work from 8 o'clock in the morning until 6 o'clock at night now—at the present time.

Q.—It is optional for you to work over-time? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you go home to dinner? A.—Yes; I go home to dinner at 12 o'clock and I return at 1, and I work from 1 until 6.

Q.—Do any of the young ladies in your department bring their dinner? A.—Yes.

Q.—If you are late a quarter of an hour do you have an hour taken off of your time? A.—Yes.

Q.—When they bring their tea where do they make it? A.—Down on the boiler.

Q.—And whereabouts is the boiler? A.—In the press-room, down stairs.

Q.—Are there men around the boiler? A.—Well, no; not around the boiler.

Q.—It is just down stairs? A.—It is in a back, out-of-the-way place; not exactly in the press-room.

Q.—During the time that you have been there have you ever been fined? A.—No; if I lost an hour, or anything like that, they took it off of my work for the time, and I did not get anything for it.

Q.—But if you came in a quarter of an hour late it was taken off? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know if any girl had anything taken off of her wages for playing? A.—No; I did not hear of any.

Q.—Do you know what amount that fine was? A.—I could not tell you.

Q.—Do you know that she was fined? A.—Yes.

Q.—By whom? A.—By the foreman.

Q.—Do you know that afterwards it was brought to the notice of Mr. Roger? A.—I do not know.

Q.—You have no idea of the amount of that fine? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know what it was for? A.—No; I do not know. It was for fixing her hair, or something of that kind.

Q.—Has the foreman used bad language towards the girls, such as cursing and swearing? A.—Yes; I have know him to curse and swear.

Q.—Did you ever know him to be very violent in his language? A.—No; just cursing; that is all.

Q.—Have you known him to strike any one? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How long does it take girls to learn the folding? A.—About two weeks.

Q.—What do they get? A.—One dollar and fifty cents a week, and their salary is afterwards raised. Some get as high as \$4 a week; that is in the press room—\$2.50 a week they generally get.

Q.—What is the age of the youngest girl? A.—I could not tell you; there is one here.

Q.—Do you know any younger than she is to be working there? A.—I don't think so; I could not tell you, I am sure.

Q.—Do you know, a couple of years ago, of a very young girl working there? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is her name? A.—I do not know her name.

Miss * * *, Paper-folder, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—What is your age? A.—I am fourteen.

Q.—You heard the statements made by the other witness, did you? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you corroborate what she says? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any additional statement to make to what she has already said? A.—No.

- Q.—Have you ever been fined—that is, have you ever been docked in your pay for anything you have done, for instance, if you displease the foreman would he keep something off your pay? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Has he ever used bad language—towards you, such as swearing at you? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Has he used abusive language towards you? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Did you ever speak to Mr. Roger about it? A.—No.
- Q.—Do you know any of the little girls who did? A.—No.
- Q.—Do you carry your dinner with you to work? A.—No.
- Q.—You go home for your dinner? A.—Yes.
- Q.—About what are your earnings a week? A.—Two dollars.
- Q.—What are the number of hours that you work a day for these two dollars? A.—Nine hours.
- Q.—Did you ever work until ten o'clock at night? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Do you sit down at your work? A.—Yes.
- Q.—How long have you been at the folding? A.—A year and six months.
- Q.—And you only get \$2 a week now? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Your age was twelve and a-half years when you started at the work? A.—Yes.

Miss * * *, Ottawa, Folder, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q.—How long have you been working in the establishment of Messrs MacLean, Roger & Co? A.—Very nearly three years.
- Q.—What is your age? A.—I am seventeen.
- Q.—You heard the statement made by the other girls? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Do you corroborate what they have said? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Have you ever been fined? A.—Yes.
- Q.—What were you fined for? Was it for coming in late? A.—Yes.
- Q.—What did the foreman dock you for that? A.—Three or four cents.
- Q.—How much time would that be? A.—About an hour.
- Q.—Would you be an hour late or just a few minutes late when he would dock you an hour? A.—Sometimes I would only be a few minutes late.
- Q.—Have you ever known any little girls to be ill-treated in any way? A.—I do not know of any.
- Q.—Do you know of any being slapped? A.—No.

OTTAWA, 8th May, 1888.

CHARLES BRYSON, Dry-goods Merchant, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON:—

- Q.—You are a member of the firm of Bryson, Graham & Co.? A.—Yes.
- Q.—How many clerks do you employ in your establishment? A.—We have thirty salesmen at present; we have in all fifty-six—that is, hands about the place. We have thirty salesmen now.
- Q.—Of these hands that you employ, how many would be females? A.—Four sales-ladies.
- Q.—What would be the age of the youngest of these? A.—I think thirteen or fourteen years of age—about thirteen; possibly fourteen.
- Q.—What are these girls of fourteen years of age employed at? A.—Ticketing goods, sewing tickets on clothes, and so forth.
- Q.—Are they situated so that they can sit down when disposed? A.—They sit all the time at their work.

Q.—What would be the average wages of a dry-goods salesman? A.—I think ours would average \$10 a week.

Q.—And these female saleswomen? A.—Well, two of them have \$6, one \$3 and one \$2 a week. The little girl ticketing goods has \$2.

Q.—What hours do they have to work per day, the salesmen and saleswomen? A.—The salesmen work ten hours a day and the saleswomen, I think, less than nine hours.

Q.—Those that would be on as late as eleven o'clock at night on Saturdays, what time would they start in the morning? A.—They would start at ten o'clock; one at nine o'clock.

Q.—Have you any system of fines in your establishment? A.—No.

Q.—How are the conveniences—water-closets, and the like of that? A.—We have but one.

Q.—In use for both sexes? A.—Yes; we have a second, but they do not seem to use it.

Q.—Is it inside the building? A.—Yes; the young ladies might use the second, but they do not use it; they all use the same one. I do not think the ladies were ever inside the closet down stairs.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What is the reason they do not use the other closet? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Is it in an out-of-the-way place? A.—No.

Q.—Is it just as convenient as the other one. A.—Yes.

Q.—How often do you pay your hands? A.—Every Saturday evening.

Q.—Do you employ any milliners and dressmakers? A.—No.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Are both water-closets in the cellar? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think if these water-closets were in a more convenient place—for instance, not in the cellar—the girls would be more apt to use them. A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you not think that is the reason they do not use them. A.—Well, I could not say, I am sure. Our girls have all very short hours—that is, they go out very often. They come in at ten and leave at twelve, and come back at one and leave at five. They are out a good deal; the day is broken up.

Q.—Do any of your clerks eat their meals in the shop. A.—Those that live at a distance do.

Q.—Do you make up or manufacture anything? A.—We manufacture nothing on the premises.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do any people work for you outside? A.—Yes; in manufacturing ready-made clothing.

Q.—How many? A.—Thirty or forty persons.

Q.—Are you able to tell us the wages women earn on clothing. A.—We pay 25 cents for a pair of pants; the same for a vest; 65 cents for a coat; overcoats, \$1. We manufacture shirts outside; we pay \$1.50 per dozen, without collars, and \$1.80 with. We pay the same for cotton; we only make the coarser cotton, not the finer.

Q.—Do your hands have to find cotton, or anything. A.—No; we find everything.

Q.—Do you impose any fines? A.—There are no fines imposed on those people who manufacture for me.

Q.—Are you able to tell us how many coats a woman would make in a week? A.—I could not. I think they are made by women who do their own housework, and make them in their spare time. Any time they have got to themselves they sit down and do that work.

Q.—Can you tell us if many people are employed in dry-goods stores in Ottawa? A.—There are a good deal.

Q.—Could you tell us anything of their general condition, and treatment, or hours? A.—No; I could not.

Q.—Have you heard any complaint as to the long hours and the inconveniences they suffer? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How late do your clerks have to work of an evening? A.—The clerks come back again, half of them, until nine o'clock every evening.

Q.—Do they get any extra pay for that? A.—No; nothing extra.

Q.—Supposing clothing is imperfectly made, what do you do then? A.—If a garment is imperfectly made we stop giving them work. We change hands. However, I may say that we have had the same hands a good many years. I think I remember in one or two instances we sent the piece back to be done over again.

Q.—You have an inspector to look over the work when it comes in? A.—Yes; I have seen them returned for pressing more than anything else.

Q.—Do the women outside do the pressing? A.—Yes.

Q.—And you do not fine them for bad work? A.—No; we simply stop giving them any, and try some one else.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Do any of your girls stay until eleven o'clock at night? A.—No; they go at nine; they are not on every night until nine o'clock. The girls that remain until nine o'clock at night come at eleven in the morning, and those that remain on until nine at night have two hours in the day, between ten o'clock and nine at night, for dinner and supper. They work till nine in turn—alternate weeks. Those that leave at six at night come on at nine in the morning.

Q.—Does a clerk who speaks two languages obtain more pay than a clerk who speaks only one language? A.—They earn more. Our clerk's wages are not by salary alone, as his salary is earned when he has sold \$200 worth of goods; if he sells another \$100 worth during that week he has on Saturday night \$15—not \$10, so that they are all interested in making sales. I think our salaries are as large as any. We have men who earn \$22 and \$25 a week.

Q.—They speak both languages—English and French? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is it more expensive for a young woman to live in the position of clerk or saleswoman than for her to live if she worked in a factory? A.—She is supposed to dress better; I do not know how much it costs.

Q.—She has to wear more collars and cuffs? A.—Yes.

Q.—She is not under more expense, is she? A.—I believe she would be.

SAMUEL CARSLY, Dry-goods Merchant, Montreal, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—In stores where salesmen and saleswomen are employed what supervision is generally made in the way of lavatories and water-closets—do you prefer to make a general statement? A.—Well, I will answer that question, and will then continue and make a statement. Generally, the only water-closets are in the cellar. I will speak now not only of Montreal, but from my experience in other places as well—Brockville, Ottawa and Toronto, particularly—where we have had occasion to examine dry-goods premises during the last twelve months' with a view to taking them. We have known both salesmen and saleswomen, dressmakers and milliners, all to be in the same house, all in the same employ, and in every case, without exception, we found there was only one water-closet, and that was in the cellar. These cellars, although not dark in every case, were so for the most part.

Q.—Do you know what provision is made to prevent the sexes meeting at all, at each places, or if there is any such provision? A.—No; none whatever; and in every case there is only one entrance to the cellar.

Q.—Where? A.—By a door under the stairway. We found that particularly to be the case in Toronto. They are all equally bad. Toronto was as bad as, if not worse than, any other place; it was as bad there as it could possibly be. In a certain house there there was a water-closet with only one seat for all the employés; in other places they have two seats, with only a thin board partition between them, and the only provision afforded the young people for washing their hands—which has to be done very often, on account of handling very delicate material—is down past where these men go in the cellar, and usually there are no urinals for the men, except they use the seats (water-closets).

Q.—Can you tell us what conveniences there are for the girls in dry-goods stores where milliners and dressmakers are employed. A.—There are none that I saw. In one case—there was one building occupied by three tenants—a dry-goods man and salesman; a dressmaker, with a staff of young people, and a milliner with her staff; and for the whole building there was one closet in a dark cellar.

Q.—How are the milliners' and dressmakers' apprentices treated in Montreal? A.—In some cases I believe they are treated well, and in many cases they are made to work very late, and without any extra pay, and from some stores you will see them delivering parcels on a Saturday night in the middle of the night.

Q.—What time have they to commence work in the morning? A.—Eight o'clock in the morning is the standard in our business.

Q.—And as a rule what hour do they go away? A.—You see there are two classes of milliners and dressmakers, one employed by dry-goods foremen, and there are private establishments conducted by ladies. I cannot speak so much of these private places; but I think the shops, as a whole, now let them off at pretty good hours where they do the better class of trade; where the shops are smaller they keep them till sometimes eight, nine, ten and eleven o'clock on Saturday nights.

Q.—Can you tell us anything about the condition of girls employed in shirt factories and clothing firms? A.—Their condition is as bad as the others I have complained of. The complaint we hear from these people is irregularity of pay. The reason I know is this: When they come to my store to buy they cannot pay for the goods, and want us to put them on one side until they can pay for them. They sometimes show us "due bills" from these factories and firms, and say they cannot get their pay, and ask us to take them.

Q.—Do all these factories you have mentioned or referred to adopt this system? A.—I would not say all, but some of them.

Q.—Do you think there is much hardship suffered by this class of people by that system of paying in due bills? A.—My opinion is the greatest hardship any of our working people can suffer and do suffer is the irregularity in the payment of their wages.

Q.—Does this practice of paying wages by due bills also apply to the city of Toronto? A.—I do not know anything about the Toronto trade in that respect, but when a person works at his or her own house—when they take the work home and do it, and are paid in this way, it is a great hardship. They are forced to buy on credit and are compelled to pay more than what the stuff is worth, because they do not get paid themselves weekly.

Q.—Would you agree to the extension of the provisions of the Factory Act to dry-goods stores and other businesses, such as wholesale clothiers, shirt factories, and so on? A.—Yes; I think it is quite as necessary to regulate them as the factories. I think the suffering endured by the operatives or employés in such places is just as great as the suffering endured by the operatives in factories; and I think the smaller the town—the smaller the stores—the more hardship there is to endure.

Q.—What would you suggest as the best means of remedying these evils, with regard to the treatment of women and children and the employment of children? A.—I think the employers themselves will never remedy it in any way, and the only way that I can see of mending it is legislating so as to compel employers to dismiss them at certain hours, and have the water-closets and other places so that women and

children will not be compelled to go down into the cellar, or use the same conveniences as the opposite sex.

Q.—You would have the conveniences for males located in a different part of the building? A.—I would.

Q.—You believe that the helpless classes—women and children—shall be the wards of the Government, and the Government shall be responsible for them? A.—Yes; and from what I have seen, the employers will never do it until so compelled—at least, that is my opinion.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do you find that Canadian goods are increasing in sales? A.—I think that the sale of Canadian goods for the low and cheap trade is increasing, but not for the better trade.

Q.—Do you manufacture anything yourself? A.—Well, we have dressmaking; we don't call that manufacturing.

Q.—Have you heard that some stores get their work done—some stores and some factories get their work done and pay their people in little coupons? A.—That is what I have just had reference to.

Q.—Do you know if in some dry-goods or milliners' shops they pay their working girls in goods, and that they—the working girls—are bound to take so much goods for the amount of their wages? A.—Not that I know of.

Q.—We found such to be the case in Quebec? A.—Well, it is very likely; I think that is just what is likely to be done.

Q.—Have you a knowledge of the provisions of the Ontario Act regulating the hours and the conditions of women in stores? A.—No; the Factory Act—you are not speaking of that?

Q.—No; this is an Act passed at the last Session of the Ontario Parliament, regulating the hours of women and children in stores.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do you think the Factory Act applies to your store, where there are so many girls employed in sewing—in the sewing room? A.—No; but I think it should apply to our stores.

Q.—Well, if you make clothes or dresses it might be a factory? A.—In that case you could only make it apply to dressmakers. In my opinion, the Act should be made to apply in such establishments as mine as much to the clerk, and salesmen and saleswomen, as to the milliner, dressmaker, seamstress or child, as they are liable to be equally as much abused.

Q.—Do you think the Factory Act should apply to small working shops where they employ under twenty people? A.—I think it should apply; but the Factory Act, as I understand it, does not interfere with dry-goods stores. My idea is it should.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—The Factory Act applies to places where more than twenty hands are employed, where the article or part of the article is manufactured; it does not apply to stores. A separate Act was passed this last winter by the Ontario Government which applies to stores? A.—I think it should apply. The employes in dry-goods stores and other stores need to be as much protected as the operatives in factories.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—When you want employes do you find them in stores dressmaking, and so forth, in Montreal? Do you find women applying to do the work you want them to do? A.—Not until we have had them a while, but I think you will find sewing girls in Montreal as able as any where in Canada.

Q.—Would a clerk in Montreal speaking the two languages be worth more than a man speaking only the one language? A.—I do not know that the one would be worth more than the other. If we want a man to speak French we employ him for

that. Of course, it is an advantage to be able to speak and understand more than one language.

Q.—But in a smaller store—where a man has got a small store you think it is an advantage? A.—Yes; it certainly is an advantage.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—A saleswomen: is she necessarily under more expense than if she worked in a factory or a workshop? A.—Well, I think so.

Q.—You could not tell us the difference—about? A.—She has to dress better.

Q.—She is under more expense? A.—Yes; she has to dress better and has to board with a better class of people; they are certainly under more expense than a factory girl.

Q.—Can you give any comparison between a shop girl and a factory girl? A.—Well, one very important thing is, a saleswoman loses no time, whereas a factory girl receives higher pay for the time she works but she does not have work the whole year through.

Q.—Is it a practice with dry-goods firms to employ female clerks during a season of the year and then dismiss them when the season is over? A.—No; but salesmen and saleswomen are not used so well in Canada as they are in England in that particular. There they have holidays, and considerations shown them of different kinds; they are not used so well here as they are in England—particularly saleswomen.

Q.—Have you ever noticed a firm that would take a number of beginners on without salary and dismiss those that are on salary—saleswomen—when they have learned—the beginners have learned? A.—I have no means of knowing; we have not any.

Q.—At certain seasons of the year there are extra milliners taken on—these are not permanent milliners. Do you know what becomes of them when they are idle? A.—No; I do not know; that is a disadvantage of the business. There would very likely be on hand a little work that they could do at home—but I know that is the case with all firms.

Q.—Are there many children employed in Montreal—boys under fourteen years of age? A.—As cash boys—that is, with ourselves.

Q.—What is your opinion with regard to the employment of children? A.—Better not at all.

Q.—What are the ages of the cash boys employed by you? A.—Our cash boys vary from ten and a-half years of age to twelve and a-half years of age.

Q.—All of them? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you not think that is too young? A.—Well, I think they would be better at school.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Under the Factory Act they could not be employed under twelve years of age? A.—So much the better for the children.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you find those cash boys of ten and a-half and eleven years of age pretty well educated? A.—Well, as a general rule they are educated as well as the ordinary boy. They can read and write, and I think they are sent by their parents to get money to help keep the house; but it would be better for them if they were at school and not employed.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Would an Act similar to the Ontario Act, regulating the hours of women and children employed in stores, be generally accepted—would an Act closing the stores at a certain hour at night be generally accepted? Our Ontario Act can be enforced on petition by a majority of the trade? A.—Who would sign the petition asking for the enforcement of such an Act?

Q.—The merchants themselves? A.—I would not object. I would just mention one thing particularly that strikes me: "Closing the store" is not the term which

should be used; "dismissing the hands" is the term that should be used, as well as "closing the store," because the hands are sometimes kept three hours after the store is closed. Does it refer to all businesses?

Q.—Any particular business? A.—This "closing the stores" means very little.

Q.—Have you any further facts to state before this Commission? A.—About the provisions for the young people: I do not know that the landlord should be held responsible; I think the people who employ the hands should place the conveniences on the different floors, as the last witness said he had got two in his cellar and the young women would not go down. One of the hard things in Montreal is seizing the poor peoples' wages. There are a lot of people there who make it a business to buy up debts. No sooner are a lot of men's wages paid than they are seized by this class of men, who go around and buy these debts from tradespeople. When the tradespeople themselves will not do it they come and do it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—And then they garnishee the wages of the parties? A.—Yes.

Q.—But, if employers paid their hands every week it would be better? A.—Yes; few people would then know the hardship. We pay four times a month, and we never pay on the same day of the month as the month previous, so that those people shall not know.

Q.—Do not you think if all employés were paid weekly it would be better for them than if they were paid fortnightly or monthly? A.—They would be better off—15 per cent.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—You pay four times a month, at different times in the week? A.—Yes; the 7th, 15th, 21st and so on.

Q.—Do not you think you would find a certain day better for the family of the employé? A.—We do not pay on the same day, but on the same date.

ROBERT RANKIN, Printer, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Where are you employed, and in what capacity? A.—I am foreman in the job department of Messrs A. S. Woodburn & Co.

Q.—How many men are there in your department? A.—There are twenty men.

Q.—Are there any girls? A.—No; there are no girls employed in my department; I have two boys.

Q.—What are their ages? A.—The youngest is about twelve. He is just a message boy; he does not work around the printing machines; he just takes proofs, and such as that. I will leave some one else to tell you of the printing part of the business of the establishment.

Q.—You have an engineer employed in your establishment? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is that engineer a practical engineer? A.—I cannot say; I have not the slightest knowledge of his ability; I only know he runs the engine, but I do not know anything about him, whether he has a certificate or not. I do not know anything about him, because my business does not take me to him.

Q.—Is there any machinery in your department? A.—There is no machinery in my department.

Q.—Have you, in your department; had any accidents? A.—No; nothing extensive; nothing serious.

Q.—What was the nature of the accidents? A.—A "form" was put on the elevator or hoist, and by some means the hoist fell and cut his face—the face of the man in charge of the form. He was working the next day.

Q.—Do you know the cause of the rapid falling of the elevator? A.—I do not. I do not know anything about the elevator; I know of nothing outside my department.

Q.—Have the women in your department a separate water-closet? A.—There are no women in my department.

Q.—Are there separate conveniences for the women in the other departments? A.—I cannot say anything about the other departments; my duties do not take me out of my department. I believe there are three closets in the establishment, but I can only speak of one in my department.

Q.—Do you know if, in your establishment, there is a system of issuing orders for the payment of the men? A.—Not that I know of. I do not think there is a man of my department who received an order of any kind.

Q.—You are paid how often? A.—Every two weeks.

Q.—In cash? A.—In cash.

Q.—What department are you employed in? A.—The job department.

Q.—How many compositors have you? A.—Well, I have about eighteen altogether.

Q.—Do you work by the day? A.—By the day.

Q.—What are the wages? A.—The wages for journeymen run from \$11 to \$13.

Q.—How many are journeymen out of the eighteen? A.—Eleven or twelve; I think about twelve in the job department.

Q.—How many hours a day do you work? A.—Nine hours a day.

Q.—What is the condition of the water-closets in Messrs. Woodburn & Co.'s establishment? A.—It is in good condition in the job department.

Q.—What is the condition of the water-closets in the other departments? A.—I do not know.

Q.—How long do apprentices serve? A.—I have only been there a short time; I would not guarantee a certificate to any apprentice unless he satisfied me.

Q.—Do you think five years enough time for the boy to learn the business properly? A.—That is my experience.

Q.—Which department, after your experience, would you put your son in to learn the business—a newspaper printing office or a job printing office? A.—A job printing office. It is very easy to learn the business of a newspaper printing office; that is much handier to learn than a job printing office.

Q.—You are of opinion that he could not learn the business in five years? A.—Yes; I would take him in, and give him to understand that he could not learn it in five years, and that he could not get a certificate from the firm until he could take a certificate as a journeyman.

Q.—Do you think it a good thing to examine boys before taking them on as apprentices? A.—I believe so; I believe a good common school education should be received by every boy who aspires to be a printer.

Q.—Do you think it would be desirable to indenture them? A.—It might do with some boys of superior character; but, otherwise, I do not think it would do much good.

Q.—How often are the men in your department paid? A.—Every two weeks.

Q.—In full? A.—Yes.

RICHARD J. DAWSON, Stationary Engineer, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Have you many stationary engineers in the city of Ottawa? A.—Well, there are, of a kind.

Q.—Are there many skilled engineers? A.—Yes; there is quite a number.

Q.—What would be the average wages of a good skilled engineer? A.—Well, it is hard for a skilled engineer to get what he is actually worth; there are so many incompetent men to take these situations. The engineers employed here are, generally, ones that are taken in preference to skilled workmen.

Q.—Do you know if there is any feeling among stationary engineers now to have certificates granted to competent men? A.—That is one point that ought to be taken

into consideration. If competent men were granted certificates there would not be so many accidents, such as there are at the present time, through incompetent persons taking charge of engines and boilers.

Q.—Do you consider that it is as necessary for an engineer in a factory to pass an examination as for an engineer on a steamboat to pass an examination, before he can obtain his certificate? A.—Yes; I do.

Q.—As a rule, in such large places as Ottawa, are the men in charge of engines capable men? A.—Well, as far as I know—and I am an old resident here of twenty-four years' standing—I think incompetent men are in the majority.

Q.—Do you know any boilers in factories and workshops in Ottawa in an unsafe condition? A.—I do not at the present time.

Q.—Do you think it necessary to have an inspector of boilers appointed for the city of Ottawa? A.—Yes; it is absolutely necessary.

Q.—How frequently should inspections be made by an inspector? A.—Once a year, as in the majority of places where steam is used here they are run in the summer time, and run night and day as a rule, so that the boilers require looking at every spring.

Q.—When incompetent men are in charge of boilers is there any danger of the boilers burning? A.—The tubes—yes.

Q.—Will you tell us how that burning takes place? A.—Well, the style used here is the tubular boiler, and the men in charge of these boilers do not understand the pump, and they let the water down and so burn the tubes.

Q.—Will not a boiler burn through being dirty inside? A.—Yes; it will burn the sheet and bulge the plates—well, the bulging will be caused through the burning.

Q.—Will you give us an idea of what branches an engineer should pass an examination in before he should obtain a certificate? A.—Well, what would be necessary for a stationary engineer to understand would be the inspirator or injector of steam pumps.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—What do you use for these boilers—wood or coal? A.—Wood, as a rule. In the steam mills they use the refuse sawdust. I believe you get that for just the price of cartage. In the mills it is carried from the saws and fed under the boilers.

Q.—Are there shops here where they make boilers? A.—Yes; there are two or more.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Can you tell what the earnings of a stationary engineer are in and around Ottawa? A.—They run from \$7 a week, and in some cases they receive \$2 a day.

Miss * * * , Folder and Sewer, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Where are you employed? A.—In Messrs. Woodburn & Co.'s printing offices.

Q.—What business do you do? A.—Folding and stitching; I am the forewoman.

Q.—How many young women are engaged in that business? A.—In the summer time about twenty-four or twenty-five; I think there are only ten now.

Q.—How old might the youngest girl be that is employed there? A.—Sixteen.

Q.—Does it require experience to fold quickly? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long would it take a young woman to become a competent folder?

A.—Pretty nearly a year.

Q.—How much per week do they get when they go to the folding first? A.—One dollar and fifty cents a week.

Q.—When extra competent how much do they get? A.—From \$2.50 to \$3.50 a week.

Q.—How many hours do they work? A.—From seven o'clock in the morning until six at night; a foreman is allowed half an hour in the morning—from half-past seven until six at night; seven o'clock is the hour we should be there.

Q.—How long are you allowed for dinner? A.—We are allowed an hour for dinner; some take their dinner with them.

Q.—Is the room in which you work a healthy room to work in? A.—Yes.

Q.—It is a comfortable room to work in in the winter time? A.—Very comfortable.

Q.—Is the foreman generally in the room? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do any of the foremen around there use bad language, at any time, to the young women? A.—Oh, no.

Q.—Have the young ladies separate conveniences to themselves? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are they in good order? A.—Yes.

Q.—How often are these young women paid? A.—They are paid once a week.

Q.—Are they paid regularly and in full? A.—Yes; the girls are.

Q.—Of course, you only speak for the young girls in your room? A.—Yes; that is all.

Q.—Is the drinking water good and readily got at? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do these young ladies do piece-work? A.—No.

Q.—It is all day work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do the young women remain long in the establishment that go there to work? A.—Well, some of them have been working there five or six years.

Q.—Do they have to work over time at night? A.—Yes; except in the summer time.

Q.—When they are busy are they paid extra? A.—Yes; 10 cents an hour.

Q.—How late might they be kept? A.—Nearly three hours—from seven o'clock until ten.

Q.—When asked to work at night are they informed to that effect? A.—Yes; they are.

Miss * * * , Folder and Stitcher, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Have you heard the evidence given by the other witness? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you corroborate all that she has said? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you wish to add anything to what she has said? A.—Only that we get half a day on Saturday.

Q.—Are you paid for that half a day? A.—Yes; we are allowed the Saturday afternoon.

Q.—And you are paid for it? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you been residing long in Ottawa? A.—Yes; quite a number of years, nearly all my life.

Q.—Do you think it would be appreciated by the working young women of Ottawa if they received the Saturday afternoon as a holiday to themselves? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think it would be conducive to their health? A.—Yes; they would be decidedly better.

Q.—And you think that if a young man received the Saturday half holiday he would be able to work just as well the following week as if he had put sixty or more hours' work in the week before? A.—I should think he would be a great deal more fit to do his work.

Q.—Have the wages in your branch of work increased? A.—I cannot say; I am engaged on the perforating machine.

Q.—Has the foreman always acted and spoken in a gentlemanly manner? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are the young women paid regularly and in cash? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there any sums held back? A.—No.

Q.—You can speak from your own experience as regards the boon it would be to the young women of Ottawa if they received Saturday afternoon as a holiday?

A.—Yes.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do you think that you would not wish for anything more? A.—I think we would wish for a great many more things that we do not get.

FREDERICK ROGER, Foreman, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Where are you employed? A.—I am foreman in the bindery department of the firm of MacLean, Roger & Co.

Q.—How many young women do you employ? A.—The number runs from thirty-two to fifty.

Q.—They do the stitching and folding? A.—Yes; and covering, and all that.

Q.—Have you any book-binders? A.—No; we have some paper-rulers.

Q.—What is the standard of a paper-ruler in Ottawa? A.—Eleven and twelve dollars a week.

Q.—What are the average wages paid to the young women who are competent folders? A.—From \$3 to \$3.75 and \$4 per week.

Q.—How many months in the year would they be employed? A.—Well, with us it is a little peculiar. Of course, during the Session we want a good many extra hands, but we keep the good workers the whole year round. Still, we do not let them off until we have tried to find something for them to do. If we cannot find something for them to do we let them go.

Q.—What do you pay young girls—apprentices? A.—A dollar and a half a week.

Q.—How long does it take a young woman to become a competent folder? A.—It depends a great deal upon the young woman. We generally keep them the first Session at \$1.50 and the next Session we raise them 50 cents. It takes them some time to get into the business. Collators and competent folders we pay \$2.50 to \$3 a week.

Q.—Is the room where the young women are employed well ventilated? A.—Well, in the summer it is all right, but in winter the house is pretty well closed up. For our own sakes we try to get all the ventilation we can; we open the ventilators in winter. In the summer, of course, we can have the windows open all the time. Some of the rooms are well ventilated; the others are ventilated as much as possible without discomfort. The folding is done in the same room as the press is.

Q.—Do the girls go to the press and take off the work to be folded? A.—They are forbidden to do that. We have a regular system. There is a press-man who is supposed to bring the work off the press to be counted, and the young women have no right to go near it. They go there but very seldom. The only time they went there was when it was a little late at night, when they wanted to get away, anything like that; but they need not go themselves. They are instructed to ask the press-man; they should never go themselves.

Q.—How much space is there for them to pass between the presses? A.—Well, that is a question I could not decidedly answer.

Q.—If the girls ran around them on their own responsibility, and they got caught, it would be their own fault, but I do not think for working purposes they should ask the girls to go near them? A.—Yes; but they have no right to go round the press; they are told not to go there. In connection with the other question you asked me, all presses have but a little space between them. We have to economize our space.

Q.—Is it not dangerous—particularly for young girls—to go around the presses?
A.—Well, my own opinion is that all machinery should be boxed in; I do not say anything about this machinery in particular; I speak generally.

Q.—Do you not think a good deal of machinery could be boxed in without inconvenience? A.—Yes; the same as in the old country.

Q.—Have the factory inspectors visited your premises? A.—No.

Q.—He generally visits the head of the departments? A.—Yes.

Q.—He never came to you? A.—No.

Q.—Are the water-closets in good condition? A.—Yes.

Q.—How are they as regards cleanliness? A.—Good. The girls' water-closet is the cleanest in the whole establishment. It is as clean as I would wish for in my own house; I inspect it occasionally. During the Session I occasionally go there myself. They might say something about that, but I go there just to see that the thing is properly kept, and I assure you the place is very clean. Should anything go wrong with it—for it will sometimes get choked up—I get it cleaned up. I may say it is on the top flat in the rear, and there is no one in that room.

Q.—That would be the fourth story? A.—The fifth story.

Q.—The intervening room is occupied by men? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have these young women to go through the room where these men are?
A.—I suppose they would have to pass through the room where the men are—if the men were there at the time, I suppose.

Q.—Are there water-closets for men up these stairs? A.—There are no water-closets for men up these stairs; they are on the first flat.

Q.—Do not the water-closets get stopped up, and is there not then a bad smell coming from them? A.—No.

Q.—Are there any complaints made of them? A.—Well, if I did not happen to be going they would ask me if I would see to that closet, as it would not act, and I would see to it. Sometimes I would find it choked up. In fact, the engineer had to take up the pipe once, owing to paper boxes being thrown into it and choking it; but as a rule it is not choked up at all.

Q.—Do you use any bad words towards the girls—such as swearing at them?
A.—Well, it is a rare occurrence. I am no angel, and I will admit that, occasionally, I might swear; I do not want to tell any lies about it.

Q.—Have you got any system of fines? A.—No; not as a system. In connection with that I would like the Commission to give me liberty to explain. It was said here that we fined them for being late of a morning. There is no system of fines in the establishment, and we never had any. At one time the men were out on the sidewalk smoking and talking in front of the building after the dinner hour. Mr. Roger or Mr. MacLean came along and said he would dock the men an hour if they were out again after the whistle blew. I considered, being foreman of the men myself, that that was not a cast-iron rule. Now, if a girl is late in the morning, and it is only one morning now and again, I would not think of taking it off her, but if she made it a practice I would certainly take an hour off her.

Q.—Does that occur very often? A.—No; I have got a little book that I jot it down in of a morning. They know the book, and they know when I take it out that I am going to take the time off them.

Q.—Have any other persons the right to impose a fine in your department?
A.—No. Another case was where I set a fine for playing, and certainly the money was taken off them. I happened to be out about an hour. When I returned I found all of them pulling each other's hair, and running about the floor; and as I came in and saw all this, I said: "You will lose an hour."

Q.—How do you know that they were an hour about it? A.—Well, I was an hour away, and I naturally suppose that they kept it up the whole time I was away.

Q.—Did you see them commence when you were going away? A.—No.

Q.—How do you know they were playing for an hour in your absence? A.—Well; I took it for granted.

Q.—Has the office an authorized system of fining? A.—The office has no authorized system of fining, but something has to be done to keep order in establishments of this kind. Then, in addition to allowing them ten minutes in the morning, I may say that if they work ten minutes after the hour at night—ten minutes or a quarter of an hour—they are allowed an hour for that.

Q.—Are the girls often ten minutes and a quarter of an hour late? A.—No; it happened twice during the last fortnight. I would just like to explain that I made the statement about the fines in order to clear the book-keeper, who had stated that no fines were allowed to be imposed.

GEORGE LANG CHITTY, Book-keeper to Messrs. Gilmour & Co., Lumber Merchants, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—You are manager for Messrs. Gilmour & Co. at their mills, are you not? A.—I am the book-keeper; they have no manager; my position is that of book-keeper. I am a sort of manager.

Q.—Can you tell us how many men your concern employ? A.—Do you mean altogether, in the woods and mills.

Q.—Yes? A.—I think about 1,200.

Q.—What are the yearly earnings of the men who work in the bush—as well as you are able to tell us? A.—That is the average, you mean?

Q.—Yes? A.—Owing to the way the thing is, it is rather a difficult matter to tell. Do you mean by that question, in the woods and in the mills?

Q.—No; take the woods first? A.—Do you wish me to state board included?

Q.—Just as you hire them? A.—Yes; we hire the men to board them, and give them so much besides for themselves; we consider their board worth \$10. They would average about \$30 a month; that is rating their board at \$10.

Q.—For how many months in the year? A.—The winter operations usually occupy about six months, and then the drive operations about three months more—say about eight or nine months.

Q.—Those men that work in the bush—do they generally run down the drive? A.—Some of them.

Q.—Those men on the drive and those who come down from the bush—do they go right into the mill—do they lose much time? A.—The mill hands usually leave when the shanties break up; those who remain for the drive are hired for that work.

Q.—Will you please tell us how these men live in the shanties? What food do they get? A.—They are fed on bread, pork, beef, potatoes, molasses, dried apples, tea, and they consume a great deal, of late years, of beans and peas. Beans enter very largely into the food of lumberers.

Q.—Has it come to your knowledge that any inferior flour or pork has been sent to the shanties to these men? A.—We always endeavor to get the best articles possible and under the most favorable circumstances. It is quite possible that a small portion might not be so good as we would wish—particularly pork. Pork will spoil—a small proportion; perhaps as much as 5 per cent—I would say that that would be an excessive estimate. A quantity might possibly go astray—be left over, possibly, from the previous winter, and the brine might get off of it partly; and possibly it might have a little taint. If any salted meat was left over it might be left there till the next winter.

Q.—Then, in your concern, should anything like that occur it would be accidental? A.—Positively; and besides that, we do not ask the men to take it. We would bring it down and render it into grease. We would sometimes return it, but that is costly.

Q.—Do you have depots at all your stations where the men can purchase articles of clothing, or anything they may need? A.—Yes; we have depots at all our stations.

Q.—Are these men able to buy goods as cheap at these depots as they can buy anywhere else? A.—They buy them at the same price as we buy them ourselves, with carriage added. There is a small margin allowed for that.

Q.—Then, you do not buy them as a matter of profit? A.—It is a matter of necessity. They are away from the stores, and can buy articles that are necessary to their health and comfort; nothing more.

Q.—The wages that you refer to apply to all engaged in the bush—the men cutting roads, and all that sort of thing? A.—Yes.

Q.—Coming down to the mills—what are the earnings of the gang-men? A.—That is a peculiar way to put it. Gang-men? We do not hire our men that way.

Q.—Tell us the way you do hire them? A.—I have not got the pay-sheets with me. Our pay-day is to-morrow. The ordinary workingman last year averaged, in the mills, \$1.10 a day.

Q.—Is that average per year or for the season? A.—That is during the dealing and shipping season. Our deal-mill is running from the end of April to the end of October. The men in the yard there average \$1.10 a day. I thought that you wanted something of that kind, and so I brought up this statement of last year. It is a statement of the wages paid to the men in the mills, and around the booms and works in connection with it, and piling lumber. At the mills our average was \$1.05 to \$1.12.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—You employ no boys there? A.—There are boys; may be the boys are twelve and thirteen years of age; they are very often as good as a man.

Q.—How many boys at the age of twelve and thirteen may you have? A.—We have very few.

Q.—What are these boys generally employed at? A.—Work in the small mill in connection with the larger one, re-splitting deals.

Q.—Is it laborious work? A.—No.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Have you had any accidents on your works? A.—No; I have heard of no accidents for years.

Q.—Your works are in the Province of Quebec? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you aware that there is an Act called the Factory Act in the Province of Quebec? A.—I do not know that I am aware of it; I never looked into it.

Q.—How often do you pay the men? A.—Every two weeks. Those men that are in the lumber shanties, I do not pay them until they come down.

Q.—The men at the mills are paid every two weeks in full? A.—Yes; we pay them on a Wednesday up to the preceding Saturday night. It takes us two or three days to get everything in readiness (I might explain)—everything in connection with it. If any of the families of these men want anything we give it to them, and take it from them on paying them. If any of them want an advance of \$2 or \$3 they are given it.

Q.—Do you give them any orders on the store? A.—We give them no orders on the store; they go into the store and say: "I want two or three dollars' worth of goods," or may be it is only thirty or forty cents, worth; and the amount is deducted from the amount coming to them on pay-day. In such cases their account would read, "Cash, so much; so many days' work, so much." So that each man sees what he has worked and what he has drawn. In cases of particular urgency we give them money earlier than pay-day. When they obtain an advance at the store the goods are marked down, and the amount is carried over to the balance; the office has nothing to do with the store.

Q.—As a rule, the men cannot get money earlier than pay day? A.—If a man wants money, in a case of emergency, he can get it; but it is only in cases of necessity.

Q.—There are other stores besides yours at Chelsea, are there not? A.—We

have another at Gatineau Mills—a much larger place than at Chelsea. There are four stores in Chelsea. The people go up with their money and trade at these stores; we do not mind that. When I was asked to attend here, at such short notice, in such a hurried manner, I was not quite prepared, as I did not know what you wanted; I did not know that you would want the wages of mechanics, so I took a little information in case you would want it. A flier's average wages is \$47.93 cents a month. I took the wages of our mechanics, and I find them average \$1.65 cents a day; that includes carpenters, millwrights and blacksmiths. I also took the payroll that we are making out. I went over a number of them, and I find the average pretty much the same as last year—so that last year's figures are pretty correct.

Q.—What hours do your men work? A.—Eleven hours and a quarter a day.

Q.—In case of accident in the bush as well as in the mill, do you generally, as a rule, allow your men anything for it—that is, allow the time to go on? A.—We do not always, but we have a man now who met with an accident—which I had entirely forgotten—and his time is going on; we are keeping it on. He is a high-priced man. His time is going on, and it is likely to go on till July.

Q.—How did the accident occur? A.—It occurred by a belt giving way. He was standing on the wharf, and the belt broke and struck him on the calf of the leg. Mr. Gilmour stood a moment before just where he stood.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do the boys work at night? A.—We do not run at night very often, as the water is low.

Q.—What time do you commence work in the morning? A.—We commence at six and leave off at one; we begin again at a quarter to one and leave off for the day at a quarter past six.

Q.—Are you aware that the Factory Act of the Province of Quebec prevents the employment of children for more than sixty hours a week? A.—Well, we have hardly any children twelve years old.

Q.—The mill runs more than sixty hours a week? A.—Yes; certainly.

Q.—Have you anything to add to what you have already said—anything that we have not touched upon? A.—I have taken the average of six of our hands, and find that it comes to \$26.96 for the month; and I have taken the average of eight others and find that it comes to \$31 for the month.

ALEXANDER S. WOODBURN, Book-binder, Printer and Publisher, Ottawa, senior member of the firm of A. S. Woodburn & Co., called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You are a book-binder? A.—Well, I carry on book-binding; I am not a practical book-binder.

Q.—How many hands do you employ in the book-binding business? A.—About thirty-eight or forty. I think altogether there are 132 around the premises. There must be about sixty altogether connected with the bindery.

Q.—Have you had the factory inspector visit your place? A.—I never knew him to come.

Q.—Could he have been there without your knowledge? A.—Oh, yes; but it is not likely that he would have been there without my knowledge. I would have heard of it, I think.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of your establishment? A.—Well, I think it is very fair—the printing office, I think, is particularly good; but it is not well constructed for a printing office. Every regard is paid to the health of the employés, and I never knew of any one to be sick through the unsanitary condition of the building. The ceilings are low, and it is not what you would call a good building by any means.

Q.—How are the water-closets situated in the offices? A.—There are three or four different offices. I have the girls of the bindery divided into two sections, and there is a closet in each end of each building.

Q.—Are the closets inside or outside the building? A.—In one it is on the outside of the building, and connected with the main building; in the other it is at the extreme end of the building, connected also with the water-works, and so situated that you would notice any smell from them. I do not think there can be any smell, as the water is running all the time. We had one water-closet in the basement some time ago; I noticed the smell and shut it up.

Q.—Is it a rule in your firm to pay men with orders? A.—It is not.

Q.—If you knew it would you allow it to be done? A.—The only orders that I have known of has been when the hands have wanted to get things in advance of earning their pay. They would say that they wanted to go to Mr. So-and-So to get certain things, and wanted, say \$28, or an order in advance, and we would give them the order, so that they would never run in arrears that much. We would give it to them for convenience sake.

Q.—If an employé gets an order under these circumstances does he get them paid on pay-day in full? A.—Yes; I may say that the orders are not worth while speaking of. I do not think three orders were given this spring in advance, and that was to men for clothing or furniture.

Q.—Is that an accommodation to the men or to you? A.—It is an accommodation to the men. We never ask them to take an order.

Q.—The reason why we ask you is because we have found it a very injurious system of paying wages to the employés in other places? A.—I think I may have tried years ago to get some one to do it, but not lately—some one to take it on account.

Q.—Did you have an elevator on the premises? A.—We had the celebrated elevator you have heard of.

Q.—You had an accident by that elevator, had you not? A.—At the time it broke down? I never heard of it until to-day. A person got a slight cut. That is all that I knew about it. I was told to-day by the foreman the man got a slight cut and came to work the next day. So far as the elevator goes, it was constructed by good mechanics. I got another one named Perrin to re-arrange it, and when it did not suit we allowed it to remain there. As to the building, there is nothing that I can add to make it more comfortable. The printing office is first-class, and the ceiling is high, but I think the bindery is not first-class.

Q.—How many doors have you got to the building? A.—I do not know. That is one of the faults—there are too many. I think we must have six different entrances to the different departments. The building is cruciform in one place and angular in another, and so we arranged the best way we could when I got the contract for binding.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you say your doors open inwards? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you not know that by law you are liable to be fined? A.—I always understood, until now, that that applied to factories. With reference to the orders to the girls, I would like to say that we give them half an hour's grace in the morning, as some of them have to come a considerable distance, so that they are allowed to come in half an hour later than the men.

JOHN R. BOOTH, Manufacturer of Fine Lumber, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You have a number of boys in your employ, have you not? A.—Yes; we have some.

Q.—Is it true that these boys work from half-past six in the morning until six o'clock at night? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you boys in your employ who also work from seven o'clock at night until half-past five or six the next morning? A.—Yes; I think so.

Q.—Do you know, sir, if any of these boys in your employ are under the age of twelve years? A.—Not that I am aware of.

Q.—Are you aware, Mr. Booth, that the Factory Act of Ontario says that boys under a certain age are not to work more than sixty hours a week? A.—No; I cannot say that I do; I never paid any attention to it.

Q.—Do you know if the factory inspector has ever inspected your mill? A.—No; not that I am aware of.

Q.—He never gave you a copy of the Ontario Inspection Act? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—He has not given you notice that your factory is to be conducted in a certain way? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—He has done nothing in that direction? A.—No.

Q.—If the factory inspector had been around you would have known of it, would you not? A.—Well, he might come around and I not know it. If he came around without asking me questions I would not know.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—If he had made himself known you would have known it? A.—Yes.

Q.—I would advise you to get a copy of the Factory Act and carefully peruse it. It can be enforced any day? A.—I am not aware that I have done anything contrary to law.

JOHN PEARCE, Printer, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—You have worked in the *Free Press* office, have you not? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of that office? A.—I should call it good.

Q.—How are the water-closets? A.—There is a urinary in one of the rooms.

Q.—Where is that? A.—In the same room in which I worked.

Q.—Is the water-closet down under the reporters' window? A.—There is one in the yard.

Q.—Is that generally used by the employés? A.—Yes.

Q.—What condition is that in? A.—It is in very bad shape.

Q.—Is there a door on it? A.—Yes; without hinges.

Q.—Is it what you would call in a filthy condition? A.—I should say it was.

Q.—Is the closet up stairs in a better condition? A.—Oh, yes.

Q.—Is it in a good condition? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there one or two up stairs? A.—There is one in the room I was in.

Q.—Do males and females have to use it, alike? A.—There is only one there.

Q.—The two sexes have to use it, alike? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How many are there in that room? A.—Eight or ten, probably twelve.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—How many girls are employed there? A.—Two all the time I was there; sometimes four—not in that department.

Q.—You do not belong to the paper now? A.—No; I left seven weeks ago.

Q.—Have you any idea of the number of hands employed there altogether? A.—No; I could not tell exactly.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Did the sanitary inspector ever visit the place while you were there? A.—
Not to my knowledge.

Q.—Did you ever hear of the factory inspector being there? A.—No.

Q.—You have not a copy of the Factory Act put up in the building? A.—No.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Do you know the factory inspector? A.—I do not.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—The closet below, is it in the building or outside? A.—It is outside.

EDWIN ELLIOTT, Iron Moulder, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—You are employed as a journeyman moulder here? A.—I am foreman
moulder.

Q.—How many men are employed in the shop of which you are foreman? A.—
Eight—two are apprentices.

Q.—What wages are you paid? A.—One dollar and eighty-five cents; \$2 a day
for the men and \$2.50 a day for the foreman moulder at machinery moulding.

Q.—What are the usual hours? A.—Our working day is from seven to six.

Q.—Did the men ever ask for lighter hours than these? A.—No; not in the
foundry.

Q.—How is the shop protected from drafts? A.—Well, it is well protected in
the winter time.

Q.—Is the ceiling high? A.—Yes.

Q.—You are in no way inconvenienced by smoke and steam? A.—No; it is
well ventilated in the roof, and we can open the ventilators and let out the smoke and
steam.

Q.—Are the facilities good for carrying on your occupation? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you employ laborers? A.—Yes.

Q.—What do they receive? A.—\$1, \$1.10 and \$1.25 a day.

Q.—One dollar and twenty-five cents a day would be the furnace men? A.—They
receive more than that. They receive \$1.35 a day, the furnace men.

Q.—Do you mill any of your castings? A.—Yes.

Q.—Where is your mill? Is it inside or outside the foundry? A.—It is outside
the foundry.

Q.—So that no dust goes into the foundry? A.—No.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Do you know if the factory inspector has been through the foundry in
which you are employed? A.—No; he has never been through it, to my knowledge.

Q.—Could he have been there without your knowledge or the knowledge of the
concern? A.—I do not think it.

Q.—Are you in a position to speak for the concern? A.—Yes.

Q.—The inspector has not been there? A.—No; not to our knowledge.

Q.—You have not been provided with a copy of the Factory Act to post up in
the shop? A.—No.

JOHN P. PURCELL, Engineer, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—You are an engineer in a newspaper office, are you not? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you got a certificate as such? A.—Yes; I have.

Q.—Do you know if it is the desire of the engineers to have a law for the inspection of engines and boilers? A.—Yes; it is.

Q.—And for engineers to pass an examination? A.—Yes; it is; that is, if they put them in the same category as the marine service on the rivers and lakes you cannot practise as an engineer before you obtain a certificate proving your qualifications.

Q.—Do you think it as necessary to have a competent engineer in charge of a stationary engine, where a great many men, women and children are employed, as on a steamboat? A.—Yes; I do. I have just as many men over the *Free Press* engine and boilers as there are on a passenger steamboat. The whole of their lives depend upon me.

Q.—Do you know, if in this locality, it is the custom to employ incompetent men, that is to say, men who are not engineers? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you aware that there are men running engines in Ottawa and around Ottawa for \$1.25 a day? A.—Yes; they are running engines for \$1.50 a day.

Q.—Can you get a practical man for \$1.50 a day as an engineer—a man that is capable of taking care of a good engine and running her properly and safely? A.—Sometimes you can; in slack times you might.

Q.—But can you do so, as a rule? A.—I do not know that we can, as a rule.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of the department where your engine is located? A.—Well, it is not bad.

Q.—How far is your engine from the water-closet? A.—About 15 feet.

Q.—In what condition is that water-closet? A.—It is not in a very good condition.

Q.—Have you ever heard people complaining about the stench coming from it? A.—I think I have heard that the people at the Russell House hotel complained.

Q.—Is there a door to that water-closet? A.—There used to be, but it is down.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How many stationary engines are there in and about Ottawa? A.—I could not tell you.

Q.—How many accidents occurred during the past year through uncertificated engineers? A.—I have not heard of any. I have not much time to go around, I can assure you.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you any general knowledge of the condition of boilers here in Ottawa?

A.—Not any more than the one I am on.

WILLIAM C. TEAGUE, Printer, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How many years have you lived in Ottawa? A.—About fifteen years.

Q.—Have you worked at the printing business all the time? A.—With the exception of the time that I was “boycotted.”

Q.—You have taken quite an interest in organized labor in Ottawa? A.—I have.

Q.—Do you consider that organized labour among the working classes has been a direct benefit to the working classes in Ottawa? A.—It has.

Q.—What is your opinion on the question as to the shortening of the hours of labor? A.—My opinion is that a man can do as much in nine hours' continuous work

as he can in ten hours' continuous work. I believe that if a man works from seven o'clock in the morning until six o'clock at night, and has half a day on Saturday to spend with his family and friends, that the employer would be benefited as well as the man by the half day. I have found that to be the case from experience.

Q.—Do you believe that if the working classes had Saturday afternoons free from labor that they would make good use of that time? A.—From what I know of the working classes in this section of the country I feel confident that it would have a most beneficial effect. I have seen it having a similar effect in the old country—very beneficial for the working classes to have a little time on Saturday to brace up the system, and give the working classes a chance to get a little fresh air, when a man with his family could go to the seaside on a Saturday half-holiday. It would do them a world of good; it is very beneficial.

Q.—You have had some experience in connection with labor organizations and the settlement of difficulties between employers and employed in this city. What is your opinion as to the advisability of resorting to arbitration in all cases of dispute between employers and employed, when disputes cannot be settled amicably otherwise? A.—I have a firm belief in arbitration in the settlement of all labor difficulties. I know we have had labor troubles, and the employers have point blank refused to meet us. I think arbitration the best means to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion. Of course, if employers will not come to terms with the men, then the men take it into their own hands and endeavor to get their rights by strikes.

Q.—What is your opinion about employers and employed in settling disputes? What do you think of the Government stepping in and settling the dispute by arbitration? A.—I could not favor a permanent board of arbitration. If the persons on that board knew the merits of the case, or were qualified to act on that case, then I am of opinion that some good might come out of it; otherwise, I am not in favor of a permanent board.

Q.—What would you think of the appointment of an official board of conciliation, whose duty it should be to try and bring both parties together to settle the difficulties themselves? A.—I am of the opinion that the employers will not do that, unless compelled by an official board. There would not be much likelihood of coming to a successful issue; if we had one formed according to law, I, of course, suppose if it was made compulsory they would have to come to some terms; but it would be merely an arbitrary power, and would simply result in further difficulty.

Q.—What is your opinion about the formation of a labor bureau of statistics, for the purpose of giving information to the working classes and all concerned? A.—I think a bureau of labor statistics should be organized by the Government, and bulletins should be issued from the various fields of labor weekly; that was the question that was discussed in an organization with which I am connected, and I believe it would be beneficial to the working classes, and would be the means of saving them a considerable amount of money in travelling, if they knew the state of the labor market; and also, such information as might be obtained—for instance, as regarding the value of money; I think it would prove of great value to the working classes.

Q.—What is your opinion about insurance companies for workingmen, controlled by Government? A.—I believe in insurance; I believe the working classes, controlled that is the majority of them, are afraid to risk their money in the insurance companies at present in existence. Sometimes a company which is considered the strongest turns out to be the weakest; and, of course, the working classes, with no money to sacrifice, would not want to run the risk of losing their hard-earned savings; but if a system of insurance similar to the post office bank could be inaugurated the working classes would show their appreciation of it; and if the Government could give insurance on a similar scale to that on which the Post Office Savings Bank is carried on it would encourage the working classes and be of great benefit to them. When a man dies he leaves nothing to his family; but if this insurance was carried by the State the workingman and his family would be greatly benefited, as it would cause workingmen to be more thrifty and anxious to secure something for their families; and if their

means were reduced, and poverty stared them in the face, the Government might purchase the policy at a consideration—the same as some insurance companies do at the present time; but the Government could do it more advantageously than they do to the workingman.

Q.—Are you a believer in the apprenticeship system, and if so, state what you think on that subject? A.—I believe all apprentices should be properly indentured in the printing business for at least five years, and previous to being indentured—in the interest of the employer as well as of the apprentice—I consider the employer or his foreman should ascertain if the boy was sufficiently educated to make a practical employé. He should, in fact, be examined, with the view to ascertain his qualifications and fitness to learn the trade. He should be indentured and placed under the control of a practical man to teach him his business. Then, if an apprentice did not turn out to be a good worker it would not be the fault of the employer. At the present time, the apprentice system is very bad. A boy comes into an office scarcely able to read or write, and is taken on to sweep the room and go on messages, and when he takes up with the business he is not taught it, but picks it up the best way he can, and to a right-thinking man that is totally wrong. In that branch of labor there are many points on which a boy needs to be instructed, and if he is not taught by competent men the apprentice cannot turn out to be a proper journeyman.

Q.—Are there any public night schools in Ottawa? A.—I think there is one in the evening, but then it depends on the nationality if you wish to get into the school; it is conducted by the St. Patrick's Literary Association; that is the only one. Our public school board at one meeting discussed the subject of having night schools open in this city, but took no further action in the matter.

Q.—Do you think if there were such schools the public of the city would take advantage of it? A.—I am not prepared to say whether they would or not; we would have no need to have much of the night school business if a proper compulsory educational Act was in force; boys or children would rather be in school, if the schools were carefully conducted. In England and Germany they are made to attend school up to a certain age, say fourteen or fifteen years of age, and in those countries night schools, as we understand them to be, are not now needed. If we had a factory Act enforced by the Dominion Government, which I believe could be made suitable for the Dominion—a proper factory Act and a proper school Act—it would be a great benefit to the working classes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you mean to say that the factory laws should be enforced by the Dominion Government. A.—Of course, by the British North America Act I understand that such could not be the case.

Q.—Do you find that by the British North America Act the Government could enforce a Dominion Factory Act? A.—I believe it could.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you believe if there was a uniform factory Act throughout the Dominion, under the auspices of the Dominion Government, it would be much better than the various provincial Acts? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there a free public library in Ottawa? A.—There is the library for Parliament; there is something public about that. Persons can have tickets of admission, allowing them to take books during the recess, but the working classes cannot embrace the opportunity to take a book from the library, because the library is only opened from 9 to 4.

Q.—Do you believe if there was a free public library the working classes would take advantage of it? A.—Yes.

Q.—When you spoke of a Government scheme of insurance, do you speak of yourself or for the workingmen of Ottawa? A.—Yes.

Q.—You speak for the workingmen of Ottawa, with whom you are associated? A.—Yes.

Q.—That is their desire? A.—The working classes would like to have one established of a stable character and under Government control.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you got anything to say further of interest to the working classes? A.—I do not know that I have. I notice, in glancing over the papers in connection with the business of this Commission, that many of those giving evidence are connected with organized labor, and as I have taken great interest in labor matters I would like to see more unorganized labor, such as sewing girls, milliners, tailors, painters and various other callings, represented in this city, come and give evidence before the Commission. I think if you had some information from them it would enlighten the members of this Commission.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—I think you are mistaken. A large number of the witnesses examined here in Ottawa before this Commission are persons belonging to no labor organization? A.—I am glad to hear it.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—And supposing we were to examine further witnesses on these subject do you think they would prove themselves to know more than the same classes of people in Toronto, Quebec, St. John and Halifax? A.—I do not know; I have not seen the evidence.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you mean to say that unorganized trades are not as well paid as organized trades? A.—They are not, and if we had some of them here and questioned them it would show the difference; it would show the benefit that is to be derived by being organized. That is my belief.

Q.—Has the condition of the working classes in Ottawa improved during the last ten years, to your personal knowledge? A.—I believe so.

Q.—Has their social condition also improved? A.—I believe it has; I believe their condition has improved in every respect.

CRAWFORD ROSS, Merchant, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—How many clerks have you in your employ? A.—About thirty-five, males and females.

Q.—How many of these would be females? A.—About ten.

Q.—What would be the age of the youngest one? A.—About twenty years—in the sales department.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of the lower apartments of your shop? A.—It is very good.

Q.—Have you a water-closet in connection with it? A.—Oh, yes; several—three.

Q.—Are they up-stairs or down-stairs? A.—There is one for the operatives on the third flat, where sixty or seventy are employed, and two down-stairs in the basement.

Q.—Who generally uses the basement? A.—The males.

Q.—And the closets up-stairs, are they only used by females? A.—Yes; only by the females.

Q.—Are these closets connected with the water-works? A.—Yes; all of them.

Q.—What is the average earnings of a female clerk? A.—We have them graded—\$4 in one department; \$5 in another.

Q.—What number of hours do they have to work? A.—From half-past eight

in the morning until six o'clock at night. A portion work until nine o'clock, but they have one and a-half hours in the day for it. We employ a great many others beside the clerks in the same building.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—The water-closet in your cellar, is it set apart particularly for men, or have women the use of it? A.—There were two, and the women had to go to one of them, but at the present time they are separate.

Q.—Do you mean two seats, with a slight partition between them? A.—No; two separate places.

Q.—Are they next to each other—are the two doors next to each other, with a slight partition between them? A.—Yes; it was so.

Q.—How long ago since it was changed? A.—About a month ago.

Q.—Have you known many young women refuse to go down into that cellar on account of the darkness? A.—No; it is not dark; it is just as light as on the first flat.

Q.—Have you heard any young women complain of going down there? A.—Yes.

Q.—Very recently complain? A.—I have heard them complain.

Q.—Are your women clerks allowed to sit down when waiting on customers? A.—Yes.

Q.—They have got seats for that purpose? A.—Yes; seats behind the counter.

Q.—And do the operatives always sit down? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any milliners and dressmakers? A.—Yes; over sixty of them.

Q.—What are the wages of a first-class milliner? A.—Eight hundred dollars a year.

Q.—Would that be the forewoman? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many get \$800 a year in your establishment? A.—Only one.

Q.—Those who work at the table, how much do they earn? A.—Milliners do not work at the table; dressmakers do.

Q.—Are there any milliners engaged by you for the season only? A.—No.

Q.—You employ them permanently all the year round? A.—Yes; except when they wish to go, in the heat of the summer.

Q.—What do they earn? A.—Well, a first-class operator, \$8 to \$10 a week, and I could keep them all the year round, but they prefer going away for a couple of months in the summer.

Q.—What do you pay your apprentices? A.—The first year they get \$4 and \$5 a week.

Q.—Do I understand you to say that they get that the first year? A.—No; \$100 for the first year we allow apprentices.

Q.—How many years do they serve? A.—We do not require them to serve more than six months in every year.

Q.—What do they get? A.—No settled rate; they are paid according to merit.

Q.—What do your dressmakers get? A.—The heads of the dressmaking department gets \$7 to \$16 a week; the operatives get \$4.50 a week.

Q.—Are they paid weekly, or fortnightly, or monthly? A.—They are paid weekly.

Q.—In cash and in full? A.—In cash.

Q.—Have you any system of fining in your department in your establishment? A.—We had for salesmen, but it was never put into force.

Q.—It has never been put into force? A.—No.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Would \$4 a week be a good average wage for dressmakers? A.—It is all they are worth; we would pay more if they had the ability.

Q.—How many get less than \$4 a week? A.—Well, in my employ very few; I do not think there are any.

Q.—Can they find constant employment all the year round for \$4 a week? A.—Well, we can find a certain number of them employment all the year round. They

are very scarce sometimes, and can get \$1 and \$1.25 a day. Sometimes we cannot get them; we cannot get all we want now.

Q.—What hours do they work? A.—From half-past eight till six.

Q.—How late do they work? A.—Never past seven, except the heads of the departments, who remain later to get up their work and be ready for the next day.

Q.—Do they receive anything for over-time? A.—They receive nothing for over time, except for piece-work.

Q.—Then they may remain from seven until nine o'clock at night and receive nothing more than if they left at six o'clock? A.—They might, but it is not compulsory.

JOHN DAVIS, Wood-dealer, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—You are familiar with the workingmen of Ottawa, are you? A.—I am, sir.

Q.—What are the average wages of the men who work by the day? A.—Mechanics or laborers;

Q.—Laborers? A.—I had one or two laborers, and I paid them \$1.50 a day; that is from six in the morning to six at night.

Q.—What are these men doing? A.—They go to the mill to get blocks of wood.

Q.—That is what a man is worth per day? A.—Yes; I believe most of them are.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are you aware that the men that we see about the streets, most of them, get \$1.25 a day? A.—I have given them \$1 a day, and I give my men now \$1.50 a day, because I find that they do more for me for that sum than they did for \$1 a day.

Q.—How long after six are they kept doing up the horses? A.—Not at all.

Q.—Do you keep a stable-man? A.—No; I feed my horses myself.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you deal in wood? A.—Yes.

Q.—Retail? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the price of good beech and maple? A.—Four dollars and fifty cents to five dollars a cord.

Q.—What was the price of it five years ago? A.—I was not in the business then.

Q.—Do you deal in coal? A.—No.

Q.—Are there many wood merchants in Ottawa? A.—I believe there are several wood merchants; of course, I am not well acquainted with them.

Q.—Is there an understanding among the retail merchants as to what price they shall ask for their wood? A.—I do not understand you properly.

Q.—In other words, is there a combine among wood merchants? A.—I do not know; I have nothing to do with that.

Q.—You know nothing of that? A.—No.

Q.—Do the mills furnish a good deal of wood served in Ottawa? A.—Yes; slabs, and so on.

Q.—Do you sell a good deal of hard wood? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—How long have you been in this country? A.—Seven years.

Q.—You were familiar with the working classes in the old country? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are the working classes in this country in as good a condition as the same classes in the old country, or are they in a worse condition? A.—There are some who better their condition and there are others who do not.

Q.—As a rule, do they better themselves? A.—They do.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—And you are one of them? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Do not you think the children of the working classes are better off than the children of the working classes in the old country? A.—Yes; I know five families who came from England, all doing well.

Q.—And do you know men who are at present well off in this country whose fathers were very poor? A.—No; I cannot say that I do; I have only been here seven years.

PIERRE CHABOT, Dry-goods Merchant, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Do you employ any tailors in your business? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many? A.—Tailors about three, and tailoresses about twelve or fifteen.

Q.—What would be the average wages of a cutter in Ottawa? A.—The average price?

Q.—Yes! A.—Between twelve dollars and twenty dollars a week.

Q.—What would be the average? Would \$15 be the average or \$12 be the average? A.—Sixteen dollars would be the average.

Q.—And the earnings of tailors? A.—They work by the piece the most part.

Q.—Are you familiar with the class of people who go to the shanties in winter? A.—Yes; a little.

Q.—Will you state the condition of these people and their mode of living?

A.—Yes; those men are working from early morning, as soon as it is daylight, until it is dark.

Q.—About what hours would that be? A.—During the winter they work, I suppose, between eight and nine hours a day. During the spring—the drive—they work between sixteen and eighteen hours a day.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do they stand it? A.—They have to stand it, but it is hard on them.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—What kind of food is generally supplied to these men in the winter? A.—Well, what I know is some give them pretty good food and some give them bad food.

Q.—Have you heard general complaints from them about that, or are not complaints not general? A.—Yes, there are some very hard complaints about the way they are fed.

Q.—When these men are coming down from the shanties in the spring, is it not a rule for parties to meet them on the road up as far as Carleton Place, and get them under the influence of liquor and sell to them jewellery, and the like, of inferior quality? A.—They meet them, but not for the purpose of selling them jewellery of inferior quality.

Q.—Are there not some that do that? Are there not some people that meet them on their way down and sell them articles of inferior quality, and that, too, at a high price? A.—Not that I know of.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is that not done all over the world? A.—No; I do not think it is done here; not that I know of.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Is there anything you would like to say to this Commission? A.—Well, I

think those men's condition should be ameliorated a little, because in the shanties I do not see how they stand it, and in the drive also I do not see how they stand it; and I know this, that some men have to come in in the winter, being unable to stand the work, on account of the bad board, and by being pushed so hard at the work."

Q.—Have you ever heard complaints by the men of being paid with "scrip" ?
A.—Yes; sometimes they are paid with what are called "due bills."

Q.—Will the merchants of Ottawa or other merchants take these due bills at their face value? A.—Some will and some will not.

Q.—Do you know any firm who pay their men in that kind of scrip? A.—I know some that were paid in that way, who never came so far as here; we do not see them here; they are kept down below.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What is the usual face discount to a man of these due bills for wages? A.—Some offer 15, some 25 per cent. and some as much as 50 per cent. reduction.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of men losing any portion of their wages in that way? A.—Sometimes they do lose their wages, and in other ways.

Q.—What other ways? A.—Well, sometimes a man is hired to go with a contractor, and if the contractor is not enterprising he loses his wages pretty often.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you know of men going up the country, going out to the woods, and to the engaged camps with them, for the purpose of getting their money? A.—No; I do not know anything about that.

Q.—Have you ever dealt with these men in dry-goods? A.—Yes; often.

Q.—Have you ever sent runners to sell to them? A.—Yes; I have.

Q.—Have they complained of not getting good bargains? A.—No; they cannot complain, because there is too much competition.

Q.—Do these shanty men always pay in cash? A.—They always pay in cash, except when they go up in the fall. In the fall they get it on credit.

Q.—Do their employers give them orders on your store, or any other store?
A.—Not since many years.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Have you anything to add to what you have already said? A.—No; not for the present, that I can remember.

PAUL MINER, Shanty-man, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—How many years have you been engaged in the shanties? A.—Between thirty-six and thirty-seven years.

Q.—The work that the men are engaged in in the shanties, is it heavy, laborious work? A.—Yes; it is heavy, and we are badly boarded; that is sometimes we are badly fed—grubbed.

Q.—Is that the rule or the exception? A.—Well, it is the rule in some places—some shanties; we get bad board in some shanties and good board in others.

Q.—It is generally the rule that in job shanties (small shanties) the men do not get such good board as in the larger concerns? A.—In the biggest part of the larger concerns they do not board the men so well as in the small concerns, on the average.

Q.—How many hours a day do you think these men average during the winter?
A.—Well, during they winter generally, they work as long as the can see in the bush.

Q.—Do you think that they work nine or ten hours? A.—Yes; nine or ten hours. They work as long as they can see.

Q.—How far do they have to walk? A.—They have to walk back of the shanties—sometimes 1 mile and sometimes 2 or 3 miles.

Q.—Well, would they make twelve hours a day? A.—Sometimes they do before they get back to the shanties again, and other times it would not take that—it just depends how far they have to go.

Q.—Are any precautions taken by these men or their employers while they are in the shanties in case of accident? Suppose a man is cut—supposing he receives a severe cut, is anybody there to attend to his wounds? A.—Yes; it is done this way. One man has to dress the other, and the man that is cut or is sick is charged for his time and he loses his pay.

Q.—Supposing you are injured, supposing you receive a severe cut in the middle of the month, is your time stopped at once? A.—Yes; the moment that you are wounded your time is stopped.

Q.—Is it the rule of the firm not to pay your railway fare down? A.—They never do.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—At what rate are you charged for your board? A.—One dollar a day. They let your time go on and they charge you \$1 a day.

Q.—Has there ever been any complaint? Has there ever been any complaint made to the foreman of the shanty? A.—There was a complaint made to the foreman and to the agents of the condition of the food, but we could not get any alteration made, and they kept on that way until that pork and flour that they had was used up, and at that time there was a deal of people in the shanty—men got sick and we calculated that it was on account of this food, giving us bad board. The men got sick of what was called “black legs,” that is, they got their legs swelled up so bad and so far that many had to come down from the shanties on that account. I do not see what could cause this but the bad board that they gave them, because with good board, good victuals, they would keep well and work well.

Q.—They have supply depots, have they not? A.—Yes.

Q.—And they furnish supplies at these depots? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you buy goods as cheap there as you can buy them at Renfrew, for instance? A.—No.

Q.—How much dearer would you have to pay? A.—It is just according to what river you are on; sometimes, for instance, you are on the Dore River, and other times on the river Petawawi; at other times you are at the Trout Lake depot. At some places it goes to 50 cents and at other places it goes to \$1 (50 to 100 per cent.) more than city prices.

Q.—Would you buy a pair of pants or moccasins as cheap there as in Pembroke? A.—No; you cannot buy it as cheap, and it does not cost as much as they charge you, because a pair of working pants, if you go to buy them here in Ottawa, will cost you \$2.25 to \$2.50, and they will charge you up there for just the same pants \$3.25 to \$3.50, and in some concerns we are charged \$5. Then, in some places plug, strip tobacco—it takes twelve plugs to the pound—they give you only ten to the pound, and for that they charge you \$1.25.

Q.—Now, would that be an exception but not the rule? A.—It is not the rule, because the rule I saw in the shanty was they used to charge 60 to 75 cents.

Q.—Do these men in going there, if taken sick in the shanty, are they charged for their board? A.—Yes; they charge \$1 a day.

Q.—And they lose their time? A.—Yes; if a man gets cut or gets sick his time goes on, but he is charged \$1 a day for one or two days, or fifteen days, or a month.

Q.—Those men go down to the drive? A.—Some are hired to clear in the spring, and some are hired to come down with the drive.

Q.—Do they get more pay to come down with the drive? A.—They generally get a little more wages, when a man is hired for the winter and the drive.

Q.—Is not following the drive considered a very dangerous work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you known men to be ordered to clear a jam away when the foreman has refused to go? A.—No; the reason I say that I never saw that is, because I

was foreman myself, and whenever I did not like to go myself I would never think of sending a man to fill my place; I would never send a man to do what I was afraid to do myself.

Q.—Have you known men in the shanties to lose their pay by sub-contracting—by shippers? A.—I have known men that have lost their wages—and I have lost wages myself by sub-contractors.

Q.—Did you make any representation to the party for whom these logs were cut? A.—No; I never did.

Q.—Do you know of any now who lose their wages through that? A.—Well, very few; there are not so many as there used to be.

Q.—How much is board in these shanties, and what is its quality? A.—Well, board in some of these places is 30 cents a meal—35, 40 and 50 cents. It is just according to what river you are on.

Q.—What would constitute the board at 50 cents a meal? A.—Well, they calculate to give us one meal, just 50 cents a day for a man on some rivers; on others it is 35 cents, and in other places 30 and 40 cents.

Q.—What would one meal consist of? A.—Beef and pork, and beans, and pea-soup, and bread and tea; sometimes they have potatoes and at other times they have not.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—They do not use any table napkins out there? A.—No; nor tables either, for a man has to make his own table on his knee or on the floor.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do I understand you to say that you eat off the floor? A.—Some of them do sit there, right on the floor, and take their meals.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Have you known any man paid in the shanty in “scrip” or “due bills”? A.—Yes; I have known some of them.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Have you ever seen them paid with these bills? A.—I have never seen them paid, but I was shown the bills.

Q.—What kind of bills? A.—Just a “due bill” written with the pencil.

Q.—You were paid by due bills, but you would have to wait until the timber was down to be paid? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—If a man goes out into the woods in the fall and does not remain the whole winter, is any portion of his wages charged against him? A.—If a man is hired in the fall to go to the woods, and if he wants to leave the concern, and won't work his time, they will charge him for the passage fee of another man to bring up in his place and let him go, and I have seen some concerns not pay him at all. If he wants to go he goes without any payment.

Q.—What kind of beds do you have? A.—Balsam or bay branches, and two pairs of blankets.

Q.—Just the branches cut down? A.—Just the branches cut; they are the feathers.

Q.—Do any of the firms furnish straw beds? A.—Sometimes they do, when the snow is deep; at other times it is too far away, and you cannot get it.

Q.—Do you know any firms now who pay in scrip or by order? A.—I do not know any men who are paid in scrip or by order, only as I said a while ago; when a man is stuck on a river he is given a “due bill,” to be paid next year, when the timber arrives at Quebec or is out in the stream.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—For the last forty years a great number of people—French Canadians—have

left the parish of Sorel, at the entrance of Lake St. Peter, in the Province of Quebec, to go into the woods as shanty-men, for Ottawa firms, and to drive the lumber down the rivers. Have these men any preferences shown them, so that they should return year after year? A.—I do not see any that they should have.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Have the salaries of the men been raised during five or ten years past?

A.—They have been raised since ten years.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—How much more do they get now than they did ten years ago? A.—Well, they get, I suppose, the same amount of work—the same kind of work. They get \$3 and \$4, I think, and some of them \$5 and \$6 more a month. Ten years ago the wages of shanty-men were pretty low.

Q.—What were the wages of shanty-men ten years ago? A.—Some of them, \$12.

Q.—What was the average ten years ago? A.—I mind that a man worked for me making logs at \$12 a month. A good many men have gone to the States lumbering. Last winter, on the Petawawi, men got \$18, \$19, \$20, \$24, and some \$26.

Q.—What would the \$26-man have got ten years ago? A.—I suppose he would have got \$12.

THOMAS STEWART, Machinist, Ottawa, called and sworn.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—You are a member of the firm of Stewart and Fleck, machinists, of this city? A.—Yes.

Q.—You have, I understand, given a great deal of consideration to the question of the establishment of an intelligence bureau, or bureau of labor statistics, for the information of the workingmen. If so, please give your opinion thereon. I am not going to ask you any questions, but I wish you to state your views on that subject to this Commission? A.—I might say, as you know, being the late president of the association here in this city, that I have had more or less to do with the matter when it was brought up first. I very much regret the absence of one member of the Royal Commission here to-night. I had expected to see my friend Mr. Gibson here to-night—one of the representatives of the city of Ottawa on this Commission, as he and I are both familiar with this subject. The idea of establishing a bureau of labor statistics was one of the greatest points that our association had in view; in fact, I might say the greatest point. Our idea was to establish it in such a way that each country post office all over the Dominion would be, practically speaking, an intelligence office for the benefit of the workingmen in general, not only for mechanics but for laboring men, or any person out of employment, and not only for their benefit, but for the benefit of the employers also. The idea we represented to the Minister at that time was, that when any number of men or any person—man or woman—was out of employment, by going to the post office and registering his or her name and occupation or intended occupation, they would be informed where such persons or workmen was or were required. We also intended or proposed that employers should know of this arrangement at the post offices throughout the whole country, so that they might register their wants, and so that each day the returns as they would be made by the agent of the bureau of labor statistics (who would be the postmaster for the time being), would be forwarded to the secretary of the bureau of labor statistics, Ottawa, who would cause the information to be duly circulated throughout the country. I am not aware that I have made my views quite clear to you. Supposing they wanted men in Winnipeg, and we wanted more here than were really required in Winnipeg, the postmasters of the respective cities would be informed by the general office in Ottawa that a certain number of men were required of a specific class; that they had information that so many men of that particular class were

required, and that by applying at the post office they could go on there. It would save them the expense of travelling and looking for work on speculation; they would know that men were wanted, and the information would come so cheaply through this process—there would be no extra expense to the Government, and at the same time it would be a great deal of benefit to the working classes in the whole Dominion, because what would happen between Winnipeg and Ottawa might happen between Halifax and Ottawa, or through the whole country; so that the superintendent of the labor bureau in Ottawa, as head-centre, would be able to inform the whole country; I mean the postmasters all over the country would be able to inform the Postmaster General, or rather the secretary of the bureau of labor statistics, where these men were wanted—that is to say, where men could obtain employment, and to what extent. I know myself, as a practical mechanic, I have many times travelled hundreds of miles looking for work, and at the end of my journey was sometimes worse off than when I started; and if I had known of the condition of my trade in that particular place I would have gone in another direction. I am talking according to my experience, and the experience of others; and having thought the matter over in our association we have all come to the conclusion that if the workmen could have a central bureau of statistics, established here in Ottawa as the capital, where all reports of labor statistics could come in, the same as mail reports come in, they could go and apply for information to the postmaster, or some person or persons appointed for the purpose. That is my opinion and the opinion of all our friends in the association. We came to the conclusion that it would do away with the necessity for strikes, disturbances between employers and employes, for the simple reason that it would equalize the labor over the country, and when a particular part would be supplied there would not be any danger of over-doing the supply in any particular part. In our opinion, most of these strikes have been caused by the importation of foreign labor.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What do you mean by foreign labor? A.—Laborers imported into Canada from foreign countries.

Q.—Do you call England a foreign country? A.—I refer to laborers imported from foreign countries—that is to say, countries outside of Canada—who come here and are willing to work at lower wages than Canadians. Some of them do not have an existence in our country, and work here only in the summer time. These people come here and work in the summer time for less wages than Canadians, and not having had any experience of a winter in Canada, work for less wages than we Canadians can do, who have to remain here through the long and hard winter. The result is that Canadians are asked to work for less wages than they can live upon, and the result has been dissatisfaction and strikes in various parts of the country, and there always will be, as long as the same principle of supporting foreign labor exists.

Q.—Is this a British colony? A.—I will submit to you whether it is or not; if you will say it is not, I will admit it.

Q.—And then, how do you propose to prevent Englishmen from coming here? A.—I would not.

Q.—You do not understand my question. In view of what you have already stated I ask you this: How are you going to prevent the English workman from coming to this country? A.—I will explain what I mean. I do not propose to prevent people from coming into the country.

Q.—Then, how are you going to remedy that of which you complain? A.—When foreigners—Englishmen, Scotchmen and Irishmen, and others—come to this country to interfere with the rights of the workmen of this country—

Q.—I am asking your opinion now. You made a complaint against a certain portion of the people of this country. You deny them the right to exist here, when they have as much right as any one to be here, as long as they obey the law? A.—I never made that complaint. I said we did not complain of Canadians, but we com-

plain of foreigners outside of Canada. Understand me: I said and I say now, so that there shall be no mistake about it, and His Honor, probably, will understand me better in this way—as a Canadian workingman I object to having the workingmen of foreign countries brought here, and assisted to come here, when there is not sufficient employment for those who are resident in the country.

Q.—Will you say what are foreign countries? A.—Any country outside of Canada is a foreign country, in my opinion. I say anything outside of Canada. I object to these people being brought into this country—assisted into this country to compete against us. That is what I mean. Unfortunately, I am interrupted and prevented from giving free expression to my thoughts. Then, as I said before, not having had the experience of a Canadian winter they work at lower wages during the summer than we, as Canadians, with a practical knowledge of what the winter is, can possibly do. In some trades in this country it is only practicable to work during the summer months. A great many of these men, such as stone-masons, bricklayers, plasterers, and so forth, are idle, practically speaking, during the winter; and if they cannot make enough money during the summer they have to go and work at some other business, some as common laborers in a shop, and thereby enter into competition with our laborers for the winter.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do I understand you to say that these statistics would be supplied to immigration agents, amongst others? A.—Certainly.

Q.—You believe if these labor statistics were disseminated it would show the true condition of the country, so far as regards the demand for labor of all kinds?

A.—That is it. If this bureau of labor statistics were established in Ottawa, and it has been for years one of the greatest objects that I have ever had in hand—in fact, it has been the only object that I ever had to do with in Canada, the establishment of a bureau of labor statistics together with my confrères and friends in the association I belong to; and as I said before, I deeply regret the absence of my confrère and friend Mr. Gibson, who is absent from the city as a member of this Commission. I think if we had a bureau of labor statistics, and these returns were published regularly, we would not be flooded, as we are to-day, by mechanics in districts where we can find no work for them. That is about all that I have got to say on that particular subject. If there is anything else on which you would like to question me I would have pleasure in answering you.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Did you ever make any figures or enter into figures as to the cost of a bureau of labor statistics? I would not like to create such expense without knowing the cost, so if you have ever made any figures I would like you to say what it would cost? A.—Well, we did not make the figures, for the simple reason that we did not know what the usual price was for men engaged in that description of work, we being but poor mechanics.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You thought it was one of the expenses the Dominion should bear? A.—We thought so. The way we put it was, we thought the Post Office Department should do it. A great many of the country post offices had practically little or nothing to do, and we thought this additional business should be put on these post offices.

Q.—How many post offices are there in the country (Dominion)? A.—About seven thousand.

Q.—Do you expect to receive, then, seven thousand letters a day at the head office in Ottawa? A.—Well, we propose to take Ottawa as the head office; it will be possibly necessary to hire one man to attend to that there, and the same thing could be done in any other city of the same size. Of course, we only just talked this over amongst ourselves; we did not enter into any figures.

Q.—Then, you have no experience as to the cost of this undertaking? A.—We

will have the advantage of getting that in practice; unfortunately, you put me under oath, and I can only talk as far as I know.

Q.—Well, we are obliged to put you under oath, and you can talk the same as any one else. In the meantime, it is but natural to suppose that you have taken into consideration what the cost would be? A.—I could not tell the cost, or the price of men outside my own business, in a city like Ottawa; we consider it expedient to have at least one man in a city like this. In smaller places the postmaster ought to be able to do it himself; he might, perhaps, be given a slight additional remuneration, and in Ottawa we concluded in the building to have a central bureau, presided over by a deputy, or a gentleman equal to a Deputy Minister.

Q.—I would like very much if you had some statement to give us, showing the probable cost of this bureau and its agencies; because, you see when we make suggestions and send them to the Government we must be prepared to show the cost or estimated cost of the scheme, and that is the reason myself and these other gentlemen forming this Commission are here. For instance, shoemakers or manufacturers, like myself, for instance, may make so many suggestions, and in putting them into practice may create so much expense that the Government would not be able to adopt our suggestions; so that is the reason why I always ask what the probable cost will be to the Government.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—There is not a great deal of money expended on the workingman by the Government, or the country, is there? A.—Well, as far as I am concerned—I am a practical workingman—I do not know of a cent. The only money that I know of their spending for the workingman has been the assisted passages from the old country, to compete against us.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you known that as a fact, or is it only a rumor? A.—That is well known. If you examine the papers you will see that it is so. I can tell you, as a matter of fact, that men have come to me in my shop here, in Ottawa city, and have told me when they came and asked me for a job as a machinist; and I asked them when they came, and they said they had only just arrived. I said: "How was it you came out," and they said: "We came out by means of the immigration agent." I asked: "How came you there," and they said: "We came out cheap; we came out as assisted immigrants." These men that asked me for a situation, I said: "There is no assisted passages for mechanics," and they said that was made all right.

Q.—Did those men come out as mechanics or in the capacity of agricultural laborers? A.—I was just coming to that. They said they went to the agent and asked for an assisted passage. He said: "Are you farm laborers," and they answered: "No; we are machinists." He said: "Can you work on a farm," and they said: "Oh, yes;" and he said: "That is all right," and gave them an assisted passage. They said: "We told him we were machinists, but the agent asked if we could work on a farm, and we said that we could, and he said: "That is all right," and gave us assisted passages."

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Are you aware that each application must be accompanied by the certificate of the clergyman or priest? A.—No; I am not.

Q.—Have you anything further you would like to say before the Commission? A.—Well, I should like to have touched on several other things.

Q.—Well, do not you think it would be as well for you to reduce your further views to writing and send it on to the Commission? A.—Well, that is just what I was going to propose. But perhaps you would like to ask me a few other questions. There are a few other things—one or two other things—I would like to have spoken to you about.

Q.—Well, you can embody them, and send it in as a supplement to your present evidence? A.—I will do so. When shall I send it in?

Q.—As soon as you like, so that it can be communicated to the members of the Commission, before they make their report? A.—I shall be very glad to do so, and will take care to embody every thing. In fact, I would prefer to write it; for I have such a cold, as you can doubtless see, that I am totally unable to speak to you to-night.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—You employ about how many hands? A.—Forty-five.

Q.—What number of hours do you consider, as an employer of labor, would be a proper day's work. A.—Well, always since I was a workman myself my idea was eight hours a day. That is enough for any mechanic to work.

Q.—And would you be satisfied to give a mechanic eight hours' work for ten hours' pay? A.—If others would do the same; but, unfortunately, competition is so strong that we cannot afford to do it and keep the business.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—You could not run eight hours if your neighbors ran ten? A.—No. In my opinion eight is enough.

ANALYTICAL INDEX

ARRANGED IN THE ALPHABETICAL ORDER OF THE NAMES OF
WITNESSES.

AINSLIE, JAMES, *Shipwright, Kingston*, - - - - - **1056**

Apprentices. Wages. Constancy of employment. Shortening of the hours of labor the nine-hour system, 1053.

ALLAN, THOMAS, *Hamilton* - - - - - **S22-S24**

Is a telegraph operator in the employ of the G. N. W. Telegraph Co. Commenced eleven years ago as a messenger. Hours of labor of operators and their wages. Night work, 8:2. How operators are graded. Strike of 1883. How young men learn to be operators. Schools that teach telegraphing. Overtime. Female operators, 823. Wages of female operators. The class of work they generally do. Pay days. Rate of wages in Ontario cities, in Montreal, Winnipeg and the United States compared. Thinks it would be a benefit to operators and the general public if Government controlled the telegraphs, 824.

ALLENBY, JOHN, *Tailor, London* - - - - - **627-630**

A tailor's average wages. Very few male apprentices but quite a lot of women. The work of women compared with that of men. The prices paid to women for making vests. Prices for making a "similar" coat vary from \$2.50 to \$4.50. Average earnings of women. Hours of labor of men and women, 627. Men and women employed together in all the shops in the city except one which does not employ any women. Ironing is done in the same room where the hands work. Tailors are beginning to get their work done outside. Italians in London who run sweating shops. No child labor employed unless it be by the women, 628. The overall trade, 628-9. Wages in Great Britain and here compared. Wages paid in cash. Pay days. Shows in what respects organization would benefit the trade. Rents of workmen's houses in London. Wages have decreased. The purchasing power of a dollar is not so much by half as it was eight years ago, 629. Prices of the necessaries of life. Overall and shirt making. The effect of immigration on the trade. Attempt at organization, 630.

ANDERSON, JOHN, *Cornwall, Weaver* - - - - - **1082**

Employed at the Canada Cotton Mills. Runs four looms. Works by the piece. Wages. Sanitary condition and ventilation of the factory. Separate conveniences for each sex; how separated. Knows that all the weavers would prefer being paid weekly, 10-2.

ANDERSON, W. *Ottawa* - - - - - **1104-1107**

Is book-keeper for Mr. J. R. Booth. Wages of log-makers or shanty men and how they are paid. Wages of lumber mill hands and men on the booms. Hours of labor of the mills hands, 1104. Child labor (boys) how employed; age of the youngest. Wages and constancy of employment of the various classes of employees such as sawyers, platform men, pilers, teamsters and their average yearly earnings. Prices of supplies in pork, flour, beans, tea, sugar, syrup, rice and dried apples in 1877-8, 1884-5 and 1887-8, 1145. Labor troubles. Accidents. Does not know that the mills have been inspected. No copy of the Factory Act in the establishment. Arrange-

ments for paying the families of married men who go to the bush. Goods sold to men in the shanties for their convenience only, not for profit. Wages better than they were twenty years ago, and 24 to 25 per cent. higher than ten years ago, 1106. Classes of men who go the shanties and on the drive. When the timber is sold, 1107.

ANDERSON, WILLIAM H., *Manufacturer of Carriage Woodwork, St. Thomas* - 507-511

Is a member of the firm of John Heard & Co. Have but recently started in St. Thomas; been running about three months. Gets his lumber altogether in Canada. Canadian timber for carriage making is as good as the American but the supply is more limited, 507. Wages. Hours of labor. Expects to run all the year round. Finds a market for his product in the Dominion. Quality of Canadian and American carriage woodwork compared. Apprentices, 508. The use of machinery in his business has cheapened production: but has not reduced wages. Rents of workmen's houses. Rate of wages. Purchasing power of money, 509. Production cheapened twenty-five to fifty per cent. By use of machinery. Does not approve of shorter hours. Who gets the twenty-five or fifty per cent. saved in production? employers or workmen? 510-511.

ANDREWS, JOHN, *Farmer, Southwold* - - - - - 503-505

Crops raised in the district. Cattle raising. Prices of cattle and farm produce, 503. Fruit grown. Wages paid to farm laborers. Constancy of employment given to them. Farmers as a rule do not employ as much labor as formerly: the use of machinery has made farmers more independent of laborers. There is a scarcity of good farm laborers. Dairying. Cheese factories, 504. Price of milk in St. Thomas. Stock raising has, to a very large extent, taken the place of wheat raising, 505. Reasons for the scarcity of farm laborers. Raising horses and prices thereof. Immigration. 506. Farmers' combinations. Farmers grange, 507.

ANGROVE, SAMUEL, *Pattern-maker, Kingston* - - - - - 945-947

Is employed at the locomotive works. Constancy of employment. Wages. Pay days fortnightly, paid in cash. Garnisheing of wages. Weekly payments. Men are employed at the Kingston Locomotive works without a certificate from their last employer, 945. Strike last summer (1887) cause and how settled. Company do not object to the men belonging to Labor organizations. Number of locomotives turned out by the company last year. The trade fluctuates, 946. Cost of living in Kingston and wages now and five years ago compared, 947.

Anonymous witnesses who do not desire their names to be published.

* * * ***Steamfitter, Toronto* - - - - - 28-36**

Rate of wages increased when hours of labor were reduced from ten to nine. The plumbers' strike the cause of the increase. Sanitary arrangement of the shops. Rate of wages now paid. Apprentices, 28 and 29. Indentures. Constancy of employment. Co-operation works. Age of apprentices. Pay days, fortnightly, would be better weekly. Saturday objectionable as a pay day, 39. Purchasing power of money as great as three years ago except in payment of rent and purchase of land. Foreign competition, 31. Fines. Benefit society. Sunday labor. Convict labor. Investment of savings. Rent of workingmen's houses. Trades Unions not opposed to employer's interests, 32. Method of settling labor disputes. Wages of apprentices. Term of apprenticeship, 33. Indenturing not generally practised, 34. Cost of board in Toronto. Building lots in Toronto: their cost and location, also restrictions imposed on the sale of them. Lien laws, 25. Rents increase more rapidly than wages. Rate of wages, 36.

* * * , *Machinist, Toronto*

62-70

Reason why he does not wish his name published. Machinists partly organized under the "Amalgamated Society of Engineers, head office London, England, about sixty members here. Benefits derived from the organization, 62. Constancy of employment. Rules of the society provide for arbitration before a strike. Purchasing power of wages. House rents. Sanitary arrangements of machine shops in Toronto. Wages. Hours of labor. Purchasing power of money greater in England than Canada. Rents and accommodations of workmens' houses in England and Canada compared, 63. Cost of living now and five or ten years ago compared. Wages for overtime in England and Toronto compared. Wages and hours of labor of machinists in Durdee, 64. Wages in Toronto. Protection of machinery against accidents. Apprentices. Immigration of men from the Old Country. Pay days once a month, two weeks kept back, for men working for railway companies and fortnightly for others. Thorough organization would benefit the trade, 65. Convict labor. Possibility of mechanics saving money. Advantage to the mechanics of being paid oftener than once a month. Friday the best pay day. Immigration. Canadian and foreign mechanics compared. Arbitration, 68. Strikes. Apprentices. Indentures, 67. Lien law. Machinists under-paid considering the amount of skill required. The Amalgamated Society of Engineers more a benefit society in Canada than anything else. Grand Trunk sick and insurance benefit society, 68. Weekly payments would be a great advantage. Shortening hours of labor. A man cannot do as much in nine as in ten hours. Effect of the use of machinery. The Factory Act of Ontario. The Factory Act in the Old Country, 69. His opinion regarding the age when children should be sent to work, 70.

* * * *Conductor on Grand Trunk Railway*

513-525

System by which the hours of labor of conductors are regulated, 513. Wages. Responsibility of conductors. Penalties for mistakes. Very often lack of proper rest prevents conductors from properly attending to their duties, 514. Difficulty when discharged to get employment with other companies. The ordinary crew of a freight train. Number of loaded cars that usually make a train. Distance required to stop a train. Signalling between conductor and driver. Bell cords not to be depended upon on freight trains. Blacklisting, 515. Fines. Danger to brakemen from running boards. Protection for brakemen. What claim the brakeman has against the company in case of accidents. Effect of the Ontario Government exempting the Grand Trunk Railway from the jurisdiction of the Employer's Liability law, and the plea on which it was done, 516. The uneven height of cars a source of danger to brakemen, 517. Railway Employees Benefit Society, 517, 518. Mr. Hickson's threatening circular regarding answering the questions of the Select Committee of the Local Legislature, 517. Grand Trunk Railway Co. compel their employees to sign a document absolving the company from all responsibility in case of accident; and the law regarding such contracts, 518. The Grand Trunk scheme of insurance 518, 520. The men prefer that the Employer's Liability Act "pure and simple," should be applied to the Grand Trunk Company, 518. Believes he knows men who will refrain from answering the Government questions through fear of the Company. Grand Trunk Punishment Sheet, or black list, 519. Fines. Conductor's Brotherhood. Car couplings now in use. Accidents resulting from car coupling, 520. Bridges. Accidents from frogs. The couplings used on the D. L. and W. are brutal, he would like to stop their cars from passing through the Dominion, 521. The adoption of the Miller coupling for freight cars would do away with all danger. Garnisheeing of wages, 522. Grand Trunk insurance, 522, 524. Dangers and difficulties to brakemen from narrow running boards, frogs, &c. Suggestions regarding what is necessary to improve the condition of railway employees and make their employment safer and better, 524. Licensing of railway conductors, 525.

* * * *Conductor on the Canadian Division of the Michigan*

Central Railway - - - - -

525-539

Thoroughly approves of the evidence given by G. T. R. conductor. Compensation for accident to employes on the Michigan Central Road. Employer's Liability Act, 525. Odbert accident case. Licensing of conductors. Unnecessary delay in investigating cases, 526. Hours of labor of railway employes excessive, 526, 527. No remuneration for extra time. Paid by the trip. A conductor has to take whatever train is given him or lose the job, 527. Freight engines are often too heavily loaded. Usual number of cars to a train. Rules and manner in which the Michigan Central is governed here. Maximum number of cars a brakemen attends to. Signal lights, 528. The application of air brakes to freight train, 529. Further particulars regarding the breaking of trains, 529, 530. A railway employe should be paid extra if he is obliged to work more than ten hours, 530.

* * * *Locomotive Engineer, G. T. R., St. Thomas* -

543-547

Railroad Superintendent organization or society. Hours of labor of locomotive engineers. Engineers' certificates of ability, services and conduct. Law required to make the issuing of those certificates obligatory and not merely at the option of the Superintendent. Charges against employes on the Grand Trunk Railway. How investigated. Locomotive Engineers' Organization, 543. Grand Trunk insurance scheme, 543, 544 545. Effect of Organization, 544. Grand Trunk employe's rule book which must be signed as a condition of employment, contains a clause waiving all claims in case of accident. Grand Trunk rule books sanctioned by the Privy Council. Accident. Condition of the road beds of Canadian railways. Examinations of locomotive engineers. Responsibility for a train rests on conductor and engineer jointly, 545. Inspection of locomotive boilers. Liability to accident from engineers being sent out on roads they are not acquainted with. Round and flat crown sheets on locomotive boilers, 546. Present signal system imperfect. Blacklisting. Necessity for a law compelling railway Superintendents to give certificates to engineers. Strikes, 547.

* * * *Brakeman, M. C. R., St. Thomas* - - -

571-576

Difficulties brakemen have to contend with in regard to the present condition of running boards and car-couplers, 571. Bell cords no use and a source of danger. Frogs on the M. C. R. all filled. Hours of labor or the usual length of a trip for brakemen. Wages of brakemen. No allowance for overtime, 572. Couplings, 572, 573. Guards or hand rails along the running boards. Rest on delayed trips. Compensation for accident. The company's liability in case of accident. Paper employes are required to sign, protecting the company against actions in case of accidents. M. C. R. have no provident or insurance system like that of the G. T. R., 573. Suspensions previous to investigations. Certificates of service and character. Hours of labor and length of trips, 574. Air brakes applied to freight trains, 575.

* * * *St. Thomas* - - - - -

575-577

Describes what changes are required in regard to running boards, &c., of freight cars. Says Mr. D. McCarthy's bill of last session meets all the requirements of the case, 575. Uselessness and danger of depending on bell cords on freight trains, 575, 576. Licensing of conductors and what they expect from the system, 576. Case of black listing, 577.

* * * *Brakeman, M. C. R., St. Thomas* - - -

577

Agrees with evidence given in regard to a brakeman's life and work. Bell cords on freight trains. Oil used in lamps, 577.

- * * * *M. C. R., St. Thomas* - - - - - **578-579**
 Occupation brakeman. Agrees with the evidence of previous witness. Larger crews on freight trains would lessen the danger in braking. Many of the cars have not got brakes that will hold them; has gone through seventeen cars to get three good brakes fit to hold. Conductors' duty to report condition of cars. Cars inspected as far as their running is concerned but not the brakes. Has known the conductor to report bad brakes and the same car go out without being fixed, 578. Feasibility of using air brakes on freight cars. Lack of courtesy to men on trial, 579.
- * * * *St. Thomas* - - - - - **579-580**
 Has been employed on the Grand Trunk as section man. Wages of section men. Hours of labor. Pay days once a month. Employed all the year round. Overtime paid for at same rate as day work. Men are not frequently discharged. Forced to lose his benefits from Grand Trunk Insurance Society because ill-health caused him to leave the Grand Trunk Railway Co.'s employment, 579. Difficulty in remaining a member of the Grand Trunk Railway Company's Benefit Society after leaving the company's employ. Wages. It would be a benefit if they were paid oftener than once a month, 580.
- * * * * *of Cornwall, Mill Operative* - - - - - **1079-1080**
 Employed in the lap room of the Stormont Mill. Firing of employees. Sanitary condition and arrangement of the closets. Wages. Accidents caused through carelessness, 1079. Machinery protected. Wages, 1080.
- * * * *Cotton Spinner* - - - - - **1085-1086**
 Hours of labor of spinners. Wages, 1085. Child labor employed at cotton spinning. Ages of the youngest. Hours of labor. Bad language by under overseers to operatives and children. Separate conveniences. Their condition satisfactory, 1086.
- * * * *engaged in a Match Factory at Ottawa* - - - - - **1149**
 Age. Wages. Hours of labor. Worked half a day at Booth's mill and got a finger cut off. Describes how it happened. Can write a little, 1149.
- * * * *engaged in a Box Factory at Ottawa* - - - - - **1150**
 Does not know his age. Cannot read. Lives with his parents. His father's occupation. Length of time he has been working. Description of his work. Boys sometimes get caught in the saw near which he works, 1150.
- * * * *employed in Mills at Ottawa* - - - - - **1150**
 Age. Length of time he has been working. Wages. Description of his work. Hours of labor, 1150.
- * * * *Ottawa* - - - - - **1150-1151**
 Age. Works in the box factory at Ottawa. Describes the work he does. Danger from the saws, 1151. Length of time he has been there. Wages. Hours of labor, 1151.
- * * * *Ottawa* - - - - - **1151**
 Age. Works at the box factory. Describes the work he does. Hours of labor. Wages. Accidents. Danger from the saws. Can read and write, 1151.
- * * * *, Ottawa,* - - - - - **1151-1152**
 Age. Works at Booth's mills. Length of time he has worked there, 1151. Hours of labor. States that there are boys only eleven and twelve years old working at Booth's mills. Some of these small boys work at night. Hours of labor of night hands. Describes the work that he and the other "little fellows" do. Wages, 1152.

- * * * *Laborer, Ottawa* - - - - - **1158-1159**
 Has been employed for twenty years at the locks, and is now employed there. Hours of labor of lock laborers. Wages. Constancy of employment. Sunday work paid for, 1158. The special grievances of Ottawa lock laborers. What they petitioned for but have not yet received, 1159.
- * * * *Laborer, Ottawa* - - - - - **1159**
 Is employed at the canal locks, as lockman. Hours of labor too long, 1159.
- MISS * * * *Folder in a printing office, Ottawa* - - - **1161-1163**
 Is employed in the Parliamentary Printing Office. Hours of labor. Wages by the day and for overtime, 1161. Working overtime optional. Wages docked if late. Fining of employees for playing. Use of profane language towards female employees by the foreman. Length of time it takes to learn folding. Wages of folders, 1162.
- MISS * * * *Paper Folder, Ottawa* - - - - - **1162-1163**
 Age. Fining of employees. Use of profane or bad language to young female employees by the foreman. Wages. Hours of labor, 1162 and 1163.
- MISS * * * *Folder, Ottawa,* - - - - - **1163**
 Works for MacLean, Roger & Co. Age. Has been fined for being late, 1163.
- MISS * * * *Folder and Sewer, Ottawa* - - - - - **1171-1173**
 Is forewoman at Messrs. Woodburn & Co.'s printing office. Number of young women employed under her. Age of the youngest. Length of time required to learn. Wages, 1171. Hours of labor. Sanitary condition of the room. Pay days weekly, paid regularly and in full. Water supply. Overtime, 1172.
- MISS * * * *Folder and Stitcher, Ottawa* - - - - - **1172-1173**
 Corroborates evidence of last witness (see p. 1171.) Paid for Saturday half holiday. Advantages of Saturday half holidays, 1172. Paid regularly and in cash; no sums kept back, 1173.
- ANTAYA, DANIEL, *Fisherman, Sandwich West* - - - - - **384**
 Wishes the Government would make the close season correspond with the spawning season and carry it out properly, 384.
- ANTHES, J. J., *Berlin* - - - - - **837-839**
 Is a manufacturer of children's carriages. Description of reed or rattan, of which the bodies of children's carriages are mostly made at present. Number of factories making rattan furniture in Ontario. The rattan industry only commenced four or five years ago. Wages of boys and girls employed in the rattan industry, 837. The rattan industry has probably reached its highest point. Rattan: where it comes from; how it comes; what it is; how it is manufactured; duty on it. Machinery cannot be used in manufacturing rattan goods. When the duty was raised he was compelled to manufacture rattan ware instead of importing it as he formerly did. Number of hands employed in making baby carriages in Canada. Competition from prison labor, 838. Prison labor; how to employ it. Ages of the girls he employs; work by piece; their wages; hours of labor. Bonusing and exempting factories from taxation. Quality of Canadian and American rattan goods compared, 839.
- ANTHES, J. S., *Berlin, re-called* - - - - - **842**
 Profit sharing: his own experiment that way, 842.

APPLETON, WALTER S., Harness-maker, Toronto - - - - - **214**

Thinks a Government law compelling indentured apprenticeship would be a benefit to harness-makers. Organization among harness-makers is what is required to better the condition of the men, 214.

ARMSTRONG, FERGUS, Hamilton - - - - - **779-782**

Is station master at the Grand Trunk. The men who report to him. Accidents from coupling and making up trains. Car couplings: reasons why automatic couplers, which are perfectly suitable for passenger cars, would not suit freight cars. Blocking of frogs, 779. Guard on freight cars to prevent men from slipping or falling off. Car brakes: trials of Mr. Hall's method of using the ordinary pistons and cylinders of a locomotive for braking purposes. Wages of yard men and crossing men. The dangerousness of the style of dead-weights in use on freight cars, 780. The old fashioned couplers safer than the American ones. Signal system. Sunday travelling, 781. Sunday work in the yard at Suspension Bridge. Garnisheeing of wages. Rules regarding re-employment of men discharged, and granting certificates to men who have been discharged, 782.

ANTY, GEORGE, Cornwall, Warp Dresser - - - - - **1092-1094**

Is foreman warp dresser in the Stormont Cotton Mill. Number of men employed in his department. Wages, 1092. Condition of mechanics in Cornwall. The possibility of saving anything out of their wages. Education. Condition and location of the closets. Water supply, 1093.

BAIN, JAMES, JR., Toronto - - - - - **89-91**

Is Librarian of Toronto Free Library, Toronto. Free Library. When established. How supported. Who have access to. How many mechanics or laborers among list of readers in. Library well supplied with books for mechanics. How conducted. Industrial school, 83. Toronto Free Library. Number of readers increasing. Mechanics' Institute. Number of volumes on Arts circulated for home reading last year from Toronto Free Library. Mechanics who use the library, 90. Taste for reading increased since establishment of the library. Circulation of books from Toronto Free Library. Necessity of Saturday half holiday, to give workmen an opportunity to use such an institution as the Toronto Free Library, 91.

BAIRD, ROBERT, Carpenter, Kingston - - - - - **939**

Wages of carpenters. Hours of labor. Constancy of employment. Labor organization. Carpenter's machinery. Wages here and in the United States compared. Cost of living about the same as in the United States. Apprentices. Carpenters who own their own houses. Have acquired savings. Convict labor. Wages compared with six years ago. Rents higher, 939.

BALHARIE, JAMES, Baker, Ottawa - - - - - **1131**

Bakers' wages. Hours of labor. Sunday work. Ventilation of the shop in which he works, 1131.

BALLANTINE, JOHN S., Carpenter, Toronto - - - - - **243-244**

Organization on the part of employers done with a view to breaking up organization among the men and not to solve the difficulty between labor and capital. As hours of labor in Toronto were shortened wages advanced. Has not noticed any tendency to dissipation on the part of workmen on account of shortening of hours. Carpenters discharged for belonging to the union, 243. Does not know any employers who refuse to employ union men now. Nine hour system prevails generally in Ontario. That short hours leads to higher wages. Carpenters' wages in the United States, 244.

- BARLOW, THOMAS, Machinist, Kingston** **1001-1002**
Wages, 1001. Pay days, Apprentices at the locomotive works, their wages, &c., 1002.
- BARNHART, ANGUS, Cornwall** **1077-1078**
Is employed running an engine and firing at the Cornwall spinning mill. Is not a practical engineer. Wages. Hours of labor. Condition of the engine and boiler, 1077. Loading the safety valve, 1078.
- BARRELL, HENRY, Baker, Ottawa** **1118-1120**
Wages of bakers. Night work recently discontinued, 1118. The discontinuation of night work caused by the men organizing a union. Truck system or "store pay." Witness' hands in a specimen of a "store pay." "Shinplaster." Thinks the baking business can be done by day work without any injury to the public. Sanitary condition of bake shops in Ottawa, 1119. No bread inspector in Ottawa that he is aware of. Apprentices. Benefits of organization, 1120.
- BARRELL, HENRY, Recalled** **1125**
Truck or store pay. Shinplaster payments, referred to in his evidence, exists in Rockland, county of Russell, 1125.
- BARTHOLEMEW, JAMES, Moulder, Hamilton** **801**
Corroborates the statement made by John Stephenson, 801.
- BARTON, CHARLES W., Harness Maker, Toronto** **210-213**
Harness making distinct from collar making. Journeymen graded into three classes. Wages of each class, 210. Hours of labor. Agreement as to grading and wages not generally carried out. No organization at present worth anything. Used to have a union called the "Harness Makers' Protective Association." Thinks grading of men lowers wages. Reasons for the lowness of wages. Condition of harness makers in Ontario and England contrasted. Purchasing power of money in England greater than here and rents cheaper. Thinks that if the "bosses" had a union to keep up prices the men would reap the benefit of larger wages, 211. Capital required to start business. Sanitary condition of the shops. The trade overstocked with workmen. Shorter hours would better the condition of harness makers, 212. Co-operation. Knights of Labor and the union. Canada Harness Company. Men work for almost nothing. It is a foreign company. All their work done by piece. Is of an inferior quality. Ontario Harness Company. Harness makers have no regular apprentice system, 213.
- BAEKWILL, MICHAEL, Moulder, Hamilton** **801**
Desires to correct statement made by a previous witness regarding prices paid Grand Truck moulders, 801.
- BAUDIN, HENRY, Farmer, of Pittsburg** **938-939**
Crops he grows. Local market. Fruit-growing, 938. Agricultural labor scarce. Machinery. Immigration. Quality of farm labor inferior. Wages and hours of labor, 939.
- BECKETT, THOMAS** **174-177**
Is a journeyman carriage builder in Toronto. Divisions or classes carriage-makers are divided into. Wages in Toronto. Length of day's labor. Toronto carriage-makers' union. Wages of carriage-makers not as high, in proportion, as other trades. Cause. Foreign competition. Thinks Canada can fully compete in quality and style with the United States in carriage making, 174. Cannot compete in price with the large factories of the United States. Wages in Cleveland, O., and Toronto

compared. Carriage blacksmiths. Their wages. Length of day's labor, ten hours. Wages have decreased in the last eleven years. No machinery used in carriage shops, only in factories. Woodwork made in Canada compared with that imported. 175. Thinks employers since the National Policy could pay better wages than they do. Prices for finished goods in Canada and the United States compared. Rents in Detroit higher than Toronto. Carriages cost more in Detroit also. Cost of other items of living compared. Pay days in Toronto. Apprentices. Capital required to start business, 176. Class of men who start shops of their own, 177.

BELL, JOHN, Hamilton

877-880

Is secretary-treasurer of the "Ontario cotton mill." Employs boys, youths and men, also girls and women. Class of work the boys and girls do. Age of the youngest. Wages of skilled workmen and women who are skilled. Classes of work the women do. Wages of girls and boys. Number of looms a weaver attends to. Temperature of the rooms. 877. Hand weavers. Hours of labor of all the employees. Pay days every two weeks, on Friday. Wages now and six years ago compared. Prices of cotton now and ten years ago compared. Quality of Canadian, American and English cottons compared. Purity of Canadian and American cottons. Profits of wholesale and retail merchants on imported and homemade cottons compared. 878. Wages piece work. Does not object to employing members of labor organizations. Sanitary condition of the mill. Factory inspector's visit. Fire escapes. Protection to machinery. Wages of girls. Temperature of the rooms. Fining of employees. 879. Cotton Manufacturers Association for the Dominion. Fining of members of the Cotton Manufacturers Association. 880.

BELL, WM., Relief and Health Inspector, London

591-594

Sanitary condition and system of sewerage in London. Gives the number of people who got corporation relief last month and the corresponding month of last year. Showing a decrease for last year, 591. Classes of people who get relief. Not many immigrants apply for relief. Condition of the working classes in London. It is possible for a workingman to obtain a house of his own, but not of much benefit to him on account of the taxes being pretty heavy. The instalment plan a very bad way for a workingman to buy a house on, unless he is sure of constant work. Average rent of mechanics' houses in London, 592. Makes a yearly house to house inspection yearly. The sanitary condition of London will at present compare with that of any other city in Canada. Cause of typhoid fever. Many water closets and mills too close to each other. Sanitary condition of the Public School good; so also is their water supply. Sanitary condition of factories and workshops, good, 593. Not many factories in London where both sexes are employed, but where they are they have separate conveniences. Does not think much of the dry earth closet system unless they get a better system of removing the matter frequently, 594.

BENNETT, ALEXANDER, Baker, Kingston

996-997

Wages and hours of labor of bakers. Sanitary condition of bakeshops in Kingston, 996. Neglect of the Health Inspector to visit such places. Dangerousness of the machinery used in bakery, it ought to be better protected. Incompetency of some of the men who run stationary engines. The factory inspector. Organized labor, 997.

BENSON, HENRY THOMAS, Toronto

266-268

Is a member of the Builder's Laborers' Union. Average year's wages of a builder's laborer. Average rents paid by builder's laborers. Accidents from defective "plant." Recommends that an inspector of scaffolding be appointed. An employer's liability Act making proprietor liable for such accident would be acceptable. Example of defects in the working of the mechanics lien law. Corporation labor in Toronto, 267. Wages. Hours of labor. Benefits derived from organization. Strikes. French

system of arbitration. Ontario arbitration law not satisfactory, reason why. Thinks a Dominion Bureau of labor statistics would be a benefit and a Dominion liability bill better, 268.

BENSON, WILLIAM, Collector of Customs, Windsor - - - - - **369-371**

Nineteen years collector of Customs at Windsor. There is a good deal of illicit traffic between the two countries at Windsor. Nature of the traffic, 369. Comparison of prices of articles of family consumption in the two cities, Windsor and Detroit, 369-370. Manufacturing industries are increasing at Windsor; many of them branch firms from the United States. Describes the attempt made by the United States authorities to prevent workmen who live in Windsor, crossing the river to labor in Detroit. The attempt was made to enforce against Canadians the United States law in regard to foreign labor contracts. Increase of house rents in Detroit and Windsor. Reason why vegetables are cheaper in Detroit than Windsor, 371.

BENSON, WILLIAM, Collector of Customs, Windsor, recalled - - - - - **420**

Industries at Windsor, he forgot to mention in Mr. Stephens' box factory. The raising of radishes for export, 420.

BETRAM, JOHN, Machinists' Tool Manufacturer, Dundas - - - - - **856-858**

Wages of machinists, pattern-makers and laborers employed by his firm. Number of hands they employ. Apprentices. Indentured. Canadian and Scotch and English artisans compared, 856. Pay day. Moulders' wages. Never had a strike. Have had conferences with the men regarding differences: Instances one case regarding an apprentice. Thinks strikes may be avoided by mutual interchange of ideas between employer and employee. Where they get their iron and steel. Canadian iron. Market for their products. Sent some machines to the Colonial Exhibition and sold them there, 857. Their own tools and machines compared with English. Garmenting of wages and weekly payment of wages. Apprentices. A great many of their hands own their own houses. They get a better class of skilled labor in Dundas than in cities, because cost of living is cheaper. House rent. Indenture system is the right way to make workmen, 858.

BICKLEY, JOHN J., Cornwall - - - - - **1083-1086**

Is a spinner by trade. Is now and has been for some years a member of the Knights of Labor. Has frequently heard that employers in Cornwall refused to employ Knights of Labor because they were such, 1083. Was dismissed himself and given to understand that it was because he was a Knight of Labor. Arbitration is a fixed rule of the Order. Action of the Order regarding strikes. Strikes more frequent in towns where labor is not organized than where it is. Blacklisting or boycotting. Acted as arbitrator for the workmen in the recent strikes at the cotton mills. Describes the strikes, their cause and how settled, 1034. Wages of spinners. The usefulness of labor organization in promoting peace in times of excitement. Amount paid out by the Knights of Labor in Cornwall for the relief of distress. Plan of action of the Knights of Labor regarding strikes, 1085.

BEDDO, T. D. - - - - - **793-794**

Knows of two cases of employees of the Hamilton Forge and Rolling Mills Company paying from \$600 to \$1000 on account of houses they bought in three years. When the forging company commenced operation. Rolling mill commenced before the protection duty was put on iron. Rate of duty on iron. Ontario Rolling Mill. Wages of the men who paid \$600 on their houses in three years, 793. Wages of some of the employees of the Hamilton Forge and Rolling Mills Company, 794.

- BIRKETT, WILLIAM, Secretary-Treasurer of the Dundas Cotton Mills Company, Hamilton** **895-899**
 Wages of employees much the same as paid in the Ontario Cotton Mills (See pages 877-880 and 892 to 895). In regard to age of young persons employed they act strictly according to the requirements of the Ontario Factory Act, 895. Previous to the passing of the Ontario Act children under fourteen were employed. Hours of labor. Technical education, 896. Prices of cotton goods now and ten years ago compared. Prices of domestic and imported cottons compared. Character and quality of Canadian cottons. The effect of manufacturing industries on the morals of the people employed. The presence of such an industry as a cotton mill in a community beneficial, 897. Wages paid in Canadian and British and United States cotton mills compared. Labor trouble and how it was settled. Arbitration. Labor combinations. The employing of young people in such an industry does not prevent them getting as good an education as formerly, and is a source of material prosperity to both them and their parents. Supply of labor ample. The employment in the cotton mill of child labor does not tend to deteriorate the individual physically, 898.
- BIRLEY, F. P., Manufacturer of Paper Boxes, Toronto** **364-366**
 Employs girls principally; their age; all piece-work. Wages. Length of time it takes to become proficient. As a rule girls remain long in his employ. Sometimes hands are very scarce in the summer: Sometimes sit and sometimes stand at their work. Girls not fined for spoiled work, nor for being late but they are locked out till noon. Three doors or means of exit to the factory, 364. Has been in business nine years. His business may be looked upon as a new branch of industry in its infancy. Finds American competition. His business is protected to the extent of 25 per cent., but has to import his straw board and pay a duty on it. Where he gets his raw material. Number of people he employs. Employs men and boys to do the cutting; their wages, 365. Can buy raw material cheaper in the United States even after paying duty than he can get it in Canada, 366.
- BISSELL, JOSEPH, Builder's Laborer, Toronto** **270-272**
 No shelter for the men at meal time. Weekly payments better than fortnightly. The class of laborers who own houses in the city. Improvement in scaffolding wanted, 271-2.
- BLACK, DAVID, Iron Moulder, Toronto** **278**
 Empowered to correct a misstatement regarding hand's wages. Should be \$2 40 per day not \$2.25 as formerly stated, 278.
- BLACK, DAVID Stove plate, moulder, Toronto** **151-153**
 Stove plate moulders do not believe in compulsory arbitration. Kind of arbitration which would suit the stove plate moulders. Condition of shops good except in some cases that the ventilation is bad, 151. Does not think stove plate moulders wages constitute a fair share of the profits. Cost of living higher and rents higher than formerly. Piece system bad for the trade. Apprentices, proportion of to men. Stove plate moulders cannot save money, reasons why. Iron used in stove making is imported from United States and Great Britain, 152. Stove plate moulders do not work more than eight or nine months in the year. The "Iron Ring." Scotch iron better than American, 153.
- BLAKE, JAMES W., Painter, Chatham** **455-457**
 Approves of a thorough apprentice system. Average earning. Cannot get employment all the year round. Painters who own their own houses, and how they own them. Does not know any who have money in the Savings Bank. Rents of mechanics' houses. Thinks industrial education would be beneficial, 455. Believes in a

law making arbitration compulsory. How the Knights of Labor established nine hours as a day's labor in Chatham. Thinks shortening hours of labor would benefit painters. Thinks technical education would be taken advantage of and benefit the trade, 456. His experience of business on his own account, 457.

BLANCHARD, THOMAS, *Farmer, Appleby, County of Halton*

900-902

Corroborates the testimony of Mr. Fothergill (see p. 899.) Many farmers have made money enough out of a rented farm to buy one of their own but must be pretty economical to do so. State of comfort in which farmers live now compared with twenty-five years ago. Does not believe in going into any one kind of farming extensively; believes in mixed farming. Stock raising. Scarcity of farm labor. Farm laborers of to-day compared with those of thirty or forty years ago, 901. Reason for the scarcity of good farm laborers, 902.

BLUE, ARCHIBALD, *Toronto.*

70-88

Is Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture for the Province of Ontario, and Secretary of the Bureau of Industry. Sharing of profits by employers among employees not general, only two or three cases reported. Method of sharing profits in cases reported, 70. Manufacturers satisfied with results thereof. Tendency of wages has been since 1883 stationary. Average wages of blacksmiths, carpenters, machinists, moulders and painters. Method followed in obtaining returns for Ontario Bureau of Industry, 71. Has made calculation regarding the value created by labor, but from inadequate data. Answers regarding the acquisition of wealth by manufacturers. Does not know of workmen being forced to sign "ironclad" contracts. Does not know of any case of employers having blacklists of objectionable workmen. Does not know of anything in the Ontario law to prevent labor organization, 72. Age at which children are permitted to be employed in factories. Not many children under fifteen employed in factories. Has heard of a child working at eight years of age before Factory Act became law. Many girls employed in "sweat-shops" or places where clothing is made for wholesale establishments. Great reluctance on the part of shop girls or female clerks to give particulars regarding their hours of labor, &c., &c.; they fear their employers. Information given to the Bureau of Industry is confidential, 73. Hours of female clerks long. Are docked if they are one or two minutes late. Complaints have been made respecting the ventilation of workshops. Law of Ontario regarding employer's liability for accidents from machinery. Workmen's Compensation Act of 1886. Machinery generally properly protected. Accidents generally the result of carelessness. Accidents happen to inexperienced men running agricultural machines. Accidents not frequent. Workmen generally paid in cash. The "truck system" prevails to very small extent. Considers it an advantage to workmen to get paid in cash. Law of Ontario regarding persons engaged abroad to work in the Province, 74. Rents in 1885 and 1886. Does not think there is much change in the average rent in Toronto. One-fifth is the average proportion of a workingman's income which goes for rent. Wages in Ontario are generally paid weekly; in some cases fortnightly, and in a few cases monthly. Weekly the best manner of paying wages. Reasons why. Average hours of labor in mechanical trades in 1884, 1885 and 1886, 75. Tendency in some trades to make shorter hours. Conditions when shorter hours would be a benefit to employers. Increase in the productive power of labor from use of machinery, &c., 76. Cannot tell what is the purchasing power of money to-day compared with what it was a few years ago. Wages lower here than in Massachusetts; so also is cost of living. Provision in Ontario statute for arbitration in settlement of labor disputes rarely acted upon. Difference between that feeling (or want of feeling) existing between men engaged in buying and selling a piece of property compared with the feeling between employer and employee, 77. Arbitration voluntary by Ontario law. Strikes not frequent compared with other countries. Cause of the street railway employees' strike. Number of hours required of street car drivers and conductors. Wages paid them. Men dismissed for having

joined Knights of Labor. Strike at the Massey works settled by arbitration, 78. Arbitration compulsory in labor disputes in France. A similar law also exists in Massachusetts. Is of opinion that the people here like better to settle their own disputes. Labor organization make the workingman more independent in the sale of his labor. Thinks that the average workingman of Ontario does not stand upon an equality with the purchaser of his labor, 79. Thinks it practically impossible to establish continuous absolute equality between supply and demand. Shows how the result of earnings of carpenters (in his report) was arrived at. Sometimes has difficulty in getting returns from workingmen. Reasons why. Immigration and its effect on the labor market, 80. System of collecting labor statistics by Ontario Bureau. Thinks immigrants could be prevented coming into the country, but does not think it would be in the national interest to do so, 81. Combination among manufacturers to advance prices. Co-operation has scarcely been undertaken in Ontario yet. Co-operation, distribution or stores. Benefit societies among workingmen. Ontario law secures ample wages in case of failure of employer to pay; over that becomes an ordinary claim. Fining system or withholding portion of an employee's wages, 82. Sunday labor. Law regarding railway Sunday traffic. Industrial schools in Ontario. Technical schools. Mercer Reformatory, 83. Coercion on the part of employers to prevent workmen furnishing labor statistics. Hours of labor. Workmen generally prefer shorter hours. Reasons therefor, 84. Long day's labor by farmers and lumberers at special seasons. Fifty years of public school training has much improved the people of Ontario. Drinking habit largely disappeared. Short hour system has not had the effect of increasing the drinking habit. Sanitary condition of workingmen's houses, 85. Thinks there ought to be a rigid inspection of plumbing with a view to sanitation. Building societies. Sanitary arrangements of factories. Scope of the enquiries made by the Ontario Bureau of Industry, 86. Ontario Bureau of Industry want co-operation on the part of the Dominion Government. No labor bureau in any of the other provinces of the Dominion. Convict labor. Savings of the working classes. Importance of labor statistics, 87. Convict labor. Sunday labor in printing offices. Suggestions regarding the taking of the census. Laborers engaged in lumbering, 88.

BONNY, GEORGE, Foreman Blacksmith, Kingston 953-954

Is employed at the locomotive works. Standard rate of wages and hours of labor. Pay day. Wages in Kingston and the United States compared, also cost of living. Cost of living in Kingston and the "old country" compared, 953. Wages 15 per cent lower in the "old country." Wages of a blacksmith's helper. Apprentices, 954.

BOOTH, JOHN R., Manufacturer of Pine Lumber, Ottawa 1178-1179

Hours of labor of boys in his employ, 1178. Has boys in his employ who work from seven o'clock at night till half past five or six o'clock next morning. Never paid any attention to the Factory Act. Never had any visit from, or communication with the Factory inspector, 1179.

BOWEN, JAMES, Hamilton 809-811

Is employed by Messrs Tuckett & Son, in the rolling department. Has been twenty years at the business. Wages of skilled men. Pay day every Saturday. Paid in cash. Would prefer Friday as pay day. Wages of unskilled labor. Hours of labor. Thinks a man can do as much work in eight hours as he could in nine or ten. Piece work, 809. The majority of the hands in the factory work by the piece. Female labor, what employed at. Wages of girls. Rollers hire their own help. Christmas presents from the Messrs Tuckett. All the men are organized, 810. Benefit derived from organization. Perfect harmony between Messrs Tuckett & Son and their employees. They are very particular about not employing any children under fourteen years of age. Visit of the Factory Inspector. States that Mr. Tuckett was in error and under-rated the average earnings of his workmen, 811.

BOWICK, THOMAS, *Blacksmith, Toronto*

103-107

Is an employer of labor. Has been so for 12 years. Finds horse shoes made in Canada better and cheaper than those imported, quotes prices, 103, 105. Cheap material tends to raise men's wages. Believes all his men belong to labor organizations. Finds it a benefit to have all picked men at a high rate of wages. Believes in settling labor disputes by arbitration. Blacksmiths are paid weekly. Men are satisfied with weekly payments, 104. Prefers enforced arbitrations to strikes. His opinion of how enforced arbitration should be conducted. Apprentices. Lower port iron compares favorably with English iron. Rate of wages increased this year. Increase caused by the horseshoers forming a Union, 105. Grading of men according to merit. Thinks an agreement made through the Union would be more solid and binding than if made with the men individually. Does not find he has any advantage over his men in making an agreement. Cost of living, particularly rent increased in Toronto. His men do not work on Sunday. Workmen's houses. Use of machinery has not lowered the wages of blacksmiths. Average wages of blacksmiths. Thinks eighteen years young enough to send a child to work. Foreign contract labor, 106. Convict or prison labor: its effect on the trade. Apprentices are employed principally in country shops. Machine goods dispense with a certain amount of labor, 107.

BOYLE, JAMES, *Iron Founder, Toronto*

169-173

Employs two men. Thinks a journeyman can under certain circumstances save money out of his wages. Men join the Union to better their condition. Very few men who are paid enough for what they do. Difference of opinion as to what are the necessaries of life, 169. Stove plate moulding is so very hard work that a man cannot possibly work more than four days a week in summer. Ten hours a day too long for a moulder to work. Very few moulders think of the sanitary condition of their shops. Men want shorter hours and more money. Thinks there is much ground for complaint regarding sanitary condition of shops. Advantages moulders in the "Old Country" have over those here. Was President of the Union in England, 170. Recommends a uniform minimum rate of wages. Illustrates his reasons for doing so, 170-71. Thinks organized labor beneficial. Enumerates the benefits derived from the Moulders' Union. Does not think organized labor has a tendency to keep men steady in habits and morals. Apprentices system, 171. Indenturing of apprentices, 171-2. Arbitration. Does not approve of Government Arbitration. Recommends weekly pay days. Condition of moulders improved. Wages have risen. Rents have gone up. Competition from foreign countries, 172. Age at which apprentices should commence to learn moulding. Piece work system injurious. Convict labor. Co-operation stores, 173.

BOYLE, J. B., *Inspector of Public Schools, London*

604-607

Attendance at the public schools. Ages at which children are taken from the schools. Kindergarten system, 604. Suitability of the present system of education to boys who wish to become mechanics. Technical education might very well be grafted on the public school system. Does not know how it would work to continue the present system of education and add night schools for technical training. Thinks that the present system of education is filling up the professions to the loss of those entering them. Free library, 605. Female teachers. Salaries of teachers graded; how they are increased. Sanitary condition of the schools. Difference in the salaries of male and female teachers holding the same certificates. Everything in connection with the schools free except books, 606. Publication of school books, 607.

BRICK, THOMAS, *Carter, Hamilton*

817-820

Usual pay and hours of labor of carters in Hamilton. Railway cartage monopolies: the advantages they have and the disadvantages of ordinary carters have in competing with them, 817. General condition of the working people of Hamilton. Number of applications to the mayor for relief. Immigration, 818. "Hun-

reds of families starving in Hamilton to-day" Coffee taverns. Number of broom-makers in Hamilton. Prison labor has destroyed the broommaking business, 819. The question of a public library for Hamilton voted down by the corporation and people of that city, 820.

BRICKMAN, RYNAED W., Carpenter, Chatham - - - - - 457-458

Difficult to get constant employment. Does not think a workingman can live and be comfortable paying all his expenses on the wages he gets in Chatham, not even if he were constantly employed. Always paid in cash, 457. Carpenters' wages, 458.

BROCK, ROBERT, Farmer, Township of Enniskillen - - - - - 732-736

Thirty years a farmer in the neighborhood. Good farming country. Average crop of wheat to the acre. Live stock. Hogs do not pay. Hours of labor, 732. Farming pays when gone into systematically. Prosperity of farmers. Butter and cheese factories. Cattle raising, 733. Sheep raising. Horse raising. Price of horses. The most profitable crop, 734. Cattle shows. Demand for farm labor: use of machinery has lessened it greatly. Immigration of agricultural laborers, 735. Does not approve of the existing law which deprives a man of his title to property provided he is out of it for ten years. Assessment law, 736.

BROWN, JAMES R., Factory Inspector, Toronto - - - - - 315-320

Has completed the preliminary inspection of factories in Ontario. Is inspector of the central district. His instructions as inspector. Found no opposition to complying with the requirements of Factory Act regarding hours of labor. In some places he found women working longer hours than the Act allows, 315. In the majority of factories women do not work as long as men, except in woollen mills. Separate conveniences. In many places males and females work in the same room: the Act does not forbid this. Found a large percentage of children working in cotton and woollen mills, cigar factories and knitting works. Some of them under age. Found a general willingness on the part of employers to comply with the Act, 316. Condition of machinery: in planing mill there was a great want of fencing and a lack of fans to take away dust and shavings. Recommends the automatic trap door for mill holes or hoists. Sanitary conditions. Ventilation and drainage. In some cases got his information from employees; but has found difficulty in getting them to say anything. In some places the condition of shops is satisfactory generally, but in others far from it. Found only twenty fire escapes including wooden ladders on his tour of inspection, 317. In some cases where women were working on the fourth story he found only one stair as a means of exit: in these cases he insisted upon fire escapes being provided. Has not so far found any objection on the part of the employers to provide fire escapes when asked to do so. Special rooms where employees may eat their meals. Has seen some factories which he would not consider comfortable places to work in, and moulding shops you could see daylight through. Act requires him to get a permit to inspect places where no machinery is used, 318. Sweat shops do not come under the Act unless twenty hands are employed, 318-19. Thinks it would be better if the Provinces were all under the Factory Act. His jurisdiction extends from the County of Peel on the west to County Leeds on the east. Notifies the manufacturers and produces his certificate if asked for on the first visit. Thinks he has a right to go through a factory when he likes: In only one case did he hear of boy and girl employees being sent home when it was known the factory inspector was coming to visit. Did not find any general inclination of manufacturer to avoid inspection. Has not heard any general desire for a Factory Act expressed by work people, 319. Inspector has full power to enforce the law. Would not care in the first instance to take proceedings against a violator of the factory law without first referring the case to the Government, 320.

BRYSON, CHARLES, Dry Goods Merchant, Ottawa - - - - - **1163-1165**

Is a member of the firm of Bryson, Graham & Co. Number of people employed by the firm. Female labor employed and the nature of their work. Age of the youngest about fourteen years, 1163. Average wages of dry-goods salesmen and saleswomen. Their hours of labor. Closets, their number and location. Male and female employees use the same closets. Female labor the firm employ in manufacturing ready-made clothing outside: Their wages. No fines imposed upon any of the firm employees, 1164. Hours of labor of the clerks. Advantages of clerks who speak two languages. Female clerks require to dress better than factory employees, 1165.

BUCKLEY, JERRY, Detroit - - - - - **409-415**

Is President of the Seamen's Union. Disadvantages of seamen on the lakes. Law regarding loading of vessels not enforced. Seamen's Union an international body, headquarters at Chicago, with branches throughout Canada and the United States, 409. American law regarding nationality of seamen not enforced. Inspection of hulls. Seamen's or ship's officers obliged to pass an examination in Canada but not in the United States. Vessels are now loaded as if there was no law, 410. Mentions vessels wrecked from overloading. Green hands or incompetent seamen. Vessels often leave port undermanned. Gear of vessels not inspected. Vessels often lost from defective gear, 411. Results from shipping green hands. Law required to prevent the shipping of green hands, 412. The Union cannot compel owners to ship competent seamen unless the Government help them. Seamen's Union have tried to get the U. S. Government to pass laws to prevent shipping of incompetent men. Overloading of vessels and for providing proper sleeping accommodation in the forecabin. Food generally good, 413. What makes vessels cranky. Deck loads. Provisions for saving life. Does not think the law regarding steamboats and their supplies is properly administered. Disadvantage of men on Canadian vessels on the lake shore loading square timber. Proper crew for the three masted schooner, 414. Condition of the forecabin. Inspection of boilers, 415.

BURGOYNE, W. B., St. Catherines, Printer, Manager of The "Star," - - - **934-936**

The use of stereotyped plate matter on newspapers, 934. The use of stereotyped plate matter will probably have a tendency to reduce the number of apprentices, 936.

BURKE HUGH, Boxmaker, Toronto - - - - - **262-264**

Is an employer of labor. How the trade is supplied with labor. Accidents to green hands very frequent. Has never known the inspector to visit those places. How the accidents usually occur, 262. Boxmaking has greatly increased during last few years. Competition in Toronto keen. Wages. Combination of employers to raise price of boxes: how they did it. Organization. Strikes and lockouts. Cause of last year's strike was that the men wanted an understanding about apprentices, 263. Increase in price of boxes. Wages lower. Union rate of wages. Lumber used in box-making and the price of it, 264.

BURNETT, Miss, Milliner and Dressmaker, Toronto, - - - - - **358-359**

Average wages of a first-class milliner. Takes three or four years to learn the business. Beginners should commence about fourteen or fifteen years of age. Apprentices; does not care about taking them. Has to teach them in most cases what ought to be done at school, or common needlework. A great many unemployed milliners in Toronto; principally incompetent hands; how these incompetents graduate. Many milliners only get about six months' work in the year. Spring and fall seasons. Does not think they can make sufficient in six months' to keep them the other six months. More girls at the business than acquired. Many are better adapted to be domestic servants, 358. Reason why girls dislike domestic service. Girls in stores should not be kept standing all day, it can be avoided and is injurious, 359.

BURNS, JAMES, Manufacturer of Engines and Mill-work, London **670-674**

Number of hands employed. Product so far all sold in Canada. Class of machinery he makes, 670. Constancy of employment. Employs mostly skilled mechanics. Wages. Apprentices. Hours of labor. Pays fortnightly, on Mondays. Wages in his line of business have neither increased nor decreased in the last ten years. Uses a good deal of machinery. Machines always in charge of men and properly guarded against accident. Factory Inspector visited the place and was satisfied. The improved machinery introduced into his business within the past few years has not changed the rate of wages nor decreased the demand for labor, 671. Any kind of goods in his line of business now imported could be made in Canada. Imports some of his raw material. Has used almost exclusively Londonderry iron and finds it suits his purpose as well as the best imported iron. Thinks his men save money. Nearly all the married men in his employ have their own homesteads. Some of his men are union men, some are not. Never had any trouble with them on that account. Manufacturers in his line are not organized. Majority of his men are citizens here. Could always get what men he wanted here. Has never asked any of his men to sign any contract binding them except apprentices; they are indentured, 672. Believes in the system of indenturing apprentices. Gets all his coal from the United States. It is a matter of necessity to use the most improved machinery. Thinks that if the wish of a previous witness were acted upon, viz., "that no new machinery be made for thirty years" the country would go back the position it was in, as far as progress is concerned, 100 years ago. Yearly output of his establishment. Does not think that shorter hours of labor should follow from the increased use of machinery; reasons why, 673. Thinks workmen get fully a fair share of the benefit derived from improved machinery. Nearly all our machinery was imported ten years ago. It is due to the protective duty that machinery is prevented from coming into the country and trade in that line increased. The only thing working against Canadian manufactures at present is that we have not quite enough people in Canada to let them run into specialties. Thinks that the previous witness who wants immigration stopped ought to go to the other side, 674.

BURNS, PATRICK, Laborer, London **634-635**

Laborers' wages in London at present. Corporation laborers are employed only in spring and fall. The possible savings of a laboring man. Laborers' organizations. Sanitary condition of tenement houses in London. Immigration has a tendency to reduce laborers' wages. Immigrants who come here through misleading advertisements often wish themselves back again. Rents in London, 634-635.

BYRNE, JOHN T.; Printer, Ottawa, **1146-1147**

Is foreman of the departmental room at Messrs. MacLean, Rogor & Co.'s. Men are paid according to the union schedule for day work and 25 cents an hour for over time. Condition of the water closets. Pay days fortnightly, 1146. Reasons why the office employs none but union men, 1147.

CALLOW, JOHN, Carpenter, Seaton Village, Toronto, **51-62**

Connected with organized labor, Brotherhood of Carpenters; does not consider the principles of Trade Unions opposed to capital; and believes organizations among workmen to be a benefit to employers. Settlement of labor disputes by conference, 51. Wages, comparison between what is paid in Manchester, England, and Toronto. Cost of living in England and Toronto. Effect of wood-working machinery on labor. Pay days. Weekly payments preferable to fortnightly. Reasons why, 52. Wages. Average in Toronto. Favors Government interference in settlement of labor disputes. Effect of strikes on trade. Believes in the shortening of hours to increase wages. Effect of organization on wages, 53. Agreement as to what constitutes a day's labor. The term of apprenticeship in the old country is seven years, many in Canada only serve three months. Those who serve three months are not qualified. Proportion

of apprentices employed to the number of men, in England, 54. Wood-working machinery dispenses with the labor of men. Would prefer to work eight hours a day instead of nine although paid by the hour. Reasons why, 55. Reasons why a half holiday on Saturday should be granted. What constitutes a day's labor in Manchester, England. Value, or purchasing power of money greater in England than here, 56. Advantages of belonging to the union. Cost of living in England itemised. Average number of months a carpenter in Toronto is employed during the year, 57. Trades unions prevent the workmen's rights and privileges being infringed upon. Believes supply and demand will regulate wages, 58. Believes increase of pay and shortening of days labor will increase cost of production a little, but wants workmen to share the benefit. Minimum pay sanctioned by the union but some work for less. Believes accidents from use of machinery to be the result of carelessness in most cases. No co-operation or sharing of profits among carpenters as far as he knows, 59. Co-operation stores in England, also in Toronto. Rent, location of workmen's houses. Value of land. Workmen who own their own houses, 60. Machinery increases boy's labor to the detriment of skilled mechanics. Knows a boy who runs a stationary engine. Believes apprentices should be indentured, 61. Believes in co-operation stores conducted on the cash basis, 62.

CAMERON, BENJAMIN, *Moulder, Hamilton*

842-844

Is a machinery moulder. Hours of labor. Reasons for shortening hours of labor. Free Library in Hamilton; thinks if hours of labor were shortened, workmen would take advantage of it. Moulders' strike of summer of 1887, 842. Immigration. The eight-hour system. Effects of shortening hours of labor, 843. Effect of increased wages. Wash rooms for moulders. Danger, to moulders, of not having wash rooms. Apprentice. Technical schools. Length of time necessary to learn the trade, 844.

CAMPBELL, ARCHIBALD, *Chatham*

487-493

Is engaged in the milling business. Kind of wheat he uses and where he gets it, 487. Finds market for product of his mills in the Maritime Provinces, Glasgow and Liverpool. Finds the trade with Newfoundland increasing. Markets for bran and middling better in the Eastern States than Canada. Wages of skilled millers; hours of labor. Wages of unskilled hands; hours of labor, 488. Night work. Wages in the coopers' shop; hours of labor. Constancy of employment of coopers he employs. Sub-contracting in the coopers' shop, 489. A few but not many of his employees own their own houses. It is pretty hard for a workingman to maintain, educate and clothe his family. Chatham is not a dear place to live in. Average wages in Chatham. With the introduction of roller mills and improved machinery they do not require so many skilled men. Comparison between the rollers made in Canada and Lowell, Mass. The possibility of running mills regularly so as to give constant or regular employment, 490. Comparison of price and quality of North West and local wheat. Arbitration, approves of compulsory arbitration. Industrial education, 491. Apprentices. The establishment of a Dominion Bureau of Statistics would be a benefit to manufacturers, 492.

CAMPBELL, M. D., C. T., *London, Ont.*

582-591

Has considerable knowledge of benefit societies, the members of which are workingmen. Refers to general organizations with subordinate branches with a membership varying from one thousand to over half a million. Some of these associations affording benefits to members have lasted for a century, the other which provide "Assessment Assurance" or benefits payable to the family of a member at his death (the oldest of this latter class), do not date back more than thirty years. Masonic body itself gives no pecuniary benefits except as a matter of charity. The others (including Oddfellows, Foresters, Ancient Order of Workmen, &c., give benefits as a matter of business. Nearly all of these organizations claim that their great object is to teach virtue, truth, morality, charity and benevolence, and they do so, but the benefit sys-

tem is the practical part of their operation. In the great majority of those organizations giving life insurance the cost is less than half the ordinary cost of insurance in the old time insurance companies, 582. Very little of the money paid into those organizations is spent for maintenance; about 90 to 95 per cent. of it goes toward the insurance. Many of these assessment insurance societies were started by men who did not understand the laws of vital statistics, and not being conducted in a business-like manner have failed; but some are over twenty years old, and those started lately are established with much better prospects of permanency. Supposes it is a safe insurance when a man of twenty-one pays as much as a man of fifty, but not a fair one. Death rate in young assessment assurance societies likely to increase to the general average rate, 5.3. Chances of permanency are as great in the average assessment company as in the average old time insurance company. Benefit associations have a good educational effect on the workingmen as well as cultivating the principles of mutual and self help, 584. Competition causes these societies to promise more than they can fulfil. Government supervision of benefit societies, 585. Disposal by will of insurance in assessment societies. Many people must have the cheap insurance afforded by assessment societies or none at all; being unable to pay the fixed charge of regular insurance companies. Security given by officials of assessment assurance societies, 586. Technical education. Thinks the state in the United States and Canada provides too much education. Kindergarten system, 587. Kindergarten system extended into a system of technical education, 588. Curriculum of public schools too large. Salaries of teachers. School books, 589. Ladies as teachers. Difficulty of the Teachers Association striking a scale of salaries and keeping to it, 590. Those who make teaching a life work make the best teachers, not those who follow it as a temporary occupation. Fees in public schools. Publication of school books, 591.

CAMPBELL, MANSON, Manufacturer of Fanning Mills, Chatham - 492-496

Wages he pays for skilled and unskilled labor. Hours of labor. Constancy of employment, 492. Four of his hands own their own houses. Some of his men have saved enough to buy two or three houses, and in one case he knows the man earned it all by his labor. Rates of interest in Chatham. Business increasing yearly. Sells his mills altogether in Canada, but principally in Ontario. Comparison of prices obtained for fanning mills now and ten and fifteen years ago. Credit system in selling fanning mills, 493. Cost of production has been reduced. Cost of labor has not been reduced. Price of cord wood now and six or seven years ago. Margin of profit in his business less than it was five years ago. Sub-contracting, 494. Profit sharing. Co-operation, 495-496.

CAMPBELL, W. J., Boiler Maker, Ottawa - 1115-1117

Average number of men he employs, 1115. Apprentices; their wages and the indenture system. Wages of boiler makers. Wages of unskilled labor he employs. Pay day fortnightly. Opportunity that apprentices have to learn the trade. Hours of labor. Length of time required to learn the trade. Boiler making has a tendency to cause deafness. Overtime. Sanitary condition of the shop, 1116. Ventilation. Desire on the part of some employees to be paid oftener than fortnightly, 1117.

CABEY, JOHN T., Secretary of the Seaman's Assembly of Canada - 911-916

The Welland Canal is, at the present time, sailors' headquarters for Canada. Standard for membership in the assembly. Sick and death benefits in connection with the assembly. Other benefits derived from the assembly. Sailors want a better inspection of vessels so as to ensure seaworthiness. Vessels at present as a rule are overloaded and undermanned, 911. Proper crew for a vessel of 400 tons. Loss of vessels from insufficiency of crews. No law regulating the number of men a vessel should have. Inspection and classification of vessels by the Canadian Lloyds. A law compelling inspection of all vessels would be a benefit to both sailors and owners. Reasons why it would benefit owners. How and when vessels should be inspected.

912. The present system of inspection altogether unsatisfactory from a life saving point of view. Rules of the assembly regarding members going on unseaworthy vessels. Masters' and mates' certificates. The law regarding them not enforced, 913. Overloading of vessels. The Plimsoll load line the remedy for overloading. Condition of forecastles, 914. Number of men employed from Kingston up as sailors. Wages. How sailors are paid. Hours of labor. Black-listing. Provisions for saving the lives of crews in case of wrecks. Legislation required to ensure seaworthiness of vessels; to prevent overloading and to regulate the number and competency of crews, 915. Instances where incompetent men hold masters' and mates' certificates, 916.

CARLYLE, WILLIAM, *Baker, Toronto*

362-363

Thinks shortening the hours of labor caused more men to be employed; about one-fourth more. Always a surplus of labor in the baking trade in Toronto. Men from surrounding district not as competent as men turned out in Toronto. The incompetent man commands same wages in Union shops, 362. One of the rules of organized labor is same rate of wages for competent and incompetent men. Thinks shortening of hours has a tendency to keep men sober. Boss bakers of Toronto are organized. Object of that organization. Has no objection to organized labor; thinks it has been a benefit to his business, 363.

CARROLL, ANDREW J., *Printer, St. Catharines*

925-927

Printers' wages. Pay days. Apprentices. Law of the Typographical Union regarding apprentices. Hours of labor. Female printers. Strike caused by an attempt to prohibit use of stereotyped plates on newspapers, 925. Sufficient increase of duty required to prevent the importation of stereotyped plates for newspaper purpose. Lien laws. Truck system. The establishment of a bureau of labor statistics. Arbitration is recommended by the International to the Subordinate Typographical Unions and is one of the principal planks in the platform of the Knights of Labor, 926. Unseaworthiness of vessels leaving the Welland Canal. Labor organizations. Factory laws not thoroughly enforced, 927.

CARSLEY, SAMUEL, *Dry Goods Merchant, Ottawa*

1165-1169

Water closet and lavatory accommodations for both sexes in dry goods stores in Montreal, Brockville, Ottawa, Toronto and other places throughout the country, their condition and location, 1165. Treatment of milliners' and dressmakers' apprentices in Montreal. Hours of labor. Condition of girls employed in shirt factories and clothing houses; they are frequently paid irregularly and by "duo bills." Necessary to extend the provisions of the Factory Act to dry goods stores, wholesale clothing houses, shirt factories, &c., &c., 1166. Women and children employed in such places should be protected by the Government as employers will never do so until compelled. Sale of Canadian goods for the cheap trade increasing but not for the better class of trade. Payment of employees by coupons. Has no knowledge of an Ontario Act regulating the conditions and hours of women in stores, 1167. Advantage of a salesman who can speak both languages. Saleswomen are under more expense than factory girls. Condition of shop girls and factory girls regarding constancy of employment and wages compared. Salesmen and saleswomen not so well used in Canada as in England. What becomes of "extra milliners when not employed." Age of cash boys from ten and a half to twelve and a half years; thinks they would be better at school. Provision for applying Ontario Factory Act to stores, clothing houses and such places by petition from a majority of the trade. Objects to the term "closing the store;" it should be "dismissing the hands" because the hands are sometimes kept three hours after the store is closed. Describes the system of seizing the wages of poor people in Montreal as a great hardship. Thinks weekly payments would obviate the opportunity and necessity for doing so. The methods he follows in paying his employees, 1169.

CASHION, DAVID, *Moulder, Hamilton* **784-786**

Works for the Grand Trunk. Moulders Union of Hamilton. Number of establishments in Hamilton in which moulders are employed, and number of men employed in the largest of them. Union has a scale of prices in stove shops. Rate of wages for day work in pail shops. Hours of labor. Constancy of employment, 784. Earnings of piece hands in stove shops. Condition of the shops. Apprentices. Attitude of the Unions to non-union men. Strike in the summer of 1887, 785.

CHABOT, PIERRE, *Dry Goods Merchant, Ottawa* **1187-1188**

Wages of a tailor's cutter. Number of tailors and tailoresses he employs. Hours of labor of shantymen in the bush and on the drive. Food given to men in the lumber shanties, 1187. Paying shantymen with "due bills." Usual discount on those "due bills," 1188.

CHARLTON, ROBERT, *Foreman Boilermaker, Kingston* **962**

Apprentices. Technical education, 962.

CHISNELL, RODERICK **783-784**

Has been employed by the Hart Emery Wheel Company since they were established in Hamilton eight years ago. The company manufacture same wheel as they do in Detroit. Reasons why the company established the business in Canada. Number of men employed. Where they sell their products. Number of men employed and business steadily increasing. Quality of the wheels made here. Wages of skilled and unskilled workmen employed. Hours of labor. Piece work, 783. Raw material used and where it comes from. Pay day weekly. Machinery used. Boys employed, 784.

CHITTY, GEORGE LANG, *Book-keeper to Messrs. Gilmour & Co., Lumber Merchants, Ottawa* **1175-1177**

Number of men the firm employ. Wages of men in the bush. Constancy of employment. Kinds of food given to men in the shanties. Necessary goods sold to the men at the depots for their sole convenience at cost price with carriage added, 1175. Wages of mill hands. Boys employed in the mills, their occupations and age. Does not know of any Factory Act in the Province of Quebec. Pay days every two weeks, on Wednesdays. Men paid up to the preceding Saturday. In case of necessity payment as well as goods from the store given to men in advance of pay days and deducted from their pay, 1176. Wages of saw-filer, carpenters, millwright and blacksmiths employed by the firm. How the firm deal with men who meet with accidents. Hours of labor at the mills. Mills run more than sixty hours a week while the Quebec Factory Act states that no children shall be employed for more than sixty hours a week, 1177.

CLARKE, W. A., *London* **594-600**

Is a printer and a member of the Typographical Union. Benefits in connection with the Typographical Union, 594. Scale of wages and hours of labor on newspaper work, 594-595. The effect of having too many boys at the trade in London. Twenty-eight apprentices to twenty-seven journeymen. Rule of the Union regarding apprentices. Indenturing of apprentices. Length of time an apprentice should serve. Arbitration preferred. Strikes a last resort in settlement of labor disputes by the Union, 595. Government arbitrator. The use of "plate matter." Government should raise the duty on plate matter coming into the country. The union, thinks the men should be paid while waiting for copy. Female compositors, their wages, 596. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Sanitary condition of the workrooms. Pay days weekly, on Fridays. Wages in the United States and Canada compared, 597. Competency of female compositors. Apprentices. Thinks Government should

restrict the number of apprentices. Age when an apprentice should leave school. Industrial school. Boys at night work, their wages, 599. Danger of industrial school turning jacks-of-all-trades and masters of none, 600.

CLEMENTS, R., *Carpenter, Ottawa* **1120-1121**

Wages of machine hands in carpentering. Protection to avoid accident. Visit of the Factory Inspector. Wages of a bench hand, 1120. Constancy of employment of carpenters throughout the city. Proportion of workmen who own their own houses in Ottawa. Accidents, 1121.

COLLINS, WILLIAM, *Engineer and Machinist, Burlington, County of Halton* . **825-829**

Example of a mechanic living in comfort and gaining sufficient competency to give up working altogether at the age of fifty years. How it was done, 825. Thinks that an ordinary workman with a family of two children, will find his earnings readily absorbed in educating them if so disposed. Wages in the G. W. Railway workshops fifteen to thirty years ago and hours of labor. The old school mechanics. The workman does not by any means receive his share of the benefits accruing from machinery. On account of the use of machinery reducing the demand for manual labor employment of artisans is made more precarious, 826. Effect of the use of machinery on the employment of labor, 827. Suggests the application of Henry George's ideas as the only logical remedy to improve the condition of the working classes. Profit sharing. His views regarding the relations of the manufacturer, the employee and the trustee, 828.

COOPER, WILLIAM, *Jeweller, Toronto* **264-266**

Is a journeyman working jeweller. Branches of the business, 264. Wages. Length of apprenticeship. More Englishmen in the trade than Canadians. Immigrant or imported labor and its effect on the trade. Never had any strike. Have no organization among the men. Working jewellers can do better in England than in Canada. No scarcity of men in the city, 265. English workmen were brought here for the purpose of reducing wages. Number of men in the business in Toronto. Scarcity of employment, 266.

COULTER, ROBERT, *Shoemaker, Hamilton* **887**

Comparison of wages paid in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. The competition of cheap labor in the Province of Quebec has left, out of five or six factories which formerly existed in Hamilton, only one. The number of shoemakers in Hamilton and the number employed in the factory. Machinery used in the factory in Hamilton. Wages of female labor. Toronto and Hamilton prices compared, 887.

COUSINEAU, ALEXANDER, *Baker, Ottawa* **1133-1134**

Is an employer. Wages of bakers. Price of bread. Bread inspectors. Sells for cash, but does not always get it. Hours of labor. Apprentices. Sanitary condition of bake shops in Ottawa, 1133. Men belonging to the Knights of Labor are better paid than those who do not. Laboring men not belonging to the Knights of Labor are not generally paid sufficient to keep their families going. Effect of labor organization, 1134.

COVENTRY, DR. JOHN, *Medical Health Officer of the Town of Windsor and President of the Medical Health Officers of Ontario* **354-385**

Sanitary condition and sewer system of Windsor, 384. Water supply system of Windsor. Contagious diseases. Plumbing bad, no redeeming feature in it, 385. Sanitary condition of factories, workshops and the homes of the working classes. A large number of workmen who own property. How the sewers are flushed. Advantage of the water supply from the river instead of from wells, 386. Illness from the gases from the charcoal furnaces in tailor's shops for heating irons. Sani-

tary condition of the school houses, bad, not sufficient air space. Qualities of the waters in Lakes Ontario, St. Clair and Huron and the Detroit River. Danger of contamination to the water supply of Windsor. Gas supply, 387. Unsanitary condition of the schools. Vaccination, 388.

CRAFT, EDWIN, Chatham 470-471

Drives spokes in the wood shop of the waggon works. Wages. Sub-contracting. Feasibility of reducing the amount of work done daily and spreading the yearly production over the whole year instead of doing it in eight or nine months, 470. No importation of waggons from the United States. The wood for waggon making all procured in the surrounding country. Sub-contracting makes a slight downward difference in wages, 471

CROSLY, JOHN W., Builder, Petrolia 701-705

Condition of the farms and farmers around Petrolia. The crops raised, 701, 702. Stock raising. Wages and average term of employment in the year of agricultural laborers. The introduction of machinery has lessened the demand for labor. Number of men engaged in lumbering south of Petrolia. Class of timber got out, 702. Tree planting. Length of time required to grow merchantable walnut timber. The advantages he thinks would result from establishing a Dominion Bureau of Statistics, 703. Number of hands he employs in the building trade and the wages he pays, 703, 704. Constancy of employment, "a good man need not be idle one hour," 704. Relative position of employer and employee in the sale of and purchase of labor, 704, 705. The supply of hickory in the vicinity. Sanitary condition of Petrolia. School accommodation. Technical education, 705.

CROWLEY, THOMAS, Journeyman Shoemaker, Windsor 430-434

Trade is and has been for some time very poor. Attributes the depression to the competition of machine-made goods with custom work. Could average \$2 00 a day if he were employed all the time, but as it is his yearly average is less than \$1.00 a day, 430. Cost of hand-made boots in Windsor. His opinion of the cause of labor disputes and arbitration. Piece work and day work. No boys learning the trade now, 431. Factory shoe-making. Machinery has revolutionized the trade. Thinks assisted immigration one of the greatest injuries that could be inflicted upon Canada. Grounds upon which he objects to immigration, 432-433. Thinks immigration tends to make the rich richer and the poor poorer, 434.

CUFF, J. E., Major, St. Catharines 923-925

Sanitary condition of St. Catharines. Water supply. Benefits which have accrued to the working people of St. Catharines from labor combinations. Applications for corporation relief, 923. Immigrants. Apprentices system. The use of United States stereotyped plates on newspapers. Profit sharing. Arbitration. Establishment of Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Labor organization endeavors to promote temperance, 923. Free Library, 924.

DALEY, JAMES, Dyer, Cornwall 1091-1092

Is employed at the Stormont Cotton Mill. Dyer's wages. Constancy of employment. Boys employed in the dye house and their wages. Discharging of men for having their wages garnished. Fortnightly pay days and two weeks pay kept back. No reduction of wages. Condition of the closet and water supply. Protection against accidents, 1091. The cause of the recent strikes and how settled. His attitude, as a foreman, employing labor, towards the Knights of Labor. Thinks it is impossible to do same amount of work in shorter time. Does not deny that the demand for shorter hours was reasonable, 1092.

DANE, PAUL, *Cornwall, Weaver* - - - - -

1091-1095

Is employed at the Stormont Cotton Mill. Works by the piece. Wages. Possibility of saving money. Rents. Water supply at his dwelling house. Distance of some of the working people's dwellings from the factories causes them (especially the females) to get up too soon, for health sake, in order to get to work in time. Water supply and condition of the closets at the mills, 1094.

DANFORTH, BENJAMIN M., *Hamilton* - - - - -

760-764

Is employed in the nail works of the Ontario Rolling Mill. Number of men employed there. Constancy of employment. Hours of labor. Wages. Sanitary condition of the mill. Paid fortnightly on Saturday. Apprentices. Iron used is scrap iron from all over Canada. Wages compared with those paid in Montreal, 760. Visit of the Factory Inspector. Boys' employed by the men, not by the firm. All the work done by the piece. Boys wages. Nailers' Association. Benefits derived from organization. Sick benefit in connection with the Nailers' Association. Wages compared with those in the Maritime Provinces. Importation from the other side; none. Make steel nails, 761. Boys employed do not displace men. Arbitration. Strikes. Hours of labor, 762. Classes of rolled iron they turn out. Piece work. Factory inspector's visit. Accidents from machinery. Nationality of the firm. Rolling mill work, 763. Manufacture of rails, 764.

DAVIDSON, JOHN, *Agricultural Woodworker, London* - - - - -

622-626

Hours of labor. Rate of wages. Are paid \$10 every two weeks, the balance being kept back until it accumulates to \$25 or \$100; the firm pays no interest for the money thus kept back. The man who leaves most money in the hands of the firm is the most likely to get constant employment. Number of persons at the trade in London organized. Organization a benefit, 622. Apprentices. The indenture system would be a great benefit. Accidents to boys running machines. Machinery is not protected, 623. Reason for keeping back part of men's wages. Some of the men save money and buy houses. The use of machinery has lowered wages. Wages and cost of living in London, Ontario, and Syracuse, N. Y., compared, 624. Immigration interferes with the trade. Co-operation societies. Wood used is Canadian. In favor of Government arbitration. Was a shareholder in the Woodstock Co-operation Company, 625. The Woodstock Co-operation Company manufactured matches and failed through mismanagement. It is a general rule to put young boys to work at dangerous machines in the establishment he works in. Only works about seven months in the year, 626.

DAVIS, JOHN, *Wood dealer, Ottawa* - - - - -

1186-1187

Wages of laborers he employs and how they are occupied. Hours of labor. Price of beech and maple wood, 1186. Condition of the working classes in England and Canada compared, 1187.

DAWSON, RICHARD J., *Stationary Engineer, Ottawa* - - - - -

1170-1171

Difficult for a skilled engineer to get what he is worth on account of the many incompetent men ready to take positions. Certificates should be granted to stationary engineers who are qualified, that being as necessary in their case as in the case of steamboat engineers, 1170. Majority of stationary engineers at present in Ottawa are incompetent. Inspection of boilers. Wages of stationary engineers. What an engineer should be examined in before being granted a certificate, 1171.

DAY, THEWLIS, *Cornwall, Superintendent of the Mill of the Cornwall Manufacturing Company* - - - - -

1070-1073

Condition of the mill healthy and comfortable. The strike of last fall, the cause of it, and how it terminated. The feeling of the Company towards labor organiza-

tions. Fining of employees, 1070. How operators who leave without the regular notice are dealt with. Constancy of employment, Holidays not paid for. Visit of the Factory Inspector, 1071. Did not receive from the inspector a copy of the Factory Act to be posted up in the mill, 1072.

DELANEY, ANDREW, Cooper, Toronto **260-261**

Cooper business in a very bad condition. Chief cause of the trouble is the Scott Act. Beer barrels about the only class of work done in Toronto. Number of coopers have left the city altogether, 260. Piece work. Wages. Number of coopers in Toronto. Apprentices. Machinery, 261.

DENNERY, THOMAS, Cornwall, Mill Operative **1080**

Is employed running the colored slasher in the Canada Cotton Company's mill. Reduction of wages. Number of hands employed in his department and their wages, 1080.

DENNIS, RICHARD, Builder and Contractor, Toronto **119-132**

Minimum and maximum rate of wages paid to carpenters in Toronto. Men graduated according to ability, 119. Thinks it would be an advantage to slow men to be allowed by the Union to work for lower wages. Wages regulated by supply and demand. Thinks men can be as independent in the sale of their labor without the power of a Union behind them as with it. Causes of the recent strike in the building trade in Toronto, 120. The recent strike a failure. Employers were organized as well as the men. Does not think a Union or organization a benefit to either the employers or the men. Approximate estimate of number of carpenters in Toronto. They were not all out on strike, 121. Principal cause of strikes a demand for shorter hours and higher wages. Prefers to pay higher wages provided the rate is general. Does not know any employer of labor in the building trade who has become even moderately wealthy, competition is too keen. Thinks carpenters have benefited largely by the nine-hour movement, by having more time to build for themselves. Some of his men have as much as from one to four houses and not a mortgage on them, 122. Carpenters live much better than twenty years' ago. Cost of living compared with twenty to twenty-five years ago. Rents higher, 123. Does not think rented houses pay excessive interest. Renting workmen's houses pays better than renting expensive ones. Does not think the use of machinery by replacing labor has injured the workmen. Never heard of carpenters being obliged to sign a contract not to belong to a Union. Never had any accident from machinery except from carelessness. Pay-days every fortnight. Does not think it would help the men to be paid weekly nor does he think his men want it, 124. Credit system. Thinks those who want to buy direct from farmers suffer a disadvantage in being obliged to buy in the afternoon. Never heard of men being brought into this country to work under contracts made in foreign countries. Most of his men are immigrants who learned their trade in the old country, 125. Thinks a carpenter will be able to work at least two hundred days in the year. Wages paid in Toronto compared with those in cities of the United States and Great Britain. Never heard of cooperation among carpenters to carry on business. Apprentices: has none. Thinks a training school is badly wanted here, 126. Boys have a better chance to learn the trade in the old country than here. Contract labor does not interfere with him at all. Believes in settling labor disputes without strikes. Thinks the strike which inaugurated the nine hour system and got the men higher wages was successful, and could not have been brought about except by concerted action or union, 127. Is a member of the Master Builders Association. Cannot say that being so ever benefits him. Reasons why. Draft agreement submitted to Master Carpenters' Association by journeymen carpenters for acceptance, 22nd January, 1887, 128. Thinks arbitration better than strikes, but does not think a tailor could properly arbitrate for carpenters. Never occurred to him that Friday would suit the men better as a pay day than Saturday; but if it

would benefit the men he would pay Friday night, 129. Advocates the indenturing of apprentices as a remedy for keeping boys at one thing for years instead of having a chance of improving himself. Convict labor does not interfere in Toronto carpentering. Does not think it possible in the interests of either employers or society to do away with the use of machinery in building works. Thinks the rapid growth of Toronto and other places would not have been possible except by the use of machinery or the unlimited use of cheap labor, 130. Five years sufficient as a term of apprenticeship. Opinion regarding arbitration and the method of conducting it, 131. Would recommend Government interference as a last resort in settling of labor disputes, it being better than strikes. Blacklisting men, 132.

DICKSON, JOSEPH R., *Real Estate Agent*

471-474

Demand for real estate not good in Chatham. Value of lots. Some workingmen own their own houses in Chatham. Difficult for a workingman at present rate of wages to get a home for himself. Not so much lumbering as there was ten, fifteen years ago, 471. Kinds of lumber to be had in the district. Cost of lumber. Wages have been going down in Chatham. More men than required. The kind of legislation he proposes to benefit workingmen. Employees in the manufactures getting the profits accruing from cheapening of production by machinery: thinks the workingman should have a share of these profits, either by increased pay or shorter hours, 472. Reducing the hours of labor from ten to eight would hardly employ all the surplus labor. Tendency of young men on farms to seek clerkships. Interest on borrowed money in Chatham. Species of elm timber got out in the district. Cause of the surplus labor now in Chatham is over-production by machinery. Demand in the North-West for Chatham-made waggons, 473. Evils of the sub-contract system. Sub-contracting in Chatham. Where the fanning mills made in Chatham are sent to, 474.

DIXON, JOHN, *Carriage Builder, Toronto*

246-253

Is an employer. Has been in business twenty-six years. Most of the material used in carriage making is made here. Spokes, &c., come from the United States. Best quality of carriage making timber cannot be found in Canada. Rate of wages prevalent for carriage makers, 246. Have no apprentices. Boys learn the trade without indenturing. Does not think many of those boys would avail themselves of industrial education. Pay days. Hours of labor. Does not see what benefit the Saturday half-holiday can be to workmen. Carriage painting injurious to health: on account of the carelessness of the men. Does not employ female labor, 247. Good workmen command good wages but are not always steady. Sanitary condition of his shop. Workmen have more luxuries now than ever. House rent in Toronto. Profit sharing by carriage makers. No Carriage Makers' Union in Toronto, 248. Carriage makers' strike eleven years ago in Toronto. A few immigrant carriage makers come into Toronto from all parts. Thinks living cheaper in Toronto to-day than ever. Rents. Capital required to start business, 249. Sunday work. Convict labor. What he thinks of shorter hours, 250. Piece work. No surplus labor in Toronto. Some improvement in the apprentice system required. How the present apprentice system works, 251. Thinks if the men were better educated they would work better, 252.

DODS, JOHN, *Steamboat Engineer and Machinist, Kingston*

936

Tariff of steamboat engineer's wages. Engineer certificates. Steamboat inspection; boilers and hulls. Seamen have generally lost their wages when owners have failed. Steamboat engineers not organized, 936.

DODWELL, JOHN THOMAS, *Moulder, Toronto*

150-151

Five years in Toronto working at agricultural implement moulding, 150. Wages in and outside of Toronto. Different branches of the moulding trade all organized under one executive head would be beneficial if the organization was incorporated. Importation of agricultural implements for the United States, 151.

DONNELLY, ROBERT **910-911**

Is a ship carpenter employed on the Welland Canal. Ship carpenter's wages and constancy of employment. Class of work he is principally engaged on. Unseaworthy vessels in use, 910. The insurance companies inspector. Vessels inspected from January till spring. Present system of inspection is not a satisfactory test, 911.

DONNELLY, Capt. THOMAS, Mariner, Kingston **984-992**

Number of months in the year a captain is employed. Wages. Sailors' wages. Sailors' wages on the lakes compared with the Atlantic coast. Number of sailors around Kingston, 984. Seaworthiness of vessels on the rivers and lakes. Condition of forecastles and sailors sleeping accommodation. Spars and rigging of sailing vessels generally good, but it is different with barges; they are badly equipped and undermanned, consequently they are dangerous when a tow line breaks and they get adrift. Sails a barge ought to have, 985. Overloading of propellers. The Plimsoll load line. Number and competency of men who should form the crew of a barge. Borrowing mates' certificates. Law regarding masters and mates' certificates. Deck loads, 986. Thinks the Government will have to take some action regarding the seaworthiness of vessels. Sailors' wages generally increased in the month of September, reason why. No shipping master at Kingston, but he thinks it would be well if there was one. Most of the craft belonging to Kingston are well fitted with anchors, chains, &c. Deficiency of life buoys and preservers on sailing vessels, 987. Evils and disadvantages of shipping sailors by the trip from port to port; the rules of their organization demand this instead of by the month or the year. Is not opposed to organization but thinks this rule has a bad effect. Sailors as now engaged are not obliged to touch the cargoes in port. Reason why the union insists on sailors going ashore after each trip. Thinks sailors should be shipped and paid off at a shipping office, same as Atlantic ports, 988. Thinks sailors could save ten times as much as they do when paid off at every port, if they were engaged and paid by the year. The difference between the sailing business and any other business in regard to organized labor. As long as he can remember there has not been proper legislation in shipping interests in Canada, 989. Thinks that on account of the large shipping interests of Canada, there should have been a sailor on the Labor Commission. Acts passed of late years have not been properly constructed. The large marine association of vessel owners who met at Toronto last year wanted to abolish masters and mates on barges. Thinks Government should appoint an inspector of hulls, rigging, &c, but fears when they do so that political influence will have too much to do with it. Lloyds' inspectors. Lloyds only inspect vessel for their own purposes. Masters and mates' certificates, 990. Lloyds' inspectors cannot enforce repairs and equipment, they can only refuse qualification. Government should enforce what is necessary. The injustice of allowing steam vessels other than passenger boats to run with certificated engineers. Wrecking laws. Quotes "An Act to aid vessels wrecked or disabled in the "conterminous to the United States and the Dominion of Canada," passed by the United States Government 19th June, 1878. Explains why the Canadian Government did not meet this legislation in the reciprocal spirit and pass a similar Act, 991. Thinks the Government should legislate so as to give effect to this United States Act. Instances the result of a clause of the Marine Act requiring vessels with sails to have certificated officers while they are not required on a barge, 992.

DONOVAN, MICHAEL, Cooper, Toronto **261-262**

Substantiates statement made by Mr. Delaney. Scott Act has an injurious effect on the business, 261-2.

DOTY, JOHN, Manufacturer of Steam Engines and Machinery, Toronto **320-323**

Employs something over one hundred hands. Machinists' wages, 326. Wages of unskilled workmen. Hours of labor. Constancy of employment. Demand for

engines has increased. Does not employ many boys. Does not consider it necessary for men in charge of engines to be skilled. Thinks it would be a good idea for men in charge of a boiler or engines to pass an examination for competency, 327. Boys coming to him to learn the trade are not regularly apprenticed. Boys' wages. Length of time required to become a proficient machinist. Any technical knowledge an apprentice gets in learning engineering is learnt outside; thinks the best place to impart technical knowledge would be in night schools for that purpose. An artisan with technical knowledge is a superior mechanic, 328.

DOUGLAS, HUGH, Stonemason and Bricklayer, Kingston 1035-1036

Wages of stonemasons and bricklayers. Constancy of employment. Average yearly wages. Corporation works. Are not organized. Apprentices, 1035. Scaffolding. Wages of bricklayers' laborers. Supply and demand regulates wages. Labor organization in connection with the building trade, 1036.

DOUGLAS, W. A., Toronto 13-22

Is Assistant manager of a Loan Company. Attending the commission as a representative of the Anti-Poverty Society. Reads a paper on the labor problem, 13. Increase in value of land, from increase of population, different from the increased value accruing to material from the application of labor. Our present laws ignore this difference, 14. Effect of the fictitious value of land on the payment of labor. The margin of land cultivation determined by population. Wages must fall as population increases, 15. Values should belong to those who cause them. Membership and organization of the Anti-Poverty Society. Peculiar opinions of its members and the result of their practical application upon the workingman and society generally, 16-25. Permanent degradation of the toiler inevitable under the present system of land tenure, 22.

DUFFY, WILLIAM, Moulder, Kingston 1055-1056

Wages of machinery moulder in Kingston not equal to the average paid elsewhere. Strike at the locomotive works last summer, Constancy of employment. The condition of mechanics has improved during the last ten years, 1055.

DUNLAP, STEWART J., Printer, Toronto 36-51

Member of Trades Union. Printers' wages in Toronto. Idle printers an occasional evil in Toronto, 36. Accidents from machinery in press-room. Results from improvements in printing presses, 37-29. Co-operation or sharing of profits. Boycotting of offices by Union printers. Attitude of the Printers' Union to non-union men. Apprentices, Female compositors, and press feeders, 40-41. Difference in wages paid to male and female compositors. Pay days, Friday the best, 41. Apprentices; great advantage of returning to the indenture system. Nine hours a day's labor. Printers' Union and strikes, 42. Organization necessary to the printer's interest. No co-operation offices in Toronto. Sunday labor. Very few printers acquire homes of their own, 43. Printers' Union does not object to female members, 44. Desire of majority of printers to settle disputes by arbitration. Sanitary condition of the offices in Toronto. Apprentices as a rule far below the standard in education, 45. Rate of wages in country offices. Attitude of the Union to female printers, 47. Inferiority of female labor in a printing office and the causes. Benefit society in connection with the Union. Insurance Branch in connection with the International Union, 48. Labor organization equally good for employer and employee. Union scale of wages, 49.

DWYER, JOHN, Laborer, Kingston 990-1000

Is a laborer at the Kingston Locomotive Works. Wages. Hours of labor. Weekly payments, 999. Apprentices, 1,000.

- EATON, THOMAS, Dry Goods Merchant, Toronto** - - - - - **291-294**
 Sells millinery and boots and shoes. Salaries he pays to male and female clerks, 291. Does not think he has any girls in his employ under 12 years of age. Wages young girls commence with. Hours of labor. Fines hands for being behind time without reasonable excuse, 292. Supply of competent clerks is not greater than the demand. Some females have to stand all day. Service of females behind the counters in certain classes of goods equally as valuable as that of males. Income derived from fines, 293. No system of apprenticeship in dry goods business. Have a great many applications from house servants for situations as dry goods clerks. Separate convenience for male and female clerks. Meals for clerks on the premises, 294.
- EDEY, MOSES C., Carpenter and Builder, Ottawa** - - - - - **1147-1148**
 Average wages of carpenters. Proportion of carpenters who can work from plans and drawings of an eighth scale. Apprentices. Technical education; its effect on workmen, 1147. How and where it ought to be taught, &c. The standard of training in the Ottawa Art School too high for mechanics and tradesmen, 1148.
- EICHORN, AUGUST, Merchant and Manufacturer of Cigars, Toronto** - - - - - **305-306**
 Average earnings of cigarmakers in Toronto. Piece work; rate per 1000. Females paid same rate as men. Females work in same room as men. Has no apprentices. Girls and boys employed as inferior work. Wages paid those girls and boys; age, opportunities to learn the trade, 305. Has no doubt that tobacco fit for cigars can be grown in Ontario. No domestic tobacco fit for cigars at present in the market. Consumption of cigars in Scott Act counties reduced about two-thirds. Employs union men. Does not find any difference between union and non-union men. Finds it an advantage in cities to have the blue or union label on his boxes, 306.
- ELLIOTT, EDWIN, Iron moulder, Ottawa** - - - - - **1180**
 Number of men and apprentices employed under him as foreman. Wages. Hours of labor. Sanitary condition and ventilation of the premises. Wages of laborers and furnace men. No visit from the Factory Inspector, nor have they been provided with a copy of the Factory Act, 1180.
- ELLIOTT, WILLIAM, of John Elliott & Son, Iron Founders, London** - - - - - **674-678**
 Manufacture agricultural implements. Number of men they employ. Wages they paid. Apprentices, 674. Does not think that apprentices can learn the trade well in an agricultural implement factory. Pay days fortnightly, on Fridays. The men asked to be paid on Friday. Very few agricultural implements imported. American manufacturers say that agricultural implements made here are better made and of better material than theirs. Use chiefly American and Nova Scotian (Londonderry) iron. Sell their goods chiefly in Ontario, the North West and British Columbia. Competition keen. Do not carry any stock but have reduced the price of machines from \$300 in 1851-52 to \$135 and \$150. Cost of these machines is reduced to the consumer because their machinery is better adapted for turning out the work. Number of selfbinders they made last year. The reaper trade is done; made none last year. None of the class of goods imported into Ontario; only a few into the Maritime Provinces and the North-West, 675. Average value of agricultural implements required for a 100 acre farm. Farmers do not require so much manual labor now because of improved machinery. Hours of labor of men in their factory, 676. A Canadian farmer cannot compete with United States farmers if he does not use the most improved kind of agricultural implements and machinery. Visit of the factory inspector. Uses Blassburg (American) coal; has always been told the Maritime Province coal is not suitable for forges. Thinks that the use of machinery generally has decreased the demand for labor; although it has not done so in his business. The use of the very latest improvements in machinery in his business a necessity to enable him to make any profit and compete with others. His

firm have no objections to employing men belonging to labor organizations, 677. Reasons why the manufacture of agricultural machinery has increased in Ontario. Arbitration. Several of their men own their own houses; does not know of any of their men who do not live comfortably. Canadian workmen as good as American and foreigners after they learn. Canadian manufacturers, in his line, require a little protection yet till they get stronger. Ships goods to Prince Edward Island, England, Australia and a few to France. Class of goods they send abroad is binders, 678.

EVANS, FREDRICK S, *of the Barnum Wire and Iron Works Co., Windsor* - 388-391

Independent industry, established three years. Market throughout the whole Dominion. Class of work, 388. Where the wire and other material are got, 388-89. Duty on wire. Competition from importation from the United States. Really no protection. Advantages of large American factories. Number of men employed. Wages. Men mostly Americans living in Canada, 289. On wire, 390. Employs all men and boys. Age of the boys, seventeen or eighteen. Wages. Hours of labor. Apprentices not bound. Sanitary condition of shop as good as possible. Occupation healthy. Very little broken time. Business increasing steadily. Length of time to learn the trade, 391.

EVANS, THOMAS, *Carpenter, Ottawa,* - - - - - 1126-1127

Wages and constancy of employment of carpenters. Influence of inferior or half skilled workmen on wages, 1126.

EWARD, FRED., *Blacksmith, Kingston* - - - - - 1041-1042

Is employed at the locomotive works. Wages of blacksmiths' helpers. Corroborates the evidence of Mr. C. M. Morrice (see p. 1036), 1041.

FALCONER, JOHN, *Carpenter, Toronto* - - - - - 1-13

Resided in Toronto sixteen years; always a carpenter during that time. Standard rate of wages now paid to carpenters in Toronto. Standard number of hours for a day's labor. Lost time. Rate of wages has increased, 1. Capable sober men have no difficulty in finding employment. Outside carpenters mostly immigrants from England and Scotland. Do not generally join the Carpenters' Union. Have sometimes on that account difficulty in getting employment. Cost of living compared with fifteen years ago, 2. Rent the only item of expenditure in Toronto which has increased. Many carpenters freeholders in Toronto. Mechanics live in better style. Relations between employers and employees, 3. Carpenters wages less than any other mechanics employed in building. Independent Labor Union. Sick Benefit Fund of the Carpenters Union. Strikes, 4. Two-thirds of the carpenters opposed to strikes. Influences which cause strikes. Apprentices, 5. Recommends men should be graded according to ability by the Trades Unions. Courts of arbitration, approves of, 6. Drinking places; the closing of on Saturday night an advantage. Opinion of the Lien Law. Independent Labor Union, 7. Independent Labor Union. Grading according to ability one of its standard rules. Number of members in Toronto, 8. Effect of the use of machinery in carpentering on the labor market, 9. Percentage of idle carpenters in Toronto. Difficulty of obtaining work in winter. Co-operation or participation by workmen in profits, 10. Different rates of wages for carpenters in Toronto. Settlement of labor disputes by conciliations has not been successful. Nine-hour system obtained by amicable arrangement, not by striking, 11. Convict labor vs. carpenters. Co operation industry among carpenters. Sanitary arrangement in shops. Condition of workmen's dwellings. Tendency of the apprentice system to make better workmen. Fining of men for breach of duty. Savings of workmen; how invested, 12, 13.

FARBELL, FRANCIS J., Printer, Ottawa - - - - - **1152-1154**

Sanitary condition of the printing office and closets therein of MacLean, Roger & Co, 1152-1153. Unprotected machinery in the press-room. Accidents. Accommodations and sanitary condition of workmen's houses in Ottawa. Rents. Tyranny practised by employers toward workmen when men are not combined, 1153. Sanitary Inspector. Safety of MacLean, Roger & Co.'s printing office building, 1154.

FIRSTBROOK, JAMES, Box Manufacturer, Toronto - - - - - **311-315**

Employs between eighty and ninety men; employs some boys; describes the work they do. Ages of the boys. Length of time required to become proficient at box making. Wages paid. No uniform rate of wages. Wages have decreased during last year. Cause of the decrease, 311. Box makers of Toronto organized into an Assembly of the Knights of Labor. Have no difficulty in obtaining help. Supply of unskilled carpenters and box makers greater than the demand. Wages of machine hands. Constancy of employment. Accidents. Factory Inspector's visit, 312. Has no connection with any box manufacturers' organization. Was at first favorably impressed with labor organization, but his experience in 1887 taught him that organized labor was organized tyranny in his case at least. Wages raised when the men organized. Price of boxes went up also from same cause, 313. Trouble with the Knights of Labor in May, 1887. Accident which occurred in his factory, 314-315.

FIRSTBROOK, JAMES, Box Manufacturer, Toronto, reappeared - - - - - **326**

Explanation regarding some statements which had been made in connection with the recent trouble in his factory, 326.

FITZTHOMAS, EDWARD, Chatham - - - - - **466-468**

Has been working as a skilled laborer in Chatham for five years. Wages he received then and now. Hours of labor. Cannot save money out of his wages. Men employed in the agricultural implement factory at Chatham, their number and wages. Employed only seven or eight months in the year, 466. Organization, Arbitration. Apprentices. Believes in an indenture system. Sub-contracting or farming of labor, none that he is aware of. Pay days on Friday nights. Rents and sanitary condition of workmen's houses. Machinery properly protected. Overtime. No profit-sharing, 467. Cost of living has not increased since he came to Chatham. Co-operation none, 468.

FLACK DAVID, Coal Merchant, Cornwall - - - - - **1081-1082**

Price of coal. No coal dealers association in Cornwall. Understanding among coal dealers about prices, 1081. Refuses to answer whether the coal dealers of Cornwall used their influence to prevent the working people of Cornwall from getting a consignment of coal from Montreal dealers. Coal 55 to 60 cents a ton higher after the duty was taken off than it was before. Weighing of coal. The dealers buy by the long ton. Cannot tell if there was any understanding between coal merchants in Cornwall and the exchange in New York regarding the prices of coal, 1082.

FLEMING, JAMES, Sailor, Kingston - - - - - **1045-1048**

Has been President of the Sailor's Union. Wages of sailors, 1045. Effect of the lien law. Incompetency of masters and mates. The time barges should be inspected. The time when running gear and tackle should be inspected. Thinks there is too much latitude allowed to vessel owners in the matter of inspection. Reasons why the Seaman's Union discourages the shipping of sailors by the mouth, 1046. It is a necessity that a government appoint an inspector of hulls and sailing vessels. Vessels allowed to go out that are not seaworthy, 1047. Conditions of forecables. Handling of cargo not generally done by seamen. Seamen's Union merged into the

Knights of Labor. Deck loads on barges. Government should enforce the proper equipment and manning of barges, 1048.

FLEMING, ROBERT G., Secretary-Treasurer Chatham Harvester Company - 435-441

Sixteen years' in Chatham. Class of agricultural implements they make. Competition from the United States, none that he knows of. Prices of agricultural implements about the same as in the United States, 435. Imports the cutting apparatus of the implements from the United States. Number of hands they employ. Wages they pay. Where they get the material from, 36. Rent of mechanics' houses in Chatham. Cost of living. Majority of working people do not save money; reason therefor. Trade organizations in Chatham. Strike last summer for shorter hours, 437. How the strike was settled. Chatham manufacturing industries usually pay weekly, on Friday night. Working people of Chatham generally paid in cash. No co-operation enterprises in Chatham; there was a co-operative biscuit factory but it failed from lack of capital. Rents in Chatham. The employers of labor organized; is himself a member of that organization, 434. Object of the organization. How scale of wages is graded. Hands get from ten to eleven months work during the year. Overtime. How the meetings of the Employer's Association are conducted, 439. Workmen in Chatham do not migrate much. Many of them own the houses they live in. Mechanics Institute in Chatham is not so much appreciated as it should be. Does not think workmen would use more leisure time to their advantage, 440. Overtime never satisfactory although sometimes a necessity, 441.

FOSTER, EDWARD H., Carpenter, Windsor - - - 420-429

General condition of the trade good lately. Wages. Average about seven months work in this year, 420. Trade organized. The trade has been improved during last five years by shortening the hours. Thinks that apprentices who have had industrial training make better journeymen. Too many carpenters in the market now, consequently do not want any apprentices for some time. Believes in indenturing apprentices. Competition from machinery has reduced wages. Truck system abolished in Windsor about a year and a half ago, because the men refused to take store pay. Is in favor of a law compelling arbitration, 421. Thinks there are a good many carpenters in Windsor out of work now. Average about ten months work in the year. A good many carpenters own the houses they live in. Rents in Windsor of workingmen's houses. No co-operation among carpenters at Windsor. Sanitary condition of the shop good. Condition of the machinery not quite what it should be. Dust from sand-papering machines injurious to the health. Is not aware of the factory inspector having been at the shop, 422.

FOTHERGILL, JOHN, Farmer, Burlington - - - 899-900

The majority of the farmers around Burlington are getting into debt: cause therefor. Wages of farm laborers. Scarcity of farm laborers; result of the scarcity, 899. Farm machinery, its cost and time it will last: it reduces the cost of producing grain. Considers being near a city a great advantage to a farmer. Dairy farming. Selling milk to butter and cheese factories. Fruit growing, 900.

FRANKLAND, GARRETT, T., Cattle Exporter, Toronto - - - 338-341

Prices in the cattle trade not so good in Great Britain as they were four years ago. General statement regarding the cattle trade of Canada with Great Britain. How it came into existence in 1870, and a brief history of it since, 338-339. Cause of the present depression in prices. Still a paying business. British laws or regulations regarding importation of Canadian and American cattle. Has always been opposed to the transit of cattle from the United States through Canada. Reasons therefor, 339. How it pays the Canadian farmer to raise beef cattle for export. Kind and condition of cattle selected for shipping. Quality of Canadian, North-West and Western United States cattle compared. Would prefer to have nothing to do with

the low breed of cattle raised in Texas. In reply to the question "can cattle be best raised with a view to beef and dairy products combined or must they be followed out separately?" he replied that "all farmers must have stock," and is under the impression that mixed farming is most likely to be successful, 340. Advice to Government regarding inspection of cattle, ships and providing of proper wharves to ship from. How loss of cattle on board ship is caused. Exportation of cattle from the Argentine Republic. Claims Canada to be the most suitable country on earth to grow beef. Argentine Republic will never grow cattle for export alone; exports none on hoof. Australia does, but has been more successful with mutton, 341.

FRANKLIN, J. J., Superintendent Toronto Street Railway - - - 328-335

Average earnings of Street Railway employees, and hours of labor, 328-329. Overtime. Men sometimes leave employ of the firm to better themselves, but generally want to come back. No fines for being late. Men can leave and company can discharge without notice. Weekly pay days on Friday nights. Men in employ of the company are required to sign an agreement not to belong to any labor organization. Speaking for the company he thinks labor organizations have a bad influence on workmen, 330. Disputes or trouble between the company and their employees. Average day of a street car driver is eleven and a half hours. Shorter hours. Condition of street car employees in Toronto better than in the United States, 331. Quite a number of men employed by the company, own property, and earned their money in the employ of the company. Men relieved more frequently in severe weather. Labor organization interfering with the company's rights. Company has never had any trouble except from discharged men, 332. Company never discharged a man on suspicion that he was a labor agitator. Rents of houses in Toronto, such as the employees of the company require, 333. Wages of saddlers and carpenters in employ of company. Does not think the men made any demand on the company before striking. Does not know what the men struck for; does not think they knew themselves. Took back fifteen or twenty of the old hands after the strike. Had no difficulty in filling the places of the others, 334. Mechanics often apply for positions as drivers. The car service was not altogether stopped, but was very inadequate at the time of the strike, 335.

FRASER, JOHN, Real Estate Agent, Petrolea - - - 722-723

Savings of workmen in Petrolea. Cost of living, rents, &c. Constancy of employment. Workingmen who own their own houses. Profit-sharing. The establishment of a Dominion Bureau of Labor Statistics, 722. Rate of interest on loans on town property and farm property, 723.

FRENCH, ALBERT, Woollen Manufacturer, Ottawa - - - 1144-1145

Is proprietor of the New Edinburgh Mills. Employs about seventy-five hands, one half of whom are women and girls. Age of the youngest children employed. Wages of male and female spinners and weavers. Accidents. Fining of employees. Wages of hands employed in the picker room, carding room and filling room. Hours of labor. Pay days monthly, on the second Saturday of the month. Notice required before leaving, 1144. Night work. Separate conveniences in each room. Canadian and imported wools compared, he uses both, 1145.

FREYSING, P., Manufacturer and Importer of Corks, Toronto - - - 307-309

Employs 25 hands, men, girls and boys. Minimum age of boys and girls, fourteen year. Accidents. Wages. Only one cork factory in Toronto. American competition, 307-308. Pay days. Piece work, 309.

GALBRAITH, JOHN, Professor of Engineering, Toronto - - - 217-222

Has been connected with technical education only in teaching engineering at the school of Practical Science in Toronto. Definition of what he understands technical

education to be, 217. Evils resulting from competition for contracts in building. Workman would be benefited by better opportunities for learning the theoretical side of his work. Difficulty of teaching this in public schools. Practically impossible to teach trades in free school. Night schools. Does not think teaching children at school use of tools and the nature and properties of material would be of any use, 218. Teaching a little of all trades in school worse than useless. The only way to make teaching of trades of educational value is to teach them systematically. The penitentiary and the Mercer Institute the only places in this country where technical education, as it is called, is to be had, 219. Wardens of penitentiaries the only men who have devoted their time to systematic trade teaching. Night schools the place to give technical education. The difficulty with technical schools is to get teachers. Has little confidence in the knowledge a boy can get at public schools except reading, writing and arithmetic, 220. Unsatisfactory results of the teaching in our public schools. Turning out boys from our public schools who know nothing, 221. Necessity for more practical knowledge among our public school teachers. Trade teaching in Normal School. How engineers are taught the various trades connected with their profession in the Boston Institute of Technology. His idea of a school for teaching trades, 222.

GALBRAITH, THOMAS, *Toronto* - - - - - 191-193

Has been market reporter on the *Toronto Globe* for eight years. Memoranda of market prices in Toronto in the years 1881, 1882, 1877 and 1872, 191-92. The Lower Province crop of potatoes regulates price of potatoes in Ontario, 192. Ontario farmers have a better class of sheep now and grow a better class of wool. The demand for, and price of wool are governed to some extent by the style of woollen fabrics worn. The "ring" in coffee has made the price abnormally high. As a rule working people in Toronto do not buy inferior food on the market. Food inspection in Toronto, 193.

GALE, JOHN, *Ottawa* - - - - - 1134-1135

Is sixteen years of age. Lost, when he was between eleven and twelve years of age, his right arm while working in a saw mill; describes how the accident occurred. Other small boys similarly engaged at the same time, 1134. Did not recover any compensation from his employer. Cannot now earn a living unless he can get an education. Promises to bring another boy who lost both arms and legs in a saw mill. Was working for a sub-contractor when he met with his accident, 1135.

GALLAGHER, PATRICK, *St. Catharines* - - - - - 917-918

Is a sailor. Approves of the evidence of John T. Carey (see p. 911) and Peter Nelson (see p. 916). General unseaworthy condition of vessels going out of the canal. Principal defects of vessels. Proportion of wrecks caused by unseaworthiness, 917. Incompetent class of men being shipped on vessels which are towed. Advantage to be derived from a proper system of inspection. Canvas requisite for safety for a barge in tow, and the canvas usually carried. Overloading. Sailors' wages and hours of labor. Average season's earnings. How sailors are paid, 918.

GALT, JOHN, *Civil and Mechanical Engineer, Toronto* - - - - - 194-197

Has had a good deal of experience with the industrial or technical education of young people. Great necessity for technical or industrial education. At present in this country there is nothing between common school and university education. Science and art department in the old country. Method of conducting schools working under science and art department, 194, 195. Does not think public school education adapted to meet the wants of workmen. Science and art department was forced upon the British Government after the first Paris exhibition. Technical schools in Europe and America, 195. School of Technology in Toronto. Introduction of practical workshops into universities. Industrial training in schools and

colleges can never take the place of a thorough apprentice system. How industrial school teachers are treated in Great Britain. Necessity of industrial education for the working classes. School of Practical Science in Toronto, 196, 197.

GARON, LOUIS, *Baker, Ottawa* **1132**

Wages of bakers. Hours of labor. Night work. Child labor employed in bakeries in Ottawa, 1132.

GARVOCK, WILLIAM, *Carpenter, Ottawa* **1128-1130**

Corroborates the evidence of Thomas Evans (see p. 1126) regarding carpenters wages. Technical education, 1128. If imparted to all branches of trade would tend to remove inequalities amongst workmen. Favors a Government system of technical education. Branches of technical education most important to carpenters. The Ontario Government attempts a technical education of no practical use to workmen on account of incompetent teachers. The system in England. Apprentices get but little opportunity to learn the theory of their trade. Favors the indenture system, 1129. The Old Country system of an apprentice giving security that he will keep his engagement, 1130.

GASKIN, JOHN, *Forwarder, Kingston.* **965-969**

Is outside manager for the Montreal Transportation and Forwarding Company. Where the company's vessels run to. Number of men the company employ. Wages of grain shovellers and constancy of employment, and hours of labor. Labor organization, 965. Certificates necessary for masters and mates of vessels. Inspection of vessels. Summer the proper time to inspect spars and rigging, 966. River barges of the company not insured. Masters and mates without certificates taking charge of vessels. Deck loads. Thinks men from the engine room or purser's office of a propeller should be allowed to take charge of the vessel if they qualify themselves for the position, 967. No law to regulate the number of the crew of a propeller. Number required. Forecasts and sailors' sleeping accommodations, 968. Organized labor. Believes in paying men according to their merits. Has no difficulty in getting what men he require, 969.

GAULT, ARCHIE, *Secretary of the Stormont Cotton Mills Company, Cornwall.* - **1058-1062**

Number of men. Females and children employed in the Stormont cotton mills. Hours of labor. Wages. Weavers all work by the piece. Aggregate amount of wages the company paid last year. Fines collected, 1058. Ill-treatment of operatives by overseers. Separate conveniences. Water supply. Strikes, beginning of 1887 on account of an equalizing or reduction of wages. How it was settled, 1059. Operatives fined only for spoiled work. Attitude of the company to the Knights of Labor. Child labor; means taken to ascertain the ages of, hours of; labor of. Overtime. Ventilation of the mill. Means of escape in case of fire, 1060. Pay days fortnightly. A fortnight's wages kept back. Notice to leave. Garnisheeing of wages. Weekly payments. Accidents, 1061. Operatives paid for time lost through breaking of machinery. Constancy of employment. Company's business has doubled during the past five years. Visit of the factory inspector. Cotton Manufacturers' Association, 1062.

GIBBENS, WILLIAM, *Ottawa, Manager of "The Citizen Printing and Publishing Company,"* **1145-1146**

Number of compositors employed; proportion of them who work at night. Wages paid to book and job hands. Hours of labor. Printers on the newspaper work by the piece; rate paid them per 1000 ems. Hours of labor of newspaper compositors. Sanitary condition of the closets, 1145. One woman employed. Proof-reader's wages. Apprentices. Feeling between employers and men, good. Hours of labor of compositors. Average earnings of compositors who work by the piece, 1146.

GIBSON, WILLIAM, *Biscuit Manufacturer, Ottawa* - - - - 1102-1104

Wages of his foreman biscuit baker, 1102. Wages of journeymen biscuit bakers. Average wages of boys from fourteen to seventeen years of age. His engineer's wages. Hours of labor. Overtime. No visit from the Ontario Factory Inspector. Pay days weekly, on Saturday nights. Does not take any apprentices. Just gives boys so much a week and they do what they are told. Biscuit baker's wages, 1103. Girls employed packing biscuits, their age. Wages. Sanitary condition of the place. Separate closets for each sex, 1104.

GILBERT, EDWIN S., *Book-keeper, Hamilton* - - - - 861-863

Represents the Hamilton Land Tax Club. Description of the club and its objects, 861, 863.

GNOSILL, HENRY, *Windsor* - - - - 427-430

Is a brass finisher at the Barnum Wire Works. About 40 men and boys employed in the wire works. It is the principal industry in Windsor. Employed all the year round. Wages. Apprentices. Quite a lot of machinery used in the wire works. Industrial or technical education would be a great benefit to wire workers, 427. Knights of Labor have caused wages of working people to improve during last year and a half. Wages in United States higher than in Canada. Rents and cost of living cheaper in Great Britain than here. Increase of rent compared with increase of pay at Windsor. Brass finisher's wages in Cincinnati and in England, 428. Comparative prices of food and clothing in Windsor and Detroit. Immigration does not interfere with his trade, 429.

GOODBURNE, JOSEPH L., *Printer, London* - - - - 615-617

Employed on a newspaper, 615. Hours of labor, fourteen hours a day and four days a week. Constancy of employment. Piece work and day hands. Arbitration. Indenturing of apprentices. Wages, 616. Sanitary condition of the office, 617.

GOSSETT, RALPH, *Painter, Chatham* - - - - 458-460

Works at carriage painting at present. Carriage works employ sixty-five men. Eight months' employment during the year. Paid by day work. Season's earnings. Pretty close work to live on a season's earnings. Could do so if employed constantly. Industrial education. Favors a law making arbitration compulsory. Wages, 458. An apprentice system better for employer and workman. Painters' wages and condition in England and in Chatham compared. Crowding work into seasons an injury that might be avoided. Shortening the hours of labor would give more employment. Tried to get the hours shortened, but failed. Character and status of the workingman here as good as in England, and it might be better if he got more time to do his work, 459. Sanitary condition of the carriage works. Has not seen the Factory Inspector, 460.

GRAY, JOSEPH, *Dyer, Cornwall* - - - - 1090

Is employed in the Canada Cotton Mill. Healthiness of the business of dyeing. Hours of labor. Protection against accidents. Wages. Compensation for accidents. Conditions of the closets and water supply. Possibility of saving money out of a dyer's pay. Wages of overseers in the mill, 1090.

GRATTON, LOUIS, *Cabinet Maker and Joiner, Ottawa* - - - - 1159-1160

Number of men he employs, 1159. Hours of labor. Weekly wages. Constancy of employment, 1160.

GREEN, J. M., *St. Thomas* - - - - 538-542

Is a manufacturer, builder and contractor. Nature of his contracts. Reason for the depression in trade in St. Thomas. Carpenters' wages. Labor organization. Arbi-

tration, 538. Stonemasons and bricklayers' wages. Plasterers' wages. Slaters' wages. Shipping houses to Winnipeg. Prices of lumber, 539. Prefers arbitration to strikes. His apprentice system. Technical education, 540. Hours of labor of carpenters. Fortnightly pay days on Friday. Age a boy should be before commencing to learn the trade. Bonusing manufacturing industries, 541-542. Lumber used in building at St. Thomas and what it costs, 542.

GREEN, THOMAS, *Carpenter and Builder, London* - - - - - 645-649

Is an employer. Carpenters' wages and hours of labor. Constancy of employment. Difficulty for a man with a family to save money at carpentering. Carpenters are organized. Strikes. Arbitration, 645. Mechanics' lien law. Men paid by the hour; rate per hour. The carpenters' strike. Carpenters are the worst paid mechanics in London. The trade is run down for want of proper organization. Cost of carpenters' tools, 646. Carpenters are poorly paid because the labor market is overstocked with a great many inferior workmen. Organization is a benefit to the workingmen and sometimes it is good for other people, too. Apprentices. Effect of the use of machinery in carpentering; it has not reduced wages, 647. The inferior mechanics in the trade are Canadians as a rule. Is a member of the Builders' Exchange. Members of the Builders' Exchange do not discriminate against those who are not members except that they prefer dealing with those who are members when possible, and members get a discount off when buying lumber, provided they pay monthly, 648. Practice of the Exchange in tendering for contracts, 648-649. The Factory Inspector has not visited his establishment that he is aware of. How his machinery is protected. Has not got any boys running machines. There are no fines in connection with the Builders' Exchange, 649.

GREENING, SAMUEL, *Hamilton* - - - - - 840-842

Title of his firm, B. Greening & Co. Manufactures wire ropes, wire cloth, wire work and general permeated metals. Length of time business established. Material he uses. Employs about 110 hands, 60 per cent. of which is skilled labor. Wages of the various classes of skilled workmen employed. Uses almost every kind of wire made except piano wire. Employs boys. Wages they get. Apprentices. Market in Canada. Uses machinery. Has taken an accident policy for his men at his own cost, 840. Nature of the policy, 840-841. Visit of the Provincial Factory Inspector, 840. Never heard of any establishment the Factory Inspector was not satisfied with. Class of goods they make most of and what they are used for. Accidents from machinery. Indenturing of apprentices. Employs females; age of the youngest; what they work at, 841. Wages of the females, 842.

GREER, RODGER, *Laborer, Kingston* - - - - - 954-956

Is a builder's laborer. Wages of builder's laborers. Wages of corporation laborers, 954. Corporation laborers are paid fortnightly, asked for weekly payments but were refused. Builders' laborers are organized and find it beneficial. Material condition of laborers in Kingston. Immigration. Builder's scaffolding. Lien laws. Sanitary condition of workingmen's houses might be improved, 955. Kingston health inspector, 956.

GREEN, THOMAS A., *Hamilton* - - - - - 850-855

Has been captain on lake vessels for the last twelve years. Has sailed the lakes since 1864 or 1865, 850. Wages of sailors now and during the American war. Constancy of employment. Advantages of employing sailors by the season instead of by the trip. Average season's wages for a sailor. Class of men engaged on propellers: hired by the season, 851. Wages of men on sailing vessels and propellers compared. Food and sleeping accommodations of sailors. Vessels are seldom short-handed except in the fall. The sailing power barges which are towed ought to have. Number of hands required to handle a barge when she gets

adrift. Inspection of hulls. Inspection of rigging. Vessels often go to sea with improper rigging. Inspection of boilers and machinery, 852. Qualification required of engineers. Has heard tell of Canadian bottoms being run after they were condemned: sometimes they go to sea not altogether in ship-shape order. Inspectors of hulls, 853. Condition of the forecastles sleeping rooms of the sailors on sailing vessels and barges. Fog horns and soundings required. Light-houses, 854. Deck loads. Carrying capacity and strength of water. Qualifications for a sailor. Duties and qualifications of a mate. Life boats and life preservers, 855.

GURNETT, Miss HELEN, *Dressmaker, Toronto*

347-348

Average wages and hours of labor of dressmakers in Toronto. Length of time it takes to become experienced hands. Are usually apprenticed. Busy season lasts about four months, after that hands are employed at less wages balance of the year, 347. Wages in Toronto and the United States compared. Cost of living cheaper here than in the United States. Experienced dressmakers seldom immigrate to this country, 348.

GURNEY, EDWARD, *Toronto*

294-300

Is in the foundry business and makes stoves, &c. Employs about 400 men in Hamilton and Toronto. Average wages of a moulder on stovework. Number of days they work in the year in his foundries. Thinks the moulders estimated average of \$1.40 a day is exceptional. Does not think it possible to give his moulders constant employment all the year round, 294-5. His experience of providing workrooms for his moulders. Apprentices indentured. How deterioration of workmen has occurred. Settlement of labor disputes, 296. Does not think there are many moulders in Toronto who own their own houses: and thinks a certain number of them do not want to own them. Pattern-makers, their wages, more constantly employed than moulders. Stove Manufacturer's Association. Wages in Boston and Toronto and Hamilton compared, 297. The nature of his last difficulty with his employees. The giving of steady employment beyond the control of the manufacturers. No combine of the manufacturers of the United States and the Dominion. Describes the object and operation of the Stove Manufacturer's Association, 298. Stove manufacturers' and foundrymen have two separate organizations. Demand for higher priced goods increasing. Thinks the laboring classes in a better condition to-day than 30 years ago. Thinks the purchasing power of money greater. Not many stoves imported, 299. Coal he uses all foreign. Uses a large proportion of Canadian iron, 300.

HALL, JOHN, *Foreman at the Locomotive Works of the Grand Trunk Railway at Hamilton*

768-779

Has charge of the locomotives assigned to the Hamilton station of the Great Western Division of the Grand Trunk Railway. Drivers and firemen report to him. Thirty-two years in his present position; his experience previous to that. Hours of labor of drivers and firemen, 768. Rate of additional pay for extended trips. Length of continuous service required from men in exceptional cases. Rules regarding the calling of drivers and firemen to duty and relieving them. What is done when a man called to duty is in ill health, 769. Running boards on freight cars. His idea of guards to save men from falling off the top of freight cars, 770. Application of air brakes to freight cars. His own plan of using the ordinary pistons and cylinders of the locomotive as air pumps for braking purposes, 771. The expense of applying his plan to a freight car. The application of automatic freight couplers to freight cars. Accidents from frogs and guard rails. The law compelling frogs to be blocked is complied with on some parts of the Grand Trunk Railway. How those accidents may be avoided, 772. Old and new signal systems. Examinations of locomotive engineers, 773. On the operation and efficacy of air brakes, 774. Controlling of cars on heavy grades, 775. Westinghouse air brake, 774-776. Tests to

discover color blindness. The difficulty of locating lights at night, 776. Accidents at Beamsville from the difficulty of locating lights at night. The double light used by Mr. McMullen, president of the Chicago and Alton Railway. Utilizing the locomotive head lights as signals. Hauling power of a locomotive, 777. Distance required to stop a train in. Grand Trunk Railway Benefit Society, 778.

HAMILTON, WILLIAM, E., B.A., T.C.D., Chatham 481-486

Editor of the *Planet* newspaper and publisher of the *Market Guide*, 481. Table of the prices of grain and other necessities in Chatham, 1879-1887 inclusive, 482. Bakers ignore a drop in the price of flour but are very sensitive to a raise. Thinks the artisan classes in Chatham are as a rule tolerably comfortable. When they have good health and are economical they could save a certain amount of money. Charitable institution and national societies are not often called upon for assistance only in exceptional cases. Mechanics Institute, 483. Technical classes in connection with the Mechanics Institute. Literary and Scientific Society. Macaulay Club, 484. Wages of mechanics in Chatham and the possibility of saving any money out of them. The trade combination, employees' union, farmer's granges, &c., in and around Chatham. Printers in Chatham, their wages, &c., 485.

HANCOCK, EDWARD H., Carpenter, Hamilton, 887-890

Carpenters' wages. Constancy of employment, 887. Apprentice system. Hours of labor. Does not think a workingman receives a fair share of the product of his labor: reason why he does not think so. Hands to the Commissioners a copy of claims for wages against the Hamilton Knitting Company (Limited) which failed in June, 1883, which cannot be collected, 888. Thinks that claims for wages should have preference over all other claims. Lien laws in existence may be good enough for some branches of industry but should be made to protect all branches. Lowest wages paid to carpenters and to inferior men who work as carpenters. The apprentice system, 889.

HARPER, GEORGE, Composer, Hamilton 746-748

Union rate of wages for morning papers to piece hands. Matter set by piece hands and weekly hands. Wages of weekly hands on evening papers. Wages of week hands in job offices. Hours of labor. Journeymen printers who own their own houses. Journeymen printers who have started business in Hamilton, 746. Number of branches working together in the newspaper offices. Plate matter. Hours of labor of piece hands. Benefits derived from the Union. Printers wages in Hamilton and the United States compared. Thinks the establishment of a Bureau of Statistics would be a benefit, 747. Rent of artisans' houses in Hamilton. Arbitration. Strikes. Female compositors, 748.

HARRIS, GEO., Painter, Toronto 366-367

At his trade in Toronto 20 years. Different grades in the trade. Scale of wages. Hours of labor. Wages have increased during past five years. Apprentices. Organization has been a benefit. Arbitration and strikes. International society. Painters engaged by the hour, 366. Paid weekly and fortnightly, on Fridays, 367.

HARTY, WILLIAM, Managing Director of the Canadian Locomotive and Engine Company, Kingston 1023-1030

Wages and duties of foremen. Wages of fitters, fitters-assistants, turners, planers, drillers, pattern makers, blacksmiths, boilermakers, boilermaker's assistants, carpenters and laborers in the employ of the company. Docking of employees when late. The laborers asked for an increase of pay last summer and were refused: reason why, 1024. Labor trouble the company had last summer with their employees, and how it ended, 1025. Moulders work by the day. Hours of labor of moulders. The attitude of the company towards men belonging to labor organizations. Garnisheeing

of wages for debt. The company rather than have trouble would pay weekly instead of fortnightly. Officials of the company always approachable when the men have grievances, 1026. Condition of the workmen: the bulk of them own their homes. The fact that so many of the men owned property decided the company to allow the works to remain in Kingston. Instances the case of a carter working for \$1 a day owning a large amount of property. Purchasing power of money in regard to the necessaries of life. House rent. The locomotives made by the company all sold in Canada, 1027. Since the change in the tariff they get all their pig and bar iron in Canada and their boiler plates from Scotland. Londonderry (Nova Scotia) pig iron compared with other kinds. Cape Breton coal compared with United States coal in price and quality. Able to lay down Nova Scotia coal cheaper than American coal, this season, for the first time. Men are paid according to their ability. Objects to labor organization dictating to employees what wages they shall pay any body, 1028. Instances the strike of last summer as a case in point, when 230 men struck because four or five laborers wanted 10 cents a day added to their pay. Manufacture their brass goods themselves except brass mountings which are made in Montreal and Toronto. The cause of shutting down the works three years ago. Loss to the company by being obliged to shut down, 1029. Able under existing circumstances to compete in their line with anything on the continent. Importation of American engines, 1030.

HARVEY, J. T. *Blacksmith, Ottawa* - - - - -

1131

Blacksmiths, and plumbers, wages. Hours of labor. Savings of workingmen. Paid once a week, 1131.

HAWKINS, EDWARD, *Engineer, Toronto* - - - - -

257-259

Has been a stationary engineer in Toronto for eighteen years. Has not passed an examination. Is in favor of examination of engineers. All high pressure engines in Toronto except a few. No Government inspection of engines and boilers. Has often run engines in a dangerous condition. Length of term an engineer should serve as apprentices. Other requisites of a good stationary engineer, 257. Stationary engineers have formed a society for the purpose of agitating for Government inspection of steam engines and boilers, and examination of engineers. Thinks inspection should be done every three months. Class of men who usually run stationary engines. Wages. A practical school for engineers required. The Practical School of Science does not meet the requirements of working engineers, 258, 259.

HAYMAN, JOHN, *Builder and Contractor, London* - - - - -

636-641

Average earning of a bricklayer. Daily wages. Constancy of employment. Strike in June last and how it was settled. Arbitration, 636. Laborers wages, &c. Hours of labor. Profit sharing: does not think much of the system. Bricklayers, apprentices. The rules of the Union regarding bricklayers apprentices. Notice given to contractors before a strike, 637. Reason why the men declined to submit to arbitration during the strike. Building branch of the Board of Trade. Organization of employers. Method followed in tendering by members of the Builders Exchange, 638. The objects and working of the Builders Exchange, 639-640. Reason why the Builders Exchange was started, 640.

HEARD, JOHN, *Carriage Woodwork Manufacturer, St Thomas* - - - - -

511-513

American and Canadian timbers used in making carriage woodwork compared, 511. Timber he uses and where he gets it. Education, and its effect on the working classes, 512. Shorter hours, 512-513. Apprentices. Use of machinery makes the work lighter to the men, 513.

HENDERSON, ALEXANDER, *Carpenter Detroit* - - - - -

395-398

Average rate of wages. Hours of labor in Detroit and Windsor. Have an Assembly of the Knight of Labor in Windsor. Knights of Labor carpenters at Windsor will

not work with any one who has not a brotherhood card, 895. Rents in Detroit. Average earnings in a year of a carpenter in Detroit. Carpenters in Detroit with reasonable care save money. Pay days weekly and fortnightly in Detroit. Apprenticeship system in Detroit, 396. Compulsory indenture system. Industrial school in Detroit. Night school for workmen in Detroit, fee too high. No free night industrial schools in the United States. Union men refusing to work with non-union men. Difference between a non-union man and a union man who has violated the law of the union. Price of land in Detroit, 397. American Brotherhood of Carpenters have petitioned Congress for an arbitration law, which shall be compulsory and the decision arrived at final. Has known cases where a union man would not work along with a non-union man even at the same wages and hours. Never knew of non-union men object to union men on the ground of being union men, 398.

HENDERSON, JOHN, *Manager for J. McLaren & Company, Lumber Merchants, Ottawa* 1137-1139

Number of men employed by the firm. Wages of gang and circular sawyers, platform men, pilers &c. Hours of labor. The piling is done by a jobber who hires his own men. Wages of shantymen. Constancy of employment of mill hands. Arrangements made for paying the families of the men in the shanties, 1137. Any supplies (other than provisions) are furnished men in the shanties at the same price as they could buy them at home solely, for their convenience. Technical education. Night schools. Shipping of lumber. Accidents. Boys employed in the lath and shingle mill. Complies with the Ontario Factory Act regarding the age of boys employed. Factory Inspector's visits, 1138. Inspector left him a copy of the Act in pamphlet form. Accident last summer, 1139.

HOUSTON, WILLIAM, *Librarian Ontario Legislative Assembly* 223-231

Statement regarding what is now being done in industrial training under present Ontario school system. Tendency of the present educational system of Ontario, 223. Advisability of infusing intellectuality or culture into the ordinary occupations of life. Simultaneous mental and physical culture in Ancient Greece. The grand educational blunder of modern times, 224. Outline of the changes necessary in our system of education. Night schools. Ontario public educational institutes described, 225. Kindergarten system. Not a scintilla of industrial training in our public schools. Necessity of counteracting the attraction of professional life by infusing more intellectuality into industrial pursuits. Outlining how it might be done in farming, 226. Agricultural College at Guelph. Thinks the public school system might be made more useful in the industrial direction. Exemplifies how it might be done, 227. What the aim of industrial education should be. Industrial training might be introduced into our educational system by improving the School of Practical Science, 228. Outlines how that school might be improved, 229-230. Cost of maintaining the Agricultural College and farm compared with cost of maintaining the School of Practical Science. No danger of mechanics being able to assert themselves in the matter of industrial education whenever they wish, 230. Competition in industry is necessitating industrial education. Other nations are introducing industrial education. Deterioration going on among the artisan class necessitates industrial education. Deficiencies in the present working of the apprenticeship system, 231. Organization of labor and its deteriorating effect on the artisan, 231-2. The best preventive for this deterioration is industrial education, 232. Thinks that the injury done to workmen relatively by modern progress has created a necessity for industrial education. Publication of public school books, 233-234. Fully one-half of the students going through Provincial University come from the farming and mechanical class. Concentration of capital, 234.

HEWITT, JOHN, *Rating Clerk in the City Waterworks, Toronto* 300-305

Marked improvement in the intellectual condition of the working classes in the last fifteen or twenty years: but their material conditions more stringent than in years

gone by. What he considers the reasons why their material condition has not improved. Tendency of civilization is to centralize and monopolize, and that is always detrimental to the interests of the working classes, 300. Thinks that working people do not receive a fair share of the wealth created by labor. Believes that it would be better for both parties if producer and manufacturer could share in the production and profits. Believes that a scheme for the distribution of profit in manufactories so as to obviate middlemen will be the ultimate condition of things. Difference between cost of manufacture and cost of distribution estimated. Co-operation in manufacturing coupled with sterling morality, the solution of many questions which now trouble the working classes. Technical education, 301. Present school system turning out a class of men of little use to society. Technical education should commence at the age of ten or twelve years. Monopolies and division of labor deteriorating the working classes. Believes that monopolies will in the near future become so obnoxious that the masses will rise and wipe them out. Stringent legislation in regard to apprentices would have a beneficial effect. Convict labor, 302. Benefits of organized labor. Introduction of machinery has so cheapened production that hours of labor might be shortened, 303. Purchasing power of money as great or greater than ten years ago. Constancy of employment for laborers has decreased during the last ten years and he expects it will decrease still more during next ten years. Conspiracy laws, 304. Benefits of the repeal of the conspiracy laws in England. Condition of the working classes improved during the present century chiefly the persistency of labor organization, 305.

HEWTON, JOHN, *Manager of the Kingston Hosiery Company, Kingston* - 979-983

Number of male and female employees. Age of youngest girl. Hours of labor. Saturday half-holiday obtained by working eleven hours a day for five days in the week. Sanitary arrangements and ventilation. Factory Inspector pleased. Fire escapes, 979. Water supply. Reduction of wages in several departments recently, 980. Increase of cutters' wages lately. Machinery not dangerous and properly protected, 981. The introduction of improved machinery displaces labor but does not reduce wages. Time checks. Rules regarding employees who come in late, 982. Piece hands. Does not object to operations belonging to labor organizations. Business has increased during last five years. Product sold in the Dominion. Royalty on the seaming machines. The newest and most improved machinery is a necessity in order to compete. National Policy, 983.

HOLDEN, WILLIAM, *Hamilton* - - - - - 808-809

Age eighteen next month. Is a stemmer at Tuckett & Sons, has been there three and a half years. Wages. Expects to learn the trade. Condition of the factory, 808. The firm do not take apprentices unless they have worked in the factory a long time, 809.

HODGSON, JOHN, *Engineer, Toronto* - - - - - 260

Is a practical engineer. Government should conduct examination of engineers and grant certificates. Grading of engineers, 260.

HODGINS, S. M., *Cigarmaker, London* - - - - - 649-656

Has worked at the trade for twenty years. Cigarmakers have no bill of prices in London now; they take whatever they can get; reason why, 649. The cigarmakers belonging to the Union in London were "blacklisted" some years ago by their employers; describes how it was done. The men did not strike, but were locked out. The result of the locking-out and blacklisting was that between seventy and eighty men were driven out of the city and child labor employed instead of them. The use of the Cigarmakers' Union trade mark or "Blue Label." The cigar manufacturers in London in their efforts for cheap production have brought the trade to that state that there is no living for anyone in it. The effect of the Scott

Act on the trade, 650. How cuttings are disposed of. Prices of cigarmaking labor in the Province of Quebec and London compared. Three Rivers is swamping the country with a cheap grade of cigars. Child labor employed in London at cigarmaking; wages paid, age, and what becomes of the children when they have learned the trade. The employers refused to interview or hear the men at all at the time of the lockout, 651. An alleged case of plugging cigars; the action of the Union thereon; the investigation and its result, 651-652. Another species of blacklisting, 652. Iron-clad contract or having to sign an agreement to renounce forever the Union as a condition of employment. Benefits derived from the Union. Females belong to the Union; those who do get same wages as men; but none belonging to the Union work in London; reason why. Truck system. Foreign contract labor was employed at the time of the lockout, 653. Case of fining by the Union. Duty on foreign cigars. Denial of Mr. Rose's assertion that cigarmakers were all inveterate drunkards. Blacklisting, 654. Tenement house work does not interfere with the trade in Canada. Sanitary arrangements of the factories in London. How and where the Unions or "Blue Label" is allowed to be used, and its objects. Rules of the Union regarding strikes, &c., 655. Benefit the men get from the Union in case of a strike. Arbitration. What the Government ought to do if they desire to better the condition of cigarmakers, 656.

HOLDER, G. R., *St. Thomas* - - - - - 535-538

Runs the featherbone factory. Has been running for two years in the United States. Started here last January. Came here to avoid paying the duties. Number of hands employed. Featherbone is a substitute for whalebone. Is largely replacing whalebone in the United States, but difficult to introduce here. Class of labor he employs, 535. Skill required and how long it takes to acquire that skill. Hours of labor. Makes his own machinery. Thinks the iron working machines he bought in Canada superior to what he bought in the United States. Sanitary condition of his factory. Employs female labor, 536. How featherbone is made, 536-537. His idea of the value of industrial fairs, 537.

HOLMES, J., *Painter, Hamilton* - - - - - 869-870

Wages. Average earnings for the year. Wages in Canada and the United States compared. Rents in American and Canadian cities compared. Cost of the necessities of life in Brooklyn and Hamilton compared, 869. House rents in Brooklyn and Hamilton compared. Street car fares, 870.

HOPE, GEORGE S., *General Woodworker, Chatham* - - - - - 461-465

Has followed woodworking for three years. A good many employed at it in Chatham. Wages. Average employment nine months in the year, 461. Reason for the idle season of three months in the year. The use of machinery in wood working and its effect on labor. No regular apprentices. Hours of labor. Weekly payment on Saturday. Paid in cash. Prefers Friday as a pay day. Reasons. Lockout a year ago because the men wanted a reduction of one hour a week. Employers' organization, 462. Arbitration in settlement of labor disputes one of the strong planks in the platform of the Knights of Labor. Favors compulsory arbitration. Does not think the system of a rushing season and an idle season is absolutely necessary. Shortening the hours of labor, 463. Thinks a Federal Bureau of Statistics would be a benefit to the working classes. Sanitary condition of workingmen's houses in Chatham. Purchasing power of money not as good as it was five or more years ago. Rents have neither increased nor decreased. Wages of the working classes. Labor organizations beneficial. Advantage of being paid Friday instead of Saturday. Use of machinery. Objects to it, 464. Machinery imperfectly protected. Setting green boys to run dangerous machines. Factory Inspector did not notice anything wrong, 465.

HOWLAND, W. H., *Mayor of Toronto* - - - - - 159-169

Thirty-two years resident in Toronto. Classes of people who require assistance. Except extreme cases of misfortune there are only two causes of extreme poverty in this country, viz.: drinking and immigration of people unsuited to the country. "Poor-house taint." Immigrants who are helpless and willing to be helped, 159. Proper way to reclaim the helpless and criminal classes of the old country. Recommends the children that Dr. Barnardo and others are training as useful and valuable immigrants. Does not approve of the class of immigrants sent out by the various poor-house Unions in England and Ireland, and recommends that Canadian Government stop such immigration, 160. Dr. Barnardo's boys. Miss McPherson's Home at Stratford. Miss Rye's Home. It is not right to load this country with paupers from other countries. Climate makes them suffer more here than at home. News-boys in Toronto, 161. Thinks the Glasgow school system if extended would improve them. Petty crime; cause, and means to prevent. Result of that means of prevention being applied. Homeless boys in Toronto. Reformatory for boys not convicted of crime, 162. Industrial schools. The necessity for and how conducted at Mimico, 162-3. Class of boys we are turning out of our public schools, 163. How to properly train boys. Illustration of how boys are trained in crime. Technical education. Recommends the old guild or craft system as the right apprentice system, 164. Answers regarding the application of the guild system. Recommends technical education in common schools, not to make perfect tradesmen, but thinks it will make better men of the boys if so trained. Would combine primary technical education with ordinary public school education. Thinks our public schools terribly imperfect at present. Would make every boy familiar with the use of tools. Austrian system of compelling every boy to learn a trade, 165. Homes of the poor, 165-6. Sanitary condition when bad is not complained of at the sanitary office because poor tenants are afraid of their landlords. Recommends Government supervision of, 166. Advance in rents. Shop girls, their condition and wages. Female labor. Supply greater than the demand. Results thereof. Recommends that Government fix a price below which work should not be given to helpless classes, 167. Underpayment of women often leads to vice. Ability on the part of a mechanic to own his home less than it formerly was on account of the increase in value anywhere within reasonable reach. Distance necessitates street car fare which is a considerable item of expense, 168. Hopes to see the street car system in the hands of the corporation so as to reduce fares and so help to remove the difficulty, 169.

HUGHES, JAMES L., *Public School Inspector, Toronto* - - - - - 278-285

Age at which children are admitted to the schools in Toronto. Age at which children shall attend school according to Ontario law. Thinks the larger percentage of pupils in the lower classes indicates that they leave school earlier than they should. Quotes the attendance in the various classes of last year. Pupils leave school in large numbers at 13 years of age, 278-79. Accommodation in the public schools, not sufficient for all who wish to take advantage thereof; Crooks' 29th amendment the cause. Ventilation of school rooms, overcrowding. Maximum number of pupils each teacher should have. Number of pupils attending Toronto public schools at present, 279. School books. Present rate of taxation for school purposes in Toronto, 280. His idea regarding the possibility of grafting on the public school system, a system of technical education. Kindergarten system, 280-281. Instrumental music as a subject to be taught in public schools. Fulfilment in Toronto of the Ontario school law regarding attendance of children between ages of seven and fourteen. School books. Reasons for the introduction of technical instruction in public schools, 282-283. Publication of school books, 284. Female teachers. Public school curriculum, 284-285.

HUNT, JOSEPH, *Moulder, Toronto* - - - - - 148-150

Objects to the evidence of the last witness, Thomas Pickett, in reference to wages. Condition of moulders in Toronto is better in regard to wages. As the population and

growth of the city have increased so have wages. Combination among men has a tendency to keep wages up. General condition of the shops bad, bad ventilation and not sufficient protection against wind and weather. Men frequently made ill from this cause; and several deaths. Employers have been spoken to regarding this state of affairs and promised to remedy it, but have done nothing for last three years. Cost of living and rents both increased. Only machines used in moulding shops are cranes, could not do without them. Apprentices, 148. Hours of labor. Pay days. Friday best. Reason why. Wages and cost of living compared in Canada and the United States. Tenement house in Toronto. Building societies, 149. Cost of living itemized. Thinks moulders get a fair share of the results of their labor. The union does not make the rate of wages. Arbitration, 150.

HUTCHISON, ALDERMAN WILLIAM, Ottawa - - - - - **1095-1098**

Is a member of the firm of Thomas McKay & Co., millers. Average number of men employed by his firm. Wages of laborers (including teamsters and shovellers) and millers. Have a summer and a winter rate of wages. Reason for this arrangement. Apprentices and their wages, 1095. Hours of labor. Holidays. How the firm deals with men who get hurt in the mills by accidents. Savings of the workmen; fully two-thirds own their own property. Highest and lowest wages paid to millers. Number of millers employed. Night work; how arranged. Same rate of wages for night and day work, 1096. Apprentices. Accidents. Quality of wheat and flour now and ten years ago compared. Manitoba wheat. Local market for their product. Price of flour during last five years. Constancy of employment. No visit from the Ontario Factory Inspector, 1097. Employs a millwright and two assistants. Their wages, 1098.

JAMES, W. R., Printer, St. Catharines - - - - - **930-934**

Effect of the use of stereotyped plate matter. Wages. Factory laws. Blacklisting. Ironclad contracts. Truck system, 930. Child labor. Female labor employed in tailoring. Difficulty in organizing female labor. Arbitration, 931. Ontario Arbitration Act. Effects of labor organization on the working classes. Sunday labor, 932. Immigration. Establishment of a Bureau of Statistics. Convict labor. Employment of boys in factories to run dangerous machinery, 933. Co-operation, 934.

JAMIESON, R. E., Ottawa - - - - - **1107-1108**

Is a member of the firm of R. E. & J. C. Jamieson, bakers and grocers. Number of men employed in the bake shop. Female labor employed in the confectionery; their wages. Hours of labor. Gave up rightwork six weeks ago, reasons why. Ventilation of the bake shop. Closets. No visit from the Factory Inspector, 1107. Pay day once a week. Cash payment in full, 1108.

JENKINS, CHARLES, Oil Producer, Petrolia - - - - - **724-727**

Government oil test; its deficiencies: changes required in it. Competition from American oil, 724. Standard Oil Company in the United States. A change in the Government test required to allow the manufacturers to make higher grade oil. Crude oil as fuel. Lubricating oils, 725. Measurement of crude oil, 726-727. Oil tanks: their cost, 727.

JENKINS, GEORGE M., Carpenter, Windsor - - - - - **424-426**

Condition of the trade this summer much better. Average time carpenters are employed during the year is seven to nine months. Would like to see an arbitration law put in force, also a law making eight hours a legal day's labor, 424. Average yearly earnings of carpenters at Windsor. Wants to reduce the hours and increase the demand for labor. Hours of labor in Detroit. Organization of carpenters has enabled them to regulate their own affairs and not be governed by what the trade in Detroit does. Condition of the workingmen in England. His ideas on the apprentice system,

indenturing, &c, 425. Employment of inferior workmen injurious to the trade. Wants a law compelling contractors to make a scaffolding strong enough, 426.

JOHNSTON, GILBERT, *Engineer, Kingston* 941-945

Is foreman of the Transportation Company in Kingston. Engineers' wages; hours of labor and constancy of employment. Apprentices. Indentures, 941. Wages of indentured apprentices, and their age at commencement. Paid weekly, on Friday nights, in cash. Profit sharing. Cost of living has increased, wages have not, 942. Labor organizations. Arbitration. Establishment of a Bureau of Labor Statistics. The sanitary condition of his workshop. Fining of employees. Overtime. Convict labor, 943. Immigration, savings of workmen. The majority of the men under him own their own houses. Rate of interest on loans for building purposes. The examination and licensing of stationary engineers. Steamboats not as seaworthy as they should be sometime, 944. Thinks Government made a mistake in their recent legislation allowing any one to run the engines of a tug, reasons why, 945.

JOHNSTONE, JAMES C., *Cornwall, Contractor* 1078-1079

Wages of stonemasons, bricklayers, plasterers and carpenters in Cornwall. Constancy of employment. Labor organizations, 1078. Wages of builders' laborers. No accidents in the building trade in Cornwall last year, 1079.

JONES, THOMAS 556

Corroborates the evidence of Mr. J. R. Morford, Division Superintendent of the Michigan Central Railway, 556. His opinion of bell cords on freight trains, 576.

JOYCE, JAMES, *Blacksmith and Oil Producer, Petrolia* 730-732

Manufacture and exportation of oil well tools. If there were a better class of Canadian oil made it would shut out American oil. Blacksmiths' wages. Constancy of employment of blacksmiths, 730. Oil well tools: cost and description of a complete set. Number of men employed in the oil well tool business. Measurement of crude oil tanks; thinks there should be a Government inspector. Importation of oil well tools, 731. Canadian made oil well tools more durable than American. Hours of labor. Employed all the year round, 732.

KANE, JAMES, *Carpenter, Toronto* 274-275

Defects in the working of the mechanics' lien law. Suggestion for the improvement of mechanics' lien law, 274. How to employ prison labor, 274-275. Arbitration. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Opinion regarding technical education, 275.

KEEFER, JOSEPH, *Compositor, St. Catharines* 927-928

Agrees with the statement of A. J. Carrol (see p. 925). Inspection of stationary engines and boilers, 927. Child labor. The Factory Inspector has not visited this district yet. Immigration, 928.

KEHOE, EDWARD, *Seaman, Detroit* 418-419

Many barges not able to take care of themselves when they break loose from a tow, from not having sufficient sailing gear and not being sufficiently manned. Rigging and gear necessary to obviate this. Spars frequently carried away on account of defective standing gear, 418. Regular season of navigation on the lakes. Objections to female cooks. Insufficiency of life boats and pump valves. Many vessels do not have lake charts at all. Many captains who cannot read their own names and consequently could not use the charts, 419.

KEER, JAMES, *Secretary of the Petrolia Oil Exchange, Petrolia* 717-722

The present system of Government oil inspection gives a guarantee as regard the safety of the oil but none as regards the quality. It would be in the interest of the

whole of Canada if a guarantee of the quality were given also: it would increase the market about 50 per cent., 717. Action of the Oil Exchange in regard to a quality standard, 717-718. What the Petrolia Oil Exchange is. Benefits to oil producers from the Exchange, 718. How members are admitted. What led to the establishment of the Oil Exchange. The production of oil three or four years ago compared with now. Surplus crude oil shipped to Chicago for fuel. No over-production of oil at present, 719. The flash tests and different characteristics of Canadian and American oil. The changes required in the Government inspection of oil. Canadian oil where properly purified is better than any American oil which comes into the country, 720. Approximate number of barrels of oil produced in Petrolia daily. Thinks that the duty on oil is high enough already; reason why he thinks so. Price of oil suitable for the Maritime Province trade. The American oil that goes to the Maritime Provinces is extremely poor stuff, 721. Cost of transporting oil to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, 722.

KERR, JOHN, Builder, Petrolia - - - - - 706-707

Is engaged in the lumber, hardware and building businesses. Where he gets his lumber. Exports hardwood lumber to New York to be sent to Europe. Exports also manufactured goods required for drilling purposes. Inspection of oil measures and inspection of the burning qualities of oil. Inspection of boilers in which the refining is done, 706. Engineers in charge of boilers and engines, 706-707. Pay days of his employes. Number of men he employs. Relative position of workmen and employer in regard to sale and purchase of labor. Savings of workmen. Co-operation. Profit-sharing, 707.

KERR, ROBERT, Foundryman and Merchant, Walkerville - - - - - 372-376

Ten years in Walkerville. Class of work he makes. Does not think the business could stand at all without protective duties on certain articles. His labor costs more than it would in Detroit; reason why. Position of Walkerville at the end of the county makes iron cost more on account of freight. Only foundry in that part of the country which can turn out heavy forgings. Pig iron about same price as in Detroit. If there was no duty would be able to use iron from the United States, but prefers Scotch iron. Gets steel from England. Any product he makes a specialty of he can sell fully as cheap as it can be had in Detroit, 372. The large market of the Americans a benefit to them. Has special machinery for what he makes a specialty of. Tobacco growing at Walkerville. Some of the hands belong to labor organizations. Hours of labor. Piece work. Varies wages, according to what a man is worth. Never had any dispute with his men, but favors arbitration in settlement of labor disputes. Does not think Government should make arbitration compulsory, 373. A school teaching the principles of mechanics would be of use to men in his business. Apprenticeship; favors indenture. Boys would make better mechanics if they had technical teaching in schools. No one should be allowed to work at a trade without first serving his apprenticeship. The tradesman who has served his apprenticeship is entitled to the protection thus afforded. Branch manufacturing firms from the United States in Canada. How they are sometimes run, 374. Mechanics not first class who have not served an apprenticeship, at certain kinds of work. Wages paid in cash. Truck system. Thinks the mechanics of to-day is better intellectually and morally than they were ten years ago. Mechanics cannot save much money for lack of steady employment all the time. Thinks shortening of hours tends to improve the mechanics' mind, 375. A good many mechanics in Windsor own houses; acquired them on the monthly payment system, through loan associations. Does not fine men for being late, but docks them for the time they lose. Visit of the Factory Inspector. Rents of mechanics' houses in Windsor and Detroit. Wages; he pays his men higher than they can get in Detroit, 376.

KIDD, W. G., Inspector of Schools, Kingston - - - - - 940

School accommodation. Number of pupils a teacher should have. Kindergarten system. Age when a child should be admitted. Technical instruction: Heating

and ventilation of the Kingston school. Average attendance. The whole school population. Salaries of the teachers, male and female. Teachers' certificates. Female teachers do not get as large salaries as male teachers; reason why. It would be an advantage if books were supplied free; reason why. Night school. Mechanics Institute. Free library. Library in connection with the public schools. Saturday afternoon holiday would give more time for reading. Hours when the school library is open, 940.

KILLEY, J. H., of the Osborne-Killey Manufacturing Company Hamilton - 904
Corroborates the evidence of his partner, Mr. Osborne (see p. 902), 904.

KING, EDWARD, Cornwall, Mill operative - 1074-1075
Is boss carder in the Stormont Cotton Mills. Number of operatives employed in his department. Proportion of female labor. Child labor, ages of the children and their wages. Fining of employees. Condition and location of the closets. Supply of drinking water. The trouble which caused the rumor about ill treatment of operatives by overseers, 1074.

KING, J. B., Compress Tobacco Maker, Hamilton - 816-817
Wages of men employed in his capacity. Length of time it takes to learn. Hours of labor. Wages of the man who runs the tobacco pressing machine, 816. Hours of labor. Does not think it is possible for a man to do as much in eight as in nine hours a day, 817.

KNIGHT, A. P., Rector of Collegiate Institute, Kingston - 941
Numbers of subjects taught in the common and secondary schools should be reduced so as to leave room for technical and practical teaching. Technical teaching as a means of mental training. What education should aim at. Kindergarten. What subjects now taught might be curtailed, and what new subjects introduced with benefit. Fees and expense of books prevents the children of mechanics attending the institute. How school books should be supplied. Fees for the Collegiate Institute not uniform, 941.

KNIGHT, ALBERT T., Manager of the mills of the Canada Cotton Company 1066-1068
The two recent strikes of the cotton operatives; the cause of them, 1066. Finally settled by arbitration. Does not know of any employee being discharged because he was a Knight of Labor. Is not aware of any objections on the part of the company to men belonging to labor organizations. The powers and duties of overseers. Fining of employees. Supply of water. Sanitary condition of the closets, 1067. How the present schedule of wages was arranged. No rule regarding fining of employees for being late, 1068.

KRIBS, LOUIS P., Journalist, Toronto - 197-203
His knowledge of industrial education is theoretical, not practical. System of apprenticeship disappeared in this country and we have nothing to take its place. Division of labor militates against thorough training of artisans. Defects in the training received in Toronto public schools. Kindergarten. Night schools, 197. The necessity for technical or industrial education. Zurich Polytechnic School. Munich Technical High School. Chemintz Weaving School, 198. Westphalia Industrial School and the system of apprenticeship. Other industrial schools in Europe and America, 199-200. Kindergarten system furnishes the proper foundation for industrial education, 200. Practical education should be combined with ordinary teaching in our public schools. Specialty among mechanics, 201. Canada must always be at a disadvantage in manufacturing with other countries if her workmen are not properly educated and trained. Kindergarten schools. Everything used in schools should be

free to the pupils. Mimico Industrial School. City street waifs, their disadvantages and what should be done for them, 202-203.

LABELLE, OCTAVE, Sub-foreman for Charlebois & Co., Contractors, Ottawa 1160-1161

Number of men the firm employ. Wages of joiners. Men paid according to ability. Finds more common workmen than able ones. Strikes of stonecutters and bricklayers employed by the firm two years ago, and how they were settled, 1160. The architect's irresponsibility for mistakes. Evils of sub-contracting. Legislation required regarding the responsibility of the owner, architect and contractor for workmen's wages, &c., 1161.

LALIBERTÉ, ALBERT, Tailor, Cornwall 1083

Is a merchant tailor. Employs female labor. Wages of females and males. No school of art, trades or design in Cornwall, 1083.

LANCEFIELD, RICHARD T., Manager Publication Department of Grip, Toronto 25-28

Inconsistencies of present assessment laws. Taxes of workmen would be less if assessment were made on the land and not on improvements. Exemptions from taxation, &c., 25 to 28.

LANCEY, BLAKE, Dry Goods Merchant, Petrolia 713-714

Cost of dry goods in Petrolia compared with other places. Truck system, 713. Salaries of dry goods clerks. Female labor in dry goods stores, 714.

LANE, JOHN, Stonecutter, Ottawa 1123-1124

Stonecutters' wages. Constancy of employment. The apprentice system, 1123. Sub-contracting and piece-work, 1124.

LAVELL, WARDEN, of the Kingston Penitentiary 937-938

Distribution of the convicts at trades. Percentage of criminals who are returned to the penitentiary. Necessity of providing intelligent labor. Contract system of using prison labor. Effect of penitentiary labor on free labor. Manual labor should be used when possible; reason why. Penitentiary trade instructors. Compensation to prisoners for accidents from machinery, 937. What prisoners receive when discharged. How prisoners are employed now. Idleness of prisoners a worse evil than competition with free labor. How prisoners in Sing Sing and Auburn are employed. Labeling of prison goods. Effect of allowing a portion of the profit of their labor to go to the prisoners. Difficulty of getting sufficient Government work. If he had a 100 more convicts he would not know what to do with them. Penal colony. Hours of labor. How the women are employed. Government might give them all the work required, 938.

LEE, GEORGE, Piano Maker, Toronto 958-959

Wages of a piano polisher in Kingston. Piano makers work on piece work; difficult to average them, 958.

LEE, ROBERT, Carpenter, Toronto 140-144

Has been fifteen and a half years in Toronto. General condition of carpenter business at present. Has taken an interest in Trades Union. Is doubtful about the benefit derived from combinations among workmen. Very likely benefits in shortening hours of labor. Does not know of any rule which prohibits a union man from working with a non-union man. Has never known union men to interfere with non-union men. Effect of strikes on the trade. Arbitration, 140. Thinks the men would agree to a compulsory court of arbitration. Blacklisting. The use of machinery in carpentering, its effect. Apprentices. Indenture system; approves of it. Pay days, 141. Grading of men. Does not know of any apprentice system; thinks it would be better if there was one. Sanitary condition of carpenters' establishments. Number

of working hours. Condition of workmen at present better than it has been. Thinks the use of machinery in carpentering a necessity, and a benefit in some cases to the men, 142. Condition of workmen now and ten years ago contrasted. Cost of living. Workmen who are property holders. Workmen generally improved in their moral and intellectual condition; causes which have led to that result. Free library. Average age of boys engaged as apprentices. Thinks shortening hours of labor tends to make men more intelligent. Machinery, 143. Wages of carpenters generally paid in cash. Last summer when the carpenters offered to settle disputes by arbitration the employers refused. Blacklisting. Technical schools. Does not think the average mechanic in Toronto can save money and keep himself respectably, 144.

LEFEBVRE, JOSEPH, *Invalid, formerly in the mills at Ottawa* **1135-1137**

Lost his arm and leg in a saw mill while at work when twelve years of age, describes the accident and how it occurred. 1135. Compensation he received. Has not been able to get work since. Children employed in the same mill now. Their ages. Other accidents which happened in same mill. 1136. Treatment of the children. Can read and write a little. Children go to school in the winter and work in the summer, 1137.

LEIGH, FREDRICK JAMES, *Engineer, Kingston* **1017-1018**

Is superintendent of the locomotive works in Kingston. Number of men employed under him. The number of engines the company have in course of construction. Proportion intended for Canada, 1017. Number of foremen under his control. Length of time he served to become an engineer in the Old Country (Scotland), 1018.

LEONARD SAMUEL, *Hosiery Manufacturer, Dundas* **859-861**

Is a member of the firm of Leonard, Sons & Bedford, Dundas, manufacturers of knitted goods. Class of labor they employ. Wages of the men they employ. Boys are not indentured. Length of time they work before becoming skilled workmen. Length of time required to make good operators of girls and women. Their wages. Hours of labor. Kinds of wool used, 859. Heating and conveniences of the work-rooms. Machinery so well protected they never have an accident. Visit of the Factory Inspector. Number of hands employed. Wages. Piece work. Never enquire if their hands belong to any labor organization or not, 860. Fining for being late. Half holiday on Saturday, 861.

LEVERT, HEL. LOUIS, *Ottawa, Laborer* **1163**

Boys employed in saw mills, 1135.

LIMEBECK, MARK, *Cotton Spinner, Hamilton* **899**

Employed in the Ontario Cotton Mill. Hours of labor. Wages. Length of time required to become expert. Female spinners. Healthiness of the occupation. Does not know of any cotton mill operatives union. Minimum age of girls employed. Fining of employees, 892.

LITTON, JOHN, *Driller, Kingston* **956-957**

Is an iron driller in the locomotive works. Wages and hours of labor. Savings of iron drillers. Profit sharing. Wages of laborers in the locomotive works. Necessaries of life and house rent have increased during last five years. Immigration. Condition of laborers in Kingston and the "old country" compared, 956. Thinks shorter hours of labor would improve workmen intellectually; hopes it would not injure them financially. "Steam sawing and the wages of a steam Sawyer in the old country," 957.

- LOYD, HENRY, Carpenter, Toronto** **235-241**
 Carpentry business improved slightly during last eleven years, but not in proportion to other trades in building line; improvement due to organization. Organization a direct benefit to labor. Wages at present in Toronto. Is a member of the executive committee of the Union. Had an agreement with the employees regarding wages; result of that agreement. Describes the effort made by Union men to renew the agreement and settle disputes before the strike, 235. Changes in the agreement asked for. Arbitration, 236. Rules of the Union regarding non-union men. Difficult to learn the trade under the present apprentice system. Union favors having apprentices indentured. Corporation building among carpenters. Thinks that clause 23 of the Ontario Arbitration Act would prevent the settlement of such a dispute as the carpenters had last summer. The most frequent cause of labor disputes among carpenters, 237. The effect upon the carpenters of the employment of unskilled labor. Thinks there should be a difference in the pay of mechanics who are efficient and those who are not. Hours of labor. Sunday labor. Overtime, 238. Wages of bricklayers and house painters, compared with carpenters wages. Meeting of the Master Builder's Association and the Carpenters Union previous to the strike of last summer and matters discussed thereat, 239. Unskilled carpenters or "handy men" and the effect their working for less wages has upon the competent carpenter, 240-41.
- LOYD, HENRY, Carpenter, Toronto, recalled** **272-274**
 Is in favor of arbitration, 272. New York State law regarding arbitration, 272-3. Does not know of any industrial or technical schools or classes in Toronto. The Practical School of Science does not meet the requirements of workmen. Opinion regarding industrial schools. Prison labor, 273-4.
- LUMSDEN, JOHN H., Printer, Toronto** **108-113**
 Has been a printer over 20 years. Part of that time an employer of labor. Is a member of the Typographical Union. Rules of the Union regarding strikes. Apprentices. Female members. Arbitration. What constitutes a week's work, 108. Wages in Toronto paid weekly in most cases. Friday preferred by the majority of men as pay day. Date of the inauguration of the Printers' Union in Toronto. Number of strikes which have occurred since then. A great deal more printing done now in Toronto than formerly. Art of printing so much improved that illustrated work which used to come from a foreign market is now done in the city, 109. Printing in box factories. Females generally employed making boxes. Hours of labor in box factories. Sanitary condition of box factories. Working printers seldom own the houses they live in while employers have become wealthy. Apprentices, if indentured to the trade, make better mechanics, 110. Stereotyped plates. Union rule in regard to the efficiency of men admitted as members. Reasons for restricting the number of apprentices by the union, 111. Average earnings of a printer on newspaper work. Has known of employers objecting to employ a man because he belonged to the union. Union men object to work with non-union men, 112. Rules and precedents of the union regarding non-union men, and members who have violated the rules. Age apprentices ought to be before going to the trade. Female compositors. Education of boys. Thinks the average mechanic in Toronto can afford to keep his children at school till they are sixteen, 113.
- McANDREWS, WILLIAM, JR., Foreman Printer, Hamilton** **748-752**
 Is president of the Typographical Union of Hamilton. Workingmen owning property, 743. What a printer gains by travelling. The system in vogue of getting tenders for job work, &c. Lien laws, 749. Profit sharing. Arbitration. Apprenticeship system, 750. Does not approve of indenturing. His reasons therefor. Immigration, 751-752.

McANDREWS, WILLIAM, recalled

759

Statement on behalf of the Typographical Union regarding the evidence of Mr. John Smith referring to the deaf and dumb printers sent out by Miss Gordon, 759.

McCLARY, JOHN, Iron Founder and Tinware Manufacturer, London

612-615

Employs about 300 hands. Wages of moulders and constancy of employment, 612. Apprentices to moulding trade: indentured: serve three years. Approves of the indenture system. Female labor employed in the tin department: at soldering and japanning. Separate rooms for males and females. Wages of females. Capacity of females at that kind of work compared with that of men. Tinsmith's wages. Convict labor. Piece work, 613. A strike occurred among his men five years ago; the reason of the strike and how it was settled. Considers that a boy can learn stove moulding in three years. No attempt was made at arbitration during the strike. Does not believe compulsory arbitration possible. His opinion regarding a Government court of arbitration, 614. His opinion of the action of the Union during the strike. Is nominally a member of the Stove Manufacturers Association. Would not employ knowingly an escaped convict; but would not object to employ a man who had been a convict; and would pay him same wages as other moulders were receiving, 615.

MACDONALD, GEORGE, Cornwall, Gentleman

1072-1073

Is postmaster and, last year, was mayor of Cornwall. Proportion of the working classes in Cornwall who own their own houses. Assessment. Corporation relief. Corporation laborer's wages, 1072. Constancy of employment of corporation laborers. House drainage in its infancy in Cornwall. Water, gas and electric light are owned and served by private companies in Cornwall. Corporation laborers paid monthly. Number of factories bonused; stipulations regarding the bonuses. No free library and no public night schools, 1073.

McFARLANE, W. J., Carriage Maker, Toronto

114-119

Six years in Toronto. Wages during that time have decreased. Reasons for decrease being the importation of foreign goods, in parts made by machinery. Carriage makers of Toronto, some of them organized. Union and non-union men do not work in the same shops. Hours of labor. Standard rate of wages. How paid. Apprentices. Cost of living higher. Rents of dwellings higher. Arbitration preferred by the organized carriage makers to strikes. Benefits of organization, 114. Arbitrations: opinion as to how it should be conducted. Believes in Government interference in labor disputes in some cases. Effect of organized labor on carriage makers. Hours of labor. Reason why Canadians cannot compete with Americans in the production of carriage wood work. Apprentices: ages at which they commence, 115. Timbers used in carriage making and where procured. Leather work imported. Iron work got in Montreal. Wages in Canada compared with the United States. Amount of reduction in wages in six years. Factory system injures the mechanic, 116. Convict labor does not injure carriage making but immigration does. Nationality and competency of the immigrant carriage maker. Rents risen very much last two years. Sanitary condition of carriage factories, 117. American carriage making not so good as regards labor or work as Canadian but cheaper. Prices of the various parts used in carriage making, 118. Canadian carriage makers get better wages in the United States than American. Carriages wholly made in Canada, 33½ p. c. better than those imported from United States, 119.

McGOWAN, John, Moulder, London

688

Confirms the evidence of J. B. Murphy of London, 688.

MOLLWAIN, WILLIAM

907-910

Is inspector of hulls for the Canadian Lloyds, and is employed by Government to examine masters and mates of vessels. Captains Harbottle and Dick of Toronto

are Government inspectors of hulls. The proper test in examination of a vessel's hull. There are several vessels now sailing on Canadian waters that cannot be classed and are deemed unworthy of insurance, 907. How vessels are graded by the insurance inspector. Vessels sailing on inland lakes which have been refused insurance. Vessels lost which were classed too low for insurance. Vessels sailing which are not properly rigged and equipped. Inland vessels are not sufficiently manned. The necessary crews for vessels, 908. A sufficient number of unseaworthy vessels afloat to warrant Government prohibiting the use of them. A great many of the vessels now afloat are made unseaworthy by overloading. The Plimsoll load line is the proper remedy for overloading. The law regarding mates' and captains' certificates not thoroughly enforced. The proper officers to enforce the law, 909. Government should do all the inspection of vessels, sail and steam, and it should be done when they are running. The proper person to examine vessels, their crews and officers. Life boats. Forecastles of many barges unfit for human beings to live in, 910.

McLAREN, JOHN, *Gilder, Toronto* **177-179**

Has been working as journeyman at the gilding business in Toronto for three months this term and five or six months two years ago. Gilder's wages not as high as five or ten years ago: more work done now than formerly. No women employed at gilding. Introduction of "German metal" has created a revolution in the gilding business and reduced wages. More boys at the trade now on account of the German process which does not require so much skill. Average wages. Piece work. Apprentices, 177. Women work at ornamenting mouldings. Pay days. No co-operative moulding factory in Toronto. Imported mouldings. Wages lower in Chicago than Toronto on account of the foreign labor there. Strikes: cause of one some time ago and how settled. Cost of living greater in Chicago than Toronto, also rents. Night work, 178. Sanitary condition. Ventilation. Wages paid in cash. Mode of living in Chicago compared with Toronto. Better class of work to be had in Chicago. Not a healthy business, 179.

McKAY, ALEX., M. P., *Hamilton* **803-807**

Has been Mayor of this city for two years and was Alderman for seven years previous to that. The amount of destitution in Hamilton and classes of applicants for relief. Causes of the destitution, 803. The civic authorities work in conjunction with the benevolent societies in granting relief. Corporation laborers; their wages, 804. Contract system of doing corporation work. Is satisfied that the work does not suffer by being done by daily labor. Providing of corporation work to relieve those in want. Rate per cord paid for stone breaking. Corporation laborers are paid fortnightly. Possibility of corporation laborers saving money, 805. Corporation laborers who own property. Other daily laborers who own property; their wages. Laborers' Union. Printing of assessments rolls, 806. Mechanics who own property. Working people who have been able to save enough to keep themselves in old age. General state of comfort of the people of Hamilton, 807.

McKAY, ROBERT, *Foreman Car Department, Canada Southern Division,
Michigan Central Railway, St. Thomas* **564-566**

Rate of wages paid skilled mechanics. Hours of labor. Constancy of employment. Condition of the shop and machinery. Factory Inspector. Material condition of the employees. Savings and investments. Apprentices, 564. Mechanics' wages. Constancy of employment. Piece work. Protection of machinery, 565. Pay days monthly. Rule regarding men whose wages are garnisheed, 566.

McKAY, ROBERT, *Foreman Car Works, recalled* **570-571**

Opinion as to the respective merits of the various kinds of car couplers, 570, 571.

MACKAY, THOMAS, *Hamilton* **764-768**

Is a retail grocer over twenty-eight years in business in Hamilton. Price of groceries

compared with prices in former years, 764, 765, 766. Thinks groceries are cheaper now than they were five or ten years ago. Flour cheaper also, 765. Class of teas he sell most of now. Age of boys who commence to learn the grocery business; their salaries. Hours of labor. Cause of the present increase in the price of sugar. Truck system, 766. Whiskey is about five times as dear as it was. The credit system. Thinks monthly accounts as good as cash. Does not think that if workmen were paid weekly instead of fortnightly it would prevent them asking credit. Grocers in Hamilton tried to form an association but could not agree, 767. They tried to regulate prices and report bad paying customers but did not succeed. They did not publish a blacklist among the members; but he thinks if they could agree to do so it would be a good thing, 768.

McKENNA, JAMES, Moulder, London

600-604

Where the moulding shops are not strictly union they are overrun with apprentices. No proper case is taken to teach apprentices their trade. Custom of the union regarding the teaching of apprentices. Would undoubtedly be better for all concerned if there was a proper apprentice system. Ago a boy should be before commencing the business: length of time he should serve, 600. Had a strike six years ago: how it was settled. Would favor a law compelling arbitration. Moulder's wages in London. Hours of labor. Nearly all piece work in stove plate moulding. Organization required for the moulders in London. Benefits in connection with the Union: Immigrants do not interfere to any great extent, 601. Prison labor. Sanitary condition of the shops. Accidents. Co-operation. Wages in the United States and Canada compared. Rents and cost of living in the United States and Canada compared. Men paid every week, on Saturday nights, 602. Rents of workingmen's houses in London. Case of blacklisting. Constancy of employment. High roofs required in moulding shops to allow the gas and steam to rise, 603. Manufacturers bringing convicts from Elmira prison to work in moulding shops, 603-604.

McKENNA, JOHN, Broom-maker, Hamilton

905-907

Number of persons employed at broom-making in Hamilton. Proportion of boys to men. Apprentices two years to serve. Broom-maker's wages. Constancy of employment. Convict labor and its effects on this industry. Prices per dozen brooms paid for convict labor by Nelson & Sons, of Montreal, and the rate for free outside labor compared, 905-907.

MACKENZIE, CAMPBELL, Cartage Agent, Grand Trunk Railway Company, Toronto

360-361

Number of men employed in the business in Toronto: their wages, hours of labor, duties, constancy of employment, 360. Outsiders cannot take or deliver freight under the present system. Grand Trunk Company includes cartage in their rates. Does not know of any other obstacles thrown in the way of independent carters delivering freight. Never heard of any special legislation in favor of Grand Trunk Company, 361.

McKETTRICK, THOMAS, Oil Producer, Petrolia

695-698

Overproduction the cause of the present low prices. Storing of oil. Laboring men's wages, 695. Sunday labor. Men are paid, some weekly, but the companies as a rule pay by the month. Truck system. The standard measure of crude oil. A general desire on the part of producers to have the tanks inspected and measured by Government. Material condition of workmen, 696. Rents. Monthly payments. Truck system. Price of beef. Arbitration, 697.

McMAHON, WILLIAM, Book-keeper for Messrs. McLean, Roger & Co, Parliamentary Printers, Ottawa,

1141-1143

Number of printers the firm employs. Wages and hours of labor of night and day gangs of printers. Wages of pressmen and rate of pay for overtime. Wages of female

press feeders and rate of pay for overtime. Females are not discharged nor fined for refusing to work overtime when required. Wages and hours of labor of book folders, and rate they are paid for overtime. Sanitary condition of the office, 1141. Ventilation. Condition and location of the closets. Wages of copy holders. Women as compositors and press feeders, 1142. Factory inspection. Means of escape and protection in case of fire. His knowledge of and the firm's compliance with the requirements of the Ontario Factory Act. Accidents. The office is a union office, 1143.

McMULLEN, RICHARD, Piano-maker, Kingston - - - 947-949

The business has not increased in Kingston but has all through the Province. Difficult to average wages because the men all work piece work. A few boys employed, no women; age of the boys. Use of machinery has lowered the quantity of work but not the wages. Visit of the Factory Inspector, 947. Hours of labor: does not want them reduced if the pay is to be reduced also. Condition of the working classes here and in the Old Country compared. Wages here and in the Old Country compared. Effect of shortening the hours of labor, 948.

McNALLY, THOMAS, Woodwork Machine Hand, Windsor - - - 423-424

Machinery imperfectly protected in the shop at Windsor. Employed about seven months in the year. Wages, cannot save much if any. Rents. Cost of living. Thinks arbitration the right way to settle labor disputes. Favors compulsory arbitration, 423. Boys run some of the machines. Wages paid them, 424.

McNEIL, JOHN, Iron Moulder, Kingston - - - 949-951

Is a machine moulder. Hours of labor and wages of machine moulders. Constancy of employment. Apprentices, 949. Men paid fortnightly in cash and in full. Has not heard of any desire to be paid more frequently. Thinks moulders get a proportionate share of the product of their labors. Sanitary condition of the shops. Baths and washrooms for moulders. Ventilation of moulding shops, 950. Convict labor, 951.

McPHADDEN, ROBERT B., Boiler-maker, Kingston - - - 957-958

Average wages and hours of labor. Constancy of employment. Apprentices. Technical education. Social condition. Wages and cost of living in Canada and the United States compared, 957. Immigration. No standard rate of wages, men paid according to ability. Men paid every two weeks in full and in cash, 958.

MAOHAR, MISS, Secretary of the Relief Association, Kingston - - - 969-971

Kingston Poor Relief Association, of whom composed, and its objects, 969. Expenditure for relief. Classes of people who apply for relief. Immigrants who apply for relief. Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Length of time the Kingston Poor Relief Association has been in existence, 970 and 971.

MARSHALL, ROBERT, Marine Engineer and Boilermaker, Kingston - - - 1042-1043

Is a steamboat engineer during the summer and is a boilermaker in the winter. Boilermakers' wages. Steamboat engineers' wages. Thinks the law requiring certificated engineers on steamboats of a certain class should include tugs and barges as well as passenger boats. Steamboat engineers objected to the doing away with certificates, 1042. Engineers from Canada cannot run an American boat unless they be American citizens. Tariff rate of steamboat engineers' wages. Marine engineers' organization. Inspection of boilers and hulls. Unseaworthiness of some of the hulls on the upper lakes. Government should bring tugs under qualified engineers. It would be better if engineers had regular watches. Inspection of steamers, 1043.

MARTIN, ANNIE, Cornwall, Cotton Spinner

1086

Is employed in the spinning room of the Canada Cotton Mills. Works by the piece. Wages. Constancy of employment. Supply of drinking water. Means of escape in case of fire, 1086.

MASSEY, JAMES, Warden Central Prison, Toronto

341-347

Convict labor must more or less come into competition with outside labor, 341. Differences of opinion as to how convict labor ought to be employed. Thinks from a direct provincial point of view that convict labor cannot be employed without loss. In the Central Prison they make all the clothing and boots and shoes required for all the gaols in Ontario, but it employs very few men. On account of the short terms of imprisonment it is not possible to sufficiently train skilled labor in prisons, to make blankets, cottons, &c. Thinks prisons should be reform schools as well as places of punishment. Principal lines of business carried on in Central Prison now. Nearly all the products of Central Prison labor come into competition with outside labor. Central Prison labor principally let out by contract, 342. Contract expires in May, 1889, and will be discontinued after that. Does not think it possible to employ prison labor without competing with outside labor. Does not think that convict labor has driven free labor out of the market in Canada in those branches it has been employed in. Not many contractors who make money out of convict labor, but think the Government might under certain condition make a profit out of it. Particulars regarding convict labor in Central Prison, 343. Stamping of convict work as such. On the use of machinery in teaching trades to prisoners. Effect of contract work on prisoners. Reducing prison work to tasks. More than two-thirds the prisoners of Central Prison are from the county gaol, 344. Goods for the use of Government might be manufactured in prison if the men were imprisoned for long terms. Rate the contractors' pay for prison labor, and other arrangements with the contracts. Does not think the Factory Inspector has any control over Central Prison, but should not object to inspection at any time, 345. Employing convict labor in making goods for export so as not to interfere with free labor at home. The first duty of prison authorities is the safety of the prisoners and then to work for their reformation. Does not think prison labor in Canada has a disturbing influence on the markets. Brooms can be made cheaper in Quebec than the contractor pays in Central Prison. Earnings of the prisoners, 346. How "tasks" are arranged in Central Prison, 347.

MATTHEWS, JR., RICHARD, Printer, London

631

Is a book compositor. Is paid by the week. Wages. Hours of labor. Book work by the piece. Piece hands and day hands employed in some offices, and the fat matter is given to the day hands. More apprentices at the job printing trade than there are men, 631.

MEAD, OWEN, Toronto

214-217

Is permanent Secretary of Metropolitan Lodge Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, Lodge 6531. Branch societies in Ontario are not incorporated. Parent society in England is incorporated, 214. Treasurers in Ontario do not give bond for security. Surplus money is invested in the banks. Publish an annual statement. Have an arrangement so that members may benefit by surplus funds. Insurance benefits. Liabilities limited by laws of England, 215. Recommends Dominion inspection of such societies. Is purely a benefit and benevolent society, 2.6.

MEEK, R, Journalist, Kingston

1002-1011

Is identified with the Knights of Labor. The policy of the Knights of Labor in disputes between employers and employees. Labor differences between the Kingston Hosiery Company and their employees, 1002. The working classes of Kingston in favor of the introduction of the Kindergarten system of education. Technical edu-

ation. Unnecessary reduction of wages at the Kingston Hosiery Mill. Public library. Mechanics' Institute library. Anticipated effect of shortening the hours of labor, 1003. Child labor. Iron-lad contracts. Blacklisting. Arbitration. Sunday labor. Effect of organized labor on the working classes. Convict labor, 1004. Workmen who own their own homes. Condition of the workmen a little better than it was five years ago through the efforts of the Knights of Labor organizations. Sanitary condition of workmen's houses in Kingston. Health inspector, 1005. Hours of labor. The Knights of Labor seriously advocating the nine-hour system. Sub-contracting system. Lien laws. Law respecting the protection of machinery. Pay days. Foreign contract labor. Immigration, 1006. Establishment of a Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. Co-operation benefit societies. Profit-sharing, 1007. Banking and the monetary system. Post Office Savings Bank and Building Societies as places of deposit for workmen's savings. Rate of interest given and asked for money by building societies. The nine-hour movement. Reasons for asking that hours of labor be reduced to nine hours. Average of wages paid to dry goods clerks, male and female, and their hours of labor, 1008. Wages of dressmakers. Hours of labor of dressmakers and female clerks employed in stores. Domestic service compared with store work. Reasons why girls dislike domestic service. The apprentice system, 1009. Indenturing of apprentices. The use of stereotyped plate matter on newspapers, 1010. Stereotyped plates made in Canada are not so good as those imported. Organization of labor and its benefits to printers, 1011.

MEEK, ROBERT, recalled 1049

Labor organizations believe in the classification of labor or grading of men according to ability. Reason why the arbitration in the locomotive works difficulty failed. Quotes from the petition of the employees asking for a readjustment of wages to show how groundless was the charge that the men wanted to dictate to their employers, 1049.

MELOCHE, DANIEL, Fisherman, Sandwich West 379-384

Catches his fish on Detroit River. Kind of fish. Duties he has to pay sending to American market. His method of fishing. Fish decreasing for last fifteen years, 380. Reasons for the decrease, 380-381. Canadians are not in the habit of fishing on Lake Michigan. Wages he pays to men in his employ. Fishermen only employed three and a half months in the year. Prices he gets for fish in Detroit. Pound nets injurious to fishing, 382. Does not favor a close season. Thinks it would be wise for Government to establish official hatcheries and spawning places, providing the American Government would co-operate. Number of men employed in the fisheries in his district, 383. Injury to fishing by pound nets, 384.

MENZIS, ROBERT E., Manager of the Producers' Oil Refinery Company, Petrolia 707-712

Wages of laborers, coopers and others employed in the oil refinery. Constancy of employment, 707. Length of the season and when it commences. Class of engineers they employ and their wages. Inspection of boilers. Approves of the examination and of the licensing of stationary engineers, 708. Accidents from boilers and how caused, 708-709. Technical education. Arbitration. Believes that the establishment of a Dominion Bureau of statistics would be a benefit to the oil industry, 709. Government inspector of boilers. Boiler explosions. Government inspector of oil measures. Skilled labor sometimes hard to get in Petrolia because they export skilled labor for drilling in foreign countries, 710. Unskilled laborers have some difficulty in getting employment. Immigration. Pay days. Government inspection of the burning qualities of oil. Comparison of American and Canadian oils, 711. If there was a government burning test it would be impossible to export the very inferior oils sometimes exported now. Extent of the oil territory. Oil, Exchange in Petrolia; its objects and the result of its operations, 712. The price of oil in Petrolia governs the price throughout the Dominion, 713.

MERRILL, MELTON W., Foundryman and Machinist, Ottawa

1098-1100

Number of men he employs. Wages of machinists and moulders. Apprentices, moulders. Pay days fortnightly, on Saturdays. No objections to men belonging to labor organizations so long as they do their work. Hours of labor. Night work. Rate of wages paid for overtime. Has had no visit from the Ontario Factory Inspector. Accidents. No boys employed in the foundry; one an apprentice in the machine shop, 1098. Wages of apprentices, and the opportunity they have to learn. Blacksmiths' wages. Savings of his workmen and property they own. Constancy of employment. Wages of a machinery moulder. Hours of labor. Pattern makers, wages, 1099. Sanitary condition of the moulding shop and closets. Health inspector. Wages of the blacksmith and his helpers. Pay days. Men paid in full. Garroisheing of wages. Never heard any of his men asked to be paid weekly. Laborer's wages, 1100.

METCALFE, GEORGE, Painter, Hamilton

865-869

Before the Commission on behalf of the Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators. Wages and hours of labor, 865. Agreement regarding wages between the Brotherhood and employers. Constancy of employment. Scaffolding. Healthiness of the trade. Painters liable to lead poisoning. The use of barytes instead of lead. The Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators formed recently; formerly painters were attached to the Knights of Labor; reason for change, 866. Reasons antagonistic to a graded scale of wages. Agreement regarding apprentices not adhered to by the employers. Length of time an apprentice should serve. Wages of first-class men; class of work they do. The Brotherhood is a branch of the international body formed last year, 867. Sick and other benefits derived from the Brotherhood. Painting as a special skilled industry is not as highly paid as other highly skilled industries in this country. Arbitration. Feeling existing between employers and employees regarding the violation of the agreement regarding apprentices. Immigration. No federation of the workmen employed in the building trade, but thinks such a thing would be best for all concerned. Does not know of any such federation among the employers in the building trade, 868. Wages, 869.

MILLER, ALFRED, Shoemaker, Hamilton

884-886

Works in a shoe factory at trimming. Average wages of a trimmer. Piece work. Constancy of employment. Hours of labor. Seven or eight boys employed in the factory. They cannot learn the shoemaking trade. Boys do not run machines. How the business is learnt. Wages of a man who can run all the machines. Nineteenths of the boots and shoes worn in Canada are made in the Maritime Provinces. Custom work, 884. Wages at factory work and custom work compared. The trade is organized. Effect of the organization is to keep up wages. Labor trouble in the shoemaking trade in Montreal settled by arbitration. Good feeling between men and employers. Wages of men who run pegging machines and sewing machines. Lasters work by the piece. Average wages. Female labor or women's work. Wages. Sanitary condition of McPherson's factory, 885. Fire protection. Doors are locked at eight o'clock so as to make those who are late go through the counting room. Paid weekly, on Saturdays, 886.

MILLER, JOHN, Moulder, Hamilton

801

Corroborates the statement made by John Stephenson, 801.

MILLER, M. H., Manager of the Grape Sugar Refining Company and Dominion Starch Company, Walkerville

877-879

Length of time established. Uses corn wholly. Employs forty men. American corn superior and costs the same duty paid as Canadian. Manufacture glucose, starch, corn syrup and dextrine. How the refuse is disposed of. Wages. Skilled labor. Acids used procured in Canada. What they are made from, 377. Employs no

women. Boys employed; their ages. Wages paid to engineers and millers. Hours of labor. Expects to establish a cooerage in connection. Has heard no complaints about the business being unhealthy. Smell from the old process offensive. Waste runs into the river; not enough of it to make the water unfit for drinking, 378. No difficulty in getting hands. Hands all live in Windsor; are mostly Canadians. Amount of protection duty on starch and glucose is offset by the duty on corn and other supplies. Removal of the protective duty would injure their business at present, 379.

MILLER, SHERMAN R., Seed Merchant, Detroit - - - 434-435

Is connected with house of D. M. Ferry & Co., of Detroit. Has a branch establishment in Windsor. Gives the reasons why they established the Windsor branch. Particulars regarding the seed trade, 434. Number of hands employed in Windsor branch. Females. Employs scarcely any American help on this side, 435.

MILLICHAMP, W., Manufacturer of show cases, general store fittings and cabinet works, Toronto - - - 357

Demand for his goods has increased. Thinks the desire on the part of storekeepers to make their stores more attractive has caused the increased demand. Higher freights in Canada than the United States causes some of his class of goods to be imported from the United States. Could do well in New Brunswick but for that. The National Policy has increased the manufacture of all classes of goods, and is a benefit to his business. Wages he pays. Wages for the higher grades of workmen have increased since the introduction of the National Policy. Gets his raw material from the United States principally; reason why. The system of apprenticing he approves of, and length of term. What constitutes a day's work. Pays by the number of hours men work, on Friday. Prefers Friday as a pay day, 357.

MILLS, DAVID, Oil Producer, Petrolia - - - 692-695

On the measurement of oil in tanks. Wants the Government to fix a standard of measurement and appoint an inspector to see that the standard is carried out. Has reason to believe that different oil purchasers have different measures. Wages paid to engine drivers; cannot tell what laboring men are paid, but no one in the oil producing business has been able to live very comfortably during the past five or six years. Prices too low, and profits, all round, small. His opinion of the cause of the low prices. Importation of American oil, 693. Price of crude oil. How the refuse products obtained in refining are disposed of. Advises the inspection and measurement of crude oil by the Government. Oil supply. Depth of wells, 694. Cost of boring. Workmen as a general thing are employed all the year round. House rents, 695.

MILLS, ROBERT JAMES, Cigar-maker, St. Catharines - - - 919-920

Wages. Weekly payments. Hours of labor. Apprentices. Truck system. Law of the Cigar-Makers Union against the truck system. Blacklisting. Tobaccos used in cigar making. Female labor in making cigars, 919. The union or blue label. Effect of the Scott Act on the sale of cigars, 920.

MILNE, JOHN - - - 834-837

Is a member of the firm of Burrows, Stewart & Milne, founders. Class of goods they make. Number of foundries in Hamilton. Number of hands they employ. Classes of skilled labor. Moulders' wages. Machinists' wages. Pattern-makers' wages. Scale makers' wages. Constancy of employment. Hours of labor. Washroom and conveniences for the men. The nine-hour movement, 834. Nearly all the foundry owners in Hamilton were at one time workingmen. Workingmen have not the same opportunities to establish themselves in business that existed twenty-five years ago; reason why. Hours of labor in foundries could not be reduced without

reducing the output. Use of machinery lessens the hand labor for the workmen, 835. Effect of the North-West boom on manufacturing industries. Though the demand for manufactured goods is greater than twenty-five years ago, still there are more manufacturers; the country is fully supplied. Reasons for his thinking his workmen would not take advantage of washrooms. Wages of moulders twenty-five years ago. Capital required to start a small foundry. Hours of labor of moulders twenty-five years ago. Kinds of iron his firm use, 836. Londonderry iron compared with Scotch. Kind of fuel he uses. Reason why he has never used Nova Scotia coal, 837.

MINER, PAUL, *Shantyman, Ottawa*

1188-1191

Shantymen sometimes badly boarded. Hours of labor, 1188. Precautions taken and compensation for accidents in the bush. Price of board and quality of the food. Men get sick on account of inferior food. Prices of similar articles in shanty depots and in the stores at Pembroke compared. If a man gets sick or is hurt in the bush he is charged for his board. Driving logs dangerous work, 1189. Loss of wages through sub-contractors. Quality of the food or board in shanties and price of meals. Payment of wages by "due bills," 1190. Wages of shantymen increased during last ten years. Wages ten years ago and now compared, 1191.

MONCIEF, PETER, *Tinsmith, Kingston*

978-979

Wages. Constancy of employment. Apprentices. Immigration. Labor organization. Wages in Kingston and the United States compared. No truck system. Convict labor. Co-operation or benefit societies. Sanitary arrangements of the shops. 978. Cost of living in Canada and the United States compared. 979.

MOORE, CHARLES, *Shoemaker, Kingston*

1049-1053

Is carrying on business for himself. Number of men he employs. Constancy of employment. Men work for him by the piece. Wages, 1049. Classification or grading of men. Indenturing of apprentices. The effect of piece work on apprentices, 1050. Shoe factories in the United States and Canada compared. The only profitable branch of the shoemaking business, 1051. Immigration, 1052.

MORFORD, J. B., *St. Thomas, Division Superintendent of the Michigan Central Railway,*

551-560

Earnings of engineers; paid upon a mileage basis. Lengthening of time taken on trips by storms or delays. Employees paid extra for anything over twelve hours labor. Arrangements for allowing rest to train hands on lengthened trips, 552. Runs double crews when business requires it. Average for freight trains. Brakes. Running boards. Feasibility of putting guards on either side of the running boards. Willing to co-operate with other railroads in Canada and the United States for the adoption of any system of safety to trainmen, 553. Accidents to the brakemen. No disposition on the part of officials to lay blame for accident on the men. Accidents when coupling. His company about to adopt couplers by which cars can be coupled without the men passing between. Thinks that railroads will adopt these safety couplers without legislation to that effect. United States railway managers meet twice a year to consider and adopt measures for the saving of life and prevention of accidents to employees. Application of air brakes to freight cars, 554. Experiment to test the most economical speed to run freight trains at. Competition compels them to run fast freight trains, 555. Accidents more frequent on passenger than on freight trains. Labor difficulties. His method with labor questions. Equality of employees and officials in discussing and settling labor questions. (Mr. Thomas Jones here corroborated all that witness had said.) Has never discharged any man for making himself prominent in demanding concessions for the employees, 556. Indemnity to employees in case of accidents. Thinks that as general rule railroad employees are paid better salaries than in any other business where there is as much risk of

danger as on railways. The Michigan Central are paying much heavier wages for their train service than any other road in Canada. The men are required to sign an agreement that the company will not be held responsible for accidents to them while on duty, in regard to coupling cars. Certificates from a guarantee company only required from those who handle the company's money. Certificates given to men discharged for cause, 557. Guarantee company's certificates required from conductors on passenger trains only, for which the company pays. Other officers of the company furnish certificates themselves. Method of promoting employees. Signal system, 528. The only two causes which prevent employees from getting another certificate are stealing and intoxication. Suspension of employees before investigation of their cases and the lapse of time between, 559. The use of air brakes will not do away with the services of brake-men; some number will be required. Side loaders. Number of loaded cars a brakeman should be able to handle in case of accident, 560.

MORGAN, R. R., *Miller and Whip Manufacturer, Hamilton* - - - **882-883**

Number of men employed in his mills. Proportion of skilled and unskilled labor. Night work. Hours of labor. Wages of skilled millers and unskilled laborers, 882. Wheat used. Market for the flour. Prices of flour now, and ten years ago compared. Number of hands employed in the whip factory; half of them skilled hands. Women employed. Skilled hands all men. Wages. Hours of labor. Constancy of employment. Age of the youngest girl employed. Wages. Where the whips are sold. Hours of labor in the flour mill. Sunday labor, 883.

MORRELL, JENNIE, *Weaver, Cornwall, wife of William, of the same place,*
laborer, - - - - - **1087**

Is a weaver in the Stormont Cotton Mill. Wages. Constancy of employment. Piece work. The use of obscene or bad language by overseers, 1037.

MORRICE, CHARLES M., *Blacksmith, Kingston* - - - - - **1036-1038**

Number of blacksmiths employed at the Locomotive Works; their wages and hours of labor. Wages of a blacksmith's helper, 1036. Apprentices. How the locomotive company deal with applications for redress of grievances from their employees. Strike of last summer at the Kingston locomotive works. Hours of labor on Saturday. Wages of a blacksmith in Scotland. Wages and cost of living, &c., of blacksmiths in the Old Country compared with Canada, 1031. Wages and hours of labor in Hamilton and Kingston compared, 1033.

MORRISON, JAMES, *Manufacturer of Brass Goods, Toronto* - - - - - **335-336**

Kind of goods he makes. Employs 110 to 115 hands. Brass-finisher's wages. Establishment open all the year round. Apprentices, does not bind them; understanding is that the term of apprenticeship is five years. Demand for skilled brass-finishers is in excess of the supply, 335. No object in men leaving Toronto for other cities to better their wages. Employs girls, making sand cores for the moulders; ages from 18 to 25 years; what they can earn, 336.

MOYES, JOSEPH, *Cornwall, Manufacturer* - - - - - **1081-1082**

Is proprietor of the Cornwall Spinning Mill. Manufactures yarns. Number of hands he employs: male and female. Wages. Pay days once a month. Retains ten days back pay. No rules for imposing fines. Notice required from an operative before leaving. Notice given them when discharged, 1081. Did not discharge J. J. Bickley because certain merchants or employees asked him to do so, because he belonged to the Knights of Labor, 1082.

MULHALL, THOMAS, *Seaman, Detroit* - - - - - **415-418**

Thirty-eight years seaman on the lakes. Seamen's grievances. Incompetent captains. Has known men to get certificates as captain who were not competent, 415. Naviga-

tion of the lakes more dangerous and arduous than navigation of the sea and consequently requires more competent steamships. Seamen who join the union are examined as to competency before being admitted, 416. Only a few vessels on the lower lakes under the union, the others generally ship anything they can get. Seamen paid by the day. Vessels sometimes leave port short of food. Sleeping accommodation for seamen bad. Benefit of a shifting board on a grain cargo, 417. Necessity of a proper system of inspection properly carried out, 418.

MUNRO, JAMES, Foreman Tailor, Hamilton **829-833**

Has been six years in the employment of Messrs. Sandford & Co., clothing manufacturers. Approximate number of people employed by them outside and inside. How the sewing is farmed outside. Classes of people who do it and their earnings, 829. Cutters' wages. Trimmers' wages. About equal quantities of Canadian and British cloth used. British and Canadian cloths compared. Wages of those who work outside at sewing, 830. Class of people who do work outside. Some of them employ as many as twenty hands. Where the company finds a market for the clothing, 831. Competition they meet. Wages they pay compared with Montreal prices. Wages lowered in order to compete with Lower Canada. Average wages a woman with a sewing machine can earn on the work given out. Prices paid for making the various kinds of garments, &c. compared with prices paid for custom work, 832. They pay women the same prices they do men for the same work. Childrens clothing: made altogether by women. Advantage of doing work in large quantities. None of the outsiders make buttonholes, 833.

MURPHY, J. B., Moulder, London **685-687**

Average number of moulders employed in London. Wages of stove moulders. Constancy of employment. The want of steady employment is caused by the employment of too many apprentices and piece work. The evils of piece work. Apprentices. Convict labor, 685. Arbitration. Blacklisting. Employment of ex-convicts from Elmira Prison. Reason why they were brought here. Wages of machinery moulders, 686. Complaint regarding the condition of moulding shops, 687. Confirmation of this evidence by John McGowan, Peckham, Thomas Walton and John Norfolk, moulders, of London, 688.

NASH, PATRICK GEORGE, Ottawa, Managing Proprietor of the Canadian Granite Company **1139-1140**

Number of men employed by the company at the factory and at the quarries. Location of the quarries. Wages of men employed at the quarries. Constancy of employment. Wages of laborers employed at the factory, 1139. Wages of granite cutters and granite polishers. Hours of labor at the factory. Pay days every second Saturday. Factory Inspector's visit. Some of their men own property. Marbles the company works. Location of Canadian marble quarries owned by the company. Boys employed by the company: age of the youngest. Female labor they did employ and wages paid the women. Polish with machinery, 1140.

NASMITH, JOHN D., Toronto **361-362**

Seventeen years in the business. Hours of labor better and shorter, and wages increased in that time. Wages at present. Hours of labor now. Organization or combination among the men has caused their improved condition, 361. Shortening the hours did not increase wages. Did not become necessary to employ more men after hours were shortened. No grading of wages for bakers except foremen. Apprentices. Thinks the indenturing system best. Ontario and North-West flour compared, 362.

NELLES, B. R., Fruit and Vegetable Canner, Grimsby **890-891**

The canning season lasts from June till January. The kinds of fruit he cans. The kinds of labor employed. Women's wages during the season. Wages of children:

get paid same rate on piece work as journeymen. Number of hands employed making cans: their wages. Where the goods are sold, 890. Increased capacity of Canadian canning factories now compared with 1879-1880. Protection necessary to prevent importation. Advantage to fruit growers to have canning factories in Canada. How the employes are occupied after the season is over. Canadian and imported canned fruits compared. Child labor: young girls wages and hours of labor. Overtime. Age of the girls. Healthiness of the occupation. Machinery more used than formerly and for what purposes. Business increasing, 891.

NELSON, PETER, *St. Catharines* 916-917

Is a sailor. Approves of John T. Carey's evidence (see page 911). Inspection and classification of vessels. Overloading of vessels. Condition of forecastles, 916. Frequent insufficient condition of gear and rigging. Sailors' wages and constancy of employment, 917.

WILSON, HUGH, of *Callart & Wilson, Furniture Manufacturers, Chatham* 441-444

Wages paid to furniture factory hands. They work by the day and by piece work. Workmen generally prefer working by the day. Had a strike a year ago for shorter hours, 441. Strike originated with the Knights of Labor. How it was settled. Most of the workmen stay steadily with the firm, but do not save much. Apprentices. Have no difficulty in getting all the hands they want. Prices of furniture here and in the United States compared. Skilled labor and partially skilled labor. Machines all properly protected. Factory Inspector has not visited the factory yet. Employs boys from the age of fifteen to sixteen. Gives one of his men all the finishing to do and lets him hire his own help. Margin of profit in the manufacture of furniture is small for the employer of labor, 442. Does not object to indenturing apprentices but has not done so. Has about thirty hands. Wages he pays. His firm is capable of teaching a boy all the branches of the trade. Chatham Employers' Association was formed to counteract the efforts of the men to get shorter hours, and was partially successful. Does not think a working man can save much after paying house rent and keeping four or five of a family. Sanitary condition of houses and factory, 443. Accidents. Thinks technical education would be of great advantage to boys learning the trade, 444.

NESBITT, HUGH, *Boiler maker, Ottawa* 1124-1125

Wages of boiler makers. Apprentices. Pay days fortnightly, on Mondays. Ventilation of boiler shops in Ottawa. Scrip payments at Casselman, 1124.

NESBITT, WILLIAM, *Pressman, St. Catharines* 928-930

Is employed on one of the city newspapers. Wages. Pay-days. Night work, 928. Imported stereotyped plates, 928 and 929. Blacklisting by the Typographical Union. Hours of labor, 929.

NESBITT, DR. W. B., *Toronto* 351-354

His opinion regarding foods. French people live better and cheaper than the English. Rumsford's tables (of 1793) of cost and nourishing power of foods. Dinners provided for children in Manchester and London at one cent each. What constitutes a meal costing three-quarters of a cent. Meals for a quarter of a cent each. Considers barley, indian meal and red herrings sufficient for a laboring man to do a day's work on in this country, 351. Meals of the Scotch people. American tables of foods, Pemmican. Cost and efficiency of the foods of British, Canadian and German soldiers, 352. People in comfortable circumstances buy cheaper meats than many poor people less able to afford it. Cannot live on brown bread alone. Quotes the results arrived at by experimenters on the nourishing powers of foods, 353. Knowledge of the properties of food requires it to be extended, 354.

NICHOLS, FREDERIC, Secretary Canadian Manufacturers' Association, - 179-190

Not as much importation of manufactured goods into Canada as there was some years ago. Facts which leads him to that conclusion. Many American firms are establishing branch factories in Canada. Enumerates some of them. Does not think employers of labor have used coercion to prevent the employees from given evidence before the Commission, 179-80. Supply and demand regulate relation between employer and employee. Employer's Liability Act of Ontario. Employers think it a step in the right direction. Employers insuring their men at their own expense, 181. Railway companies excepted from the operation of the Ontario Employer's Liability Act, 182. Relation between employers and employees in Ontario. Conciliation in labor disputes. Arbitration. Legislation between labor and capital should be Dominion legislation, 183. If the Dominion Government has not the right to legislate in this matter each of the Provinces should make similar Acts and have them become operative at the same time. Thinks that the factory employees are better off in Western Ontario than in the Eastern section, 184. Wages of the mechanical classes rose steadily from 1878 to 1883, not much raise since then. Working people have undoubtedly received great advantage from more continuous work than formerly. Necessity for a Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Organization of the Cotton Manufacturers. Decrease in wages from 1873 to 1878, 185. Continuity of labor. Stringency in the money market. Government control of banking, 186. Manufacturers are in favor of arbitration and conciliation in settling labor disputes. Manufacturers gave no opposition to the Factory Act as a whole, 187. Manufacturers' Association did not send a deputation from Toronto to have certain clauses altered to suit their views. Difference between manufacturer's prices and retail prices. Economy of production and also distribution, 188. Manufacturing goods in the country instead of importing them reduces the cost of distribution. Commercial travellers, 189. Thinks it better that men be paid weekly. Profit sharing by employers and employees, 190.

NICHOLS, HENRY, G. T. R. Car Works, London - - - 656-659

His wages. Hours of labor. Constancy of employment. Was first employed as a laborer, is now employed in the upholsterers' shop. G. T. R. Provident and Insurance Society. Permanent employees of the company must belong to it, 656. Benefits derived from the G. T. R. Provident and Insurance Society, 657. Rules of the Society regarding incurables and discharged employees, 657-58. Garnisheeing of wages a plea for being paid more frequently than once a month. Reply of the general manager to an application from the men to be paid fortnightly, 658. Co-operative society for supply of fuel, 659.

NOBLE, JOHN, St. Thomas - - - - - 548

Granting bonuses to manufacturers. Exemptions from taxation. Co-operation among workmen, 548.

NORFOLK, JOHN, Moulder, London - - - - - 688

Confirms the evidence of J. B. Murphy of London, 688.

OBERNDORFER, SIMON, Cigar Manufacturer, Kingston - - - 962-965

Child labor, boys and girls he employs, ages, the class of work they do, 962. Wages of cigar factory employees. Female labor, 962 and 963. Organized labor. Apprentices. Sanitary condition of the factory. Factory inspector's visit. Where his cigars are sold. Business now, two and five years ago compared, 963. Protective duty, its effect on the trade. Prices of cigars. Class of cigars he sells most of. Effect of the Scott Act on the trade. Raw materials he uses and where produced. Labor organization, 964. Prohibition of liquor and tobacco traffic, 965.

O'DONNELL, JAMES, *Carder and Spindler, London* - - - - **663-665**

Is the only workman engaged at the manufacture of woollen goods in the city. Only one factory in the city. They get their wool principally in the neighborhood. Cannot make fingering yarns. Trade principally local; the margin on the wholesale trade is so fine they cannot do it. His opinion is that overproduction and the employment of cheap or child labor are the causes of the present depression in the trade, 663. Men's wages run from \$7.50 to \$9 a week. If a man works nine months in the year he is doing well; the average is more like six months. No Sunday labor except in filling up the boilers. As a Knight of Labor would like to have the law allowing children thirteen years of age to work in factories changed to fifteen or seventeen years. The sanitary condition of the factory is not good. Knows that a man came and inspected the place; that he was not the regular inspector but a medical man. Believes the workingmen of London to be in favor of Government arbitration. The workingmen want assisted immigration stopped, 664. Wants the bringing out of orphan children stopped also. Claims that young girls in large shops are liable to become immoral; to lessen that liability advocates that they do not be so employed till they are sixteen or seventeen years old. Children work ten hours; their wages. Boys and girls get same rate of wages, it is generally piece work they do, 665.

OLDWRIGHT, DR. WM., *Toronto* - - - - **91-98**

Is a physician. Has practised in Toronto twenty years. Is Professor of Hygiene in Provincial University; formerly Chairman Provincial Board of Health. Sanitary condition of workshops. Ventilation. Electric light vs. Gas from a sanitary point of view, 91. Method of ventilating the Pullman car workshops near Chicago. Drinking water as a cause of zymotic diseases. Ontario Public Health Act. Regarding the supply of drinking water. Thinks this Commission should make enquiries if this law is respected. Condition of workingmen's dwellings. Water closets. Employer's liability, 92. Employment of child labor. Female labor in factories and business establishments, 93. Thinks stores should close at 6 p.m., except one night in the week. Children employed in stores. Disease caused to female clerks from long continuous standing. Health of working people, except shop girls, compares favorably with other classes. Opinion regarding the number of hours a man can work without injury. Is in favor of Saturday half-holiday. Age children should reach before being allowed to work in factories, 94. Plumbing of houses. Ontario law of 1884 regarding ventilation. Considers workingmen's houses too small. Number of cubic feet a house should contain for each occupant. Method of ventilation, 95. School houses not properly ventilated. Lack of proper ventilation due to ignorance of the people. Method of educating the people to take care of their health. Means taken to prevent sale of unwholesome food. Lake water vs. well water in Toronto, 96. Sewer construction in Toronto. Toronto water supply. Gas supply of Toronto. Poisoning from use of water gas. Ventilation from gas burners, 97-8.

OLIVER, ISAAC, *Shipwright, Kingston* - - - - **997-999**

Constancy of employment. Demand for shipwrights in Kingston, 997. Shipwrights' wages. Apprenticeship. Seaworthiness of vessels leaving the port of Kingston. A dry dock and marine railway required at Kingston. Inspection of vessels, 998. Proportion of shipwrights who are skilled mechanics and what the balance of the labor required consists of. Apprentice system, 999.

OLIVER, JAMES, *of Oliver & Son, Furniture Manufacturers, Ottawa* - **1117-1118**

Number of hands the firm employs. Wages of cabinet-makers and machine hands. Protection from accidents. Pay days weekly, on Wednesdays: reasons why they pay on Wednesdays. Wages of furniture finishers. Financial condition of the employees. Improvements in machinery enables the buyer to get better value in furniture than he could ten years ago, 1117, and has increased wages also by about one-

fourth. Apprentices. Length of time required to learn cabinet-making. Factory Inspector. All Canadian timber used except black walnut and veneers which are imported. Shaper is run by one man all the time, 1118.

ORONHYATEKHA, DR., *London*

641-645

Benevolent and benefit societies are in most cases now combined. Some however do not combine both purposes. Brief description of the systems of working, health and life insurance in the Independent Order of Foresters and Odd-Fellows. Investments of the Independent Order of Foresters, 641. Securities given by the chief officers of the order. Foresters' rates based upon actuarial tables. Expenses of management less than 5 per cent. of gross receipts. Foresters are accumulating a reserve fund, to be used only to pay death claims in case of an epidemic. Membership on 1st January, 1888. Headquarters of the Independent Order of Foresters in Canada, 642. Sanitary condition of London. Prefers earth closets to water closets running into sewers: reason why. Ventilation of the public schools exceedingly defective: 25 per cent. too many pupils in attendance for the accommodation. Taxes of the city of London up to 22 mills on the dollar, 643. Calls the attention of the Commission to the question of Government providing some means of investigating the funds of benefit societies. Approves of Government supervision of benefit societies. Thinks it would be a benefit to the industrial classes if Government would alter the General Insurance Act so that benefit societies could deposit their fund with the Government, 644. The advantages the workmen get from benefit societies, 645.

OSBORNE, R. B., *Secretary of the Osborne-Kelley Manufacturing Company, Hamilton*

902-904

Make engines and boilers principally. Number of hands employed. Men and boys. Apprentices. Indentures. Wages of skilled mechanics and laborers. Supply of labor. Pay days every two weeks, on Friday nights. Weekly payments. Savings of the workmen proved by many of them owning property. The machinery they make is sold all over Canada, 902. Average wages of all the hands in the machine shop. Average wages in New York. Piece work in the scale factory. Hours of labor and wages in the scale factory. Business steadily increasing. Raw materials they use are Scotch steel for boilers and Canadian iron. Bar iron made in Hamilton superior to either English or Scotch. Coal used imported from the United States. High freight rates make it impossible to use Canadian coal, 903. Cost of delivering American and Nova Scotia coal in Hamilton, 904.

PACKHAM, JOHN, *Moulder, London*

688

Confirms the evidence given by J. B. Murphy of London, 688.

PARSONS, CAPT., *Mariner, Kingston*

1018-1023

Seaworthiness of vessels on the lake. Inspection by Lloyd's agents. Any vessel Lloyd's agent would not pass should be condemned. Masters' and mates' certificates, 1018. A great many men holding certificates are not fit to hold them. How they got their certificates. The appointment of a Government inspector of vessel's hulls, rigging and equipment, 1019. The way the inspector examines spars, rigging, sails, &c., of sailing vessels. Thinks it would be right to have a law regulating the loading of barges. The difficulty of getting sober men to go, often the cause of barges being undermanned, 1020. How sailors are engaged now and twenty-eight years ago. Disadvantages of shipping sailors by the trip. Would support the appointment of a shipping master at Kingston, and advocates the establishment of a shipping office in such places as Toronto, Kingston and the Welland Canal, 1021. When sailors handle cargo in port they no doubt keep some one else (long shoremen) out of employment, but when they do not do it they are keeping themselves out of employment. Advocates hiring sailors by the month and paying a uniform rate of wages the season through. Sanitary condition of forecastles and sailors,

sleeping accommodations, 1022. Admits having had mates on board his vessel without certificates since the law requiring such came in force. Explains the circumstances under which it occurred. Impossible sometimes to get certificated mates, 1023.

PARTRIDGE, RICHARD, *Stationary Engineer, Hamilton* 742

Advocates a board of examiners for stationary engineers. Wages of stationary engineers. Does not think they are sufficiently paid, 742.

PARTRIDGE, THOMAS, *President of the Canadian Association of Stationary Engineers, Hamilton* 741-742

The stationary engineers of Hamilton are organized. They are incorporated and have a constitution. Object of the association in coming before the Commission to urge the necessity of examining and licensing stationary engineers. Proposes to grade them. Straining of boilers so that they will never after carry the guaranteed pressure, 741. On the causes of boiler explosions, Technical education, 742.

PARTRIDGE, WILLIAM, *Laborer, Chatham* 460-461

Not steadily employed. Wages. Cannot possibly save anything, 460. Wages have not increased during the last five years. Necessaries of life have increased in price, 461.

PATTERSON, H. A., *Chatham* 486-487

Is mayor of the town. No permanent resident of Chatham seeking relief from the city charities. Does not think there is much actual poverty among the permanent residents. Board of Trade has only been organized for a few days. Is engaged in the planing business. Men he employs. Constancy of employment given them. Wages paid them. Wages were higher in 1883 than now. Not many of his men own property or save money. Does not see any improvement or the reverse in the condition of workmen in Chatham during last eight years, 486. Machinery in his shops as well protected as he can get it. Heard no complaints from the Factory Inspector. Sanitary condition of Chatham is very unsatisfactory. The prime cause therefore is the want of waterworks. Sewerage. Health inspector. Very few industries in Chatham are exempt from taxation. Industries exempt from taxation compete with those who pay taxes, 487.

PASSMORE, C. A., *Painter and Decorator, London* 682-684

The trade is divided into four branches, viz., brush hands, paper hangers, decorators and grainers. Wages and hours of labor. They were organized in March, 1887, as a branch of the international organization. Benefit branch of the organization, 682. Men are paid weekly; some on Saturday, some on Monday, but the majority of them would prefer Friday. A few parties in the city save money. Quite a few own their homesteads, and as a rule are comfortable. Had a labor trouble last spring. Cause, and how settled. The Union believes in arbitration in the settlement of labor trouble. Kind of arbitrators preferred. Does not altogether favor compulsory arbitration. Have a Bureau of Labor Statistics in connection with the international organization. Technical education, 683. The benefits accruing from shortening hours of labor, 683-684. Benefits which have resulted from the passing of the "Employer's Liability Act." Purchasing power of money. Wages have remained stationary for the last five or ten years, but the volume of work has increased. Rate of wages in American cities. Immigration, 684.

PEAROE, JOHN, *Printer, Ottawa* 1179-1180

Sanitary condition of the *Free Press* office. Sanitary condition and location of the water closets, both sexes use the same closets, 1179. Neither the Factory Inspector nor the Sanitary Inspector visited the place that he is aware of before he left, 1180.

- PEARSON, CHARLES, *Real Estate Agent, Toronto*** **254-257**
 Has been about twenty years in the business. Land has advanced very much in value in that time. Rent of workingmen's houses increased thirty to forty per cent. Rents quoted. Accommodation in workingmen's houses. Sanitary condition. Sells a good many houses to working people. Plan of payment for such houses. Government Act regarding rate of interest. Cost of building increased. Average price of a workingman's house, 254-255. Some sort of check required for bad plumbing which is very prevalent in working people's houses. Inspection of plumbing. Price of lands in Toronto. Leasehold property, 256. Injustice of the law regarding leasehold property. Black-list of people who do not pay their rent, has none, 257.
- PEDDLE, SAMUEL, *Cabinetmaker, London*** **631-634**
 Has worked for the London Furniture Company nine years. Wages paid by the company. Does not know of any profit-sharing in Canada. Explains the difference between co-operation and profit-sharing, 631. Profit-sharing would lessen the difficulties between employer and employed, and make men more careful. It is practicable because it is done in England. Does not think it has been broached to any employer in Canada. The apprentice system in existence in the cabinet-making business is a bad one. Indenturing of apprentices. The more intelligent portion of the workingmen of London are in favor of the establishment of a Bureau of Labor Statistics. Arbitration, 632. The law in regard to employers liability for accidents does not protect the employee. Factory Inspector's visit a mere matter of form. Sanitary condition of the company's shops. Co-operative building societies, 633. Co-operative stores, 633-634.
- PEDDLE, SAMUEL, *re-called*** **689-692**
 Wages of cabinet makers in Canada compared with those paid in Great Britain and the United States. Hours of labor and cost of living in Great Britain and the United States compared with London. Condition of workmen's houses in England and rents thereof, 689. Accidents to boys through machinery, 689-690. There is not the least attempt at protection of the machinery in the London Furniture Company's factory. Immigration, 690. Sub-contracting in furniture factories. A dangerous unprotected hoist passed by the Factory Inspector and never noticed, 691. Importation of furniture. Wood used all Canadian except walnut which comes from Indiana, 692.
- PEEBLES, JOHN, *Shoemaker, Hamilton*** **863-865**
 Is one of the deputation from the Hamilton Land Tax Club, 863. Views of the members of the club regarding taxation. How rents would be lower if all taxation was levied upon land and not on improvements. Instances a case in Hamilton of increased value in land, the increased value of which should belong to the community not to the individual, 864.
- PEER, JOHN, *Moulder, Ottawa*** **1130**
 Average wages of machinery moulders. Constancy of employment. Hours of labor. Apprentices. Pay days fortnightly. Ventilation of moulding shops. Suction fans not required if ventilation is good, 1130.
- PENNOCK, W. H., *Ottawa*** **1114-1115**
 Is Savings Bank clerk in the Ottawa Post Office. Has been in his present position ten years. Average deposits of farmers, mechanics and laborers, 1114. Limit of yearly and total deposits. Observations regarding deposits. Obligated to refuse money sometimes from farmers on account of the limit, although the average deposit does not come up to the limit, 1115.
- PENSE, EDWARD, *Newspaper Proprietor, Kingston*** **1057-1058**
 Is proprietor of *Whig* printing office. Wages of printers. Effect of the use of stereotyped plate matter on newspapers. Apprentices. Lock-out in the *Whig* office two or three years ago, 1057. Sanitary condition of the *Whig* office, 1058.

- PERKINS, JAMES, Collector of Taxes, Petrolia** - - - - - **728-730**
 Rate of taxation in Petrolia. Assessment. Exemption. Assessment of artisans for income. How assessors arrive at conclusions, 728. Publication of assessment rolls, 728-729. Changes required in the assessment laws. Thinks people with bank stocks should pay double taxes, 729. Measurement of crude oil, 729-730. Necessity for Government measurement of crude oil tanks, 730.
- PERRY, ALFRED, Machinist, Kingston** - - - - - **959-961**
 Number of machinists in Kingston. Constancy of employment, 959. Hours of labor, 959-960. Wages. Sunday work. Apprentices system. Indentures. Organization and its benefits to the trade. Technical education, 959. Wages in Canada compared with the United States and Great Britain. Cost of living in Canada compared with the United States and Great Britain. Effects of shortening the hours of labor, 960. Mechanics' Institute. Free library. Technical teaching. Public school library. Arbitration. Establishment of a Bureau of Labor Statistics for the Dominion, 961.
- PERRY, EDWARD, Moulder** - - - - - **951-953**
 Is a stove moulder and bench worker. Wages and constancy of employment, 951. Hours of labor. Apprentices. Stove moulders are organized in Kingston; they belong to the National Union. Immigration. Weekly payments, on Saturdays. Wages in Kingston compared with the United States, also cities of the size of Oshawa, Galt and Guelph. Sanitary condition of workmen's houses in Kingston. Rents. Proportionate profits of stove moulders and their employers. Effect of labor combination on the trade, 952. Arbitration. Death and sick benefits in connection with the Stove Moulders' Union, 953.
- PETTIT, A. H., Grimsby** - - - - - **847-850**
 Has been engaged in fruit farming. Kinds of fruit raised in the Niagara peninsula. Fruit raising pays better than general farming. Peaches the most profitable. Demand for fruit. Principal market. Exportation of fruit to Glasgow. Canadian grapes in the British market, 847. Apples; where sold principally. Prices in the Old Country. Small fruits. Class of labor employed in the fruit industry. How children are employed. Wages. Female labor employed. Length of time these people are employed. Supply of labor is not always ample. Fruit canning. Fruit drying. Delaware and Canadian peaches compared, 848. Apple barrels. Earnings and age of the children employed. Average crops of apples and peaches, 849. His crop of grapes this year. Price paid for making apple barrels; earnings of those who make them and hours of labor. Apple packing, 850.
- PETTIT, J. R., Grimsby** - - - - - **844-847**
 Has been a farmer all his life-time near Grimsby. Wages of farm laborers, 844. Supply of and demand for farm labor. Use of machinery has changed the condition of farm labor very much during the last twenty-five years. Wages of farm labors now and twenty-five years ago compared. Cost of a good equipment of farm implements for a 100-acre farm. Advantages of agricultural machinery. Material condition of farmers in the neighborhood, 845. Farming in the neighborhood has largely changed into fruit growing. Farmers' hours of labor. Class of men who hire as extra help. Not the same necessity for extra help now on account of improved machinery. Immigrants, 846. Not aware of any combination on the part of farmers to raise prices. Stock raising, 847.
- PICKETT, THOMAS, Iron-moulder, Toronto** - - - - - **144-147**
 Thirty years in Toronto. General condition of the shops very good. Rate of wages by the day. Hours of labor. Piece work, 144. Arbitration not resorted to by employers, although the men would prefer that method of settling disputes. No

strikes among iron-moulders in Toronto for the last eight or nine years; effect of strikes on the trade; strikes only a last resort with the union; and caused by employers refusing arbitration. Compulsory arbitration. Apprentices. Age at commencement: proportion of to men according to an understanding between employers and Union. Accidents. Employer's liability, 145. Wages higher in the United States than in Canada, 145, 146. Cost of living in Canada and the United States. Rents in Toronto have gone up. Benefit fund in connection with the Union. Term of apprenticeship. Immigration of moulders from foreign countries, 146. Organization a benefit to the trade; tendency of the teaching and rules of the Union. Benefits derived from the Union outside of organized labor. Nine hours as a day's work: no attempt in Toronto yet to secure. Thinks short hours a benefit. Convict labor, 147.

PICKETT, THOMAS, *re-called* **153-156**

Compares the quality of Scotch, Canadian and American iron. Quotes prices, 153. Wages paid moulders. Not more than they were twenty-five years ago. And cost of living higher. A moulder with six or seven of a family living in Toronto cannot live respectably and make both ends meet at the wages paid to-day, 154. Suggests remedies for the evil of the workmen not being able to make both ends meet, one of them being the stoppage of speculation in land. Tenement houses. Rents in Toronto have increased. The increase in moulders' wages has not corresponded with the advance in price of goods, 155. Does not think that five per cent. of the moulding trade or any mechanical trade can save a dollar in Toronto, 156.

PIERCE, JOHN, *Machine Moulder, Toronto* **156-159**

Recommends that the eight-hour movement should be carried in order to secure the half holiday, which would be a benefit to all workmen. Thinks a man can, in working steadily for a month, do as much in nine as ten hours a day. Long hours of labor tend to drinking habits. Education of the poorer children. Wages and cost of living, 156. Iron, prices quoted. Knows nothing of the "iron ring." Shorter hours would reduce the temptation to drink, 157. Ten hours labor a day at moulding too much strain on the constitution. Savings, answers relative to how much a moulder can save under existing circumstances. Benefits of the eight hour system. According to Moulders' Union statistics there are always one-third more men than required. Piece work, 158-159.

PORTER, A. W., *McCormick Manufacturing Co., London* **666-670**

Manufacture crackers, biscuits, confectionery, &c. Find a market all over Canada. Do not export. Number of hands employed. Hours of labor. Night work. Wages of confectioners and females. Do not make their paper boxes on the premises, 666. No confectioners employed now by piece work. Pays the men weekly, on Friday evenings. Distinct and separate conveniences for males and females; although both work together in the same rooms. Wages of bakers. Hours of labor. Number of bakers employed. Wages of girls and boys employed in the baking department. Age at which the boys and girls commence work. Does not indenture apprentices. Cannot get boys to work as apprentices for more than three years, but as a rule they do not become competent journeymen in that time. As a rule these men are successful in saving money: some of them live in houses of their own and a few own other property besides, 667. Never had any difficulty with employees. Some of their present employees have been with them for from sixteen to twenty-two years. Sanitary condition of the factory exceedingly good. Factory Inspector inspected the place a short time ago and seemed very well pleased. Uses Canadian sugar altogether. Reason why. Would not use beet sugar knowing it to be so. Uses principally Canadian flour but also imports a little United States flour of the highest class as it suits the purpose for which it is wanted better. Does not use Manitoba flour. Has not for the past two years employed any one under the age of sixteen years. Has found a few instances where young people tried to deceive him

in regard to their age. The work the girls do is light, 668. Both crackers and confectionery are imported but not to any extent. Send some of their goods to British Columbia and the North-West Territory. Their trade is increasing. Ship also to the Maritime Provinces. Competition very high and prices very low. Use a good deal of machinery; it has not decreased their demand for labor, but has enabled them to do a larger business. Could not compete with others without machinery. Machinery has not decreased the price of labor. Wages higher than they were years ago. Mechanics Institute in London has a good library and art night school in connection with it, 669. Thinks technical education is given at the Mechanics Institute also. Rate of wages paid for night work. No Sunday work. Kind of goods imported: if they had to pay duty the higher price would keep them out. Have an idea that exhibits are a good advertising medium but have no means of knowing exactly, 670.

PUMFREY, THOMAS, *Hamilton* **821-822**

Wages of moulders employed by the Grand Trunk Railway company. Hours of labor. Constancy of employment. Reasons why he would rather work in a railway foundry than in a stove foundry, 821. Immigration. Evils of monthly pay days. Wages in England and Hamilton compared. Piece work. Garnisheing of wages. The amount of wages the Grand Trunk Railway Company retain on pay days. Men can leave on an hour's notice, 822.

PURCELL, JOHN P., *Engineer, Ottawa* **1181**

Is engineer in the *Free Press* printing office. Has a certificate. It is the desire of engineers to have a law providing for inspection of engines and boilers, and the examination of and granting certificates to competent engineers. As much danger to life from explosion in the *Free Press* office as on a passenger steamboat. Customary in Ottawa to employ as engineers incompetent men; wages paid to such men. Sanitary condition of the *Free Press* office and the closets therein. Does not know of any accidents last year through incompetent engineers, 1181.

QUINLAN, MICHAEL, *Cornwall, Electrician* **1087-1088**

Rule of the Canada Cotton Company regarding employees whose wages are garnished. Difficulty for anyone to get employed again in Cornwall after being dismissed for having his wages garnished. Weekly payments, 1087. Hours of labor. Water supply at the Canada Cotton mills. Never heard of any blacklisting. Dismissal of employees for belonging to the Knights of Labor, 1088.

RANKIN, ROBERT, *Printer, Ottawa* **1169-1170**

Is foreman of the job department of Messrs. A. S. Woodburn & Co. Number of men and boys employed. Age of the youngest boy. Accident through the fall of an elevator, 1169. Pay days every two weeks. Wages. Hours of labor. Condition of the closets. Apprentices. A good common school education necessary. The indenture system, 1170.

RATELLE, ISAAE, *Barber* **1083**

Barbers' wages. Constancy of employment. No Sunday work. Schools of Cornwall, 1083.

RIPLEY, JAMES, *Moulder, Hamilton* **801-803**

Lockout in Toronto. Bath or wash rooms in connection with foundries, 801. Wages in Hamilton compared with Pittsburgh. Piece work and day work. Apprentices: length of time to serve. Union rules regarding apprentices. Lockout in Toronto, 802.

RISDON, WILLIAM, *Manager of the Erie Iron Works, St. Thomas* **549-551**

Is an original industry as far as St. Thomas is concerned. Trade increasing. Rate of wages. Apprentices. Savings of the workmen. Machinery fairly well protected.

Sanitary condition of the shop. Factory Inspector. Imports first-class plough handles from Ohio: reasons therefor, 549. Iron used and where it comes from. Hours of labor, 550. Free library. Thinks that shortening the hours of labor tends to a great extent to improve workingmen intellectually, 551.

ROBINSON, JAMES, *Cigar Manufacturer, St. Catharines* - - - - - **920-923**

Number of men he employs. All union men. Hours of labor and wages. Pay days weekly, on Saturday afternoon. Apprentices. Truck system. Was on strike against the truck system in 1881. Union-made cigars sell well in the city. Effect of cheap labor in London and Montreal on the trade. Difference in wages paid in London and St. Catharines, 920. The effect of child labor on the trade. Wages in St. Catharines, Montreal and Hamilton compared. Thinks a labor bureau would be a good thing in settlement of disputes between capital and labor. The plan of the Cigarmakers' Union for gaining a strike. Arbitration, 921.

ROBINSON, SAMUEL, *Baker, Kingston* - - - - - **1000-1001**

Wages, 1000. Organized labor. Sanitary condition of Kingston bakeshops. Girls employed in cracker factories, their wages, ages and hours of labor. Difference in bakers' wages in Kingston and Toronto. Hours of labor in Toronto, 1001.

ROBITAILLE, STEPHEN, *Ottawa* - - - - - **1111**

Is a kind of a general man round the milling establishment of Messrs. Thos. McKay & Co. Wages of laboring men in the establishment. His own wages. Hours of labor. Night work. Constancy of employment. Rents and location of workingmen's houses, 1111.

ROGERS, CHARLES, *Cabinet Maker, Toronto* - - - - - **354-356**

More demand for a better grade of furniture than ten years ago. Medium classed furniture is cheaper, but in cost of expensive furniture there is not much difference. The manufacture of first class furniture can be assisted by machinery. Wages of cabinet makers and upholsterers. Day work. Constancy of employment of cabinet makers all the year round a point of advantage over carpenters. Tendency of machinery is to displace men. Difference in wages paid to cabinet makers 30 years ago and now. Almost all machinery used in cabinet making has been introduced during the last thirty years. Hours of labor thirty five years ago and now. Thinks the condition of the mechanic is on the whole better than thirty-five years ago, 354. The furniture imported into Canada is principally for patterns. Uses Canadian materials principally, but has to import black walnut lumber and veneers. Term of apprenticeship. Thinks indentures beneficial, 355. Hay & Cox system of apprenticing. Gives his experience as an employer to show that a man working for \$2 a day is on the whole as well off as he is. Recommends that workingmen form co-operative companies of themselves instead of striking. Believes in profit-sharing, 356.

ROGERS, DAVID, *Farmer, Kingston* - - - - - **992-996**

Scarcity of farm labor. Government should establish a Farmer's Labor Bureau. Extra help in the busy season. Length of time employed, 992. The use of machinery does away to a large extent with extra help. Hours of labor of farmers and farm laborers. Wages of a farm laborer hired by the year. Immigration, 993. Does not know what the farming community would do but for the immigrants who come in. Scarcity of farm labor. Average hours of labor of city and farm laborers compared. City and farm labor compared, 994. Crops. Hay pays best, with least outlay. Stock raising. Many farmers have sold out and gone to live in Kingston on account of the scarcity of farm labor. Scarcity of domestic farm help. Average monthly wages of a servant girl in the city and country, 995. Necessity for a Bureau of Labor Statistics, 996.

ROGER, FREDERICK, *Foreman in the Binding of Messrs. MacLean, Roger & Co., Parliamentary Printers, Ottawa* - - - **1173-1175**

Number of young women employed under him and the nature of their work. Wages of paper rulers. Wages of females employed folding, stitching, covering, &c. Constancy of employment. Wages of young girl apprentices. Length of time required to become a competent folder. Ventilation of the premises. Girls in his department have no need to go among the presses, the pressman brings the work to them. Space between the presses, 1173. Protection of machinery. Factory Inspector. Sanitary condition and location of the closets. Swearing at the girls. Fining of employees under him, 1174. No authorised system of fining in the office but something is necessary to keep order, 1175.

ROLPH, FRANK, *Cabinet Maker, Windsor* - - - **403-404**

Only one cabinet shop, employing eight men in Windsor. Wages. Work pretty steady all the year round. No Cabinet Maker's Union in Windsor, some of the men belong to the Knights of Labor. Hour of labor. Pay days weekly, on Saturday morning. Sanitary condition of the shop. Wages in Michigan. Machinery in the shop at Windsor not properly protected. Never saw the Factory Inspector, 403. No boys in the shop. Considers piece work injurious to the trade. Accidents from improperly protected machinery, 404.

ROONEY, JOHN, *Painter, Toronto* - - - **367-368**

Corroborates all said by Mr. Geo. Harris. Average yearly earning of painters in Toronto. Over three months in the year hardly anything to do. Painters in Toronto want shorter hours than ten hours a day. Condition in England and Toronto compared. A great many painters come to Toronto from the Old Country, 367. Both immigrant and native painters find a tendency to work to smaller wages, 368.

ROSE, JOHN A., *Cigar Manufacturer, London* - - - **617-622**

Uses imported tobacco altogether. Requires a different license to manufacture domestic tobacco. Has never seen any domestic tobacco fit for cigarmaking. Improving the quality of domestic tobacco. Does not employ any cigarmakers now, employs boys and girls. Wages of girls. Age at which they commence. Considers female labor more profitable at present, 617. Does not think there are ten journeymen cigarmakers employed in London. Apprentices when they are out of their time demand journeymen's wages, then they are not wanted. Cigars made by men are superior to those made by women: but do not sell for any higher price. Separate conveniences for male and female help. Average earnings and hours of labor of men in the cigar business. Hours of labor and earnings of women who make cigars. Apprentices. Action of the Cigarmakers' Union: the cause of men being discharged as soon as they are out of their time. Present depression of the trade caused by the Scott Act and the high rate of duty, 618. Importation of inferior brands of cigars stopped since the duty on imported cigars was raised. Reason why he does not employ union men. Average price of cigars he makes, 619. Wholesale and retail prices of cigars compared. If the import duty was still higher, imported cigars could be kept out of the country altogether. Can make just as good cigars in Canada as in the United States. Best markets for cigars. Inferior class of cigars made in Quebec. Number of women and boys he employs. The cigar manufacturers had at one time to fight the Cigarmakers' Union. Rules of the Manufacturers' Union. Knows lots of cigarmakers who were blacklisted, has a lot blacklisted now, 620. Does not blacklist women because they do not go on strikes and get drunk. Considers that organization among workingmen is a benefit to them. What he considers wrong in the action of the unions. Reasons why he would prefer women to men even at the same wages. Cigarmakers always get drunk. Does not know that low wages tend to make men get drunk and careless. Does not think that the manufacturers of London can afford to pay same wages as in St. Catharines: reasons why. His cigars

objected to on account of not being union-made in any town where there is organized labor, 621. Effect of the union label on cigars, 622.

ROSS, CRAWFORD, *Dry Goods Merchant, Ottawa* - - - **1184-1186**

Number of clerks, male and female, he employs. Age of the youngest. Sanitary condition of the lower apartments of his shop very good. Water closets, location and condition, separate for each sex. Wages of female clerks; their hours of labor, 1184. The water closets. Seats behind the counter provided for female clerks. Number of milliners and dressmakers he employs. Wages and constancy of employment of milliners and dressmakers. Apprentices, their wages and length of time they have to serve. Pay-days weekly. Pays in cash. Fining of employes, 1185. Hours of labor. Overtime not paid for except piece work, 1186.

ROWCROFT, SAMUEL, *Mill Overseer, Kingston* - - - **976-977**

Corroborates the evidence of Mr. W. Wilson (see p. 791). Is employed by the Kingston Cotton Company. Compliance with the requirements of the Factory Act regarding age of girls employed. What the Factory Inspector said regarding the dismissal of children under age. Visit of the Factory Inspector, 976. Accommodation provided for employees who eat their dinner in the factory. Water supply, 977.

RUNDLE, CHARLES R., *Contractor and Builder, Toronto* - - - **203-206**

Is engaged more particularly in the plastering business. Has been an employer of labor for fourteen years. Condition of mechanics in the building trade improved during last seventeen years. Wages of plasterers. Hours of labor. Combinations among workmen have perhaps on the whole improved their condition. Short hours have not demoralized the men. Does not advocate long hours. Apprentices, proportion of limited by the Union, 203. Method of making and carrying out agreements with the Union. Describes what he considers an improvement in settling labor disputes. Always found workmen honorable in carrying out the construction they put upon an agreement, 204. Does not know if the Ontario Act covers the ground he desires to be covered in arbitration. The matter of apprentices is the most frequent cause of strikes. Proportion of plasterers' apprentices allowed to a number of journeymen. Is in favor of compulsory arbitration and that arbitrators fix rate of wages and hours of labor. Master Builders' Organization, 205. The last strike in Toronto, 205-5. Rate of wages he pays. Does not grade men according to ability. Toronto and Hamilton are the only places where a man can learn plastering properly. Apprentices generally indentured. Plastering is not dangerous to the health and constitution of the men. Reasons why bricklayers are paid a higher rate of wages than plasterers, 206.

RUSHFORD, JAMES, *Laborer, Kingston* - - - **1044-1045**

Is employed at the locomotive works. Wages of laborers employed at the locomotive works, 1044. Laborers who own their own houses. Weekly payments. Shortening the hours of labor, 1045.

RYMILL, HENRY, *Bricklayer, London* - - - **687-688**

Standard rate of wages in the city. Cause of the labor trouble in May, 1887. Number of months' in an average season's work. Average season's earnings, 687. Hours of labor. Arbitration. Benefit in connection with the Bricklayers International Organization, 688.

SCOTT, JOHN, *Livery Stable Keeper, Petrolia* - - - **700-701**

Workingmen in Petrolia paid about the same as in any other part of Canada. House rents. Cost of building lots. Reason why rents are high. The low price of oil due to over-production. Price of provisions and fuel, 700. Truck system, 701.

- SCOTT, W. J., Heater, Hamilton** **820**
 Works for the Hamilton Forging Co. Wages of heaters. Constancy of employment. Wages of heaters in Hamilton compared with Pittsburg. Have no union here. Wages of helpers. No boys working in the forge. Wages of boys employed in the rolling mills. Age of the boys. Wages of day laborers in the company's employ, 820.
- SCULLY, JOHN, Contractor's Agent, Toronto** **252-254**
 Describes the nature of his business. Labor statistics in regard to how laborers are hired and sent out to work on railways, canals and other public works and lumber shanties. Stonecutters and rough carpenters' wages, &c., 252-253. Immigrant laborers, 254.
- SHANNON, LEWIS W., Newspaper Proprietor, Kingston** **1034-1035**
 Printers' wages. Rules regarding the setting of advertisements and piecework. Effect of the use of stereotype plate matter. Overtime. Apprentices. Hours of labor. The demand for increased wages was amicably settled, 1034. Apprentices, 1035.
- SHARKEY, JAMES, Hamilton** **807-808**
 Age fifteen years. Stems tobacco for Tuckett & Son. Hours of labor. Paid by the week. Wages. Left school when he was ten or eleven years of age and went to work as a message boy, 807. The men try to teach him. Girls employed with Tuckett & Son. Their ages. They can sit or stand at their work just as they like, 808.
- SHAW, JOSEPH, Laborer, Kingston** **1044**
 Is employed at the locomotive works. Wages of laborers employed there. Pay days fortnightly. Weekly payments. Owns his own home, but it is not all paid for. It would take him twenty years to pay for his home at his present rate of wages. Has a pension. Value of his home, 1044.
- SHERWOOD, J. D., Circular Sawyer, Ottawa,** **1127**
 Hours of labor of sawyers and other saw-mill employees. Objects to work eleven hours a day, 1127.
- SHERWOOD, JOSEPH, Sawyer, Ottawa** **1125-1126**
 Works on what is termed the "turns" in a saw mill. Hours of labor of saw mill employees. Wages of saw mill employees, 1125. Pay days every two weeks, on Thursday. Accidents. Factory Inspector. Workmen who own their own houses. Wages now and seven years ago compared. Rents in New Edinburgh ward, 1126.
- SHIELDS, MICHAEL, Marble-cutter, Ottawa** **1121-1123**
 Wages of marble-cutters. Hours of labor. Marble used imported from the United States, 1121. Italian marble. Stone-cutter's wages; reason why their wages are lower in winter than in summer. Stone-cutting and bricklaying two distinct branches of the building trade in Ottawa. Kinds of building stone used in Ottawa. Constancy of employment of stone cutters. Apprentices, 1122.
- SHOEFELT, SAMUEL, Cornwall, Cotton Carder** **1075-1077**
 Is employed at the Canada Cotton Company's mill. Number of operatives in his room, male and female, adults and children. Wages. Constancy of employment. Arrangement and location of the closets, 1075. Time allowed to operatives to use the washroom previous to leaving. Fining of employees. No objection on the part of the company to employ operatives belonging to labor organizations. Wages.

House rent. Company owns and rents houses to their employees, 1076. Accommodation and rent of those houses. Overtime. Has not heard any desire expressed by the operatives to be paid oftener than fortnightly. Fining of employees. Ventilation, 1077.

SHORT, ALEXANDER, *Printer, Ottawa* 1154-1157

Sanitary condition of printing offices in Ottawa. Dangerous elevators, 1154. Truck system. Irregularity in paying wages. The increase of printers' wages in Ottawa has been more than counterbalanced by increase of rents. Rents of workingmen's houses now and eight years ago compared. Sanitary Inspector. Printers' wages in Ottawa. Hours of labor. The Union obliged to accept incompetent printers as members through the avarice of employers, 1155. In any other place but Ottawa printers before being admitted as journeymen by the Union must prove themselves competent, but in Ottawa influence on employers sometimes prevents it being done. Employers in Ottawa refuse union men and take inferior workmen. The possible amount a printer might earn in a week working by the piece on a morning newspaper, 1156. Regarding inequality of workmen as to ability thinks "taking it the week through one man is about as good as another." Apprenticeship system, 1157.

SHORT, ALFRED, *Bricklayer, London* 682

Effect of immigration on the trade, 682.

SIMPKINS, CHARLES, *Laborer* 401-402

Did learn carpentering but had to give it up and do what he could to earn a living. Is now a general laborer. Not aware of any question being raised on account of his color when he was a carpenter, 401. Twenty years in Windsor. Came from South Carolina at the close of the civil war. His average wages as a laborer. Constancy of work. Hours of labor. Rent he pays. Is trying to built, to save rent. Belongs to the Knights of Labor. Belonging to the Knights of Labor has helped to keep him employed, 402.

SIMPSON, ALEX, *Shoemaker, Petrolia* 714-717

Arbitration. Effect of labor combinations. Organization tends to teach the working-man not to strike. Labor organizations not antagonistic to the employer's interests, 714. Profit sharing. Paying workmen by cheques. Truck system. Co-operative societies cannot be successfully carried on in Canada under the existing laws. The establishment of a Government Bureau of Labor Statistics, 715. The effect of the use of machinery in boot and shoe factories on apprentices, 715-716. Wages of a shoemaker in Petrolia at custom work. Rents of houses in Petrolia. Price of the necessaries of life. Purchasing power of money compared with five years ago. The value of building lots in Petrolia increasing. Public Schools in Petrolia, 716. The water supply of Petrolia, 716-717.

SLINN, S., *Baker and Confectioner, Ottawa* 1113-1114

Wages of bread and cake bakers. Hours of labor. Bakers about to strike against night work. Effect the doing away with night work will have. Apprentices, 1113. Sanitary condition and ventilation of his bake shop. Wages of bakers and profits on bread now and ten years ago compared. An apprentice who has not yet finished serving his time running business for himself, 1114.

SMILLIE, EDWARD, *Port Dalhousie, Submarine Diver* 922-923

Chiefly employed by Government. His experience in diving among foundered vessels, 922. Number of divers engaged on the lakes. Constancy of employment. Wages, 923.

SMITH, ANDREW, Carpenter, Petrolia - - - - - **698-699**

Carpenters' wages. Constancy of employment of workmen generally in Petrolia. About 25 per cent. of them own their own houses. Truck system. Education, 698. Interest a workingman would have to pay on money supposing he wanted to build. Hours of labor. Truck system or store orders. Rent. Price of land, 699.

SMITH, JOHN, Merchant Tailor, Toronto - - - - - **132-140**

Takes an interest in workmen's benefit societies. Workmen's benevolent societies. Investment of, incorporation of, 132. Benevolent Societies' Act. Defects in it. Has known of the funds of such societies being used for purposes outside benevolent objects. Constitution of friendly societies regarding funds and investments, 133. Difficulty in applying the Benevolent Societies Act. Officers of such societies do not always give bond of security. The Act does not make the giving of such bond compulsory. Recommends that Government appoint an inspector to look after such societies. The Act does not compel such societies to publish an annual statement of their condition, 134. Inefficiency of the audit of accounts and books of such societies. Order of Foresters. Members sometimes induced to join by misrepresentation. Charges made and funds accumulated in excess of what is required for benevolent purposes, 135. Recommends that Government institute and control benefit societies, 136. Limit to the liability of benevolent societies; thinks the Foresters Society notwithstanding all its disadvantages a safe system of cheap insurance. Method of working the funds of the Ancient Orders of Foresters. Never heard of members being defrauded of their benefits. Thinks benevolent societies as far as he knows are conducted on a sound permanent basis. Does not think Government exercises sufficient jurisdiction over benevolent societies, 137. Opinion regarding Government control of benevolent societies, 138. Statement regarding workmen's cooperative benevolent societies (handed in by John Smith), 138-140.

SMITH, JOHN, Hamilton - - - - - **752-759**

Is immigration agent at Hamilton. The counties included in his district. Number of immigrants who settled in his district in 1887; their nationalities, 752. Departmental rules regarding assistance to immigrants. Assisted passengers. Proportion of mechanics among the immigrants who settled in his district. Shows that the immigrants who settled in his district last year have created more work for mechanics than the mechanics among them have taken from the Canadian mechanics already here, 753. The great bulk of the immigrants are agricultural and common laborers. Immigration agents in other countries are steamship companies and philanthropic societies. Deaf and dumb printers sent out by Miss Gordon, 754. Children sent out by Miss Rye. Assisted immigration has ceased as far as the Government is concerned. Difficulty met with in the working of the Hamilton Home for Children from relatives of the children. The Children's or Stephenson's Home in East Hamilton. Immigrant children sent out to this country; his opinion regarding them is favorable, except that class which comes from reformatories and industrial schools. About 4 per cent. of the boys immigrants who come to his district are of that class, 755. Generally the character of these boys is good. Thinks 4 per cent. of them are placed among farmers. Four of these boys have found their way to the Penetanguishene Reformatory in seven years. Can speak even more favorably of the girl immigrants; generally placed with farmers. How the Stephenson's Home is supported. Health inspection of immigrant children. The proportion who have turned out unhealthy. Early life of the children brought out. The class of children sent out by Miss Rye, Miss McPherson, and Mr. Middleman are desirable; those sent out by Dr. Barnardo are not always so, 756. Dr. Barnardo's method of selection. Workhouse children compared with those from the reformatories and industrial schools. The agreement between the Dominion and Ontario Governments regarding assistance of immigrants from Quebec to Ontario. Acts as agent for both Ontario and Dominion Governments. Assisted railroad passages. Pauper immi-

grants, 757. Does not think immigrants displace our own work people to any extent. Class of immigrants he has most applications for. Constant employment for agricultural laborers all the year round becoming more general; reason why. The class of agricultural laborers who drift back to the cities after harvest. Proportion of the population of Hamilton who are children and grandchildren of immigrants. The best immigrants who can come out to this country are men who have been mostly independent of capital. Rapidity of and extent to which wealth has been acquired by immigrants, 758. Chances for a poor man 50 per cent. better in the North-West than Ontario. Concentration of capital in Ontario has deprived the poor man of the chances of success he formerly had. How the Dominion Government appropriation for immigration is spent. Quarantine. How the money appropriated for immigration is spent, 759.

SMITH, JOSEPH E., *Painter, Chatham* 452-455

Wages of house painters in Chatham. Average about eight months employment in the year. Customary to employ in the busy season any one who can swing a brush. Apprentices. Paid weekly, on Saturday night, 452. Hours of labor. Approves of a law enforcing arbitration in settlement of labor disputes. Cost of living. House rent has not increased during last five years. No improvement in wages during last five years. Painters not organized as a union, 453. Does not think any workmen in Chatham save anything out of their wages. Not much capital required to start the painting business. Co-operative work. Only three or four first class decorators in Chatham who have served their time. The trade is ruined by the employment of too many boys, 454. Age of some of the boys. Thinks a thorough apprentice system would make better workmen and protect the journeyman who has served his time, 455.

SMITH, JOSEPH E., *Painter, Chatham, recalled* 465-466

Wants to mention a machine in the blacksmiths' shop of the Agricultural Implement works where he works which is not properly protected, 465. And a machine called a "rounder" in the wood shop not properly guarded, 466.

SOMERVILLE, RICHARD, *Cooper, Windsor* 398-401

Seven years in Windsor. A cooper all the time. Wages of coopers in Windsor. Tight and loose work, 398. Number of journeymen coopers in Windsor. Scale of rates or wages for loose work. Most of the coopers in Windsor belong to an organization on the American side. Weekly pay days on Saturday night. Hours of labor. Piece work injurious to the trade. No apprentices. Only one shop in Windsor, 399. Sanitary condition of the shop good. Ventilation extra good, the snow drifts in. No steady work all the year round. The abolishing of piece work would be beneficial to coopers. The present practice of putting up flour in paper and linen bags has reduced the quantity of work for coopers. Machinery has killed the cooper trade, 400. Coopers in the fall sometimes work all night and have nothing to do in the summer. Convict labor. Does not think there is a man in the world would send his son to learn the cooper trade. Coopers' International Union is out of existence. Knights of Labor a benefit. Only for organized labor coopers would be even worse off, 401.

SOUTHWELL, RICHARD, *Carpenter, Toronto* 241-242

Police protection granted to employers in case of a strike. Co-operative stores, 242.

SPASHETT, EDWARD S., *Chatham* 468-470

Works at the waggon works as a bender of waggon and buggy material. Employed about eight or nine months in the year. General condition of workingmen in Chatham, 468. Strikes. Arbitration. No apprentices. Industrial education would be of great benefit. Machinery is reducing cost of production; has benefited both employer and workman. Sub-contracting. Wages, 469. Does not import any material used in waggon making. Bending works common all over Canada, 470. Reason why the waggon works do not run all the year round, 470.

- STALKER, GEORGE F., Ottawa** **1127-1128**
 Technical education. Number of pupils attending his drawing classes, enumerated by trades and professions, 1127. Positive benefits derived by mechanics and other who have attended. The proper age to commence the teaching of drawing, coloring &c. Industrial schools for practical training, 1128.
- STEPHENS, WILLARD, Sailor, Kingston** **1030-1034**
 Wages of sailors, generally ship by the day and are paid at the end of the trip. Hours of labor. Canadian and American barges compared. Condition of forecastles, 1030. Wages of sailors in sailing vessels are now mostly fixed according to the rule of the Seamen's Union. The crew a barge in tow ought to have. A vessel without sufficient canvas is not seaworthy. Overloading of vessels. Thinks the appointment of a Government inspector of hulls would be a benefit as regards the safety of the crew. Deck loads. The duty of captains or mates to see that sailors' sleeping apartments are kept clean. Has often known vessels leaving Kingston with bad gear, sails, &c. The best time to inspect a vessel, 1031. It is the rule of the sailors' organization to ship sailors by the trip; thinks it would be better for all parties if they were shipped by the month. Thinks it is the duty of longshoremen, not sailors to load and unload. Reason why wages are higher in the fall than in the summer. The employment of incompetent men. A life preserver on a sailing vessel is a very rare thing, 1032. The establishment of shipping master's offices at the different ports. Benefits in connection with the Seamen's Union. Wages have increased since the union was established, and how much. Has known vessels to leave port short handed because men could not be got. The habits of seamen generally in regard to the use of intoxicating liquors, 1033. Thinks it would be a rare case that a vessel would be obliged to leave port short handed through the intemperance of sailors, 1034.
- STEPHENSON, JAMES, Moulder, Hamilton** **797-800**
 Answers to questions asked by the Commission from the Hamilton Moulders' Union regarding ironclad contracts. Child labor. Employers' Liability Act. Truck system. Foreign contract labor. Rents. Weekly payments and pay days. Apprentices. Hours of labor and wages. Purchasing power of wages. Wages in Canada compared with Great Britain and the United States. Arbitration. Effects of organized labor. Strikes. Trusts, 797. Fining of employees. Sunday labor. Industrial schools. Tenement houses. Immigration. Sanitary arrangement. Conspiracy laws and blacklists. Workingmen's co-operative and benefit societies. Convict labor. Employers' Liability Act. Foreign contract labor, 798. Factory laws. Visit of the Factory Inspector. Sanitary arrangement and ventilation of foundries. Convict labor, 799. Industrial schools. Fines for breakages, 800. Corroboration of this evidence by John Miller and James Bartholemew, both moulders, Hamilton, 801.
- STEWART, THOMAS, Machinist, Ottawa** **1191-1195**
 Establishment of a Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1191. If post offices and postmasters were utilized in the collection and dissemination of labor statistics it would obviate necessity for strikes. Strikes mostly caused by the importation of foreign labor, 1192. Witness complains of being interrupted and prevented from expressing his thoughts, 1193. The only money Government spends on the workingman is that spent in assisted passages of immigrants brought here to compete with him. Assisted immigration, 1194. Number of men he employs. Thinks eight hours a day enough for any mechanic to work, 1195.
- STODDARD, THOMAS, Ottawa** **1111-1113**
 Is a pattern-maker and machinist. Number of moulders and machinists employed at Messrs. W. H. Baldwin & Co.'s. Their wages. Blacksmiths' wages, 1111. Hours of labor. Night work. Pay days fortnightly. Technical education. The Kindergarten system. Night schools. Libraries, 1112. Wages in his trade have not increased during past five years. Indenturing of apprentices, 1113.

- STUART, WILLIAM, Jr., Ottawa** **1108-1110**
 Is a contractor. Wages of stonecutters, bricklayers, masons and laborers. Constancy of employment. Lien law. Thinks a workingman's claim for wages should rank prior to a chattel mortgage, 1108. Pay days fortnightly. Establishment of a Bureau of Labor Statistics. Condition of the working classes in Ottawa fair. Probably two-thirds of the mechanics own the properties they live in. No regular standard of wages in the building trades, it goes by competition. Location and value of mechanics' houses. Wages of carpenters and plasterers. Hours of labor, 1109. Masons', bricklayers' and stonecutters' union. Saturday half holiday. Wages of plasterers' and builders' laborers Scaffolds. Appointment of a building inspector. Compensation for accidents. Lien law. Wages of lathers, 1110.
- STUDDART, WILLIAM AUGUSTUS, Hamilton** **736-740**
 Is now and has been secretary of the Hamilton Loan and Building Society since it was organized 1883, 736. How stock is issued and paid for. Classes of people who hold stock. How the money is loaned. Number of houses built with the money which has been loaned. Classes of people who have built the houses. Estimated time the loans will be paid in. Interest and bonus, 737. No money lent on speculation. Securities accepted. Bonds given as security by the treasurer. The authority on which loans are authorized and moneys paid. Have foreclosed no mortgages and met with no losses. How they deal with borrowers in arrears. By-laws regarding selling of stock. No money lent without real estate security, 738. Cost of management. Money can only be loaned at a meeting of the shareholders. Example of how a workingman may acquire a property worth \$1,200 in eight years at a cost of \$450 over and above his rent of \$8 a month. How the society's assets are invested. Business of the society has steadily increased. Opposition from money lenders, 739. How loans are repaid. Average discount paid for loans Loans advanced as the work on the house progresses. How directors are elected Repayment of loans before the expiration of the time, 740.
- STURGES, GEORGE J.** **786-788**
 Works in the rolling mill of the Hamilton Iron Forging Company. Hours of labor. Paid by the ton. Wages of the various classes of men employed in the rolling mill. Apprentices. Healthiness of the occupation. Wages in Hamilton compared with those paid in England and the United States, 786. No union in Hamilton. Pay days. Paid in cash. No truck. Work all the year round. Boys at the trade. Night and day gangs change weekly. Lowest rate of wages paid to unskilled men, 787. Wages of skilled workmen. Hours of labor. Trade is organized in the United States but not here. Wages and cost of living here and in the Western United States' cities compared. Size of iron they make. Age a boy should be when he goes to learn the trade. Education, 788.
- SULLIVAN, JOHN, Bricklayer, London** **679-682**
 Wages of a journeyman bricklayer. Length of time they are employed in the year. Average yearly earnings. Savings. A good many bricklayers in London own their own houses. Number of bricklayers in the city. House rents. Bricklayers are organized in London. Benefits derived from the organization. The organization has no laws regarding strikes; they prefer arbitration in the settlement of labor disputes. Strikes are a last resort. Cause of the strike in the summer of 1887, 679. No understanding between the bricklayers' organization and employers that notice be given previous to making demands for higher wages or reduction in hours. Union rules regarding apprentices. The Builders' Exchange is a combination or ring formed to keep everything in their own hands and prevent outsiders from doing anything in the building line. How they worked it. Believes the union to be in favor of compulsory arbitration. Knows that the Builders' Exchange discriminate against any builder who is not a member, but will not swear to it, 680. Fining

- of the members of the Builders' Exchange. Lien laws. Wages in Canada compared with wages in the United States and Great Britain. Co-operation society. Immigration. How the strike was settled, 681. Pay days weekly, on Saturdays, 682.
- SUTTON, WILLIAM, *Stationary Engineer, Toronto* 210
Illustrates the urgent necessity of protecting by law competent engineers, and law to compel inspection of stationary engines and boilers, 210.
- SWANTON, GEORGE, *Broom-maker, Hamilton* 907
Corroborates the evidence of John McKenna (See pp. 905-907), 907.
- SYMONS, ROBERT, *Shoemaker, London* 659-663
Not much "custom work" used in Canada; principally factory-made boots and shoes that are used. The consumers get better value in custom work than in factory work. Wages, 659. Wages have increased during the past few years, but both custom and factory work have decreased. Women employed in the factory in London. Only one factory of any size in the city. Not much of the goods made in London are sold in London, because they do not produce as good an article for same money as they do in other towns such as Toronto, Hamilton and in the Province of Quebec. The extensive use of female and child labor in the Province of Quebec enables the manufacturers there to undersell in London, the London manufacturers. Method of working in Quebec. Earnings of factory hands in London, 660. The factory in London closed down twice a year ostensibly to take stock, but really for want of work, 660-661. Co-operative society. States that the school inspector was in error when he said he never knew of children being sent home from school for want of the necessary books; says he knows of several instances of it being done; his own children being among the number, 661. The frequent changing and cost of school books a burden to the working classes. Thinks if schools were free children might be kept longer at school, 661-662. Thinks that female labor in any occupation should be paid as much as male labor if equal in capacity, 662. Corrects statements made by previous witnesses regarding the sanitary condition of London and wages paid to laborers, 662-663. Reasons why many workingmen do not volunteer evidence before this Commission, 663.
- SYMONS, ROBERT, *recalled* 688
Complains of the Government assisting immigration as shown by last year's report. Says the labor market here is already overcrowded; is therefore opposed to the system of assisted immigration, 688.
- TANSEY, CHARLES, *Cigar-maker, St. Catharines* 192-922
Substantiates the evidence of R. J. Mills (see p. 919) and James Robinson (see p. 920). Truck system. Rules of the Cigar-makers' Union regarding the truck system, 921. Apprentices, 922.
- TASCHEREAU, E. A. *Card. and Arch. of Quebec* 368
Letter from him to the secretary of the Commission containing his opinion on child labor, female labor, sanitary arrangements of factories. Arbitration. Strikes and their results, 368.
- TASSÉ, DAMASE, *Printer, Ottawa* 1157-1158
Accommodation and sanitary condition of workingmen's houses, 1157. Sanitary condition of printing-offices. The apprentice system, 1158.
- TAYLOR, EDWARD, *City Relieving Officer, Toronto* 285-286
A great deal of distress in Toronto at present. Classes of people who are applicants for relief. Chief causes of destitution: Seasons of the year when application for

relief are most numerous. Corporation grants to charitable institutions, 285. A great many applicants for relief among newly arrived immigrants. System of giving relief in Toronto. Percentage of immigrants who come to Toronto who are destitute, 286.

TAYLOR, T. H., Chatham - - - - - **475-480**

Is owner of a woollen mill, number of hands he employs and the proportion of skilled workmen amongst them. Length of time required to become expert in each department. Number of department. Principal products. Market principally local. Wages he pays. Age of boys he employs. Growth of his business. Wools he uses: and where he gets them, 475. A duty on fine imported wool would affect his business seriously. Sufficient coarse wool grows in Canada to supply the home market and leave a surplus for export. Wages have been stationary for four or five years; previous to that they rose. The North-West as a market for his products. Hours of labor. The application made to him for shorter hours, and how it was settled. Prices for his products fair for the local trade but cut close for the wholesale trade. Makes fine yarns that take the place of Berlin wools. Cannot tell why so much Berlin wools are imported; the home made article satisfies those who use it, 476. Quantity of wool grown in the county of Kent is not a quarter of what it was six years ago. Thinks Canadian tweeds are coming more into use and giving greater satisfaction than formerly. Admits it would be a benefit to him if the statistics of the trade throughout the Dominion were published annually by some Dominion authority, 477. Apprentices. Employs women as weavers, a girl runs only one loom. Is interested in a flour mill also. The kind of wheat he uses. Difficulty he has met in trying to handle North-West wheat. Price of wheat in Chatham and Toronto, 478. Number of hands he employs in the flour mill. Sells his flour in the Maritime Provinces altogether. How he ships his flour. Cannot supply the demand for bran and middling all over the Province. Price of bran. Condition of his employees, 479. Exempting mills and factories from taxation. What he thinks of such exemptions from taxation. Water supply of Chatham. Sewerage of Chatham. Epidemics. The general state of business in Chatham. Organized charitable bodies in Chatham, 481.

TEAGUE, WILLIAM C., Printer, Ottawa - - - - - **1181-1184**

Organized labor has been a direct benefit to the working classes in Ottawa. His opinion regarding shortening hours of labor, 1181. Beneficial effect of Saturday half holidays. Arbitration as a means of settling labor disputes. The formation of a Government Bureau of Labor Statistics. Workingmen's insurance companies controlled by Government, 1182. The apprentice system. Public night schools in Ottawa and the need of them. A Dominion Factory Act preferable to Provincial Acts of that kind. Free public libraries. Workingmen's insurance, 1183. Unorganized trades are not so well paid as those which are organized. Condition of the working classes in Ottawa during the last ten years has improved both socially and materially, 1184.

THOMPSON, JAMES D., Mayor of the City of Kingston - - - - - **1011-1016**

Corporation work which is given out by contract. Unskilled labor employed by the corporation, 1011. Contract and day work in the construction of corporation drains compared. The municipal authorities powerless to prevent foreign labor from being employed on corporation work under the contract system. Wages of day laborers. Corporation relief of the poor, how carried on; no regular system, 1012. Relief labor compared with the contract system. People of Kingston do not care who does the work so long as they get value for their money, 1013. Classes of people employed at corporation work. Outsiders only given work in case of a surplus. Assessment. Difficulty of getting an equitable assessment of income. Publication of assessment

rolls for the purpose of getting a more equitable assessment, 1014. Increase of the assessment of the city from 1870 to 1886. Volume of industry in the city has increased during last year. The improvement of the working classes in Kingston since 1865 "has been simply wonderful." Sanitary condition of the city, 1015. Sanitary condition of the public schools. Overcrowding of the schools. Rate of taxation. Total debt of the city. Bonus to the K. & P. Railway. Ten manufacturing establishments exempted from taxation, 1016.

THOMPSON, PHILLIPS, *Journalist, Toronto* - - - - **98-103**

Remarkable increase of rents in large centres, 98. Remedy for increase of house rents, 98-99. Any increase of wages is offset by increase of house rents; some trades or occupation not organized, do not receive any increase of wages to balance increased rents; objects to narrowing the application of the term workingman to those who labor with their hands only, 99. Thinks owners of houses receive excessive interest on the money invested therein; compares the loss which might accrue to property holders from such a change in the law as he would suggest, to the loss borne by the slave holder when deprived of his slaves. Remedy for exorbitant increase in value of property to the nationalization of the land. Thinks it will come gradually. Nationalization of land means shifting the whole burden of taxation on to the land; and the ownership to the government, 100. What this would lead to eventually, 101. Deficiency of land tax, if any, should be supplemented by tax on income, 102. Questions and answers theorizing on Nationalization of land, 101-2.

THORNE, JOSEPH, *Carpenter, Kingston* - - - - **1053-1054**

Wages of carpenters, 1053. Number of laborers and mechanics employed in the Montreal Transportation Company's yard. Protection of the machinery there. Attitude of the company to organized labor, 1054.

THORNTON, FRANKLIN, *Stonecutter, Windsor* - - - - **407-409**

Marble cutters do stonemasons' work in Windsor. Ohio stone principally used. Work by the day principally. Sometimes piece work, 407. Wages regulated by Detroit prices. Not organized in Windsor, but many belong to the Stonecutters' union on the other side. Wages of a stonemason not so high as those of a stonecutter. Stonecutters and bricklayers are the highest paid mechanics in the building trade. No slaters in Windsor, 408. Plastering. Prices of centre pieces, 409.

THORPE, J. W., *Job Printer, London* - - - - **635-636**

Is paid more than the standard wages, \$9 a week. State of the trade. Apprenticeship system. Females employed, 635. Wages of females. Printers' wages, 636.

THURSTON, WILLIAM, *Boot and Shoe-upper Manufacturer, Toronto* - - - - **307**

Wages he pays his employees. Hours of labor. Employs women. The wages he pays them. Males and females all work in same room. Divided off. No separate conveniences, 307.

TOWERS, THOMAS, *Hamilton* - - - - **870-877**

Is a carpenter and District Master of the Knights of Labor for Hamilton. Hands in a book called a charter containing a declaration of the principles of the Knights of Labor, 870. Degree of secrecy attending the meetings and transactions of the Knights of Labor. Attitude of Knights of Labor toward the Government under which they live. Child labor. Convict labor, 872. Foreign contract labor. Post Office Savings Banks. Chinese labor. Knights of Labor bound to uphold the institutions of the country in which they live. Clergymen admitted as Knights of Labor. Manufacturers' combinations, 873. Combination of employers in the building trades. Grocers, lawyers and doctors have their associations. District Assembly of the Knights of Labor incorporated. Benefits arising from the incorporation. The Knights of Labor as a national association. Class of members who favor

making it so. What might be the effect of a national organization of the Knights of Labor in the Dominion. National feeling tends to keep workingmen apart when they should be united, 874. Co-operation in Montreal assisted by money from the United States. Grand Trunk Railway employees are paid monthly, but would prefer to be paid weekly. Reasons why. Garnisheeing of wages of Grand Trunk Railway employees. Man discharged by any railroad company must have a certificate from that company before he is employed by any other, 875. Weekly payments. Shortening of hours of labor. Thinks a day's work could be done in much less than eight hours. With the machinery now in use it is unnecessary to employ men more than five hours. Proportionate profit of capital and labor. Credit system. Effects of the reduction of hours of labor on wages and cost of living, 876. Free public library, 877.

TUCKETT, GEO. T., *Tobacco Manufacturer, Hamilton* **743-746**

Is the junior members of the firm of G. E. Tuckett & Son. Number of hands they employ. Class of labor employed and ages. Wages. Child labor. How employed. At what age. Constancy of employment. Children's wages or earnings. How apprentices are selected, 743. Machinery used is guarded in every possible way. Sanitary conditions of the factory. Class of tobacco they make. Sell it all over the world. Prices of tobacco. Where they get their raw tobacco from. Canadian tobacco. Wages and hours of labor. Voluntarily reduced the hours of labor from ten to nine hours a day and find they get the same amount of work done, 744. Pay days weekly, on Saturdays. Profit-sharing. The nine-hours limit, 745. Healthiness of the business, 746.

TWEEDALE, DR. JOHN B., *Physician to the Board of Health at St. Thomas* **501-503**

Sanitary condition of St. Thomas. Sewerage system. Plumbing. Sanitary condition of the school houses. Water supply, 501. Epidemics and the means taken to stamp them out. Does not know if the Factory Inspector has visited St. Thomas. Would say that the factory machinery is not properly protected in some places. Inspection of milk. Inspection of food. Death rate. Accidents from machinery. Child labor in factories, none that he is aware of, 502. Water supply in the schools not pure, 503.

VALE, WILLIAM JOHN **812-816**

How to employ prison labor is one of the most difficult problems of the labor question. Thinks the system of contracting prison labor should be abolished. Evil results of keeping prisoners idle. Stamping of prison made goods. How money acquired by prison labor should be distributed, 812. Immigration. Printer's wages compared with those of other skilled mechanics. Thinks the previous witness who stated that a printer might in ten years own his own house, never went into figures. Five days a week is sufficient on a morning paper. Strongly in favor of curtailing the hours of labor; thinks it would be beneficial to both men and employers. Cordially in favor of Government doing their own printing. Government supervision of friendly and benevolent societies, 813. Mechanics' Institutes. Night schools. Effect shortening hours of labor would have on the labor market. Does not think shortening hours of labor would diminish production. If the mechanic had his share resulting from the improvements in machinery hours of labor might be shortened by three hours. Purchasing power of money. The increase in wages in some branches of trade due to organization. Cost of living has increased, 814. Shortening the hours of labor would increase the amount of production. Arbitration. Chances to purchase luxuries greater now, but opportunities fewer than ten years ago. How the workingmen in Hamilton who have had their hours of labor shortened have improved the opportunities thus given them. Compulsory arbitration favorably spoken of in France, where it is in operation, 815. Technical schools, 815-816.

VALIANT, GEORGE, of Valiant & Co., Shoe Manufacturers, Toronto, - 309-311

Five years in business. Employs thirty to forty men and about an equal number of females. Wages. Competition met with from the other provinces and the United States, 309. Does not know of any combination among the manufacturers regarding wages or prices. Hours of labor. Lasters' wages. Have not the same class of skilled workmen in Canada that they have in Boston. No apprentices. Shoemaking not taught in factories as a rule. Custom work, 310. Factories turn out a better class of work than they did ten years ago. Separate conveniences and separate workrooms for male and female hands. Machines used in the business on which royalties are paid come from the United States, 311.

VANCE, JOHN, Cotton Weaver, Hamilton - 893-894

Number of looms one weaver runs. Wages. Female weavers. Weaving is not hard but tiresome watchful work. Length of time required to learn. How the capacity of girls and boys is ascertained, 893. Lowest wages of a girl and hours of labor. Hours of labor too long. Constancy of employment, 894.

VOLUME, JAMES, Shoemaker, Kingston - 936

Shoemakers' wages and hours of labor. Piece work. Females, what employed at Apprentices. Pay days. No truck system in Kingston. Rents. Shoemakers who own their own houses. Savings. Purchasing power of wages. Boots imported from Montreal, Toronto, Boston and Rochester. Effect of organization on the trades, 936.

WADDELL, JOHN, St. Thomas - 530-535

Is foreman in J. M. Green's house furnishing factory, the wood work department; Sashes, doors and blinds. Constancy of employment. Trade decreasing for the last ten years, 530. Wages, 530-531. Apprentices. Benefits of indenturing apprentices, 531. Condition of the workshops. Is not aware of the Factory Inspector having been there. A great many poor workmen in the trade here. Labor organization. Arbitration. Would favor a law compelling arbitration, 532. Cause of the present depression of the business. Rents and condition of workmen's houses. Possibility of the workmen saving money. Trade purely local. Apprentice system. Reasons for the large number of poor workmen. Industrial education, 533. Benefits derived from organization. Apprentices and indentures. Kinds of wood used, 534. Profit sharing none. Indenturing apprentices, 535.

WADDELL, JOHN, St. Thomas, recalled - 580-581

Mechanics' lien law in its present form no benefit to the workingman. Suggests the changes necessary to secure the workmen and prevent inferior and unprincipled men from becoming contractors. Shows how the law in its operations is comparatively useless and the reason why men are reluctant to avail themselves of it, 580-581.

WADE, BYRON J. - 560-563

Is a farmer. Lives five miles west of St. Thomas. Has only seventy-five acres of a farm and makes a pretty good living off it. Crops and cattle he raised. Prices of cattle. Could barely make a living out of raising wheat at present prices, 560. Price and average yield of wheat. Condition of the farmers. Railroads a great improvement and a benefit to farmers. Timber in the vicinity. Cordwood. Wages of farm hands. Constancy of employment. No surplus of farm labor in the summer. Farmers in the neighborhood live more comfortably than they did fifteen or twenty-five years ago. Farm buildings generally are improved, 561. What becomes of the farm laborer in the winter who are not employed all the year round. Hours of labor of farm laborers in the busy season, 562. The amount of labor displaced by the use of self-binders. Price of cattle and produce very low. Cost of raising wheat very

much reduced by use of machinery. Does not think it would be possible to harvest crops now without machinery. Agricultural immigrants. Rotation of crops. Home and foreign markets, 563.

WALKER, JOHN, *Secy.-Treas. Crompton Corset Co., Toronto* - - - 287-289

The company employs on an average 230 girls and 20 men. Wages of skilled hands and laborers. Cutting done by piecework. Length of time required for female hands to become skilled. Wages paid them. Hours of labor. Girls nearly all work on piece work. Inspection of piece work, &c., 287. Constant employment. Age of the youngest girl at work for the company. Separate rooms and conveniences for males and females. Strike of the company's hands at Berlin. Cause thereof, 288. The company moved to Berlin expecting cheaper labor, 289.

WALKER, RICHARD D., *Laborer, Windsor* - - - 404-405

Is now a laborer. Has been night-watchman on the Steamer "Victoria" plying between Windsor and Detroit. Company owns five boats, 404. A watchman on each boat from 6 o'clock p.m. till 7 a.m. Wages \$1.25 per night. Constant work all the year round. Difficult to get employment as a laborer in Windsor. Hours of steamboat watchmen too long, 405.

WALKER, R. IRVING, *Dry Goods Merchant, Toronto* - - - 289-291

Average earnings of dry goods clerks in Toronto. No apprentice system. Wages of boys learning the business. Salary of a first-class salesman. Female dry goods clerks in Toronto. What they can earn. Their hours of labor, 289. Hours for closing dry good stores in Toronto. He manufactures clothing outside, not on the premises. Average earnings of the girls who do this work outside. Does not take apprentices to teach them this kind of work. Cash boys, 290. Thinks his employees are "pretty comfortable," 291.

WALTER, FRED., *Moulder, Hamilton* - - - 794-797

Number of moulders in Hamilton in the union and out of it. Attitude of union men to non union men. Hours of labor. Attempt to introduce machinery to lighten the work not successful. Constancy of employment. Possibility of extending the work over the whole year, 794. Average wages. Possibility of saving money. Strike of last summer (1887): cause and how settled, 795-796. Sick, funeral and accident benefits in connection with the union. Arbitration. Establishment of a Bureau of Labor Statistics at Ottawa, 796. Agreement between the Moulder's Union in Hamilton and the Employer's Association, 796-797. Foreign contract labor, 797.

WALTON, THOMAS, *Moulder, London* - - - 688

Confirms the evidence given by J. B. Murphy of London, 688.

WARDLAW, JAMES, *Machinist, Galt* - - - 276-278

Has had experience as a machinist in Galt, Ont., Glasgow, Scotland and the East Indies. Comparison of wages in Canada and Scotland. Technical education to a boy at school would be a benefit in some branches. Attended science classes at night in Glasgow. Found it pretty hard work to do so after the fatigue of a day's labor, 276. Wages paid in woolen mills in Scotland and Canada compared. Cost of living greater in Glasgow than in Galt. Thinks that working people can make more money in Canada than the Old Country. Never met workingmen in Glasgow who owned their own houses. Describes how they live there. Apprenticeship. Wages of apprentices. Was employed in a cotton mill in India. Describes the class of work people employed and their wages, 277-278. Wages paid in the cotton mills in India just sufficient to support life. Technical classes, 278.

WATSON ALEXANDER G., *Secretary of the Canada Cotton Manufacturing Company* - - - - - **1062-1066**

Number of operatives, male and female, adults and children, employed, 1062. Hours of labor. Holidays. Fire service in connection with the mill. Washrooms. Strikes on account of a reduction of wages, the first was settled by arbitration. The second was arranged by a committee of citizens, 1063. Arbitration. Condition and location of the closets for males and females. Never heard any complaints about overseers using insulting language to employees, 1064. Weekly payments. Rule regarding employees whose wages are garnisheed. Number of operatives employed and amounts paid for wages in 1884, 1885, 1886 and 1887. Nationality of the employees. Raising of foremen or overseers from men in the mills, 1065. Fining of employees, 1066.

WATSON, JAMES P., *Secretary and Manager, Cornwall Manufacturing Company, Cornwall* - - - - - **1068-1070**

Number of hands employed by the company, men, women, girls and boys. Weavers paid by the yard. Average earnings, 1068. Constancy of employment. Get raw material from Australia and South America. Do not use much Canadian wool. Pay day every fortnight, two weeks pay kept back, reason why it is kept back. Wages earned by boys and girls. Fining of employees. Condition and location of the closets. Import their skilled labor from the Old Country, unskilled labor they get here. Wages paid for unskilled labor, 1069. The Factory Inspector's visits, 1070.

WATSON, MISS M. J., *Dressmaker, Toronto* - - - - - **348-349**

Agrees with the evidence of Miss Gurnett. Thinks that if dressmakers as a rule would take the trouble to become more competent wages would be better, 348. Apprentices ought to serve three years in order to become competent. The prevalent incompetency arises from the want of an apprentice system, 349.

WEBB, THOMAS, *Laborer, Toronto* - - - - - **269-270**

Would like a clause in the Liability Act regarding scaffolding similar to the English law. Wages of laborers and builders' laborers in England. Scaffold builders. Dangerous method of scaffolding in Toronto, 269-270. The union takes action when necessary under the lien law, 270.

WHEELER, CALEB, *Chatham* - - - - - **496-501**

Is a cattle dealer and butcher in business for himself in Chatham twenty five years. Buys his cattle principally close to Chatham within a circuit of twenty miles. The local trade, prices, &c., 496-497. Quality of meats the working classes buy. Peddlers and middlemen are the sharks who pick up the lion's share of the bargains in provisions on the market. Prices and quality of cattle now and fifteen years ago compared. Depression in the English market, 497. Ships cattle to Toronto and Montreal. Statistics regarding the trade in hogs and pork, 498-499. Condition of the farmers in the vicinity now and five, ten or fifteen years ago compared, 499. Wheat and stock raising. Not much of a dairying country. The great drawback to the country is the growing of grain year after year. Reason for the falling off in the market for export cattle, 500. More statistics regarding the raising of cattle and hogs, 500-501.

WHITE, GEORGE, *Stonemason, Cornwall* - - - - - **1088-1089**

Constancy of employment of stonemasons in Cornwall. Refused employment because he is a Knight of Labor, 1088. Wages. The reason of the antipathy of the employers in Cornwall to Knights of Labor is that they tried to effect a settlement during the strikes in the cotton mills. Grading of workmen according to capacity, 1089.

WHITE, T. M., *Windsor* - - - - - **391-395**

Publishes a weekly newspaper. Printers' wages in Windsor slightly lower than in Detroit, 391. Rents in Windsor and Detroit compared. Windsor improved very

much in the last few years. The improvement mainly caused by the National Policy. Smuggling, an enormous quantity of it done at Windsor. Labor organization existing at Windsor. Efforts made at Windsor to shorten hours of labor, 392. Cannot say that shortening hours causes drunkenness among workingmen. A large proportion of workingmen in Windsor own property. A workingman in Windsor can save money if he has constant employment. Female compositors. Prices of lots. Apprentices. Value of money. Steadiness of work. Factories and shops busier than six years ago, 293. Strike in the building trade and how settled, 392, 394. Co-operative none. Windsor people who work in Detroit. Rate of printers wages in Windsor and Detroit. Rents in Windsor, 394. Apprentices. Favors indenture system, 395.

WHITEHEAD, SETH J., *Hamilton*

789-793

Is general superintendent of the Hamilton Forge Company and rolling mill. They use all scrap iron: some of it picked up in the country and some imported. Sell their product altogether in Ontario. Competition they met with. Quality of iron they make. Duties on iron. Number of men employed. Advantage to Canadians to have a market for scrap iron at home, 789. Class of iron used in other rolling mills in the United States and Canada. Hours of labor and wages of employees. All piece work except common laboring men. Reason why they cannot make iron as cheap as the English can. Strikes. The Union which existed in connection with the Amalgamated Association in the United States. Both men and employers better off since the Union was squelched, 790. Manufacturers' organizations. Effect of organized labor. Cause of the strike. Men quit at 3 o'clock on Saturdays. Class of work done in the forge. Capacity of the forge. Runs night and day. Workmen who own their own homes. Wages of laboring men, 792. Possibility of shortening hours and producing as much work, 793.

WHITELY, JOSEPH JAMES, *Machinist, Hamilton*

880-882

Has been at the trade thirty-two years. Average wages. Hours of labor. Constancy of employment, 880. Length of time required to learn the trade. Apprentices. Indenture system. Number of skilled mechanics decreasing, although the gross number of workmen is increasing. Wages in Canada and England compared. Purchasing power of wages. Prices of the necessaries of life in Canada and England compared, 881. The trade is organized. Amalgamated Society of Engineers; a branch in Hamilton; headquarters in England. Benefits derived from the organization. Wages of skilled machinists. Nine-hour system, 882.

WICKENS, A. M., *Stationary Engineer, Toronto*

207-210

Stationary Engineer's Association; one of the reasons why it was formed. No law for the inspection of stationary engines. Factory Act does not provide for that inspection. No qualification at all required by law for stationary engineers. Failure to inspect steam boilers and machinery leads to accidents. Should have a law compelling inspection of stationary engines and steam boilers as well as examining and licensing stationary engineers. Necessity for and advantages to be derived from technical schools. Stationary Engineers' Association are advocating such a system with the present Ontario Government, 207. Scientific learning will not make a stationary engineer "too big for his business." Wages of stationary engineers. Agricultural engines; incompetency of those having charges of. Second hand boilers, 208. Montreal the only Canadian city which compels owners of stationary engines to put on a lock valve. Steam boiler insurance and inspection. Rate of insurance. Cause of boiler explosions is carelessness or ignorance on the part of the attendant. Boiler purgers, 209. Foaming, 210.

WILD, JOSEPH, *Painter, Kingston*

940

Wages. Employment for seven months in the year. Wages reduced on account of his age. Kingston about the worst place for painters. Labor organizations. Appren-

tices. Canadian and English painters compared. Canada is a better place for any kind of workman than England. Painters do not get a fair share of wages for their work. Rent and fuel, 940.

WILKINS, JOHN, Grocer, Kingston - - - - - 1038-1041

Appears to give evidence in connection with the Knights of Labor. Effect of organization on the workingmen of Kingston, 1038. Wages paid to operatives at the knitting mills. Child labor employed at the knitting mills. Hours of labor of operatives at the cotton and knitting mills in Kingston, 1039. Shortening of the hours of labor. Apprenticeship system. Effects of indenturing apprentices, 1040.

WILKINS, RICHARD, Dry Goods Salesman - - - - - 349-350

Does not know average hours of dry goods salesmen in Toronto, but he works ten hours a day. Used to work thirteen hours a day. Stores on Yonge Street open all hours in the evening. Salesmen in Toronto have made an effort to shorten hours. Reasons for their want of success. Not more than one-third of Toronto retail merchants close at reasonable hours. People of wealth do more shopping after hours than the laboring classes. No system of apprenticeship. Average wages, 349. Engagements are usually made for a year, but the salesmen have to sign a paper that it may be terminated on a day's notice. Many are dismissed at the end of the busy season, 1st January, and find it difficult to get employment till 1st April. Wages of boys commencing. Wages of saleswomen. How they graduate. Six months in the millinery department with no pay, then from that behind the counter, &c., &c. Thinks if women do the work as well as men, they should be paid the same. Employment of female clerks has a depreciating effect on salesmen's wages and throws them out of employment, 350.

WILLIAMSON, W. H., Gentlemen's Tie Manufacturer, Toronto, - - - - - 359-360

Employs principally girls. Their ages. Principally hand work. All piece work, 359. Wages. Pays a uniform price, quotes it. Hours of labor. Constancy of employment. Maximum and minimum earnings of hands. At certain seasons finds difficulty in getting girls, 360.

WILSON, CHARLES, Hamilton - - - - - 821

Works as shipper for the Hamilton Forge Co. Entered the service of the company as a laborer and was advanced to his present position. Wages he received as a laborer. Out-put of the mill is increasing. Where they ship the iron to and what it is used for, 821.

WILSON, DAVID, Farmer, Chatham - - - - - 444-447

Opened out his own farm and lived near Chatham forty eight years. Employs labor. Wages he pays to farm hands. Uses machinery. Think that if the farmers would work as they could we would have a very prosperous people, 444. Good agricultural laborers scarce. His definition of a good farm hand. Hours he think they should work. Products he raises. Cattle raising. Does very little dairying, reason why, 445. Country round Chatham possesses the most productive soil on earth. Many farmers in the vicinity have made fortunes, and sometime the second generation spend them. There used to be a tendency on the part of young people raised on farms to drift into city life: but now they are taking more interest in their father's farms. Farmers do not look upon the Agricultural College as being of much use to them. Considers it madness to talk about Commercial Union. Cost of manuring and tilling two acres of beans, and what the product sold for. Other statistics regarding his farm, 446. Does not sell hay, uses it all on the farm, 447.

WILSON, FRANCIS W., Chatham, Nurseryman and Farmer - - - - - 447-452

Fruit raising in Kent County, 447-448. Employs sixteen men. Most of the "experienced" (journeymen) nurserymen he gets are a very poor class, all talk and little

work. Does not think education unfits a man for the nursery business. Thinks well of Agricultural College but has heard bad accounts of the conduct and character of young men attending it. Wages he pays to men employed in the nursery. Some of his men save as much as \$100. Less trouble last year in getting help than formerly. Employs all men, no boys, cannot get good work done by boys. Does not find good men looking for work and unable to get it, 448. The crops that pay best. Cattle raising. Can make more at other things than he can by nursery wheat. Thinks there should be a law to compel every farmer to give every man who leaves his employment an honest recommendation just for what he is worth, no more, no less, 449. Thinks Government should allow some sort of bonus or make some definite enactment for setting out timber. Walnut a very rapid growing tree. How he plants walnut trees, 450. Bean crops. Bean straw as fodder for cattle. Benefits received from the co-operation grange. Farmers have as much need of organization as any other producers. What he thinks should be taught in our common schools, 451. How he thinks common schools should be conducted, 452.

WILSON, WILLIAM, *Manager of the Kingston Cotton Company, Kingston* - 971-976

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WINLOW, R. C., *Manager of J. J. King & Co, Manufacturers of Boots and Shoes, Toronto* - 336-338

Cheapest class of boots are not made in Toronto, but come from Quebec and Montreal. Cannot manufacture as cheaply in Toronto as there. Wages in Toronto higher. Employ seventy-five females, about 120 to 125 men and a few boys. Average earnings of the females. Work 50 to 51 weeks in the year. Nearly all hands are on piece work. Same rate of piece work wages prevail in all Toronto establishments. No apprentices employed; none but expert hands. Average earnings of the men. Takes about fifty men and women to make a boot, 336. Has separate convenience on separate floors for males and females. Means of exit from the factory. If operators damage work they are charged with cost of material to replace it, and labor expended on it. All employees are over 14 years of age. Hours of labor and regulations and customs regarding employees coming late, 337. Never knew of any accident in the factory. Heard of a false alarm some years ago. Has fire escapes and sprinklers all over the place. Wages of female operators higher in the United States than Toronto. Strikes, last one they had was with females in 1884 and a 24 hours' one with machine men since. Terms on which men went back to work. Factory inspector says he is satisfied with the sanitary condition of the factory, 338.

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WOLFE, JOHN, of the *London Furniture Company, London* - - - **607-612**

Hours of labor of employees. Constancy of employment. Wages. Apprentices are indentured. Believes it to be an advantage to boys to be indentured. Savings. Most of the men buy houses for themselves, 607. Machinery protected. Factory inspector's visit. Sanitary condition of the shop, ventilation, &c. Accidents. Never had any differences with the men. Wages have risen considerably during the last eleven years. System of raising wages. Trade divided into four branches. An apprentice only taught one branch. Not requisite for a man to know all four branches. A man who had learnt all four branches would not likely be as expert at any one branch, 608. Rate of wages paid to journeymen. Piece work. Boys who are not apprentices, wages they get. Does not think the use of machinery has lowered wages. Production has been cheapened by it. Thinks workmen have been very greatly benefited by the use of machinery. Profit-sharing, 609. Wages paid in cash fortnightly, on Fridays. Truck system. Constancy of employment. Importation of black walnut. Where they find a market for their product. Price of furniture reduced 20 per cent. in the last ten years; what has caused the reduction. Importation of furniture. Apprentices, 610. Grading of men according to capacity. Planting and growing of walnut trees. Has seen walnut planks 35 inches wide, cut within 40 or 50 miles of London. Difference between manufacturer's prices and retail prices of furniture. Boys never employed at machines. Quality of furniture made now and formerly, 611. Half of the machinery used in making furniture got from the United States, the other half at Galt. Machinery made in Canada within the last two or three years is fully as good as that imported. Prices and method of working furniture in Canada and the United States compared. How Canadian manufacturers get their patterns, 612.

WOOD, J. F., *Ottawa*. - - - - - **1100-1102**

Is manager for E. H. Barnes, manufacturer of box shooks. Number of hands employed; one-third boys. Wages of men capable of attending to planers and resawing machines. Age of the youngest boys employed. Wages of boys about fifteen years old, 1100. Wages the firm pays in Oswego, U.S., and here for the same kind of work compared. Does not know the Ontario Factory Act. Wages of workmen in the United States and here compared. Accidents. Wages of the engineer who runs the factory engine. Hours of labor. Pay days fortnightly, on Mondays, 1101. Age of the youngest boys employed; their wages. Rules for the guidance of employees. No visit from the Ontario Factory Inspector. Product sold exclusively in the United States. Protection of machinery to prevent accidents, 1102.

WOODBURN, ALEXANDER S., *Bookbinder, Printer and Publisher, Ottawa*. - **1177-1178**

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