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Pagination is as follows: p. [1], 741-1507.

Pages 863, 1308 & 1391 are incorrectly numbered pages 363, 1398 & 1291.

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REPORT

OF THE

ROYAL COMMISSION

ON THE

RELATIONS OF CAPITAL AND LABOR IN CANADA.

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EVIDENCE—QUEBEC.

PART II.

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QUEBEC.

1st March, 1888.

RICHARD BURKE, Ship laborer, Quebec, sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—How long have you been working as a ship laborer in the Port of Quebec?
A.—Since eighteen hundred and fifty-three.

Q.—Will you please tell the Commission the rate of wages you received for your labor when first you commenced to work in this Port? A.—When I started here first in eighteen hundred and fifty-three I did not work on board ship. For a couple of months I worked in a ship yard at eighty cents a day. Then I worked for one dollar and fifty cents a day, on board ship for a time. I then went away that fall to Savannah and got the same wages there and shorter hours—two and a-half hours shorter. That was in eighteen hundred and fifty-three on board ship. I came back here to Quebec the next year—eighteen hundred and fifty-four. I found the wages were raised something higher then. They ranged from about four dollars to three dollars and fifty cents and two dollars per day according to the nature of the work. I went to Savannah again that same year, in the fall of eighteen hundred and fifty-four, and worked there that year aboard ship. I came back here in eighteen hundred and fifty-five, and found wages down to one dollar and eighty cents a day, and gentlemen we would work about eleven and a-half hours for it.

Q.—In those days when you got through with the work, did you have any difficulty in receiving the wages due to you? A.—I have had only one case that I remember, when I sued for my wages.

Q.—In the Courts? A.—No; I sent a lawyer's letter to the man I worked for requesting him to pay the money, and I got the money through my lawyers, it was two dollars a day.

Q.—Have you ever heard of a case where ships left the Port of Quebec without the men being paid? A.—I have heard tell of such a case.

Q.—None of it came within your own personal knowledge? A.—No.

Q.—In what year was the Quebec Ship Laborer's Benevolent Society chartered?
A.—In eighteen hundred and sixty-two.

Q.—How were you paid in those days? A.—We were paid by the hour. Sometimes we got money on account and we got our arrears after the ship had left port.

Q.—How long after she went out? A.—Sometimes two or three days.

Q.—In those days was there a surplus of labor in the market? A.—I expect there was. There was plenty of men to be got. Sometimes they were scarce, sometimes they were plenty. It was according to the shipping.

Q.—Will you please tell the Commission about the accidents that happened in those days, and the reasons for those accidents so happening? A.—Well, at the time we started the Society, or that the Society was started, there was an objection to it. I remember when I got back to Quebec, from the South, I tried to get up a Society, here, for the welfare and the benefit of the Ship Laborers of this Port; to bury them when they got killed or died, and to feed them when they got wounded or sick. At

that time, when a man died, we had to go around with a hat to bury him, for, generally speaking, the family was so poor that they had not even the money to buy a candle to wake him, or a coffin to bury him in. So we used to get up a subscription list and go around, showing that he could not have any money left—in fact, that he could not have a cent, and by this means we would raise sufficient to bury him. I may say that things are very bad this winter. Many did not earn enough to keep them all the winter, and had to go away. Others have remained. There is not a living to be got here now.

Q.—And that was the ob'ect you had in starting the Society? A.—Yes.

Q.—You, being an old hand at the business, must be able to understand it? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you give us an idea of how many dollars you earned in the seven months—from May to November last season, this last year? A.—I came in here last February—about the fourth of February—and I stayed here until about the first of October, and all I did, for the time I was here, was thirty days' work, at four dollars a day.

By MR. WALSH:—

Q.—Do I understand you to say that you only obtained thirty days' work from May to November? A.—Yes.

Q.—That is one hundred and twenty dollars you received in one summer? A.—Yes.

Q.—And the summer before, how many days did you work? A.—Thirty-four days.

Q.—At the same wages? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you give any reason to the Commission why work is so slack, when you work only that number of days in that time? A.—The scarcity of the ships coming here. I know that I was at Savannah and worked eighty-six days, at six dollars a day, before this. This winter I did not work so much.

By MR. CARSON:—

Q.—Was the time that you were employed here during the number of months that you have mentioned? Was that about the ordinary amount of work that any other man did, were he then situated the same as you were, in the business of ship loading? A.—In our business?

Q.—Yes, in your business. A.—Some did more, some less.

Q.—The reason why I ask you the question is that they received three dollars a day, which is eighteen dollars a week? A.—Yes.

Q.—So that, although their wages were high, they did not receive much money? A.—No; that is all that I got. Some work for more and some less.

By MR. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How were you paid in those days—what currency? A.—We were paid in those days all cash.

By MR. FREED:—

Q.—What do you actually receive at present for one hour? A.—We receive fifty cents an hour for work in the hold, down in the bottom of the ship.

Q.—If you are working on the dock or on the wharf, how much do you receive? A.—Thirty-seven and a half cents an hour.

Q.—When you are loading a ship, how many hours additional are you at work? A.—The day's work is eight hours.

Q.—Do you quit after the eight hours? A.—Sometimes; but if they want us to work an hour or two overtime, we do so.

Q.—Eight hours is your day? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then, there are more men in Quebec at your work than there is work for?
A.—Sometimes, not always.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—From the time of the formation of your society, in eighteen hundred and sixty-two, did the average go about as you speak at the present time, or were they all nearly alike, before eighteen hundred and sixty-one? A.—They averaged more than they do now. There was more trade, and the ships got better freight, and there were more ships coming into the port.

Q.—Do you know of any reason for the falling off in ships coming here and discharging here? A.—I could not say what was the cause, but the trade mostly, is going out of the port of Quebec.

Q.—After eighteen hundred and sixty-one? A.—I believe there were thirty-seven, to the best of my information.

Q.—What kind of freight was it? A.—Mostly lumber.

Q.—Are there less lumber ships going from Quebec now than there used to be?
A.—I could not say—but I know that the work is getting slacker all over.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Is there any difference in the amount of work done now from what there was in eighteen hundred and sixty-two? A.—Oh, yes; the ships are loaded quicker.

Q.—Therefore, the work must be harder? A.—Yes.

Q.—And they loaded quicker because there was better machinery, or rather more men were employed? A.—I know the men seem to work harder and load ships quicker in the shorter hours than they did in the long ones.

Q.—Is there anything else with regard to this matter, before the society was formed you wish to say? A.—No.

PATRICK MULLIN, Quebec, Ship Labourer, sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—You have heard the evidence of Mr. Richard Burke? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you substantiate any part or the whole of that statement? A.—The whole of it.

Q.—Is there anything new that you would wish to add in connection with this matter? A.—Nothing that has not been touched upon. I know the reason that we got the Society up, was on account of the long hours. Then, we went to work at six o'clock in the morning, and knocked off at eight o'clock for half an hour to get breakfast. Then we knocked off again at twelve for three quarters of an hour for dinner, and after that we continued working till six o'clock, when we left off for the night.

Q.—You had no special hours had you? A.—No; they seemed to take us off and on whenever they wanted us.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do the men work in gangs? A.—Yes; twenty-nine for a large ship.

Q.—Are they employed by the Stevedore? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they work for so much a ton, or so much a day? A.—They work for the Stevedore at so much a day. The Stevedore undertakes the work at so much the ship; sometimes they work for so much the tons, and sometimes by the day.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—What are the other kinds of freight you handle besides lumber? A.—There is very little freight I handle besides lumber.

Q.—I suppose you load deals by the Standard? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is the lumber trade of Quebec falling off now? A.—Yes; I believe it is, to a certain extent. There are not so many timber ships coming here as there used to be.

Q.—Can you give any reason for this; is lumber becoming scarce, or what is the reason? A.—The reason, I think, is they do not want the material. If they wanted it I suppose they would get it any hazard or cost. That is my opinion. I do not know exactly.

Q.—You say that you load vessels quicker now than in years gone by. Do you know from the returns, whether more lumber leaves this Port than there used to be. Admitting that the men work as hard and as quickly as the other witness has said, is there more lumber shipped from Quebec now than there used to be? A.—I do not know, I don't think there is.

By Mr. FREED.

Q.—Has the number of ship labourers at Quebec increased or diminished of late years? A.—They have diminished.

Q.—Is that due to the fact that there is not sufficient work for them? A.—I suppose so.

Q.—What other industry have the men taken to? A.—No other work of any kind. That is for ship laborers.

Q.—Is there no other freight here except lumber? A.—There is. There is grain.

Q.—And do ship laborers handle that? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there more grain coming here than formerly? A.—I do not think so.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Before your society was formed previous to 1862, did you always get your wages in full? A.—No; I did not.

Q.—Do you know any reason why you did not? A.—I could not tell you. I know that one ship went away with fifteen dollars of mine. I can tell you that.

Q.—Have you lost anything since your union was formed? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN —

Q.—What were the hours of labor fixed by your society? A.—Forty-eight hours per week, eight hours per day.

Q.—What is the price per day? A.—Three and four dollars.

Q.—You make a distinction between some men and others? A.—For skilled labor we do. There is a distinction between working in the hold and working on the wharf. In general work, for a certain class of work the men are paid three dollars, and for another class of work four dollars, but we do not make a dollar a day all the year round by it, nor anything like it.

Q.—How many days did you work, yourself, during the last year? A.—I am at present acting as watchman at the new emigrant sheds, I watch there at night. During the last season, that is to say last year, I did not work on board ship at all.

RICHARD R. LEAHEY, Quebec, Ship Laborer, sworn :

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—You are President of Number One Section of the Quebec Ship Laborers' Benevolent Society? A.—Yes.

Q.—Please tell us about how many men belong to that Society, not in the city of Quebec only, but also in the outskirts? How many at present are members of the Society? A.—About two thousand. The society is divided into five sections.

Q.—Please tell us what these sections are ? A.—There are five sections—one in the city of Quebec; one at St. Romuald; one at Point Levis; one at Indian Cove; and one at St. Roch.

Q.—In each of these sections, they have got their own officers ? A.—Yes.

Q.—Will you please tell the Commission some of the benefits derived by the members of this society from the society ? A.—When a member is hurt or disabled, he receives the sum of six dollars a week for thirteen weeks; and after that it is optional with the society to give him a further grant. If he is seriously hurt, as a rule, he receives a grant. We also bury the dead, and such funeral costs—between funeral expenses and an allowance of twenty dollars to the widow—between fifty and fifty-five dollars. This twenty dollars is paid to the widow or the relatives of the deceased after the funeral—after all expenses are paid.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—That is given whether the man dies of disease or otherwise ? A.—Yes.

Q.—Suppose he dies outside the city of Quebec ? A.—In that case, we pay the amount over in full to his relatives or friends. We do not superintend the funeral in that case.

Q.—At the end of the shipping season in days gone by, was it invariably the rule to give away a certain amount of the funds to deserving members ? A.—Oh, yes; we used to have lots of petitions sent in. These were considered, and where the applicants were deserving—which was in the great majority of the cases—we gave them twenty dollars apiece. Some could not find employment, and were in great distress, so we did the best we could with the amount at our disposal. We gave them twenty dollars apiece—the deserving ones. If they were not deserving, we would not give it to them.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Your society has no reference to anything else. It is a mere benefit society ? A.—No, sir; it is nothing more than a society for the protection of the labouring classes.

Q.—What are the rates of wages named by the society ? A.—Three and four dollars a day according to the different grades of work.

Q.—Please explain the difference—who receives the four dollars ? A.—The molders and swingers as they are called. The swingers bring the timber from the raft to the port of the ship and the molders stow the timber in the hold, and they receive four dollars a day; their work is very dangerous work; I might say they have to “walk on the water.” The winchers receive three dollars a day, and the boys for looking on the timber receive two dollars a day.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Three dollars a day for all classes of freight ? A.—Yes.

Q.—And the same for grain and for coal ? A.—Yes; three dollars a day.

Q.—How long are the men required to remain in the hold ? A.—Well I do not think we had more than one grain vessel this last summer.

Q.—Do you know of men being delayed in trimming grain ? A.—Well it is not a customary thing to trim grain in this port, and I do not know how long they remain down, but no fixed time.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—There is only a day or two I suppose when men are trimming grain in Quebec during the summer ? A.—That is all.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—There is an impression gone over the country that members of the Quebec

Ship Labourers Society do not work where steam is used, and that they are unable to compete with steam? A.—Yes.

Q.—Please explain why steam is not used, and in what cases? A.—Steam is not used in the Port of Quebec on account of the danger of the work in stowing timber in the hold of a ship and the men distinctly refused to work, it was too dangerous. It endangered the lives of the men so they objected to allow timber to be put into the hold by steam.

By Mr WALSH:—

Q.—That is, its too dangerous to haul it in by steam? A.—Yes; with the exception of that, steam is used for everything else. In all other cargoes they can use steam—on everything with the exception of timber.

Q.—You think it is not safe to take timber in by steam, you think putting it in by hand is more regular? A.—Yes; it is safer.

Q.—Have you a copy of your by-laws? A.—I have only got one for myself—perhaps Mr. Kerwin the Commissioner who is present has one.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is stowing away timber severe work? A.—They work eight hours and consider that enough.

Q.—Do you consider eight hours a good day's work? A.—I do in Quebec. They naturally feel exhausted after such severe work as that is. I have not worked at it myself, but I have been brought up in Quebec ever since I was a little child, and I know all about it. It requires experienced men. I know a man, and a good man too, who after working on board one of these vessels last summer met me on the streets. I commenced to speak to him and I never thought that man would get home from there, he was so tired he did not want to talk to me, but wanted to get home and go to bed.

Q.—Does a man in the hold get the same wages as a man on the water? A.—Yes; the same wages.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You stated what the benefit society gave, would they (the laborers) pay over twenty-five cents a month when they get three and four dollars a day? A.—A.—No; the same.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—How many have received sick benefits from the society this last year? A.—This summer we have had forty disabled.

Q.—This last summer? A.—Yes; and fifty the summer before. I did not take the average the summer previous, but this last summer the average to each disabled member was twenty-two dollars and seventy-five cents as near as I can remember.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—And this allowance was given to men suffering mostly from accidents or natural sickness? A.—All accidents. We do not call natural sickness being disabled. There were forty disabled this season, and fifty the season before.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—How many months do they pay a subscription to the society? A.—They pay twenty-five cents a month for seven months in the year.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—In the loading of vessels, if the loading is not completed at the end of a day

and the merchants require her to be completed, how do you manage it? A.—The same gang continues on or a new gang is engaged.

Q.—Do the men sometimes refuse to work longer than eight hours? A.—Sometimes they do.

Q.—Is there any regulation of the society authorizing them to work longer than eight hours? A.—It is optional, but you can have another gang.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Are they paid in proportion, or do they get extra? A.—They get extra time, that is, time and a half for night work.

Q.—After five in the evening? A.—Yes.

Q.—Anything after that is time and a half? A.—Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—About the payment of your wages, do you ever have any difficulty now in receiving your money? A.—No; I never have.

Q.—How often do you get paid? A.—Every week.

Q.—Supposing a man is working at a ship, and is not consigned to any particular office, where would he get paid? A.—He would get paid on board the ship.

Q.—At the end of the day? A.—On the Saturday evening, or the termination of the loading of the ship.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you prefer weekly payments to fortnightly or monthly payments? A.—Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Can you tell us how many dollars have been voted, or paid by the Society, to members last year? A.—I could not answer that question.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—These members, to whom you gave relief, were members who were sick or in distress? A.—Yes.

Q.—Taken as a whole, do you think this organization a benefit to the men engaged in it? A.—I certainly do.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Did you put in an average season's work last year? A.—Yes.

Q.—You need not answer the question I am about to put to you unless you like. What would your wages amount to per week, if spread over the whole twelve months? A.—I will give you the total, and you can spread it over yourself. I did twenty-seven weeks' work in the seven months of summer, and, during that time, I made two hundred and forty-five dollars and twenty-seven cents. I made from one dollar and fifty cents per week to eighteen dollars and eighty-three cents per week.

Q.—Do you know anything about the wages paid to Longshoremen in other cities? A.—Yes. I know in Portland, Maine, and Boston, Massachusetts, it was thirty and thirty-five cents an hour, and we did not work as hard there as we do here.

Q.—Do you work the same number of hours there as here? A.—No; we work ten hours a day there, and some days we did not work more than one and a half hours perhaps.

Q.—Then your wages here for eight hours is more than the wages there? A.—Yes, but we received thirty to thirty-five cents an hour, and if we worked over the ten hours we got more.

Q.—But here you get thirty-seven and a half cents an hour? A.—Yes, but here we work harder than we do there.

Q.—From your own knowledge do the men work longer time and have more regular hours and more steady employment there, than they do in the port of Quebec? A.—Yes, they have more work—steadier work—in Portland in winter.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Do you do much Sunday work here in the summer season? A.—Yes, considerable Sunday work. I know I had very few Sundays to myself last year.

Q.—What is the reason for there being so much Sunday work, in your opinion? A.—I suppose they are always anxious to get the ships away to save time and expense. Of course you know there is a tide here and frequently ships are anxious to save a tide.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—They wish to get them off? A.—Yes.

Q.—Could they not get them off late on Saturday? A.—Well, I suppose they consider that we work better by daylight.

Q.—Is there any Sunday work on board these vessels that could be avoided? A.—I do not see how it can be avoided. In fact that is the only work I see done here on Sunday.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Is a man's pay greater for work on Sunday? A.—Yes, we claim two days for one.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you receive any wages for the time you are kept waiting for work? A.—No.

Q.—Do you think you should be paid for the time so lost? A.—I do, I think they should give us something for waiting, as we cannot take any other work while we are under their orders.

Q.—You have got to be there? You are notified to be there? A.—Yes; we have got to be there or else they would get some one else to take our places.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—And if the work is not ready at the time? A.—Well, we have to wait until it is ready.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You are not allowed anything for waiting an hour or so after the hour it was stated the work would be ready for you when you were engaged to do it? A.—No; and there is nothing unusual in our having to do so.

Q.—Do the men seem anxious to work on Sunday on account of the extra pay? A.—No; as a rule, the men do not want to work on Sundays—I know this to be a fact, for I heard them so express themselves.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do the vessels furnish the gear for unloading, or do the stevedores furnish it? A.—Well, in some cases the stevedore furnishes it; and in other cases the ships do so.

Q.—When the stevedore furnishes this gear, is it in good order? A.—I am not in a position to answer that question. I do not think it is; but I have not had much experience. I would not like to answer.

Q.—Do you know of any accident on board ship by the use of old or worn gear ?
 A.—I believe there was one the year before last ; where they went to law about it, and where a man named Savage was killed ; where the party won the case, because of the defective gearing.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Was the gear found by the stevedore, or by the steamship company in that case ? A.—I would not be positive. The widow got one thousand dollars.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Has anybody received injuries on land ? A.—Not that I know of.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is there any pecuniary object in the stevedore having defective gear on hand ? A.—I do not think so.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Have you ever been a stevedore ? A.—No ; I have never been a stevedore—but I have done different kinds of work on board of ships.

Q.—Are they all considered competent workmen—the stevedores ? A.—In my opinion, they are not.

Q.—If they do not know good gear from bad gear, might not an accident occur ? A.—That would be left to their own discretion.

Q.—Well, if they do not know how to rig a “purchase,” for instance ? A.—That would not be the men’s business ; that would be the stevedore’s business.

Q.—That is mostly left to the Stevedore ? A.—Yes ; that is the man I refer to.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you get paid for the time spent in putting up rigging and preparing for work—when actually at work and preparing machinery for loading ? A.—In some firms, I believe they do ; and others they do not.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Is there not a rule that after you get on board and start work, you must receive pay for your time ? A.—Well, they will tell you that you did not start work until such a time ; and if you find fault with them, they will not employ you again.

PATRICK FITZGERALD, Quebec, Ship Laborer, sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—You have done a great deal of work in the holds of ships ? A.—Yes.

Q.—Will you please tell the Commission how ships are generally loaded—how the timber is taken into the ships, and the danger and risk run in stowing that timber away ? A.—Well, I have now been twenty-four years working on board ships. I commenced in 1864.

Q.—In what year was the Quebec Ship Laborers’ Benevolent Society incorporated ? A.—In 1862. The men got no regular rate of wages before that, and the ships could use steam or anything else in taking timber on board vessels. We then worked ten hours a day on board ships.

Q.—Just describe how the timber was hauled on board and stowed in the ship, and describe the dangers and risks run in bringing it to the ship and stowing it away in the hold ? A.—Well, gentlemen, I will explain it to you as well as I can

I do not know that I can make myself understood by you, but I will do the best I can. To begin then, perhaps, it will make it shorter, to explain to you, that by the rules of the Quebec Ship Laborers' Benevolent Society, timber ships are classed differently, accordingly to the number of their ports. By these rules a four ported vessel of six hundred tons and over, calls for eighteen winchers, seven holders, two swingers, and two boys on the stage to hook on. Vessels under six hundred tons have four ports classed for twelve winchers, five holders, two swingers, and two staggers. Ships with three ports call for a crew the same as for our ported vessels under six hundred tons, no matter what her tonnage might be. Single ported vessels, no matter of what tonnage, require nine winchers, five holders, one swinger and one stager. The necessity for these rules or regulations will be appreciated by any gentlemen on this Commission acquainted with the loading or handling of heavy timber.

Q.—Now come to the loading? Explain how the timber is put on board? A.—I will come to the loading. First of all the timber is hove up from the water by a wincher placed on the forecastle head of the port, then it is hooked on by a man in the port by means of a pair of "dogs" and attached to the rope which leads from the main winch, and is hove into the ship. After being dropped into the hold by the main winch, which is placed in the 'tween decks, immediately abaft the main hatch, it is then hooked on to the winch which is placed in the mizzen of the ship and hove in its berth, when it is stowed away by the holders. The holders are the men who work in the hold. The swingers are the men who work on the timber in the river, and they navigate it from the raft to the port of the vessel, to be hove up from the water by the winch placed on the forecastle head (or in case of stern ports, on the stern), as I have already described. The staggers are boys who hook it on at the port to the "topping-up" winch.

Q.—Is this work very dangerous to the lives of the men engaged in it? A.—The work in the hold of a timber ship is always dangerous, but particularly so should steam be used. For instance a piece of timber running in and out of the port may "butt" some of the timber already stowed in the ship, and drive it aft on to the ballast, where, generally, a man or two are employed stowing ballast away to the butts of timber already in. This man, or these men, as the case may be, run great risk of having their feet or hands jammed or smashed. If you were here during the season of navigation, all this could be far better understood by seeing practically the loading of a timber ship, than by any explanation I can give. It is very difficult to explain so as to be understood. I was about to say I have known instances where accidents have happened in this way to men in the holds of timber ships. One man that I knew got his hand and foot smashed, and had to leave off work altogether through an accident of this sort. Accidents will sometimes occur on a timber ship in spite of every precaution that a man can think of. A piece of timber running in by the port sometimes runs in very quickly and unexpectedly and one of the holders must of necessity always catch the winch rope in order to clear it from the winch rope of the piece of timber—the piece of timber in such a case running in much faster than the rope is taken up by the winch. Many a time a man not being quick enough in getting out of the way has been caught by the piece of timber and jammed by it and badly maimed, sometimes killed. He is not always able to get out of the way. Then again if there is any old timber of any sort knocking around the ship forward, a piece of timber may strike some of this lumber, and cause it to fly in all directions around the hold and strike some of the holders. I have known a case where one man got struck in the forehead with a piece of lumber. He was laid out senseless, and had to be carried ashore. The port of a ship is also a very dangerous place for taking in the timber. I have known a case where a crowbar used for handling the timber when shoving it and stowing it, was knocked out of the man's hands by a piece of timber and split his jaw open, and of course he had to "knock off" work and lay up. Another case of an accident that came under my notice in the port of a ship, was where a piece of timber had become jammed in the sill of the

port when the piece cleared the sill—a hard strain being on the winch rope inside the ship—the piece jammed in, and caught a young man's head between the "butt" of the piece and the beam of the ship, killing him instantly.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—You think there is danger in loading with a steam winch? A.—Yes, sir; I certainly do.

Q.—The wages are then four dollars a day for holders and the same for swingers? A.—Yes; and winchers three dollars a day. I may say that the holder has to be very expert with the crow-bar, and he has to be always on the look out for accidents for his position is a very dangerous one. I have known men who have been eighteen years employed as winchers and they could not be induced to work with the crow-bar on account of the danger, and I believe this is the reason why so few take up with the business now. As regards holders and winchers it is far more dangerous in the hold of a ship, than working at the winch, as I have already informed you.

Q.—Then the danger is less to the men if the timber is put in by hand winch than by steam-winch? A.—Yes; it is bad enough when you are working with the hand-winch, but it is far worse when you are loading in by steam-winch. That is why we do not use steam because it is so dangerous, and another thing I believe you can work quicker by hand power. You can handle it so much better.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Do all nationalities work together or are they divided in the hold of a timber ship? A.—They are divided. Work is such in Quebec, gentlemen, that even the division of race is brought into the question. In commencing a ship, the number of men to work her, according to the by-laws, should be half English and half French speaking, consequently the stevedore with an eye to his own pocket, places one nationality on the starboard side of the ship and the other nationality on the port side—the French speaking on the one side and the English speaking on the other side, and from the time the work starts until it is finished, it is a race between both nationalities to see who shall finish their side first. The consequence is, the men in Quebec do a terribly hard day's work all through, the stevedore knowing that by dividing nationalities the men will work all the harder, and so hard do they work in order to compete with one another and to keep the ship trimmed, that I do not believe at the present rate of working they could possibly work more than eight hours in a day, and in that time a Quebec ship laborer does as much and more than they do in any other port in ten hours.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—If he was able to do more than eight hours work would he be allowed to? A.—If he was able to do more than eight hours work he would be allowed to do it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is it then customary with the stevedores to divide men by nationalities so as to get more out of them? A.—I do not know of any other reason. It has not been otherwise for the last ten years.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What wages were you paid in eighteen hundred and sixty-four? A.—I was paid one dollar a day in eighteen hundred and sixty-four.

Q.—How long was that before the rise took place? A.—I think about two years. The rate of wages was increased about two years after eighteen hundred and sixty-four that would be eighteen hundred and sixty-six to the best of my opinion—about that.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you ever known of an accident caused by raising a big load with defective gearing? A.—Yes; I have known several. In taking on a deck load a man's security from danger depends upon the safety of the gear put up. A deck load is now taken on generally over the side—over the bow of the fore-castle head. The gear on one side is hung from the main yard and on the other side from the main topsail yard. I have known a case where a piece of timber was hove out of the water as high as the rail of the ship when the rope broke. The piece of timber fell back into the water, and in falling dropped on to a young man who was hooking on, and killed him instantly. I have been on several ships where the gear broke and have seen many accidents, and had many narrow escapes but, thank God, I was always fortunate enough to escape. There is danger all the time with regard to gear and, as a general thing, captains and stevedores and merchants will take all the work they can get out of the gear, and it is my opinion that they will not give up the practice of using inefficient gear, until gear is regularly inspected.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Is it not the duty of the foreman to see that the gear is in proper order? A.—I never saw gear inspected except last fall, and then the Stevedores replaced two links by a new one. That is the only inspection that I know of on record.

Q.—Do you think if there was a proper inspection of the gear, accidents would be less frequent than they are now? A.—Yes; I think so. They take all they can out of the gear now. If this gear was thoroughly inspected, men would not meet with the accidents they do.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is the same gear used on vessels here in Quebec that is used on board vessels in England? A.—Well, it is this way. Sometimes the Stevedores may furnish the ropes, and at other times it is to be found in the hold all ready.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Do you load deals here? A.—Yes; and we take them in by hand as a general thing, one at a time.

Q.—In Montreal they sling them in? A.—Yes; in Montreal they sling them in ten at a time, so I believe.

Q.—Is that a better way? A.—The general way of handling deals in Quebec is to discharge them from the lighter into the ship by passing them in one at a time. From my experience I consider that the handling of deals by hand is far quicker than by steam. At this work there are four stowers, the others carry them. They do not stow them any quicker at the present time by steam than by hand. There is another good reason, if carried and stowed by hand the deals are not broken, whereas when handled by steam they are split and also broken.

Q.—I believe you have worked in other ports at timber stowing? A.—Yes; I have.

Q.—Where? A.—At Pensacola, and at Portland.

Q.—What is the rate of wages there? A.—The rate of wages there was \$5 a day; and we were found on board of ship with our breakfast and dinner. And if there was a rush we were paid \$6 a day.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you not think that \$4 a day in our healthy climate is better than \$6 a day in Pensacola, with the prospect of catching yellow fever? A.—I was always healthy enough wherever I have been. It depends a good deal upon how a man takes care of himself.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—That was pitch pine you loaded at Pensacola? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Was the timber harder to work there than in Quebec? A.—No. That is my experience. It is far harder work in Quebec.

Q.—You could not work so hard there on account of the heat? A.—I have seen it just as hot here. I have seen men work very hard here in August, with only their drawers on, swinging timber, and working at the winch; and working in the hold. We are not of the kind of men that they have in Montreal, that work for a day or two, until they get money for drink, and then knock off work. We do not do that. We work hard, so as to get our turn at the next job—as every man knows.

Q.—And the reason why you object so strongly to the use of steam inside a ship is on account of the great danger and risk you run of being injured for life, or killed? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Would you please explain what is a “trunk way” on a timber ship? A.—It is a narrow space between the tiers of timber for the men to work in.

Q.—Would you consider it safe to work in a trunk way in front of a piece of timber being hauled in by steam? A.—No; I would rather go to gaol first—to plainly express myself. I would not go before a piece of timber hove by steam at all, in a trunk way knowing that my life would be in danger. I may explain that the running gear, or tackle, has got to go ahead of the piece, and a man in the trunk way has got to go ahead of the piece and keep the gear free. Now, in stowing by hand winch, which makes no noise to speak of, if a man finds himself in a tight place, he cries out, and his voice is heard at once by the winchers, and the piece is stopped immediately. Whereas, on a ship where timber is hove by steam, the man has got to shout to his partner, and his partner has to run to the man at the bell, and the man at the bell has to ring to the engineer, and the engineer stops the engine, while all this is being done, although it may be done very quickly, the piece has travelled twelve or fourteen feet, and perhaps killed the poor man in the trunk way. That is the reason why steam is objected to in Quebec.

Q.—In Pensacola did you not get paid from the time you commenced work? A.—The very moment; a man was paid from the moment he commenced a job until he finished it. I was paid five dollars a day, and as soon as I would go to the Stevedore I would get my money. With regard to the time lost by us in waiting, after being engaged, in the Port of Quebec, it is something distressing. It sometimes takes all our time. I know last season you might go to Sillery, which is three or four miles from here, or New Liverpool, which is seven or eight miles from here, or Indian Cove, which is four or five miles; it costs ten cents to go to any of those places, and ten cents to come back. You may stop all that time there until one o'clock, and even as late as three o'clock, waiting to begin work, and then you may be told by the Stevedore that you can do nothing that day, as no deals or timber had come, up to that time. I have spent three weeks in this way in making five days work, and making trips to Sillery Cove, Indian Cove, Liverpool, and one trip to Cape Rouge, not only on one occasion, but on several occasions.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do I understand you to say that you had to go about in this way for several weeks, three weeks to make up five days work? A.—Yes.

Q.—And you were only paid for the five days work? A.—Yes; and not a copper more. You are only paid for the time you work. I have been in Liverpool for six days to load a ship, and I might be going there every day for three weeks or more to work, and only make three, four, five or six days, whatever it might be.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Cannot you work any where else in the same time? A.—No; because a man is supposed to go on board every morning, and if he is not there they will get someone else in his place. You are bound to be there.

Q.—You are obliged to put in an appearance, whether you work or not? A.—Yes.

Q.—Previous to the formation of the society did you ever work on board a ship and not get paid? A.—The society was organized in eighteen hundred and sixty-two, and I commenced in eighteen hundred and sixty-four. I think I lost three or four dollars before that. I have been hanging around a stevedore's house waiting for my turn to go and get paid, and, as a general thing, would have to wait outside. There was no inside business at all about it, and you would have to wait there expecting your one dollar and a half or two dollars, or a dollar and a quarter, and be paid off like that.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—As a general rule do stevedores working at a ship find the gear? A.—Well as far as my knowledge goes, if the contract is for the company to find the gear, they find it; but if the stevedore takes it for so much the ship, he finds all the gear.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—From your knowledge of the business of the port of Quebec, do you think it possible to do away with the position of stevedore, and take the men in turn? A.—I do not think it possible at all. Somebody would have to be boss.

Q.—Could not men of experience take it in turn? A.—Well the timber has to be marked outside ready for the swinger and the work has to be superintended by some one, but I may say that this nationality question is so run that I think the stevedore would not be required in any case to see that the men did their work. They work so hard that they do not require superintending. Instead of the stevedore running the men, the men run the stevedore.

Q.—It is not a fact that Quebec men go to other ports and are considered first class workmen? A.—I know my experience is, that Quebecers excel at timber, and there is no mistake about that.

Q.—Can you tell us if in the United States Quebecers are sought after and preferred? A.—Yes; there is no difficulty in getting a job.

Q.—A man to work in the hold of a ship stowing timber, or to swing timber, must be brought up to it, must he not? A.—Yes. Well. I never knew a man to go into the hold of a timber ship unless he was brought up to it, and I know at the winch, they are skilled labourers, and as far as swinging timber is concerned if a man does not learn to swing timber as a boy, he will not as a man. I never knew him to practice the business as a man, if he had not been brought up to it.

GEO. MULROONEY, of Quebec, Ship Labourer, sworn:—

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—You have had some experience as a timber swinger, I believe? A.—Yes.

Q.—Will you please tell the members of the Commission what work there is about the swinging of timber? A.—The swinger must first get a white mark put on the timber. It is marked by the stevedore, the way he wishes it to go into the ship, and after it is marked by the stevedore the timber swinger has to fetch it from the aft to the port of the ship ready for hoisting into the ship. When they work at

swinging timber they are mostly always wet to the waist, and very often to the neck. Their work is very hard.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Is there a certain degree of danger attached to it from being on the water so much and slipping off? A.—Yes; that danger is there all the time. Even when working you are working in clothes wet to the waist. They work that way for eight hours, and in the fall of the year you suffer from snow, cold and wet. Then often two or three pieces of timber are stuck together by the frost.

Q.—Have you ever known of any accidents to swingers bringing timber from the raft to the ship? A.—Yes; I have known them go adrift and have sent off to pick them up. I know that timber swingers are leaving the business to-day, and in a few years there will not be any swingers left. The old ones have got rheumatism and are leaving off working at it.

Q.—Do you know of anybody being drowned while swinging timber? A.—I do not know of anybody being drowned of late years, though there are men who swing timber that cannot swim. I have known men to fall off, but they have managed to get out again.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Supposing that there was a swift tide running, would there be danger of his being sucked under the vessel? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Is the timber ever so close together that a man could not find an opening to get his head through to breathe, should he accidentally fall overboard? A.—It is mostly that way all the time. It is very seldom any other. If he falls in near the head he goes under and comes out at the other end, and he would be drowned before he came up at the end of the raft. He has ten chances of not being saved.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG —

Q.—Supposing he is on a raft of three or four pieces. If, say, that three or four pieces go adrift, he holds them together until some one follows and picks him up? A.—Yes; he would try to. The swinger sometimes goes away in the morning, and works an hour or so before breakfast, and gets wet to the waist, and he may stop there until dinner time, or until he goes home in the day, with his wet clothes on all that time. If near home, he might run in and get a change of clothing.

Q.—Is there no fire on the raft at which he could dry his clothes? A.—No.

Q.—And no fire in the ship? A.—He is not allowed in the ship's galley; it is only a small place anyway. Sometimes you go into a ship where the cook will not allow you even to dry your socks; where they will not allow you to dry yourself, or warm yourself at all.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—You say that timber swingers are getting scarce. To what do you attribute that? A.—The danger he runs and the hard work he has to do. Men do not like to "lay off" upon a log in long boots, and often have those boots full of water, if they are working on sinking timber, and be themselves wet all day.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do timber swingers get constant work? Have they work the year round, or the whole of the season? A.—No.

Q.—What would you consider a fair average season's earnings of a man in your business? A.—Oh; three hundred dollars. That is the outside.

Q.—Do they ever get any work in the winter time, when the season of navigation is closed? A.—Very seldom. Last winter I worked about ten days; another winter I worked about two and a half days, maybe three days. That is all the work that I have done in the winter time, and I never was out of here before (Quebec). I have stopped here all the time so far. There is no work to do here in winter.

Q.—Do many men go South, to work, in winter? A.—Yes; a great many of them.

Q.—Do many ship laborers own the houses in which they live? A.—Very, very few.

Q.—Do many of them save money, and have bank accounts? A.—No; I do not know of any. There may be one or two, but they mostly always owe money instead of saving money, and it takes the summer time to pay.

Q.—Do the stevedores have property of their own? A.—Some of them.

Q.—Do you know how stevedores are hired? Is there any particular rate, or is it by contract with the owners or captains of the vessels? A.—It is by contract; sometimes with the captains and at other times with the merchant. He gets so much for loading the ship, and the captain or merchant pays the men, that is, he gets so much for superintending the loading, and the captain pays the men.

Q.—Do vessels as a general rule go to sea in an unseaworthy condition, I mean as regards cargo. Are they over laden—that is, are they over laden to people who understand shipping? A.—I have heard them say as much.

Q.—You have heard officers of the ships complain? A.—I have heard it said so.

Q.—That they go to sea in that condition? A.—Yes; if they (the crew) kick, there is a survey held (and that is no bother to the merchants), and the sailor has got to go to sea in her or go to gaol.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—If that is so, how do they do with that ship when she gets to England, if the ship leaves here in an unseaworthy condition? A.—I do not know about the other side.

Q.—Are you aware that they have got laws in England to punish such an infraction of the rules as regards navigation? A.—No.

Q.—And are you aware that those rules are strictly enforced? A.—I am not aware that they are.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you ever known of any vessels throwing cargo overboard after they leave Quebec—when they get outside? A.—Yes; I have often heard them say that as soon as they get outside they would have it off. I suppose they would be looking after their own safety.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—And you suppose they would be looking after the insurance by waiting until they got outside as you call it before they heaved it off? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you an insurance inspector here in Quebec? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does the insurance inspector not see after it for the sake of the Insurance Company? A.—I cannot say anything about that.

Q.—Is there an insurance agent? A.—Yes; there is quite a number.

Q.—And does he not do his duty towards his employer? A.—I do not know what would be his duty. I could not say.

THOMAS ENRIGHT, Quebec, Ship laborer, sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—You are in the habit of working on ships discharging coal, I believe? A.—Yes.

Q.—Will you give us some idea about how work is done in that respect. How many men are in the hold of a ship discharging coal? A.—Nine men, each man with a shovel, and one hooking and unhooking.

Q.—How is the coal discharged from the ship? A.—Well, it is hove out of the hold by means of tubs; sometimes it is hove out of the hold into lighters, and more times on to the wharf.

Q.—How many hours do you work? A.—Eight hours constitutes a day's work.

Q.—When you go down into the hold of a ship how long do you work? A.—I work from seven to eight o'clock. Then I take my breakfast. I commence again at nine, and work until one o'clock, knock off at one o'clock for dinner for one hour, and then work until five when I leave for the day.

Q.—How much will a coal tub carry? A.—Well, tubs seem to be growing larger to what they were when I joined the Society. There are some of them so large that two of them will make a ton. When I joined the Society it would take three tubs full for a ton; now it only takes two for a ton. In discharging coal you must have your tub ready all the time, or if you do not you are not wanted.

Q.—Well, is a standard tub every size? A.—No.

Q.—How long have you been discharging coal? A.—Ever since I joined the Society.

Q.—How long is that ago? A.—Eight years the next second of June.

Q.—Did you ever discharge coal before they had standards at all? A.—Well, they have no standard; no regulated tub. The man that comes along with the biggest is the best liked, and they put out the most coal.

Q.—Have you any idea how many tubs they will discharge in a day if eight men work in the hold. I mean a day of eight hours? A.—Well, last summer I was working on the Beaver Wharf. The man over each hatch is supposed to be the foreman. We put it out into batteaux. That day we put out two hundred and eighty tons of coal. The man to whom this was consigned and by whom this steamer was chartered, had sold some of this coal to an asylum, and some gentlemen came there representing the asylum the coal was to go to, and he weighed the coal, and the weight was so much for each tub, and it took so many to fill each batteau, and he owned that we eight men discharged two hundred and eighty tons of coal that day in eight hours.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—And did you discharge that from one hatch? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—There were eight men below; how many were there on deck? A.—I think there were three men on the stage and one man below to hook and unhook the tub—that was four men to manage the tub.

Q.—And only eight men shovelling the coal? A.—Yes; and one man hooking on the tubs and unhooking them.

Q.—These three men that you speak of were for assisting it over the side? A.—Yes; for dumping it on the wharf, or into the batteaux.

Q.—Were they part of the crew? A.—Yes; but they had nothing to do with shovelling the coal, the eight men did that.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Do you know of any accidents having taken place by inefficient gear in the

discharging of coal from ships? A.—Yes; when we used to have sailors helping us—and then we had accidents with the ships crew on the deck.

Q.—Do you never discharge from the two hatches? A.—Yes; there were two gangs in that ship that I speak of. I was in the main hatch; we were putting it into lighters, and the others were putting it on the wharf.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Am I to understand that you can have the tub any size you like? A.—Yes. You are not compelled to fill them, but sometimes the men are glad to get the job.

Q.—Do the stevedores get the contract for unloading, or do they get so much a ton? A.—No. That is between the stevedore and the captain,

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You work by the day, never by the ton? A.—No.

Q.—Have you any idea what is the average rate per day received by the stevedore? A.—I could not exactly say.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What is the effect of having an extra large tub? A.—It is in order to get so much more work done, Sir; as the larger the tub, the less times you will require to hoist and empty it. The larger the tub, the more the men can put into it. It is for the benefit of the party who employs the men.

Q.—It takes a longer time to load, does it not? A.—You could put more into a large tub than a small tub. Of course they are anxious to use the Donkey Engine, so they work us for all we are worth.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Does it make any difference to the men? A.—It keeps them going. I have to fill my part. There are four tubs. There are two men to each tub, and we know that if we do not get our tub filled on time, we are behind, and will not get a tub at the next ship. Sometimes one tub is not so large as the other.

Q.—The larger the tub the greater the advantage to the stevedore? A.—Yes.

Q.—And has the stevedore anything to say about the size of the tub? A.—He gets what will suit him, not us.

Q.—Who finds the tub? A.—The stevedore in most all cases.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Eight men in discharging two hundred and eighty (280) tons a day, as you say, would necessitate the shovelling of thirty-five (35) tons or so each man per day? A.—Yes.

Q.—Or four and three-eighth tons each man per hour? A.—Yes, that is what this gentleman figured it at.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you ever known an instance where small tubs are replaced by large tubs for the purpose of hurrying out the work? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long have you worked in the hold of a steamer, taking in cargo, from the time you commenced to work until you got through? A.—Six hours.

Q.—That is without any rest at all—continuous? A.—Yes. I mean from the time I go into the bunkers with my partner until the time I come out—two men's time. I have known myself to be in sometimes seven hours, and sometimes six hours, and of course a great deal depends on the tide. Of course, in low water we put in more coal than in high water.

Q.—Cannot you give us a description of how things are in unloading a vessel with coal? A.—Yes. When the coal comes in the way of the port we put it away. We manage so as to keep it clear.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—It is very hard work, I should imagine? A.—Yes. And sometimes these Welsh coal bunkers are so full of dust that you cannot see for the dust, and it is sometimes so hot that if you go to the open port, and touch the iron work with your bare skin, you will burn yourself.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Is it not a fact that each man working in the hold like that, has on only a pair of thin pants and vest? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is the water you drink only what you get from between the water wharf and the barge or bateau? A.—I generally work on the lighter side of the ship.

Q.—Perhaps you did not quite hear my question. I have reference to the drinking water used by the men in the hold? A.—Yes. We get it from the lighter side in a bucket.

2nd March, 1888.

MRS. E. MIDDLETON, of Coaticooke, in the Province of Quebec, who is now sojourning in the City of Quebec, sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—You have given some attention to the cause of Temperance, in this Province, I believe? A.—Yes.

Q.—You are Provincial President of the Womens' Christian Temperance Union of the Dominion of Canada? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you tell the Commission about how many places there are in Quebec in which intoxicating liquors are sold? A.—No; I should think some of the residents of Quebec would be better witnesses on that point. I am only here occasionally. My work in Quebec is finished for the present. I am not a resident of Quebec, my home is at Coaticooke, but I travel a great deal in the interests of the Womens' Christian Temperance Union. Of course, I am a member of the Quebec Local Union. I am Vice-President of the whole Union, and devote myself to the work throughout the whole Province.

Q.—Are you able to tell the Commission whether, in the centres of industry in the Province of Quebec, intemperance is increasing or decreasing among the working classes? A.—I would like to say that I am not sufficiently informed to answer that question immediately. Had I known of this Commission desiring information on the question of Temperance, I should have specially informed myself. That is not a part of the duty of our Association. I cannot say whether, in the Quebec district, Temperance is increasing or decreasing. I am not informed of the statistics for the moment, that is not my work.

Q.—Are you able to give information respecting the number of cases among the working classes, whether in consequence of intemperance, men are unable to support their families properly? A.—No; I cannot say how many cases, but I am aware that in very many cases we have to help families on that account. Part of our work is to help the families of inebriates. If you speak of the whole Province, I can say that very largely, in Montreal especially, we have a sheltering home, and I presume there is not one individual sheltered in that home, who has not been brought to it through intemperance.

Q.—While in Montreal, we took testimony on that point, and we would like now, if possible, to get information relative to Quebec, and all other manufacturing centres in this part of the Province? A.—If it did not take up too much time of the Commission, I would like to explain: Our Union is divided into departments. We have departments for certain classes of work. The work is thus divided up, and carefully attended to. We also attend to the Prison and the Police department, and we have secured the attendance of a police matron at the Central Station at Montreal. She has been appointed mainly through our industry. Our work is divided into departments under the Provisional President, so that from the nature of my work you can see that I am not always prepared to give statistics relating to one particular place. Miss Barber superintends the police work, that is, work among intemperate women in Montreal.

Q.—Are you able to say whether the cases of distress arising from intemperance have been reduced in those counties in which the Scott Act has been enforced? A.—I cannot say—I should presume so, but that would not be testimony.

Q.—The Commission desires to get facts, of course, bearing on the condition and prospects of the working people. Unfortunately we know there is a great deal of suffering caused by intemperance, and we would like, as far as possible, to learn how much is due to that cause. If you can give us any information concerning this matter—or on any point on which you have not been asked—embracing facts and statistics relating to this work that you have in hand, we shall be glad to receive it? A.—I know there are many cases of great misery come before us in various places, some in Quebec, others in Montreal, and some in other places where the women are obliged to labor for themselves and families, because of the husband's intemperance. We meet with cases where unfortunately the woman herself is given to drink and where their homes are the abodes of great misery. In our work we find the greatest amount of misery caused by intemperance, and we have reasons to believe that there would be very few inmates in the female gaols were it not for intemperance. We are of the opinion that there would be no need for a woman's gaol or reformatory, but for drink. With all the unfortunates with which we have to do we find the great majority are brought down through the use of intoxicants and there are very many families to-day, reduced from a position of comfort and ease to one of poverty through that same cause. We have at present a case in our own work where the head of the house, through intemperance, has been reduced, not merely from a respectable position, but from a much higher position than merely respectable, down to the position of the poorest class and it is because of intemperance that he is receiving help from us. He is now a reformed man but has fallen from an affluent position to one of poverty, and all through intemperance, and it is part of our work to help those suffering from that cause.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Can you not in the very near future—perhaps possibly before you leave for Montreal—furnish us with such statistics and any information that you may be pleased to give—that you think may be of use to us? A.—I will endeavour to do so.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Will you please tell us whether in your opinion and from your experience, groceries or taverns are most injurious to the people? A.—We greatly object to groceries obtaining licenses. In Montreal they number something like fifteen hundred, and we have a sort of compact among the ladies there, that they will not deal with grocers who sell intoxicating liquors, because where liquor is sold in groceries, it is a very dangerous thing. We have, and are making a strong effort to remove the sale of liquor from groceries as they are unfortunately the means of strong temptation, and particularly to women and children. We most strongly oppose the granting of liquor licenses to grocers.

Q.—Do you think if the business of a grocer was entirely separated from the liquor business it would be an advantage to families? A.—We think it would.

Q.—Do you know what proportion of the grocers of Quebec have licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors? A.—I am not aware that we have more than two or three temperance groceries. As I said before, I do not reside here, and I am not often in Quebec. I was merely passing along in the course of my duty, and I stayed here longer than usual. Sometimes I am six or eight months away. I know of two or three temperance grocers in Quebec, and perhaps there are more, but I know of two or three.

Q.—Do you know if there is a growing feeling among the people of Quebec towards restricting the sale of intoxicating liquors? A.—There is a very strong feeling on our part.

Q.—And on the part of the people generally? A.—I think so. I hope so.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you given any attention or made any enquiry to the causes of intemperance among the working classes? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think in some cases this intemperance arises from a lack of employment, and even from a lack of proper food? A.—I do not know—I cannot say. I am afraid the habits are formed, and that the lack of employment is sometimes due to those habits. Still it may be so.

Q.—You believe that some who are out of employment may drift that way? A.—They may.

Q.—Can you give us instances of men who are out of employment in Quebec to-day through the use of intoxicating liquors? A.—I cannot at the moment.

Q.—Are all those who do not drink in Quebec in employment to-day? A.—I cannot say—I do not know.

Q.—Did you ever give a thought that the small wages received by the working classes is a cause which leads to intemperance? A.—I have no information on that point.

To the Chairman of the Labor Commission:

SIR:—

In accordance with the pledge made by me when before the Commission, on the 2nd of March, that I would endeavor to supply reliable information on several points upon which I was then examined, I shall now redeem my promise. I affirm that the statistics and statements have been carefully gathered from officials in this city and from superintendents in our departments of work.

On visiting the office of the Recorder, I was informed that the commitments for drunkenness were very largely diminished from some of the preceding years. This was to some extent to be accounted for by the active co-operation of the clergy and temperance workers, with the regulation of Sunday closing, etc. We, however, have reason to deplore the fact that there is much intemperance in the city, and that it has led to the perpetration of crime, and been the cause of sudden and violent death. And we fear that so long as places are licensed to sell intoxicants and so many places known as corner groceries exist, which, although having no licenses, are imperfectly watched, the evil will continue. The diminution of our shipping and the removal of many from our city as residents, may account in some measure for the lessening of crime. We are still by no means in condition to claim the honors for sobriety and virtue.

One of the officials interviewed expressed regret that the Vigilance Committee has ceased to exist in this city, and suggested as a remedy to existing evils that a large temperance society be formed which would take in all classes and creeds. Such a society, we think, the City and District Alliance will prove. From some of the

Superintendents we have the information that there is not so much poverty arising from intemperance as in previous winters. Nevertheless there is much need of improvement in this respect. And I also learn that among the unfortunate of our own sex the use of intoxicating drinks has been largely the cause of their downfall, and in nearly every instance, *when degraded*, the habit has made it almost impossible to induce them to reform.

ELIZABETH MIDDLETON,

Pro. Pres. W. C. T. U.

I beg leave to make the following correction :

In some of the newspapers I am reported as having, in my evidence before the Labor Commission, said : " We have two or three temperance groceries," whereas, when asked if I could inform the Commission how many temperance groceries we have, I said that I could not speak positively, but knew of two or three. I have since ascertained that we have at least five *very respectable* temperance groceries.

E. MIDDLETON.

LICENSES ISSUED FOR QUEBEC CITY, BANLIEU AND LEVIS, 1887-1888.

HOTELS.

One hundred and eleven 111

RESTAURANTS.

Forty-four 44

GROCERS.

One hundred and forty-two 142

WHOLESALE GROCERS.

Quebec, nine 9
Levis, one..... 1
————— 10

CLUBS.

Quebec and parishes, etc., six..... 6

BOTTLERS.

Quebec, eleven..... 11
Levis, three 3
————— 14

Total licenses 327

JOHN DICK, of Quebec, Port Warden of the Port of Quebec, and Surveyor for English Lloyds, at Quebec, sworn :—

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Will you please give us an outline of the special duties you have to perform as Port Warden of the Port of Quebec? A.—My duties as Port Warden is to examine vessels arriving with cargoes in a damaged state, and to authorize their survey.

Then there are other duties connected with my office—I have to attend to surveys; and report upon the damage to vessels stranded. I think that is about the principal part of my duties.

Q.—You also have a surveillance over the loading of vessels? A.—Yes; I see that they are not over-loaded.

Q.—Do a great many vessels come in a year to the port of Quebec, that you think it necessary to make surveys upon? A.—A great many.

Q.—Is there any way by which you can inform us of the number and damage? A.—If I had been allowed the time, I could have given you the number of steam and sailing ships; but I am not prepared to answer that question off hand. I make an annual report to the Government, and the Board of Trade, which is printed.

Q.—We can get it from that, but we wish you to give us your opinion and experience, if you please. From what cause do you suppose that most of the vessels arrive here disabled or damaged—is it by stranding or boisterous weather at sea? A.—Some get stranded coming out, and others, principally steamers, are damaged by ice.

Q.—Are iron steamers as good on this coast in the spring of the year, or in the summer, as sailing vessels? A.—It depends upon the construction of the vessel.

Q.—Are they as well prepared for resisting the ice? A.—That depends upon the construction of the vessel. They are repaired for the ice at Quebec. We repaired one of the line running between here and Newfoundland. We repaired that vessel, and since those repairs were done, she has sustained no damage.

Q.—Were those repairs by the addition of wood? A.—By the addition of iron.

Q.—Is it what is commonly called by the name of sheathing? A.—Double plating.

Q.—Wooden vessels are repaired with wood? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do any of these vessels to your knowledge come here with any injury occasioned by overloading? A.—No.

Q.—Do any vessels come here overloaded? A.—No.

Q.—Not one? A.—No.

Q.—Is it part of your duty before a vessel leaves port to see that she is not overloaded? A.—That is embodied in the Port Warden's bye-laws. It states there that if I see reason for taking action I am to do so.

Q.—And if anyone knew of such a case and they reported it to you, would you be obliged to act? A.—Yes; and I have done it on several occasions. On several occasions vessels before proceeding to sea have had to take off considerable cargo.

Q.—Did you within the last few years find any vessels of that kind leaving Quebec, or about to leave Quebec? A.—There was none rejected by me since that time, but previously there were several.

Q.—When you find it necessary to make an examination of a vessel, is your word taken or do you have any one else with you at the examination? A.—In that case I take an expert.

Q.—But your decision is final? A.—Yes; my decision is final, but I have the right to take one or more experts. I have the bye-laws and I will send you a copy of them.

Q.—You could not give us at a word, I suppose, any idea of the number of steamers that have passed through your hands, give us your own opinion. Can you give us any idea? A.—For the last two or three years I believe there has passed through my hands of steamers about ninety. That would be about the average for the three years.

Q.—That is in damaged vessels? A.—No.

Q.—That is what came in? A.—Yes.

Q.—In your opinion which do you consider most likely to be damaged, sailing vessels or steamships. Which do you think are mostly liable to be damaged? A.—Of course the steamers are more liable to strain. They are more liable to be damaged than wood.

Q.—Independent of the material of which they are formed, which do you think

are the ones subject to the most damage, sailing vessels or steamers? A.—From straining, the iron is likely to suffer the most damage from any casualty at all. Even if it became unmanageable from straining, the steamer would suffer the most damage.

Q.—In your experience do you find it easier to manage wood than iron? A.—That has been proved.

Q.—I am very glad to have your opinion. When a survey is held, made, and you think it necessary to discharge a cargo, is it you who surveys the vessel again before they load her to take in cargo again? A.—I recommend what portion of the cargo is to be taken out of the vessel. Sometimes only a part has to be taken out, and sometimes the whole cargo, both in wood and iron vessels. Sometimes a wooden vessel only needs what is called stiffening and the skin cleared out. We had last year two steam vessel cargoes taken out of the vessels.

Q.—Do you find any difficulty in getting such implements as you receive; is it you who employs them or the Company? A.—It is the builders, the dock proprietors. I have no cognizance over the labour, nothing more than to order the repairs. If vessels are rated in Lloyds, I see that the vessel is repaired and that everything is done under Lloyd's regulations.

Q.—Are there any agents here of Lloyds? A.—I am the Surveyor for Lloyds, I see to that.

Q.—I suppose that you have all the necessary foundries, and matters of that kind in Quebec, that may be required for iron ships? A.—We have now; previous to last year we had not. We laboured at great disadvantage. Now, we have a proper dock and establishment for doing any kind of iron work.

Q.—Is your Dry Dock, here in Quebec, capable of taking up any vessels visiting the Port? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is its capacity? A.—It is an excellent dock, down in St. George's Ward, on the river side.

Q.—I suppose with regard to all kinds of ship-carpentering work you have a sufficient supply of mechanics to do all the necessary work for wooden ships? A.—I have never known any want of them; I undertook Messrs. Allan, Gilmour & Company's repairing for sixteen years, and I had no difficulty in getting alterations done. We always got good men.

Q.—Did it ever occur in your time that vessels came into port of Quebec overloaded? A.—It did not, whether injured or uninjured or otherwise.

Q.—May it have happened and not come to your knowledge? A.—No; it could not have been without my knowing.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you inspect every portion of the ship? A.—Everything belonging to ship, inside and out, except the provisions.

Q.—Is that in accordance with a rule issued by the Dominion Government, or in accordance with the rules issued by the Insurance Company? A.—It is in accordance with a rule issued by Lloyds. I have nothing to do with insurance matters at all. I am employed by Lloyds to examine vessels to see whether they are such vessels as represented or not, and I have to report whenever occasion requires, but that is very seldom necessary in Quebec.

Q.—Do vessels leave the port of Quebec without being inspected, or the loading superintended by you? A.—Yes; timber laden ships I have nothing to do with.

Q.—Are complaints made of ships being in an unseaworthy condition before leaving port, and if so are these complaints generally well founded? A.—I cannot say, some are, and some are not. Very often objections are raised by ship's companies and, of course, the matter is then brought before the proper tribunal, and perhaps I may be called upon, or some one else may be called upon, to report on the condition of that ship, and a decision is given accordingly.

Q.—Have you ever known a vessel to leave the Port of Quebec on that account? A.—No. We have condemned vessels on several occasions.

Q.—Have you ever known crews to refuse to go to sea on account of the unseaworthy condition of the vessels? A.—I have known them to make that excuse very often in order to get away from the ship.

Q.—What is the mode of procedure when a crew refuses to go to sea in a vessel against which a complaint has been lodged? A.—Well, what I have stated. The crew makes a complaint and I have to go on board and report according to the condition of the ship. If the ship is well founded in every way the men are ordered to return to their ship and if they refuse they are tried in the Police Court and compelled to go aboard the ship, or go to gaol.

Q.—Is a vessel ever allowed to go to sea, if a complaint is made against her, without being inspected? A.—I have never heard of one.

Q.—Do you inspect the ground tackle? A.—Everything. Anchors, chains and everything. If you read my book here you will see everything of that description mentioned. I am bound to keep a record of everything that goes through my office.

Q.—What is done with these vessels after they are condemned? A.—They are burned on the beach.

Q.—Did you ever hear of a ship being loaded under the Plimsoll mark when the men refused to go on board? A.—Yes; one case of the Allan's, but that I can explain fully. The vessel was previously running in the passenger trade, in which trade they are always given a larger freeboard than in carrying cargoes, and this time they loaded the vessel, according to my ideas as to what it should be loaded up to. It was loaded to within a foot of what I considered right, and it was on the Plimsoll mark, and it was upon that that the crew joined with the landsmen and the ship was detained in consequence. That was eight years ago. Mr. Rae came down to me and asked me what was the best means to adopt, and I recommended that he should compromise with the crew. This was acted upon, and he gave the men a little extra wages to go, and they did so. On their arrival at Liverpool they were paid off. The ship was marked up to the load afterwards, the mark of the freight boat. That ship was the "Sarmatian" and that was the only vessel about which there was any difficulty in going away from here in that way.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Do you allow a vessel to go out of port with deck loads? A.—Under certain conditions.

Q.—Is not a certain date only allowed for deals? A.—That does not come under my duties at all. That is in the hands of the customs, but if a vessel was overloaded I would notify the Collector of Customs that she was not seaworthy.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Did you ever pass a steamer as seaworthy which, after a few hours, returned back into port? A.—Yes; the "Lake Huron." She was simply refitted temporarily, and proceeded down as far as the Traverse, when the captain thought it prudent to return. I was one of the Surveyors, and gave the recommendation along with Dr. Simmons, the Deputy Port Warden. They were simple repairs to enable her to return home. We were deceived by different reports, but the most serious damage was not represented, as she was injured across the bottom, and we could not see that from the inside; but she was perfectly tight when she left here, and when she got into the troubled waters of the Traverse she commenced to make water. The Captain thought he had better return, and he was quite justified in doing so. That was the only case since I have been Port Warden.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—How was she repaired? A.—Inside, with cement and plank, and as soon as she got out of the traverse into smooth water she became tight again. That is the only vessel that I knew to go out unseaworthy.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Is commerce in the port of Quebec increasing, or decreasing? A.—It is decreasing largely.

Q.—What, in your opinion, is the cause of that? A.—For the last few years trade has changed, more or less. For the last few years a great deal of Quebec business has gone to Montreal, and I was told that it was partly owing to the cost of labor, and partly owing to arbitrary rules. I find that merchants here can ship their deals in the port of Montreal cheaper than they can do so here, and now, that it is invariably done. I am very sorry to see it. It is known to certain parties that every season a quantity of freight goes from Quebec to Montreal, to be shipped there sooner than stop the vessels here.

Q.—When they go to Montreal, do not they take on a part of their cargo here, in the port of Quebec, on their return? A.—Some of them call here for coals—the greater number do. Even when taking a full cargo at Montreal they call here for coals, and they have to get my certificate, but they cannot get that until they are loaded, and not until all their coals are on board.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Has the tide anything to do with the vessels going to Montreal? A.—I do not think it has now.

Q.—Is that not so? A.—No. These vessels, of course, they can return to Quebec down to twenty-four feet six inches, and they are twenty-five feet six inches before leaving Quebec.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—That is the deepest draught that a vessel can be drawing and get clear through to Montreal? A.—Well, last summer, I believe they had to lighten two or three vessels in Quebec so that they could go.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—It was very low water last summer? A.—Yes; it was very low water last summer. It was a very dry summer.

Q.—And the water had been as low as we have known it? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then in the spring of the year they can go through with any cargo? A.—Yes; in September if there are no rains all the northern waters get low, but if there is plenty of rain away to the north the St. Lawrence keeps up. A long tack of easterly winds also keeps it up, and after a long tack of westerly winds the water goes down.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You said that a vessel could go to Montreal at any time. Do the owners generally take advantage of the tide to pass Cape LaRoche? A.—They leave the pilots to judge. The vessel is under the control of the pilot. The proper time in my experience when I used to go to Montreal—the proper time to go to Montreal is the latter end of the ebb tide.

Q.—Can they pass there at low tide? A.—A vessel of good speed can go up to there at any time. I mean to Cape LaRoche, but to pass Cape LaRoche they look as much for delay coming down as going up, and the channel is very intricate. These large ships sometimes come down with only three inches of spare water, and they have to watch the tide to come down.

DAVID MORGAN, Quebec, Tailor.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You do custom work? A.—Yes; ordinary custom work.

Q.—What class of help do you employ? A.—Well the best we can get.

Q.—Are they all men? A.—They are not all men—they are women and men.

Q.—Can you tell us what wages ordinary coat makers earn? A.—Good coat hands earn ten dollars a week. Females earn from three to five dollars according to what they do. Vest makers somewhere about three dollars a week.

Q.—Are the men engaged in making vests? A.—No.

Q.—They are all women? A.—Yes.

Q.—And for pants? A.—The same.

Q.—What wages do pants makers get? A.—Fifty cents a pair.

Q.—Are they all women employed on them? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you give us an idea of how many pairs of pants a woman can make in a week by herself? A.—I cannot say exactly but about seven or eight. Some make more than others.

Q.—We are speaking just now about the average? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you find these people constant employment all the year round? A.—As a rule, all the year round.

Q.—Do they work on the premises? A.—Some of them do.

Q.—Do you know how many hours a day a female works to make seven pairs of pants a week, that would be a pair a day. A.—Well she would work about ten hours.

Q.—Do you take on any apprentices? A.—We take on one or two occasionally.

Q.—When apprentices are taken on, in the tailoring business, how much do they earn the first year? A.—According to what they are worth—very little.

Q.—And the second year? A.—One dollar a week.

Q.—How many years are they at tailoring before they become experienced? A.—About six or seven years.

Q.—And do their wages increase? A.—Oh yes; all time.

Q.—Do you employ much machinery in the manufacture of clothing? A.—A little; all tailors do.

Q.—How does machinery compare with hand work? Does it compare favourably? A.—Well; it is finer looking but is not so durable.

Q.—Has the introduction of sewing machines increased or decreased the wages of the men? A.—It has rather increased it, I think.

Q.—Has it given the men more work or less work? A.—It requires less men, but there is more demand for the men.

Q.—And less apprentices? A.—We do not take apprentices on for that kind of machines.

Q.—Have you stopped apprenticing boys? A.—No; boys are taken as apprentices.

Q.—Do you do any other class of manufacture besides clothing? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you manufacture shirts? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are shirts made by the day or piece? A.—So much a piece.

Q.—How much to the dozen? A.—About twenty-five or thirty cents a piece.

Q.—Would that be flannel? A.—We do not make any other but flannel.

Q.—Would that be thread and all complete? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do those women take any work home at night? A.—No; not those who are working day work.

Q.—Do you know if that kind of work is carried on in Quebec? A.—I do not think it is. I could not tell you. I do not know I am sure. I never had any.

Q.—Is five dollars a week for women making clothing the average, or is it the highest given? A.—It is the highest here.

Q.—What is the average about? A.—About four dollars a week. It is according to what they can do. Some are much better than others at work.

Q.—To make this three or four dollars a week they have got to have a sewing machine? A.—Oh, yes; the employer owns the sewing machine.

Q.—The women that make the shirts do they make the whole shirt? A.—Yes.

Q.—They have to own a sewing machine for that? A.—Yes; if they work at home.

Q.—Is there any clothing made in Quebec for stores—that is ready-made clothing? A.—Oh, yes.

Q.—Which receives the largest amount; the women that make custom work or the women that make ready-made clothing? A.—The others that make custom work, they receive four dollars a week.

Q.—How much would a woman make on ready made clothing? A.—Well, they get about one dollar a coat for cheap work.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—How many coats will a woman make in a week? A.—Five or six.

Q.—What kind of coats would they be? A.—Light tweed coats.

Q.—How many coats will a custom tailor make in a week? A.—He will make three at custom work. With help, of course, he will make more.

Q.—A woman would make more in a shop, than a man at custom work? A.—Yes; because his is a great deal more difficult work.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Are there any wholesale clothing houses here in Quebec? A.—No; there are not; they are all in Montreal.

Q.—Are there any importing houses of ready-made clothing here in Quebec? A.—No; there are not.

Q.—There used to be, I believe. What is the reason you have done away with them? A.—Well, they find the Montreal people do the business. People go to Montreal for ready-made clothing.

Q.—Have you not all the facilities here that the Montreal people have for making these things? A.—Well, they have always been the largest makers there, and the people from below all go to Montreal to buy clothes. We can make them here.

Q.—Have you not all the facilities for buying the cloth, etc., and for obtaining labor? A.—We have. But we do not seem to go ahead in that branch.

Q.—Do you attribute that to any other cause than want of enterprise? A.—That is all. We want more enterprise.

Q.—There are plenty of men of means here? A.—Yes; there is plenty of money. There are plenty of means.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you know if labour is as cheap in Montreal as it is in Quebec? A.—I think it is as cheap here. It is cheaper here in our trade.

WILLIAM J. LEMESURIER, of Quebec, Tobacco Manufacturer, sworn :

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—How many hands do you employ in your factory? A.—Forty-five or fifty.

Q.—You know something about the working of your factory? A.—I do the business part of it, but I know something about the manufacturing part of it.

Q.—How many men are employed among the forty-five or fifty hands comprising the staff of your factory? Are there any? A.—About ten or fifteen.

- Q.—And the balance would be boys and girls? A.—Yes.
- Q.—What are the ages of the boys and girls? A.—They all say they are fourteen when they come in.
- Q.—You have no idea what the age of the youngest is? A.—I cannot say.
- Q.—What is the rate of wages paid to the men per week? A.—Five dollars to nine dollars per week. Some earn seventeen dollars, others earn seven, eight or nine dollars per week.
- Q.—How many hours per day do they work? A.—They work from seven in the morning to six at night.
- Q.—Do they work at night? A.—Yes; sometimes they do.
- Q.—How long at night do they work in the busy season—how many hours after six o'clock. A.—They work up 'till ten o'clock, but that is only for a few days; it is not regular. It is just a few times in the year.
- Q.—Do you pay them extra for working extra hours? A.—We pay them at the regular rate.
- Q.—How much more do they receive for night work than for day work? A.—It is all job work.
- Q.—Are there any fines imposed at all? A.—No.
- Q.—Where do you find a market for your tobacco? A.—All over the Dominion.
- Q.—Are you able to compete with Montreal manufacturers in that respect? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q.—What time are these children required to go to work in the morning? A.—They start with the others.
- Q.—What time is that? A.—Seven o'clock.
- Q.—How long are they kept at work? A.—Until twelve o'clock, and then after that, they work from one until six o'clock.
- Q.—What wages do these boys and girls earn? A.—The small girls commence the labelling of packages at twenty cents a day. The boys get forty cents, and fifty cents a day.
- Q.—Are those boys employed by the firm, or by the men on piece work? A.—They are employed by the firm.
- Q.—How many of these female helps have you got that are grown up? A.—They are nearly all grown up. I believe they are all grown up, except three or four.
- Q.—What wages do you pay the girls? A.—They earn twenty cents a day; that is, the small girls, there are only three or four of them, and they earn twenty cents a day.
- Q.—What would be the average earnings of the others? A.—They are employed at different classes of work, I could not give you exactly the average. The women receive five and six dollars a week, and the stemmers sixty cents the hundred.
- Q.—Have you separate conveniences provided for the men and women in your establishment? A.—Yes.
- Q.—How are these convenience provided? A.—They are separate apartments.
- Q.—Are they in close proximity? A.—Yes.
- Q.—How many flights of stairs are there in your factory? A.—Three.
- Q.—How many stair-cases are there leading to the workroom? A.—There are three flights.
- Q.—And just one stair-case? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Have you any fire escapes outside the building? A.—No.

By Mr. FREED:—

- Q.—When a child comes, and says he or she is fourteen years of age, do you take any means of verifying that statement? A.—No; they just tell us so, and we judge for ourselves.

Q.—Do you take any means to obtain a certificate of the birth of the child, or to obtain proof that they are under the age of fourteen? A.—No; if we have any doubt of it we do not take them.

Q.—Do you refuse them very often? A.—No; that very seldom happens.

Q.—Do you inflict any punishment upon the children for disobeying orders, or infringing the rules? A.—No.

Q.—Do you permit your foreman to chastize a child in any manner? A.—No; he is allowed to talk to them, nothing else.

Q.—You do not permit them to beat the children? A.—No.

Q.—Do you permit them to be locked up in solitary confinement? A.—No; it very seldom happens that they disobey orders. We allow nothing of that kind. If they do not do what is right we discharge them. That is all.

Q.—Do you impose any fines? A.—No.

Q.—How frequently do you pay them? A.—Weekly.

Q.—Are any deductions made for bad work? A.—No.

Q.—How many men are earning seventeen dollars a week? A.—We have one man earning seventeen dollars, and another sixteen dollars. We have only a few men working on that job.

Q.—Do these men have to pay the boys that are working under them, or do they receive the seventeen dollars a week clear? A.—No; they each have a stemmer under them.

Q.—How much have they got, on the average, to pay per week, out of this sixteen or seventeen dollars, for extra assistance? A.—They pay the stemmer twenty cents a day, and the stemmer is learning the business.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—How many men has the man got to employ who receives seventeen dollars a week? A.—He can employ as many as he likes, but he only has one to help him.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You say that you work at night? A.—Very seldom.

Q.—When you have occasion to light the gas, do you pay for it yourself, or do the hands pay for it? A.—We pay for it ourselves.

Q.—Will you kindly tell us how far these water closets are asunder—how far from one another, or are they opposite each other? A.—They are in the basement alongside each other.

Q.—Do you think, in the interests of decency and morality, it is right to have them so near one another? A.—I do not see any objection—it is the handiest place.

Q.—Where there are so many employed in the factory? We have no objection to your having them wherever it is convenient, but an objection may be found to your having them beside one another, where both sexes and all ages are compelled to go. Now, in some places where I have visited, they have promised to alter this state of things, and place those for the females in one portion of the building, and those for the males in an entirely separate place, so that the sexes do not meet. Do not you think yourself it would be an advantage? A.—Yes; I do in that light.

Q.—Can we get from you a promise that these things will be looked after? A.—Yes; I will do my best for my part, and I would like to see that other manufacturers would have it done also.

Q.—Can we get you to say that you will have it done? A.—I can say that I will have it done.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do the doors of your workrooms open outwards or inwards? A.—Where the doors there are open inwards. The outside doors open outwards.

Q.—Do the doors of the workrooms open inwards? A.—They cannot open otherwise because they are at the top of the stairs.

Q.—Is the sanitary condition of your factory good. I mean the ventilation?
A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you ever have the Health Inspector around the factory to visit you?
A.—No.

Q.—He has never been around? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know if there is one in existence? A.—There is one comes round every spring. He visits our premises to see the yards, that is all.

Q.—They never go up stairs? A.—No; they examine the yards to see that they are properly cleaned.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—When your men are working to seven, eight or nine o'clock at night do they get an hour for supper? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are your hands, provided in the establishment, with a place to get their dinner? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have they got a place outside the building or in the building itself? A.—They can go into one part of the building, and take their meals by the stove.

Q.—Are they obliged to dine in the workshop itself? A.—We have no dining room in the factory, but there is lots of spare room in the factory.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—There is one thing I would like to call your attention to, and that is the absence of means of exit from some buildings in case of fire. We learn that you have only one stair-way leading from the top of your building to the bottom and we find at other places it is the same way. Now there is just as great a reason for a change in this respect as there is for a change in the position of the water closets in order to prevent the mixing of sexes coming down these stairs. The conduct of employees is not always creditable, and we think it would be advisable to have separate means of exit for males and females. Do you not think it would be? A.—I think it would take the authorities a good while to do this, on account of it keeping the men from working all the time.

Q.—It would not be necessary to keep the men from working, but the men could be kept back while the women are coming down? A.—I think this is a question I would rather not answer.

Q.—I think that is what the Commission would be likely to recommend? A.—If there is any possibility of doing it, we will do it. We wish to do what is right.

JOHN GLASS, Quebec, Biscuit Baker, sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—How many hands do you employ? A.—Ten.

Q.—What class of work do you do? A.—I make plain biscuits—hard bread as it is called on board ship—ship bread.

Q.—Do you employ any women in that work? A.—No.

Q.—All men? A.—They are all men, and one boy.

Q.—Is the boy an apprentice? A.—No; he is not an apprentice.

Q.—What hours do these men work at the business? A.—Between nine and ten hours a day, including their dinner hour.

Q.—What are their average earnings? A.—A boy earns from fifty cents. I pay all the way from fifty cents to one dollar and sixty cents a day; that is the highest paid per day for biscuit work.

Q.—What is the lowest sum that you pay your men? A.—The lowest pay that a man earns at biscuit work, is seventy-five cents a day.

Q.—Are these all skilled bakers? A.—Not one of them. The only baker in the establishment is myself.

Q.—Is the work done by machinery? A.—A^ltogether.

Q.—Has the introduction of machinery, in the manufacture of biscuits, decreased the cost of labor? A.—The men earn better wages now than they did during the time they were employed on hand work, and that is a long time ago.

Q.—Do you know any biscuit factory where men are employed on hand work to-day? A.—No. They could not exist.

Q.—Can you tell us what the rates of wages are in Quebec in your business as compared with anywhere else in Canada? A.—There are none here in Canada in my line besides myself, except at the sea ports of St. John, New Brunswick, and Halifax, Nova Scotia. There are none others that I am aware of.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You say that at the time sea biscuits were made by hand work, men did not earn as much money as they do now? A.—I think I said they get better wages now.

Q.—Was the cost of living cheaper then, than it is now? A.—Certainly.

Q.—Do you know the per centage? A.—No.

Q.—Is it not a notorious fact that thirty years ago, it was much cheaper living here than now? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you think men were better off thirty years ago than they are to day? A.—I think money went as far then as it does now.

Q.—Do men live better now? A.—It is a hard thing to say whether they live better or not. They live more expensively, but whether they live better or not I cannot say.

Q.—They dress better? A.—Yes, and more expensively.

Q.—And they live more extravagantly? A.—They do both, the men and their families.

Q.—Are there many bakers who have families? A.—Yes; I guess the same as anyone else.

Q.—What is the highest rent that a baker would be likely to pay, for an ordinary family, in a respectable locality? A.—I cannot say that. I never heard anything on that question.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—After the cost of ordinary living is paid, and the taxes, and house rent and clothing, how much money would you have at the end of the year if you received the wages that are currently given to bakers? A.—Please do not misunderstand me, I only employ them six months in the year. I have no work in the winter for them.

Q.—Are they idle the rest of the year? A.—They get employment wherever they can. I should add that, in addition to the wages, they get a compensation at the end of the season of forty or fifty dollars.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—On what do you calculate that bonus? Do you calculate it on your profit, or the excellence of your men? A.—It is in order to keep the men there with me, so that they should not desert me.

Q.—Have you had any difficulty with your men? A.—No.

Q.—Have you experienced any difficulty in obtaining men to do the work? A.—None whatever; they are always ready to come, and work for me. If there is a vacancy I can easily get it filled.

Q.—What are the hours of labour? Q.—Nine or ten hours a day, including the dinner hour.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How long have you resided in Quebec? A.—I am sixty one years of age, and my father was here in business before me.

Q.—So your father was in the same trade? A.—Yes; my father and myself—I succeeded him—we have been in business, in Quebec, ever since the year eighteen hundred and eleven.

Q.—Why do not you work in winter? A.—Because there is no market. There are no ships.

ANDREW HOLWELL, of Quebec, Policeman, sworn.

I am a member of the Quebec City Police Force. I am forty-eight years of age.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—How long have you been employed on the city police force? A.—Twenty years, and ten months. I entered the police force before I was thirty years of age. I have been on the police force altogether, that is all my life.

Q.—What is your present rate of wages to-day? A.—On the city police force, we had \$1 a day, but—

Q.—What is your present rate of pay? A.—I have been in receipt of 60 cents a day since the 1st of May last.

Q.—So, you have got down to 60 cents a day? A.—Yes, sir; more is the pity.

Q.—How many hours have you to work for 60 cents a day? A.—From nine in the morning until nine the next morning, day and night. We are two hours out and two hours in, and after twelve o'clock at night we are three hours out. We are two hours out in the day time.

Q.—Is that the regular pay of a police officer to day? A.—No; the regular pay is \$1 a day. Wages have been cut down. There were two old men nearly seventy years of age, one died since, and the other is still going about, and myself.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—They think you are not fit for a policeman at \$1 a day, but that you are fit for one at 60 cents? A.—I suppose that is it.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Do you do all the work of an ordinary policeman, now? A.—Yes; extra duty, and everything that is required.

Q.—And you attend, in your turn, on your guard? A.—Yes; I have been twenty years and ten months on the force, and I was never a day late or absent from duty, and there was never the stroke of a pen against me, but still, they thought fit to reduce me from \$1 to 60 cents a day.

Q.—In other words, you are on duty for twenty-four hours for the sum of 60 cents? A.—Yes; and I do the same for 60 cents that another man does for a dollar.

Q.—How many are working at the same rate of wages? A.—Another and me.

Q.—What is the rate of pay paid to other officers? A.—\$1 a day, and six shillings a day.

Q.—Do you have to buy your own clothing out of that 60 cents a day? A.—No; they furnish the clothing always.

Q.—Are you a married man? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any family? A.—I had one. We are four in family. I may say that I have one child of my own, and a girl that I reared.

Q.—Are the policeman in Quebec insured? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much per month have they to pay for insurance? A.—Forty-two cents.

Q.—Would you have to pay as much per month as a man receiving \$1.25 a day? A.—Yes; in fact, it is stopped out of my pay, if there is anything owing.

Q.—Is this insurance compulsory? A.—Yes; it is stopped out of the pay before you get it.

Q.—What do you receive in case of accident? A.—\$1,000.

Q.—In case of accident, how much would you receive, if you got hurt and was unable to attend to your duty? A.—\$6 a week, and we would have to pay the doctor.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—It would pay you better to be sick at that rate? A.—It would, sir; so it would.

Q.—What is the amount received by a widow in case of the death of her husband? A.—We never have a death by accident.

Q.—Have you asked? A.—There was some dissatisfaction about it last year, and some said they were going to knock off, as they got no satisfaction for it.

Q.—Very often, policemen are engaged at additional duties, such as taking care of Lacrosse Grounds; did you ever get anything for that? A.—It is divided every spring, the total amount, or part of it. We never got any account of it last spring. We got \$2.75 each.

Q.—Who receives this money? A.—The Chief of Police receives it, and puts it in the bank, or whatever he does with it for the year.

Q.—Have you asked for an increase on that sixty cents a day? A.—Yes.

Q.—You made an application to the Police Board? A.—Yes; I asked for it. I said my pay had been reduced, after twenty years service, from \$1 to sixty cents, and the Chief said: "You were put up before, and you did nothing better."

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What did he mean by that? A.—I suppose he meant that I did not make arrests.

Q.—Were all the salaries reduced? A.—In the time of the previous Mayor, he made three classes of men.

Q.—I ask you if, at the time of the reduction, all the salaries were reduced? A.—Oh, no; only the three.

Q.—You say policemen are provided with clothing; what clothing do you get? A.—A pair of pants, a coat, a pair of boots for three years, that is large boots, and a pair of summer boots every spring.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you receive any underclothing? A.—No.

Q.—Is that all you receive in addition to your pay? A.—That is all; of course, we receive summer and winter clothes.

Q.—Do you sleep in the Police Station? A.—We do, when we are not on guard.

Q.—And you are on twenty-four hours? A.—We are there, except when we get a day off, and the time at our meals. When we get a day off, we stop at home, except when we are called out for extra duty.

Q.—After being on duty twenty-four hours, how long do you remain at home? A.—We are the same time at home,

Q.—Then, you are twenty-four hours at home? A.—No.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—When wages are cut down, is there any cause given for it? A.—All the reason the chief gave me was that I did not make prisoners and reports enough.

Q.—Then, it all depends on the number of arrests that you make? A.—It appears so. After they changed the chief and the Recorder, we had this trouble. There never was that trouble before the present chief came. It is all got up since then.

Q.—If you make an arrest during the night, and the person is called before the Police Magistrate, do you go away at nine o'clock? A.—If it is my day off, I go home when I am through, but if I have to go to Court, I am detained there sometimes until the Court is over—until my case is heard.

Q.—Then, you may be twenty-four hours on duty and be afterwards detained at the Police Court? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you get any additional pay for that? A.—No. It is according to the number of prisoners we bring. Sometimes we are detained there until twelve o'clock in the day.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Has the Chief of Police the right to reduce the salary of a man of the force without the advice of the City Council? A.—It was not the Chief, it was a clerk of the Recorder's Court, and him.

Q.—Are these three the Board of Police Commissioners? A.—No; the Recorder, the Judge of Sessions and the Mayor compose the Police Board.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—And this Board reduced your salary? A.—No; the Mayor was not on the Board when my salary was cut.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—How many men are there on the Quebec Police Force? A.—About fifty.

Q.—Two only have been reduced? A.—That is all. There were two the spring before last, and me this spring. There are only two now, one of these three has died since.

Q.—What used to be the salary paid to a policeman? Was it ever higher than \$1 a day? A.—No. The sergeants get six shillings and the constables a dollar.

Q.—That includes Sundays? A.—Oh, yes, seven days a week.

Q.—And it seems that you have not a very good record given you. You do not make a great many arrests? A.—That is all. They have nothing against me in any other way. There is not the scratch of a pen against me in twenty years, nor was I a minute late, and I was never brought before the Chief or the Police Commissioners.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Are there many men that you could have brought time and again before the Police Magistrate, whom you have told to go home? A.—Plenty. When I have seen them merry among themselves, I would say, "Go away home, and I will not arrest you," and in many other ways I might have made myself popular at the station. I might have made reports such as grocers, and others placing obstacles on the sidewalk. I would walk into the store, and say to the proprietor that it was contrary to the by-law, and tell him to remove them into his store, or I should have to report him and bring him before the court. Other policemen would not notify them at all, but would bring them before the court. Sometimes it did not cost them much, and other times it would.

Q.—Are you conscious of having let off any man that was guilty of an offence, well knowing that he should be punished? A.—No. I often have seen a man a little the worse for liquor, and I have assisted him home—let him off, but I did not think I was breaking any part of my duty; and another thing, I went to the Mayor and told him the cause, and he said it was the duty of a policeman not to persecute, that I was to assist and not to injure the public, and he promised to get my salary

raised, but I never heard anything more about it. Perhaps the Mayor did what he promised, and was not able to get it raised. I put in an application, by order of the Mayor, but one member never attended, and the Recorder was against me. The Mayor was for me.

Q.—Do you receive sixty cents a day for six days, or seven days? A.—Seven days, counting Sundays.

THOMAS LANE, Quebec, Machinist, sworn :—

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—How long have you been employed in the Cartridge Factory? A.—Five years and five months.

Q.—What are your working hours? A.—From seven in the morning until six at night.

Q.—There is a list of rules governing the Factory? A.—Yes.

Q.—One of the rules is that the factory is closed during working hours? A.—Yes. It is closed from the time you go there in the morning until noon, and again when you return at twelve-thirty.

Q.—Am I to understand that the factory is locked during these hours? A.—Yes; they have made that rule, but they never abide by it. Sometimes it is open at five minutes past eleven, and at other times according to humour; but I have gone to the factory three minutes late, and have been stopped, and have had to go home again. I have lost half a day by not being there exactly at half past twelve.

Q.—How many rules are there posted up in your establishment? A.—There are eight or ten. The foreman will make a rule every time he is in a bad temper. Every time he is in a bad temper he will put up a rule against the men.

Q.—What is the rule about keeping the tables cleaned? A.—That refers to the overseer; that is not in the machine shop.

Q.—What are the hours that you were engaged in the factory? A.—Ten and a half hours a day, five days in the week, with half an hour for dinner, and seven and a half hours on Saturday.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What wages do you receive? A.—I received one dollar and a half a day for one week, and after that two dollars a day. I spoke to the manager, and he said he would give me a rise of half a dollar, but the foreman was against me for the job, and I did not get it. I wrote to the Deputy Minister, and received a reply that he had it under consideration.

Q.—What wages are you getting now? A.—I am getting two dollars a day now.

Q.—I think you said the foreman stopped you from getting a rise? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many men are there engaged in the manufacture of cartridges? A.—I could not tell you. There are five or six departments.

Q.—How many machinists are there engaged? A.—There are four machinists and one overseer.

Q.—Are there any boys in the machine shop? A.—Yes; two.

Q.—Are they learning the trade? A.—There is not much of a trade to be learned there.

Q.—What wages do the boys earn? A.—Forty cents a day, one of them; and last week one of them was raised from forty-five to fifty cents a day.

Q.—What do the boys do? A.—One of the boys works in the factory at the machines; and the other boy worked at the plumbing business before. He has been in there about three months.

Q.—What are the ages of these boys? A.—One is sixteen, and the other is nineteen.

Q.—Are there any rules in the shop fining the men for any of these offences?

A.—No; not in the shop—there are, outside the factory. They are regular mechanics. There is a rule regarding the ticket box.

Q.—What is this ticket box? A.—You get a ticket at night time when you go home, and you have got to put it in there. William Roberts is number one; I am number two. If I lose that ticket going home, I have got to find it. If I cannot find it, the foreman takes me to the superintendent, and they believe my statement, or not, as they please. The first night when I received my ticket, I forgot what I was to do with it, and put it into the box. One of the boys heard the noise, and stopped me, and said I was doing wrong. The next morning the overseer stopped me; I had forgotten all about it. And in order to conform to the rules, I wrote my number on a piece of paper, and put it in the box, and went into the machine shop, when the little boy reminded me that I had put my ticket in the box the previous night. I thought it would be all right; so about half-past nine the foreman came to me, and the overseer had the tickets ranged out on a square board. He said, "Where is your ticket." I said I put it in by mistake last night; and he said he would not believe me, and that I did it on purpose, so as to stop away five or ten minutes in the morning, so as to make my time good.

Q.—How long has the rule been in force? A.—About having these checks?

Q.—Yes. A.—Five or six weeks; not more.

Q.—Who made that rule, the superintendent, or both of them? A.—Yes; the Major makes these rules.

Q.—Are you aware who makes the rules—is it the foreman or the superintendent? A.—Yes; the Major made that rule.

Q.—Do you remember a party named McLean, who received four cents for a week's work? A.—Yes; he lives down the Cove.

Q.—And another named Halsey who received seven cents? A.—I heard of that.

Q.—Are you aware of boys playing during meal hours and being fined five cents a piece for it? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you ever hear of a pair of rubbers being stolen, and forty-five of the employees, including the girl who lost the rubbers, being fined five cents a piece for the rubbers? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know where these fines go to? A.—No. I do not.

Q.—What are the sanitary conditions of the place? A.—Well. There is one room, where they make the clay plugs which go to the end of the bullet, that the roof of is rather low.

Q.—Have you heard anything of people being paid when they are sick? A.—I was away Friday and Saturday. I had my arm in a sling.

Q.—You did not have medical attendance? A.—No.

Q.—Were you paid for the time you lost? A.—No.

Q.—Were your injuries received accidentally? A.—Yes.

Q.—It was an accident? A.—Yes. The lathes that we have there are of a very old style, and the back gear was covered. I was doing a job for a "base cup" and the foreman came in, and showed me the style he wanted, and in the course of my work I put my hand at the back, and the gear caught my finger and brought it in. I stopped the machine, and that was how it happened. A little girl one day had her hand caught, and one of the mechanics, who is not there now, shifted the belt; but for him she would have lost her hand. As it was she did lose one joint. He is in Toronto now.

Q.—Are they taught that they must not interfere with the dangerous parts of the machinery? A.—They are taught, but they want some one to look over them.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you think it proper work for a child ? A.—No.

Q.—What are their ages ? A.—They look pretty small. Some look as though they were eleven, and some ten—some look like seven, in the factory.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are there a good many there that cannot read and write ? A.—Yes.

Q.—What would be the ages of the oldest of these ? A.—Some are as old as seventeen or eighteen.

Q.—How often are you paid ? A.—Every Saturday afternoon.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Do you know how many there are in the factory ? A.—No. They are short handed to day.

Q.—How much do these girls receive ? A.—I cannot say.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Who employs these hands ? A.—The girls?

Q.—Yes ? A.—The foreman.

Q.—Is the foreman a long time there ? A.—Yes; he came out before the machinery; he was at home in England before that.

Q.—Do the boys and girls work in the same departments as the mechanics ? A.—No; They work in the factory. We work across the yard in the machine shop.

Q.—Can all the machinery be protected ? A.—Some can, and some cannot. In going around the disc they put out their hands, and get caught.

Q.—Is it their business to go round that disc ? A.—They would break a punch or break a disc, if they did not go round the disc.

— — —
(Translation.)

TÉLESPHORE FONTAINE, of Quebec, Laborer, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Are you a laborer ? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What wages do you generally earn, in summer, as a laborer ? A.—I earned one dollar a day last summer.

Q.—Had you work every day during the summer ? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How much do you get in winter ? A.—In winter we were paid four shillings; for a while we were paid four shillings, and afterwards one dollar a day.

Q.—You earned one dollar a day this winter ? A.—Yes, sir; part of the time.

Q.—When—in what month ? A.—Last month (February).

Q.—And were the wages reduced ? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What was the reduction ? A.—One shilling a day.

Q.—Are eighty cents the wages you get now ? A.—At that time, we worked eight hours a day, and now we work ten hours. I don't know whether they will give us more, for we have not been paid since we began to work ten hours.

Q.—Were you paid eighty cents for eight hours work, the last time you were paid ? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—When were you last paid ? A.—It will be seven weeks to-morrow night.

Q.—Have the hours been increased during these last seven weeks ? A.—They have been increased by two hours a day.

Q.—Do you now work 10 hours a day? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—At what hour do you begin work? A.—We begin at 7 in the morning.

Q.—And at what hour do you finish? A.—At half-past five.

Q.—And has nothing been said about it? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Before, when you were paid 80 cents, were you paid by the day or by the hour? A.—By the day, \$1.

Q.—And now you work 10 hours, and they have not told you what you will be paid? A.—No, sir.

Q.—You say the last payment was seven weeks ago? A.—Seven weeks.

Q.—You have not received a cent for 7 weeks? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Have you asked for money? A.—No, sir.

Q.—How do you expect to be paid if you do not ask for money? A.—I don't know.

Q.—About how many men work with you? A.—35 or 36 men.

Q.—Did none of them ever ask the master for money? A.—I cannot say.

Q.—But did you not unite to ask? A.—No, sir.

Q.—At what do you work? A.—Masonry.

Q.—Are you hired by the day, the week or the month? A.—By the day.

Q.—Are the masons paid? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Is no one paid? A.—I do not think so. I don't think any one is paid.

Q.—How many workmen are there in all? A.—35 in all, including masons and laborers.

Q.—What was the ordinary pay day, seven weeks ago? How often were you paid? A.—Every fortnight.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Did it ever occur before, that you were not paid at the end of the fortnight? A.—No, sir. Always paid correctly. This is the first time.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you expect now to be paid? A.—I think so.

By Mr. HELBBONNER:—

Q.—Does not receiving your pay irregularly put you to some trouble? A.—Yes sir.

Q.—You are obliged to buy on credit? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—And you pay dearer? A.—Certainly.

Q.—Which still further reduces your wages? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you think you will receive higher wages for having worked 10 hours instead of 8? A.—I can't say. He did not tell us.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Is one dollar a day the regular summer wages of labourers in Quebec? A.—No, sir.

Q.—What are the regular wages? A.—Often four shillings, or five shillings and a-half.

Q.—How many hours do labourers work, on an average, for eighty or ninety cents a day? A.—Ten hours a day.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Then, the wages of one dollar a day, paid you last summer, were higher wages than labourers generally receive in Quebec? A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Can you give this Commission any information concerning the houses generally inhabited by labourers in Quebec? Are they comfortable? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Well built? A.—Yes, sir; well built.

Q.—How many rooms, on an average, do these houses contain? A.—It depends; sometimes two; sometimes three.

Q.—What rent do you pay for a house of two or three rooms? A.—Three dollars or three dollars and fifty cents.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Are the drains good? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Are they well aired—are the drains good? A.—There are none of any kind.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are there privies to each dwelling? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Is the water from the city put into each dwelling? A.—No, sir.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you take water from wells? A.—No; we carry water. There are water-carriers who bring water from the St. Roch aqueduct.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are these drains running from each dwelling to the drains in the street? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you know of houses in which men and women are obliged to sleep in the same room? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you pay for the water brought by the carriers? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How much do you pay? A.—Ten cents a barrel.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—And you pay the Corporation besides that? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—You do not live in Quebec? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you pay for city water besides what you pay the carriers? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How much do you pay? A.—A couple of dollars.

Q.—You pay for water you do not get? A.—Yes, sir.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH FORTIER, of Quebec, Joiner, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Are you a foreman joiner? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What wages do joiners receive during the summer? A.—Not always the same. All shops do not pay the same wages.

Q.—What, on an average? A.—Last summer some were paid here \$1.40 for ten hours, and others were paid \$1.50.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—What are the highest summer wages paid, in the city, to joiners? A.—I think \$1.50 was the highest amount given. Some shops paid less than that.

Q.—What are the lowest wages? A.—In summer, they should not be less than \$1.

Q.—Do carpenters get the same wages? A.—Carpenters get the lowest wages, because they work with joiners.

Q.—Do carpenters then receive only \$1 a day, on an average? A.—\$1. But there are carpenters who have worked here, and have been paid the same as joiners, that is to say, \$1.40.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—What makes the difference of the price paid to joiners? Is it because they work in different shops, or because some of them are more able than others? A.—When they work in the same shop, the difference is caused by the difference in the ability of the men. But in other shops some men, who work as well as others, are not paid as much. It all depends on their agreement with the contractors.

Q.—What are the wages of a foreman joiner? A.—It depends. In shops where there are not many men, the foreman receives less. He may get 60 or 75 cents more than an ordinary workman. There are exceptions too.

Q.—Have you any objection to state what you, yourself earn? A.—At the present time, and for ten hours work, I earn \$3 a day.

Q.—Did you earn more in summer? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Is there constant work for joiners in Quebec? A.—A certain number have constant work, but there are some inferior hands who have to do without a part of the year.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—How long have you been in the employ of your present master? A.—I have been working for the same master for 13 months.

Q.—How many hours a day did you work in the beginning? A.—13 months ago, I worked 10 hours.

Q.—And the summer? A.—Ten hours.

Q.—You have always worked ten hours? A.—We began in the beginning or middle of November, to work ten hours. In the beginning or middle of November we began to work eight hours, and we worked eight hours a day till the middle of January, if I am not mistaken.

Q.—Did you always receive the same pay? A.—Yes, sir; only when I began, I did not earn \$3, now I earn \$3.

Q.—How much did you earn when you first began? A.—\$1.75 or \$1.50; I don't remember.

Q.—Are you a foreman? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How often were you paid, every week or every fortnight? A.—Every fortnight.

Q.—Have you always been paid regularly? A.—Until the 14th of January last.

Q.—Have you been paid anything since the 14th of January last? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Did you ask? A.—Yes; I asked if we were to be paid such or such a day, and I was always put off from one week to another. But, since the 23rd of December, the work has, in a sort of way, changed hands. Just now we working by the day for the Government, we are working in this very building, (the Court House), just now. Before the 23rd of December, the contractors were supposed to be under contract, and since the 23rd of December the work is done, by the day, for the Government.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Who do you think will pay you, the contractor or the Government? A.—The contractor, if he receives money from the Government, for on the 14th of January, our last pay day, the contractor told the workmen: “Now, I will not be able to pay you until I receive money from the Government.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do you know whether your men have suffered from not being paid? A.—I have no personal experience, but I have heard it said among the men, that many were straitened by it, that they were in need of wood, and that the grocers had refused to give them further credit.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—The contractors said to you: “I will not be able to pay you until I receive money from the Government?” A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do you know if any of the workmen have sickness in their families? A.—I heard that the wife of one of the workmen was very ill, but he has not come to work for some days, and I cannot say.

Q.—When do you expect to be paid? A.—We expect to be paid to-morrow.

Q.—Do you know if the men are paid for eight or ten hours work now that they work ten hours? A.—They increased their hours of work without notifying them whether they would increase their wages or not.

Q.—They increased their hours of work without notifying them whether they would increase their wages or not? A.—No; they did not say that they would pay in proportion to the wages earned.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Are there machines in the shop you work in? A.—There is only one.

Q.—What sort of machine? A.—It is a machine to mortise the wood.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do they use many machines to work wood in other shops in Quebec? A.—Only in the factories for doors and windows.

Q.—Have you ever worked in any of these factories? A.—No.

Q.—Is there a Union of Carpenters and joiners at Quebec? A.—I do not belong to any, I cannot say from my own knowledge.

Q.—Is there much work at Quebec for joiners? A.—At present there is enough. Several men left here and the greater number have found situations. I would state that several men, who were discharged eight days ago, have found situations elsewhere in Quebec.

(Translation.)

NAPOLÉON CHAMBERLAND, of Quebec, Painter, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—You are a painter? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Is there a difference between the wages in summer and winter? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What is the average wages of a painter during the summer? A.—There

are several classes of painters. In summer, there are some that get wages not too high, and some that get still less.

Q.—What are the highest wages that a painter can get in Quebec? A.—One dollar and fifty cents.

Q.—For how many hours of work? A.—Ten hours a day.

Q.—What are the lowest wages? A.—In summer one dollar a day, one dollar and twenty cents, one dollar and twenty-five cents.

Q.—Would the man who receives one dollar and fifty cents in one shop, get a dollar in another, or is his skill acknowledged everywhere? A.—That depends on the masters. There are workmen who cannot earn one dollar and fifty cents.

Q.—Do you think that a workman that earns one dollar and fifty cents might earn but one dollar in another shop? A.—I don't know.

Q.—What are the wages in winter? A.—Eighty cents. But the wages in winter in some shops is one dollar a day, of eight hours. One dollar is the highest given.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Can you give us the reason why wages are reduced so much in winter?
A.—I think it is because the masters will not pay more.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Is there much work in winter? A.—There is not much.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Is there much work for painters at Quebec? A.—In spring, there may be a couple of months when work is pressing; but after that it is not very plentiful.

Q.—Do painters do whitewashing and other work than the painting of houses?
A.—I think not.

Q.—Do you do paper-hanging? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—How are painters paid, every eight days, or every fifteen days? A.—Some shops pay every eight days; and others every fifteen.

Q.—How much do you get at present? A.—One dollar and fifty cents.

Q.—Are you paid every fortnight? A.—Yes; every fortnight.

Q.—Are you paid regularly? A.—No; for seven weeks we have not been paid.

Q.—Did you ask for payment? A.—I did not ask; but I was told that others who asked, did not get anything.

Q.—Why did you not ask for your money? Were you afraid of being dismissed?
A.—No; but hearing that the others, who asked, were put off from day to day, I thought I would not fare any better, and that it was no use to ask.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Before these seven weeks, were you paid regularly, and at stated times?
A.—Yes, sir; regularly every fifteen days since I have worked there.

Q.—Were you paid on Monday? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you know whether among painters there are some who are not paid in money, but who received orders on stores? A.—I can't say that I was paid in goods, I was always paid in money—I mistake, I worked in a shop last spring—a year ago last spring; we were obliged to take "Bons" notes, to be paid. Without these we might have waited a long while and perhaps lost our money.

Q.—What kind of "Bons" or orders were you given? A.—It was an order, a note to be changed, a promissory note: "I promise to pay in thirty days the sum of—"

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—What did you do with that note? A.—I got it changed.

Q.—Did it cost you anything? A.—One dollar, and the note was for twenty.

Q.—Did you change it in a bank or with somebody in connection with your master? A.—With a broker.

Q.—Did your master send you there or did you go of your own accord? A.—My master told me to go there. They were two, the master and the clerk.

Q.—Then the master gave you a note of twenty dollars to pay your wages, and sent you to the broker he pointed out, who paid you the note and retained one dollar? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you know if the same thing happened often to other workmen? A.—I only heard it.

Q.—How many workmen were there in that shop? A.—We were between twenty-seven and thirty.

Q.—Were you the only one among these twenty or thirty who was paid in that way? A.—I was the only one to the best of my knowledge.

Q.—Are you obliged to buy, what you need, on credit, now? A.—No; but I am obliged to owe for my board. I am boarding.

Q.—Have they confidence in you? A.—If we get paid we will pay them; it is not certain.

Q.—Have they threatened to turn you out? A.—No, sir; not yet, but if this lasts, it may happen before long.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you know if the wages of Quebec workmen are often seized for debt? A.—I have no knowledge of it.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—How many painters work with you, and have not been paid for seven weeks? A.—Just now we are only seven, but four weeks ago, we were sixteen. For four weeks we are seven.

Q.—Were the nine that left paid when they left? A.—No; they were not paid, and there are some that left six weeks ago that have not been paid. Seven weeks ago we were twenty-six.

Q.—Have any of them left the city? A.—I don't think so.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Were those men that left, discharged or did they leave of themselves? A.—They were discharged.

Q.—Were they given "Bons" for what was due them? A.—No, sir.

(Translation.)

CHARLES ROBITAILLE, of Quebec, Mechanician, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Where do you work at present? A.—At the Government cartridge factory.

Q.—What position do you hold? A.—That of first cartridge tool-maker.

Q.—Do you work at tool making or at the manufacture of cartridges? A.—At tool making.

Q.—What kind of tools do you manufacture? A.—All the tools necessary for the manufacture of the different kinds of cartridges.

Q.—Are the machines you employ in manufacturing these cartridges in a good condition? A.—We are not properly organized; the machines are not of the right

kind, nor good enough of their kind, to do the work properly, so that it gives us more work and more trouble and discomfort than necessary.

Q.—Are the machines defective? A.—They are defective.

Q.—How many hours a day do you work? A.—Ten hours and a half, but this extra half hour is to gain three hours on Saturday, and we have only half an hour for our dinner.

Q.—When are you paid? A.—Every week.

Q.—Regularly, and in money? A.—Regularly, and in money.

Q.—Are children employed? A.—Little boys and little girls.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—What are the wages given to the men in your department? A.—The men in my department get two dollars, two dollars and twenty-five cents, and two dollars and fifty cents.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—What is the age of the youngest child working at the cartridge factory? A.—I am not quite sure.

Q.—But how old do you think, judging from its size? A.—Some I should think to be about eleven years old, some twelve or thirteen. There are very few of them now, there were more of them employed some years ago.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—What are the wages given to these children? A.—I can't exactly say, but very small wages. One of my own boys works there, and he has only forty cents a day. He is nineteen years old. I kept him at school until last year.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Has he just begun to work? A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—What is the age of the youngest little girl? A.—I can't exactly say.

Q.—How many hours a day do these children work? A.—Children work the same as grown people, ten hours.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—In what department of the factory do these children work? A.—In the department of cartridge making.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—What is their work? Do they fill the cartridges? A.—They place the pieces. All the pieces are made by machinery.

Q.—Do they work at the machines? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Is not that dangerous? A.—Yes, sir. Many boys and little girls have had the end of their fingers cut off.

Q.—Have you, yourself, witnessed these accidents? A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Do the children receive any compensation for the injuries they receive? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that any of these children have been rendered unfit for work by reason of these accidents? A.—No, sir; I don't think so.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do these children always work near the machines? A.—Yes, sir. They are often changed from one to another. Generally, they work at the same machine. Some roll cartridges by hand; others work at the machines.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Who puts them to such dangerous work? Who is the person authorized to put children to such machines? A.—It is the children themselves that come and ask for work.

Q.—But, does not the foreman direct them where to work, telling one to work here, and another there? A.—Certainly, it is the foreman who puts them to work.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—And these children lose their fingers by the machines at which they are set to work? A.—But it is often due to their own imprudence, too.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—But are these children not taught to work at these machines before being put regularly to them? A.—Yes, sir. They are taught.

By Mr. HELBRONNER —

Q.—Do you know if there are children who earn but twenty cents a day? A.—Yes, sir; there are some. There were some that earned less, they are very few now, but when there were more of them, there were some that earned less than that.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Was their work worth more than that? A.—I can't say, our occupations do not permit us to notice these things.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—How long has this manufactory been in existence? A.—For six years.

Q.—How many children, to your knowledge, have been maimed by these machines during these six years? A.—I know of five or six.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is there a system of fines in the cartridge factory? A.—I heard it mentioned, but I don't know.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You have been working six years, since the factory opened? A.—Yes, sir. It will be six years at the end of this month.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Have you any objection to state what are the wages you receive now? A.—Two dollars and fifty cents per day. I left a much better place to come here, I was in the United States.

Q.—Did they send for you to the United States, or did you ask for the place? A.—I had asked for the place before leaving, and they brought me on.

Q.—Had you been promised higher wages than those you now receive? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do the men working under you, and the other foremen complain of their wages? A.—Yes, sir; they complain, but there is no one under me, I am simply a workman. We all work under the foreman.

Q.—But what do the workmen in your department receive? A.—Some receive two dollars, and some two dollars and a half. It is a very difficult work and very fatiguing.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Are fines imposed in your department? A.—No, sir. We do not need them either.

Q.—Are children employed in your department? A.—No, sir. There are two apprentice-mechanicians.

Q.—How old are they? A.—One is nineteen years old, and the other is about the same. I can't say.

Q.—How much do they earn? A.—Forty cents a day.

Q.—Have you any information to give this Commission beyond the questions asked you? A.—Much. I have many things to say about the wages of workmen in general. They are not paid altogether what they should get. For instance, in my own case, I have for five years past, asked for an increase of wages. Having worked there for six years. I am one of the first workmen, and I have never had an increase. I have had forty years' experience and I know all the parts of the business thoroughly.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are there women and young girls, other than the little girls you mentioned, employed in the factory? A.—Yes, sir. There are big girls.

(Translation.)

ZOËL FORGUES, of Quebec, Tool Machinist, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—You work at the Cartridge factory at the present time? A.—Yes, sir. I work in the same department as the last witness (Charles Robitaille), as too machinist.

Q.—Have you work just now? A.—No; they discharged me two weeks ago.

Q.—You have heard the evidence of the last witness? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Have you anything to add to that evidence or to alter in it? A.—I would like to be questioned further.

Q.—Why were you discharged? A.—It would be very long to tell, and also very short.

Q.—Try to tell it the short way? A.—I was discharged—I can't tell why. myself. It will be three years next month that I have worked in the cartridge factory, I was sent there by order; I had not asked to go.

Q.—You worked there three years? A.—Nearly three years, till the month of June last when I was discharged. I asked the reason, it was simply because I was too often sick, I lost work too often; and yet when I went into the factory, as I was not very strong in health, I made it a condition that when I lost work I should simply not be paid for the time I lost. When I lost a day, I was not paid for that day.

Q.—You were discharged last June? A.—At the end of May, I was five or six weeks without working.

Q.—You were ill? A.—No, sir; I worked. I appealed to the minister, as many others might do, and they sent me a letter telling me to return to work, and I went back to the factory. But two weeks ago, I was discharged for the second time.

Q.—Was any reason given you for so doing, if there was one at all? A.—They

gave me none. They told me simply; no work. That is all the reason they gave me.

Q.—That is the reason they gave you? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you of the opinion there was another reason? A.—Yes.

Q.—Tell it? A.—I am of opinion that there was ill-will against me.

Q.—On whose part? A.—On the part of the foreman.

Q.—Were you under the direct orders of the foreman? A.—Yes; that is, there was a superintendent, but we never spoke to him; only to the foreman.

Q.—You never appealed to the superintendent? A.—No, sir.

Q.—What was the cause of the foreman's ill-will against you? A.—It was that, during one entire week, during six days, I had only been able to work the value of fifteen hours. The man was drunk, had no sense; therefore there was no one to give out work at the end of the week, I had not done the work I should have done in six days, having worked only fifteen hours on account of this man's drunkenness.

Q.—Did you lay the matter before the Superintendent? Did you appeal to him against your discharge? A.—Not the last time.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Nor to the Minister? A.—No, sir.

Q.—You say the Minister had given you back your situation? A.—Yes, sir; the first time.

Q.—Why would he not do the same now? A.—Because I tried to get my father in again, who was also discharged, and I did not succeed. I noticed the foreman's hatred against me after one day's absence. He obliged me to show a doctor's certificate, for which I had to pay fifty cents, besides the lost time.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—You say that the foreman was drunk. Did any of the other workmen in the shop notice it? A.—Yes, sir.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—It was your duty to give information of it to the Minister also? A.—If the superintendent noticed it, it was not my duty to report.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Have you anything else to say? A.—I would like to speak of the ability of these men.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Say nothing as to the ability of these men. Tell us what you have yourself to complain of, if you have been badly treated; we are ready to hear you on that subject; but do not speak of other's ability. A.—I was ill-treated in this way: they gave me tools to make, and they would not accept them; the work was good. One similar was made, and that they accepted. Two similar tools—one was accepted and the other was rejected.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Did they pay you for the rejected tool? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Were you paid by the day? A.—By the week; I had two dollars and twenty-five cents a day.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Why was the tool you made rejected? What was done with it? A.—It was cast aside. They told me it was no good.

● By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—But you were paid for it? A.—I was paid for it. It was the foreman rejected it. The superintendent was not present.

(Translation.)

ALPHONSE DROLET, Quebec, Mechanician, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do you work at the Cartridge Factory? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Have you heard the evidence of the last witnesses? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Have you anything to add to their evidence or any statement to contradict?

A.—No, sir; I can fully corroborate their evidence. The only difference between them and me is that I am in the shell department. I work as tool maker at times, but my department is that for making shells.

Q.—Are you in the department where they fill the shells? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Is there anything particular about your department that has not been explained by the other witnesses? A.—No; we are not far enough advanced for that.

Q.—Do children work in your department? A.—There are only two apprentices.

Q.—What are their ages? A.—16 to 19 years.

Q.—Have you any complaint to make? A.—No, sir; I have no complaint to make. Only they do not fulfil all their obligations. They engaged us for two months at two dollars and our wages have not been increased. They should have discharged us all at the end of two months if they did not wish to increase our wages.

Q.—Have you any other complaint to make? A.—No; not that I know of.

Q.—Are the cartridges or howitzers or shells filled in the department in which you work? A.—No, sir. We have filled large and small shells, since I am there, in my department, but it was in a separate room and as an experiment. After one experiment they had filled a shell and could not take off the gas check; the shell was full of powder, and they brought it to me to cut the gas check.

Q.—They had not warned you that it was full? A.—They only told me they had wet it, had I known there was powder in it, I would not have cut it.

March 3rd, 1888.

LAWRENCE STAFFORD, of Quebec, Emigration Agent, sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—We understand you are Emigration Agent for the Dominion of Canada? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you reside in Quebec? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it your duty, or part of your duty to see to the emigrants on their arrival at the Port of Quebec? A.—Yes; I see most of them. We are at the ship on its arrival. The ship has to get a clearance from us. I do it. We have a form printed, and I or my assistant fill it up.

Q.—Does your field of duty extend beyond Quebec? A.—Yes; all over the Dominion.

Q.—Do you take cognizance of others, besides emigrants who arrive by steerage? A.—Saloon passengers, as a rule, know how to take care of themselves. Still, some of them call upon us. Some of them have letters of introduction to the Emi-

gration Agent, or they want information about some part or another for Canada, and we always give them the best information we can.

Q.—Do you keep statements, showing the ages, sexes, nationalities, and so on, of arriving emigrants? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any means of determining whether those emigrants who arrive pay their own passage, or are aided by societies, or by charitable organizations in the old Country? A.—On the arrival of a steamship we see the passenger list, but there is nothing on that that would give us this information.

Q.—Are you able to tell us what means steerage passengers, as a rule, have when they arrive at the Port of Quebec? A.—No.

Q.—Do you make any enquiries in order to find out? A.—Well, to a very limited extent. The steerage passengers, as a rule, are not very wealthy, still there are a good many amongst them who are what are called intermediate passengers, and when we come to have a conversation with them, by degrees they commence to talk over their prospects, and then we are generally able to tell whether they are persons of means or not.

Q.—About what proportion of the emigrants arriving at this Port require financial assistance? A.—Well, this assistance varies at times. Until eighteen hundred and seventy-one, after Confederation, from the time the emigrants began to arrive here by steamers in large numbers, the portion requiring assistance was very small indeed. The great majority of them come here in possession of through tickets, paid to their destinations in the Province of Ontario, and in the Province of Quebec. Finally, the Governments, particularly that of the Province of Ontario, came to the conclusion that as emigrants of all classes were in such demand throughout the country, and were so very profitable to the country, that they ought to be granted free passes from Quebec to wherever they wished to go, if they did not possess the means to pay their passage, or were possessed of very little money. I recollect at that time my opinion was asked as to what effect this would have, and I said it would tend to increase the number of emigrants very much indeed. And not only that year, but the following years, free tickets were granted emigrants to their destination, and very few paid their passage beyond Quebec. This continued, I think, until the latter part of eighteen hundred and seventy-five, when the free ticket system was practically abolished. I think it was in eighteen hundred and seventy-one that the arrangement was entered into.

Q.—Was there not a conference of Provincial and Dominion Ministers at which that was settled? A.—Yes; the Hon. Mr. Duncan was our Minister. I think it was in eighteen hundred and seventy-one.

Q.—Was not the Hon. Mr. Letellier acting for the Dominion at that time? A.—No.

Q.—This is a matter of history, of course. To what parts of the Dominion do the steerage emigrants mostly go? A.—Up to the present time, the majority have always gone to Ontario, very largely, more than half. I may say three-fourths go to Ontario. Latterly, of course, within the last few years, since the Canadian Pacific Railway has been opened, a considerable number have gone to Manitoba and the Northwest.

Q.—Is there much demand for these emigrants in the province of Quebec? A.—There is in the Eastern Townships, but here, in the province of Quebec, there is comparatively no demand, except for a few household servants and farm hands. Farm hands are always in demand.

Q.—Is there any demand in this province for mechanics? A.—Not much outside the city of Montreal—occasionally in the Eastern Townships there is.

Q.—Are you able to supply the demand for any class of mechanics that is made upon you? A.—Not always at the time.

Q.—What proportion of the emigrants arriving would be adults? A.—About two-thirds—probably one-third would be children and infants, that is to say, children under twelve years of age.

Q.—Do many single young women come to Canada? A.—A considerable number. There is a considerable number of single girls come out attached to their families, but the number who are single, and who come out by themselves is not so large.

Q.—Is the demand for single young women, as domestic servants, greater than the supply? A.—The demand is far ahead of the supply, and always has been.

Q.—Do you know if it is a cause of hardship to emigrants in consequence of their arriving late in the season? A.—Well, it is always more difficult in October to find employment in farm work, and it is not to their advantage to come after the first of October. In fact after the first of October it would not be advisable to come. I have always been of that opinion.

Q.—Do you think it wise of these people to come here at the beginning of winter except they are coming to friends? A.—No, I think it is not wise except they are coming to friends.

Q.—Can you give information respecting children of either sex who are sent to Canada by charitable organizations? A.—We see these children at Quebec when they arrive. They land here every spring and summer—I do not know much about them. They all go to Ontario, and a certain number of these children—far the larger number—are children who are sent out and brought out by philanthropists who take them to homes at Knowlton and Belleville, keep them there a certain time and then find them homes amongst charitable people with the assurance that they will be well treated and cared for. Another portion of emigrants are the inmates of Poor Law Unions, and these Poor Law Unions pay certain parties nine, ten or eleven pounds a head upon their underraking to place them in Canada and it is done. The Imperial Government has got something to say in the matter and it is this: That they be visited by each Dominion Government Agent who personally certifies that they are well and gives a report of each individual that the Poor Laws of Great Britain have consented should emigrate. Others are merely orphans taken up promiscuously. I do not know that our Government has any control over them. They are hired out and some are educated by the parties who take them. They have a particular form of engagement. These are sent out by Doctor Barnardo—a gentleman who has done much good among the poor of the east end of London—Miss Macpherson, Miss Rye and others. Her children are also engaged under a certain form of engagement. I do not know if these forms are all alike; I do not presume they are, but they have some printed form which they make the parties sign.

Q.—Has it ever been any part of your duty to make an examination of the children after they have been placed out? A.—It has.

Q.—What is your experience of the children, do they do well? A.—I think so. Well, personally I cannot answer, it is my assistant who sees to this. There are a certain number placed in the district of Rimouski. These are Catholic children. They were placed there by the Rev. Cardinal Manning, and the report is very favorable. These children are placed out with good people, and are strong, and healthy. They are chiefly placed out with families.

Q.—Do these children impress you as being physically sound, and likely to grow up, and be strong and healthy? A.—Such is my opinion.

Q.—I suppose you have not been able to judge of their moral character? A.—No; we would not know about that, particularly at the time; but what these people say is, that the children are well behaved and obedient, and they take a great deal of pains to give them a good moral religious training.

Q.—Have you any statistics, at hand, which will enable you to know if it is likely or not that these children will turn out bad, and get into the reformatories and prisons? A.—No; not at all.

Q.—Have you any idea of the number of these children that become dependent on charity? A.—No; I have not. The greater number are in Ontario, and it would

require me to have some means of information, that I have not got, in order to be able to answer you.

Q.—So far as you have knowledge of the placing of these children, do they remain where they are placed or do they wander away after a while? A.—That is another thing I am not in a position to say, but from what I am told, I am of the opinion that most of them remain where they are placed. I have no doubt, at all, that some of the bigger ones will change their situations and places of residence, in so large a country as this, and where it is so convenient, in many cases, for them to cross the Line. If a person is not contented, no doubt it would be hard to keep him, if they are of a good size.

Q.—When a male or female emigrant receives what is called an assisted passage, a certificate is required from the other side? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the nature of that certificate? A.—The nature of that certificate is, they have applied to some person of respectability and responsibility, either a clergyman or a magistrate, in their immediate neighborhood, that they have a good character, and that they are proceeding to Canada with the intention of settling there.

Q.—Has it been part of your duty to examine these certificates? A.—It has in a great many cases.

Q.—Do you consider that it would be possible that a clergyman, or a man representing himself to be a clergyman, could go on board a steamship, at Liverpool, and sign these certificates in bulk, without knowing or seeing the person for whom he signs the certificates? A.—It is quite possible that it could be done, but I do not think it very probable.

Q.—Have these people come to you with certificates in their hands bearing the same signature, and in the same handwriting, one after another? A.—The emigrants do not carry them. These certificates, upon which the emigrants have been accustomed to get an assisted passage, are given to the steamship owners.

Q.—A witness in Montreal testified before this Commission that when in Liverpool he saw an agent who assumed to be a clergyman come into some part of the ship and sign these certificates one after the other, or at least the envelopes in which he believed them to be placed. He says that he saw him sign them in batches without knowing their contents? A.—If he did that it was only the purser of the ship, the emigrant keeps possession of a form and I think that it is on that form generally that he gets the cheap ticket.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Must not an emigrant have a certificate before he gets his ticket? A.—Yes. But he leaves it with the agent of the steamship at the office.

Q.—If he had it duly signed would not any clergyman or a person apparently a clergyman countersign these certificates? A.—It would not be necessary, not on board, because it is presumed that before he gets that ticket he has proved his character. The ticket agent is the only one who would do anything of that kind.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Might it not be that the clergyman was a member of some of these charitable societies, and that other members had certified to him as President or spiritual director, as to the character of these emigrants? A.—I do not know. When the children get these society passages, I never see any of these applications for cheap passage—not on the part of children, but it is agricultural families and grown up people apart from the children that would get them.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What proportion of the emigrants who land in Quebec are undesirable? A.—A very small proportion.

Q.—Would there be any of these people who from physical causes are unable to earn their own living? A.—Most of them would be able to earn their own living on account of age. Some lads find their way out here, town lads, that we have not always got work in the town for, and, as they have been accustomed to town life, they give some trouble. These are the lads that give most trouble and in many places both in Liverpool, Glasgow and Bristol they just hide down in the hold before the ship starts and perhaps do not turn up for many days, and come here as city waifs. We have had as many as one hundred to one hundred and fifty a year, land in Quebec. I do not know any possible way of putting an end to this sort of thing. The only way that I know of would be to make the ship take them back. The ship goes up the river to Montreal and generally a few minutes before she leaves the wharf, out jumps a few of these boys.

Q.—Do you know what the general character of these stowaway boys are? A.—In asking them, they generally say they have worked as labourers about wharves, foundries and places where ships come from, and they generally want to get work in the cities.

Q.—What is their general character? A.—Some of them, when they get money, will not work.

Q.—Do you know any kind of emigrants who come out from the Redhill Reformatory, near London? A.—Yes; they have got an agent in Melbourne, P.Q.

Q.—What is the age of the boys? A.—They are grown up boys of from sixteen to eighteen.

Q.—Can you tell us if they are a desirable class of emigrants? A.—Mr. Cole, who lives at Melbourne, gets paid for that; he gets something for placing them out. It is a farm school where they come from; a kind of reformatory in Surrey, England. And these Redhill boys have been pretty good boys.

Q.—I mean morally? A.—I cannot tell.

Q.—How are they physically? A.—Physically, they are a good healthy class of emigrants.

Q.—What do you think of the self-help Emigration Society? A.—I think they send out a pretty good class of emigrants. We cannot tell them when they land here; but I know personally. I am acquainted with some of the members of the Society, and of course they are philanthropists who subscribe money; and they are something like the other Society of London, of which the late Honorable Lady Herbert was Secretary, the summer before last. Then we were having all females; and I think the self-help Emigration Society is running pretty much in the same groove as this.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you find any great demand for mechanics? A.—Occasionally for some stone masons and some carpenters.

Q.—What demand did you have the past year for mechanics; and for what places? A.—Some were from Ottawa; some were from Hamilton; some were from London; and some were from the Eastern Townships. But the demand was not for large numbers. I have had applications at times for some particular kind of labour, such as weavers, at Hamilton—I think cotton weavers.

Q.—Do you know if the parties who made the demand were the managers of the factories in those neighbourhoods, and builders? A.—I presume so.

Q.—Did it ever strike you that these demands were occasioned on account of labour troubles? A.—I do not think so; they were not in sufficient numbers for that.

Q.—Do you know if any of these mechanics have received assisted passages, on the plea of being farm labourers? A.—Well, I do not know. It think it is quite possible that some of them may have received passage tickets in that way. I would not be able to tell them, for when the passenger list is made out, it is not so easy to tell. The Purser takes that list, and he will not be exact in giving them. Most of

them are labourers who come on board, and he finds it more convenient to put them down as labourers.

Q.—Do the steamship companies take proper care to find out if they are mechanics? A.—I think they merely sell them a ticket and allow them to go on board.

Q.—They do not see whether they have got their tools, and whether these tools are farming implements or a carpenter's or machinist's tools? A.—They are examined by the Emigration Commissioner, who see that none but healthy people go on board. I do not think any steps are taken to find out what trade a man is.

Q.—You do not know if any steps are taken to see whether the description on the passenger list is correct? A.—No.

Q.—These parties who were sent out by Miss Rye, Dr. Bernardo, Miss Macpherson and others, are they solely sustained by money from the old country? A.—Yes.

Q.—They received no support from the Dominion Government? A.—I think they got something for each individual child, but I am not certain. That is arranged at Ottawa.

Q.—When they land here in Quebec, who pays their fare into the interior? A.—The Provincial Government. We cannot tell them from the others. We cannot tell whether they were assisted or not when they land on the wharf here. There is nothing to distinguish the one from the other, and, as I said at the beginning of my evidence, until lately, everyone used to get a free pass until a few years ago. A few years ago the Dominion Government declined to pay for emigrants, and for the last few years even farmers have paid their passage, and servant men.

Q.—Was not any assistance given the last few years—two or three years? A.—We have done a little through the Dominion Government.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you remember some years ago a number of glass-blowers coming from France? A.—We got a certain number last year or the year before.

Q.—Can you tell us whether they came into Canada under contract or of their own free will? A.—I am inclined to think that it was on an understanding before they left home.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Then it is a mere matter of opinion? A.—They told us they were going to Montreal. It is a mere matter of opinion.

Q.—They were glass-blowers from Scotland? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know if they came under contract? A.—That I cannot tell.

Q.—Could you tell us what their destination was? A.—They said they were going to Montreal.

Q.—Can you tell the Commission who pays the salaries of the parties who have the charge and duty of distributing these boys? A.—The boys are distributed from the various homes at the cost of the individuals or societies bringing them out.

Q.—What is the latest hour at which passengers can be landed? A.—The law six o'clock.

Q.—Is the law carried out? A.—Occasionally they exceed that, but now they generally stop at six o'clock. Until this law was passed they used to land them until dark in summer, and they used to stop there all night.

Q.—How long does it take the Grand Trunk Railway to load the passengers and take them away after disembarking? A.—It would take about an hour for a hundred.

Q.—Then it would take five hours for five hundred? A.—They have to take up the baggage, get their tickets, put their baggage on board, and all that—that takes time. If a thousand passengers are landed, and they are not called off from their work, it would take them ten hours.

Q.—Consequently if a ship landed five or six hundred persons they would have to be there all night? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You think it better to keep the emigrants on board all night? A.—There is some emulation between the steamship companies. They want to get the ship clear, and they want to get up to Montreal to unload their cargo.

Q.—And don't the emigrants like to leave the ship? A.—Well, they are not sorry. I think they like to get out of the ship. And, as we have said, if the passengers are landed between five and six o'clock, it will take them all night to get ready to start by rail.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Do not you think the roads could take them away quicker if they employed a larger staff at the station? A.—Yes, if they had the facilities.

Q.—Do you know of any accidents having taken place on account of the absence of light; on account of the dark walls? A.—I know of a case, one case, where one child dropped off the wharf and was drowned.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—How was that? A.—It was dark, and the wharf was twenty feet up from the water. The tide was nearly out, and the little thing fell in and was drowned. But we have very few accidents. Considering the amount of night work that is done we are very free from accidents.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—There is a lady on the other side at Point Levis, do you know what her duties are? A.—Her duty is to find work for female servants on their arrival there.

Q.—Can any respectable man go and engage a servant girl without consulting the lady? A.—Well, it is as well to consult her.

Q.—Can you do so without consulting her? A.—Well, he could do so, it would not be required.

Q.—Is that part of her duties? A.—Not altogether.

Q.—Would she be justified in seeing that the persons who make engagements with emigrants are respectable persons? A.—She would be justified in doing that.

The Hon. JOHN HEARNE, of Quebec, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You are a large owner of real estate? A.—Yes; and I deal in real estate.

Q.—Can you tell us the average rent per month of working mens' houses in the City of Quebec? A.—From four to ten dollars a month.

Q.—What kind of a house would a man get for four dollars a month; how many rooms would there be in the house? A.—There would be a kitchen, and three rooms. There would be the kitchen, two rooms, and a small sitting room.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of these houses, and the yards of these houses; would they be good at four dollars a month? A.—They are not always good.

Q.—Such a tenement would not be considered likely to have a patent closet? A.—No; probably there would be another privy in the yard adjoining, and in many instances, there would be no closets at all.

Q.—How many houses of that kind are there in Quebec? A.—There are a great number, particularly in the western part of the city, along the river front.

Q.—And these closets, that are on the premises, would any other families have access to them. A.—In many instances they would not, but in the western part of the city, along the wharves, in Champlain Ward, probably half a dozen families or more would have but one closet.

Q.—And this closet would be used regularly by both sexes? A.—Yes; the women and children have “machinery” in the houses, and this is taken to the closets, and the contents thrown in, or thrown over the wharf. I do not know any instances where you would find females going to the closets where the men and boys go.

Q.—Have all your houses in Quebec got good sanitary closets? A.—The tenements have not closets within them, but they are quite convenient. They are adjoining the wharf. There is about a street's width to separate them from the wharf, or river.

Q.—How far are these closets from the houses? A.—They are in the yards, in some instances they are five or six feet, and in other instances they are twenty or more. It is all according to the size of the yard, and in others they are from twenty feet to fifty feet distant. Such closets we generally try to put as far from the houses as we can.

Q.—In the class of houses that you have just spoken of, what kind of facilities have they got for receiving a supply of water? A.—They have the public water supply, which is said to be equal to anything in the world. As far as healthfulness is concerned, I think the houses of Quebec will compare most favorably with those of any other city.

Q.—Then, in that class of houses there is a water tax to pay? A.—Yes; and in almost every instance, there is good water and good drainage. In almost every tenement there is good water and good drainage.

Q.—Has house rent increased, and if so, to what percentage, during the last five years? A.—It has not increased, but it has very largely decreased in the class of tenements that you refer to.

Q.—That is the tenements that rent for four dollars a month? A.—Yes; that is for the poorer class of labourers. A large number of them pay no rent at all.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Do you find any inclination amongst these tenants to get a better class of house? A.—They get the best their very small means will allow them to obtain. The dearth of employment obliges them to put up with a great amount of inconvenience. In many instances they are unable to pay their rent. They would pay if they could get any money, but, as I said, in many instances they cannot pay, and those who have to deal with them recognize the truth of this, and know that it is better not to trouble them. In fact, I trouble them as little as possible. In the western part of the city, where property was a few years ago very valuable, it is of no value at all now, comparatively. A few years ago, where I used to get thousands of dollars in rent for certain houses, and where, I believe, the tenants are as honest now as they were then, I obtain scarcely enough—that is to say, there is scarcely enough coming in—to pay the water, drainage, and school taxes. This, I say, is not through any dishonesty on the part of the tenants, but from their inability to earn it. These people, as a rule, used to pay me a whole year's rent in the summer months; others would pay me half a year's rent in May, and half a year's rent in the Fall; but all that is now altered, and not through any fault of the people. They are unable to pay for want of employment.

Q.—Have the houses of the better quality increased in rental the past five years? A.—They have not.

Q.—Provided a mechanic wanted to build a house on his own ground, and he wanted to borrow the money, what interest would he have to pay—say the average rate charged amongst real estate men? A.—It would depend in a very great measure on the security he would have to offer—his own security. There are mechanics who borrow money on very favorable terms, while others cannot borrow at all.

Q.—What would you call favorable terms? A.—A man of good character and having some collateral; something apart from his word.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—What rate of interest would he have to pay? What are the building society's rates? A.—Ten per cent. and ten and a-half per cent. The Building Societies make loans, but only on security.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Supposing he would require it for a certain time, say five or ten years. A separate loan on good security? A.—In that case, perhaps, he might get it for eight; but by the way they loan it out, they lead the borrower to believe that he is getting it on very light terms, while in reality he is paying very dear for it. He pays it in monthly instalments extending over ten years perhaps, and from the way they put it, it is only those who are pretty well acquainted with figures who are able to discern what the terms really are.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are there many houses of the poorer class in Quebec that have no water supply in them? A.—No; not at present, there are not many of them. There are some.

Q.—Do you know any quarter of the city where the water is delivered in barrels? A.—I think there are a few places, but I am not aware of any at all. I have heard of such being done in some of the small streets and out-of-the-way places.

Q.—Do you know if it is the practice in the back part of the city, in houses where there is no water in them, for the landlord to pay for the water? A.—I have never heard of such cases, and I have to deal with more tenants than any other man in Quebec. The tenant pays for the water when it is not supplied in the houses, but where it is supplied in the house by the service from the public Aqueduct, it is paid by the landlord. The landlord is responsible to the Corporation for the payment of the water tax, and it is included by the landlord in the rent of the tenant.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Have you been long a resident of Quebec? A.—Yes; ever since 1842.

Q.—They were a healthy strong people even at that time? A.—Very healthy and strong.

Q.—And then there was not much talk about the sanitary inspector in those days? A.—Well; we always had a health committee in name. The city is very healthy, and the citizens enjoy good health, and live as long as most people.

Q.—And they always had that reputation? A.—I think so.

WILLIAM DICKSON, Foreman in the Government Cartridge Factory, sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Are you aware that a great number of accidents have happened to children in the Government Cartridge Factory? A.—Not a very large number, four or five, that is, men and boys.

Q.—How do these accidents occur? A.—From machines some of them, some the girls work.

Q.—Do you generally place girls and children to a kind of work that would involve their being near the machinery, or having to do with it? A.—If boys and girls will get in the wrong place, why an accident may occur.

Q.—You have got children there? A.—Yes.

Q.—Am I to understand that the children have no business around this machinery? A.—They have no business underneath the machines, nor any other person. If a boy has to work a machine, he has no business to go this side or that side or get underneath it.

Q.—Is he supposed to put his fingers in there for fun? A.—Yes; I believe they did do that.

Q.—You believe they put their fingers in there for fun? A.—No; I do not believe they intended to hurt themselves, but they are very careless sometimes, and need a great deal of looking after.

Q.—Did you ever impose any fines on the employees? A.—Not without authority.

Q.—You would not impose a fine first, and get the authority afterwards? A.—No.

Q.—Are you in a position to state the age of the youngest child working in the factory? A.—The last that came in was twelve last birthday, and he came in three or four months ago, and they come in at that now. The youngest at present at work in the factory, is above thirteen. I did know one boy who said he was twelve, and I found out during the day, that he was only eleven, and I sent him about his business.

Q.—Did you ever know any children to be beaten or badly treated? A.—There never was one ever got a beating.

Q.—Could they get a beating without your knowledge? A.—No.

By MR. CARSON:—

Q.—Could they be beaten by any party in authority over them, such as the overlookers in each flat? A.—Oh, no.

Q.—How long would a child remain in the factory at twenty cents a day until he was raised? A.—Well they begin to work at twenty cents, and they are put to do a certain class of work.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is it done by the piece or by the job? A.—By the week.

Q.—How long do they remain in the factory before they receive an increase of salary? A.—A couple of weeks.

Q.—How much are they raised then? A.—From twenty cents a day upwards.

Q.—How much more is the average pay for a child? A.—Twice that—forty cents a day, and some of them receive as high as sixty cents. Some who have been there a month, and six weeks get that.

Q.—Are children subjected to fines as well as adults? A.—No.

Q.—Are children fined? A.—No.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Could fines be imposed without your knowledge? A.—No.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that a pair of overshoes were stolen or taken away and that a number of persons were fined five cents a piece to make up the price? A.—Yes.

Q.—Were the persons responsible for the loss of the shoes, who paid the fines? A.—There had been several dinners and mufflers went astray.

Q.—Do you know if the persons who were fined were responsible for the overshoes going astray? A.—Well it was in that flat where they were, that the shoes were lost.

Q.—Were the five cents deducted from each of their pay? A.—Yes; and the girl that lost the rubbers paid her five cents too.

Q.—Was the fine imposed under any regulation of the factory? A.—No. It was made to stop the taking away of things,

Q.—And did it stop it? A.—I believe it did.

Q.—Who made that rule? A.—Myself

Q.—Do I understand you to say that no fines are imposed except under the authority of the superintendent? A.—Yes; in separate cases.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Would the article lost be re-paid out of this fine? A.—It was supposed to be.

Q.—Was it ever paid for? A.—No; not to my knowledge.

Q.—The party then who lost the article did not get it replaced out of the fines, and was fined also? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think, under these circumstances, the party was guilty who lost the article? A.—No, but to treat them all the same, I fined her too.

Q.—Do you think it was equal justice to the party who lost the article? A.—It was not with the view to do justice, it was understood that they would all be fined five cents in order to put a stop to this kind of thieving business.

Q.—Where did the money go to? A.—It went to the office.

Q.—Was it understood to get her a new pair of rubbers? A.—I do not know.

Q.—What would be the cost of a new pair of rubbers. A.—I do not know. Perhaps fifty cents.

Q.—Did the Government get the balance of that? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—How did you keep back the five cents from each girl? A.—The clerk kept it back by my orders.

Q.—Why? A.—To pay for the rubbers.

Q.—The clerk kept five cents from each person? A.—Yes, on that flat. He deducted five cents from each employee on that flat, by the pay list.

Q.—From each employee? A.—Yes, each boy and girl on that flat.

Q.—What was the total amount so collected? A.—I could not say.

Q.—If five cents was deducted from each one's pay what was done with the money? A.—I do not know. As I have already said the rubbers, would cost about fifty cents. I don't know what they would cost, but that would be about it I suppose.

Q.—Do you remember when that occurred? A.—I do not remember when that occurred. I cannot say, it might be six months ago. It was a long time ago.

Q.—Can you furnish a list of those who were paid that week? A.—I think I might probably find it in the office.

Q.—Then the girl who lost her rubbers was fined five cents, and did not get her rubbers back? A.—Not that I am aware of.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You did it to make them all alike? A.—I did it in order to show no partiality. That is the way we do the business.

Q.—When you imposed the five cents fine did you impose it with the intention of getting the return of the rubbers? A.—Yes, that was the intention.

Q.—Why did not you yourself give the girl the money to buy the rubbers? A.—I do not handle the money there at all. There is another person who handles the money.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You thought you were teaching them a lesson in honesty by fining them all round? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Was the foreman fined? A.—No; only the boys and girls.

Q.—You did not fine the foreman? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Did you know whether the rubbers were stolen by a child or by a man?
A.—I know that no man could steal them, because no man is there but the foreman, that is the overlooker.

Q.—Did he pay five cents fine the same as the rest? A.—No.

Q.—Could not he have stolen the rubbers as well as any other person? A.—I do not think so.

Q.—How do you know he did not steal them, if you do not know who stole them? A.—There was a certain class of boys and girls there then, that were not of a very good character.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You used your discretion? A.—No.

Q.—Did you tell the superintendent of the amount you imposed? A.—I believe I did.

Q.—Do you know of any other fine of fifty cents imposed for work not well finished? A.—Yes; I paid that out of my own pocket. The fine was imposed by his orders.

Q.—Are you in the habit of imposing fines outside the rules? A.—No.

Q.—That is the only time you imposed them? A.—That is the only time. Yes, there was another time, for breaking windows during the dinner hour.

Q.—How much did you make the fine for breaking glass? A.—Five cents a piece. There were four or five of them.

Q.—Were you authorized by the superintendent to impose that fine? A.—No.

Q.—Do you believe that you have the right to impose a fine on anybody without the order of the superintendent in such an affair as that of breaking windows? A.—No; generally speaking I have not. They are the only two fines I have imposed during the whole six years I have been there.

(Translation.)

OSCAR PRÉVOST, Major in the Canadian Militia, Quebec, sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—You are Superintendent of the Cartridge Factory? A.—Yes, sir; I am Superintendent of the Cartridge works.

Q.—How many employees are under your orders? A.—There are eighty-one at present.

Q.—How many women do you employ? A.—I cannot exactly say the number I have.

Q.—How many children? A.—I suppose there are from twenty-eight to thirty-two children employed.

Q.—What is the age of the youngest? A.—The youngest is about thirteen years.

Q.—Are there any under thirteen years of age? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—How many of these children are employed in the Cove Fields? A.—About fifteen.

Q.—How many hours do they work? A.—From five minutes past seven in the morning until eight o'clock at night, with an interval of half an hour, and on Saturday

we close at three o'clock; so that in reality, they work ten hours a day, sixty hours a week.

Q.—Is it under your authority that notices are put up in the factory? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—When the employees arrive five minutes after seven o'clock, how much time do they lose? A.—There is a rule now, that they can go in at five minutes past seven, but if they come after five minutes past seven, they cannot enter until half-past seven, they then lose the half hour.

Q.—How long has this rule been in force? A.—For six weeks or two months.

Q.—If they arrive at five minutes past seven are they allowed to enter the factory? A.—They are admitted into the factory even after five minutes past seven if they have a valid reason for their delay. Such is the understanding.

Q.—Does the same rule apply to the children who work on the Cove fields? A.—Yes; it should do so.

Q.—Have you ever known of children being ill-treated and beaten? A.—Not to my knowledge. I never heard such a thing spoken of. I never witnessed ill-treatment to any child or to any person in the factory.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Have you ever received complaints that children had been beaten? A.—No; never.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Do you know that fines are imposed in the factory? A.—By my orders fines are imposed for certain offences. The fines are rarely exacted.

Q.—Are fines imposed for other offences than those set forth in the rules? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge, that upon one occasion, a young girl employed in the factory lost a pair of rubbers in the factory, and that forty-five employees were obliged to pay five cents each therefor? A.—I have no recollection of it.

Q.—Could this have occurred without your knowledge? A.—I don't think this could have happened without my order; it should not.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that little boys and girls have had their hands crushed by working at the machines? A.—Personally, I have no knowledge of it, but I know that accidents have happened in the factory; that persons have been injured because doctors' accounts were presented to, and settled by the Government.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of a case where a child returned home at the end of the week, with only four cents? A.—No.

Q.—The balance was for fines? A.—I do not know of it. The only fines that I know of, were fines imposed on an examiner of work, one fine imposed on an examiner of work; this fine was fifty cents for careless examination.

Q.—Do you know the lowest wages earned by an employee? A.—The lowest wages that can be earned by a child, for example, when he begins to learn, is about twenty cents a day if he loses no time. The wages increase after a certain time.

Q.—Would it be one of these children at twenty cents, that would work near these dangerous machines? A.—When they first enter the factory we generally put them at machines which are not dangerous.

Q.—Are they not generally injured by one particular kind of machine? A.—No; not by one particular kind of machine. Accidents occur with different machines, accidents more or less trifling. I knew a mechanic who wounded himself in the hand and who, on that occasion, cut an artery, by letting a file or some other pointed instrument fall on his hand.

Q.—Did the man who was wounded, lose his time? A.—We were able to put him at other work in the factory, till he could resume his ordinary employment.

Q.—Are children paid their lost time when they are wounded? A.—We try, as far as possible, to employ them at other work while their wound is healing.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that children, who have been wounded in the factory, have, on their recovery, asked for work, and been refused? A.—Not to my knowledge; in any case, we certainly would not have refused work to a child who had been wounded in the factory, had he asked for it, if only from the fact that he had been wounded in the factory.

Q.—What becomes of the fines? A.—The fines are deducted from the general pay list, and the Government profits by them. The Government pays so much less.

Q.—Do you know what is the total amount paid in fines by the employees? A.—No; I cannot say; it could easily be ascertained by referring to the books.

Q.—How long must a child work before his wages are raised to twenty cents a day? A.—It entirely depends on his ability.

Q.—Who makes out the pay list? A.—It is made out by the accountant, Mr. Heakes.

Q.—Would it be possible for fines to be imposed without your knowledge? A.—No; because it would be entered in the accounts on the list.

Q.—If a child draws only four cents at the end of the week, what can have become of the balance? A.—The balance will not have been drawn by the Government.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What is the age of the youngest child employed at one of these dangerous machines? A.—They are children of fourteen or fifteen years of age.

Q.—How many machines in the factory are considered dangerous? A.—None of these machines should be considered dangerous, because those which are considered dangerous have guards, and without these guards are taken away, without the workman himself takes these guards away, or voluntarily places himself in such a position as to render these guards useless, there is no possibility of damage from the machine. For all the accidents that have happened, have happened because the workman himself took away the guards, or that he had placed himself in such a way as to work behind the guards, that is to say, in a place where he had no business.

Q.—Were the children, who were injured by those machines, hurt while working at them, or only in passing them? A.—While working at them.

Q.—Can you tell us how many doctors' accounts were paid by reason of these accidents? A.—I think there have been six or seven bills for medical attendance since I have been superintendent of the factory, since 1883.

Q.—Did these accidents happen to children or to men? A.—Men have been hurt, and children also.

Q.—Did any of the accidents cause the loss of a hand? A.—No; they were accidents to the fingers, principally.

Q.—Did any of them lose more than a finger? A.—I think not. I do not think there was one that lost even the whole finger.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Were any accounts presented that were not paid? A.—Not to my knowledge.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Do you know how many hours the guardian remains at night? A.—From seven to seven o'clock.

Q.—Is this the rule of the factory? A.—It is the rule for the night watchman.

Q.—How much has he for the night? A.—Ten cents an hour.

Q.—The same pay in winter as in summer? A.—The same pay. Last summer he had a dollar, and at present he gets one dollar and twenty cents.

Q.—Did you learn that the pay of a child was reduced from twenty cents to ten cents a day? A.—No; the system of payment at the factory is this; we have a system of payment which consist of a fixed sum for each person who works at the

machines for making cartridges. And we have work by the piece, and all those who are paid by the day and work our hours, are paid extra according to the rate of work by the piece.

Q.—Are the privies separate for the men and women? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever heard that five boys of the factory were fined five cents each for having played during dinner time? A.—I do not remember.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—You have flues in the factory? A.—We have.

Q.—In what condition are they? A.—In a good condition for use.

Q.—Are they considered dangerous? A.—Not that I know of.

Q.—Has any person been hurt by these? A.—Not to my knowledge.

FREDERICK HENRY ANDREWS, Quebec, Merchant, sworn:

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—How long have you resided in Quebec? A.—Fifteen years.

Q.—What is the nature of your business? A.—I am a wholesale dealer in mill supplies, wooden ware, and factory supplies. I do no manufacturing in connection with it.

Q.—Has the mercantile business in Quebec increased or decreased during the time you have been in business? A.—It has decreased in its exports; it has decreased largely.

Q.—In what branch of exports has it decreased largely? A.—In timber.

Q.—Can you give any reason for that decrease? A.—I think it is largely due to the decrease in the products of the forests within reasonable distances from Quebec.

Q.—Does timber go out of the St. Lawrence in as large quantities as formerly? A.—I understand that question includes Montreal, and the western part of the St. Lawrence?

Q.—Yes. Does it go to sea in larger quantities than formerly, down the St. Lawrence? A.—I would suppose in about the same bulk—that is in sawn lumber, but very much less in timber.

Q.—Has the section of country tributary to Quebec, become depleted of its lumber and timber? A.—Long ago.

Q.—And is that the reason of the decrease in the exports from the port of Quebec? A.—It is the depletion in the output of timber, not the depletion in the forests, that has caused the decrease. The country around and back of Quebec, was denuded of its timber one hundred years ago. Again, formerly, large rafts of square timber used to come to Quebec.

Q.—And has there been a falling off in that trade? A.—Largely.

Q.—And is that to be attributed as the cause of the falling off of the business of Quebec? A.—Yes; as regards the loading of square timber.

Q.—Is there any decrease in the output of the Ottawa region? A.—To a very small extent.

Q.—Do you know of any ports in Canada where timber was formerly shipped, and where lumber is now shipped instead of timber? A.—With the exception of Quebec, where the lumber trade has grown to large dimensions, and has supplanted the timber trade. I know of no other place where lumber has followed in the wake of timber, in Canada.

Q.—Has the shipment of the products of the forest, lumber and timber, to Great Britain, increased of late years? A.—From what country?

Q.—Canada? A.—No. I think they have not increased.

Q.—If there has been a falling off in the timber and lumber trade of Quebec,

would you consider it wholly due to the causes you have mentioned? A.—No. I did not state that, I do not state “largely.”

Q.—To what other causes would you attribute that falling off? A.—In part to the opening of mills at other points on the rivers, where it is found more convenient to ship from the mills.

Q.—Has the import trade of Quebec increased during late years? A.—Not exactly. I think it remains about as par.

Q.—Have you taken an interest in the Ship Labourers' Society here, as Secretary of the Board of Trade? A.—No direct interest, only officially as regards communication being had with the Ship Labourers' Society relative to the consideration of certain by-laws believed by the merchants, to be inimical to the interests of the port.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you consider these by-laws to be injurious not only to the port, but also to the labourers themselves? A.—I am not a practical man. I never loaded a vessel or shipped timber. I never studied it practically with labourers or merchants, nor have I gone into the hold of a vessel, but the remark I would wish to make is this, that some of these by-laws, I understand, are inimical to the interests of the port. For instance, there is one by-law by which a certain number of men have to be retained on board a vessel when once they start work, I believe twenty-nine on some vessels—until the vessel has completed loading. I have a copy of the by-laws here. The Council of the Board of Trade heard that this Commission had no copy, and instructed me to hand copies to this Commission, which I now do.

Q.—As Secretary of the Quebec Board of Trade, can you give us copies of any correspondence you have had with the Quebec Ship Labourers' Benevolent Society?

Q.—A copy of the correspondence, *etcetera*, which passed between the Quebec Ship Labourers' Benevolent Society and the Quebec Board of Trade are annexed to this copy of the by-laws. I should like to complete my reply by saying that with reference to section second of article forty of the practical by-laws of the Quebec Ship Labourers' Benevolent Society, vessels of six hundred tons and over, known as double ported, that is, having a port on the larboard and starboard sides in one end of the lower hold, or similar in the between decks, said ports, if placed in the bow or stern, shall employ no less than eighteen winchers, seven holders, two swingers, and two staggers. We object to that. Another article (article fifty-two) goes to show that in the loading of mixed cargoes, a certain number of men must be retained all through, even if not wanted.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Will you please read that clause? A.—It is article fifty-two and reads as follows: “All vessels loading mixed cargoes of timber and deals that the full rate of wages be paid to all hands until such times as the last stick of timber is stowed. The Stevedore to have the privilege of selecting four men to stow deals, the balance to do whatever necessary work is required. In case of vessels loading part timber, no matter what time the last piece is taken in, the holders and swingers must be paid the full rate of wages for that day.

Q.—Your principal objection is to this clause fifty-two; is that the employer shall retain more men than the service of the ship demand? A.—Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Is that the only clause in the by-laws to which you have special objection? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has any action been taken between the Board of Trade and the Ship Labourers' Society to settle this in a general way? A.—Yes. If you will allow me I will give a short synopsis. In October, eighteen hundred and eighty-five, the Council of the Board of Trade addressed the Ship Labourers' Society through their

Secretary asking for an interview, in order to discuss certain rules and regulations of the Society supposed to be injurious to the port.

Q.—The letter embodied a resolution of the Council of the Board of Trade asking the President and other officers of the Ship Labourers' Society to meet the Board in order to discuss certain by-laws supposed to be detrimental to the interests of the Port? A.—Yes. Seven or eight officers of the Society met the Council on the fifth of November, eighteen hundred and eighty-five, and it was decided that the obnoxious by-laws, and the changes that it was desired that the Society should make in them, should be formulated and forwarded to the President of the Society. That was done on the twelfth of November, eighteen hundred and eighty-five, as can be seen by this document. There was no other official correspondence between the Society and the Board with reference to a reply to this proposal made on the part of the merchants, until March, eighteen hundred and eighty-seven, when the Secretary addressed the President of the Society asking for a reply to the letter that was sent in November, eighteen hundred and eighty-five. No reply was received by the Board of Trade to that letter. Subsequently, prior to the date of the annual general meeting, the Board of Trade in May, eighteen hundred and eighty-seven, that is to say the twenty-third of March eighteen hundred and eighty-seven, the Society was reminded that no reply had been received to that letter, and the matter stands in that position at present.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Can you tell us, with reference to clause four, Article forty, whether the use of steam winches in hoisting timber is dangerous? A.—I can only now speak from hearsay. Practical men, I understand, consider it as dangerous.

Q.—Do you know that was the principal objection urged by the men? A.—Yes; I believe that was the principal objection, the endangering of life.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—And did the shippers insist upon that clause being struck out? A.—No; the merchants made a proposition with reference to that—that steamers should be allowed to use the steam winches in hoisting short timber, or other cargo alongside, and lowering it into the hold—but the Society objects, in practice, to raising it and lowering into the hold by steam.

Q.—Do you know whether Article forty-two, in these rules and regulations, is in force to-day? A.—Am I to answer the question with reference to all the Articles? I understand that all the articles are in force at the present time, with the exception of Article fifty, which has been repealed, and that two new Articles have been added which, in effect, are that nine laborers be employed in the hold in discharging coal, and that the sailors may attend to the lines on deck, and that in large ships there may be an extra winch man on the after winches. This is also to be found in the copy of By-Laws just submitted to you.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Will you kindly read Article forty-two? A.—Yes. It reads as follows: "No member of this Society will work on board any vessel where a donkey engine is used in loading or discharging timber, deals, boards, ect., except spool wood.

Q.—You do not know whether that applies to the lumber or lowering it into the hold? A.—I do not.

Q.—Can you give us the name of some practical man who does know? A.—The President of the Ship Laborers' Society.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You say this conference was sought by the Board of Trade, to rectify these injuries and difficulties? A.—Yes; it was sought to be remedied through a confer-

ence. There were grievances on the part of the merchants and on the part of the laborers.

Q.—Did you ever hear any officer of the Ship Laborers' Society state that they were injurious to them? A.—No.

Q.—Then, do not you think the ship laborers are better judges than men who do understand the business practically? A.—Not entirely. I cannot admit that. They are not entirely the judges as regards the matter of wages. As regards the point of working on board ship, and going where the merchants have never been, or are likely to go, I admit the propriety of men composing a Society and framing rules, if necessary, to protect themselves; but not as regards outside matters which affect the trade and business of the Port. I think it is quite possible that the merchants can get facts brought out clearer, and can form a sounder judgment, than the laborers.

Q.—Do you think that if these rules, that the merchants look upon as arbitrary were annulled, and done away with, ships with merchandise would stop at Quebec that otherwise do not at the present time? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that the President of the Ship Laborers' Society ever asked the Board of Trade to print the objectionable clauses and mark them off? A.—Yes.

Q.—And did not the Board do it? A.—The Board of Trade held a meeting and appointed a committee to meet, and act with the officers of the Ship Laborers' Society. The committee reported, and a copy of the proceedings of the meeting was sent to the President of the Ship Laborers' Society, asking him with his brother officers, to present the same in due form at the first meeting of the Society. Two years after the complaints had been formulated no reply was communicated to the Board of Trade by the members or officers of the Quebec Ship Laborers' Society.

Q.—Is it not a fact that having examined the practical by-laws of the Society, there were so many changes required in order to effect a compromise in their opinion, that it substantially amounted to wiping out the by-laws altogether? A.—The Board of Trade asked for a meeting of the officers of the Society with the Board, and the result of that meeting is embodied in the papers placed before the Commission; but no further meeting took place, neither did the Secretary of the Board of Trade receive any reply to the letter of March the 23rd.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Did the President of the Ship Laborers' Benevolent Society, write the Board of Trade, acknowledging the receipt of a letter from you asking for another conference, for the purpose of discussing the advisability of repealing certain existing rules and regulations that, in the opinion of the merchants, were injurious alike to the interest of the ship laborers, and to the trade of the port of Quebec, and reply, that instead of sending delegates, the merchants name the by-laws they wanted modified, and to what extent and so forth, which he would on receipt, place before the various sections of the Society for their consideration, and report to you the result of such deliberation? A.—Yes.

Q.—And you did not do so? A.—We did so in our letter on the 12th of Novr. 1885, and the Board of Trade received no reply.

Q.—I am talking about the letter of last summer? A.—The Board of Trade felt that it was not dignified to address a body that had not replied to their communication for two years.

Q.—Did you reply to that letter of the President, Mr. Leahy? A.—No, sir.

Q.—The request contained in that letter was not complied with? A.—No; the Council of the Board of Trade desire to submit the names of six gentlemen merchants of Quebec (if it is in order) who are conversant with the timber trade, and who are willing to lay their views before the Commission. They will come without being summoned if they can be heard. It was stated at the Council meeting that they would all be sure to attend.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG : —

Q.—Can you inform us if it costs as much now as it did before the institution of this Society, to load a timber ship? A.—I am not positive.

Q.—Are timber ships loaded more speedily now than formerly? A.—I think timber ships are loaded as speedily and I think as cheaply now, as formerly.

(Translation.)

ZEPHIRIN PAQUETTE, of Quebec, Merchant, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN : —

Q.—How long have you been in business, in Quebec, as dry goods merchant? A.—Nearly forty years.

Q.—During that time has your business prospered, or has it always been about the same thing? A.—I have prospered.

Q.—What is the present number of employees in your store? A.—The number is not always the same; but on an average, there are two or three hundred, including clerks and the men and women that work. I have work people inside and outside, that is, to whom I give out work.

Q.—In this number about how many are men, and how many women? A.—About as many of one as of the other.

Q.—Can you state what is about the average weekly wages of the men? A.—Certainly; some receive lower and some higher wages, but the average is eight dollars a week, for the men. This includes young men, from fifteen or sixteen years of age, upwards. It also includes clerks as well as workmen. The average is at least eight dollars; it may even go as high as ten dollars.

Q.—Can you state how much the women receive on an average? A.—I think it is about three dollars a week.

Q.—Have you any idea of what your manufactured goods amount to in a year, whether these goods be furs, clothes or other merchandise? A.—I cannot say exactly. In my opinion it may amount to one hundred or one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars. This is in manufactured goods only. And this expense of one hundred or one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, includes all its costs for manufacturing as well as the salaries of the employees, including clerks; in fine all expenses, but not the cost of materials.

Q.—During the forty years you have been in business, have you ever had serious trouble with your work people, whether by misunderstanding, or through demands for increase of wages, or any trouble whatsoever; if you ever have had such troubles, have they been of frequent occurrence? A.—I take pride in the fact that I have always been well liked by my employees, and whatever has happened, has been so trifling as to be unnoticeable; the disagreement has been no more serious, and even less so, than may occur among the members of a well-conducted family. My employees have always held me in good esteem, and I have no trouble with them.

By Mr. HELBRONNER : —

Q.—What sort of goods do you principally manufacture? A.—Principally gentlemen's clothes. We employ tailors for these clothes.

Q.—Do you sell your goods outside Quebec? A.—Certainly, sir; a great many people from the country buy from us.

Q.—But do you sell to country merchants? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Please understand me. I speak of manufactured goods? A.—I have made some light sales of these goods; not enough to call a great quantity. If any sales have been made they are trifling. Moreover, to speak exactly, I cannot remember.

Q.—Do you know if handwork in Quebec is cheaper than in Montreal? A.—I know nothing of it.

Q.—You employ women and young girls in your store? A.—Not as saleswomen. I employ many girls and women to work, such as milliners, etc., etc.

Q.—What are their hours of work? A.—At the present time they begin at eight o'clock and finish at six; but in the season, beginning in the spring, they begin at seven o'clock and finish at six. Moreover, when work is hurried they have no fixed work hours. But my employees are always satisfied because when they work extra hours they are paid for it; they are very glad when there is work. Besides, the season is not very long, or rather there are two short seasons; one in the spring and the other in the autumn. This excess of work sometimes occurs unexpectedly, a day here and there, but taking it altogether my employees are very well satisfied.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Do you manufacture fabrics? Are you engaged in the manufacture of stuffs? A.—I have nothing to do with that. I do not manufacture cloths. I would like to add that those of my employees who work by the day (I do not speak of salesmen, whom I reward as I see fit), but those who work longer than their day are paid for it, and they are always satisfied, and moreover, when the employees work a little more than their day they change, taking turn about among themselves.

Q.—Do you import your stuffs? A.—Certainly; at the present time I have two buyers in the European markets. They may be on their way back, one of my sons and a Mr. Lacroix. I forgot to say in speaking of the hours that on Saturdays and the eve of holidays we remain open until eleven o'clock. The same people are not always present at the closing.

Q.—Does your trade increase or decrease? A.—It does not decrease. We do not work for that, sir; we strive to increase it. We have always worked for that end.

Q.—But does it increase? A.—It increases through the efforts we make to have it increase, by the quantity of work we do. Formerly we employed ten men or five, now we have between two and three hundred.

Q.—Is trade better, and conducted on a firmer basis than formerly? A.—I am not ready to admit that, Sir. I do not admit that. I admit that he who begins with a certain capital will find it easier to earn a dollar, than he who has nothing. But it is not easier for him to earn who has nothing. He, who has nothing, will not find it easier to earn a dollar to-day than it was fifty years ago.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What is the age of the youngest girl in your employment? A.—About sixteen years, not younger. I do not know of any younger; sixteen and twenty-five years and older, and men the same; sixteen to twenty-five and over.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are the closets separate for men and women? A.—Certainly, there about half a dozen in the house, and all separate.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What is the work done by young girls, to earn three dollars a week? A.—That is the average earned in millinery, I have said. I have paid some as high as ten dollars, and some five and six, but ten dollars was paid to the more able, not to girls of sixteen. I have some at lower wages, but on an average it comes to three dollars whether they work in furs, tailoring or millinery.

Q.—In men's ready-made clothing, do they make coats and trousers? A.—Trousers, waistcoats and coats, the whole suit; and for ladies, every thing they may require; and again in furs, all kinds of fur whether for ladies' or gentlemen's use.

Q.—Do any of your men work in trousers, coats and waistcoats? A.—Certainly.

Q.—Do women work in ready-made clothing as well as men? A.—I prefer men's work; but we have clothing at all prices. For the poorest as well as the wealthiest. Besides the most of the women's work is overseen by men.

Q.—Can a woman make trousers and waistcoats as well as a man can? A.—Taking first-class hands, the best workman and the best workwoman, to my mind, the man's work is the better. Allow me to say that there are men who do inferior work to women, let it be well understood, some men do not work as well as some women, but it is the exception. The best work in tailoring is done by men.

Q.—If a woman could do as good work in trousers and waistcoats as a man, would she receive the same wages? A.—Her reputation as a tailoress would have to be well established for people to have confidence in her.

Q.—Why would it be more necessary for a woman to have a well established reputation? A.—We must not lose sight of the starting point. I said: choosing a first-class workwoman, and a first-class workman, the man's work is superior. Now I say: the woman's reputation is not recognized as being equal to man's, because, according to me, the equality does not exist.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you believe a woman can make a coat as well as a man? A.—I do not believe it; no, sir. The question is asked: Why are not women paid as much as men? It is because they do not work as well?

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How are women paid for tailoring, by the week or piece? A.—Sometimes one, sometimes the other.

Q.—Are there any who work by piece for you? A.—Certainly.

Q.—What kind of garments do they make and how much are they paid the dozen? A.—I cannot answer, for I do not keep the books relating to that; but there are different prices.

Q.—Do the women who work at ready-made clothing work at home and do they work over hours? A.—They work at their own convenience in their own homes.

Q.—After working all day in the shop they carry home work at night? A.—They do not carry home work to do in the evening, or at least, it is an exceptional case which may occur once or twice a year, and always without my knowledge.

Q.—How many hours do the clerks work in the store? A.—We open the store at seven o'clock in the morning and a "sett" of clerks, a very few in the number of clerks, are present at the opening; the others arrive at half-past eight. Then those who came at seven go home at half-past eight to breakfast, and they are allowed one hour, not less. That is for the present time, since the first of January.

Q.—At what hour do you close? A.—Six o'clock at night.

Q.—Does what you give to your employees over and above their wages come out of the profits; I mean the bonus you give them, for I believe you mentioned that through generosity you gave them a bonus? A.—That is not a rule. It is an exception. It is not a rule. Besides, the sum is very insignificant. Permit me to say that from the first of April our days are longer. We open at six o'clock and we close at eight. That is from the first of April to the first of January following, and the small number who come to the opening go home to breakfast when the remainder arrive, and the employees are well satisfied.

Q.—When you give a bonus do you give it to those who have been longest in your employ, the heads of departments or to all? A.—That is almost a secret; we must not excite jealousy.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you give it to all? A.—No, sir, not to all; it is exceptional.

(Translation.)

GEORGE E. AMYOT, of Quebec, Corset Manufacturer, sworn :

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—About how many persons do you employ in your factory? A.—About sixty. Sometimes more.

Q.—About how many men, women, and children are there among this sixty? A.—Five men.

Q.—How many girls under fifteen years of age? A.—There are about ten to fifteen under.

Q.—The others are little boys? A.—They are girls more advanced in age.

Q.—Do you also employ young boys about your factory? A.—No, sir. Some times we have one.

Q.—To your knowledge, what is the age of the youngest girl you employ? A.—Ten years; about ten or twelve years.

Q.—How many young girls of ten or twelve years do you employ in your factory, do you think? A.—There may, perhaps, be one of ten years; there may, perhaps, be three; there may, perhaps, be five.

Q.—What are the wages that these children earn? A.—They do not all get the same. There are some who earn one dollar and fifty cents, one dollar and twenty five cents, one dollar, others less.

Q.—What are the lowest wages given to these children? A.—Some have not drawn more than twenty-five cents a week, but those we don't keep. If I may be permitted to say it, there are some of these children behave very badly. Those we cannot manage we send away.

Q.—But those you keep? A.—About seventy-five cents or a dollar a week. They are few.

Q.—Do these children, then, work by the piece, and not by the day? A.—By the piece. Some make more than a dollar a week.

Q.—What sort of work do they do? A.—These little girls wrap the paper around the steels, or they whalebone the corsets.

Q.—About how long does it take them to learn to do their work properly? A.—Some have been two years at the work, and they earn two dollars a week, and some have gone away. Those who can manage a sewing machine naturally make more.

Q.—How many hours a day do they work who earn seventy-five cents, a dollar and two dollars? A.—From seven o'clock in the morning to six at night.

Q.—They have an hour for dinner? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are the average wages a girl or young woman may earn? A.—Three dollars and a half, some four dollars, some less.

Q.—The women also work by the piece? A.—By the piece. One woman will earn two dollars and another, at the same work, will earn two and a half.

Q.—They also work from seven in the morning to seven at night? A.—Yes.

Q.—What work is done by the five men you employ? A.—We have two employed in cutting; one attends to the engine; another is in the office; and another makes himself generally useful.

Q.—Are the corsets ironed? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—That is done by women? A.—Yes, sir; at our place.

Q.—Are they also paid by the piece? A.—The ironing is done out of the shop. We have no room for it; but it is done by the piece. We pay the woman every fifteen days. She earns as high as eight dollars a week.

Q.—Does she earn eight dollars by herself, or has she help? A.—I don't know; but I know she can earn even more than eight dollars a week.

Q.—Is not the work very fatiguing for women? A.—Yes; but she does not seem to suffer from it, for she did the same work the time the factory of Hamel &

Bros. existed. She was taught the work by an American who was brought from the United States at that time.

Q.—Does it ever occur that you work later than six o'clock? A.—It does just now; and during the month of January.

Q.—How late do you work? A.—Till nine o'clock.

Q.—Do you give your workmen and women time to rest at the supper hour? A.—Yes; some bring a lunch, and some go home to supper. But there is a half hour's intermission, from six o'clock to half-past six. The engine begins again to work at half-past six.

Q.—Do you sell your products outside of Quebec? A.—The greater part; it is evident.

Q.—That proves that manufactories may be established in Quebec? A.—Undoubtedly.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of your factory? Does the City Inspector visit it? A.—No; not yet. We moved recently, in the month of November; the house is new, and I think in very good condition.

Q.—Are there separate privies for the men and women? A.—There are only five men, so that the privies being in the second story, where only girls work, and my partner directs the hand work, so that it is well conducted. In the flat where the privies are, there is no men at work.

Q.—But have the men privies elsewhere in the basement? A.—There are privies in the basement.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How many young girls are there in your factory that earn only seventy-five cents or a dollar? A.—There may be ten or fifteen.

Q.—Do they furnish their own thread and needles? A.—There is nothing of that kind. They are young girls who wrap up and paste paper on the steels.

Q.—But those who do sew, do they furnish their own thread and needles? A.—Yes; they furnish it themselves—that is for the sewing machines.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Are the sewing machines worked by steam? A.—Yes, sir; since we have an engine.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you impose fines on your employees? A.—I have been absent for some time, but I do not think they are imposed now. I believe it was done formerly.

Q.—I wish to know if you exact anything from your employees for heating, and for the use of the machines? A.—When the machines were worked by the foot, we paid so much a piece for work; now the machines are worked by steam, it is quicker. We have reduced our prices, but in spite of that I may assure you we pay more than in Sherbrooke even. Formerly, we had our factory here, as at present, only it was not worked by steam, and I say that, when the machines were worked by foot, we paid so much a piece; now they are worked by steam power, the movement is more rapid, and it gives more pay to the workers, and, as we put ourselves to expense for this, we have reduced our prices. Suppose we pay one dollar for a dozen corsets, this dozen is now more quickly made on account of the steam power used for the machines. We have also added new folding machines. Instead of being done by hand, this is now done by machines, therefore we have reduced the price of making.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Therefore, with steam power, a corset does not cost you more than when done by hand? A.—No; it comes to about the same thing. The only profit we

draw from it is that workmanship is more easily procurable; but for ourselves, the cost is about the same.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—How much do you make your work people pay for the use of the engine, etc., etc.? A.—They pay nothing for the engine.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—What is the reduction on their wages? A.—The wages of those working at the sewing machines are reduced fifteen per cent. I reduced their wages by fifteen per cent. because they make more.

Q.—Do your employees earn as much now as they did before they used machines worked by steam? A.—Yes; even more.

(Translation.)

March 5th, 1888.

JACQUES-AURÈLE GRENIER, of Quebec, Valuator of the City of Quebec, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—How long have you been Valuator for the City of Quebec? A.—Fifteen years.

Q.—Since you have been valuator, has property increased or decreased in value? A.—It has increased in some quarters of the City, and diminished in value in other quarters.

Q.—What class of property, and in which quarters of the City has property increased in value? And, in the quarters where it has diminished in value, what has been the reduction on rents? A.—The quarters in which it has increased in value are the business streets, and this value changes from year to year. The first year, I was valuator, trade had given value to several shops in the Upper Town, but now part of this trade has gone down to St. Roch, which is the reason that the streets St. Joseph and St. Roch have greatly increased in value.

Q.—Do you think that dwellings occupied by workmen in St. Roch have increased in value or have they diminished? A.—If they have increased, the increase is very small.

Q.—I understand St. Roch to be the manufacturing quarter of Quebec? A.—Yes, Sir.

Q.—In the Western part, there are dwellings occupied by workmen, wharf laborers or others doing other work; can you tell me if in this Western part the properties of workmen,—(Champlain) have diminished or increased in value? A.—I think they have decreased, if I can judge by the rents as given to the valuers.

Q.—Do you think that the rents, the value of the rents that are stated to you, are generally well paid; that the workmen pay the small rents which they agree to pay to the proprietors? If a man say I pay \$4 do you think that the proprietors are generally well paid their rents? A.—Not generally.

Q.—Can you tell us to what you attribute the fact that at St. Roch the rents have neither diminished nor augmented. And here they have diminished? A.—At St. Roch, the working class are generally proprietors of their buildings, and the amount of rent for which they are assessed is generally very low, two dollars and fifty cents, three dollars and four dollars sometimes. Then we base the value of the property on what it would rent at in that part, whilst in other parts of the City like Champlain, I believe there are very few proprietors among the lower class, they are nearly all tenants.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Are these houses in Champlain street owned by capitalists ? A.—They belong to individuals who do not reside there.

Q.—Can you state to what you attribute the fact that these houses in the western part which used to rent at high rates, now rent at low rates ? Is it because the population has diminished ? A.—The population has considerably decreased. It was composed of boatmen who four or five years ago had a great deal of work, and work having diminished the population has decreased about one-half I believe.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—According to your estimate has the population of the city increased or decreased ? A.—I think it has diminished.

Q.—Has the amount of assessment decreased with the population ? A.—No, sir ; the assessment has not in general decreased.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—To what do you attribute the departure of these people, you have just told us that you thought they used to have work on the wharves in handling lumber, to what do you attribute the cessation of work in lumber, and the departure of these vessels from the port of Quebec ? A.—I attribute it in part, to certain societies of ship labor who wish to govern the laboring class of these quarters, and increase the wages. They have by this means driven away the ships that were accustomed to come here and left the people with nothing to do.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Can you say whether it costs more to load a boat to-day than it did ten years ago ? A.—I cannot say.

Q.—Would it surprise you to learn that it costs less to day than it did ten years ago ? A.—It would depend upon the manner the work is done.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Has the aggregate value of property in Quebec, as a total, decreased or diminished ? A.—No, sir ; it may have diminished in certain wards but increased in others.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—When you say that the departure of Commerce from Quebec is due to the ship labor Society, to its administration, you are not certain, you have no certain grounds ? A.—No ; I do not say it is altogether the cause, but that this might be one of the causes.

Q.—Do you know of any other cause that would account for the emigration of the workmen who lived in the houses in the western part ? A.—No ; The want of work. These workmen went elsewhere to procure work.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Do you think that the population decreases more among the workmen or more among the rich people ? A.—The population decreases more among the working class.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—What is, in your opinion, the rent that a workman should pay for a convenient and comfortable dwelling for himself and family ? A.—It is to my knowledge to have seen many dwellings, at St. Roch, particularly, where one could reside comfortably for three and four dollars a month.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Have many houses been built in Quebec, lately? A.—A certain number is built every year.

Q.—Are many of these houses of a kind suitable for the working class? A.—In some localities, yes.

Q.—Do you think that the population of Quebec has increased or diminished since the last census, in 1881? A.—If it has increased, it has not increased to any extent.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Does the Corporation of Quebec see to the construction of houses as regards their sanitary condition, whether houses of the workmen or of the superior class? A.—I believe we are required to give notice to the City Surveyor when we intend to build on a property.

Q.—What is the duty of the Surveyor? Is it to see that the house is built in a proper manner as regards health, or is it simply to see that the house is solidly built? A.—I believe it is to see that it is solidly built.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Can you tell us what is the water tax imposed on houses? A.—Twelve and a half per cent. on the annual value.

Q.—Is it twelve and a half per cent. on all houses; or is there one charge for stores and one for dwellings? A.—No; it is twelve and a half per cent. on the rent.

Q.—How is this tax paid—all at once, or by several payments? A.—The taxes are due on the 1st of August. We collect them from the 1st of August to the 1st of May; six months due and six months to become due.

Q.—Is the water tax paid by the proprietor, or by the lessee? A.—We are paid by the proprietors.

Q.—Is it by law or by custom? A.—By law, the proprietors are responsible for the taxes.

Q.—Can you say if the Corporation loses a large amount of water tax annually? A.—I do not think so. What is not paid in the current year, is paid the year following.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Is the Corporation often compelled to seize and sell property for taxes in general? A.—Rather often.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—In your quality of valuator are you not obliged to go from house to house? A.—In all quarters of the city.

Q.—Did you enter into the houses and into the different departments of the houses? A.—It is the duty of the assessors to see the proprietor or occupant, and the orders are to visit the new buildings built since the last assessment.

Q.—I understand that it is the duty of those who value to enter into the houses? A.—Yes.

Q.—In such case you are in a better position than anyone else to inform us, to tell us in what state generally are the houses you visit; as to cleanliness, comfort, well being, can you give us your opinion thereon? A.—The houses of the working class are neat enough; I speak particularly of those of St. Roch. St. Roch is my division. As to the other divisions, I cannot speak so well, but in the division allotted me the houses, with some rare exceptions, are very neat.

Q.—Can you tell us if there are more in a comfortable position now than there were fifteen years ago when you began to be assessor? A.—There is not so much wealth. We see much furniture that has not been renewed and that requires to be done. This is among the working class more particularly.

Q.—Have you seen many houses where more persons lived than was proper, according to the rules of hygiene? A.—In certain parts, yes.

Q.—Does this depend on the families or on the boarders they take? A.—On the families.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you know of houses where persons of both sexes are obliged to sleep in the same room? A.—I never remarked any. I do not remember.

Q.—Are the working class regular in paying their taxes? A.—Yes; regular enough. Sometimes it is surprising.

Q.—Do the rich class pay their taxes promptly? A.—Yes; generally. The fact is in these years, for two or three years past, I do not know how to account for it, but the taxes have been paid better than formerly. If you will allow me I will state something in support of my answer. To have a right to vote all the taxes must be paid before the 20th January, and this year we received several thousand dollars more than last year, and last year we received more than the preceding year. It has been going on augmenting.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you know of many rich persons who have not paid their taxes and who have not been seized? A.—Well, it is not I that seize nor sue them. My duty is to make the accounts and send them to the bailiff from whom I receive a receipt for them.

Q.—My question is this: Do you know any persons of the richer class who have not paid their taxes within the time appointed and who have not been seized? A.—No, sir; I do not know of any.

Q.—Is the law the same for all? A.—The same for all. I, myself, have sued Councillors.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Can you give a reason for the promptitude in the payment of taxes lately? Why do the people hasten to pay their taxes more this year than the previous years? A.—It is due to the elections. It is people who wish to have the right to vote.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do the candidates sometimes pay the taxes of those who vote? A.—I cannot say.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH DESNOYERS, of Quebec, Bargeman, sworn :—

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—How long have you been working as a bargeman? A.—Fourteen years.

Q.—What are the wages of a bargeman? A.—Just at present the Dobell "concern" pays his one dollar on a hundred.

Q.—How much can you earn in a week, working continually? A.—Working continually, there are some weeks we work very hard and earn very little, but in the week, with what remains of the next week, we can earn twenty dollars.

Q.—How often are you paid? A.—Every week.

Q.—In the case of a barge remaining some days alongside a wharf, are you paid for your services? A.—No, sir; very far from paying us anything for our services, they charge us for the planks in the barges, when the barges can't get the ships to

take them, and we are kept alongside a ship sometimes for fifteen or eighteen days, and they do not give us a cent.

Q.—Are you obliged to remain on board during that time? A.—Certainly, we are, and if we do not, we are well abused.

Q.—Have you any idea how many dollars you earned last season? A.—I had earned something like one hundred and forty dollars when I left the barge. I left the barge because I couldn't stand it. The agent that hired us—I couldn't bear him. I could not stay on the barge.

Q.—Is one hundred and forty dollars the average for the season? A.—Two years ago, I earned something like three hundred dollars.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Have all the men in your occupation the same cause of complaint? A.—I think in the "concern" where I was, there are many who swear at the agent and the master because they don't act towards us as they should.

Q.—Do many receive the same wages as you? A.—Some get higher and some lower.

Q.—About how many get what you do? A.—I cannot quite say, but I think, on an average, about half. There may be three or four dollars difference.

Q.—Are there more bargemen than are needed? Is there work for all the bargemen? A.—Certainly, there is work for all the bargemen.

Q.—Are they too numerous? A.—Sometimes there are not enough bargemen; they take anyone they can get to put on the barges.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—And what time during the season did you leave your barge last year? A.—I can't exactly say.

Q.—Can you say how many months you worked to earn one hundred and forty dollars? A.—I may have worked five months.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—What had the agent done to you that you could not bear him? A.—Because he cheated to give to others.

Q.—He cheated you in your pay? A.—No, sir; on the planks. He took good loads away from us to give them to others.

Q.—Why did he take them from you to give them to others? He had to pay the same thing? A.—He had no business to do so, but he has much more regard for some than for others.

Q.—Is there a rule that he should take each one in turn, and did he not respect this rule? A.—He did not respect the rule. There is a regulation says each bargeman should have his turn. Large loads, or small loads, they should each have their turn.

Q.—Then, he deprived you of good loads to give them to others? A.—To others. I told him that he was stealing my money, just the same as if he took it out of my pocket, to put it in another's.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do the barges you work on belong to Mr. Dobell, or do they belong to others? A.—The barges don't belong to him; they are only chartered, and he sends his wood in them.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Was it Mr. Dobell paid you? A.—We were paid by the clerk at the office.

Q.—The agent was Mr. Dobell's agent? A.—Yes, sir. I can say, for those masters, that all they can do to ruin the lower class, they do with all their

hearts. Firstly: they send the barges, coming down from Ottawa, alongside the ships, and the laborers are obliged to work on them; and for us, when the time for barges is over, and they have to pay "demurrage" at the office, they send us with barges, and we load planks in them, and sometimes we are four or five days, and not one cent.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Is there not an understanding among bargemen? Are they not organized in a Union? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—When you work, at what hour do you begin in the morning? At what hour do you take your dinner, and at what hour do you finish at night? A.—Some mornings we begin very early, there are times we begin work at midnight, loading at the wharves, and we begin alongside the ships whenever the men on the ships begin.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—And when you begin at midnight, at what hour do you finish? A.—When we take on two thousand, or two thousand one hundred, when they come fast, two men working, we can finish in two hours and a half. . . . May I give an opinion on the work on the ice? It might do good to certain people who employ us to work on the ice.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you work at ice cutting? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How much do you earn a day at ice cutting? A.—Three shillings or three shillings and a half.

Q.—How many hours do you work? A.—Eight hours.

Q.—How many men are employed in ice cutting? A.—It is according to the quantity they have to cut. There are gangs of ten persons, and others of five or six.

Q.—Do some get higher wages than you? A.—The large axes, those that split, get from four shillings to four shillings and a half a day.

Q.—Do you help to draw the ice? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do those get the same wages? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How much do the men and the horses, that draw the ice, get? A.—There are some who have horses at a dollar a day. That is for the horse that drags the ice.

Q.—Does that include both the man and the horse? A.—Only the horse.

Q.—How much more for the man? A.—A dollar and fifty cents. Those are the highest wages given for a man and his horse.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—At what distance from port do you cut the ice? A.—About a league and a quarter.

Q.—At what time do you take your dinner? A.—At noon, or half past. It is according as we cut the ice. If we cut the ice in advance, we take our dinner at noon.

Q.—Do you come home to the city to take your dinner? A.—No; we take our dinner there.

Q.—Do they give you anything hot to drink, coffee or tea? A.—We have a small stove in the little cabin; they light a fire in the stove about noon, but half our time we eat our food cold.

Q.—Have any accidents, to your knowledge, ever happened in ice-cutting? A.—No; only on the ice we have to take the place of horses. We take the place of horses in drawing ice.

MARY BUCHANAN, Quebec, Foreman in the Russel House Steam Laundry, sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—You are the lady who has charge of the Russel House Steam Laundry?
A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know the number of hours the employees work there? A.—In winter they work nine hours, and in summer ten hours.

Q.—How many women are working there at the present time? A.—Thirteen in the winter, and in the summer twenty.

Q.—What are the wages paid to these young women in the winter? A.—In the winter they get from fifty cents to sixty-five cents a day, with one exception.

Q.—How many of these young women receive fifty cents a day? A.—One or two, I could not really say, not more.

Q.—Is there any night work? A.—In the summer there is.

Q.—How often? A.—Once a week, certain, sometimes two or three times a week. It depends upon the work we have to do.

Q.—What do you pay for night work in summer? A.—Ten cents an hour.

Q.—Is there any night work done in the winter? A.—Yes. Not very often. There has been only once this winter, once or twice.

Q.—What wages do you pay in the winter? A.—It is the same thing in the winter as in the summer.

Q.—Is it not the case that last summer these young women were asked to work for thirty cents a night? A.—No; they always get ten cents an hour.

Q.—Are there not two sisters working at the same kind of work one of whom receives less than the other? A.—At the same kind of work, no sir.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of that laundry at the present day? A.—I think the sanitary condition is good, as far as I can judge. I never heard of any illness.

Q.—Is there not four inches of ice on the windows down stairs at the present time—inside the windows? A.—Inside the windows?

Q.—Yes. A.—I do not think so. There is ice on the windows upstairs, but I do not think there is any downstairs.

Q.—Is it in the lower part of that place? A.—No; there was never ice four inches thick nor two inches thick.

Q.—Is it a fact that somebody has been ill there through that cause? A.—No; not that I know of.

Q.—Is there not a vapour from the hot water? A.—Yes; there is always a certain amount of steam.

Q.—Don't you think it is pretty hard work for these young women, considering that they only get three dollars a week to feed and clothe themselves? A.—I do not know. They much prefer working in the laundry to going out to service. Girls who are discharged in the fall wait until the spring and then come back to us.

Q.—That is not the question, don't you think it is rather hard upon the girls for them to be compelled to work all those hours in a laundry for three dollars a week?
A.—I suppose it depends upon what they pay for board. I suppose it is rather hard.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is the cost of living cheaper in Quebec than in Montreal? A.—I cannot really say. I do not think so. I cannot really say. I think it is rather cheaper, but I cannot say for certain.

Q.—Are wages in Quebec lower than in Montreal? A.—I cannot say.

Q.—Are there any young girls working in the laundry? A.—Yes.

Q.—How old may the youngest be? A.—The youngest is fifteen and she is the only very young girl we have.

- Q.—Do they work by the day? A.—By the day.
- Q.—Do you do any piecework? A.—No, none at all.
- Q.—Is the ventilation good in the laundry? A.—I think it might be better.
- Q.—How many laundries are there in Quebec? A.—I only know of two.
- Q.—Are the wages in both laundries the same? A.—I cannot say.
- Q.—Do you know and could you inform us what would be the average price of board for those young women who have to pay for their board? A.—I do not know, I am sure. I know that there are some places that keep boarders for eight dollars a month.
- Q.—Does this board include sleeping room? A.—Yes.
- Q.—And is there only one bed in a room? A.—I know they get a room for themselves.
- Q.—For two dollars a week? A.—Yes.
- Q.—These girls who are employed in the laundry are they living at home, or do they board out? A.—I think they all live at home. I do not know any that board out.
- Q.—If they had to pay for their board would they receive more wages? A.—No, I do not think so. We can get them for that.

SAMUEL MOORE, of Quebec, Manager of the Quebec Street Railway.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

- Q.—How long have you been manager of the Quebec Street Railway? A.—I have been for three years manager and sixteen years assistant manager—nineteen years in connection with the Quebec Street Railway.
- Q.—How many men do you employ on the Street Railway in summer, or about how many? A.—About four or five and twenty.
- Q.—In summer? A.—Yes. We run six cars; they require twelve men; and three reliefs—requiring six men—that makes eighteen. Five stablemen, that will be twenty-three, and two extra hands—twenty-five.
- Q.—How many hours a day do the conductors work in summer? A.—They make twenty-two trips, ordinary days; market days they make twenty-four—that is about ten and a half hours a day on ordinary days, and eleven and a half hours on market days, that is taking off their meals. We have a relief to give them their meals—breakfast, dinner and supper.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

- Q.—How many market days are there in a week? A.—Two. On Saturdays and on Tuesdays.
- Q.—How long does the summer season continue? How long do the cars run on the rails? A.—Last year our summer season opened on the twenty-second or twenty-third of April and we run our last car on the second of December.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

- Q.—What is the longest day—the greatest number of hours that a man works any day during the week? A.—That is, when they work extra hours. The longest hours they work is on market day, that is when they make twenty-four trips—that would be about eleven hours or eleven and a half hours, at most eleven and a quarter hours.
- Q.—Are they engaged on Sundays? A.—For half a day. In the afternoon on Sundays, but not in the winter.
- Q.—Who looks after the cleaning of the cars? A.—Well, they clean the cars themselves. The first hands off on a Saturday night clean the cars themselves. Of

course they always clean the cars whenever I tell them to do so. They see to them every morning before they go out. They are thoroughly cleaned once a week.

Q.—What salary do the conductors get? A.—We give them seven dollars and a half a week for seven days work.

Q.—What do the drivers get? A.—Seven dollars a week.

Q.—How many hours do the drivers work? A.—The same as the conductors.

Q.—And they get seven dollars a week? A.—Yes.

Q.—What time are the drivers on hand in the morning? A.—The same time as the conductors. We have a time table for them to go by. They start at different hours. For instance, the first goes out at six o'clock in the morning, the next at half past six, and the next at seven o'clock, and so on.

Q.—Are the drivers kept at work all the year round? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is any seat provided for the drivers? A.—The drivers usually stand. They were provided with seats, but did not use them. The cars stop at the end of the track for six or eight minutes—at each end of the track, and while waiting there they can rest for five minutes.

Q.—What are the hours of labour in the winter? A.—In the winter they work about nine hours.

Q.—What do they receive in the winter? A.—They receive five dollars a week.

Q.—Do you not consider that they earn their money harder in winter than in the summer? A.—Yes. But I know that we do more than we can afford in the winter. We lose over twenty dollars a day through the winter. I have often asked them if they would take what they had earned that day for their wages, and they have said they would not. Sometimes they would not earn that.

Q.—The amount is made up in the summer? A.—Yes. I believe if the company closed up their business in the winter they would save two thousand by it.

Q.—Have you any drivers employed in the winter who receive less than five dollars a week? A.—We have two cars which run a little over half time; they run seven hours and they get four dollars each a week. It is a double two-horse car; one is a conductor and the other is a driver. They make eight dollars a week the two. They go out late and they come in early. They come in at half-past four, I believe it is.

Q.—What are the hours of the stablemen? A.—We have five stablemen; they take it in turns to stop late at night. Others relieve them in the morning. There are two men who remain there all night. They are provided with sleeping accommodation.

Q.—Are they on duty twenty-four hours a day? A.—They come on in reliefs, still, there are always two men at work, and sometimes three, and during the time they change horses, sometimes the whole five are there.

Q.—What pay does the foreman get? A.—Eight dollars a week in the summer and seven and seven and a half in winter, and the extra man, who assists, gets six dollars, he does not stop at night.

Q.—What do the stablemen get? A.—Six dollars a week in summer and five dollars a week in winter.

Q.—What time do these stablemen get to bed? A.—Well, the men who get off at night, go home at six o'clock, and the men who remain after hours are done at eleven o'clock. In summer time it is that hour before they are finished.

Q.—What time do they get up? A.—Sometimes half past four or five o'clock.

Q.—Do you consider five hours sleep enough for a man working all the year round? A.—Well, the next night they get plenty of sleep. They take turn about. There is a bunk for them in the stable.

Q.—What kind of bed is provided for these men in the stable? A.—They have a bunk and very good blankets, and they have a fire in the room. They consider themselves comfortable enough, and I consider them so.

Q.—They do not have blankets that are used for the horses, do they? A.—No;

I bought special blankets for them. They may, occasionally, take a horse rug in with them, but they have special blankets for their own use.

Q.—What kind of pillows do you have? A.—I do not know if they have any pillows. They do not unless they bring them with them. Sometimes they throw their coats in.

Q.—They do not undress during the night? A.—No.

Q.—Do stablemen get the same pay all the year round? A.—Not in the winter time; in the winter time they get six dollars a week, and the foreman seven. That is during the winter months, when we run the sleighs.

Q.—How many horses do these men have to look after, to attend to? A.—At the present time we have forty.

Q.—What hours in the morning do these men have to turn out on Sundays?

A.—The first car goes out at twelve o'clock on Sundays.

Q.—Do you not send cars down to carry people to and from the boats in the morning? A.—That is the stableman's duty to get them ready.

Q.—What hour do they start work? A.—Well I think they start before five o'clock.

Q.—On Sunday morning? A.—Well. They need to get up to harness the horses at half past four.

Q.—And do they get any extra pay for that? A.—They are paid extra for that—when extra cars are run.

Q.—When extra cars are run what do you pay them? A.—We pay a quarter to each man—half a dollar a car.

Q.—That is twenty-five cents for each man for going down? A.—For the extra trouble.

Q.—Supposing he is not there at that hour in the morning? A.—He is always there. They are sometimes anxious to go.

Q.—And if you want more than the two to assist? A.—Others go if we ask them.

Q.—Supposing they should happen to be late on Sunday morning, would they be discharged or fined? A.—No.

Q.—Would they fall in the good graces of yourself? A.—Of course I would not like them to be late. If they were late another man would be put on in their place.

Q.—It is an hour in the morning when a man might sleep ten minutes later.

A.—It is.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What time do they get to bed when they are called out at half past four?

A.—Well. The others go to bed at the regular hour, but those who are on duty in the stable sleep there. They lie down.

Q.—They lie down and rest themselves as they have time? A.—They sleep in the stable, two or three men every night.

Q.—Do they sleep in the same part as the horses? A.—No. Not with the horses. We give them a separate room.

Q.—They have a separate room? A.—Yes. There is a room off the harness room where there is a fire. There is a stove always kept going there.

Q.—It is off the stables? A.—Yes.

Q.—After they have slept there all the night, is the air fresh? A.—No.

Q.—There are no bad odours? A.—Not unless some come from the stables.

Q.—How many men to whom you pay five dollars a week, are married men?

A.—I think they are all married. No; there are four married men.

Q.—Have they got families? A.—One of them has two children—two of them have children.

Q.—Can a man support himself comfortably and his wife on five dollars a week, in Quebec? A.—I think so.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Supposing a man who has been working for you a number of years, is sick, would you pay him? A.—Yes; if they have been with us a long time. If a man is sick too long we strike him off the list.

Q.—Before you employ a man is a guarantee required? A.—No guarantee is required, but we require a fortnight's notice before leaving.

Q.—I mean before you take these men on what guarantee do you demand? A.—We have no guarantee beyond a recommendation from some person of respectability who knows them. We have some very old hands. Some of them have been with us ever since the cars started twenty-three years ago. One of the drivers has been with us since that time.

Q.—Did you ever get your employees to make an affidavit that they would keep sober—free from drunkenness? A.—They have signed an affidavit or agreement.

Q.—Has your business increased the last ten years? A.—It has.

Q.—Are the men paid in proportion to the amount of increase in business? A.—I think so.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What were the wages previous to the increase in business? A.—Six dollars a week. They have got one dollar and fifty cents more than when they started, and there is another thing when I first went there, there were only two sleighs employed in the winter, and the men were all thrown idle in the winter. Now they are fully employed.

Q.—You do not run any cars in winter? A.—No; we cannot run cars in winter. We had two small sleighs, and now we try to keep all our sleighs employed in winter.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—You say some of your men have been in your employ twenty and twenty-three years? A.—Yes; one has been twenty-three years with us.

Q.—Does he own his own house? A.—Yes; four of them I know own their own houses. Some have more than the house they live in.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Have you any idea of the value of the houses owned by the men? A.—I cannot say although I have been in one of them. I do not know, perhaps two or three hundred dollars.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Would a house worth two or three hundred dollars be fit for a tenant to live in? A.—I may not rate the house correctly, it may be worth more than that.

Q.—Have your employees any other means of obtaining money to purchase a house other than by their weekly earnings? A.—Not that I am aware of.

Q.—Providing a man is sober, industrious and of good character would you have any objection to employ him if he belonged to a labor organization? A.—I do not understand you.

Q.—If a man was sober, industrious and of good character would you object to give him employment if you needed such assistance as he could give, if you learned that he belonged to a labor organization would you object to employ him? A.—I would rather not have him.

Q.—Did you ever object to men, knowing or imagining that they belonged to labor organizations? A.—I am not aware that a man ever did apply to me who belonged to such organizations.

Q.—Did you ever enquire if they did or not? A.—I may have put the question to them but I do not remember.

Q.—If you thought you had a man in your employ who belonged to a labor organization would you think of keeping him in your employ? A.—I think so; I would not discharge him for that, so long as he was sober, attentive and industrious.

Q.—Are the horses taken as much care of, in winter, as in summer? A.—I think so, but they do not require two thirds of the time and attention in winter that they do in summer.

Q.—Do they in summer receive two-thirds more attention than they do in winter? A.—Yes. They receive ordinary care at all times. No particular care.

Q.—Then they work in winter as much as in summer? A.—No; they have not got so much work, they have not to get up so early in the morning in winter. In winter they begin at seven o'clock and finish at nine o'clock. In summer they work from five to eleven.

Q.—Who brings the horses out? A.—The stableman harnesses the horses and brings them out. The conductor drives them.

Q.—Is it on account of their not being so much work in winter that wages are not so much as in summer? A.—Yes, there is not so much work in winter. The thing is we cannot afford it. We do not get more than half employed and we have harnessmakers and blacksmiths etc., to pay.

Q.—What do you pay a week to the harnessmaker? A.—We pay by the job. He gives me his bill and I pay it. We do not keep any special account. We pay for the repairs of the harness or for new ones and for horses on receipt of account.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—I am not very clear on one point. How frequently do you change your drivers during the day? A.—They get no change at all. They are relieved for meals. The man who goes out early in summer is relieved for breakfast. He gets one hour for each meal, and, by assisting each other, the men can get more time than that.

Q.—I mean in winter, when the weather is very cold and stormy, how frequently do you change your drivers? A.—The same as in summer, just for their meals. They also go out later, and get in earlier than in summer. They are all in at seven o'clock, or ten minutes to seven.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Are the men relieved during the severe weather? A.—Oh, yes; if they wish to be relieved. When a man asks me to let him off he is relieved by another man. No man has asked me and been refused. If a man asks me for a couple of hours, in the winter, I place another man in his stead. I acced to his request and let him off.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—If a man was to fall sick in your employ, how long would you keep on his wages? A.—Well that depends.

Q.—If he was injured in your employ, would you pay him all the time he lingered there? A.—We would give him half his wages. We would have to employ another man until such time as he returned to his work.

Q.—Have you known of the case of the man who got sick in your employ from natural causes, or overwork, and have you known such a case where he has not received his wages? A.—I do not know of any case of that kind.

Q.—If a case of that kind had happened, would you have forgotten it? A.—I may have forgotten it, but I do not remember.

Q.—Does the Company afford medical assistance to a man when he is sick? A.—No.

Q.—When a horse is sick, do you send for a veterinary surgeon? A.—No; the foreman generally attends to it. He ordinarily gives him a plaster, or a bran mash, or a ball (pill), or a draught. The foreman generally attends to him himself.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—What is the capital of the Company? A.—Fifty thousand dollars, that is the first capital.

Q.—That was the first capital when the Company started? A.—When the company started it was twenty-five thousand dollars, or fifty per cent was paid up in the first instance, the other has been paid up since.

Q.—Were the shares watered, or was the fifty per cent then paid in? A.—Both.

Q.—What is the proportion of the watered shares, and the proportion of the other? A.—The paid-up stock was thirty-two fifty; and the balance, seventeen fifty per share.

Q.—Can you tell us, to simplify the matter, what was paid on the capital of fifty thousand dollars? A.—Well, I will just tell you plainly—I wish to be understood. There was twenty-five thousand dollars, or fifty per cent., paid up in the first instance; and since that there has been a call of fifty per cent; and then again there has been a call of ten per cent. on the unpaid capital, which, added together, makes sixty-five per cent. of the subscribed stock already paid up. From time to time, when the dividends were small in past years, the surplus balance was given as a stock bonus; and the dividends have always been given and paid on the paid-up stock, and never on the subscribed stock, until the whole amount was credited to the shareholders.

Q.—What was the last dividend paid? A.—Eight per cent.

Q.—Eight per cent. on the paid-up capital, or eight per cent. on the fifty thousand dollars? A.—On the fifty thousand dollars—this is all paid up now.

Q.—In what year did you obtain your charter from the City of Quebec? A.—Eighteen hundred and sixty-five.

Q.—Did you obtain any other charter since that year, or have you worked all ways on the same one? A.—On the same one.

Q.—Were the winter sleighs put on by your own will, or by the order of the Council, when the charter was granted? A.—There was that proviso in the by-laws of the City Council. The agreement was, that when the snow should appear we should put on sleighs—that is, when the snow was too deep for the cars to run on the track, we were to put on sleighs.

Q.—Were you obliged by the charter to put on winter sleighs the same as you do to-day? A.—Yes.

Q.—When you were ordered by the charter to put winter sleighs on the road, did you know that you would have a diminished income in the winter? A.—The company knew; of course. I did not know—I was not here then. I cannot tell you about them. It was before I came. I was not here at the starting of the road.

Q.—Can you tell us the exact amount of salaries paid last year, or about the amount? A.—We paid in wages six thousand two hundred and twenty-three dollars seven cents; and in salaries and bonuses, one thousand six hundred and ninety-six dollars and thirty-five cents. Bonuses, I should have said, are given to the deserving hands at the end of the year. The conductors and drivers get bonuses at the end of the year for attention to business—from ten dollars downwards each in amount.

Q.—Do any of the men in the stables, besides conductors and drivers, get bonuses? A.—Yes; sometimes. The other day I gave a man who exerted himself, two dollars; and at another time five dollars above his wages, as an encouragement for attention to his business.

Q.—Is the eight per cent dividend, spoken of a while ago, a six monthly dividend, or a yearly dividend? A.—It is six months dividend.

Q.—Were the two dividends given last year? A.—Two dividends at six per cent, it was eight per cent the time before that, but I should also say that we overlapped the amount of savings, we should have taken off for services. Each year we

write off four per cent on rails, ten per cent on cars, and ten per cent on horses, and this sometimes augments the annual cost some thousands of dollars.

Q.—The summer dividend was the same as the winter one? A.—Well, the winter dividend is taken from the earnings of the summer. The dividend we paid in January is that earned in the summer, and then we pay one in July. We pay the July dividend off the earning then.

Q.—Can you give a statement of the wages paid in the summer, as compared with the wages paid in the winter? A.—I gave you the whole; there was between six and seven thousand dollars paid for wages during eighteen hundred and eighty-seven.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Can you tell us, during the time you have been in the service of the Company, if there has been any trouble with your employees? A.—No, sir.

Q.—You never had any trouble? A.—No; I may say never.

Q.—Then you come to the conclusion that they are well satisfied? A.—They are well satisfied. We really get along well together.

Q.—There are none of your employees that can speculate on the other, on the pay of any of the men, on what they are earning? A.—No; they do what they please with their wages.

Q.—They are paid regularly in cash? A.—Yes; and if they do not like it they can leave when they please, and receive every cent that is due them. If we wanted ten times their number, we could get them.

Q.—I suppose there are always applications being made to you for employment? A.—Constantly.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do the men receive bonuses in proportion to the number of years they are employed? A.—Well, no; not all of them. The bonuses are given to the Conductors only, I should have said; but there is one elderly man who gets a little holiday, every year, on account of his years, and every year he gets a fortnight or more to rest, because he is an old man.

Q.—What position does he occupy? A.—He is a driver.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Is that in addition to his bonus? A.—Yes; the drivers do not get a bonus, that is given to the Conductors.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How much did the bonuses amount to in eighteen hundred and eighty-seven? A.—I could not say.

Q.—Did they amount to one hundred dollars? A.—Oh, if you cover all the bonuses, it is more than that.

Q.—I mean for one year. With regard to the Conductors and drivers, is it less than one hundred dollars? A.—Yes.

JAMES PATTON, of Quebec, Manager of the Quebec and Levis Ferry Company, sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—How many men have you employed by your Ferry Company in the summer? A.—About eighty—it varies a little.

Q.—What wages do you pay to the engineers? A.—Thirty-six to fifty-five dollars a month.

Q.—How many of them receive fifty-five dollars a month? A.—One.

Q.—How many engineers are employed by your Company? A.—From five to seven.

Q.—Have they to get certificates of qualification? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many hours do the sailors or deck hands work in the summer season per day? A.—On the average about fifteen.

Q.—How are they paid. Are they paid by the month? A.—By the month.

Q.—How much a month do they receive? A.—From twelve to twenty dollars. Some receive twelve dollars, some fourteen dollars, some eighteen dollars, and some twenty dollars.

Q.—Does the Quebec and Levis Ferry Company pay the board of these men? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have these men to work on Sundays? A.—One crew has to work on Sundays.

Q.—How many men are there in a crew? A.—About twelve or thirteen.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

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

Q.—Is the lower Ferry gangway fit to allow passengers to get on board? A.—It is generally so. Owing to the shape of the boat, at certain times of the tide, we cannot always do it. When we can, we do it.

Q.—Are these ferry steamers overcrowded sometimes? A.—No.

Q.—Is there someone to see that they are not overcrowded? A.—Well, our Captains will not allow them to be overcrowded. They are supposed to see to that.

Q.—Is it not a fact that on certain occasions the boats are always overcrowded? A.—Never. They never carry half they are licensed for.

Q.—Do you know if they ever put people ashore on account of there being too many on board? A.—No.

Q.—Is there a chain attached to the pontoons on either side of the river? A.—I cannot say. There is on one side, I know, but I cannot say on both.

Q.—Are there any life buoys on the pontoons in case of accidents? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many? A.—Two.

Q.—Two to each pontoon? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there men at all times to attend to that? A.—All times except night time.

Q.—Do you not think the night time would be the worst time for accidents of that description? A.—Well, there are less people at night. There are very few at night, and after a certain hour, they are very few indeed.

Q.—Can a man come down to the pontoon after midnight? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do not your boats run sometime after midnight? A.—Yes, all night.

Q.—Then, a man might come down and walk overboard, and no man would be there to attend to it? A.—No.

Q.—When your steamers are leaving for the other side, who casts the rope off? A.—The man on the pontoon.

Q.—Does he remain on the pontoon after the rope is thrown off? A.—Not always.

Q.—Has not one of the crew to cast off the rope, and jump on board at night? A.—No.

Q.—Does not this man have to throw the rope off, and jump on board? A.—He may at times.

Q.—And was there not an accident through this last fall? A.—There was one man last autumn walked between the pontoon and vessel, while talking to another man. I was not there at the time, but the report was made to me.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do the men receive the same wages in the winter as they do in the summer? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are they worked the same number of hours? A.—No. They do not begin as early.

Q.—Are they continuously employed for fifteen hours every day in summer?
 A.—Yes. There is a variation slightly in their favour, but not to a great extent, and that is, the time the boat is running, they are not working.

Q.—Do they get their meals on board the boat during the day? A.—Not in summer. In summer they get their meals at the end of the wharf, and in winter time they get their meals on board the boat.

Q.—What time is allowed for meals? A.—No time is mentioned—they take about thirty minutes. It is at their own discretion. It is very seldom that they are called away from their meals.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—These men employed at sixteen dollars a month and their board have they to discharge and load the cargo? A.—Oh yes.

Q.—Winter and summer? A.—Yes.

Q.—At night sometimes in winter the ferry does not cross? A.—No; it does not sometimes. There is a clause in the contract which provides for that.

Q.—If, after midnight, a train was to arrive at Levis, would you cross? A.—There is no clause in the contract whatever, public or otherwise, providing for that.

Q.—If a train were to arrive by the Intercolonial Railway with a larger number of passengers for Quebec, would you go to the train and receive them, and bring them over? A.—Not unless I was ordered to do so.

Q.—Do you know of parties having tickets by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, arriving by the Intercolonial Railway, who have not had boats to cross?
 A.—They go by the Grand Trunk. I do not know of it.

Q.—Do you not think that the fact of keeping passengers arriving by the Intercolonial Railway, at Levis—with tickets to continue their journey by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company—being kept at Levis all night when they wish to proceed to Quebec, is detrimental to the interests of the city, when there are no other steamers to connect? A.—The Railway steamer should do that.—A railway steamer owned by the railway company.

Q.—Is there any steamer owned by the Railway Company now? A.—No. There is no contract whatever with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company or the Intercolonial Railway Company. They have been offered a service, but would not accept of it.

Q.—I presume the Quebec and Levis Ferry will not cross on a bright night in winter, neither will they allow another? A.—A railway steamer could cross.

Q.—But there is no railway steamer? A.—No.

Q.—And there is no other line? A.—No.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Who do you get your charter from? A.—The Corporation of Quebec.

Q.—Do you have any drinking water on your boats? A.—Yes; in a special tank, every day.

Q.—The men on your boats are they regular sailors? A.—They are men well used to the river. They are employed by the captain.

Q.—Have you any knowledge where they come from? A.—Berthier, St. Michel, and that neighbourhood.

Q.—In case of an accident—supposing the steamer was stove in, are these men capable of launching the canoes and, paddling them through the ice? A.—Yes.

Q.—And in summer then, they would be able to man the boats and proceed with them to shore? A.—Yes.

Q.—How often are their qualities tested in this respect? A.—I cannot say. They are men who have been connected with the water all their lives.

Q.—Have their qualities been tested in cases of accident? A.—No; but we have used both boats and men.

Q.—How do you know that they are capable of launching boats or canoes in

cases of emergency, filling them with passengers, and conveying those passengers safe to shore? A.—Well, we would suppose that they are, because they have been living on the water, so to speak, all their lives.

Q.—In what condition are those canoes? A.—First class.

Q.—And in summer how are the boats? A.—First class.

Q.—Have they ever been launched in the water to see how they are? A.—Yes.

Q.—How often? A.—Spring and summer.

Q.—In the winter season, at night time, when the men break up the newly formed ice bridge, are the men paid extra for that? A.—No.

Q.—Are the lives of the men on your ferry boats insured? A.—I do not know, I am sure.

Q.—Have you gas at the landings on the wharf to prevent passengers from falling in? A.—Yes.

Q.—Would it not be a good thing to have gas on the pontoons to prevent people walking overboard? A.—It might be.

Q.—Have you ever taken any steps in that direction? A.—No; we should think they were wise enough not to do that.

Q.—But in the fall of the year a person is likely to make a mistake, and at low water when the pontoon is below the light? A.—Well, you can see it. There are three lights specially apart from that one. There is one at each end, and one in the centre.

Q.—Still that would not prevent a man from walking over? A.—I think it should.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—I understand that these men are paid by the Company, and are boarded by the Company on the boat? A.—Yes.

Q.—I understand you give them pay as well as board? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they sleep on the ship or on the land? A.—They sleep on board, except when they get leave.

Q.—I suppose you visit the boat and see that their board is fair and clean? A.—I never heard of any complaints.

Q.—Have you heard of any ships or boats anywhere on this river near Quebec, where any of the employees have to take their meals on board from week to week, and get no table to eat off of and no bed to rest on, although they are also obliged to sleep on board the vessel? A.—You are speaking of another line.

Q.—Do you know of any company where it is done, where they have no beds to rest upon at night, and no table to eat from, but are compelled to sit on the floor. Are you aware of such a thing being done on the St. Lawrence River? A.—I have heard of it, but I am not personally aware of it.

Q.—You never had any trouble nor any strike with your employees? A.—No, we have nothing to do in our company with any people except sailors on the ferry, and the engineers. We have sailors who have been in our employ for eight or nine years, and some twelve years, and have heard of no complaints.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you any machine shop in connection with your company? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are the wages paid? A.—They vary from nine dollars to ten dollars, twelve dollars and fifteen dollars.

Q.—What do you pay first-class mechanics? A.—One dollar and fifty cents to two dollars a day for fitters, and one dollar and one dollar and seventy-five cents a day to men who can use the file and chisel.

Q.—These are summer wages? A.—Yes, summer wages. They work ten hours a day.

WILLIAM THOM, of Quebec. Principal of the Mercantile Academy, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What is the school accommodation of the City of Quebec? A.—I cannot say, sir.

Q.—Do you know anything of the public schools, or schools at which children go to learn after they have begun to work? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know of any schools in Quebec where technical knowledge of arts or mechanics are taught? A.—I am not aware of them.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—What is the curriculum of your own school? A.—The teaching in my school embraces everything that is commercial—all that is necessary for office work, either mercantile or governmental.

Q.—Do you teach both languages? A.—Verbally. May I be allowed to explain what I mean by verbally. When they do not know these languages practically so as to be made use of in commercial matters, they come to me and I teach them just so far as they choose to learn. My profession is that of an English school master. That is, I give my pupils a thorough English commercial education, but I am equally conversant with the French language, and consequently can teach it. I teach my scholars both languages, I teach them to converse in the language that is foreign to them, to answer verbally and to translate.

Q.—You teach them in a conversational way? A.—Yes.

Q.—A practical way? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you teach telegraphy? A.—No.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

so. Q.—Do they undergo a good practical training? A.—It is generally considered

Q.—Do you know if they are considered first-class book-keepers after they have passed through your hands? A.—The merchants of Quebec can answer that question for you, such as Messrs. Thibaudeau and others.

Q.—Do you know if there are any other schools in Quebec that teach the same subjects that you do? A.—I do.

Q.—Do you know if there is any difference in the instruction given at your school, and the others? A.—I know that my scholars take precedence.

Q.—Beyond that you do not know? A.—No.

Q.—Are these schools supported by Government and municipal grants, or are they higher schools? A.—Well, the school I allude to is under the hierarchy; and I believe it is aided by Government.

Q.—And your own school is a perfectly private school? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do mechanics' or tradesmen's sons attend your school? A.—A portion do.

Q.—What portion of your scholars do you consider, to your knowledge, are the children of working people? A.—I have never considered it.

Q.—Do you know if any facilities are furnished in Quebec for the children of working people to obtain a thorough knowledge of the mercantile branches, either by the City or Government? A.—I know there are schools under the auspices of the Corporation.

Q.—Can you tell how far the training of the boys goes in one of these schools? A.—I can scarcely answer that.

By Mr. BORVIN :—

Q.—Is your private school supposed to be frequented by the youth of both nationalities ? A.—Yes.

Q.—It is not the habit in your school to learn both languages ? A.—Only those who wish to learn.

Q.—There is no obligation to learn both languages ? A.—No.

Q.—What is the proportion of the English-speaking scholars, and the French-speaking scholars, that go to your school ? A.—Well, the French-speaking scholars are now reduced to a very small proportion.

Q.—The French-speaking scholars who go to your school, do they go to learn book-keeping, and both languages ? A.—They come for the combined purpose of learning both. They come for the purpose of acquiring a general education, and a better knowledge of English.

Q.—Is there as much desire among your English pupils to learn French, as there is among the French to learn English, and have they not the same liking and aptitude ? A.—The French have a greater desire to learn English than the English have to learn French. The English have not the same desire—I will not say the same aptitude.

Q.—Do I understand that the French pupils come out of your school in possession of a knowledge of both languages ? A.—They do not speak and write French in my school. Any teaching that they obtain in French, is verbal. They naturally understand French before they come to my academy. My academy is more for the purpose of finishing an education, so far as mercantile matters are concerned.

Q.—Do you know if these pupils are well grounded in English when they leave your school ? A.—They are.

Q.—When they come out from your school, do they write English well enough to be understood ? A.—Well they sometimes only remain a term.

Q.—If they remain long enough do they learn the language (English) in your Academy—I mean the French Canadians ? A.—The French Canadians do their utmost to obtain a knowledge of the English language.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What is the percentage of those who take a full course of studies in your school ? A.—The percentage is very small.

Q.—What is the percentage of children of the working classes who attend your academy ? A.—I am not prepared to answer that.

Q.—Do you think there are any ? A.—There are. I have the sons of several stevedores for instance.

Q.—Have you got any of the sons of ship laborers ? A.—Not that I am aware of.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Which do you consider has the greatest aptitude for acquiring a language, the French or the English ? A.—The French learn English quicker than the English learn French. I will not say that they have more aptitude, but they have a greater desire to learn English than the English students have to learn French.

Q.—What length of time do you consider it would be necessary for a fairly apt scholar to take a full course in your academy ? A.—Two years.

Q.—Do you know of any school at all, in the City, in which is taught anything tending towards practical mechanics ? A.—Not that I am aware of.

Q.—Are there free schools in this City ? A.—Comparatively, their fees are small.

Q.—There are none absolutely free ? A.—None that I am aware of.

Q.—Then you are not aware of any school in the City where anything of a tech-

nical nature is taught the scholars with regard to mechanics ? A.—I am not aware of any.

Q.—Nothing of a commercial training ? A.—Well, not as far as I am concerned. I know very little about them.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do you know of any school of art and design for the instruction of the public in mechanics and arts ? A.—Yes; some of my pupils attend them. They learn technical drawing. I had forgotten that.

Q.—Do you think that a mechanic with a little education would be better able to learn at such a school than a man of no education ? A.—Certainly he would.

Q.—Would he be more clever or push things quicker ? A.—His mind would be expanded and consequently he would see quicker.

Q.—So you are really of opinion that a mechanic with education is a better workman than a mechanic without education ? A.—Certainly; the knowledge of the two in their particular trade being equal.

Q.—Are there any public libraries in the City of Quebec ? A.—There are public libraries.

Q.—Are they free ? A.—They are connected with different associations. I do not know that they are free libraries to all classes.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—You do not know of any free public libraries ? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you think if there was a free public library it would be taken advantage of, to your knowledge ? A.—I cannot say.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—For the most part, are the pupils who attend your school anxious to learn ? A.—As a general rule they are.

Q.—Is their progress, while at school, as great as you would desire it to be ? A.—Not in all respects. I sometimes might desire a great deal more.

Q.—I do not mean beyond their capacity, but according to their capacity, have they been fairly successful while prosecuting their studies at your school ? A.—They have been.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Can you give us an idea of the average age of the children, of the working classes, who attend your school ? A.—I have not the slightest idea. My pupils are generally young men from nineteen to twenty-one years of age. They are generally people who wish to push their own fortunes to a certain degree, and they come to me in order to advance themselves educationally.

ALEXANDER BISSETT, of Quebec, Pattern Maker and Moulder, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You are a moulder, I believe ? A.—Well, I superintend moulding.

Q.—Do you make stoves ? A.—Yes.

Q.—And machinery mouldings ? A.—Yes, and I make agricultural mouldings at times.

Q.—How do your stove moulders work, by the day or by the piece? A.—By the day.

Q.—How much per day do they receive? A.—Well, the more a man makes, the more he earns. We have good men who earn one dollar and fifty cents a day, and upwards. If he is a good man he can make that and upwards.

Q.—How many hours a day will a man work in order to earn one dollar and fifty cents? A.—Except when it is casting day, when they get away earlier, they work ten hours a day.

Q.—Is one dollar and fifty cents the highest wages you pay? A.—We pay higher wages than that.

Q.—How much? A.—We go as high as two dollars and fifty cents a day.

Q.—And what is the highest wages you pay a moulder? A.—Two dollars and fifty cents a day. From one dollar and fifty cents a day, to two dollars and fifty cents a day, is what I pay.

Q.—To how many do you pay two dollars a day? A.—That is in the stove moulding. There is very little of that at the moment.

Q.—How many stove moulders have you got? A.—We have got two.

Q.—Do you put them on machinery? A.—We never take them off stoves.

Q.—How much is a machinery moulder worth? A.—Two dollars and twenty-five cents.

Q.—What is the lowest you pay to a machinery moulder? A.—Two dollars to two dollars and fifty cents a day.

Q.—What would be the average wages of a machinery moulder all round? A.—Well, it is just according to the man. He gets from one dollar and fifty cents a day upwards. As I have said before, one dollar and fifty cents, and dollar and seventy-five cents, and two dollars a day.

Q.—These are the average wages all round, taking the highest and the lowest? A.—Pretty much so.

Q.—How many months do they work in the year? A.—All the year round, except when we are slack, and then they take holidays,

Q.—Do they ever work overtime? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you pay extra for that? A.—Yes; we pay double time, or time and a half, as we call it.

Q.—Do you pay your agricultural implement men more than others? A.—We have no particular men for agricultural implements; every man in the shop does that.

Q.—Do you employ any apprentices? A.—What kind?

Q.—Well, in the moulding shop? A.—Well, we employ two apprentices just now.

Q.—How old are these apprentices? A.—When we take them on first, they are generally about fourteen or fifteen years old. We never have them any younger than that.

Q.—Do you think young boys are strong enough for the moulding trade at the age of fourteen years? A.—Well, they are not put on heavy work at first. At first their work is light.

Q.—Do you indenture them? A.—No.

Q.—How long do you keep them at their trade? A.—Until they like to run away. When they think they can better themselves they run away.

Q.—How long do you think a boy should work at his trade in order to become a competent moulder? A.—From five to seven years.

Q.—The apprentices that enter your shop, do you make it the general rule to teach them the various branches of the business? A.—Yes; we teach them the trade thoroughly, if they stay.

Q.—After they have served five or seven years, do you consider that you turn them out as competent moulders? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much do you pay your apprentices the first year? A.—One dollar and fifty cents a week.

Q.—And how much the second year? A.—Two dollars and twenty-five cents.

Q.—Do you put them on piece work? A.—No; we put them on day work, and give them a trial at everything.

Q.—Are the moulders of the city of Quebec organized? A.—They are pretty much.

Q.—And is there a good demand for them? A.—Yes; and when we run short, we have to send elsewhere for them.

Q.—Have you any objection to employ men belonging to labor organizations?

A.—We have not made any objection up to now.

Q.—Have you ever had any labour troubles? A.—We had a couple of strikes, but they returned to work next day.

Q.—How long ago is it since you had the last strike? A.—Six months ago.

Q.—What was the reason of that strike? A.—On account of a labouring man. A ship labourer one time got employment with us, and he has remained with us ever since.

Q.—Did you employ that man simply because you wanted him? A.—Yes; we put him on at labouring work, and he had no objection to do it. He was a good man and has worked well. There were no objections made to him except by the foreman, and he did not like him.

Q.—Was it the moulders who objected to the employment of this man? A.—Well I cannot say how it was. All that I know was, when I went into the shop all the hands were gone except the apprentices.

Q.—You knew there was some objection on the part of the men? A.—Yes.

Q.—What action did you take? A.—I told the men to stop out until they were tired and that when they were tired of stopping out, they could come back again.

Q.—Did you employ that man simply for the purpose of giving him a job? A.—No; we wanted the man.

Q.—Did you ever take a man on to work for you after he had purchased a stove from you, and did not pay you for the stove? A.—No.

Q.—Wait until I have finished the question. And did you not take him on simply in order that he should pay you for the stove—so that he should work out the value of the stove? A.—Not that I am aware of.

Q.—How was the difficulty settled—the strike? A.—They all came, back and asked to be taken on again. They said they misunderstood the foreman.

Q.—Did all the men come back? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you take them back? A.—Yes; I took them back, and there were no more questions about it. I wanted the men, and I took them back.

Q.—Are there many moulders in Quebec? A.—There are very few.

Q.—Do you know the difference between the wages of moulders in Montreal and Quebec? A.—Well they are something about the same thing except on piece work. They get more for that in Montreal than they do here.

Q.—Is there any stove plate moulding done here? A.—Nearly all, but the price is not so large for piece work in Quebec as in Montreal, but we do not pay piece work. We do the stoves when we have nothing else to do.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of your tundry? A.—It is good.

Q.—Is there a water closet within the moulding department? A.—No; it is outside in the yard.

Q.—How is the ventilation, is there much smoke? A.—We ventilate in from the roof, and we can open the doors and windows. Smoke is the only thing that could cause any annoyance, and that is not so bad in the winter time as in the summer time, and in the summer time the windows are all open, so that there is really no annoyance then.

Q.—How is the ventilation in the milling room? A.—We have no milling room.

Q.—Is the machinery well protected? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have any accidents happened in your factory? A.—There has been one, owing to carelessness.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you mill any castings? A.—No.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do you use ample means for ventilating your premises. Is it not a fact that the dust, and vapours, and smoke require to be driven away from the employees? A.—No; the windows and ventilators are open at such times. If it was in a closed room it would be different.

Q.—But supposing that you had blowers and ventilators, it would be better. Do you know of a factory fixed that way in Quebec? A.—Not that I know of.

Q.—Do you think it would be better? A.—They could be better, they could be better improved.

Q.—Because we understand there is great inconvenience suffered by the men by the way the work is done in certain premises? A.—If the roof is high they do not suffer any inconvenience.

Q.—You do not use any blower to send those vapours, etc., from your factory? A.—No.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—This man the foreman objected to—upon what grounds did he object to this man being employed there? A.—He said he did not like him because he was a Canadian, and I found him to be a good honest man in every sense of the word.

Q.—Is that man in your employ now? A.—Yes; and I will keep him as long as he will stay with me.

Q.—Has the foreman returned back to work for you? A.—I would never let him back. He came back, and asked for his job, and I told him that I had put another man in his place.

Q.—You showed your good sense in doing so? A.—I think so.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You stated that you took back all the men? A.—Yes; except this foreman.

Q.—How often do you pay the wages? A.—Every Saturday afternoon at half past four.

Q.—Do you pay in cash? A.—Yes; always.

Q.—Do your employees prefer being paid on a Saturday to any other day? A.—They never made any objections. They get paid at half-past four on Saturday and that gives them time to go to market, and get all they want for the next few days.

JOHN H. HOLT, of the firm of Messrs. G. R. RENFREW & Co., of Quebec, Furriers, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you employ many people in the fur business? A.—In the manufacture and sale of furs, we employ about seventy persons.

Q.—Male and female? A.—There are about two thirds females, the rest are males.

Q.—What class of female help do you engage? A.—Sewing and finishing.

Q.—What are the average wages of a fur sewer? A.—About two dollars a week.

Q.—What are the ages of these females who are earning two dollars a week? A.—Fifteen and sixteen years of age. I may say that we employ very few at sewing, they are mostly finishers.

Q.—What would be the average earnings of an operative at the sewing machine? A.—About three dollars and fifty cents a week.

Q.—And the finishers? A.—From three to four dollars a week.

Q.—Have you any girls working for you under fifteen years of age? A.—Between fourteen and fifteen. We have none younger than that.

Q.—Do the women and men work in the same room? A.—The women work down stairs, and the men upstairs. The men get seven dollars a week, that is the lowest wages they earn, and the highest thirty dollars a week.

Q.—What position does the man hold who gets thirty dollars a week? A.—He is the foreman.

Q.—And what does the forewoman get? A.—The highest wages paid to a forewoman is twenty-seven dollars a week. Thirty dollars a week is what we pay to the workman who is called the pattern-cutter. He measures the fur garments, and he has to be a tailor by profession.

Q.—Are these people employed all the year round? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they earn the same wages in winter as in summer? A.—Well, they work extra time, for which they are paid. If they work extra hours in summer or in winter, they are paid extra.

Q.—What are their hours of labor? A.—From the 1st of April to the 1st of November, they work nine and a-half hours a day. At other times they work nine hours a day.

Q.—Do they ever work at night? A.—Yes; three months in the year. They work three hours every night, from half-past six to half-past nine.

Q.—Do they go home to their meals? A.—They can, if they wish to; but they mostly bring their meals with them, and eat them in the shop.

Q.—Do they have a separate room in the shop in which to eat their meals? A.—No.

Q.—How many stories high is your building now? A.—Our building is five stories high in all; and we have put on an extra story.

Q.—What kind of a stairway have you? A.—We have one large stairway.

Q.—And does that reach from the bottom to the top of the building? A.—Yes.

Q.—Continuously? A.—Yes; from the top to the bottom.

Q.—On which flat do the girls work? A.—On the third story.

Q.—Have you an elevator? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is this elevator closed in? A.—It is being built; and it will be closed in.

Q.—Are any fines imposed on the employees? A.—No; no fines are imposed.

Q.—Have you any fire escapes on the outside of your building? A.—No; there are no fire escapes.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—The fur you work in your factory, is it all imported, or partly imported? A.—It is partly imported.

Q.—Did you ever hear of anything being contained in the fur that would be likely to breed sickness? A.—I never heard of it. They used to talk of small-pox being in buffalo skins; but I never heard of it.

Q.—Can you tell us if your employees belong to any association or not? A.—I have never enquired. I have no idea.

Q.—Did they never go out on strike? A.—Never.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—When do you pay for your work ? A.—We pay the girls on Mondays, and the men on Saturdays.

Q.—Do you pay in full ? A.—Yes, we pay in full ; and we pay in cash.

CHARLES A. O'LEARY, Builder and Contractor, sworn :—

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—You are a general builder ? A.—Yes.

Q.—In brick, stone and carpenter work ? A.—I do not do much in the carpentering. I do more brick and stone and plastering work. I do sometimes in brick-laying and sometimes all round. Some object to do this.

Q.—What are the rates of wages ? A.—The bricklayers vary. They range in winter time two dollars a day, and in summer time three dollars and fifty cents to four dollars a day.

Q.—How much an hour by the yard do men range ? A.—From thirty-five cents to forty cents.

Q.—What is the winter rate ? A.—Fifteen cents to twenty cents.

Q.—And what are the rates for stone masons ? A.—About twenty cents an hour, sometimes twenty-five cents an hour in the summer time. In the winter time there is very little work. It is just according to the season.

Q.—What do plasterers get ? A.—The plasterers get about the same rate.

Q.—And the stone masons ? A.—The stone masons get from twenty-five cents to thirty cents an hour, and in the winter time about fifteen cents an hour.

Q.—Are there many men engaged in the building business in Quebec ? A.—There are several.

Q.—Would that be considered the general rate for wages for the whole City ? A.—I cannot vouch for what other people pay, but they are the rates that I pay.

Q.—You cannot say for other people ? A.—I guess they are pretty generally the rates.

Q.—How many months do brick layers and stone masons generally work ? A.—Five or six months.

Q.—And do you know of any work going on in the winter season ? A.—Very little indeed. They stop here in the winter season, and the workmen generally all go away.

Q.—How many months do the plasterers obtain work ? A.—They get work all the year round pretty steadily.

Q.—Can you give an idea of the average rate of wages for carpenters per hour ? A.—I can guess it pretty well—twenty cents. From fifteen to twenty cents an hour, and in the winter time twelve and a half cents an hour.

Q.—Do you know if they generally get employment throughout the year ? A.—Yes, there is not an overflow of them in this City.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Can you tell us if carpenters get less in the city in winter ? A.—Carpenters were scarce last winter. When there is a scarcity, we have to pay them more.

Q.—So that they would get work, then, all the year round in Quebec, and you pay them all the time ? A.—Yes.

Q.—What do you pay plaster labourers ? A.—One dollar a day, and in the winter time, they get from seventy cents to ninety cents. When it is the winter season they commence to get lower wages.

Q.—Are any buildings kept back until the winter season, for the purpose of getting the work more cheaply done ? A.—No ; not that I am aware of.

Q.—Are the men paid weekly? A.—They are paid fortnightly.

Q.—They are paid on their work? A.—They are paid according to their work.

Q.—Do you know if, after men have done their work, they have sometimes to do without their pay? A.—I do not know, only for my ownself. They get paid by me.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you any men that are paid by store orders, in Quebec? A.—I cannot say.

By Mr. GIBSON:

Q.—Have you a masters' association in Quebec? A.—I cannot say.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is there a contractors' association, which is associated with the Board of Trade in any form? A.—Not that I know of.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Has there been much building going on in Quebec, during the past few years? A.—There has been considerable during the past few years. One instance of it is, here in this building, the Court House.

Q.—What is the nature of these building operations, going on? A.—There has been the Parliament Buildings. There has been a considerable amount of work going on there for tradesmen, and there has been the new Court House, in which we are this moment assembled, and there are a number of other buildings, smaller ones, too numerous to mention.

Q.—These last four or five years, there has been improvements upon other years? A.—Yes; quite an improvement.

Q.—Is there a good outlook for the coming year? A.—Yes; the plans and specifications are in the Architects' offices.

Q.—There is pretty much all round? A.—Yes; the Architects have got pretty much to do.

Q.—From the plans, you can say, as a general rule, there will be afforded a sufficient supply of work to men in the building trade of all kinds in the city?

A.—I think so; there is quite an overflow of stone-masons and bricklayers work.

Bricklayers are the men that command the best wages in the summer time. In the winter they generally go back to the States, and they generally write up at the close of the winter season to those men by whom they have been employed, to know what prospects there are for work during the summer, upon receiving satisfactory replies, they come back here and work in Quebec.

Q.—So they get work in the United States in the winter times? A.—Yes; pretty generally. Quebec tradesmen are pretty well thought of wherever they go.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—When you take a contract for building do you go to the City Hall to get them to overlook the work? A.—No.

Q.—Does the City have any health officer to look after the drainage? A.—No. We do our work according to the specifications of the architect.

Q.—How do you get the consent of the City Council to commence building?

A.—That is generally done by the Corporation itself. They connect the houses with the sewers so far as drainage is concerned.

Q.—And they do not go any further. They do not go and examine into the sanitary arrangement of the house in order to see if the work is well done or not?

A.—No; that is left to the architects.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you have to get the elevations or levels of the drains as compared with the city aqueduct? A.—Certainly the city engineer gives all that.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What did stone cutters get last summer and winter? A.—Stone cutters got from two dollars and fifty cents to three dollars and fifty cents last summer, and one dollar and fifty cents to two dollars this winter, generally owing to the scarcity of stone cutters just now in Quebec.

Q.—Have you an inspector of scaffolding in Quebec? A.—No.

Q.—Who generally erects the scaffolding? A.—The men who are to work on the scaffolding.

Q.—Have any accidents happened at times owing to this? A.—There have at times.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are men in Quebec generally given their own times to erect scaffolding? A.—Yes; the foreman himself looks after that. We do not generally allow anything for that.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Have you many machine shops for wood work? A.—We have several mills here.

Q.—Do you get most of your wood work done there, such as doors, sashes, wainscoting and all that kind of thing done there? A.—Yes; all frame work generally.

Q.—I have seen in several places wooden ceilings, I mean those small narrow matched ones? A.—They are very few and they are generally placed in old buildings.

Q.—These are put in some of the oldest buildings; they are three inches wide, and they can be tacked on to the ceiling? A.—I have done none of that, and I do not know of any being done.

Q.—There is none of that kind in the city? A.—No; I have not seen any.

Q.—How is work in the machine shops? A.—Good.

Q.—Do you get all your wood work, artistic work, and wainscoting cut out there? A.—Yes; we work them out.

Q.—And frescoes are they done here? A.—Yes; we can get all classes of work done here. We have some of the best workmen in the country here in Quebec.

Q.—The best of all kinds? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do many of your workmen own their own houses? A.—Yes; mostly all our stone masons, brick layers, and carpenters, own their own houses. Pretty near all of them have got their own piece of property. More rent out houses, besides owning those they live in.

GEORGE P. LAWRENCE, of Quebec, Wood Merchant, sworn :

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You deal in wood? A.—I do.

Q.—What is the general quality of the wood sold in Quebec? A.—Beech, birch, maple, spruce; and there is some tamarac.

Q.—How much per cord, retail, is maple and beech? A.—Beech is four dollars a cord; maple is five dollars.

Q.—How long is that wood? A.—Three feet.

- Q.—It is not a full cord, then? A.—It is one hundred and eight feet, Quebec French measure, according to the rule of our country.
- Q.—The price of wood rises and falls? A.—Yes.
- Q.—What was the price three years ago? A.—The price three years ago was much less than now.
- Q.—Do you deal in coal? A.—Not now.
- Q.—Do you employ many men? A.—I do.
- Q.—What do you pay your carters? A.—I have none in Quebec. I pay them all by the cart load in Quebec.
- Q.—Are there many wood merchants in the city? A.—Yes; there are several.
- Q.—Do they ever attempt to place a "corner" on wood? A.—They did.
- Q.—How did they succeed? A.—They succeeded very well.
- Q.—They wanted to make a monopoly of it? A.—They did.
- Q.—What was the rise they attempted? A.—Twenty-five cents on each dollar per cord.
- Q.—Had the people to buy from this "ring"? A.—They had, when they could not buy elsewhere.
- Q.—How many men were there in the combination? A.—I am at a loss to tell that.
- Q.—Were all the wood merchants in it? A.—They were not.
- Q.—Where do you generally get your wood from? A.—From off the Lake St. John Railway.
- Q.—Those who did not go into the "ring," were they boycotted by the railway? A.—Not at all.
- Q.—There was no attempt at combination to prevent other people bringing in wood? A.—None whatever; the railway had nothing to do with it.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q.—Was this increase in price caused by the scarcity in wood? A.—Not at all; they pretended that it was a good market.
- Q.—It was a simple combination to raise the price? A.—Yes.
- Q.—When did the combination take place? A.—Last March or April, a year ago.
- Q.—Would it be fair to state what the cost of wood to the dealers was then, and is now? A.—What it cost to a dealer, you mean? We can get wood at four dollars, and we retail it at four dollars and twenty-five cents to four dollars and seventy-five cents.
- Q.—Do you think it profitable to a man to handle wood at twenty-five cents a cord? A.—There is a profit if he handles enough of it.
- Q.—Do you think, then, that the advance placed on wood is excessive? A.—It is; yes.

By Mr. HELPRONNER:—

- Q.—Are the dimensions of a cord of wood fixed by the city? A.—Yes; they call it French measure. The wood is generally three feet long, English measure, and a cord of wood is generally eight and a half feet long, by four feet three inches wide.
- Q.—Have you got a wood inspector? A.—No.
- Q.—You have no authority to see that the rules are enforced? A.—No.

By Mr. BOLVIN:—

- Q.—What is your idea of the cost to a family in using wood and coal. Is it cheaper to use wood than it is to use coal? A.—The wood is five dollars, and the coal is six dollars, but the poorer families do not generally use the best class of wood. They use the wood which can be got for three dollars and twenty-five cents a cord, and two dollars and fifty cents a cord, and those who use that have a great advantage.

Q.—You think there is a saving by using that quality of wood in preference to coal? A.—I think that they would burn that wood in preference to coal.

Q.—Do you think that by buying in small quantities, the people get full measure? A.—I think they do; they do, so far as I am concerned.

Q.—Do you think that an inspector would be useful in obtaining justice for the poor in the purchase of the fuel? A.—Yes; I think in the winter, sometimes an inspector would be able to do justice, and render good service to the poor.

Q.—You said, a few moments ago, that there was a combination of wood merchants, whose object it was to keep up the price. Were people obliged to go to them to get wood? A.—Yes; if they did not go elsewhere.

Q.—Do I understand that there is no more wood coming from the forests around Quebec? A.—The *habitants* used to come in with wood. I have known them to come in with one hundred loads in a day.

Q.—Has that now ceased; do they come in with wood yet? A.—They do in small quantities.

Q.—Will the *habitants* sell small quantities? A.—Yes; they will sell in small loads. They come in with small loads, and you take it, or leave it, just as you please. They do not guarantee any quantity in the load.

Q.—Does your wood, for the most part, come in by ship, or by bateaux, or by railway? A.—By railway.

Q.—You receive very little by ship? A.—None at all now.

JOHN O'FARRELL, Barrister, Quebec, sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Mr. O'Farrell, I understand you are a member of the Bar of the City of Quebec, of long standing—in fact one of the oldest members of the Bar? A.—I am. I was called to the Bar on the second day of July, eighteen hundred and fifty-two.

Q.—We understand that you wish to make a statement before this Commission? A.—Yes; I wish to draw attention to three factories in the City of Quebec which I desire this Commission to look after; there is one factory the name of the firm is * * * it is a manufactory of leather for gloves.

By the ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. WALSH) :—

Q.—We would prefer that you should not mention names; any practical remarks you may wish to make or any good reasons that you may have to offer to show why we should examine these gentlemen we shall be glad to receive, with a view of inquiring into the matter? A.—I have visited these factories personally last summer. I saw them last August.

Q.—Do you know the state of the premises yourself? A.—Yes; I was in these three factories, the one making leather for gloves; in another for making boots and shoes; and in a third, also for making boots and shoes. The proprietor of the last admitted employing children under fourteen—the man admitted that to me, and you can take that as evidence, it will enable you to bring him up and have him deny it under oath when he can be prosecuted for perjury, if he does deny it.

Q.—If you will give these names to the Secretary, we will deal with the matter? A.—Very well, Mr. Chairman, I will do so. I wish also to say a word with reference to the falling off in the trade of the port. When I was called to the Bar in eighteen hundred and fifty, I found great prosperity existing in the Port of Quebec.

The average number of ships taking timber from this Port in a season, was 1,500, and some made as many as three trips to this country and back, although they were sailing ships. At that time it took about three times as many days to load a ship, as it does at the present time, because then the necessary skill did not exist among ship labourers as it does now. There are three causes for the decrease in the number of ships coming to this Port. The first is that about twenty-five years ago they began to build, on the Clyde, iron sailing ships. That was the first blow given to the active business of Quebec, viz.: In ship building, and trade in square timber. Then about twenty years ago they discovered in the Southern States, three quarter pitch pine, which for all purposes, except the manufacture of furniture, is superior to our red pine, and which was put down at nearly half the price, that also diminished the number of ships coming to Quebec, as many ships went to the States for cargo in summer. Then the channel of Lake St. Peter was deepened so as to allow steamers to go to Montreal with their cargo, and they shipped from Montreal deals, manufactured near Ottawa. In this way they manufactured, and do now manufacture, deals and other lumber in large quantities, which were brought down (as they are now) in barges through the canal to Montreal, where they were put on board the steamers, taking so much away from the mills at Quebec and vicinity, so that the trade at the latter places disappeared on account of the return cargo which these barges were, and are, able to take back after they have delivered the sawn lumber in Montreal. Then came the ships owned by Norwegians, the sailors of which work for twenty-five per cent less than the crews of any English, Irish or Scotch ships. Then there is a provision in the Norwegian Shipping Law, which came to my knowledge, by which a Norwegian sailor is bound to remain by his ship until he is discharged again in Norway or Sweden—if he desires to go back to his native land again—desertion from Scandinavian ships being severely punished. Then their food costs twenty-five per cent less than it does on English, Irish or Scotch ships—and they have splendid English sailing vessels in the timber trade here. These are several of the reasons for the decay in English shipping to my knowledge.

Now Mr. President I want to state my experience of the way in which ship captains used to treat laborers on board their ships. I have had frequent applications on the part of ship laborers, who had made a bargain with a ship stower, and who desired to be secured in their wages. By binding the ship stower and the master of the ship together jointly, much suffering and robbery was prevented. Certainly twenty cases have happened to my knowledge when the master has gone and the ship stower has declared that he received no pay from the master. The men have had no means of obtaining their money against the stower or stevedore, and have gone away without being paid. Being so often placed in that position, they were obliged to invoke the law so as to bind themselves together in a Society, and look no longer to the ship stower for their pay, but to the ship. According to their rules they are paid now, for their work every week. They had to do this—they were forced into it, because without combination they would not get their wages. Now they do not depend altogether upon the ship stower for their wages. They are no longer at his mercy; and why? Because union is strength, and their rules provide that all members of the Society shall receive their wages every Saturday, on board the ship, and, in the event of a vessel finishing on any other day during the week, they shall be paid on board also. The laborer works very hard, and he sees that he gets his pay, and no one can blame him for that. Since the ships frequenting this port have diminished in number, the ship laborers get perhaps only thirty days work in a season, and at three dollars a day, that is not enough to keep him through the winter. Although his wages appear to be large he earns it only by working very hard. The result has been that large numbers of our most hardworking and honest citizens have left Quebec for other places, that is the reason why the ship laborers have disappeared from the City of Quebec, because they could not earn a living.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—When a gang of men have loaded a ship, how long may that gang have to wait before they get another ship to load? A.—They have no certainty; the ships are so rare. The number of ships now coming to this port do not amount to more than six hundred in a season, and these Norwegian ships, as a rule, load themselves—that is to say, they do not employ any laborers—the ship's crew load the vessel. That is the rule. I may mention that the life of a ship laborer is a very hard one, and sometimes hazardous, and particularly so with square timber, from out of these slimy coves which, while being put into the hold, is the cause of the greatest danger to the men in the hold. If the winchmen do not keep it steadily going, there is great danger of its striking some of these men, and killing or injuring them. Many have been injured in this way, and some have been killed.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Is the hand winch more easily controlled on a timber ship than the steam winch? A.—Yes; the winchmen are always on the *qui vive* to prevent accident, and they stop the winch immediately they hear a shout to that effect. The noise of a steam winch, and the distance of the engineer from the men who are stowing the timber in the hold, would prevent their cry of warning being heard, or word being conveyed to him in time for him to stop his engine and prevent accident.

SIMON PETERS, Quebec, Saw and Planing Mill Owner and Contractor.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—We understand that you are also a manufacturer of all classes of joiner work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you employ many joiners? A.—Quite a number. I regret to say that I have forgotten my memorandum book, but I will answer any question you put to me as far as I can. I employ quite a number of men.

Q.—What are the rate of wages paid to joiners in Quebec? A.—We pay them from one dollar and fifteen cents to two dollars and twenty-five cents a day. I pay them according to their capacity.

Q.—What is the average? A.—Well, those are about the rates.

Q.—What is a good bench hand, a good average workman, worth? A.—Well, they vary from one dollar and twenty-five to one dollar and forty cents a day.

Q.—A good average mechanic cannot vary much in wages? A.—I beg pardon?

Q.—What would a good bench hand make, one who is capable of taking off a job from the board, taking off the details and putting the work together—what is he worth? A.—He is worth about one dollar and forty cents a day.

Q.—That would be about the average rate of a good general mechanic? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any apprentices at the present moment? A.—Not any.

Q.—Is it customary to take apprentices? A.—It has gone out of fashion. Our young men do not want to be apprenticed; they do not want to be tradesmen.

Q.—They want to be lawyers and doctors? A.—Yes.

Q.—What hours do you work? A.—Ten hours a day; from seven to six.

Q.—Are they paid by the hour, or by the day? A.—They are paid by the day.

Q.—Are any fines imposed, or time taken off the men for being late? A.—No; if a man is a few minutes late we do not take any notice of it.

Q.—How many skilled wood working mechanics do you employ? A.—Four or five. We employ four now, and sometimes five.

Q.—What are the wages of a good general machinist? A.—We pay them as high as two dollars and twenty-five cents a day.

Q.—Do you have any boys working in the machine shop? A.—We have four boys in the machine shop, and four in the box factory.

Q.—Are these boys working on the machines? A.—Some of them.

Q.—What would the ages of these boys be? A.—From sixteen to twenty, in the box factory.

Q.—Do you work on day work or piece work? A.—The nailers work piece work; and the stuff is cut out by day work.

Q.—What can a man earn at box making, day after day? A.—I have a man and two boys under him, who earn from twenty-four dollars to thirty dollars a fortnight.

Q.—Do you know how much he pays the boys? A.—From thirty to forty cents a day.

Q.—What age would they be? A.—About the age of fourteen.

Q.—Does this man control them, or the firm? A.—No; the man controls them.

Q.—In case of an accident happening to these boys while thus in the employ of the firm, would you consider the firm responsible? A.—No.

Q.—Is your machinery in such a condition that it is guarded against an accident as far as possible? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is the driving belt covered in? A.—The main driving belt is in the cellar below the flooring.

Q.—Do they use any kind of machinery in the joiner shop? A.—No.

Q.—Do the joiners do any ripping and cross cutting? A.—No, that is all done by persons specially employed for that purpose.

Q.—Band sawyers? A.—Yes.

Q.—What wages do they earn—band sawyers? A.—They earn one dollar and eighty cents a day.

Q.—Are they given pretty regular employment all the year round? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you find any difficulty in Quebec in getting mechanics? A.—No, I find no difficulty. My hands stop with me. I have men who have been with me from thirty to forty-six years.

Q.—Do you find a scarcity in the labor market in Quebec as compared to what it was some few years ago? A.—Yes, they are getting more scarce. A great many have left for Montreal and the United States.

Q.—Do you think the scarcity of good mechanics is on account of the lack of apprentices; a lack of a desire on the part of the parents and guardians of the young, for the latter to learn a trade? A.—I think that is it to some extent.

Q.—Why do employers have an objection to taking apprentices? A.—I know that from my own experience. I have a man with me who has worked for me forty-six years. Three of his sons learned their trade with me, but they have all gone away.

Q.—Where? A.—Some after learning their trade went to the United States, others to the North-West. None remain here.

Q.—Do you not think the low rate of wages given in Quebec has something to do with the scarcity of men skilled in their trade? A.—Well; it has something to do with it.

Q.—Do you know how wages compare in Quebec with those given in the United States? A.—I cannot say exactly, but I know it is in excess to what it is here.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—I think you said some little time ago that the young men became so well educated here that they did not wish to learn a trade? A.—I think it is a great deal owing to higher education being too cheap. You can go to college for a few dollars a year if your parents wish to send you there. There are many mechanics, I know some of them, joiners—I know some of these mechanics—who have sent their sons to school for seven or eight years and when they have finished their education these same sons would not learn a trade.

Q.—They considered a trade was not high enough for them? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Well, it is the system that is to blame, and not the education itself? A.—No; the education is well enough in its way. You can obtain that cheaply enough here, but it is more of a harm than a benefit in that way.

Q.—Do you think that a man has less skill as a mechanic, because he receives a good education? A.—Oh, no; but when a young man spends eight years at college he is not formed for manual labour. His ideas does not follow in the groove of labour. He soars higher.

Q.—Do you think a technical knowledge of mechanics, if taught in the schools would be a great benefit to the working classes? A.—It would be a marked benefit.

Q.—Do you think if a portion of the present curriculum was dropped, and branches of popular science taught in their place, it would prove a benefit to the working classes. A.—I think so, and that is what I told the young men, when I was asked by one of the Professors to be present at the closing of the season of the art school. I was asked to say a few words, and I told the young men there, that they ought to be thankful for the opportunities that were placed before them in the present day. That when I was a young man, I had to go to New York for improvement, I had to go to New York, and take lessons there, and pay my own expenses into the bargain, whilst they had it for nothing. It is, in fact, brought to their doors. They had the Legislature to assist them, and had it brought to their doors.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

• Q.—How long would a man be earning one dollar and fifteen cents, or one dollar and twenty-five cents, before he would own a property suitable for man to live in in Quebec? A.—Well, most of my men own their own houses.

Q.—Of what value are they? A.—Some may be worth one thousand dollars, some less, and some more.

Q.—Do you know if these houses are paid for? A.—I cannot say; I think they are.

Q.—Do you know if the low price paid to mechanics, has a tendency to drive the young men into some other course of life? A.—Well, as to low prices, I would like to explain what is a low price.

Q.—Do you not think one dollar and fifty cents a day a low price for a skilled mechanic? A.—Well, I finished my apprenticeship in the spring of eighteen hundred and thirty-five, and the pay of a carpenter, then, was eighty cents a day, and that was considered fair wages. A man would require to be a good man, then, to receive eighty cents a day.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Since fifty-three years ago, there have been many changes in life in the city of Quebec, has there not? A.—Yes.

Q.—House rent, fuel, clothing, and, in fact, everything was cheaper, then, than it is now, were they not? A.—Some things were a little cheaper, and other things were not so cheap.

Q.—Would you name the necessary articles of life that were cheaper then than than they are now? A.—Fuel was a trifle cheaper and butter, but bread was dearer. I have known bread to be twenty-five cents a loaf, and that too when ship carpenters received one shilling and eight pence a day.

Q.—When was that? A.—That was twenty-five years ago.

Q.—You said that young men largely go into the learned professions in preference to learning trades, are there many mechanics sons who go to college? A.—Quite a number.

Q.—Do you know the percentage? A.—Quite a large proportion. I know many lawyers and professional men in Quebec to-day, whose fathers were carpenters and joiners, and mechanics.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do you believe if there were more schools of art and design that it would give better service to the working classes than the present ones? A.—You could improve the system by applying it in the schools. There are many young boys in the School of Art and Design that are more particularly for grown-up people—young men. These boys could be taught the initiative in the common schools.

Q.—Then you would recommend more schools and more especially at night? A.—Yes; the system should be used in the Primary schools, such as the Christian Brothers. It can be made very useful to the rising generation by being inculcated to the boys.

Q.—You know generally all the manufacturers of Quebec, either shoe factories, tanneries, sash and door factories, and other factories? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think the law passed in 1885 to have an officer go and inspect the sanitary condition or any other grievances there may be in those factories, would be well administered and prove to the benefit of the working classes and the public in general. Do you think an application of that law is needed in Quebec? A.—Well; very little. Of course he might by close inspection find some places where an improvement might be required, but generally speaking I think things are pretty well managed in Quebec. The shoe factories where they employ women might perhaps be better for some inspection by which the classes could be better separated in certain matters, but that is the only thing that I can think of. Such as the closets, going to and leaving work and so on.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you a factory in Quebec where they have no separate conveniences for males and females? A.—I have no particular knowledge, but it strikes me that that is a question that might be looked into by the inspectors.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Are you acquainted with the shipping business or any of the Companies having boats running on the St. Lawrence, and if so are you acquainted with the way in which these boats are administered? A.—Passenger boats?

Q.—No timber boats and other boats. Some persons have reported to us that there are some ships or boats which travel on the water nearly all the summer, and on which the crews are not provided with beds, and that when they eat their meals they are compelled to eat them on the floor—that there are no tables or proper seats and that they are treated very badly indeed. Are you aware of such a thing as this occurring on the river St. Lawrence, either at Quebec or any other place? A.—No; but I suppose they must be boats running not far from here. I am not acquainted with them,

(Translation.)

LEON P. VOHL, of Quebec, Chief of Police, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How many years have you been Chief of the city police? A.—Eight years.

Q.—How many men are under your orders, including sergeants, sub-sergeants and the men? A.—Fifty-eight.

Q.—Are the men classed? A.—They are. That is to say two men are classed. All the others are first-class, except those lately engaged. They remain eighteen months at a certain salary, and they are classed as first-class men.

Q.—What are the wages paid to first class men ? A.—One dollar.

Q.—What are the wages paid to the men of the second class ? A.—Ninety cents. There are two men who receive less than ninety cents; they receive sixty cents.

Q.—How long have these men, earning sixty cents, been in the force ? A.—One has been twenty years and the other more than twenty years.

Q.—How long are the men on duty in winter ? A.—First of all they are on duty for twenty-four hours, this is divided into duties of two hours each, in doors and out of doors alternately, excepting in very cold weather they may, if they like, relieve each other every hour.

Q.—Do the men pay for their own clothes ? A.—No.

Q.—How many suits of clothes are the men given in a year ? A.—They are given a winter suit and an overcoat for the winter every two years, a pair of trousers every winter, a summer tunic in cloth, trousers every summer also; and a complete outfit in serge every summer also.

Q.—Do they not receive any underclothing ? A.—No; they receive boots, and stockings to put over their boots and two pairs of rubbers.

Q.—Who hires them ? A.—The police force is managed by a Board composed of three members: the Mayor, the Recorder and the Judge of Sessions.

Q.—Are the men subjected to a medical examination before they are admitted into the force ? A.—Yes, they are now, for a few years past.

Q.—Does it belong to this same Board to dismiss the men when they have done wrong ? A.—Yes.

Q.—When a complaint is brought against a man in the force, has this man a right to plead his own case ? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is the public admitted during the trial ? A.—No, it is not admitted.

Q.—Is the press admitted ? A.—Not to my knowledge, nor do I know that it has ever been refused admittance. I do not know either if they have ever asked to be admitted.

Q.—When a policeman's pay is to be reduced, is it the Board that reduces it ? A.—Yes, it is the Board.

Q.—The Chief of Police or the Deputy chief, has no power to reduce the wages of the men without going before the Board ? A.—Not at all.

Q.—In the case of an increase or reduction of salary, the recommendation in either of these cases, does not go first before the Chief of Police ? A.—There is a scale of wages. The men get a dollar a day, and even though I were to recommend an increase, they would not get it.

Q.—Are the men rewarded for long service, are they promoted for length of service ? A.—They are rewarded in this way: they are made sergeants if they are able to fill the position. There is no other recompense.

Q.—What is the reason that men who have been long in the force are reduced to sixty cents a day ? A.—The reason is this: as there is no pension fund, we said to these men who were, so to say, incapable: "We cannot give you more; the Board has decided that no more than sixty cents a day can be given you." As there is no pension fund, it was a way of giving them a pension in disguise.

Q.—Do they do the same duty as a man who earns full wages ? A.—They give the same time.

Q.—Who fixes the scale of wages ? Is it the Board or the City Council ? A.—The Board fixes the scale of wages.

Q.—Has there been a recent reduction in the men's wages ? A.—No. They have been increased since the last five years.

Q.—Can a policeman, or a sergeant, receive an increase of wages without a recommendation from the Chief of Police ? A.—As I have just said, there is no increase. There can be no increase, because there a scale established: the sergeants get one dollar and twenty cents, the men of the force one dollar, and the new-comers ninety cents; and, when they have been eighteen months in the force, they have a right to a dollar a day.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Is there a benevolent fund in connection with the Police Board? A.—About four years ago, at my suggestion, when a man of the force died, each policeman gave the widow a day's pay.

Q.—Does the Board furnish medical attendance when a policeman is ill? A.—No.

Q.—Do the citizens ever present money to the police force? A.—Yes; sometimes, for services rendered, small gifts. There is a fund for them. It is divided every year.

Q.—How is it divided? At the rate of the wages, or so much for the sergeants and so much for the men? A.—It is divided among the men who do duty in the streets, those that wear the uniform. They are fifty-one in number; they each receive about two or three dollars.

Q.—Does the City of Quebec insure the policemen? A.—Yes, sir; against accidents, that is, the city pays half the premium, the other half is paid by the men themselves. It is a trifle; it amounts to about forty cents a month to each man, and if an accident happens to a policeman, he is paid five dollars a week, and in case of death, his wife gets one thousand dollars.

Q.—Are the accounts of this insurance made up every year, and are they submitted to the men? Is a statement of accounts made by them every year? A.—There is no statement of accounts. They know they pay forty cents a month. The Corporation pays the forty other cents, which makes up the insurance premium. It is an accident insurance only.

Q.—Since when has this insurance been in existence? A.—For two years; this is the third year.

Q.—Have you ever had reason to pay the insurance? A.—Oh, yes; that is to say, in cases of death.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do the men receive full pay when they are ill? A.—When they are ill, they have only the right to claim half their wages. When they recover and resume their duties, they make an application to the Board for the balance, and it is optional for the Board to give it or not; but they always give it.

Q.—Do the policemen have regular vacations during the year? A.—There is no rule on the subject, but when they ask for one or two days, or even three days, when they need vacation, they get it. That is to say—I must correct myself—not always; when I see they do not make ill use of it, and they have not had too many days' vacation already, I grant it. But they never ask for more than necessary.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—After twenty-four hours on duty, how much time has a man to himself? A.—He is twenty-four hours out of doors. He leaves duty at nine o'clock in the morning. Now, if there are prisoners, if he has to be a witness in Court, he comes back at ten o'clock. That is to say, if there are prisoners, he leaves earlier; he goes home to breakfast and returns for ten o'clock. He leaves at eight.

Q.—When does he go on duty again? A.—The following morning at nine o'clock, except on Saturdays, when he is on picket duty. There are more people that day than on other days, and those who go off duty in the morning, come back at seven in the evening and are three hours on duty.

Q.—Can a man remain at home all the time he is off duty? A.—He can if he wants to, except sometimes when extra duty may be required. Sometimes we need twelve or fifteen or twenty men for certain occasions; such as races or other such occasions, and the men are paid for these things,

Q.—Is the same number of men on duty on Sundays as on other days? A.—Yes; the same as on other days.

Q.—The men on duty on Sunday have no opportunity of going to church? A.—Undoubtedly, they go. They go in the morning. They take their beat at nine in the morning and those who belong to churches in which there is no service before nine do not go that day. They can go the next Sunday.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is the Deputy Chief under the Chief's orders? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they both devote all their time to their police duties? A.—For myself, I do not devote all my time exactly. I had another position with that of Chief of Police.

Q.—Is it a position given by the Council? A.—No; it is a position given by Government, but paid by the Council.

Q.—Are cabmen under the control of the police? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is a carter who has no license, and who has no number on his vehicle, permitted to take fares? A.—If he has no number, no, he is not; he must have his number on the bridle of his horse and on the back of his vehicle.

Q.—Is there a class of cabmen to whom it is permitted to take fares without having a number on their vehicles? A.—I think so. Livery stable keepers, those who let horses and carriages for instance, they are allowed to drive without having a number. But they are obliged to have a license to carry on the business.

Q.—Is the license the same as a cabman's? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Has the police control over all vehicles in the city, that have paid no license? Is it possible for a livery stable keeper to send out carriages that have not paid a license? A.—It is always possible to do such things; but the moment the police notice it, they can stop the carter, and sue him if they know the individual.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are cabmen obliged to have a number? A.—Yes; two numbers.

Q.—Livery stable keepers are obliged to do the same? A.—Not quite the same; I believe that there is an understanding that they will take out a license, but that a number on their vehicles will not be exacted.

Q.—Suppose a livery stable keeper took out a license, what would prevent him sending out nine vehicles? A.—It could not be prevented; but as soon as noticed, he would be sued.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that licensed cabmen, carters, had complained to the Board of Commissioners that there were in the streets, vehicles carrying passengers, and whose owners had paid no license? A.—I do not remember. It was not reported to me.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do livery stable keepers, having vehicles such as omnibuses, have more privileges than cabmen? A.—I do not see that they have more privileges.

Q.—Have you ever heard complaints to the effect that they are privileged at stations? A.—I have myself remarked that they go to certain places at railway stations, and to certain places on the wharves; but it is by permission of the proprietors of these places. For instance, the wharves of the Richelieu Company belong to the Company, and they permit these omnibuses to occupy certain places where the carters are not permitted to go.

Q.—Is the same privilege given them at the stations? A.—They are all on a line at the Pacific station.

Q.—Have you ever heard complaints from carters, that livery stable keepers have privileged places? A.—No; not in that way.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Have not hotel porters the permission to solicit patronage from passengers? A.—They have.

Q.—Do they not put these passengers in their omnibuses? A.—I have had occasion, when complaints were made to me on this subject, to go to the Richelieu Company's wharf to tell these porters not to go down to the gangway to solicit loads. They had permitted the porters to go, and complaints were made that more than one went; and it was not just.

Q.—Have carters the right to leave their carriages to go on the gangway to look for passengers? A.—No.

Q.—Have the porters of hotels the right? A.—Yes; the porters have, but there are men to take care of their vehicles.

Q.—But if a carter leaves another man in care of his carriage, can he go down on the gangway? A.—No.

Q.—Can the hotel porter when he has a badge on his hat, go? A.—Yes.

Q.—If any one wanted a policeman to go with him on the Lacrosse grounds where would he seek him? A.—Either at the office of the chief of police or from the secretary of the Board of Police.

Q.—Is it necessary that the application should be made in person? A.—Not necessarily. He can make the request in writing.

Q.—Is it not necessary that the application should be made in writing? A.—No.

Q.—Must the services of these men not be paid for before going on the grounds? A.—Most frequently, generally.

Q.—Not always? A.—Not always, it is not always so.

Q.—Why is the distinction made? A.—The distinction is made in this way: a person comes to me and says: "I want so many policemen," then I tell him: "You must pay so much, seventy-five cents for a man and one dollar for a sergeant." He replies: "Send them, and I will pay you to-morrow or the day after." It is thus it is done. Sometimes they have not the money to pay immediately.

Q.—Is it not true that some people have to pay before the policemen are sent on the ground? A.—Most frequently when we do not know the people.

Q.—But if the application is made to the Board of Police in writing, as it ought to be, you would not know these persons? A.—Undoubtedly.

Q.—When the application is received by the Board of Police is it their duty to treat every one the same? A.—I presume it may be the duty of the Board, but the Board has no knowledge of these affairs; it does not come before them. The men are asked for, very often, two hours before they are needed. We are not going to call the Board together to submit that affair to them.

Q.—I thought this application had to be made to the secretary of the Board of Police? A.—It is not absolutely necessary.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH VERMETTE, of Quebec, furrier, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Are you simply a merchant or do you manufacture likewise? A.—I prepare furs also.

Q.—Have you any workmen under you, and if so, how many? A.—I employ

sometimes fifteen workmen, sometimes ten, sometimes six; it depends on the amount of work.

Q.—What is their average wages? A.—One dollar in summer and winter, and some earn seven dollars a week.

Q.—Are the furs you prepare of this country or do you import them? A.—Some come from this country and some I import.

Q.—Are the furs of this country scarce, do they decrease in number and continue to decrease yearly, or does their number increase? A.—All the furs of this country are increasing, there is a surplus at the present time.

Q.—Do prices keep up or have they fallen? A.—It depends on the market. Some years they are very firm, and at other times they fall: it is the same as in other lines of business, it depends on the state of the market.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—What are the hours of work of the men that earn one dollar a day or seven dollars a week? A.—From seven to six o'clock and an hour for dinner.

Q.—Do you employ children? A.—No.

Q.—You dye the skins? A.—I dye the skins also.

Q.—Can you tell how these skins are dyed, what is the work these men have to do? A.—They have to dip the skins in the dye. There are some furs we have to dye by putting the dye on with a brush.

Q.—Are they obliged to dye the skins by moving them about with their feet? A.—It is not necessary.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—But all the same do they do so? A.—Not at the present time.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Is there any kind of work in the business that requires that men should knead the skins with their feet? A.—Yes, but not in dyeing.

Q.—Can you give me a description of the work the men have to do when they are obliged to knead the skins with their feet? A.—They have to stand on the skins and knead them with their feet.

Q.—In what are the skins placed? A.—In a sort of puncheon.

Q.—Are the men clothed to do this work? A.—They are sometimes in their shirts.

Q.—How many hours are they obliged to work in this state? A.—From seven to six.

Q.—In water? A.—No, not in water, the skins are dry.

Q.—The skins are dry? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is this manner of working skins common to all establishments in your line of business? A.—I have never been in other countries, only in my own.

Q.—Are there other such establishments in Quebec? A.—There is my father's and my brother's also.

Q.—And skins are worked in the same way? A.—Yes, in the same way.

Q.—Do you employ women? A.—Sometimes. That is to say, we do not employ them in our place, we give them work to do at home. It is work that is sent out of the house.

Q.—Is it needle work? A.—Yes, sewing the skins together, pulling out the long hairs, picking the skins.

Q.—How much, on an average, do they earn in a week? A.—They earn as much as three or four shillings a day.

Q.—About how many hours do they work? A.—I know nothing of that.

Q.—Do they work by the piece? A.—Yes, by the piece.

(Translation.)

FRANÇOIS-XAVIER DUSSAULT, of Quebec, Manufacturer of Tobacco, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Are you, yourself a manufacturer of tobacco, or are you foreman to Mr. Houde? A.—I am a manufacturer myself.

Q.—How many persons do you employ? A.—From forty to seventy-five sometimes. It varies.

Q.—Among this number how many men, women and children are there? A.—I have a store apart from my manufactory, but in the manufactory only, of this number, I have only six men.

Q.—How many women? A.—The number varies, thirty-five to fifty. It varies much.

Q.—And of children? A.—I have none under fourteen years.

Q.—What is the average wages of the men? A.—I pay them from six to fourteen dollars a week.

Q.—Have the men who earn fourteen dollars to pay assistants from these wages? A.—No.

Q.—What is the average wages of the women? A.—There are women who earn as much as five dollars a week, \$4, \$3, \$2 and to some younger twenty cents a day. We have only three or four, the others earn more than that.

Q.—What are the wages of the children? A.—It is what I already told you, twenty cents.

Q.—Are the lowest wages you pay, twenty cents? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What are the hours of work? A.—From half-past seven in the morning to six o'clock in the evening.

Q.—Does it sometimes happen that you work later? A.—Very rarely.

Q.—When they work later are they paid extra? A.—They are paid extra.

Q.—Until what hour have you worked at night? A.—Never after ten o'clock.

Q.—When the workmen work until ten o'clock have they a delay for supper? A.—Yes; one hour.

Q.—Are the children obliged to remain until ten o'clock? A.—Very rarely. It hardly occurs at all.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What kind of tobacco do you manufacture? A.—Cut tobacco, snuff and a little plug tobacco.

Q.—Do you impose fines at your place, on the employees? A.—Never.

Q.—Do you punish the children? A.—Never.

Q.—Notwithstanding, your work is as well done as in those houses where they punish and impose fines? A.—Certainly.

Q.—Had you ever recourse to such means to have your work done? A.—No.

Q.—Do you think it is necessary to impose fines on employees to make them work their day? A.—It might be necessary with some, but it has never been practiced at our place.

Q.—How many years have you been in the tobacco business? A.—I have been in the tobacco trade for fifteen years, and I have been a manufacturer only six years.

Q.—Nevertheless you have never found it necessary to beat or fine apprentices under your control? A.—No, sir.

Q.—And you have been able to put your goods on the market? A.—Yes.

Q.—What convenience have you as regards privies, are they separate? A.—No; we have only one.

Q.—It is for both sexes? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How many stories are there in your factory? A.—Two stories and a French roof.

Q.—Are there means of escape in case of fire? A.—No; there is only one stair-way.

Q.—Is the outside door barred during the day? A.—No.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Does your door open outwards or inwards? A.—Inwards.

(Translation.)

IGNACE BILODEAUX, Stone cutter, Quebec, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are you a cutter of stone in general? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What are the wages of stone-cutters? A.—Wages are from two dollars to two dollars and a quarter. They vary.

Q.—Is there any difference between granite cutters and cutters of ordinary stone? A.—I know that last summer cutters of soft stone were paid two dollars, and the others two dollars and a half.

Q.—What causes such a difference between the two classes of men? A.—We are not accustomed to cut granite, but last year, or two years ago, some was cut, and I do not know where the difference lies.

Q.—Do you do any work in marble? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is paid to marble cutters? A.—The same wages.

Q.—What is paid to marble polishers? A.—It is generally day labourers that are employed for that work, but sometimes the cutter himself does the polishing.

Q.—What are the wages of a laborer who polishes marble? A.—They are generally paid a dollar a day; from ninety cents to a dollar ten cents.

Q.—Are women employed in polishing? A.—Never.

Q.—What is the condition of the shops where polishing is done? Are they dry? A.—Yes; that is, when they are polishing they are not, as polishing is done with water.

Q.—Is there sufficient drainage under the floor for the water to run off? A.—No; but the water generally runs off, and when it mounts too high we lay planks down to keep ourselves dry.

Q.—Are there many stone cutters in Quebec? A.—There must be fifty or sixty I think, more or less.

Q.—You include apprentices? A.—Yes.

Q.—What wages do apprentices earn while they are still learning their trade? A.—Generally a dollar and a half or two dollars and a half a week.

Q.—What time do they serve? A.—Three years.

Q.—Is there any difficulty in procuring apprentices or in keeping them the time required? A.—Since I have been taking apprentices, there is only one who remained to serve his full time; the others always left before their time had expired.

Q.—Do you think it would make a difference if the apprentices were bound by indentures? A.—They always have been bound by indentures.

Q.—Is there a law in Quebec that obliges an apprentice to serve his full time? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Is the stone cut in country parts, outside the city, much used in building in Quebec? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does this stone compete much with your work? A.—Yes. It is cut at cheaper rates than we can cut it here.

Q.—Where is it done? A.—At St. Albans, about forty-five miles from here, in the quarries. It is what is generally called Deschambeault; but it is not Deschambeault, it is St. Albans.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is more Canadian stone used now than formerly? A.—Yes.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Have you ever found stone or marble polishing hurtful to health? A.—No; I have never noticed it. Our place is well aired, and we nearly always work out of doors.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What sort of stone do you import from the United States? A.—Marble. And we sometimes use Ohio sandstone, but mostly marble.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do you ever cut flag stones for pavements? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you use Canada stone for that purpose? A.—Yes.

Q.—In your opinion, is Canada stone as good, as easily worked as stone imported to other cities from the United States? A.—I don't think much stone from the United States comes to Quebec. We only use marble from the United States.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you know why it is, that stone cutters prefer to work in Ohio sandstone to working in Canada stone? A.—I do not know that we do prefer Ohio sandstone. for sandstone is much more injurious to the chest than our own stone.

(Translation.)

H. HERMÉNÉGILDE MORIN, of Quebec, Policeman, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you anything particular to state to the Commission? A.—I would say that I have been thirty years in the Police force. When I joined we were sworn in as Policemen and we had the fire service to attend to during ten years. In winter it was hard; we got our boots full of water sometimes, and then contracted the following trouble: my legs are now weak from having had them in the water, and today when I am advanced in years and suffer from pains in my legs, they do not give me the wages of others.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do you do the same duty as the others? A.—I am on duty every day. I am on the Jacques-Cartier market where I was ordered by the Chief. I am on duty every day, and at night I do not go out, by order of the Chief.

Q.—Do you know of any persons in the same position as yourself who have complaints to make? A.—I don't see many. In consequence of the length of time I have served in the Police, I am pretty well tired, worn out: thirty years service in the Police Force; and because I have been so frequently wet during fires I have contracted a weakness in the legs and am not as active as a young man. It is on ac-

count of this that the Chief orders me to be on duty all day, and to remain at home at night.

Q.—What wages do you receive at present? A.—Three shillings a day. This is not sufficient to meet my expenses. I am always in debt with such wages. I am completely used up. I have passed all my youth here. It is very difficult now, at the age I now am to commence any other business.

6th March, 1888.

WILLIAM LEE, Merchant Tailor, Quebec, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How many hands do you employ in your business? A.—From fifteen to twenty-five in the busy season.

Q.—Of both sexes? A.—Yes.

Q.—What would be the earnings of a tailor, on an average, in the City of Quebec per week? A.—The men are able to earn from seven to ten dollars per week.

Q.—Do you think they would average seven dollars a week all the year round? A.—If constantly employed they can. Some men are employed by the week.

Q.—Taking the amount of employment they get do you think that seven dollars a week would be a fair average for them? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much can a woman earn at the business? A.—A competent woman can earn from three to five dollars a week.

Q.—Would three dollars be the average all the year round? A.—Three dollars a week would be a fair average, with the use of a machine from her employer.

Q.—Do they work at home? A.—At times they do. Some of them work at home, and some work on the premises.

Q.—Those who work at home, work on their own machines? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many hours a day do the women work who earn three dollars a week? A.—Those who work with me commence at eight o'clock in the morning, and leave off at six at night—nine hours.

Q.—And do the same hours apply to the men? A.—Yes; the men work the same hours.

Q.—Can they find pretty constant employment all the year round in Quebec? A.—Pretty fair.

Q.—Have you any young people working for you who are learning the business? A.—No.

Q.—Is it customary, in Quebec, to take apprentices on to learn the tailoring business? A.—It is not so much now as it used to be.

Q.—What causes so great a difference between the earnings of the men and the earnings of the women? A.—The men are able to do a much finer finished garment than the women.

Q.—On what are women generally placed—on what articles? A.—Tweed suits, trousers, etc.

Q.—They are not capable of doing as good work as the men? A.—No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do your work people work by the piece, or by the day? A.—They, who work outside, work by the piece. Those who work inside our premises work by the week.

Q.—On custom work? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much do the women receive for making a pair of trousers? A.—Fifty cents.

Q.—And a vest? A.—Fifty cents.

- Q.—And a coat? A.—One dollar to one dollar and fifty cents.
- Q.—What do they get for a business tweed coat? A.—One dollar and twenty-five cents for a business tweed coat, and for a cheap coat one dollar.
- Q.—Do you employ women who make only trousers and vests? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Do you supply them with thread, buttons, and all necessary furnishings? A.—Yes; we provide them with everything.
- Q.—Are your hands always paid in cash? A.—They are always paid in cash, and they are paid every Saturday night.

ARTHUR A'HEARN, of Quebec, Secretary of the Quebec Steamship Company, sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

- Q.—How long have you been connected with the Quebec Steamship Company? A.—I have been connected with it going on eighteen years.
- Q.—How many of these steamers run on the St. Lawrence? A.—In summer only one now.
- Q.—Is Quebec the head quarters of the Company? A.—It is.
- Q.—What route do the other steamers of the line take? A.—Two to Bermuda, and we have three steamers running to the West Indies.
- Q.—From what port? A.—New York.
- Q.—You say you have only one steamer now running below—in the Gulf? A.—That is all.
- Q.—To what ports? A.—Gaspé, Percé, Summerside and Charlottetown in Prince Edward's Island, and Pictou in Nova Scotia.
- Q.—Where is the crew of that steamer engaged? A.—In Quebec.
- Q.—Where do they come from? A.—Principally from the lower parishes.
- Q.—What are the wages paid to the sailors on that steamer? A.—Eighteen dollars per month.
- Q.—Are they engaged in handling the freight, and in discharging and loading the vessel? A.—Some are.
- Q.—Some of the sailors are engaged in that way? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Are they paid extra for that? A.—No.
- Q.—Do you employ many men in Quebec during the summer season? A.—Only about half a dozen at the most.
- Q.—What wages are they paid? A.—Fifteen cents an hour during the day. They are paid extra for night.
- Q.—If they do any night work they are paid extra for that? A.—Yes; twenty cents an hour.
- Q.—Have you any people engaged at the present moment on the steamer down there? A.—We have a few, and our contractor has a great many. We have six or eight men not more, but he has over fifty.
- Q.—What class? A.—We have carpenters and some labourers.
- Q.—What are the carpenters paid? A.—One dollar and fifteen cents to one dollar and fifty cents a day.
- Q.—What are the labourers paid? A.—Fifty to seventy-five cents a day.
- Q.—You have no idea what he pays at other work? A.—No; about the same rate.
- Q.—Do you know what business the company does in New York? A.—Yes; the steamers take passengers and freight to and from Bermuda and the West Indies.
- Q.—How many trips does your gulf steamer make in a season? A.—Our gulf steamer the *Miramichi* makes about fourteen round trips during the season which lasts from the first of May until the middle of November.

Q.—Does she take many passengers? A.—A good many during six weeks or two months—The average number per trip would be about eighty.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Have you any Canadians employed on board your vessels going to the West Indies and Bermuda? A.—We have a good many. We try to give Canadians the preference, and in the stewards department they are nearly all French Canadians. Our captains are all Canadians principally from Nova-Scotia and Prince Edward's Island. We always try to give Canadians the preference on our steamers.

Q.—Are you men engaged by the season or how are they engaged? A.—They are engaged according to the ships articles. They are engaged under the Merchant Shipping Act—for the season and are paid by the month. That is ships sailing out of Quebec that I am now speaking of.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Do you think that preferable to engaging the men for the trip and discharging them when they came in port again? A.—Yes; they prefer being engaged for the season because they are then sure of a seasons work. Some men have been with us ten or twelve years. They come back to us regularly every year. Men ship on the *Miramichi* in Quebec in the spring and are discharged there in the fall, when the boat lays up for the winter. Supposing a man was shipped at Quebec and discharged at Pictou and kept ashore until the boat sailed and was engaged again if he liked, and when the boat arrived at Quebec was discharged again it would be exceedingly inconvenient to all parties. Besides, every man has to pay a fee to the shipping master every time he is discharged from the ship or joins it. He boards and lives on the ship the entire season.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Do you know of any tug boats or boats of any description running on the St. Lawrence river which are not furnished with tables for the men to eat their meals off, or suitable seats for them to sit upon? A.—I will say this without naming any special boat; that I have seen them taking their dinners on the bare deck, whether it was from preference or whether they were obliged to do so I am not aware, but I should say it was cooler there than below in the hot weather, but whether they did it from preference or necessity I cannot say.

Q.—Are your laboring men that you speak of, as engaged in loading and unloading the ships, furnished with constant employment at fifteen cents an hour? A.—That ship—our gulf steamer is in port loading cargo only for a few hours, it does not remain long—I may say in Summerside we pay sixteen cents an hour, and at Charlottetown for night work we pay twenty cents an hour.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—When you pay them fifteen cents an hour do they go right to work or do you keep them waiting? A.—If we keep them waiting, for instance, if the steamer is coming in the night we say, be down at such an hour, and if the steamer is not in at that hour we pay them just the same. If we bring them there it is our duty to pay them.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Is that the custom of the port of Quebec, to engage the men as you have described? A.—I do not know. Of course there are very few vessels in the coasting line. There is the "Otter" from Moisie and Ste. Anne's. I suppose it is the same on the north side as on the south side.

Q.—Do you know if this is the practice with ocean steamers? A.—You refer to the crews I presume. I cannot say. In New York we do the same thing. We

engage the men for six months. It would not do to pay them off on arriving in port and before the sailing of the vessel take them on again.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Your object is to secure good reliable men for the work you have for them to do, and to keep them all the year round if possible? A.—Yes.

Q.—As a general rule I suppose you find the older the servant the more reliable he is? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you had men on board your West India steamers for a number of years? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:

Q.—By keeping them the whole season, do you get better men that you otherwise would? A.—Do you refer to the Mirimichi.

Q.—Yes. A.—They come back every spring and are re-engaged. As soon as they are paid off they go back to their respective villages and return to us again in the spring.

Q.—They take it for granted that they will be taken on again? A.—Yes.

Q.—I suppose men engaged in that way take a greater interest in the work of the ship? A.—Yes.

By Mr. BOLVIN:—

Q.—Did you say that every time a man was engaged on a ship or left a ship he had to pay a fee of fifty cents? A.—When discharged before the Shipping Master there is a discharge fee of fifty cents that is according to law, and when they ship, there is the Shipping Master's fee.

Q.—What has he got to do with the engagement and the discharge of the men; what is his duty? A.—There is a regular form of Ships' Articles, and he has to sign them. It is their engagement, and is also signed by the Captain, and officers of the ship. This is signed before the Shipping Master. Then you have to pay them off before the Shipping Master at the close of the year, or voyage, as the case may be; and if there is any difference the Shipping Master decides the difference.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is that for the protection of the seamen? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How is it that the men loading the freight do not get more than the rest of the men? A.—Well, they are not supposed to work at steering the ship. They are first off that duty. We touch at places along the coast where we have to discharge and take on cargo, where there are no wharves, and consequently, we carry a crew for that purpose. The firemen, if they do it, are always paid for it. With them it is different, as it is out of their regular line of work, but these men are engaged with that understanding. They know beforehand.

Q.—These men are simply kept as deck hands? A.—Yes.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH SANSCHAGRIN, of Quebec, Foreman Baker in the Hetherington Bakery, SWORN.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What are the hours of work for bakers in Quebec? A.—Ten and twelve hours in winter, and twelve and fourteen in summer.

Q.—Do the men work by day or by night? A.—By night.

Q.—At what hour do they begin to work at night, and at what hour do they finish in the morning? A.—There are two gangs. One begins work at five, and the other at six o'clock at night. We are divided into two bands, and we finish in the morning, sometimes at three o'clock, sometimes at six or seven, according to the job we have on hand.

Q.—Would it be possible for your work to be done in the day time? A.—It would be much better for the men, and for the public also.

Q.—Can you state the reason why this kind of work is done at night, and not in the day time? A.—Because it is an old time custom.

Q.—What are bakers' wages? A.—Seven dollars a week, in winter, for second-class hands, and three dollars more for the foreman, in winter. In summer, the wages are eight dollars a week, and three more for the foreman, as in winter. That is only for one bakery, in Quebec. The bakery I work in. The others work for three and four dollars a week.

Q.—Do many bakers in Quebec work for less than five dollars a week? A.—About one-fourth of all working bakers.

Q.—What sort of work is done on Sunday? A.—On Sundays we are obliged to go twice to the bakery. One starts the work at noon, he sets the bread to rise at noon. Then we begin work the same as on other days of the week, on Sunday as on other days, at five at night and at six.

Q.—Are there boys working as apprentices? A.—No, sir; not at our place.

Q.—Are bakers more numerous than is necessary? A.—There are always three or four who have nothing to do.

Q.—What is the condition of bakeries in Quebec? A.—Very bad and very dirty.

Q.—Is there a Bread Inspector in Quebec? A.—I have seen in the papers that there is a Corporation inspector of bread, but who has no extra pay; but for myself, I can say it is at least five or six years since an inspector has been around to see that bread is of the right weight and quality, for a great deal of bad and dirty bread is made in Quebec.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q.—Is bread sold underweight? A.—A great deal of it is, especially cheap bread. They take advantage of every means in order to sell at low rates.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do not the Police regulate the weight of bread? A.—I think it is two years since the police weighed the bread here.

Q.—It is their duty to weigh it? A.—Yes, sir; the Police with an Inspector appointed by the Corporation.

Q.—Who splits the wood for the bakeries? A.—It is the men—the labouring bakers.

Q.—Are they obliged to leave the apartment where the ovens are, where they are very warm, to go and split wood in the yard? A.—Yes; nearly always. The room—the shop is kept at a temperature of 80 and 90 degrees and the men are obliged to leave it to go and split wood.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that the men have contracted sickness from the difference of temperature? A.—Oh, well; we have colds, all of us, in the very middle of the year.

By Mr. HEAKES —

Q.—Is the condition of the bakeries such as to injure the men? A.—Not at our place; but in three-fourths of the bakeries that are in basements, in cellars, are fit to kill people.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What is the general size of loaves sold in Quebec? A.—White bread, two and four pound loaves, brown bread, three and six pounds.

Q.—What is the price of a four pound white loaf? A.—Fourteen cents.

Q.—And a six pound brown loaf? A.—Sixteen cents; but in the opposition bakery they sell them twelve and thirteen cents; two for twenty-five cents. They sell them like cotton; the loaf I speak of, is a loaf of six pounds.

Q.—Do you make biscuits in your factory? A.—I speak only of bread, but we have two machines, one side is for biscuits and the other is for bread.

Q.—You make nothing but biscuits, you do not make cakes? A.—We make cakes also, and sweet loaves.

Q.—Do you use colouring matter in them? A.—No, no; nothing of the kind.

Q.—You do not, for instance, use chrome yellow? A.—No; nothing at all. Nothing but butter and sugar and eggs.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What is the price of flour? A.—I do not at all know.

(Translation.)

EDMOND SANSCHAGRIN, of Quebec, Baker of the Hethrington House, sworn:—

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Have you heard the evidence of the last witness? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Have you anything to add to what he has said, or anything to contradict? A.—As regards the Hethrington bakery, I have nothing to say. But it is the system of apprenticeship which generally exists in the Canadian bakeries, that I wish to expose. In the Canadian bakeries, they are accustomed to take a man for a year only.

Q.—Do you mean to say a man or an apprentice? A.—An apprentice; a young man, generally from sixteen to twenty years. At the end of a year of work, they make him a journeyman.

Q.—Can this man, this young man, learn his trade in a year? A.—He can only begin to mix the dough.

Q.—What wages does he receive at the end of a year? A.—From three to four dollars per week.

Q.—The same wages as are paid to a competent workman? A.—There are two classes of men which the Canadian shops usually employ. We give to the first certain wages, from seven dollars to eight dollars, to work twelve, even sixteen, hours by day and night. On this, it must be remembered, a man has got to go, at twelve o'clock noon, every second day, to put the bread to rise. This takes him two hours on the sixteen—that is to say, he begins at six o'clock, and finishes at nine, which makes fifteen hours. Afterwards, at noon, he is obliged to return to the bakery to set his bread to rise; counting the time he takes to go and come, he arrives at his place at two o'clock. Then, at half-past five, he must be back at the bakery.

Q.—Then, that day he has only a few hours rest? A.—He has almost no time to rest. When there are three or four men in the same bakery, the advantage is greater; it postpones for a day or two, the work of putting the bread to rise. But generally, there are only two in a Canadian bakery.

Q.—The others are second-class workmen, the ordinary workmen of whom you speak? A.—There are no others; there are only two.

Q.—How many loaves can these two men make in a night? A.—It depends on

the size of the oven. There are ovens where we can put nearly three barrels—that is to say, in which we can put from one hundred to one hundred and ten loaves; there are others of eighty or ninety loaves, but the difference in the work is very trifling. One is done almost as quickly as the other.

Q.—The journeyman bakers of Montreal came before the Commission, and expressed the wish to work by the piece instead of the day, and asked that a quantity of one hundred loaves should be considered a day's work for a man. Have you any opinion to express about this? A.—According to my opinion, this would lead to troublesome results in Quebec.

Q.—Would you tell us why? A.—Here in Quebec, generally, when the winter begins, the bakers diminish their baking; in diminishing the work, if it was by the barrel, they would dispense with a man, and that man would be without work in our line.

Q.—Do you think that a workman, with a family, could live at Quebec on three or four dollars a week? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do you not think, then, that it would preferable to have fewer workmen, who would earn reasonable wages, than to have a number that could not earn enough to live on? A.—Much better.

Q.—Could not the hours of work be reduced? A.—Easily.

Q.—If the hours of work were reduced, would more men have to be employed? A.—It would come to the same thing.

Q.—Would the reduction of the hours of work to eight, and ten hours a day, seriously increase the price of bread? A.—The capacity of the man would give this advantage. The price of flour in Quebec is between five dollars and twenty cents, and five dollars and ten cents, decreasing, by barrels, of 198 lbs.

Q.—Do you think that anything injurious to health is employed in the making of bread in Quebec? A.—I do not see any.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—No alum? A.—Not at all, sir.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do you think that bread is sold of lighter weight than required by law? A.—Oh, a great deal.

Q.—Is there an inspector here named either by the Government, or the Corporation, to inspect bread? A.—Formerly, it was customary for one to visit us, but for some years past we do not see any. Besides, the man that visited the shop, had no experience in breadmaking.

Q.—Have you anything to suggest to improve the condition, either of the manufacturer or the workman in your trade? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Be good enough to make these suggestions? A.—First, for me, my idea is opposed to night work, which I consider "obscure," so to speak for three reasons: the first, it is destructive to the human race; the second, that a man who works at night, leaves home at six o'clock, and returns home about eight or nine, cannot see to the education of his children, cannot see whether his child attends to his duty, to his business or not. There is the mother, but the mother, generally is not listened to. The third reason is, that a man cannot attend to his religious duties, whatever his belief may be, because he must sleep to prepare himself for the work on Sunday night.

Q.—Do you think, then, that the work that is done at night, could be done as advantageously for the master and workman, in the day time? A.—There would be a great saving to the master.

Q.—Would it be preferable to the workmen? A.—Undoubtedly so.

Q.—Can you say why the work is not done in day time, as in other trades? A.—It is an old-time custom, that the masters now consider it impossible to abandon.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you know that in the town of Ottawa the baking is done altogether in the day time? A.—I have heard it said; but I have never been out of Quebec.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Have any of the masters tried, here in Quebec, to make bread in the day time? A.—Not that I remember. at least.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Can you say if the working class generally, in Quebec, make their own bread, or buy it from the bakers? A.—They generally buy it.

Q.—In Quebec, do the bakers sell their bread directly to families, or do they sell it to the grocers? A.—Half do one thing, and half the other.

Q.—Do you know what is the average profit the grocers make on the bakers' prices? A.—Ordinarily, they calculate to take the thirteenth on every dozen.

Q.—Is the bread in Quebec sold for cash, or do you give credit? A.—Much credit.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you know any bakers in the city of Quebec who use dirty water, or water unfit for domestic use? A.—Yes, sir.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is not pure water as cheap as dirty water, in Quebec? A.—It is not in Quebec; I speak of a baker who lives out of the city, but who, nevertheless, sells his bread in the city. The water works are not in his quarter.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Where does the water come from, which he uses? A.—From a well in the cellar.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—There is only one man, that you know of, who does that? A.—Only one; yes, sir.

(Translation.)

MICHEL BOIVIN, of Quebec, Joiner, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—What have you to state to this Commission? A.—I would like to speak about the work and wages of workman.

Q.—You are a joiner by trade? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How many hours do joiners in Quebec work? A.—Ten hours a day.

Q.—What wages are generally paid for that work? A.—In general, one dollar ten and one dollar twenty cents, in summer.

Q.—Are the wages the same in winter? A.—No, sir; in winter we get ninety cents and a dollar.

Q.—Have you constant work or do you lose much time? A.—We lose much time.

Q.—How much do you lose in a year, one month, two months or more? A.—One month or two months,—two months in the year.

Q.—Are the shops in which you work, comfortable? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—When are you paid? Is it by the month or the week? A.—By the week.

By Mr. WALSH:—

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

Q.—Do you think it would be better if you were paid any other time? A.—On Fridays.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Have working joiners generally any education, or have they none? A.—A number of them are well enough educated.

Q.—Do you know of any joiners, and if so how many, who attend the art and trade schools, the night schools? A.—About a third.

Q.—Do you think that if these schools were more numerous they would be of service to the class to which you belong? A.—I do not think so. It might be, if then were more widely spread, for they are little known of, by workmen.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—The advantage of these schools is not well enough known? A.—It is not well enough known.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Would workmen as a general rule, be willing to learn at these schools? A.—Yes, sir; if they had the chance of attending they would profit by it.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—You have given the wages of joiners in general; can a man who is able, for instance, to design a staircase and give the measurements; does a man who possesses this knowledge not obtain more than one dollar ten, or one dollar twenty cents? A.—Yes, sir; but in a shop, one man alone suffices for that. In a shop ten men will be found able to do the same thing, and only one will receive one dollar and fifty cents. One thing I wish to report to this Commission, is about the wages in autumn. When the days grow short, they deduct a quarter of a day from the workmen; they make them begin at half past seven and they finish at five. They are obliged to bring their dinner, even though they may live at ten minutes' walk from the shop, they are obliged to bring their dinner, and eat it cold. In this way, we give as much time in winter as in summer, and the wages are much less.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Is it a general rule, in all shops, not to have stoves in them? A.—It is the general rule. There are stoves in the shops, but we work out of doors.

Q.—Does the use of machinery interfere with your work much here? A.—It interferes with us a good deal.

Q.—Is any work in your shop done by machinery? A.—Nearly all the work is done by machinery. There is scarcely any means for a workman, of the joiner class, to live in Quebec; the rents are so high.

Q.—Is there sufficient work, outside the shops, to give employment to the men in the city? A.—No, sir.

(Translation.)

WILLIAM BOULÉ, of Quebec, Tanner, sworn :

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What have you to state to this Commission ? A.—I find it very queer that a boss comes and hires us for a year, and then in winter, in the time of greatest misery, turns us off, and, moreover, takes fifty cents from us without warning. They make us work, and take fifty cents at a time from us.

Q.—But this Commission can do nothing for you. A.—I want to speak of the misery they cause us.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—In what condition are the tanneries in general ? A.—They are all so-so. It is work they give us to do, and then they tax us.

Q.—I wish to know if the tannery is comfortable to work in, or if it is in a condition such as to injure the health of the workmen ? A.—It is more likely to hurt us than to help us recover. There is no stove, only a small stovepipe. When we go in there, it is like an ice house, and when we come out at night, it is the same.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is it of your tannery you are speaking ? A.—There are some small places where stoves are placed, but they are never heated.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—What are the wages you generally get, as a tanner ? A.—The highest is five dollars, and when we have the misfortune to ask for five dollars and a half, they nearly put us out doors ; they find it is too much. That is in winter. In the autumn, when they are willing to take us, they offer us three dollars and a half, but in the spring they are obliged to give us four dollars and a half, and five dollars.

Q.—What are your hours of work ? A.—Ten hours' work. Sometimes we are obliged to dissolve the bark, and we work ten minutes, or an hour more, and they do not pay us for that ; they say that is their gain.

Q.—Do you know any tannery where dirt or lack of comfort can really hurt the workman, or the uncleanness affect the neighbors ? A.—I know of shops where they are obliged to air them, because first, when the skins are turned, it is a thing people complain of ; the odour is too overpowering. Only those that work there can endure it, and even they are often unable to take their supper ; they are too sick.

Q.—If I understand rightly, these smells are caused by certain compounds you are obliged to use in your trade ? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—But do you know of tanneries where the uncleanness could be prevented, where there is a want of air ? A.—Yes, sir. I could give you the names, if you wished.

Q.—Do you know of any tannery where there is want of ventilation, and it is not kept clean ? A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do you know of any tanneries where the skins are worked with the feet ? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Is it fatiguing work ? A.—Ah, it would take, so to say, a steam engine to work it. We commence at seven o'clock in the morning to dance, and see nothing but a poor little body for the rest of the day, naked, and always jumping from morning until night, and it is only with the heat of the feet that the skins can be softened.

Q.—You are obliged to dance all day? A.—All day, from seven o'clock in the morning until seven o'clock at night.

Q.—You have an hour's rest at noon? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—The skins are in a puncheon? A.—No, sir; nothing but a sort of sawdust and the heat of the feet.

Q.—But the skins, are they in a puncheon? A.—They are in a puncheon, and we dance on them.

Q.—What sort of skins are worked in this way? A.—Sealskins, muskrat, bear-skins, otter, and other skins.

Q.—Is that work done from one end of the year to the other? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Are children employed at this work? A.—They are men, because children could not do it. These puncheons come up to our armpits nearly. We can only hold on by our hands. A grown person cannot endure it long; it causes a hard skin on the heels of the feet almost like the horn of animals.

Q.—Do you know tanneries where women were employed? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—Is this work necessary? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Are there no other means? A.—No; without they might use fullers. They might, by this means, avoid employing people at this work, that is to say, they would employ people, but they would have less misery. Only, the master who had not the necessary machinery, would be put to more expense in the beginning.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Have you ever worked outside of Quebec? A.—No, always here.

Q.—Do they impose fines? A.—No, sir.

JOHN BROWN, Quebec, Cordage Manufacturer, sworn:

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—How many people have you employed in your manufactory? A.—At present we have sixty to seventy, which is our usual number.

Q.—Are there any boys and girls among the number? A.—There are a few boys. I have got a memorandum here to which I will refer. There are about twenty men, forty girls, and a few boys. Only a few boys.

Q.—What are the ages of these girls? A.—Why they are all young women nearly.

Q.—What is the age of the youngest girl? A.—I could not tell you. She is over fourteen.

Q.—How many hours do these girls work? A.—Ten hours a day, that is our time. We never use lights. We work eight hours without lights, and ten hours when it is light enough.

Q.—What time do they start work? A.—In the summer they work from seven till six, and we regulate the time in winter so as to bring in the eight hours if it is dark they cannot work until five o'clock.

Q.—What are the wages paid to the women? A.—They receive from forty to sixty cents a day for a day of ten hours.

Q.—How many of them receive forty cents? A.—I believe about half of them.

Q.—Do they receive the same wages in summer? A.—We never make any change. As long as our hands behave properly we never make a change. We never pull them down in price.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What are the average wages of the men? A.—We pay as high as three dollars a day. Two dollars, one dollar and fifty cents, one dollar and twenty cents and one dollar a day.

Q.—Do the parties receiving three dollars a day fill the position of foremen or managers? A.—Oh, yes, my foremen receive that.

Q.—What are the average wages of a workingman? A.—It is hard to say. I suppose one dollar and twenty cents.

Q.—From what class of industry do you receive your greatest customers. A.—I can hardly say that. We sell principally to the larger hardware firms in Western Canada. We sell large lots and do not know where it goes to, although we have some idea.

Q.—Do you send any to Manitoba and the North-West Territories? A.—Oh, yes, large quantities to Manitoba and the North-West.

Q.—Do you use much hemp? A.—Yes; all hemp.

Q.—In what kind of manufacture? A.—In the manufacture of twine, we use large quantities.

Q.—Can you compete with others in your trade? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is that portion of industry on the increase in the Dominion? A.—I think so. The fact is, I may give an explanation. We work our machinery to the utmost. We do not increase our machinery, we have no desire to do so, and therefore we keep our machinery going.

Q.—Do you have any night work? A.—No.

Q.—Do you employ any unskilled labour? A.—Well; we have a few unskilled hands, but they are not actually necessary. We train unskilled hands in a few days if they have any intelligence.

Q.—What portion of the work are women engaged in? A.—Attending to the spinning machine principally. They principally attend to the spinning machines.

Q.—Is the factory well ventilated? A.—Oh yes; it is well ventilated.

Q.—And is the sanitary condition of the establishment perfect? A.—Yes; it is perfect in every respect.

Q.—Do the men and women work in the same room? A.—Yes; there are one or two departments where they work together.

Q.—Are there separate conveniences for both sexes? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has the price of your product within the past few years cheapened? A.—That depends altogether upon the cost of the crude article. If the hemp is of a high price my cost will be in proportion, the cost of manufacture never varies.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do you use other substitutes besides hemp? A.—Hemp is the principal part.

Q.—Do you use any suction fans? A.—No; we do not want them. What are they for—I suppose that is with reference to carrying off the dust?

Q.—Yes. A.—We do not require it. The air of our place is as pure as the air of this room.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Where does your raw material come from? A.—The greater part of it comes from the Philippine Islands. We buy it sometimes in Manilla and ship it to London and thence in Quebec. Then we use Sisal, that is a Mexican fibre imported by way of New York. Then we use New-Zealand hemp, that is imported via London and we use very little Russian hemp, but we use it sometimes.

Q.—So you do not use any raw material which is produced in this country? A.—They can raise the same as the Russian hemp if they would do it. It is as good as the Russian hemp when properly prepared.

Q.—Do you think if it was raised in this country it would realize a profit to the farmers who grew it? A.—I have no doubt they could realize a profit.

Q.—Then there would be no necessity for you to import it from other countries? A.—No; if it was grown in sufficient quantities.

Q.—Then I suppose there is no hope for you to export your goods if you get the material from other countries? A.—Yes; a few years ago we exported quite a quantity to Buenos-Ayres.

Q.—Have you any idea why the country people do not try to raise that kind of stuff here. Is it due to the education or what? A.—I cannot say. The Honorable Mr. Joly tried to induce the people of Lotbiniere to grow it. They did raise it for a short time and it was very neat hemp, equal to the Russian, but they stopped.

Q.—Do they require any machinery? A.—Nothing more than to break the hemp.

Q.—Is it a very simple process indeed? A.—Yes; very simple.

THOMAS S. HETHERINGTON, Baker, Quebec, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you do all kinds of baking? A.—Only in bread and fancy biscuits.

Q.—No cakes? A.—No.

Q.—Have you separate men for bread and biscuits? A.—Yes; separate altogether, they work in separate buildings.

Q.—Do you use machinery in the manufacture of biscuits? A.—Yes; altogether, and in the manufacture of bread.

Q.—What wages do the bakers get? A.—From seven to ten dollars a week.

Q.—What would be the average? A.—Well, foreman bakers get ten dollars a week, and the journeymen bakers get seven dollars a week in the summer. The foremen get ten and a half dollars a week in the summer and nine dollars and a half in winter.

Q.—Why do they get less in the winter than they do in the summer? A.—Because there is a great deal less work in bread baking—there is more bread consumed in the spring and fall than in the summer, and in the middle of the winter we get men all the time for very little. They have nothing to do so we keep them on.

Q.—Do you take any apprentices on? A.—Very seldom in making bread. I think I have been seventeen years at it now and I do not remember having one apprentice. We have apprentices in the biscuit department.

Q.—Where does the supply of bakers come from? A.—They all come from the City of Quebec and the surrounding parishes, and from Montreal and Ottawa. We now get our supply of course from the surrounding country. Twenty-five years ago the great majority of journeymen bakers employed by us were from Scotland and Ireland. They are now almost entirely French Canadians.

Q.—How many employees have you in the biscuit factory? A.—Seven.

Q.—Including boys? A.—We have only got one boy.

Q.—Is he an apprentice? A.—He may be considered an apprentice but we do not bind him as an apprentice. He is about seventeen years of age.

Q.—What do you pay your biscuit bakers? A.—From six to twelve dollars a week.

Q.—Is six dollars the average? A.—No; eight is the average.

Q.—How many are paid twelve dollars a week? A.—One, and the others are paid six, eight and nine dollars a week, according to their ability.

Q.—What are their hours? A.—From seven in the morning until six in the evening, with an hour off for dinner.

Q.—And in the bakery? A.—From nine to ten hours.

Q.—Do you work all night in the bread bakery? A.—Yes; they start at five in the evening and continue until the morning. About half-past five they commence.

Q.—Why is not this work done in the day? A.—The public object to stale bread, if the bread is a few hours old they complain. They would not like it after it had been nine hours made.

Q.—In other places they do not work at night. In Toronto, for instance, the bakers do not work at night? A.—That is the first time I have heard of it.

Q.—And in Buffalo it is the same? A.—It could be very easily done, there need be no difficulty about it, but it would have to be made compulsory to do it, because where one man would bake his bread in the day you would have two or three men do it at night and consequently they would sell fresher bread than he could, and he would lose his customers.

Q.—What is the general condition of the bakeries? A.—Very fair.

Q.—Is the sanitary condition good? A.—I am not acquainted with very many bakeries, but as far as I know, I believe them to be fair. I do not know anything about the sanitary condition of other establishments—nothing except our own. I have only been in one or two others in Quebec.

Q.—Do you know if many of these bakers carry on their business in cellars? A.—I cannot say. I do not know. I know ours is on the second and third storys.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What age do you think a boy should be before he should go and learn your trade? A.—I should think the boy ought not to go and learn the trade of a baker—bread baking—until he would be fifteen years of age, although the work is not nearly so hard as it used to be, owing to the introduction of machinery, which necessarily takes off the heavy work from the men.

(Translation.)

ABRAHAM PAQUETTE, of Quebec, Carriagemaker, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How many men are employed in the work of carriage making in Quebec? A.—We are ten in all. We are three partners and we represent the first-class journeymen; but in all we are ten.

Q.—Do you make the whole of a carriage? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you import any part of a carriage? A.—Yes; we import much iron work, the wood work for the wheels and the shafts.

Q.—What are the wages? A.—The three partners represent nine dollars a week. We pay ourselves nine dollars and we have second-class journeymen to whom we pay one dollar a day.

Q.—Are these the wages you give to the blacksmiths and to those who work in wood? A.—There is one blacksmith at one dollar a day and one painter at a dollar a day, besides the masters, and then there are the apprentices.

Q.—How many apprentices have you among the employed? A.—We have three apprentices included in the ten.

Q.—What are the wages earned by apprentices? A.—There is one that earns four dollars a week. He had already worked. Another earns three dollars and fifty cents and another one dollar and fifty cents.

Q.—How long have these young men to serve to learn their trade? A.—Generally four years. There is only one of four years. The others are apprentices who have already served some time. Generally it takes four years.

Q.—When they have completed their apprenticeship are they able to do all the work on a carriage? A.—Yes, they can do it, but a little yet is to be desired when the apprenticeship is completed.

Q.—Do you employ trimmers? A.—Among the ten I count the trimmer, who works by the piece.

Q.—How much can the trimmer earn in a week? A.—He does not work only for us; he works elsewhere also. He calculated that during the last year he realized over three hundred dollars with us.

Q.—Are the men employed from one year's end to the other? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any difference in wages in winter and summer? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Whence do you import your imported goods? A.—In part from Montreal.

Q.—Is it wood or iron? A.—Iron as I already stated. In wood, the best wood, also the furnishings for the trimmings and the carpets.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are there much furnishings and trimmings imported from the United States? A.—No, we get them from Montreal.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do your workmen as a rule understand the designing of a carriage—are they able to calculate the proportions, to draw the design? A.—No; it is I who attend to the designing of carriages.

Q.—In other workshops are there other workmen able to draw the design besides the masters or foreman? A.—Not many, I believe.

Q.—Do you know you have schools here paid by the government, free schools? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do any of the workmen in the carriage shops go to these schools? A.—One of my sons who works with me went for nearly five months before he worked with me, but that is not long enough to do much.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Why does he not continue? A.—He works of course and he is a little far from that school.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do you think if there were schools of this kind in different quarters of the City that workmen would take advantage of them? A.—Yes. I believe if there were schools more central among the workmen they would be better attended: but this school is somewhat distant from the working class; for instance it is far from St. Roch and St. Sauveur and it would be, more likely, people from these quarters that would frequent the school than people from the Upper Town.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—What are the hours of work? A.—Ten hours.

Q.—Do you sometimes work more than ten hours? A.—Very rarely.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Where do you get your patterns and drawings? A.—We have catalogues that sometimes come from the States. In regard to vehicles brought from Montreal, I would remark, that they will do us a great deal of harm, and we are told that these vehicles are made at the Reformatory. I am not sure of it. It seems they make people work very cheaply, there is no difficulty. There are a great number of these

carriages from Montreal, and it looks to us as though they were going to do a great deal of harm to the carriage-makers of Quebec.

Q.—Does the Reformatory school send as good vehicles as those made in Quebec? A.—I do not find their vehicles superior; they are common, but always sell, on account of their low price. Many of our customers buy at these places.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Have they been sending these carriages here for many years? A.—Some formerly, came from Gananoque, Upper Canada.

Q.—Can you give the difference in price between a vehicle made here, and one brought here? A.—They are not generally large carriages that come from a distance, but there is from twenty five to thirty dollars difference.

Q.—Principally buggies? A.—Buggies, and light family carriages.

Q.—To whom are these carriages sold? Not directly to purchasers? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do people go to Montreal and buy them there? A.—There are depots for them here in Quebec.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Has the firm Heney & Lacroix a depot here? A.—Yes; at least there is a firm here that keep these carriages. I do not know if it is an agency.

Q.—How many years have they had this depot here? A.—I think this is the second year only.

Q.—Do you do saddler's work in your shop? A.—No.

Q.—Are the springs, which you use, of Canadian manufacture? A.—We get them from Montreal at all events.

Q.—Are there no marks on them, to show that they are of Canadian manufacture? A.—I believe they are of Canadian manufacture, but I am not sure.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH MAHEUX, Chandler, Quebec, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do you manufacture candles only? A.—Yes, sir. Candles and tallow. I take the tallow in the "rough" render it and make candles of it. We sell much of the tallow in barrels, but generally we make candles of it. I do not manufacture soap, except a small quantity of what is called soft soap, which is used by carriers to blacken leather. It is a small business, hardly worth mentioning. I am the only one in Quebec that makes this description of soap.

Q.—Are candles still much used? A.—At our place we use them considerably.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What do you mean by your place? A.—My factory. There are a number of manufacturers in Quebec. I think I alone, manufacture more than all the others together.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—About what amount do you make in the year by the manufacture of candles? A.—I cannot say. I am not sufficiently educated to keep the books. One

of my sons keeps them. I can, however, tell you the number of thousand pounds of raw tallow which I render, in the year, for tallow and candles. Taking one year with another, I render about 175,000 pounds a year. Some years more, and some years less.

Q.—Do you employ many workmen in your business? A.—No; only two of my sons. They do not receive wages, we live together.

Q.—Who uses this tallow? Does it go to the carriers? A.—A part of it goes to the carriers, another part to the railways, and the rest is used for candles. Last year, I think the greater part was used by the Intercolonial.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you melt your tallow by steam? A.—No; we melt it down to the dregs.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you get your tallow here in Canada? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Where do you get your potash? A.—I use caustic. I get it here in Canada, but it is imported, there is none manufactured in Canada; we use soda-caustic. We do not use it for tallow, only for soap. There are only a few places where it is used, and it is very bad. It is known that we render tallow only by means of water, and that is why we sell so much for machinery. We add no kind of acid. Persons who want tallow for machinery are always careful to ask if there is acid in it, for acids injure machinery.

MARCH 7TH, 1888.

WILLIAM RAE, of Quebec, Merchant and Ship Owner, a member of the firm of Allan, Rae & Company, Quebec Agents of the Montreal Ocean Steamship Company, commonly known as "The Allan Line of Steamships," sworn:

If you will permit me, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I would at the outset prefer making a statement, and will after making my statement, have pleasure in answering any questions you may be pleased to put to me.

I wish to state first, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, that I consider the interests of the ship laborer and my own, as a merchant and ship owner, identical. What affects him affects me—what benefits the laborer benefits me; if my business increases my income increases. I am not paid by salary. Owing to the diversion of trade to Montreal, my income has diminished. Within the last few years our tonnage on the St. Lawrence has increased very considerably, but our Quebec business has decreased. Practically, before 1883, we took no deals in Montreal. In that year only one-sixth of the whole of the deals that we carried, were shipped from Montreal. In 1884, the succeeding year, one fourth of the deals that were carried by us, were shipped in Montreal. In 1885, two-thirds of the whole quantity that we carried, and that was considerable, were shipped in Montreal; and last year three-quarters of the deals, that were carried in our steamers, were shipped in Montreal. I speak as the representative of the Allan Line at Quebec.

The reason of our shipping from Montreal will be apparent when I say the rate of wages in Quebec for day time, is one-half greater than in Montreal, and for night work we have to pay double the Montreal rates, and naturally we do as little work as we can in Quebec.

The Ship Laborer's Society has about forty-two rules to regulate their services. These rules were made to suit another period altogether. They were made to suit a period when there was scarcely anything but sailing ships in the trade. These rules still prevail, although the tonnage of steamships has increased and is increasing immensely, and the tonnage of sailing ships has, and is still diminishing. Quebec

shippers have to compete with Montreal for the trade, and if business can be done to better advantage in Montreal, steamers will take more cargo there, and the amount of labor to be accomplished in Quebec, will year by year diminish. There should be two classes of rules: one to regulate the sailing ship work, and another to suit the steamer traffic. It is impossible that the interest of the ship laborer which, as I said before, is identical with that of the ship owner, can be served unless the laborer in Quebec is put in a position to compete with the laborer in Three Rivers, and the various loading ports between Quebec and Montreal, and Montreal especially. To show, in a compact form, the effect of one of the rules of the Society. Very properly, I think, sir, there is a rule which prevents the loading of timber by steam; naturally because the danger to the life of laborers, in the hold of a sailing ship, is seriously increased and I do not find fault with the rule, but that rule is made to apply as regards steamer taking short lumber over the side, and for such application of the rule no earthly reason can be given, and it is injurious to the laborer in connection with the business. Merchants here who wish to ship birch, which comes from eastern and southern points, actually have to send their birch to Montreal by small craft at very large expense, and there it is taken on board the steamers with the steamer's steam winches. Here the laborer sees that birch going to Montreal, and is not able, owing to the rules of the society, to prevent it. There is no reason why they should allow this birch to go to Montreal at the expense of the laborers, or that a rule made to apply to sailing ships, should be made to apply to steamers. In the same way, a large amount of traffic which large steamers can compete for, and take, we are prevented from accepting by the rule of the societies. Another thing is that the time, and a half, made to apply to night wages on sailing ships, is made to apply to steamers. It is only in rare instances that sailing ships work at night, but steamers have got to work all night, and the rule which was made for sailing ships is made to apply to steamships.

We have, for instance, to coal our mail boats all night, and employ a large gang of men to do this work, and we have to pay each laborer fifty-six and a quarter cents an hour. I have a knowledge of the charges for such work in Baltimore, Boston and Portland, where our steamers run to, and the charge is about one-half what it is in Quebec. There is no reason why the rate of wages which applies to sailing ships should apply to steamships. This high rate of wages causes great expense in coaling, and consequently has the effect of making us bring out a larger quantity of coals in the steamers so as to suit the return voyage home. This is done in order to save the expense of handling coal at Quebec. The Quebec laborer loses the freight, and we have to carry freight both ways for nothing. I have also to say that, in my opinion, there are no laborers anywhere superior to the Quebec laborers; but in my opinion also, they are badly advised by some one, I don't know by whom; but their interests are not properly studied whoever is to blame, I cannot say. My opinion is they won't take the advice of the merchants. They think we merchants are prejudiced against them, and that our only idea is to lower the wages for our own benefit. This is so untrue that instead of doing so, and in order to show our friendly spirit towards them, we (the merchants) would be prepared to contribute to their charitable fund. The benevolent objects of the society are worthy of all praise, and the merchants would willingly assist those charitable objects by subscriptions. So far as having any unfriendly feeling towards the laborer the merchants have always expressed, and shown a friendly feeling towards them, and have always taken a kindly interest in their welfare, in fact we desire to serve them. That is all I have to say.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :--

Q.—What is the difference of cost of loading deals in Quebec and Montreal per standard? A.—I am not familiar with the actual cost per standard of loading deals in Montreal, I simply give the difference in wages between the two places. I cannot give the exact figures because I do not know them, but I assume naturally that if one

and a half wages are paid here for day work, and double at night, while in Montreal they are half that, the cost of loading here must be very much higher than in Montreal. The proof of it is, that the trade has gone there. The actual cost in dollars and cents per standard I cannot tell you. I have a memorandum for piecework that was done there. The cost varies constantly from one dollar and a half, to two dollars per standard. That is what it costs us to load deals in Quebec.

Q.—You cannot tell us how much it costs in Montreal? A.—I cannot. I have already explained I cannot say, for the reasons I have given.

Q.—Is one of the reasons that in Montreal they load timber of small dimensions by steam? A.—That I cannot say. I belong to Quebec; I don't know anything about Montreal work. I know the rate of wages, and that is all.

Q.—If permission were granted to load steamers with birch, longitudinals, and other small timber, by steam, in Quebec, would steam vessels take their cargoes in Quebec in preference to Montreal? A.—Most decidedly. We have to refuse constantly, to take birch because of the detention and the expense.

Q.—Is it not true that birch and other lumber is loaded more cheaply in Montreal, because freight room there offers more freely? A.—Well, it is not because the freight room offers more freely; it is not on account of freight room, we have freight room enough here; it is on account of the diminished cost of labour, and the permission to use steam.

Q.—Is it not true, that proprietors of barges, and these who charter barges, at the mills at Ottawa prefer to go to Montreal, and return with a cargo to going to Quebec, and returning to Ottawa without a cargo? A.—I only speak as to what I know; I have no knowledge on that subject.

Q.—You cannot tell us if this is one of the causes why deals are loaded more frequently in Montreal than in Quebec? A.—I have already given a reason why deals are loaded in Montreal in preference to Quebec, and I believe it is the reason, and the only reason, and that is the difference in wages between the two ports.

Q.—Is it not true that steamers prefer taking cargo to Montreal because that port is the head of inland navigation? A.—They prefer taking cargo at Montreal bound for the west—Montreal and points west.

Q.—Is it not true that when they are in Montreal, they prefer taking return cargo East from Montreal? A.—It is all a question of freight. If a steamer will earn more money loading in Quebec, she will take all her freight in Quebec, and not take any in Montreal. If she can work to advantage in Quebec, she will take all her cargo here.

Q.—Is it not true that steamers having inward cargoes to Montreal take grain and cattle cargoes from there back, and that birch deals, and other short timber are sought for to be used as ballast to stiffen the ship? A.—Well, that just shows the difficulty of the question. You put an interpretation that did not occur to me in hearing it read. I can answer with but little difficulty. Now grain is the only thing necessary to ballast the ship. Then if the ship could come down here and take a cargo of deals or birch as it may suit us, but grain is the only thing used to stiffen a ship. Deals are of no use.

Q.—Can you always obtain grain for ballast? A.—Heretofore always. I cannot answer for the future, but for the past we have always had grain for ballast.

Q.—Is it not true that no grain or cattle are shipped from Quebec? A.—Grain used to be shipped from Quebec many years ago, but it has not been shipped for some years, cattle are frequently taken here.

Q.—Is there any rule of the Quebec Ship Labourers' Benevolent Society that in any way interferes with the shipment of grain, and cattle at Quebec? A.—No earthly rule except their rate of wages.

Q.—Do they day higher wages for loading grain and cattle in Quebec than in Montreal? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you tell us the difference? A.—I have already said that it is one-half more per day, and double at night.

Q.—For grain and cattle also? A.—Well, grain shipped in Montreal, is transferred by elevators, but there is a certain number of men needed for trimming the grain, but the work of transferring grain is done by elevators here, it would have to be done by hand.

Q.—If you had elevators here in Quebec, could you load grain? A.—Oh, yes; since I came here we have loaded grain here by elevators.

Q.—Can blame be attached to the Ship Laborers' Benevolent Society, and the members thereof if no grain or cattle are shipped from here? A.—There has been no grain shipped from Quebec for a great many years. The mere cost of shipping cattle would not be effected by the difference of labour, because the part the laborer takes in shipping cattle, is very trifling. It does not amount to anything. The cattle walk aboard. They do not require to be hoisted by steam.

Q.—And as to grain, are the laborers who are members of this Society to blame for the absence of grain and its not being loaded at Quebec? A.—No; I don't think you could put that on their shoulders; they have got enough without that.

Q.—Do you believe that if the merchants of Quebec had grain elevators here, that you could load grain here? A.—Oh, certainly, if the Quebec merchants chose to purchase grain, and ship it from here. There would be no difficulty in doing so provided there were elevators. It all depends on the merchants of Quebec.

Q.—Is it not a fact that inward cargoes, received here from Europe, are discharged by members of the Ship Laborers' Benevolent Society with the use of the steam-winch on board the ships? A.—Oh, yes; certainly.

Q.—There are no impediments whatever to discharging cargoes from steamers in Quebec, beyond the rate of wages as compared with Montreal? A.—That is the only difference.

Q.—Is it not true that a cargo received here on board of steamers is discharged with as little expense as the port of Montreal for the regular day's pay? A.—It costs us more to handle a cargo in Quebec than it does in Montreal—inwards and outwards—exactly in proportion to the rate of wages, that I speak of.

Q.—Is cargo more expensive to load here than in Montreal? A.—Yes. It is more expensive to load cargo here than in Montreal.

Q.—Can you tell us the difference by the ton? A.—I cannot give you the exact thing, because I have not the actual figures. I know that if we pay one half rate wages more for day work and double for night work here than in Montreal, it costs us more here than in Montreal. One's common sense is sufficient to enable them to see that.

Q.—Is it not true that the ship laborers in Quebec work more rapidly than those in Montreal? A.—How can I answer that? How do I know how they work in Montreal? I am a Quebec man, and I know nothing about how quickly or how slowly they work in Montreal.

Q.—Can you furnish us, before the Commission leaves Quebec, the figures showing the actual cost, per ton, to load and discharge cargoes by the Allan steamers in Quebec and Montreal? A.—I can furnish the Commission with the exact figures of what it costs here, and I will do my best to get what it costs in Montreal. I will write to Messrs Allan, and ask them to give us the cost there. I do not know that they will be able to give the figures, for the reason that they load and discharge there at the same time. You see, they keep two gangs going, and I do not believe they keep an exact account of the number of men employed in discharging and the number of men employed in loading.

Q.—With the experience which you have, as a merchant, and owner of steamships, will you give us an unbiassed opinion as to whether the Allan Line of steamers would stop at Quebec, if it were not for the Quebec Ship Laborers' Benevolent Society? A.—You ask me my opinion, if the existence of the Ship Laborers' Society is the reason for the steamers not stopping at Quebec? Certainly not; we are bound to go to Montreal. We are bound to reach the head of navigation.

Q.—Are you obliged to stop at Quebec also? A.—We are not obliged, but we

look to our own interests, and we have got to look to the interests of our customers too. We stop at Quebec to suit our general purposes. I think we are the only line of steamers that really do stop at Quebec—the Dominion Line and ourselves. Most of the others go through. They just take a pilot on board here, and go through. They merely exchange pilots.

Q.—Is it not true that the ship laborers of Quebec work willingly on board all steamers where steam is used in the loading of cargoes, such as butter, bacon, cheese, apples, etc., and that they object only to the use of steam in the loading of timber cargoes? A.—Yes; that is true.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What do you mean by timber? A.—Deals go under the head of timber. We take a large quantity of what we call splints; that is a material used for lucifer match making. We take thousands of cases from Quebec every summer, and that is so nearly allied to timber, in the eyes of the Ship Laborers' Benevolent Society, that they will not allow us to use steam in stowing them away. The cases of match splints are boxes, which are sufficiently small to enable us to handle them, but of course it is a greater expense; but, whether it suits our convenience or not, the rules of the Society will not allow us to handle them by steam. The only exception is in the article of wood goods, that is allowed to be handled by steam, such as cases of spool wood. Cases of spools are sent in large quantities to Glasgow. The rules of the Society allow us to use steam for hoisting cases of spool wood, but not to hoist cases of splints that are not one quarter the weight. There is no reason whatever for it, but it is an instance of the absurdity of their rules, and there is no interest served by it whatever.

Q.—You are a member of the Board of Trade? A.—I am.

Q.—Did the members of the Board of Trade ever look into the reason of the decrease in the shipping business in Quebec or the decrease in the timber trade? A.—I have been a member of the Council of the Board of Trade for many years, and it has been a source of continual investigation. I cannot remember any particular moment, but it has spread through years. The Council of the Board of Trade have discussed the matter often, and they have even corresponded with the Ship Labourers' Society and even met them a year ago last November. We asked them to meet us last year, and they refused to meet us and discuss these rules.

Q.—Apart from the question of the Ship Labourers' Society, has not the trade in timber decreased? A.—No. The shipments of square timber has decreased from natural causes.

Q.—Apart from the Ship Labourers' Society altogether? A.—Yes. The shipment of square timber has decreased from natural causes. That is my opinion with regard to the shipment of square timber; but the shipment of sawn lumber (the logs, turned into deals, at mills on the Ottawa and elsewhere, instead of shipping them in timber) they are shipped in the form of deals, and that trade has gone to Montreal.

Q.—Did the Quebec Board of Trade compare the Quebec exportation of timber with that of ports in Norway and Sweden? A.—I cannot answer that question, I am not aware. The Secretary of the Board of Trade, Mr. Andrews, would be better able to answer a question of that sort.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Did the Ship Labourers' Society offer through their President to consider any of the rules that were objectionable to the Board of Trade? A.—Yes. I remember distinctly about that, and the Council decided that as the Ship Labourers' Society refused to meet them, that this was a mere put off.

Q.—Did they not ask you to name the by-laws you wanted modified? A.—The by-laws we wanted modified were too numerous to name. What we wanted was to have a friendly talk, and the friendly talk was denied us.

Q.—Did your Board instruct the Secretary to communicate these reasons to the

Ship Labourers' Society? A.—I cannot say that he got special instructions to do so; but as far as my memory serves me, Mr. Andrews was requested to see the President and to state verbally what the Council desired in the matter.

Q.—Then you know of no communication from your Board to the Ship Laborers' Society, with reference to the modification of these rules they were willing to meet you on? A.—I have the most perfect cognizance of meeting the President, Mr. Dinan, and his *confreres*, in the Council room of the Board of Trade a year ago last November. We drew up a sketch of what we would suggest as desirable for the Society to adopt, in order to save the trade to the Port if possible, and Mr. Dinan and the other representatives of the Society promised that it would be considered. The first thing I did when I came back from Montreal last year, when I saw Mr. Dinan, was to ask him about it, and he said there had been no meeting of the Society in the interim, that they would meet in May, then the matter would be considered; and when no consideration was given to it, the Council of the Board wrote the Ship Labourers' Society in August, and asked them again to confer with them, and that is the answer. The only meeting we have had with them for many years was the occasion I named, November, eighteen hundred and eighty-six.

Q.—So far as your knowledge goes then, you know of no official communication from the Board of Trade to the Ship Labourers' Society in answer to this letter of Mr. Leahy's? A.—I did not consider that it required an official answer under the circumstances that occurred, and which had just preceded it. I am not aware of any official answer.

Q.—The negotiations ceased there? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you tell us if it is true that the merchants have berths for loading vessels in other places—the merchants of this port? A.—Some of them have loading berths.

Q.—Do they not compel their chartered vessels to load at these berths under pain of being detained the full number of loading days? A.—I have no knowledge of that.

Q.—Do you know if the merchants, loading berths are more crowded than berths owned by others? A.—I do not know. I have no experience in that direction. I know nothing of the question of loading sailing vessels with timber. I can only speak with reference to the working of steamships. I have no knowledge of sailing ship work. One of the points I make is, that the rules of the Quebec Ship Benevolent Society, which apply solely to sailing ships, are made to apply to steamships which is very unjust.

Q.—Can you tell us if there is a difference in the time of from two to five days in loading vessels with cargoes on some voyages? Q.—I have no personal knowledge.

Q.—Have you any experience in timber loading? A.—I have already said I have no experience in loading timber. I know nothing about the timber trade. The points in dispute in connection with timber, and the actual experience of loading timber ships, have long since ceased—twenty-seven years ago steady trade was gone, and fifteen or sixteen years ago we used to load sailing ships. Since then they have fallen off.

Q.—You said a few minutes ago that the merchants had no objections to the loading of sailing vessels without the use of steam winches, would that be because sailing vessels have no steam-winches aboard? A.—I said, in my opinion it was a reasonable thing for the Ship Labourers' Society not to allow the use of steam in the stowage of timber cargoes on account of the danger to life and limb.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—The Quebec Ship Laborers' Society make it apply equally to sailing and steam vessels? A.—Yes. Steamships do not take stowage timber. The only timber that steamships would take, would be birch and short timber—longitudinals. The two things do not compare at all.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—I understand you to say that the merchants have no objection to the loading of sailing vessels without steam winches, and if I understood you aright, I want to know the reason why the merchants have no objection to the loading of these vessels without the use of steam? A.—I have already said so, at the time that I spoke on that subject. It is owing to the danger. I have seen myself in the loading of timber ships many years ago how the use of the steam-winch endangered the lives of men, and it is on that account.

Q.—I am speaking of general cargoes now—not of the loading of timber specially, timber, or any other cargo, is the reason they do not object to the loading of these vessels without steam, because sailing vessels have no steam-winches? A.—Well, of course, a merchant would object if there was steam, and he was not allowed to use it.

Q.—If the ships could load any cargo by steam, the merchant would want to use steam winches? A.—Yes. At any other port he would be allowed to take on any other description of cargo.

Q.—My question was, is the reason why the merchants do not object to the loading of sailing vessels by steam because sailing vessels have no steam winches. In other words has the merchant no objection to loading with steam simply, because she has not got it? A.—Well, if she has not got it she cannot load with steam, and the merchant must know it when he charters her.

Q.—Are there any sailing vessels built now that have not got steam winches? A.—The water they use is condensed by steam, they are pumped by steam, they make sail by steam, and in fact they do a great many things now which they did not do twenty-five years ago.

Q.—Is it a fact that the lumber districts tributary to Quebec are to a great extent depleted of their lumber? A.—That is beyond my ken.

Q.—Is it not a fact that vessels would rather load at Montreal than Quebec even if the cost of loading were the same? A.—That is beyond my ken, too.

Q.—You don't know whether the conditions of trade are such that vessels would go to Montreal in any event? A.—I cannot say that. They would certainly stay at Quebec if they could do it to advantage.

Q.—Can you give us the difference in the west bound freights between Quebec and Montreal? A.—No, I cannot.

Q.—Can you give us the difference in west bound freights by lake and river vessels between Quebec and Montreal? A.—No, I have no knowledge on that point.

Q.—Can you tell us whether grain could be carried from Montreal—assuming it to be on board the lake or river vessels coming down the St. Lawrence—whether when it reaches Montreal, it could be carried in ocean steamers. I am not sure I make my question plain? A.—Yes, I think I see the point. There is no question about that. The larger the craft up to a certain point, four or five thousand tons, the larger the quantity of grain that can be carried, and it is carried cheaper than it could be carried in a number of lighters.

Q.—Other things being equal then there is an advantage in taking ocean steamers as far up stream as possible? A.—Naturally.

Q.—Can you tell us how much longer the season of navigation is at Quebec than at Montreal? A.—It continues only a few days. Sometimes you may say it closes between Montreal and Quebec the same day. Steamers and ships have always got to look ahead, and sail before the frost and bad weather sets in. For instance, we sailed our last steamer last year on the twenty-first of November, I think, and navigation continued open until the first of December; but we are not able to forecast that. I have known navigation to close in Quebec and Montreal on the same day.

Q.—Practically then, so far as keeping the harbour open in the fall, or the opening of the harbour in the spring, Quebec has no advantage over Montreal in the

end of the season. A.—Well, practically none. I would add to that it has happened that a vessel has been here for some days, before navigation has been open to Montreal, and had freight to deliver to Montreal and in point of fact practically Quebec has no advantage over Montreal in the early handling of freight in spring or the late handling of freight in the fall.

Q.—If one line of vessels were to trade with Montreal only, and another line of vessels trade with Quebec only, would the Quebec line have a longer season than that going to Montreal taking one season to another? A.—I don't think they would, not with safety. When it is not safe between Quebec and Montreal then it is not safe below Quebec. That is my opinion.

Q.—Do Norwegian or any other sailing vessels habitually come to Quebec for timber now? A.—I know that incidentally. I cannot speak from the actual handling of Norwegian vessels. I know they come for timber.

Q.—Do the crews of these vessels load them? A.—I have no knowledge on the subject.

Q.—Does the average timber which is exported from this section of the country reach Montreal or Quebec more cheaply? A.—That is a question that you must get answered by somebody else.

Q.—What is the difference, if any, in the charges at Quebec and Montreal, including wharfage? A.—I am not a Montrealer you know, I could give you the exact figures of the port charges here, but I have not got them with me. I will furnish the information of the Quebec portion, and I think I could give your Chairman—I know I can—the charges in Montreal. Mr. Allan will give me that if I write him.

Q.—And that will be looked upon as if given by yourself—it will be looked upon as your testimony? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do steamers charge lower freights for European ports from Quebec than from Montreal? A.—It just depends; it is a question of supply and demand.

Q.—You do not know whether freight rates in Quebec average lower than from Montreal or not? A.—I cannot give evidence on that point.

Q.—Would you be able to furnish the evidence, and give it to the chairman?

A.—I can tell you this much that our deal rate—we make contracts for deals—and our deal rates are the same from Quebec as from Montreal. We charge the same freight from Montreal as from Quebec. The advantage we get in taking deals from Montreal is the difference in the rate of wages, and then practically, we incur no additional cost in carrying them from Montreal by steamer.

Q.—When had you the conference with the Ship Laborers' Society? A.—On the fifth of November, eighteen hundred and eighty-six, a conference was had between the Board of Trade and the delegates of the Ship Laborers' Society.

Q.—Was it not later? A.—Well, I was not a member.

Q.—It was a year later. We have Mr. Andrews' letters in print. A.—I suppose I must be mistaken. There was a conference a year ago, or two years ago last November.

Q.—Was any agreement or understanding reached at that conference? A.—No agreement or understanding was reached beyond the statements of the President, and the members who were with him. They were the heads of several sections of the Society. They undertook to use their influence to have the Society consider the proposition of the merchants, in the same way as the merchants undertook to use their influence to have certain things that were objectionable to the ship laborers removed.

Q.—Did the delegates from the Ship Laborers' Society approve of the change suggested, or did they merely consent to bring these changes before the various bodies they represented? A.—There was no approval; there was no pledge beyond a pledge to use their influence to have them brought before the Society, and discussed with a further view to a conference with the merchants in the following spring.

Q.—As a fact, as you are aware, these changes suggested were not accepted by the delegates of the Society at that conference? A.—They were not positively accepted, they were declined.

Q.—Did you receive any official communication to that effect? A.—No; official communications are very scarce between the Ship Laborers' Benevolent Society and the Board of Trade, of Quebec. There has not been much correspondence between them.

Q.—Did the Board of Trade, on its part, consider the suggestions which the delegates on that occasion agreed to submit to the Board of Trade? A.—Yes; they considered them, and there was a copy of the minutes of this meeting, of the fifth of November, embracing the resolutions unanimously arrived at at the meeting, and unanimously agreed to by the members of the Board of Trade, given to Mr. Dinan, the President, and a copy was retained by the members of the Council, and embodied in our Statement of Facts.

Q.—If steamships only came to Quebec, would they make more trips, in a year, than they would by going to Montreal? A.—I do not know that they would. It is all according to circumstances. We have been behind time with steamers detained by fog. I have known cases where we have sent a passenger steamer to Montreal, discharged the cargo, and got another one, in less time than we could have got the work done here.

Q.—I am speaking simply if you arranged to discharge the cargoes in Quebec, load the vessel again and sail right off again. I am speaking as though you had plenty of cargo here? A.—Yes, sir; you could save time.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—It is not true that for a few years past, liberty has been granted to steamers to load timber by steam winches? A.—Yes; we were granted the privilege to load birch and hardwood. We loaded a large quantity of birch by steam some years ago; but so soon as the privilege was granted it was withdrawn—because all these things are privileges granted by the Quebec Ship Labourers' Benevolent Society to the merchants. We had to cease taking birch here. We tried the experiment with one of our steamers to take on birch, and we spent nearly all the freight in stowing the timber. We had steam winches on the deck of the ship, but they rigged up their own winches, and cut up our decks so as to get their screws in, and spent two days at it. It was the worst bargain I ever made, and it will last me a lifetime as an experience. We wanted to see how it would work—how it would be—and we found out. Since then, birch has gone to Montreal to be shipped at great expense.

Q.—Do you know if steam winches are used in Southern Ports, Mobile, and Pensacola, in loading deals? A.—I have not the remotest idea what they do in Mobile or those other Southern Ports. I do not think they use steam. I have not the remotest idea. I only know what they do in Quebec.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Can you give us the name of any port where sailing vessels are loaded by steam? A.—In New York, Boston, Portland, and in Montreal short timber—not fifty or sixty feet in length, but short timber such as steamers take—short lengths that will go down the hatchway, or go over the side of ships. I have myself seen them loaded with short timber in New York—short timber that is put down the hatchway.

Q.—Can you tell us if match splints can be handled quicker by steam than by hand? A.—I would like to try the experiment, but we have not that privilege.

Q.—You do not know? A.—

Q.—Is it not sometimes the case here, that men have to work at night in order to catch the tide in the morning on steamers going to Montreal? A.—Yes. And that is work that cannot possibly be avoided after five o'clock. Night begins at five o'clock with the Quebec Ship Labourers' Benevolent Society although the sun does not set till eight o'clock in the latter part of June, and in the months of July and

part of August, and after five we have to pay each man fifty-six and a quarter cents an hour, and nothing going into our vessels by steam.

Q.—Can you tell us the average earnings of a ship labourer in this port for the season? A;—Is there any man living who can answer that question.

Q.—The average? A.—The average? How can I tell. How am I to tell.

Q.—Well. We are here to put questions, not to answer them? A.—There is no man living can answer that. That is my opinion. You ask me for my opinion.

ANDREAS KALENEAS HANSEN, of Quebec, Ship Broker and Merchant, sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—How long have you resided in the City of Quebec? A.—I have been doing business in Quebec for thirteen years.

Q.—Are you connected with a vessel called the “Frederick”? A.—I was agent, and part owner.

Q.—Did she load at Quebec last spring? A.—She did.

Q.—Will you please tell us if there was any difficulty about the loading of her? A.—I had some difficulty in loading birch, and some difficulty in loading her, and the ship loader (the stevedore) told us that the ship laborers’ rules required him to take thirty hands instead of twenty hands.

Q.—Did you load the vessel or did you refuse? A.—We were obliged to decline the birch in consequence.

Q.—You do not know what became of that birch? A.—I heard that it was sent to Montreal, but I have no personal knowledge.

Q.—Is that vessel coming out again to Canada? A.—She will be in Montreal next spring. She will start for Montreal.

Q.—And she is not going to load in Quebec? A.—No.

Q.—Why? A.—On account of the rates of freight. There is more competition in Montreal, and we can obtain better rates of freight in Montreal than Quebec.

Q.—You consider you are more free to act in Montreal as a ship owner than you are in Quebec? A.—Certainly.

Q.—Where does this vessel sail from? A.—From England.

Q.—Is she an English vessel? A.—No; she is a Norwegian vessel.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What nationality are the sailors? A.—The sailors are mostly Norwegian.

Q.—Do you know what the cost per St. Petersburg standard per hundred for loading in Quebec? A.—I know that one dollar to one dollar and twenty cents per standard has been paid.

Q.—Do you know of timber being loaded in Quebec for sixty and seventy cents last summer? A.—No; I have no knowledge of it.

Q.—Do you know of deals being loaded in Montreal last summer at sixty to seventy cents? A.—I heard of that.

Q.—Is it the stevedore who contracts for the loading of the vessels or the laborers? A.—It is the stevedore.

Q.—Is he responsible to you for the loading of the vessel? A.—Yes.

Q.—If the stevedore employs more men in the loading of a vessel than is necessary do you or he pay for that? A.—Sometimes we pay for personal services and at other times we pay by contract, he paying all expenses.

Q.—Is not a contract to load at Quebec at so much per ton? Is it customary to load at so much per ton or so much per load? A.—It is.

Q.—Then it is nothing to the owner how many men he employs? A.—Not where the contract is so much the load.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Will you tell us when the stevedore makes a bargain with you does he not charge you a certain price, and in doing so conform to the rules of the Ship Laborers' Society? A.—I do not quite understand.

Q.—Well, do you think he makes a different bargain with you on account of these rules to what he would make if he was not governed by these rules? A.—Yes.

Q.—And therefore he charges you more than you are of opinion he would charge you if he took only the number of men that he wanted. In other words he would be able to make a lower contract? A.—Yes.

Q.—Supposing a ship was in port to-day and a stevedore was ready to unload the vessel, and supposing he said to a certain number of the men "we do not want you, we have got enough to unload this ship, you may go away," what would be the consequence to him? A.—I do not know.

Q.—According to the rules of the society would all the men go away? A.—I believe he would lose all the members of the society afterwards.

Q.—And every ship laborer is a member of the society? A.—Yes.

Q.—And consequently the vessel would not be unloaded? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What is the difference in a ship's disbursement account between Montreal and Quebec? A.—I cannot say.

Q.—Do the ship owners abroad complain about overcharges? A.—Well, both the ship owners and their agents have complained.

Q.—They would generally write over here to their agents the brokers for the necessary information? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know if any of these brokers stated that the charges that were made were on account of the arbitrary rules of the society? A.—I have no personal knowledge.

Q.—Are you aware that it was their own percentages they wished to cover? A.—I have no personal knowledge of what they wished to do.

Q.—Did you ever know a ship owner on the other side write to a broker in Quebec asking why certain charges were made and that the broker in order to cover his own charges said that it was on account of the arbitrary rules of the Quebec Ship Laborers' Society? A.—No, I only know of what I do myself. I do not know anything about the business of other officers. The brokers never need to say that in order to cover their own charges.

Q.—Do the brokers ever go to the Old Country to solicit the custom of merchants? A.—Sometimes they do.

Q.—Can you tell the average wages of a Quebec laborer for the season? A.—I cannot.

Q.—You cannot do that? A.—No.

Q.—Can you tell us the reason why the different saw mills in Quebec and the vicinity shut down in the winter time? A.—I cannot. I do not know.

THOMAS BECKETT, Quebec, a member of the firm of Messrs. Henry Dobell & Co., Merchants and Exporters, sworn :

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you desire to be questioned, Mr. Beckett, or would you prefer first to make a statement to the Commission? A.—I merely want to claim the same privileges as Mr. William Rae. I prefer, first, to lay my views before you in the form of a statement. I will make it as concise as possible, and will then answer any question you may

see fit to ask me. In the first place, I would like to state that, during the last few years, there has been some little friction between the merchants and the Quebec Ship Laborers' Benevolent Society. We have had some little difficulty with the members of this Society. We have endeavored, as much as possible, to meet them, to reason with them, and conciliate them. We have no antagonistic feeling towards them in any way. We have never attacked their rate of wages, nor have we infringed on what we consider their rights in any way. What we always wished to bring before them, was that the shipping interests of the Port are their interests as well as our interests—that what concerns us concerns, equally as well, the ship laborer. We have frequently tried to meet the Ship Laborers' Society and discuss these questions, but hitherto it has come to nothing. My reason for appearing here to-day, is to bring before you one or two prominent things that are our chief grievances. First, there is the question of the number of working hours per day. Now, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that labor, in the Port of Quebec, is divided into two classes—two different kinds; one being connected with square timber that requires skilled labor, and the other with short timber, deals, longitudinal, and such like. The loading of square timber, as I have just remarked, requires skilled labor, and I may say here, that in no part of the world, where I have been, have I met men who work so expeditiously as the Quebec ship laborers employed in the loading of square timber. Now, as to their working only eight hours, we have never raised the question, because it is hard work; nor have we raised any question as to their wages, because, as I say, it is hard work, and it is well done. The other kind of labor, that is the loading of lumber and deals, is part of the business of this Port that for a number of years has been drifting away from us, partly from the fact that in other places they are able to do it much cheaper than we are able to do it. There are less restrictions at these places, and it costs less to load, than in Quebec. On that point we had a conference with the ship laborers, at which we asked them to consider the position, and see if some concession could not be made, on their part, which would enable us to compete with other places. It is painful for us, as merchants, helpless as we are, to see the trade slipping away from us, but we are powerless to prevent it in the present state of things. I might give you an instance of how their rules work by referring to the case of the ship "Frederick." She was to be loaded with an entire cargo of deals, and we wished, at the last moment, to send forward a portion of the wrecked cargo of the steamship "Lake Huron," a small portion, only ten per cent. Some correspondence ensued between us and the Society, as we wished to try and overcome the difficulty occasioned by the arbitrary rules of the Society, and not be burdened with a timber gang. Although, as I say, this was at the last moment—that it was only a small quantity which we wished to stow in the hold,—the ship laborers refused unless the full complement of men were employed. We asked them to meet us, and try and overcome the difficulty, and allow the timber to go with the rest of the cargo, but they would not, and we had to hire barges and send it to Montreal to be loaded by steamer. As a fact, we are now obliged to send a large quantity of timber to Montreal to be shipped at Montreal. We have no power or inducement to bring it to Quebec, nor are we offered any facilities to bring it here. We take it to Montreal directly against our own interests and the interests of the Port of Quebec. This business in deals, birch, longitudinal and other short timber, is a business we never had before, and it is going to be a large and important one. It is a business which has been thrust upon us by the wants of the trade, and if we cannot, and are not allowed to do it to advantage here, we are bound to seek elsewhere for means to do it. One point which has been raised with regard to steam, is that it is dangerous. Surely it cannot be more dangerous here than in many other ports? Surely, it cannot be more dangerous in Quebec than in Montreal; and there (in the latter port) we have had very few accidents in the working of steam winches? As few as in any other place, and it seems to me impossible that there can be greater carelessness exhibited in Quebec than in Montreal. Another point has been brought forward.

We have been asked why sailing ships do not use steam. Sailing ships are different from steamships.

Sailing ships have bow ports, and use hand-winchcs, and I believe with the strong arm of the ship laborer, they were well loaded, perhaps better loaded than by steam, and with less danger to the men. This is a point we never raised, but a point we do raise, is, that these rules which were framed for another period and another class of ships and cargo altogether, shall be made to apply to steamships—that part cargoes of timber and part of deals shall be driven from Quebec owing to the non-use of steam winches. It is a point that is painfully forced upon our attention every day, so that we seek, through you, for an exposition of these grievances, which so militate against the progress of the Port of Quebec. This short timber has to be put in over the side of the vessel, and in the use of steam for these purposes, there is not the slightest danger; but we are not allowed to use steam in Quebec, and so we are obliged to send our cargoes to Montreal to be shipped, and our ships to Montreal to be loaded. I might draw a comparison between loading in Quebec, and loading in other ports in Canada, our ships came out chartered to stop at Quebec or go to Three Rivers and Montreal, and they go to Three Rivers and Montreal instead of remaining at Quebec. Although they have to pay their towage to and from Three Rivers, and Montreal. Still they can go there and save money. I consider that loading per standard in Montreal is cheaper than in Quebec. A great deal may of course, be said in favor of Montreal as being the nearest place for the manufacturers of lumber, to bring their lumber and ship it, but even that does not account for the whole of the trade leaving Quebec,—it could not prevent a great amount of the trade from coming here. Again the trade of the city loses in other ways, I could cite instances of large ships which used to disburse eight hundred, and a thousand dollars in the Port of Quebec, going up to Three Rivers or Montreal, and loading there instead of here. I hold that when such things are done, there is something wrong—something needs to be remedied. The merchants have offered to do, and have done, all they can to induce business to come to Quebec. They have time and again pointed out the urgent necessity for some concessions on the part of the Quebec Ship Laborers' Society, but have never succeeded in obtaining any. All our efforts have been futile and there is a dead-lock. Our business in square timber is annually declining. That, the ship laborers are not altogether responsible for. As our forests become depleted vessels seeking square timber go to other places. We cannot hold the business beyond a certain point, but there is the trade in sawn lumber, and if we can offer advantage here to shippers that trade would remain with us. As I have already said we never questioned to wages of the men engaged in stowing timber, but we do object to rules relating to sailing ships being made to apply to steamships. It has always been our desire to meet the ship laborers and discuss the question at length, so as to arrive at some conclusion which would be satisfactory to both merchants and ship laborers and beneficial to the interests of the Port and City of Quebec.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Has not the shipment of deals, in the Port of Quebec, decreased from other causes than the objections raised by the ship labourers to the use of steam-winchcs?
A.—Steam-winchcs are not actually required in the loading of deals.

Q.—Then the ship labourers have nothing to do with the deal trade leaving the Port of Quebec? A.—They have in a certain measure. If the merchants could load by steam and take on mixed cargoes. As some vessels are chartered to proceed to Montreal and Three Rivers as cheaply as they are to Quebec, the ship labourers are not altogether responsible for the trade going to Montreal. There is, however, a good deal of it that would remain here were it not for the arbitrary rules of the Society, which increases the cost of loading. The ship labourers are responsible for that.

Q.—But they are not responsible for the Ottawa men who send their deals to Montreal? A.—They are responsible to some extent for the trade leaving Quebec.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—But if the merchants of Quebec and Levis send them to Montreal, the ship labourer is responsible? A.—Yes; he is responsible for what we do to-day.

Q.—Are you an employer of labour apart from the shipping trade? A.—Yes. In busy seasons, in the different coves, we may employ one hundred to one hundred and twenty men besides bateaux men.

Q.—Have you any difficulty with them? A.—None whatever; they are paid for the work they do, and we have no complaints.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Is it not true that men employed at the loading of square timber incur extreme peril, and that skill is required on the part of every man employed so as not to jeopardise the lives of his fellow labourers? Is it not true that accidents frequently happen on board square timber ships, entailing loss of life or injury on the part of the labourers? A.—I have heard of such a case but I think they are exceptional. I have heard of accidents happening by which men were seriously injured on board ship. That can be easily accounted for. Accidents do happen.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that at any time a claim for charges has been made, or that compensation has been given to any of those men so injured on board timber ladenships? A.—The loading of square timber requires, as I have already said, skilled men; untrained men are practically useless at it, and I believe I have already said that there are no men who can compete with the Quebec ship labourers in loading square timber.

Q.—The facts have not come to your knowledge? A.—No.

Q.—Is it in your judgment possible to load square timber on board vessels with the use of steam, without incurring very great risk of the lives of the men employed at this class of labour? A.—I believe that short square timber put down the hatches can be loaded in equal safety as big heavy timber that is taken in through the ship's bows. Heavy timber, of course, cannot be taken on a ship's hatch. I would not allow ordinary timber ships, with bow ports, to be loaded by steam because the work is as well, or better done, by hand than by steam.

Q.—Independently of the question of steam, what other rule do you think should be adopted with reference to the loading of steamers, than those applying to sailing ships? A.—If we had the privilege of loading with steam-winch, I think a great many steamers, and principally of that class of steamers which we call "tramps" would be induced to remain in Quebec to load. There can be no reasonable objection to loading these vessels by steam, but there are objections to having the hand-winch screwed down on the decks by screws; as it spoils the decks. I am sure we would get a larger number of steamers to load at this port if we had the power to load them with steam winches. We, ourselves, would save considerably on the cost of transporting freight in barges to Montreal from Quebec if we were permitted to load by steam-winch.

Q.—Do you know if it is a fact that a great deal of time is lost by men employed at the loading of vessels, in consequence of men not being furnished as required? A.—I am sorry to say there is a great deal of time lost by the men in waiting for the timber to be loaded on ships—timber of a particular kind may be late coming down. Ships are chartered to carry a certain sort of timber, and delays arise in the delivery of the timber over which the merchants have no control. We do not like this any more than the men. It is our interest to get the cargo off as quickly as possible, and these delays touch our pockets, and that is a most sensitive point.

Q.—Is it not a fact, to your knowledge, that men who live at Diamond Harbour are obliged to leave there to go to work on board vessels at Sillery Cove and New Liverpool Cove, a distance of several miles from their homes, and that frequently they work for one hour or two hours a day and sometimes get no work at all? A.—I have heard of such cases.

Q.—Is it not true that the cost of going to and fro has to be paid by the labourer whether he gets work or not? A.—I am aware that he pays his own fare.

Q.—Is it not true that a vessel in the loading of which a laborer may have about eight days full time, frequently takes twenty-five or thirty working days to load? A.—They have no stated number of days to load, and if the merchant keeps the ship beyond that period it is at his or their own expense, this is stated in the charter parties.

Q.—Is it not true that the ship labourer loses all the time between the time actually employed and the time which the vessel may actually take to load, if so, does he receive any compensation? A.—My knowledge in that point is that the labourer gets paid for the time that he works, no matter how long the ship may be worked.

Q.—But is he paid while waiting for the time lost for cargoes? A.—He is only paid for the time he works. I believe there are very few instances where men have only made eight days full time in twenty-five or thirty days.

Q.—Is it not true that vessels are now loaded in the Port of Quebec for less than it cost to load them before the formation of the Society? A.—I do not know. The captain of the ship is the man who sees to that. He generally makes his agreement with the Stevedore, and he asks for a certain sum at the office, and is paid that sum, and it is very seldom that the actual cost of the labourer comes under our notice, I believe that although wages are high, work can be done now as cheaply in Quebec as in other places.

Q.—Is it not true that the cost of unloading vessels is decreasing each year? A.—We have nothing to do with the unloading. The thing is for us to load them when prepared for outward cargo.

Q.—Do you know if it takes less actual time to load a vessel than it did five years ago? A.—I could not speak certainly on that point.

Q.—It is not a fact that the loading of vessels costs less now and takes less time because of the extra skill of the labourer? A.—My previous answer will cover this question.

Q.—Is it not true that all the rules, referring to the number of men to be employed on board ship, although apparently arbitrary, tend as a matter of fact to decrease the cost of loading a ship, and the time occupied in loading her? A.—Certainly not, I certainly do not think that the rules of the Society, regulating the number of men to be employed, have a tendency to benefit the trade. The proof of it is that, in chartering a vessel in England, we are obliged to pay an additional rate of freight in consideration of the additional labour the ship is called upon to pay for.

Q.—Is it not true that the merchants of Quebec admit that the rate of wages asked for by the Ship Labourers' Society is fair and reasonable? A.—I think it has been already admitted that the rate of wages are not objected to, but we object to more men being employed on a ship than is necessary. As a body of merchants, all we ask is the removal of the restrictions which are hurting the trade of the Ports.

Q.—Is it not true that the ships, taking mixed cargoes, begin by taking portions of square timber, then a portion of deals or other broken cargo, and again come back to timber, before completing finally; if such be the case, is it not true that the rule of the Society insisting that the men employed taking in the timber, be allowed to continue and finish the ship, even when lumber or deals are taken on board, is made because of the fact that disputes have constantly arisen about the time given by the men in loading square timber and in loading lumber? A.—That is a pretty long question, but I will endeavour to answer it. My experience in the loading of ships with mixed cargoes is that hardwoods invariably go in the bottom of the ship then heavy square timber is put on top of the hardwood, the deals then being ready, are placed on that cargo, and it is rarely otherwise.

Q.—Do you know in consequence of that, disputes have been frequent in the port about the time given to the men in loading square timber and loading lumber? A.—We cannot be aware of what disputes arise between the stevedores and the labourers.

and captains of vessels, that seldom come to our knowledge, but when disputes come to our knowledge, we try to see justice done between the parties.

Q.—Is it not true that the quantity of square timber coming to the Port of Quebec, has decreased almost fifty per cent within the last ten years; has the action of the ship laborers Society caused this decrease in any way? A.—It is true that the quantity of timber coming to Quebec has decreased perhaps fifty per cent within the last ten years, the ship laborers are not altogether responsible for that decrease, in my opinion.

Q.—They are not responsible for that depletion of the forests? A.—No; but a large business might be done in sawn and other lumber, as well as other merchandise that is at present not done in the Port of Quebec.

Q.—Is it not true that in the coves from which timber is sent to ships, no work as a rule, is done on holidays? A.—That is a pure question of religion. We never interfere with our men in the observance of their religion. If they "knock off" on holidays and do not work, we never ask them to do it, it is a custom of the country with which we do not interfere.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—If a man refused to work would it be the cause of dispute? A.—None, whatever.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Is it not true that, if the laborers work at the loading of ships on holidays and no work is done at the coves on those days, the natural result would be to decrease the quantity of stuff sent alongside the ship and thus cause delay? A.—We have always understood that men working on board ships as elsewhere, shall have the free exercise of their religion, and of course on their religious, as well as their national holidays, they are not compelled to work if they do not wish to.

Q.—Would it not cause delay in the delivery of the stuff—in the quantity? A.—Not necessarily; because it depends on the unloading; the timber is not sent down before the ship is prepared, because the ship is prepared long before the cargo is ready for it, in which case there is no delay.

Q.—Do you know of merchants having sent one batteau of lumber to a vessel when two batteau have been ordered, and that they have been told that it would be better to send two batteau when taking deals on, as they could be loaded at less cost as the men could be more busily employed? A.—It may have been possible. That may happen between merchant and shipper. The order may have been to mix the cargo, and the instructions from the owner not to do so. The captain may ask for a kind of timber which the shipper has not prepared to send him at the moment, and a delay is caused. We have no deep water wharves here to load from except the Louise embankment, batteau is the only mode of loading vessels here, and barges.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Referring to the ship "Frederick," do you know if there were sufficient hands on board to take the timber? A.—No; they stated distinctly, that the same number of hands must be retained until the ship was finished.

Q.—Were they compelled to do that by the rules of the Society? A.—They said that the rules of the Society would admit of no other arrangement.

Q.—Do you know how many composed the gang that was on board? A.—Somewhere about thirty or thirty-two.

Q.—Was the "Frederick" a single-ported vessel? A.—I think it was.

Q.—Is it not laid down that twenty-one hands are sufficient? A.—I understood so.

Q.—Is that rule not in force at the present time? A.—I would say this, I had

an interview with the President Mr. Dinan, and we wrote him a letter asking the ship laborers to meet this difficulty, and the result was they would make no concession and we had to reject this timber. Mr. Dinan, the President, I presume acted with authority.

Q.—Do you remember if it was a mistake on the part of the laborers or the stevedores? A.—I never heard that the mistake was on the part of the stevedores, and as to the men—the ship laborers had nothing to do with it. Our information was, it was the society.

Q.—Have you ever heard of little “douceurs,” commonly known as “tips,” being given by merchants to captains and stevedores? A.—I have heard of it, but I have no personal knowledge it has been done.

Q.—Could you not telegraph or telephone the exact time that the timber would be down, so that the men would not lose so much time, as they do now at these places? A.—I do not see how you can expedite the loading of the ships by this means, as it is all a question of time; they lay down close by the steamer as a rule.

Q.—And when the men engaged by the stevedore, find there is no work for them to do, and they leave the ship and get another job, is it not customary for the stevedore not to employ them again? A.—I have no knowledge of what arrangements are made between the two.

Q.—Well, is it not a kind of unwritten law? A.—I cannot tell. There are plenty of written ones, I know nothing about the unwritten ones.

Q.—Here is the clause, clause five of article forty. Please look at it and say if you see that a single-ported vessel is to employ twenty-nine hands. The clause reads: “Single-ported vessels shall employ no less than nine winches, five holders, one swinger and one stager?” A.—All that I say is, the president and officers of the society could not permit the timber to go into the ship unless all the thirty or thirty-two men were retained until the ship was completed. In my opinion the captain and the stevedore should arrange about the number of men necessary to load a ship.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you know why ship laborers object to ships being loaded by the ship's crew, or why they object to be assisted by the crew? A.—No, only that their rules prevent it.

Q.—Do you know whether if a vessel is once loaded by its crew the ship laborers refuse to load that vessel at any future time? A.—I know nothing further than that it is the rule.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you know the cause for objection on the part of the ship labourers? A.—No; I have no experience in such matters but I have heard of such cases. If we could arrive at a proper understanding with the ship labourers, relative to the loading of mixed cargoes, it would enable us to charter more freely as we could offer better terms. I would not myself, and consequently I would not favour the employing of ship crews, or portions of ship crews, in the loading of timber but if the Captain and Stevedore agreed to the number of men to be employed, and were allowed to make their own arrangements, that evil would be remedied.

Q.—You did not complain of the cost of loading vessels ten years ago, did you, sir? A.—Our complaint is that it costs more in Quebec than in Montreal, I have already explained that we do not question the ship labourer's wages in loading square timber.

Q.—Do you know of instances of steamers preferring to take a lesser rate of freight to ports above Quebec? A.—Yes. Every day we are chartering vessels to go to Pierreville, and other places for lumber, but they positively refuse to come to Quebec even at a small additional freight. We have that evidence every day. I

complain that it costs more to load a vessel in Quebec than it does in Three Rivers, Pierreville, and Montreal.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Will you, if you please, as some discussion has been raised about my last question, will you have the kindness to read article fifty-five of the by-laws of the Quebec Ship Labourers' Benevolent Society? A.—Yes. It reads "If any master undertakes to load his vessel with his crew, a record of such shall be taken, and he shall be deprived of labour hereafter by the Association." Yes. That is one of the rules of the Ship Labourers' Society of Quebec. It is recorded there as one of the rules. As I have already stated the Ship Labourers of Quebec are the most skilful of the kind, in the Province of Quebec or in any other Port that I have been in, for loading square timber, and for that reason I say they should be well paid, especially as during a period of the summer he is idle, and although his wages may appear to be large his average wages are not large.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that the ship labourers of Quebec perform, or do in the course of their regular daily labour, as much work in eight hours as the ship labourers of Montreal do in ten hours? A.—I have no knowledge of what is done in Montreal. My knowledge is entirely confined to the Port of Quebec.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Only you say you believe the Quebec men to be superior to Montreal men in the execution of their work? A.—Yes. In the loading of timber. I believe the Quebec ship labourer to be as good at his work as the labourer at any port I have been in. They are the best I have come in contact with.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you know the rate per the St. Petersburg standard for loading deals in the port of Quebec? A.—I am not in my office and cannot refer to my books, but I may say that rates vary from one dollar, and one dollar and twenty-five cents.

Q.—Do you know the cost of loading deals by the same standard? A.—I should not like to say. I could not be accurate without referring to my books.

Q.—Could you give us the figures at some future time? A.—If we have them in our possession you shall have them. There are other witnesses better able to give that information than I am, because a merchant's business does not bring him so closely in contact with the matter.

Q.—Do you know what the cost of loading deals is in Montreal, per St. Petersburg standard? A.—As compared with Quebec?

Q.—Yes; what it costs? A.—It is one dollar to one dollar and twenty-five cents here, and eighty cents there for barge or *bateaux*, and if from the wharf ninety cents. This is the complaint now made here.

Q.—Do you know if the same class of lumber was loaded in Quebec last summer at sixty-five to seventy cents, taken by standard? A.—Do you refer to square timber, or deals.

Q.—Deals. A.—I am not aware of it.

FREDERICK BILLINGSLEY, Quebec, a member of the firm of John Burstall & Co., Merchants, sworn:—

Mr. CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN:—Before being examined, I desire to endorse all the views that have been expressed in the statements that have been made by Mr. Rae and Mr. Beckett, and shall, therefore, not take up your time in saying anything further.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are you engaged in the shipping of timber in Quebec and Montreal? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know anything of the shipping trade, and lumber business south of here, in Southern Ports? A.—No, I am not familiar with that trade.

Q.—Can you give us any of the figures we have asked for from the last two witnesses, with regard to the cost of loading vessels? A.—I know about the cost of loading vessels in Quebec and Montreal.

Q.—What is the difference in the cost between Quebec and Montreal in the loading of timber off *bateaux*? A.—It can be done cheaper in Montreal, because the cost of labor is lower there than in Quebec, and it is cheaper to ship it to Montreal, and load it there, than to load it in Quebec.

Q.—Can you tell us what the difference is in the cost of loading timber in the Port of Montreal, as compared with the Port of Quebec? A.—I cannot tell the actual difference. I know it is more in Quebec. It costs us more for our portion of the work to send the stuff alongside the ship in Montreal, than in Quebec. As shippers we have got to pay our men more.

Q.—Are the members of the Ship Labourers' Society any impediment in the loading of timber in that case? A.—Certainly they are.

Q.—Why? A.—Because we are driven to Montreal. It costs us more as shippers to load timber in Montreal than in Quebec, and for that reason we would prefer to ship in Quebec. We have had to ship stuff from Quebec to Montreal, in order to put it on board ship because the labourers would not allow us to use the steam winches. We are now shipping timber from Arthabaskaville to Montreal although it costs us more to send it to Montreal,—Arthabaskaville being nearer Quebec,—because we cannot get it off at Quebec owing to the arbitrary rules of the Ship Labourers' Society and the refusals to allow steamships to take on cargo by means of steam gear. We have also stopped the western timber at Montreal for the same reason.

Q.—Why did not the merchants of Quebec take advantage of the privilege of using steam-winches when there was no law to prevent it? A.—They did take advantage of it and at the present time if steam were allowed to be used for hoisting timber on board, there would be no such thing as sending it to Montreal to be shipped, because anybody can understand that it costs money to send it there, and bring it back again past the Port, in order that it may reach its destination.

Q.—You did not quite hear my question. Can you tell why the merchants of Quebec did not load timber with steam when there were no rules of the Society against it? A.—I cannot.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—I understand you to say that the cost of getting your timber alongside the vessel at Montreal is greater than the cost of getting it alongside at Quebec, that at Quebec you pay one dollar and twenty cents per standard and at Montreal one dollar and fifty cents per standard? A.—No; they are simply the rates we pay—not the actual cost.

Q.—Then I understand that after a vessel is sent out to Quebec you prefer to send it on to Montreal? A.—We don't prefer. We are compelled to. We desire to bring all our trade here. We thought that the difficulties with regard to the loading of broken stowage would be removed, but the Society refused to agree to any alteration in their rules, and consequently we had to load our broken stowage in Montreal vessels, in order to keep the trade. We must attend to our own interests. We commenced to ship at Montreal owing to some difficulty with the Ship Labourer's Society with regard to broken stowage. In the first place we begun to ship staves to Montreal in eighteen hundred and seventy-six. The same year we begun to ship a few deals, and since then the trade has been increasing.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—And you say this change has been very largely brought about owing to the failure of all negotiations on the part of the merchants with the Ship Laborers' Society? A.—Yes, the merchants could obtain no concessions—no change in the by-laws of the society.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Could you oblige us with the figures showing the actual difference between loading in Quebec and loading in Montreal, taking into consideration the cost of freight between Quebec and Montreal (conveying)? A.—No, I cannot give actual figures.

Q.—Could you not give us an idea of what the figures are—of the actual cost of loading? A.—To us, or the owner?

Q.—The actual cost of putting the cargo on board? A.—The actual cost is less in Montreal because wages are less.

Q.—You could not give any figures? A.—I am not in a position to give any figures.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Can a vessel load deals as quickly and as well by steam winch as by hand? A.—They load deals quicker in Montreal. They take them in ten at a time by steam. At Quebec they are handed in by hand, and that shows that there must be a saving in time, and consequently in money, where the ship owner is allowed to do as he pleases. It shows that, as a business man he would prefer steam to hand power.

Q.—You cannot say which is the quickest from your own knowledge—steam or or hand power? A.—I think steam is the fastest.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Can you tell us what it would cost per load for loading timber at Montreal—that is to the ship? A.—I cannot, I only know our charges.

Q.—How much would you or your firm charge for entering a vessel at the Customs? A.—That is a very irrelevant question.

Q.—Well, what is the charge for entering a vessel, inwards and outwards? A.—Five dollars inwards and five dollars outwards.

Q.—How long would it take, a trip for entering a vessel? A.—I decline to answer. I desire to say in extension to what Mr. Beckett has remarked that I myself think it a hardship that the ship laborers work only eight hours a day. Before the first of September, when the days are long, they could not only work much longer hours, but by day light. I think it a hardship that our men do not work ten hours a day right through the season. They could make a deal of overtime besides. And another thing in connection with the eight-hour system: they commence work at seven in the morning, knock off at eight for breakfast; begin again at nine; knock off at twelve for dinner; begin work again at one o'clock and leave at five. It upsets our arrangements very much for sending the stuff alongside. I speak not for our firm alone but the trade generally.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Is not the work so hard that they need some rest in the day? A.—They work four hours after one o'clock in the day, why not work four hours before one o'clock?

By Mr. HEAKES:

Q.—Have the ship laborers ever been asked to consider that question? A.—I

have never spoken to them on the subject, but I have frequently discussed the question with the stevedores.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Is it not a fact that the deepening of the channel between Quebec and Montreal has caused a falling off in the number of ships frequenting this port? A.—Undoubtedly it has. Of course a good deal of trade has gone there; but I would not have gone there with my trade, nor would other merchants who have appeared before you, have been compelled to take trade there but for these rules of the Society. I am a Quebec man. Trade can move from place to place, but property cannot and unfortunately I have got property here.

Q.—Then artificial causes have more to do with the removal of trade to Montreal? A.—Certainly; but I think as regards the deal trade the ship laborers have had much to do with its leaving Quebec on account of their rules.

Q.—Do you know how many of these load deals in the St. Lawrence in a year? A.—I could not say. The Board of Trade might supply that information.

Q.—Supposing deals were put on board in Quebec for the same price as they are put on board in Montreal, would the cost be a saving on the whole of the vessels in Quebec which have to load, and would it tend to increase the number of vessels visiting the Port of Quebec? A.—I think it would tend a great deal in that direction.

Q.—Is there any possibility of obtaining figures with a view to assist in carrying out that intention. If so we would desire to get the exact figures, showing what it would cost us to put a certain quantity alongside in Montreal in comparison to what it would cost in Quebec? A.—I have not done that yet.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Have you any casual steamers coming here, commonly known as “Tramps”? A.—We charter anything that comes along, but there is scarcely anything comes to Quebec now; they go to Montreal. I may say in connection with this that in 1876 we had a steamer here that we controlled. We desired to ship a cargo in that steamer in Quebec—the steamer “Advance.” We wanted to ship a quantity of oak, and we wanted men to load her up in Quebec. We applied to the Ship Laborers’ Society to know if they would permit us to use steam-gear in hoisting the oak on board, but the Society would not comply—would not permit us—and the result was we sent the ship to Montreal and loaded her with deals, although in the first place we meant to load her and wanted to load her in Quebec. That is the only steamer we had control of.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do your men work overtime? A.—Sometimes they make eight and a half days a week.

Q.—You never give them extra pay per hour for overtime? A.—No; but they frequently in the long days in summer make from seven up to eight and a-half days a week—and I believe that our men get—although I am not speaking from certain knowledge—I believe our men earn as much in a year as the ship laborer does, who gets his three and four dollars a day—when he is working.

Q.—Can you give us the average wages of your men? A.—They got steady employment for six months.

Q.—Do they make three hundred dollars a year during that time? A.—I do not think it; not so much as that. We have in our employ men—what we call season men. We give them two hundred and forty, or two hundred and fifty dollars, and a house for the season, and to work whenever we want them to—night or day.

Q.—Do these men, when idle, for the balance of the year, get constant employment? A.—They go away in the winter time always, for a little while—a very little. I have got men employed now.

Q.—Do many own their own houses? A.—I have no personal knowledge of any individual cases. I may mention, here, another little thing that occurred some two years ago. I mention it in the hope that some of the rules of the Society will be altered. There were a couple of cases of a similar kind. A ship here loaded about half a cargo of timber, and the remainder deals, when just as she was completing loading I asked the Captain, as a favor, to take for us ten pieces of longitudinals, which would have taken one man ten minutes to put on board. They refused, unless we agreed to certain terms. Those terms we could not afford to concede to. The Captain was agreeable to take them, particularly as we were about to send them to an outside port, in order that we might open out a new trade, with the object of bringing more money into our own pockets and, as a matter of course, into the pockets of the people of Quebec. We wished to make this shipment, but the rules of the Society prevented it being done. In another case, last year, it was almost precisely similar. We wanted to ship a few pieces of brown hickory, which the Captain agreed to take, providing it cost him nothing extra. These are little things where, I think, the men should concede some of these rules. Personally, I get along first rate with the ship laborers, and I may also endorse the statement made by previous witnesses that the men of Quebec, the ship laborers of Quebec—the holders—I do not refer to the winchers—work better in Quebec than anywhere else. I have seen the same class of men in Montreal and they do not appear to put in the same amount of work. We employ a good many men in Montreal. We have paid something like five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) in one year in that port for wages, which we would like to spend in Quebec, and I say these same men seem to suddenly lose their strength. It takes two men in Montreal to do the work that one man will do in Quebec. I acknowledge the superiority of the men of Quebec in that respect, and I say the merchants have been and are willing, at all times, to meet members of the Ship Laborers' Society, to rectify grievances that might exist at all times.

Q.—You are a member of the Board of Trade? A.—Yes; I am a member of the Board of Trade, and have been for some years past.

Q.—Were you one of the members of that Board appointed as a committee to meet the Ship Labourers in November eighteen hundred and seventy-five? A.—No. My partner Mr. Burstall was. I have got a printed document in my pocket giving the whole of the circumstances; that is, shewing their desire to try and meet the labourers.

Q.—Are the lumber merchants of this Port organized as a section of the Board of Trade? A.—The Board of Trade is composed of merchants, men engaged in all sorts of business.

Q.—Is there any understanding governing the charges—so as to make them of a uniform nature, between the merchants? A.—Oh, no. There is nothing of that sort.

Q.—There is no combination? A.—Unfortunately not—perhaps.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—With reference to the settlement of these grievances by arbitration will you kindly tell us whether you personally or the Board of Trade are prepared to submit them to arbitration? A.—There is a Board of Arbitration connected with the Board of Trade. As a merchant I would be quite prepared to submit to arbitration if any good could come of it.

Q.—Have the merchants ever made an effort in that direction—in the direction of settling disputes by arbitration? A.—They have tried conciliation. Every effort was brought to bear in order to bring about the desired changes, and responsible parties belonging to the Ship Labourers promised to bring it about, or rather to have it carefully considered, but we have heard nothing from them for considerably over a year. In fact we have heard nothing definitely from them yet.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You considered for their own interests it would be better if a better feeling could exist between employer and employed? A.—I think in our own interest and in the interests of the labourers themselves it is necessary to do away with a lot of these rules, and I am satisfied from what the men have told me themselves, that a number of the labourers would be delighted to have them rescinded.

JAMES PATRICK WHELAN, of the City and district of Montreal, Journalist and Contractor, sworn :—

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—You are a contractor and have constructed works in the City of Quebec? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you the actual contractor of this building in which we are at present (The Court House Quebec)? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it a fact that journeymen mechanics working in this building have not been paid for the last seven weeks? A.—It is true.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You can give any explanation you like, Mr. Whelan. A.—I have very little to say. On the twenty-first day of December eighteen hundred and eighty-seven, my contract with the Government expired. For the twelve months prior to that date—for the work done during that twelve months—we did not receive one five cent piece. Expecting that a similar policy of non-payment would be adhered to, on the twenty-second day of November I made a special arrangement with the Government to do the work by day's work, payable fortnightly. This account I rendered fortnightly, but we have not got paid. Before making this arrangement with the Government I notified the workmen that I had not been paid and that they would be paid every dollar that was owing them, even if the Government did not settle with me soon. I told them that the Government owed me three hundred thousand dollars, and that I did not expect to get the money for the next three months. "Now," I said "if you are prepared to continue working for me and wait for your pay until I get paid for the work, you may continue on, but if you are not prepared to wait for your money you may go. You can please yourselves." Of course I am responsible to the men for the payment of their wages, but the Government not having kept its agreement with me I did not pay the men. My last agreement with the Government was that the men should be paid every fortnight—that they would be paid and not have to wait. I have written and protested the Government and have got tired of writing and protesting, and I merely did so in order to keep myself right. I always do so in dealings with the Government, for I know what they are. These men I tell you are perfectly satisfied with me. They know me and they know they will get paid, and I assure you, gentlemen, that they will be paid on Saturday whether the Government pays me or not.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you anything else to say, Mr. Whelan? A.—No, nothing. I am not on my defense. I know the men have not been treated right. If I was one of them, I know I should kick up a hell of a row.

CHARLES G. DAVIS, Quebec, Agent for Messrs. Bryant, Powis & Bryant, Exporters of Lumber, Quebec, sworn :

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—What kind of lumber do you export ? A.—Deals more particularly and a small quantity of timber but not a great deal of timber.

Q.—Have you heard the evidence given by the previous witnesses with regard to the timber trade ? A.—Yes, and I coincide with everything that has been said.

Q.—And have you anything to say yourself in connection with your department. Would you ship much more timber from Quebec if the regulations as regards loading were different ? A.—Certainly, we ship a certain quantity of birch and we are inclined to think that the ship laborers should allow the steamers to take it on board by steam winch. As far as large timber is concerned we do not ship any.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Could you state what are the commisoions charged on ship's business in the port of Quebec ? A.—That would be a matter of arrangement. It is generally two and a half on the disbursements.

Q.—Is there any difference in the disbursement accounts of the ships loading in Quebec and the ships loading in Montreal ? A.—None whatever.

Q.—How much per standard is charged in Montreal ? A.—To load deals ?

Q.—Yes. A.—About eighty-five to ninety cents—eighty-five from barges, ninety cents by the wharf. If sailing vessels seventy-five to eighty cents by St. Petersburg standard.

Q.—Is there any difference in the port charges of Montreal and Quebec ? A.—Yes, a slight difference ; in Montreal two cents per St. Petersburg standard and ten cents wharfage per one thousand feet ; in Quebec, one-tenth of one per cent. on the invoice value.

Q.—Are ship laborers when they get a vessel to load or unload, more constantly employed in Montreal than in Quebec ? A.—Certainly. There being more vessels in Montreal.

Q.—They work longer there in the season ? A.—Yes. They work more continuously.

Q.—Provided the same rates prevailed among the ship laborers in Quebec and Montreal would the Montreal men receive more wages than the laborers of Quebec ? A.—They would make more by the end of the season.

Q.—Then they would receive more wages ? A.—Yes. Naturally if they worked longer they would get more wages.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Can you furnish us with any statistics showing the difference in the cost of loading vessels between Montreal and Quebec ? A.—From the ship's point of view ?

Q.—I want the actual cost of putting the cargo on the ship. A.—To the ship ?

Q.—Yes. A.—No, not from the ship's point of view. Well, I might state the difference in the cost of loading in Quebec per standard of deals would be one dollar and ten cents to one dollar and twenty cents in Quebec while in Montreal the cost of loading the same standard would be eighty-five cents to ninety cents.

Q.—Can you furnish us with any information of that nature, showing the difference in the cost of loading ? A.—No, I could not tell you.

Q.—Have many accidents ocured at ports, other than the port of Quebec, in loading deals and short timber by steam ? A.—No, I do not think there are more accidents elsewhere than there are here. I have never heard of it.

Q.—CHARLES A. PENTLAND, Esquire, Quebec, Barrister, sworn :—

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—I understand you are able to give us some information with regard to the Quebec Ship Laborers' Benevolent Society? A.—Nothing more than in eighteen hundred and eighty-two. The legal firm of which I was then junior member, Messrs. Andrews, Caron & Pentland, instituted a suit, on behalf of one named Paradis from St. Remi, against the Quebec Ship Laborers' Benevolent Society. He had some trouble with the Society, having been a member of the Society, and just about that time was engaged by the Captain of a barque called the "George Gilroy," to watch that vessel—to act as watchman. Owing to this trouble that he had with the Society, the men engaged in loading this barque (members of the Ship Laborers' Society) refused, under the rules which govern that Society, to continue working on board the ship. The consequence was, the Captain called on Paradis and told him he would have to discharge him, whereupon Paradis instituted action against the Ship Laborers' Society, and obtained a judgment for the amount of damages which he claimed, namely: the sum of thirty-two dollars. The judgment was rendered by the Honorable Mr. Justice Casault. This is a copy of the official judgment of the Court, and perhaps it will shorten my evidence if I read his Honor's notes on the case.

By MR. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—May I ask you, sir, if that document you are about to read is taken from a newspaper? A.—Yes; It is the official judgment of the Court, and can also be found in the third volume of the Quebec Law Reports. I can read it from the newspaper, or from the Law Reports, whichever you please; it is precisely the same. It simply gives the facts of the case. The suit was instituted in June, eighteen hundred and eighty-two, and the judgment was rendered on the seventh of October of the same year. The judgment is as follows: it is case number seventeen hundred and thirty-two of the records of the Circuit Court of Quebec of that year.

Paradis, plaintiff versus the Ship Labourers' Benevolent Society, defendant. Present, the Honorable Judge Casault. That an incorporated Society is civilly responsible for the illegal acts which itself by law imposes upon its members.

That the charter of the Quebec Ship Labourers' Society makes it a benevolent society whose only object is to give aid to such of its members as are reduced to want through illness, and to their families, during their life and after their death; that it has the power to pass by-laws for that object and for no other, and that those parts of the by-laws of the Society which tend to regulate labour and the value thereof are each and all *ultra vires* illegal null and void.

Judgment the seventh of October, eighteen hundred and eighty-two. The plaintiff who claims to be a member of the society, Defendant in this suit sues the latter for damages to the amount of thirty-six dollars, the value of twelve nights which it cost him to lose by compelling the master of the vessel "George Gilroy" to dismiss him, twelve nights before said vessel had finished loading, though engaged for the whole of the said watching. The defendant pleaded a general issue, and also that the plaintiff is a grocer and not a labourer; that according to the rules of the Society those of its members who have neglected to procure membership tickets, have to stand any loss that may arise therefrom. That at the time the plaintiff was working on board said vessel he had not obtained his ticket and had neglected to comply with the Society's rules. The plaintiff replied specially that if he had no ticket it was because it had been refused him without any reason at the trial; none but hearsay evidence was adduced of the plaintiff having incurred the fine and not being entitled to the ticket. It was also proved that the vessel was loaded with square timber and that it was impossible to find outside of the Quebec Ship Labourers' Benevolent Society, men who are competent to load ships with that species of timber, and that the members of the Society who were loading said ships refused to continue if the

night watching was not taken from the plaintiff, The officers of the Society do not appear to have been aware of this, and it is objected on its behalf that it cannot be held responsible for the acts of some of its members. This objection would be complete if the members of the Society should insist upon the dismissal of the plaintiff had not by so doing complied with one of its rules, number twenty-nine (29). This penalty is an injunction upon its members not to work on board a ship where a person not belonging to the Society is employed. By threatening to leave the ship if the plaintiff was not dismissed the members of the Society carried out one of its rules and thereby virtually acted not only with the authority and sanction of the Society, but by its order, and made it incur the same responsibility which would it have attained as the Society itself had caused the plaintiff to be dismissed, and as it has been proved that the vessel could not be loaded but by members of the Society; the Captain could not resist the pressure which made the Society as directly responsible for the dismissal of the plaintiff as if it had removed him by force.

The Society is a benevolent society whose sole object is to assist the families of its members whom illness or death leave in want, and the members themselves. This Charter, 25 Victoria, chapter 99, authorizes it to pass by-laws for that object, and no other, and therefore the part of its by-laws which tend to regulate labour and to fix its value and remuneration are each bad, *ultra-vires*, illegal, null and void. The illegal rules are number twenty-three (23) to forty-one (41) inclusively, fifty-four (54), fifty-seven (57) to sixty-one (61), sixty-three (63) to sixty-seven (67), sixty-nine (69) to seventy (70).

The defendant was condemned to pay thirty-six dollars with interest and costs.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the timber trade? A.—No; no practical knowledge.

Q.—Have you ever been engaged in the lumber trade? A.—No.

Q.—Can you give us any information on the subject other than information that has been given us by the witnesses so far examined? A.—No; not from any practical source.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you believe all the rules of the Ship Labourers' Society are arbitrary that now exist? A.—I cannot speak from experience, I consider that all the rules of the Ship Labourers' Society that have been held by the Courts to be illegal should not be allowed to exist.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of lumber? A.—Not as a merchant.

Q.—Have you any practical experience in the loading of ships? A.—No.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are all these by-laws illegal? A.—They are contrary to the charter of incorporation and are therefore illegal.

Q.—They would therefore not be illegal if the charter was amended? A.—No; not if the amended rules did not cover these rules that are condemned in the judgment.

QUEBEC, 7th March 1888.

JOHN ARTHUR MAGUIRE, of Quebec, Merchant and Exporter of Lumber, sworn :

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do you desire to make a statement, or would you prefer that the Commission should put questions to you? A.—With your permission, I would like to make

a brief statement. First of all I wish specially to point out that I am engaged in the South American Trade—not in the square timber trade, but in the sawn lumber trade, and from the nature of that trade, as you may readily understand, the lumber has to be shipped there and then on its arrival alongside the vessel. We are compelled to ship it according to certain rules of the Ship Labourers' Society, which I am sorry to say militate very much against our trade. I may add that I do not consider the wages paid to the ship labourers at the present time are too high. The rules we object to are:—first, that regulating the number of men we are obliged to employ in stowing the lumber. As our lumber has to go on board in a dry condition, owing to the poor facilities afforded us in this port, we are obliged to carry the lumber alongside the ships in lighters, and consequently it is liable to be exposed to the elements. If we are obliged to employ a gang of twenty men, in order to keep them occupied, we should have a number of lighters in attendance on that ship. Should it rain, the lumber will get wet, and we are obliged to send it back until it is dry again; thus incurring heavy expense. On the other hand, when it is dry we are obliged to employ a large number of men—a larger number than is necessary—and the lumber is subject to very rough handling in consequence, and boards are split—and in the countries to which we send them they sometimes fail to pay on this account, and we are subject to have claims made upon us that we otherwise would not have if we were allowed to employ a less number of men in taking in that lumber. I am quite prepared to accede to all the other rules—with one exception—the number of hours that constitute a working day. I may say from my own knowledge of other ports—from what I have seen as managing owner of these ships,—I have not seen work so well and so expeditiously done in other ports as it can be done in Quebec—and the only rule I look upon as arbitrary in the lumber trade (as I have already said) is the rule compelling us to employ more men than are required—also during the summer months we would very much desire that these men should work ten hours a day; as we can only put the lumber on board during fine weather. They should put that lumber on board as long as they possibly can during the day—they should certainly work ten hours a day.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you know the cost of loading lumber in Quebec and in Montreal? A.—Yes. In Quebec it is eighty to ninety cents per thousand feet, and in Montreal fifty cents is the standard rate.

Q.—You speak as a ship owner? A.—As a ship owner and a shipper of lumber, but I consider if we were permitted to employ any number of men, say ten men on an average sized ship in stowing lumber, we can stow it in Quebec, though not as cheaply, very nearly as cheaply as it is done in Montreal, because I consider that the men of Quebec are much better at the work than the men of Montreal.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You deal in sawn lumber in the South American trade? A.—Yes. Exclusively sawn lumber.

Q.—And you say that this lumber is liable to injury by damp? A.—Yes. That is to say, going down through the tropics. It is subject to changes of temperature, and if it is not stowed in a perfectly dry condition, in the course of a voyage of ten ten thousand miles it is liable to spoil, to mildew, to become green.

Q.—Will not that dampness arise from the existence of bilge water? A.—It is held here that lumber will not stain if put on board dry.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—And if put on board dry, it arrives dry in the tropics? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Does that lumber stain here? A.—Very seldom.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You are well acquainted with this trade in the Tropics? A.—Yes; I have had experience. I was ten years in South America.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Can you give us the difference in the cost of loading a cargo in Quebec, and a cargo shipped in Montreal? A.—In Montreal the charge is fifty cents per thousand feet.

Q.—What I mean is, can you give the actual coat of a loading cargo shipped at Quebec, and a cargo shipped at Montreal, the difference in cost between Montreal, and Quebec? A.—The difference in cost, between Montreal and Quebec, is twenty-five cents in favor of Montreal.

Q.—You need not answer the next question, unless you please. The question is this. Supposing you loaded one vessel in Montreal completely, and loaded another vessel of the same tonnage in Quebec completely, what difference would there be in the expense? A.—It would be entirely to what the ships would carry, but supposing their carrying capacity to be equal, supposing that each vessel carried four hundred thousand feet, the cost of loading, in Montreal, would be two hundred and twenty dollars, and the cost of loading, in Quebec, would be three hundred and twenty dollars to three hundred and sixty dollars. That is, the actual cost. I know that is what I pay.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—The charge of towing is not included in this estimate of per thousand feet? A.—No.

Q.—Would it not be a matter of indifference to the merchant what number of men are engaged by the stevedore? A.—No, because if he has a larger number of men than he requires—if he has a number of men that are useless to him—he charges accordingly. He is not going to lose by it.

Q.—Have you ever known any case where it took the men seven weeks to load a vessel? A.—I have known a vessel that could be loaded in ten days take six weeks, in consequence of the number of men employed—the stevedore having a large number of men he could not begin to load until he had a large quantity of lumber alongside the ship. Speaking of our own vessels I say the putting of two or three lighters alongside a ship at one time means an expense, because if it rains during the night we are obliged to send those lighters back to dry; while if they allowed us to employ a less number of men than that (20)—say eight or ten men—we could keep one load well sheltered, and get that through very quick with very little loss of time.

Q.—And supposing it is a very large ship? A.—I should not in a large ship of one thousand tons and upward, object so much as a ship owner to the employment of twenty men.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—You are of opinion that the men should work ten hours a day. Do you not consider that they put in as much work in eight hours as the men in other ports do in ten? A.—I do not consider that they would be over-worked if they worked ten hours a day on fine days.

Q.—Do you not consider it heavy work? A.—Not particular so. It is dry lumber.

Q.—But even dry lumber—one inch boards are not very light. You know I have been at it, and know what it is, and by the time you have worked eight hours as these men work, you will find that you have had enough of it. These men would not refuse to work longer than eight hours if they were paid extra? A.—I think not as a general rule. They have not in my experience.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Have you ever heard the Stevedores complain on account of the large number of men employed? A.—Invariably. In our trade.

Q.—You are of the opinion that you pay higher for every individual man employed in a gang, over and above the number requisite for the proper loading of the ship? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—And if you have a larger number than is required, they are only in one another's way and do not facilitate the loading of the vessel? A.—No. The work goes on proportionately more slowly.

(Translation.)

NARCISSE ROSA, of Quebec, Ship Builder and Stevedore, sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What are the hours of work here? A.—Generally ten hours in summer.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are you a member of the Board of Trade? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Have you come here this afternoon to give evidence on the question before us, that is ship labor? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Would you tell us what you have to add to the evidence already given? State what you have to say? A.—If I have rightly understood the object of the Royal Commission it is to enquire into all matters whether of good or evil which might affect health, labour and commerce, etc. I will be brief. Everybody complains that commerce is at a standstill, the reason is known. It is caused in my opinion, by the formation of societies that have arbitrary rules and regulations that paralyse commerce. By these regulations the Ship Labor Society keep their members in a condition of slavery, but still more do they keep those in a state of slavery, who do not belong to the Society. Persons who do not belong to the Society are completely excluded from work on board of ships. Nevertheless, we are in a free country, consequently the rights of labor are sent to the winds here in Quebec. Besides interfering with the workmen, ship owners are not allowed to be masters on their own vessels, for they have to submit to the rules of the Ship Labor Society; the rights of labor are very fine but here in Quebec we know nothing of them.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Give us your reasons as briefly as possible? A.—As ship owner, I have been several times threatened. They have attempted to muzzle me and paralyse me through persons with whom I had dealings. It was the persons through whom they attempted to "boycott" me who told me what had been proposed to them. One day my ship was being loaded, and by the rules it was necessary to employ twenty men when scarcely ten men could work all the time. Was it just to impose such a burden on me. Let them form Societies if they will. I am not against that, but let them allow the owner or the captain who represents him to employ the number of men he deems necessary, since it is he who pays them; for they are better able than any other to judge what is necessary for their work since it is they who pay. Let them not interfere with the rights of labor, if they want.....

By the CHAIRMAN (interrupting) :—

Q.—Confine yourself to facts? A.—We must always come to facts but I wish to show that the freedom to labor does not exist.

Q.—Very well, continue? A.—If the members of the Ship Labor Society wish to labor together that is their business, but let them leave those who do not belong to the Society to earn their living as they can. If I lived in a foreign country I would actually not send a ship here even though the freight was higher than elsewhere for, here, your property is no longer your property, it belongs to others. Several ship owners have told me that they would not send their ships here to be at the mercy of the arbitrary rules adopted by the Ship Labor Society. These ship owners reside in England and in France. To convince yourselves of this despotism you have only to examine the rules which they execute, and draw your own conclusions. I could cite a good number of other annoyances to which I have had to submit, but this will suffice to show you that freedom of labor exists no longer on board of ships. Property, sir, decreases in value population does not increase and commerce suffers because labor is not free. Work must be left free if we wish commerce to become prosperous etc., etc. In regard to work I will relate to you a circumstance which happened to myself. Last year I was employed to unload the barque "Glengarry" I made a bargain because I did not believe nor did I think the work would be interfered with. I began my preparation with a few men, but to my surprise the Society took away from the ship the men I myself had brought to do the work, telling them that they have no business to work on board of ship, and they put other men in their place. The next day, being a holy-day, one of my workmen went to the wharf to see that nothing was disturbed on board; he was beaten and his head cut. I do not assert that it was the people of the Society who struck him, but never before, for no apparent reason, had such a thing been done right in the very centre of the lower town. Had there been a brawl, it would have been different, but there was only the assailants and the victim, that is my man who had gone to look after the work. The carter who had taken there the things necessary to unload came and warned me that he would not work because there was danger for him and his horses. If proof be needed to support my deposition I will furnish it as required. I must remark that this preparation for the work put me to great expense. In the interest of trade and labor it would be desirable that the Commission would call before it Mr. Cléophas Gendron, he who was beaten, No. 81 Richardson street; Mr. Ferréol Dorval the carter, St. Mathias street, No 13 (St. Sauveur); Mr. J. B. Carrière, Roy street, 113; Mr. John Dickey, stower, 5 Stuart street; Honoré Drapeau, ship laborer, formerly of Lévis; Damase Gosselin, stower, Lévis. To show the fear inspired by the men of the Society I will mention two facts only. One day I had hired from Mr. Larmonth an engine to unload a ship, the next day this gentleman came to inform me that I could not have his engine because he was going to be "boycotted." The Messrs. Jalbert refused to send me their engine for the same reason. If you have any questions to put to me I am ready to answer.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have the rules of the Ship Labor Society anything to do with the decrease in ship building? A.—Not at all,

Q.—Are you a boat builder? A.—Yes, sir. I build ships that is to say I do not build any now, it is fourteen years since I built any.

(Translation.)

GEORGE BEAUDOIN, of Quebec, Moulder, sworn :—

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—How do the moulders in Quebec work, by the week or by the piece? A.—I work by the piece.

Q.—Can you tell me the average weekly wages a moulder can earn in Quebec?
A.—As regards myself, it is twenty-three years that I mould by the piece, and I work 75 hours a week; I mean in summer, when the days are long.

Q.—When you work 75 hours a week, what wages do you earn? A.—\$12 and \$12.50.

Q.—At what hour in the morning do you generally begin to work? A.—We begin at five o'clock in the morning.

Q.—And at what hour do you leave work? A.—One day we leave at six o'clock p.m. and the next at eight p.m.; the day we cast we leave at eight o'clock, and we cast three times a week.

Q.—When you work eight hours a day, have you any rest between the dinner hour and the hour you leave the workshop? A.—When we begin at five in the morning we work until noon without stopping. After that we take three-quarters of an hour, sometimes less, for dinner, and we work then until we cast, at three o'clock. At three o'clock we commence to cast; and to cast, and take our work out of the sand, brings us to eight o'clock at night.

Q.—Have you any rest between three and eight o'clock? A.—No, sir; only when we are going to take up the castings, we have a dozen minutes rest; but more frequently we continue working.

Q.—Do you take your meals in the workshop? A.—Some do, but I take mine at home, because I live near-by.

Q.—Do those who take their meals at the workshop take them in the workshop itself or in a separate room? A.—They take them wherever they can. They sit on boxes and eat on whatever happens to be handy.

Q.—What are the hours of work in winter? A.—In winter we begin at seven o'clock in the morning and we work until half-past five or a quarter to six the first day. Next day the same. The third day, the day on which we cast, we begin at seven o'clock in the morning and work until seven o'clock at night.

Q.—That gives you about 56 hours work per week? A.—Yes; about fifty-six hours.

Q.—What wages do you make in winter? A.—It gives us about \$8; sometimes a little less, sometimes a quarter of a dollar more, but it gives us about \$8.

Q.—Can you tell us if wages in Quebec have increased or otherwise during the last few years? A.—From 1879 to 1884 we earned \$15 to \$18 a week. I have earned as high as \$20.

Q.—And since 1884? A.—Since 1884 to the present time the wages have been the same as I told you we earn now.

Q.—Did you work as many hours before 1884, as you work now? A.—No, sir. We worked only from six in the morning until half-past five the first day.

Q.—How many hours a week did you work before 1884? A.—From about 54 to 56 hours.

Q.—Then, since 1884, the hours of work have increased, and wages have decreased? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you work constantly all the year? A.—Yes; only sometimes, in the month of January for instance, we make but \$12 per month.

Q.—There is no want of work in Quebec? A.—No; I have always had work for 20 years past.

Q.—Can you explain to us why the hours of work have increased and the wages decreased? A.—We have increased the hours of labour because we do not get the wages we used to, and in trying to earn, we work harder.

Q.—Are there more moulders in Quebec now, than there were before 1884? A.—There are less. The "bosses" sell at the same price, and they pay less for the castings than they did then. From 1879 to 1884 they paid from \$25 to \$26 a ton, and now they pay \$20 a ton, \$18 to \$20 a ton.

Q.—What particular kind of work do you do? A.—Stoves.

Q.—Do you know if the price of stoves has also diminished? A.—They always sell them at the same price.

Q.—Are there foundries at Levis? A.—Yes, sir; there are some at Messrs. Carriere and Lainé.

Q.—Do the moulders of Levis receive higher or lower wages, than those of Quebec? A.—They earn ten per cent more than those of Quebec.

Q.—Have they work all the year round? A.—All the year.

Q.—How are you paid? A.—We are paid every week, well paid.

Q.—In money? A.—In money.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of the workshops in which you have worked?

A.—Where I am at present, the workshop is well lighted, and well heated.

Q.—Can you tell us if there are a great number of apprentices employed in the foundries as moulders? A.—There is one shop in which six men work by the job, and four by the day, and there are five apprentices beside those ten. In another, there are six by the job, one by the day and three apprentices.

Q.—You have spoken of the sanitary condition of the workshop in which you work, do you know what is the sanitary condition of other workshops, of the same kind, at Quebec? A.—They complain of cold and of gas for want of ventilators. There are other workshops where they light small lamps with wood, and these smoke, and the men are obliged to lie down or go outside to avoid the smoke; there is no means of working inside.

Q.—Have you anything else to state to the Commission? A.—As to the families, they are composed of 4, 8 or 10 persons.

Q.—What rent do they pay in general? A.—\$5 and \$6 a month.

Q.—How many rooms for \$5 or \$6? A.—Three rooms. I pay \$6 and I have four rooms.

Q.—Are the houses you inhabit provided with privies? A.—Yes, sir; they are outside.

Q.—Do they communicate with the sewer? A.—Yes, sir. We use about nine or ten cords of hard wood in these houses.

Q.—Is wood dearer, this year, than in previous years? A.—Yes, sir. It is sold at \$1 or \$1.50 a cord more than in previous years. And food is dearer; and they pay us less wages. Our wages have been reduced 25 to 30 per cent since.

Q.—How much do you think it would cost a family of about six to live suitably in Quebec? A.—\$9 to \$10 a week.

Q.—This covers all rent, wood, etc? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do many of the moulders own their own houses? A.—I do not know of any, all those I know rent their houses. Their wages are spent as received, for living—they cannot save anything to buy property.

Q.—How much is paid to men who work by the day? A.—Men who work by the day, are paid six shillings to \$1.50 a day.

Q.—Are they laborers or competent workmen? A.—Moulders, good moulders.

Q.—Do the apprentices do you much damage? A.—They work from 7 to 6.

Q.—But do they do you any injury? A.—They injure us, they injure us a good deal. There are a great deal too many apprentices in the shops. In my opinion one apprentice to every eight men employed, should be sufficient. It puts a workman out to have an apprentice with him, particularly one who wishes to work alone. A workman who takes an apprentice with him cannot do good work, so the workman who has none has the advantage. He who has an apprentice cannot compete with others, that is what breaks down prices in Quebec.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do you think that the workshops are in such a state as to necessitate the passing of a law by which iron foundries would be made more comfortable? A.—Yes, sir. All our "bosses" in 1879 were well satisfied with the wages they paid. Only one among them, by force of solicitation, made the other "bosses" lower our

wages. He had hard work. He tried ten or eleven times. And it was the richest firm in Quebec that succeeded in thus lowering our wages. They went as far as Levis to lower the wages, but were not well received there. What I state is truth itself

Q.—Is living more expensive in Levis than in Quebec? A.—Less expensive, rents are lower.

(Translation.)

ADJUTOR TERREAU, of Quebec, Moulder, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—You have just heard the evidence of the last witness? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you agree with what he has just said? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Have you any information to give the Commission? A.—Yes, sir. It is that moulders, that work by the day, often work twelve hours a day.

Q.—Do you work by the day yourself? A.—By the day.

Q.—When you began to work for your employer, did you engage to work ten or twelve hours a day? A.—By the day. I did not say whether ten or twelve hours.

Q.—What is the general custom; is it ten or twelve hours? A.—Ten hours.

Q.—How many times in a week, or a month, are you compelled to work twelve hours a day? A.—Sometimes six or seven times a month.

Q.—Are you not paid extra, for the two hours you work over, and above the usual time? A.—I did not ask for payment, but they told me, before I could ask that they did not pay for the extra hours.

Q.—Was it always the custom not to pay for these extra hours or were they paid for, some years ago? A.—No, not to my knowledge.

Q.—Do you work in the same shop as the preceding witness? A.—No, sir.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of the shop in which you work? A.—It is much too cold for us to work in it in winter, without evil results.

Q.—Is it so cold as to freeze the sand sometimes? A.—Often.

Q.—Can you mould when the sand is frozen? A.—We mould, but with a great deal of trouble, having to thaw out the sand as we use it.

Q.—Would it not be to the interest of the master, to heat the workshop so that the sand should not freeze? A.—Yes, to his own interest, and to the interest of the workmen too.

Q.—How is your workshop heated, by stove? A.—By two stoves, but it would need double that number.

Q.—Is it heated by wood? A.—By coal.

Q.—Are there pipes attached to the stoves? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you suffer from gas in your workshop when you cast? A.—Yes, and I have often seen men sink under the force of the gas and fall to the earth.

Q.—Are there no ventilators? A.—There is one, but scarcely of any use.

Q.—Do you mean to say that the ventilator does not work or that you do not make it work? A.—It is too small.

Q.—Is your workshop on a level with or lower than the street? A.—It is on a level with the street.

Q.—Are the privies in the workshop? A.—They are in the yard.

Q.—How long have you worked as a moulder? A.—It will be two or three years this next fall since I finished my apprenticeship.

Q.—How many years' apprenticeship did you serve? A.—Three years.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Did you inform your employer, or employers, that there was a want of ventilation, that you were not comfortable in the workshop? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What reply did he give to your complaint? A.—He answered me in a way, as much as to say, he could not help it.

Q.—Do you think that a law should be passed to ensure more comfort in factories? A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Have you anything else to communicate to the Commission? A.—I earned \$9 a week all last summer, and last fall they lowered my wages to \$7.50, telling me that the days were too short, because too dark, and I worked the same hours this winter as I worked last summer.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Does your master spend any time in the workshop? A.—Yes; one of them works with us.

Q.—And does he find no fault with the gas? A.—He does as we do.

Q.—Does an inspector ever visit you? A.—We have never seen one.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—How are you paid? A.—We are well paid in money.

Q.—How often? A.—Every Friday night.

Q.—When the casting fails, when a piece has to be recast, is a penalty imposed? A.—No, sir.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH LACHANCE, of Quebec, moulder, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—You have just heard the evidence of the last and two other witnesses? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Have you any other information than that given, to lay before the Commission? A.—I can only say the same as has been said by the first witness (Beaudoin). I have nothing to say contrary to what he has said. Only being the first in the shop I thought it well to appear before the Commission. I wish to speak merely of the wages. I am there as head man, I alone have to answer any one who comes, I do my day's work like those who work by the day and I am paid only ten dollars a week.

Q.—Are you paid by the week or by the piece? A.—By the week.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you receive that all the year through? A.—All the year through, holidays included, I am paid by the week.

(Translation.)

ARCHANGE LAVOIE, of Quebec, Founder, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Will you state what you have to communicate to the Commission? A.—I work, by the day, in a foundry, in the same foundry as the man who has just spoken

(J. Lachance), and I have only 80 cents a day. I have a companion workman who earns \$7.50 a week, and I get but 4 shillings a day.

Q.—Do you do the same work? A.—The same work. Only he fits stoves, and I finish off machinery. We work together. It may be called the same work, he is a blacksmith, and I finish machinery, and in winter for 8 hours work I get only 3 shillings.

Q.—Are you married? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Have you any children? A.—I have 3 children, and I have to pay \$4 a month for rent. I find that my wages are not quite enough for food.

Q.—How many years have you worked? A.—I have worked, in foundries, six years but only for two years where I am now.

Q.—Have you earned more in preceding years? A.—Yes, I earned \$7 a week.

Q.—Summer and winter? A.—Summer and winter.

Q.—Had you more or fewer hours of work? A.—About the same; only I worked by the job, and I used to leave at three or four o'clock.

Q.—You earn only 60 cents now? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—For how many hours work? A.—Eight hours.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Does the work you do require an apprenticeship? A.—No; I do not require an apprenticeship.

Q.—But did you require an apprenticeship, or would another in your position have required one? A.—No

Q.—How does it happen that you receive 60 cents a day, and that others, for the same work, receive \$7 a week? A.—I can't explain it; but when you want work you must needs take it; they will not give more.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Did you work at that price all last summer? A.—Yes.

Q.—And in summer, could you earn more at other work? A.—Yes; working on the wharves, at all sorts of work, but I am not a man to do that kind of work.

Q.—You preferred to remain where you are? A.—Yes. When I began to work in shops, I served an apprenticeship to learn my trade of founder. I do not now work at quite the same kind of work, but it is still in a foundry.

Q.—How many years of apprenticeship did you serve to learn the trade of founder? A.—Two years.

Q.—Why do you not work at your trade? A.—Because it was too hard for me. The work was too hard for my health.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH DÉPATIE, of Quebec, Leather Cutter, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do you work in a large factory or for yourself? A.—In a large factory.

Q.—Are there many workmen with you in this factory? A.—Ten.

Q.—What wages do you get by the week? A.—It is according to the speed and capacity of the man. A good cutter can earn as high as \$14 or \$15 a week.

Q.—Do you work by the piece or by the day? A.—I work by the day at present; cutters generally work by the job.

Q.—How much can an ordinary cutter, one without much style, earn? A.—If he is willing to work passably hard he can earn \$8 or \$9 a week. Perhaps he may earn a little less, taking one week with another.

Q.—How much do those who do not work by the piece earn on an average? I speak always of men and not of children? A.—In the department in which I am, there are only myself and my father that work by the day.

Q.—But do you know the price given in other shops? A.—Work is generally done by the piece in other shops.

Q.—What is the system adopted when working by the job, for instance, leather by the pound, have you so much by weight or is it by the pair or by each case?

A.—It is by the case of sixty pairs. We have so much for sixty pairs. They give us sixty pairs to cut, and we have so much for the case of sixty pairs according to the amount of work. Some cases bring 60 cents, 65 cents, 75 cents, 80 cents to \$1.05.

Q.—What is the price for sixty pairs of men's shoes in split leather? A.—There are different kinds of work; there are the buckled "brogans," for which 95 cents a case is paid.

Q.—And shoes? A.—Laced men's shoes are 95 cents.

Q.—And when you cut leather by the foot? A.—There are so many feet to the case. If it is women's, misses' or children's shoes it is so many feet to the case and so much money also.

Q.—How much do you receive for a case of women's pegged shoes? A.—Fifty cents for cutting.

Q.—That includes lining? A.—Pardon; only the vamp and the heel.

Q.—How much do others receive for furnishings? A.—For cutting cotton linings it is, I believe, eight cents the case, and for facings and tops in sheep skin it is ten cents, five cents for the facings and five cents for the tops, by the case.

Q.—Is this work usually done by men, boys or women? A.—The work on the furnishings in sheep skin, such as facings and tops is the work of young girls on the premises. It is soft to cut.

Q.—Could men earn a living by such things as cutting those facings at five cents? A.—No; it would not pay well enough.

Q.—Do you know how much these women earn doing this work at five cents? A.—It would be hard for me to say, I never paid any attention to that.

Q.—Do you think that leather cutters in general are satisfied with the wages given in Quebec? A.—Yes; from what I can see for myself, I have no reason to complain.

Q.—Do you consider that other departments, such as bottom finishers, and lasters earn in proportion as much as you cutters? A.—As for that I cannot say. I am not long in the business; I have worked six years in my department, but I think the wages are pretty equal all through the departments.

Q.—Have you been in other factories? A.—Yes; I worked in another factory, in two others.

Q.—Have you visited other factories than those? A.—Yes; I worked in one other.

Q.—What I wish to ascertain, is the sanitary condition of these factories, are they generally clean, and well enough ventilated? A.—As to cleanliness it is much the same everywhere, it is clean enough, there is no reason to complain. Ventilation for heat or cold it is the same everywhere; sometimes it is cold and sometimes warm.

Q.—But not sufficient to cause suffering? A.—Not to cause suffering.

Q.—In the factories you have visited have they separate rooms for men and women? A.—Yes, sir; in our factory they are separate, one room for the men and another for the women, and separate passages that lead in different directions.

Q.—I presume the women's side is kept clean enough, but is the men's side kept at all clean? A.—Not at all too clean, I assure you.

Q.—Do you think this is the general condition? A.—Yes, I know of three places where the condition is about the same.

Q.—Have you any suggestion, of any nature whatsoever, to make the Commission in regard to the workmen? A.—No, sir.

Q.—You have worked for about ten years in a shoe factory? A.—For six years, six years and a half.

Q.—Did you earn higher wages five or six years ago than you to day? A.—I earn higher wages to day, for six years ago I was beginning my apprenticeship.

Q.—But I mean, did those who knew their business, earn, at that time, more than they do now? A.—In the factory where I served my apprenticeship, the same wages were given then as now. Where I work now, I hold, I may say, the place of first cutter.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you know of leather which comes from Ontario, being manufactured in shoes here, and being sent back to Ontario? A.—I do not know of any.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—You do not understand the buying of leather, you do not know from whence it comes? A.—No sir, I am at my table, and do the work given me.

(Translation.)

ONÉSMINE IMBEAU, of Quebec, Tanner, of Quebec, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Have you been long at the business of tanner? A.—Twenty years.

Q.—What are the wages you earn now? A.—Six dollars a week.

Q.—What are your hours of work? A.—Ten hours.

Q.—Have you continual work all the year? A.—For four years I have always had work, excepting during the last three weeks. We are losing time just now.

Q.—And when you lose time you are not paid? A.—No.

Q.—What is the cause of the loss of time; is it a general want of business, or a temporary stoppage at your work shop? A.—It is because we have too great a supply of leather, for which we have no sale.

Q.—What are the wages usually earned by other workmen, in your line? A.—In our shop, there is one who earns five dollars, and the other six dollars. The young man who earns five dollars and fifty cents is not a journeyman, he is only a day labourer, and there are three others who are only labourers, who earn the same wages as we do.

Q.—What is the general sanitary condition of tanneries, are they comfortable enough to work in, or is something more required? A.—Sometimes they are, and sometimes not. There is nothing to complain of just now, in our tannery; it was different two years ago. Two years ago, I went through the floor, the boards were so worn. I remember having asked for boards to mend the floor, and not getting any; we have large rollers to raise the skins in the pits, and in carrying one I fell and dislocated my ribs. I was eleven weeks without working; I got hurt on Thursday about four o'clock in the afternoon, and we are paid on Friday. The foreman sent me my wages in full, and the following Friday the men in the shop made a collection for me, and the foreman kept back from this collection the dollar for the day he had paid me. As for heat, sometimes it hot and sometimes cold, because we have to open the windows. It is never too warm.

Q.—Do the neighbours not usually complain of the smell of the tannery? A.—I have not heard of it, only it is to my knowledge that people passing the door have said, "Cré peste! I do not see how they manage to exist in there."

Q.—Does this smell proceed from materials employed by you in your work, or is

it caused by want of cleanliness in the shop? A.—It proceeds from the materials used by us.

Q.—In case of fire, have you doors and stairs enough by which to escape?
A.—Yes.

Q.—Is the trade of currier nearly the same as yours—do they work in the same building? A.—They work in the upper, we in the lower part.

Q.—Do carriers earn higher wages than tanners? A.—I cannot say. I believe some carriers are paid higher wages than us, but I cannot say.

Q.—Are tanners generally educated, can they read and write? A.—Some can, but it is rare.

Q.—Have you any remarks to make to the Commission? A.—Formerly we were allotted one hundred sides a week to each man, especially to the men of the "beam," and to-day it is different, they give twelve hundred to nine men. It is rather hard work. We are obliged to "botcher" the work, and liable to be abused for it. It is too much for one man. We do it but we have to "botcher" the work.

Q.—Have you no help from machinery? Did they give you no reason for increasing your work? Do you raise the skins from the pits the same way as formerly? A.—Always the same as in former times, by the strength of the hands. We have only a wheel which saves us, perhaps, an hour on a hundred skins.

Q.—You consider that the work is harder now than it used to be? A.—Yes, that is sure. A man that has a hundred a week, has enough to do.

Q.—Are there any proprietors among the tanners that receive the same wages you do? A.—I do not know many, I know one who is a proprietor.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Are you fined when you "botcher" work? A.—Pardon, they say what they like. Sometimes it is a little hard.

Q.—Do any children work in your department? A.—No, sir; they are all grown up men, and we can scarcely live on the wages we make now. Frequently we are seized. I pay three dollars rent. I have children, and one dollar a day is not much, and moreover, we often lose time at our trade. Tanner's workshops are always unhealthy.

Q.—Are your wages ever seized? A.—Yes, they were seized last autumn. I only finished paying, fifteen days ago.

Q.—Can you show the Commission the papers served on you for your seizure, how much did you owe? A.—I owed \$4.50 and I paid \$13.18 I think. I do not know if the papers are still at my house, if they are I will bring them to you.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Are your children big enough to go to school? A.—I have one son seventeen years old, a girl fifteen years old, another girl thirteen years old, and a little boy eight years, but they do not go to school. They are obliged to help me. There is no means of their going. The eldest is an apprentice, and earns two dollars a week.

Q.—It is the one seventeen years old, and the girl of fifteen who work? A.—The one fifteen years old works, but only from time to time. Since the month of January, I do not know if she has worked six days. She has only three-quarters of a dollar a week. The one thirteen years old earns about thirty cents a week. I wish to make the complaint that last spring my boss, after my week's work was done, deducted a quarter of a day's pay without previous notice, and that this autumn, after having a few words with him, he dismissed me.

(Translation.)

JEAN JOSEPH BARBEAU, junior, Contractor and Roofer, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What sort of roofing do you do? A.—Galvanized iron, slate, gravel; all sorts of roofing.

Q.—How many men do you employ? A.—It varies. At the present time, I have 5 journeymen and 2 day labourers, and sometimes I have as many as 17, 18, 20 men employed.

Q.—Do you employ different workmen for different kinds of roofing? A.—Excepting for gravel roofing (day labourers are generally employed for that work) the others are all journeymen, and these men do all the work of roofing in iron, slate and shingles. And it is the same men, also, who do the cornices.

Q.—What wages do slaters earn? A.—The same wages as those who roof in galvanized iron, for they are the same men. I pay my men 15 and 16 cents an hour.

Q.—Do you employ these men continually? A.—Pardon; they are employed during the summer, from the month of May to All-Saints day almost continually; the remainder of the winter they are employed when there is work; if there is work all the winter they are employed all the time; if there is no work they are not employed.

Q.—Have you any idea how much these men earn, on an average, in the year? A.—I have never calculated.

Q.—Do roofers often meet with accidents? A.—No, sir; not often, scarcely ever.

Q.—Are these accidents caused by defective scaffolding or by the imprudence or carelessness of the men themselves? A.—All the accidents that have come to my knowledge have happened through the carelessness of the men; it has even occurred to myself, when I was a journeyman, to meet with accidents, and these accidents have always happened through my negligence. On beginning work we drive a nail into the scaffolding, we forget that nail, we pay no attention to it, and that causes the accidents; but accidents are not frequent.

Q.—Are the men provided with proper materials for making strong scaffolding? A.—Yes; they generally have the advantage of choosing their own materials.

Q.—Are the men allowed the time required to make strong scaffolding? A.—Yes, sir; always, speaking for myself. What I most recommend to the men in my workshop, is to make proper scaffolding.

Q.—Do you employ boys? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—At what hour do your workmen begin work? A.—In summer they begin at 7 and finish at 6 o'clock.

Q.—When your workmen have a house to roof, are they obliged to go first to the workshop, and be at the house, to be roofed, by 7 o'clock in the morning? A.—No, sir; not at present. Formerly it was customary to go to the workshop before 7 o'clock, and to be at the work by 7 o'clock. Now, it is the general custom for the workman to proceed directly to the work. Sometimes he goes to the shop, the workshop, at a quarter to 7 and from thence to the work, but generally, they proceed directly to the work.

Q.—What wages are given to a roofer in felt? A.—In paper, we employ day labourers, and they earn \$1 to \$1.10 a day; it is what they would receive elsewhere.

(Translation.)

LOUIS ARIE., of Quebec, shoemaker, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—In what department do you work? A.—To day I am a laster—a fortnight ago I was a heeler. I was in the bottom finishing department.

Q.—Why did you leave heeling for lasting? A.—The boss, for whom I worked last year, gave me to understand that I would not have to leave the place, I wanted to leave as I heard he was going to get a heeling machine, heeling is almost always done by a machine. I asked him if he was going to get a machine, he said: "No; don't leave your place. If I get one it will only be in the spring." We had two slack months, and then he got a machine. I observed to the boss that this was not what he promised me, for I knew that he having a machine, I would have to leave, because there was not enough work there to keep the machine busy. I told him:—"You should have warned me, I have to leave and having had a "slack" such as we have just had, it does not do very well.

Q.—That is a matter, between you and your master. In what part of the finishing department are you? A.—I put heels on the shoes. At present I am a laster.

Q.—You consider that machines have taken most of the work from heelers; that is why you became a laster? A.—Yes.

Q.—What wages does a man earn who is accustomed to the work? How much can he earn in the lasting of shoes? A.—He can earn \$10, \$12 for good work. Others in the work of pegging can earn \$7 and \$8. It is according to the person, whether he is skilful or not in lasting; very few earn \$12.

Q.—Do you earn that by the day or by the piece? A.—By the case of 60 pairs.

Q.—Can you tell me what is generally given for the lasting of a case of "Bro-gans?" A.—Some shops pay \$2 but we have to pay the toe tacks and points, there are only the pegs for which we don't pay.

Q.—Are there not places where you do not furnish the points? A.—There are some places where we do not, and some places where we do.

Q.—But at some work you receive more than \$2? A.—Yes; there is work at which we earn \$1, \$1.50 a case.

Q.—That is work in brass pegs? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it you that put in the middle sole, the outer sole, the slip sole; is it fitted to the outside sole or do you fit it? A.—There are some shops where it is fitted to the sole, others where it is put on separately, and other places where we are obliged to split it, and make it pass each side of the seam.

Q.—Taking it altogether, I suppose workmen are satisfied with their wages? A.—In certain places they are not always satisfied, because there is some work that does not pay well, for instance, in "brogans" it takes an able workman to last forty pairs a day, well lasted, and he would have to work ten hours a day to do it.

Q.—Are brogans what pay least or is it women's shoes? A.—I have never done all the kinds of work to know; and I have never asked either.

Q.—Children are not much employed in lasting are they? A.—Yes; there are children thirteen years of age in some shops. There are what we call "stys"

Q.—Are women employed in lasting? A.—Yes; in some shops women are employed.

Q.—But they do not employ women to work in leather, only in prunella? A.—Yes; they employ them to work in leather, soft work, sheep skin and kid.

Q.—Do these women earn the same wages as men? A.—I cannot say.

Q.—What is the general condition of factories, are they well aired and clean? A.—The last one in which I worked, not the last but the one I left to take my present place, the shop was not well-aired. The closets had no ventilation, it was a small box, and above it was not covered. It was seven feet high.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Did you never complain of this? A.—Yes; In summer there was often no water, and we told the boss there was no water, he said he was not owner of the building and he could not do as he liked.

Q.—Did not the corporation not order all these places to be visited? A.—Not to my knowledge. Sometimes persons had to work near by, and in the great heat it was far from pleasant.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you know what are the wages of women who work on the machines? A.—No.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Do you know how much is paid to children, who work in your department? A.—\$1 and \$1.50 a week.

Q.—How many hours can they work? A.—Ten hours the same time as men.

Q.—Do they sometimes work at night? A.—Yes, sir; they work the same as the men. They work to seven or eight o'clock, according to the amount of work to be done.

Q.—When they work until eight o'clock, do they receive more pay? A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. FREED.

Q.—What is the age of the youngest? A.—About 12 or 14 years.

(Translation.)

SÉLIM TURCOTTE, of Quebec, Foreman Shoemaker, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Have you been long foreman in shops? A.—I have been foreman since we began business for ourselves, nearly two years, I think.

Q.—You are a partner in the firm? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How many workmen do you employ? A.—Take them altogether, girls and men, about three hundred.

Q.—How many partners are there in this firm? A.—Ten.

Q.—Each of these partners has his own special department to oversee? A.—We are three overseers.

Q.—And these three manage all the business? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Are orders sent you constantly? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What wages do the men generally earn? A.—We will begin by my department, the men's department. In the men's department, a good laster can earn about \$12, \$13, there are others that earn \$10, \$9 and \$8.

Q.—And there are still lower wages? A.—Those who lose time, do not earn so much. Those who work six hours cannot earn less than \$7 or \$8, and those not quick workers.

Q.—This for the lasters, and now in regard to other departments? A.—The cutters; it is not I who oversee the cutters. I only oversee the bottom-finishers. It is I who put the soles on and send them below. I receive the vamps already cut.

Q.—Do the finishers and the heelers earn about the same thing? A.—I give the men on the heeling machine \$8 a week.

Q.—And the finishers? A.—By the job.

Q.—About what wages do they earn? A.—Some are by the week. It is given by the job, and they earn about seven dollars and twenty-five cents a week.

Q.—You do different kinds of work, for instance, the brogans? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do the workmen change their work; do you give the profitable work to each one in his turn or do you always give it to the same ones? A.—First of all, I have lasters who do fine work; they are good lasters; I always give them fine work, and to those who do not last so well, I give them common work. I hire men with the understanding that they are to do certain work.

Q.—Have you any children working at the lasting? A.—The youngest is about seventeen or eighteen years old.

Q.—Do you employ women for lasting? A.—No, sir.

Q.—You do not wish to be examined about the other departments, you are not supposed to know anything about them? A.—I have a general idea of what goes on in the other departments.

Q.—Have you tried to export your goods? A.—No, sir, we sell in Upper Canada.

Q.—Do you know if boots and shoes can be exported into other countries? Do you think it can be done? A.—I don't know.

Q.—Do you do many lines of work in your factory? A.—We do the lines of sewing and pegging.

Q.—About how many samples do you make? A.—We make a hundred lines of samples.

Q.—Is your trade wholesale or retail? A.—Wholesale and a little retail.

Q.—But do you sell less than a case or do you sell by the dozen? A.—Yes, we sell less than a case and we sell by the dozen.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—How many children do you employ in your factory? A.—About twenty or twenty-five.

Q.—To the best of your knowledge what is the age of the youngest boy? A.—He might be fifteen or sixteen years.

Q.—What is the age of the youngest girl? A.—Fifteen or sixteen years also. Those are about the ages, seventeen, fifteen years.

Q.—What wages do you pay a boy of fourteen, fifteen years of age? A.—I have them at all kinds of prices. I have some at four dollars. I have young men who earn six dollars. I have some who earn twelve shillings, and a dollar and fifty cents and eight shillings; the prices vary.

Q.—What is the lowest wages paid to any of these boys? A.—The lowest wages in my department are, I think, one dollar and ten cents.

Q.—As one of the partners of the firm, can you tell us if there are children in your establishment who earn less than a dollar and ten cents a week? A.—There are none in my department.

Q.—But in the other departments? A.—There may be.

Q.—Have any accidents happened in your factory? A.—One.

Q.—What happened? A.—A child who had no business to put on a belt, did so, and was carried up by it and then fell, and he died a day or a day and a-half afterwards.

Q.—Did no one give him the order to put on the belt? A.—The orders were that no child should touch the belt.

Q.—Did not a young girl get her hair caught by the belt? A.—Not to my knowledge, not at our establishment.

Q.—If it had happened you would have known it? A.—I believe I would have known of it. If she was caught she was not hurt, for I did not hear of it.

Q.—How are the belts that work the sewing machines placed, on or under the floor? A.—There are some from the floor to the ceiling.

Q.—Is it not to your knowledge that several young girls working at the sewing machines had their clothes caught in the belt? A.—Not at our place.

Q.—Do you say that such things did not occur or that they are not to your knowledge? A.—Not to my knowledge, at least I do not remember it.

Q.—But quite recently? A.—I don't remember.

Q.—In any case it could not have been in your department, it must have been in another? A.—It must have been in another, it was not in mine.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—I ask you as being a master, if the factories in general, are in a good sanitary condition for instance as regards the privies? A.—At our place they are separate and at a good distance from the building. In summer our factory is well lighted on both sides, and in winter, on Monday morning it is generally cold, in the afternoon it is warm; it might be higher but it is comfortable enough. Things may not be quite right, but I do not hear much complaint from the men except for the cold on Monday morning. There is only a sewing machine we wish to change; it throws a little dust and we are going to renew it.

Q.—Have you separate privies for the men and women? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you think it would be an advantage to have an inspector of factories appointed; we have complaints that in certain shoe factories there is a bad smell from the privies, particularly those used by the men, and in other factories that there are other faults, but just now I speak only of the men's privies. It appears that the women's department is in good order, and the men's are very bad, to what is this attributed? A.—If the health officer were notified about these things, he would certainly under the Municipal laws, compel the masters to clean these privies, or change their situation.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Have you taken every precaution to prevent accidents by machinery; I ask you, if you have taken every precaution to prevent accidents from happening? A.—Yes; we have done all in our power.

Q.—How? A.—That is to say, as regards machinery, we do all we can to prevent any accidents.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—How are these privies divided for men and women? A.—We cross the yard by a covered way, and the women are in the upper story at the end of the yard, and they go to their privy by this covered way. The men come down into the yard, and go to their privy at the end of the yard; theirs is beside that of the women, but perfectly separate.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do you find it more difficult to keep the water closets of the men clean, than those of the women; is one generally cleaner than the other? A.—I think that the foreman of the women's department oversees their privies. He found them dirty once, and made them pay a fine to compel them to keep them clean, if they are kept clean there can be no smell, as the boxes are emptied every fifteen days in winter and eight days in summer.

Q.—Do you impose fines in your factory? A.—No, sir.

Q.—When a boot or shoe is badly lasted what do you do? A.—When a boot or shoe is badly lasted I do all I can to repair the mistake in order to prevent the workman paying. It must be very badly lasted for them to be obliged to pay, and in one year not more than two or three pairs have been paid for.

Q.—You state that you have taken all precautions to prevent accidents, do you not think it dangerous to have belts that pass under the table beside women's skirts?

A.—The women are not near these belts, they are only near their machines, and the straps or the rollers which work the machine are about as large as the little finger.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—How was the child that was caught in the belt hurt? A.—It was done so suddenly that we had not time to notice. First of all in trying to take off, or rather to put on a belt he was caught in the strap by one of his arms, and carried up and knocked against the ceiling, and the strap broke, and the child fell to the ground insensible. We did all in our power to fetch the priest and the doctor, the priest came and administered the last sacrament as he was in danger of death, we had him taken to the hospital where he died the next day, I think.

Q.—Was there a coupling where the child was caught? A.—It was not a coupling, it was two pulleys which were not far apart; and it was not that pulley; he knocked it aside; I could not quite say how he was caught, but I know that the pulley fell beside the shaft, and the child was carried up. I cannot say if he had the key of the pulley, I do not know.

Q.—Was there a coroner's inquest? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What was the verdict? A.—Accidental death.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—What would you say to a regulation being made,—an understanding that the women should not begin work before eight o'clock in the morning, from the 1st of December to the first of April; and that they finish at six o'clock at night?

A.—I think they do this pretty well now. They are never very particular to be there at seven o'clock; they never put themselves out to be there before half-past seven or eight; and they are not badly off.

Q.—Do the women work by the day? A.—Only the forewoman; they all work by the piece.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do you work at night? A.—For the last three weeks, I believe we worked till eight o'clock. I oblige no one to work. Those who want to, remain, and those who do not, go away; and I bear them no ill-will.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Are those who leave at six paid their full day? A.—Yes; and when they work until eight, they are paid extra.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Have they no rest from six until eight o'clock? A.—They take the time to take a mouthful of food.

Q.—Do they stop working? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you put on the belts when the machinery is going? A.—There is a loose pulley; they are generally on; the strap is on the loose pulley.

(Translation.)

ALFRED BLAIS of Quebec, Tanner, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Were you present when the other Tanner (Imbeau), gave his evidence?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Have you anything particular to add to what he said? A.—Yes, sir. I wish to say that we are two men at our work, and we have 1,100 sides of leather to turn over on poles three times a week. Each pit has 100 round hides or 100 sides, but we put two sides on each pole, and 50 poles in each pit to make the 1,100.

Q.—State what you have to complain of? Do you find the work too hard?
A.—Yes, sir, for two men.

Q.—How much do you receive for this work? A.—\$5 to \$5.50.

Q.—Is it the same from one year's end to the other? A.—Yes, from one year's end to the other.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Are you not paid more in the summer? A.—No, sir. For instance, this last autumn, a man who worked with me, left; they took on another and put him at work with me, and they paid him the same amount \$5.00. Moreover we take 400 tanned sides out of the pit each week, and we press them seven times which gives us about 1,100 sides.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—What would you consider to be a reasonable quantity for two men? A.—Say that we worked what would be a reasonable day's work, we would need one man more.

Q.—Did you formerly do less hides? A.—We do the same number, only another man would be needed to lift the loose leather with the gaff.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Be good enough to answer the question. Formerly, did you do less work than at present, for the same wages? A.—Less work.

Q.—Have you any other complaint to make to this Commission? A.—Yes, sir. I have to complain about the foreman. The work is not well managed.

Q.—In what condition of cleanliness is the factory, where you work? A.—It is clean enough.

Q.—Are you comfortable enough as regards warmth? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do any young children work in your factory? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Have you any other complaint to make, except against the foreman? A.—I have some remarks to make about drink. The foreman has to drive the engine, and he does not know his trade, and he is often drunk; he does not know what he is doing, and I am very often afraid.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—And where is the master? A.—He is often upstairs and does not work.

Q.—And he does not see that the man is intoxicated? A.—No, sir, he so rarely comes down stairs.

Q.—You are afraid the engine will burst? A.—Yes, he sometimes puts a man there who has never had any experience about engines.

Q.—Does the Corporation Inspector of boilers never visit you? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—What is the foreman's trade? A.—Tanner.

Q.—And it is he who attends to the engine? A.—Yes, and he attends to the liquor too.

March 8th, 1888.

WILLIAM MOLSON MACPHERSON, Quebec, Merchant and Steamship Agent, representing the Dominion Steamship Company, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Does Mr. Macpherson desire to make a statement before being questioned?
A.—Oh, no,

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You are agent, at Quebec, for the Dominion and Mississippi Steamship Line?
A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you tell the Commission what the difference is, if any, between the cost of getting freight from the steamer at Montreal and at Quebec? A.—Outward freight?

Q.—Yes. A.—That is freight coming out from England?

Q.—No, freight going to Canada from Great Britain? A.—Well, if it is railway freight, that is, if it comes down by railway, there will be an extra proportion going to the Grand Trunk Railway Company or the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, on the mileage from Montreal to here, or if it is freight coming down by freight or other steamer.

Q.—Is the charge proportionately great to Quebec as to Montreal? A.—The chances are they would be slightly more.

Q.—Do you make any difference in the charge for freight coming eastward from Montreal, or coming to Quebec? A.—Yes; we do. That is cargo coming from England. That is, we make an extra charge on Toronto cargo that is landed in Quebec, than in Montreal.

Q.—Does the steamer charge the same if it lands freight at Quebec as what it charges to Montreal? A.—No; the steamer does not charge more. I am misleading you there, because the rate to Toronto is exactly the same, whether the goods are landed at Montreal or Quebec—that is the through rates are exactly the same.

Q.—Well, now, freight coming from Canada West, is the through rate exactly the same if it comes from points west of Montreal. It is exactly the same whether the steamer takes it from Montreal or Quebec? A.—Yes; freight taken to Chicago is exactly the same if taken on board at Quebec or Montreal.

Q.—If the conditions were such that your vessels could trade at Quebec, and need not go further up the river, can they make more trips in the season, than they would do if compelled to go to Montreal? A.—Yes; there would be a slight advantage—a difference. Steamers are only able to run during the day time between Quebec and Montreal, and it should make two days difference in the voyage, which would give them possibly an extra voyage in some cases, and possibly not an extra voyage in other cases.

Q.—How many voyages during the season of navigation do you expect the steamship to make between Liverpool and Montreal? A.—Six.

Q.—Do you think the same steamer could make seven trips if trading between Liverpool and Quebec only? A.—In some cases she could, but you could not always rely on that.

Q.—Can you tell us whether the season of navigation would be longer if a vessel were trading only to Quebec, than if the vessel were required to go to Montreal?
A.—We do not consider it would be longer.

Q.—Can you tell the Commission the difference, if any, to the steamer in the cost of loading lumber at Quebec and at Montreal—

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—By lumber, we mean deals, splints, and everything smaller than square timber? A.—There would be a difference in the cost of the night work, as charged in Montreal.

Q.—Can you give us an idea of the percentage of difference in Montreal and Quebec in the loading of lumber, say? A.—I cannot give it to you in the special item of lumber, but I have made up what four of our steamers have done the trips of four of our steamers of last year—the inward cargo landed here, and the outward cargo taken here, for steamers make twenty-two trips in a year. I have made up what the charge per ton has amounted to on that in most cases; but not in every case do they take deals here.

Q.—What was the difference? A.—The twenty-two trips gave fifty-four cents a ton at Quebec, and our contract made in Montreal is twenty-three cents a ton, a difference of thirty-one cents against Quebec, and in favor of Montreal.

Q.—Did that include both loading and unloading? A.—It included unloading cargo and Western goods that are landed at Quebec, which would be fine Western goods for Toronto, London, and other places in upper Canada, and the Quebec cargo, outwards, composed of lumber and deals.

Q.—Are any cattle loaded at Quebec? A.—Yes; not a great many.

Q.—From what points do these cattle come? A.—West of Montreal.

Q.—Do you think cattle would be sent through as cheaply, if loaded at Quebec, as they would if loaded at Montreal? A.—I think they would. They should be loaded quite as well. There should be no extra expense in Quebec.

Q.—Would it be any advantage to the cattle shipper in their being brought to Quebec first, before going on the steamer? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are they as well, physically; are they in as good a physical condition, if loaded at Montreal, as they are if loaded at Quebec? A.—I would give this answer to that question. Perhaps six weeks in the year, it is more desirable to load them here in Quebec, by steamer, in the very sultry weather.

Q.—By Quebec, you include the whole port, including Levis? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any grain shipped from Quebec now? A.—No.

Q.—Do you think grain from the Lakes could be brought to Quebec, and loaded here—that is, Lake through-freight—the same as if loaded at Montreal? A.—I think it could, if there was any return cargo for the lake vessels.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is it a fact that that was tried some forty years ago; that grain was loaded here on Ocean ships, and that it did not succeed as a business venture? A.—I could not say.

Q.—Do you know what the difference is, if any, between the port charges at Montreal and Quebec? A.—I am not posted.

Q.—Can you tell us what proportion of the ocean passengers departing and arriving from and for points west of Montreal, and at Quebec? A.—A much larger proportion are loaded here at Quebec, and take rail from Quebec.

Q.—Can you tell us where express freight takes the steamer, and leaves the steamer? A.—In Quebec.

Q.—That would be on account of the greater expedition? A.—Yes.

Q.—Mails coming by steamer, are they landed at Quebec or Montreal? A.—They are landed at Kamouraska, farther down the river.

Q.—Do any passengers go down to Kamouraska? A.—Very few.

Q.—More come up from Kamouraska, do they not? A.—Yes; more land there and come up by rail.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Could you carry freight from Montreal, take it on board the vessels here and ship it to the old country, at the same rate as if shipped at Montreal? A.—We have done so, and in nearly all cases have taken it at the same rate as in Montreal.

Q.—If permission was granted steamers to use steam in loading birch, longitudinal and other small lumber, would steam vessels take on such cargo at Quebec in preference to Montreal? A.—They would take it on board here in preference to

Montreal, because there is more of it here. They have every thing of that kind here. There is less to do here, while there is everything to do in Montreal.

Q.—Is it not true that barge owners, at the mills on the Ottawa River, prefer going to Montreal with their lumber to coming to Quebec? A.—I cannot tell you, I am not in the deal business, and I have had no opportunity to learn their views in the matter.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—It is quite probable that they would prefer to send them down to Montreal where they can get a return cargo rather than take them to Quebec, and return back with them empty? A.—Yes; the inference is that, that is a good reason.

Q.—If such was the case, would that not be one reason why they loaded more frequently in Montreal than in Quebec? A.—I should think it would be one of the reasons.

Q.—Is it true that steamers prefer taking cargo at Montreal rather than at Quebec, because it is the head of navigation, and they find it to their interest in some cases to, land western cargo here? A.—Yes; such as fine goods, measurement goods.

Q.—They would prefer to unload here, to going to Montreal? A.—Yes; fine goods.

Q.—As a rule, do they prefer to discharge the vessels at Montreal rather than in the port of Quebec? A.—They prefer discharging in Montreal.

Q.—That being the head of navigation? A.—Certainly.

Q.—Is it not true that steamers having inward cargo to Montreal take grain and cattle cargoes from there back, and that birch, deals and other small lumber are sought for to be used as ballast to stiffen the ship? A.—They do not require it to stiffen the ship, but they require lighter measurement goods to fill up the ship, very often, and they are not to be got in Montreal. We can get them here.

Q.—Do you know if they would prefer to put the various classes of goods on board at Montreal, if they could? A.—They would rather complete the cargo here.

Q.—Is there any rule, to your knowledge, in the by-laws of the Quebec Ship Laborers' Society that in any way interferes with the shipment of cattle or grain in the Port of Quebec? A.—No; not with cattle or grain.

Q.—Is it not a fact that cargoes received here from Europe are discharged by the members of the Quebec Ship Laborers' Society with the use of steam-winchcs, on board of the vessels? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is not the cargo received on all steamers coming to this port, discharged with as little expense as in the port of Montreal for a regular day's pay? A.—No; partly.

Q.—With the experience which you have had as a merchant, and owner of steamships, can you give us your unbiassed opinion as to whether steamers of the Allan Line, for instance, would stop at Quebec, were it not for the Ship Laborers' Society? A.—I could not say that they would stop at Quebec, but I am firmly of opinion that they would do a great deal more business at Quebec, if the eight hour system was done away with, and the men work day and night at the same rate which would equalize the rate between here and Montreal. By the rules of the Society, night commences after five o'clock in the evening. I may be asked why should the men be compelled to work at night for the convenience of the Steamship Companies? To that I say, they have a perfect right not to work at night if they do not wish to do so. But this is a question as to the trade between this port and Montreal. If we wish to compete with Montreal we must work as they do in Montreal. No man is compelled not to work, any more than he is compelled to work. He can do as he chooses; but now that the steamers are being provided with electric light during the night time—now the electric light is to be used in the loading and unloading of ships, there is not the danger there was at the time the Ship Laborers' Society started. Every means is now used to protect life by night and by day.

Q.—Is it not true that the ship laborers of Quebec work very willingly on board of all steamers where steam is used in the unloading of the freight, such as butter, bacon, cheese, apples, and so on, and that they only object to the use of steam in the unloading of timber cargoes? A.—Quite so.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Is your work done at this port by contract? A.—Yes.

Q.—You made a remark, just now, about the electric light? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many of your steamers have got the electric light on board? A.—One. It is just commencing.

Q.—Can you give us your idea—you need not answer if you do not wish to. The question is this: What does it cost on the Dominion Line for loading deals per standard? A.—By regular contract price it is a dollar per standard.

Q.—Does that include all the extra time? A.—No, we pay extra time in addition to that, which is seventeen and a half cents per man during the day time, and twenty-six and half cents per man at night time.

Q.—Are the wages of the men paid by the stevedore? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you made it a study to learn if they are paid in full? A.—No. I have never made it a study, but I have been repeatedly on the steamers of our line, and I never heard any complaints, and I may say, for a short time I paid the wages myself—a comparatively short time.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—And did you have any complaints made to you? A.—No.

Q.—It was your duty to see that they were paid? A.—Oh, yes; because the ship is liable for the wages.

Q.—The ship is liable if the stevedore does not pay? A.—Yes.

Q.—Therefore, it is to your interest to see that they are paid? A.—Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Do you know if the members of the Quebec Ship Laborers' Society go down at four o'clock in the morning to meet your steamers, and back again, without doing any work, and without receiving any recompense for the time lost? A.—I am afraid sometimes that is the case, where the steamer is detained by fog, and does not arrive as expected.

Q.—Are the laborers working on your line, on going across the river to work, furnished with meals? A.—They are furnished on all occasions.

Q.—Are they supposed to get their meal when the meal hour comes round? A.—The meals are there, and the instructions are that they should get it during meal hours. The only time they are asked to work during the meal hour, is in order that the steamer may catch a tide when they are either going up the river or coming down the river. Two years ago, I had occasion to speak to the ship laborers about that. I had occasion to ask them to work during the meal hours in order that they might take out a considerable amount of cargo, and allow the vessel to catch the tide, and then to permit them to take their breakfast or meal time after it was completed. I also think it would be better, as a general rule, if they were to take their breakfast before they commenced their work in the morning. At the present time they come down to the ship, work an hour, and then knock off for breakfast. I would strongly urge that, in order to catch a tide, that the same thing be done on steamers going out as well those coming in, and going up to Montreal, namely that the men worked during the meal hours, if it is possible for the vessel thereby to catch a tide. It is as necessary for steamers bound out to catch a tide as it is for those going up the river to Montreal.

Q.—Does it not often occur that steamers for the sake of saving a tide go to Montreal with a large amount of Quebec cargo on board? A.—I may say no, al-

though in one instance, when the mail steamer was detained by fog or smoke, I knew it to be done on the up trip. She landed a small part of her cargo, and went on to catch the tide. That is the only instance I know of.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—How many years' experience have you had in the shipping trade? A.—Fifteen years.

Q.—And that was once in fifteen years? A.—Yes.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—When you first came here, did they take all the cargo on in Quebec? A.—Sometimes they would take some—but a very small portion.

By Mr. KEUWIN:—

Q.—Are you not aware of men going out to work on one of your steamers, and are you not aware that these men waited the best part of the night for work, and did not get paid for it? A.—No, I cannot say that I know that—that they were out to work on the vessel and did not get it. I do not say that it has not occurred at times, but they never went out on the promise of work and remained there without getting work.

Q.—Has that often been the case—that men were employed to work for a tide (and that when the tide has not been favourable to the steamship owners), they waited around in the dead hours of the night, and got no recompence for it? A.—When the tide falls, so that it is almost impossible to work and discharge for two or four hours, they would be given advantage of that time to get their meals.

Q.—And were they not left out in the cold? A.—I do not think they were left out in the cold. You mean down by the deck and the immigrant sheds.

Q.—Are you sure they could get in? A.—Yes; they could get on board if they chose.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Does birch for export come down from Ottawa, or is it chiefly found in this neighbourhood? A.—It is found chiefly in this neighbourhood.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—It is said that birch is sent from Quebec to Montreal to be there shipped on board the steamships. If any were shipped from Montreal to Quebec to be put on board your steamers as freight, what would you do about it? A.—Under the existing circumstances, we should refuse to take the freight.

Q.—If the birch was shipped by the Grand Trunk Railway Company, or the Canadian Pacific Railway, do you pay the freight through to Montreal, or do you charge in Montreal as if it came from Montreal itself? A.—Yes. If you will allow me, there is a point I would like to speak on, with reference to using steam on steamers, on such cargo as you have just referred to, birch and longitudinal. I think it is for the benefit of the ship labourers and for the benefit of merchants and steamship's agents generally, that steam should be allowed to be used in loading such cargoes. It is allowed in Montreal, and as far as we know, with safety, whereas here it is not allowed. We think it should be allowed for the loading of birch, longitudinal and such freight. We have applied to the Ship Labourers' Society to permit the steam winches to be used, and they have refused. The result is the stuff is sent up to Montreal, and is raised on board there with the same steam winches that might be used with advantage to the ship labourer, to the merchant, and city generally. The Quebec men lose the handling of this cargo which would be to their advantage. There also seems to be some mistake as to the danger of utilising steam for the loading of such cargoes.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Are the members of the Quebec Ship Labourers' Society engaged by you at coaling on the barges? A.—No; as a rule they are not. If the coal belongs to the Company, they are engaged by the Stevedore and are paid by him, and if by us, I pay them when it is delivered on board.

Q.—The Company's coal is loaded by the ship labourers? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are they paid the professional rates in coaling on the barges? A.—As far as I know, they are. I make no difference. The account is rendered to us in that way.

Q.—If steam was used in the loading of longitudinals, would the question of wages in the Port of Quebec prevent you from taking that cargo on board here, in preference to Montreal? A.—It would not prevent us if the cargo were offered here, but the difference in the charges would induce us if possible to take any other cargo there rather than take such as longitudinals here at the rate of wages which we pay here. Still we would take it if offered. Of course there is a difference in the cost of night work between here and Montreal.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—And night here begins at five o'clock? A.—Yes. It is the eight hour system here and we have the ten hour system in Montreal. If you would allow me, there is one remark I would like to make with reference to being obliged to take a certain number of men on to load deals. There is a certain number in a gang, and a gang is employed. I think the Stevedore should know how many men are required. A ship may require sometimes more and sometimes less. In the hold of a steamer, between decks, from one bulk head to another, the distance would be seventy to seventy-five feet, requiring fully twenty men, possibly more, to work expeditiously, at the commencement, in that hold. As they fill that in, the space becomes smaller, and he is not allowed to discharge them as their services can be dispensed with. We think if he were allowed to employ the necessary number—the number he chooses—and was allowed to discharge them as the space becomes reduced, it would be better for the ship.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You would employ a larger number to commence loading, and as the space became reduced, you would lessen the number? A.—Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—They could be drafted off to another ship? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—If a ship is loaded at so much the ton, would it make any difference? A.—It does to the stevedore. He has to pay the men. My arrangement is so much the ton, and I pay for the extra labor.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—If five would be enough, and he is obliged to employ twenty, he charges the merchants with the wages of the twenty. He charges the merchant with their pay? A.—I pay him so much for the extra labor—seventeen and a-half cents for day work; and twenty-six and a-half cents for night work.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—The stevedore might be able to make a better agreement with you under other conditions? A.—Yes; he might be able to make it rather less. I dare say he would, because he naturally could save with less men.

Q.—In your opinion he has more men to unload the ship than he can properly utilize? A.—Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Do you do much work on Sundays? A.—Inwards cargo we are very often obliged to commence to unload.

Q.—Do you know if it is compulsory for the men to work on Sundays? A.—I do not know. I do not think it is.

Q.—What would you consider if a man did not work on Sundays? A.—Personally, if it was not a matter of life and death, I should be very glad.

Q.—Is it not always a matter of life and death? A.—Well; personally, if a man took the liberty to refuse to work on Sundays, I should only be too glad to agree with him, because I do not like to see them work on Sundays.

Q.—I suppose you know, if a man refuses to work on Sundays, he is not wanted the next day? A.—I do not know, personally.

Q.—And you would not discharge a working man who refused to work on Sunday? A.—Certainly not.

Q.—You would rather respect him for so doing? A.—I should be disposed to.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is it not a fact that the deepening of the Lake St. Peter, is an additional inducement for merchants to have their vessels proceed to Montreal? A.—It is an inducement, and it does naturally cause them to go to the head of navigation.

Q.—Does not this cause the Quebec men to lose work? A.—No; I do not think it does now. He has lost a great deal of work in the past, because, ten years ago, and up to seven years ago, we used to lighter a large quantity of cargo down from Montreal, and also send a large quantity up west. Of course, if the channel had not been deepened, they would not go to Montreal.

Q.—They would remain here? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—And if we could go back to the state of thing as they were before the channel was deepened, what would be the size of the steamers that would go up to Montreal? A.—None of the large ones.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—To put the matter plainly—if these vessels could not go to Montreal, they would not go there? A.—No.

JOHN J. FOOTE, of Quebec, Proprietor of the *Morning Chronicle*, a daily newspaper published in Quebec, Sworn :—

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are you a practical printer? A.—No.

Q.—How many men are in your employ? A.—I think about thirty now, including both newspaper and job offices.

Q.—How many apprentices have you? A.—One.

Q.—Is he in the composing room? A.—Yes; he is in the job office.

Q.—Do you mean on the newspaper? A.—No; in the job room.

Q.—On the newspaper, do the hands work by the day or by the piece? A.—By the piece.

Q.—What do you pay them? A.—Thirty cents per thousand ems.

Q.—Is that the scale of wages asked for by the Printer's Union of this city?
A.—Yes.

Q.—How much do you pay your job hands per week? A.—The rates are eight dollars a week, and eleven dollars a week to the job foreman.

Q.—This is also the scale of the Union? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever had labor difficulties with the men? A.—Occasionally. We have a little ripple now and then.

Q.—Was it amicably settled? A.—Yes, on one side.

Q.—Your foreman, no doubt can answer all questions of a practical nature?
A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of your offices? A.—I do not think we have had anybody ill there. We have had men on the staff of all sorts and conditions for twenty-five or thirty years.

Q.—Can you tell us, generally, the condition of the printers of Quebec? A.—I should think, judging from their appearance, that they are in a very good condition all round. They are steady men. Mine are particularly so.

Q.—You have nothing to complain of? A.—No; and I don't think they have.

Q.—What do your men earn? A.—From nine to fourteen dollars a week.

Q.—Are your apprentices indentured? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you believe in that system? A.—Yes; because if they are brought up to that, they turn out to be experienced and expert men in a few years.

Q.—How many years in your opinion should a boy serve in order that he may become a good journeyman printer? A.—They serve five years in our office.

Q.—What is your opinion; can a boy learn printing better in a job office or in the newspaper printing room? A.—He can learn his trade better in a job office by all means.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—I understood you to say you had some little difficulty with your men some little time ago, and that you afterwards succeeded in settling the difficulty for the best, and I think you said the difficulty was settled all on one side? A.—When I said it was all on one side, I referred to the nine hour system. It was ten hours before that. Ten hours constituted a day's work before that difficulty, and I consider that it has added ten per cent to the cost of the job work, and we could not afford that at current prices.

Q.—As a journalist, are you aware of what is going on in the City of Quebec generally? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you tell me, Mr. Foote, if bucket shops, as they are generally called, are good things for a city like Quebec? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Would you recommend it as a good business? A.—I do not know anything about that.

Q.—You have never heard anything about it? A.—No, I have never heard anything about them.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Was the demand to shorten the hours of labor made on all the other news paper and printing offices in the City of Quebec as well as your own? A.—Yes.

Q.—It was a uniform demand? A.—Yes, it was.

JAMES CARREL, Quebec, proprietor of the *Quebec Daily Telegraph and Saturday Budget*, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are you a practical printer? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many boys and men are in your employ? A.—About twenty-five.

Q.—How many of them are boys? A.—Two.

Q.—You do not include the newspaper apprentices in this number? A.—Yes. We have two. The rest are all men. We have three departments—the newspaper and job departments, and press room. The two apprentices are in the newspaper department. In the job room we have none.

Q.—Do your printers work by the piece or by the week? A.—They all work by the week. There is no piece work in our office.

Q.—How much do you pay on your paper? A.—No one is paid less than eight dollars a week. We pay eight dollars all around—none less.

Q.—What do you pay your foreman? A.—The foreman of our newspaper department, Goulet, receives eleven dollars, the foreman of the job department Langlois, eleven dollars and four dollars for commission, and our pressman ten dollars.

Q.—Do you pay also the prescribed scale of wages in the job room? A.—No. In our office is less than eight dollars a week, our foreman get fifteen dollars, eleven dollars, and ten dollars per week; and our men eight dollars per week, nothing less.

Q.—Did you raise the wages of your men after the last labor difficulty? A.—In relation to the labor difficulty I did not know there were two typographical Unions. The two typographical Unions were at variance in the tariff, and I was not aware of any difficulty until I received a circular from one of them saying the scale was eight dollars a week, and not less: while the other—Number One Hundred and Fifty Nine—principally composed of French Canadians only, said that nine hours should constitute a days work. In looking into the office I found I was in full accord with the two Unions, and that all my hands received the scale fixed by the Union with the exception of one young man—Gunning—who was drawing seven dollars. I forthwith raised his wages to eight dollars. I have no difficulty with the printers of Quebec in their demand, because our office was in full accord with the Union, in fact with the exception of the one man—Gunning—they were then receiving the wages asked.

Q.—Did you have any difficulty with your men with regard to the nine hour movement? A.—I had no difficulty with them. Union Number One Hundred and fifty-nine, through its president, a person named Marois, in the month of October stated to me that on and after the first of November nine hours would constitute a days work, and my answer was “make it universal throughout the City, and I will put up both my hands. I believe in it and wish the men all success but I would not like them to single out my office to work short hours and allow the other offices to work ten hours. I may say I was the first in Quebec to adopt the nine hours system when the offer of the men was made and the “lock out” took place.

Q.—Do you find it makes a difference in your business as compared with your previous hour. Does it work to your advantage or disadvantage? A.—I prefer the nine hours, for the reason that the men are obliged to stand up all day working; Of course, those who have learned the trade, like myself, I being brought up in the craft, naturally, have a fellow feeling for the men. I feel that a man standing up during the whole ten hours, gets fatigued, and I also find that I can get just as much out of him in nine hours as I used to do in the ten. He works better.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You do not mean to say that those who are not brought up like you in the trade, have no fellow feeling for the men? A.—No, sir; but I feel that an expert man at the case will work better if he works short hours, than he will if he works long hours.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is your office a mixed office? A.—Yes; I have all French speaking print-

ers in the Job Department, and all English speaking printers in the Newspaper Department.

Q.—I understand you to say that you have had considerable practical experience in your business, and that you have been an employer of labour for a long time; do you prefer to employ men belonging to labor organizations? A.—Yes; certainly.

Q.—Can you give us your reasons? A.—Yes; I was brought up myself as a printer, and understand the position of the men, and I both feel and know that in the Printers' Union there are more teetotalers than there are among non-union men. I believe that printers, outside of the Union, resort to hotels and restaurants on leaving of an evening, and are hardly fit for work the next morning. Another thing, a Union office is particularly adapted for turning out good apprentices, and I find that the men protect and look after each other, and endeavor to raise the moral as well as the mechanical standard.

Q.—From your knowledge, as a practical man, was the last labour difficulty, in connection with the printers of this city, actually a strike or a lock out? A.—It had more the appearance of a lock out. The men made a demand which I considered reasonable, on account of the increased price of provisions, consequent upon the high protective tariff, which has prevailed. The prices of the commodities of life have largely increased of late years. House rents have increased twenty-five to thirty per cent., sugar three to six cents a pound, and butter, and beet, all things of that kind in a similar proportion.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You are now talking politics. I have no objection that your statement should go down, and would merely observe, that we have had more politics, from you, than we have heretofore heard in the whole Province of Quebec? A.—Because, in all probability, this high protective tariff is the reason why the working classes are so poor.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG —

Q.—Are the men perfectly satisfied with their wages at the present time? A.—Certainly. Of course, they would like to have a little higher if they could.

Q.—Do you consider the settlement of this labor difficulty beneficial to the working man? A.—It is beneficial all round.

Q.—Are you a member of the Master Printers' Association of this city? A.—I belong to the Press Association.

Q.—Do you belong to the Mechanical Masters' Association? A.—Yes; I do.

Q.—How long as it been in existence? A.—A good while.

Q.—Did it come into existence on account of the labor difficulty? A.—Oh, no.

Q.—Do you know as a fact that in any office in this city, men are compelled to sign an "iron-clad" document before being employed? A.—I have heard of it.

Q.—If you knew that as a fact, would you think that would be an honorable way for an employer to act towards a working man? A.—Well; if I were asked to sign one I would not do it. I would sooner go to the States.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you think it would be an honorable thing to refuse to allow a non-union man to work in an office? A.—How do you mean? Because he would not sign an "iron-clad" document?

Q.—The question is a plain one. Do you consider it an honorable thing to refuse to allow a non-union man to work in an office? A.—I cannot answer that question.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Did you ever work in the States? A.—No.

Q.—How do you know they never asked men to work without signing an agreement? A.—An “iron-clad” document?

Q.—Yes. A.—I have heard of it.

Q.—You are not then telling us what you know, but what you have heard?
A.—Yes.

Q.—You do not know of your own knowledge? A.—I do not.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you know if in some of the States, contracts of that kind are prohibited by law? A.—I have heard of it.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Are you aware of the existence of other “iron-clad” documents in this city besides printers? A.—Yes; I do. We used to get paid one dollar and seventy-five cents for factory printing, and now it is reduced to a dollar a page leaving not a cent of profit to the printer.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—But the country benefits by it? A.—The printer makes no profit.

Q.—I ask you if the country does not benefit to the extent of the difference?
A.—At such prices it leaves no profit to the printer.

Q.—I am not asking you about the printer. I am asking you a simple thing, yes, or no. Does not the country profit? A.—Not when it starves the printer.

Q.—Will you answer “Yes,” or “No”? A.—I do not think it benefits the country under those conditions.

Q.—Do you consider that there is less money in circulation now than formerly, is not the country more prosperous than hitherto? A.—I consider that where low wages are paid, starvation is there. I believe in a large circulating medium.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You told us that sugar was sold at a certain time, much cheaper than at the present time? A.—I did.

Q.—I think you said from three to six cents a pound. What year was that?
A.—I think during free trade.

Q.—When did we have free trade in sugar? A.—I think before Confederation, when the duties were low. Everything is up now, I can assure you.

Q.—Do you know what the price of sugar was ten years ago? A.—No; but I know the price was six to seven cents a pound for years and years.

Q.—Would you be surprised to learn that the wholesale price of granulated sugar was ten cents a pound? A.—That was during a particular period. I would like to refer to the markets of that day. Everyone knows that during the period of free trade everything was much cheaper than it is now.

Q.—Would you be surprised to learn that granulated sugar in 1878 was thirteen cents per pound? A.—Yes; I would.

Q.—Well; it is a fact.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What was the price of a barrel of flour ten years ago? A.—Four dollars and a half—four dollars to four dollars and a half.

Q.—And now it is about the same? A.—Flour is controlled by the supply and demand.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Can you tell us in what year, or years, flour was four and a half dollars per

barrel? A.—Mr. Brodie, flour merchant, Quebec, would be the best person to answer that question.

Q.—What were you paying your men then? A.—About eight dollars per week.

Q.—What is the price of flour now? A.—Five dollars and a half, but it was not that two years ago.

Q.—Was the same quality of flour sold six years ago for four and a half dollars that is now sold for five and a-half dollars? A.—I think it is not the same.

Q.—But do you know? A.—Flour now is five and a-half dollars, but it has been six, and seven and a-half dollars, for several years past—superfine bakers.

Q.—Made from what kind of flour? A.—I think Upper Canada. I will not be particular on that.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Can you tell us, Mr. Carrel, from your knowledge and experience as a journalist of the City of Quebec, if the schools of Arts and Manufactures now existing, are a benefit to the working classes? A.—A great deal. They are very useful.

Q.—Do you believe if all manufacturing cities had schools that it would develop the ideas of the working classes? A.—Yes; it would a great deal. There is one thing I would like to add: models are very scarce at the present moment in the schools. If we could get out more models from Europe for our young men it would be a good deal in their favor.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—You told us that you paid your men ten years' ago eight dollars a week? A.—Between seven and eight.

Q.—How much do you pay them now? A.—Eight dollars. Nothing less than eight dollars. That is for journeymen.

Q.—How many hours a day did they work when you paid them seven and eight dollars a week? A.—Ten hours.

Q.—How many hours a day do they work now? A.—Nine.

GEORGE JACKSON, Quebec, Foreman Printer, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You are the foreman in chief in the office of the *Quebec Morning Chronicle*? A.—Yes; there is a foreman in the job department now.

Q.—Do your men on the newspaper, work by the piece? A.—Yes.

Q.—What would be the average wages of a hand on the morning paper? A.—About twelve dollars a week.

Q.—Do you mean if he waited any time at night for copy? A.—Not at all.

Q.—Do the general hands participate in what is called the "fat" matter? A.—No; there is a special man for commercial and shipping, who has the greatest portion of the "fat" matter. He is paid by the office.

Q.—How much does he get? A.—Thirty cents the thousand ems. The commercial work and job work all goes together to the one man. If he has too much, he divides it with another man.

Q.—Are the advertisements set by the piece, or by the week? A.—No; by the week's work.

Q.—Is that the general custom in offices in the City of Quebec? A.—I think so; I do not know about the other offices, I think the *Chronicle* is the only office that works on piece work in Quebec.

Q.—Have you worked yourself outside of this Province? A.—No.

Q.—Have there ever been any labour troubles in connection with the men in your office? A.—No; well, there was the last—the nine hours system—there was some talk about that for an hour or so but there was no strike. There was nothing of that kind.

Q.—What were the wages before that strike, and what are the wages now as a general thing over the city? A.—Well, the wages in the *Chronicle* office, before the strike, as near as I can tell you, was eight dollars a week for job work, and thirty cents a thousand ems for piece work. The only thing was one dollar more a week was given to one man and the nine hours to the press and job men.

Q.—Did the men desire an arbitrator on this matter, of the shortening of the hours of labour, or for anything also besides the nine hour movement? A.—There was only the nine hour movement in dispute so far as the *Chronicle* was concerned.

Q.—Was it amicably settled between Mr. Foote and his employees? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you tell us what the sanitary condition of your offices are? A.—Well, the ventilation of the composing room might be better.

Q.—How is the cleanliness of the floor. A.—They are not very clean.

Q.—How often are the floors cleaned? A.—I cannot tell you, I do not know.

Q.—Have they been cleaned this past fifteen years? A.—I do not think it.

Q.—Did your men stop work at all during the labour troubles in that office?

A.—No.

Q.—Did they stop work? A.—No; because the employers had until six o'clock in the evening to give an answer, and they gave an answer at five.

Q.—Have you time to do all the work that comes into your establishment? A.—Certainly.

Q.—How many hours constitute a day's work in your job office? A.—Nine hours.

Q.—Do your men work overtime? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are they paid for it? A.—Yes.

Q.—Extra? A.—Certainly.

Q.—Do you know from practical men, that all matter which may be called "fat" matter, it is the universal custom for men on piece work to take? A.—Yes.

Q.—To take it in rotation, and to participate in the benefit either by bonus or otherwise? A.—Yes, I have heard of it, but not in our office.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are piece hands taken off piece work to set advertisements by day work?

A.—No.

Q.—There are separate men for advertisements? A.—I told Mr. Armstrong we had a regular man for advertisements.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—If you find that he has too much to set, how do the advertisements go.

A.—They are then given to the piece hands.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Is it given on piece or day work? A.—It is given on piece work. It would not be worth while to give a man two or three hours work, by day work.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you find the men work more energetically by the nine hours system than when they used to have to work ten hours a day? A.—No, I do not think it, they never work very hard. When they worked ten hours a day they worked overtime.

Q.—And when they work overtime, do they work for the same pay or do they get paid extra? A.—They get all paid extra.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Can you give us the rates for work done as overtime? A.—Yes; here is the whole thing. The members of the Printers' Union, are all paid eight dollars and upwards per week for day work, and ten dollars and upwards for night work. The week constitutes fifty four hours work, that is nine hours per day. All work done after these hours, is considered as overtime, and is paid for at the rate of twenty cents per hour. All running matter composition, from agathe to small pica, per one thousand ems, twenty-five cents an hour for day work, and thirty cents an hour for night work, or overtime. Over running matter, by the thousand ems seventeen cents. Composition on arithmetics, dictionaries, primers, and other work of the kind by the thousand ems, thirty cents. Foreman on evening papers ten dollars a week and upwards, and twenty-five cents an hour for over time. Foreman on morning papers eleven dollars and upwards, and twenty-five cents for overtime. The foremen of the press room for a week's work of fifty-four hours receive ten dollars and upwards, and twenty-five cents an hour for overtime.

Q.—How many hours composition do the men on your paper get? A.—Ten, well nine now.

Q.—How many hours are they required to remain in the office? A.—They are not required to remain in the office after the midnight despatches are finished, unless there is some special report to get out.

Q.—How many hours in the day is a compositor engaged in distributing? A.—It all depends. Two and a half or three hours. Just according to the time it takes to distribute their amount of work.

Q.—Do the compositors like to work shorter hours best? A.—Certainly. But they make less money the shorter the hours they work.

Q.—Do you pay what is called the Union rate of wages? A.—Yes. That is the Union rate that I have given you.

Q.—What do the men get on tabular work? A.—When any one sets tabular work they get double for it.

JULIUS P. TARDIVEL, of Quebec, Journalist, proprietor of the weekly newspaper *La Verite*, Sworn:—

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are you a practical printer? A.—No.

Q.—How many men do you employ? A.—I only employ three.

Q.—Are these men on piecework, or are they paid by the week? A.—One is paid by the week and the other two are on job work, they get so much for composing the paper.

Q.—The man who is paid by the week, is he the foreman A.—He is the foreman, if you wish, of the two others; he does typesetting once in a while

Q.—How much per week do you pay these men outside the foreman? A.—One gets three dollars and a half a week or four dollars, and the other one two dollars and a half or three dollars a week. I have not much to do with the work myself; in fact I have no knowledge of that part of the paper.

Q.—These hands who get two dollars and a half and three dollars are they journeymen? A.—They are boys, the only journeyman I have gets eight dollars a week.

Q.—How many boys do you employ? A.—Two.

Q.—How long were these boys in your employ before they got two dollars and

a half a week? A.—One of them has not been very long in my employ, two or four months.

Q.—Do you employ any girls? A.—No.

Q.—Are you a member of the Master Printers' Association of this city? A.—I took part in certain meetings held by the master printers of Quebec during the recent strike.

Q.—Have you any objection to employ printers knowing them to be members of a labor organization? A.—I certainly have.

Q.—Can you tell us your reason? A.—Well, I have had experience with them, and I have had enough. I do not want any more, such as I have had.

Q.—Do you know anything in connection with the labor trouble, in the printing offices of this city? A.—Yes, I know a little.

Q.—Can you tell us the cause? A.—I have no idea what the cause was in our establishment. There were no complaints.

Q.—It did not affect your establishment? A.—It did.

Q.—In what manner? A.—It closed my establishment for two or three weeks, and I had to have my printing done elsewhere.

Q.—Did these journeymen, and these boys, leave your establishment? A.—No, not the one I have now. One left, and I took another in his place.

Q.—Do you pay the Union scale of wages to these men? A.—I do not know what the Union scale is.

Q.—Did the man you had before belong to a Labour Organization? A.—I think he did. I am sure he did. He told us so, at least.

Q.—Do not you think, working men have a perfect right to join together, and prevent a decrease of wages, and protect the shortening of the hours of labour?

A.—They may have a right. I do not dispute their right.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What were the wages you paid your hands, previous to the strike. What did you pay this man? A.—I paid him seven dollars a week.

Q.—And there has been a little increase in his salary since the strike? A.—Yes; I put on one dollar, I now pay eight dollars. I paid seven before.

Q.—Did the man who struck work, ask you for more wages? A.—He asked me the evening that he left. He said he would have to have eight dollars a week, and unless I agreed to give him that, he would not come back to work.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you think the man was not worth eight dollars a week? A.—He may have been worth eight dollars a week. I told him I would do what was right, another time, and without receiving any threats. He threatened to leave—he threatened to strike. He had a contract to the first of May, and I told him to complete his contract, but he did not.

Q.—In what way did they injure you by this strike? A.—They did not injure me; they put me to inconvenience, by my having to get my printing done elsewhere.

Q.—Would this man have got the eight dollars a week? A.—Yes; but not the way he wanted to get it.

Q.—The man suited you every way else, except in the matter of wages? A.—I told him if he had asked me fifteen days before, I would have given it to him, but I would not give it to him for fear of the threat.

Q.—The trouble, then, was, that he did not give you sufficient notice? A.—It was not that at all. He was not respectful enough. If he had even been respectful, there need not have been any trouble. What he intimated to me was, that I was obliged to yield or he would go. He came in, naming certain organizations, and he told me that I would have to yield, and that if I did not, he would have to go.

Q.—Did this organization come to you about it? A.—No, sir; there were two circulars bearing two signatures of printers.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Then the whole question resolved itself into this: that your workman wanted to take your whole business into his own hands and conduct it at his price, and during his hours? A.—Certainly; that was the position.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Was he a competent printer up this time? A.—Yes.

Q.—Was he sober and steady, and did he conduct himself properly? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do not you think he had a right to ask you for more wages if he thought himself deserving? A.—Yes; and we were not bad friends. We are as good friends just now, only I would not be threatened.

Q.—You are paying eight dollars a week to your foreman just now? A.—He is not a foreman, but he is my printer. he is a journeyman, and that is what is required of him.

Q.—At any rate you give him eight dollars a week? A.—Yes; and he is satisfied.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You are willing to give to a man the same rights that you desire to retain to yourself? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you require men to sign a document to the effect that they do not belong to any Labor Society? A.—Yes; I do,

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Have they anything to do with the getting up of it? A.—What you mean? It is a joint document; I read all the clauses to the man, and he signs it, knowing that he has got to abide by it.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—He has an opportunity to examine it and sign it, and if he does not like, he need not sign it? A.—No; that is it.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—There are strange and curious things done in this Province of Quebec. So you compel a man to sign a one sided document? A.—It is not one sided at all. If he does not like my conditions he need not undertake the work.

Q.—You compel him to sign away his liberty of action. A.—That is a matter of opinion.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Can you tell us if the organization known as the Knights of Labor, is a Masonic body? A.—What is that?

Q.—Can you tell us if the organization known as the Knights of Labor is a Masonic Body? Is it like the society known as the Freemasons? A.—I cannot say.

Q.—Because it says in your newspaper, *La Verité*, that the society, known as the Knights of Labour is a Masonic body? A.—I have every reason to believe that it is, but I cannot say positively that it is.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Did that newspaper state that the Knights of Labour was a Masonic body,

or that it was based upon the same lines as a Masonic body? A.—That is it, that is the interpretation that must be placed on the article—that it is based on the same principles, and that it is a body like to them.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Are you a member of the organization known as the Knights of Labour?
A.—No.

Q.—Are you a Freemason? A.—No.

Q.—How, then, can you compare one body with the other, if there is no comparison? A.—Because I know a good deal about both, and that, too, without belonging to them.

Q.—Then, your information is only heresay. You have only heresay evidence for what you state? A.—No; not at all, I have plenty of documents.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Would you compel a man to sign that “cast-iron” document, if he was a member of a Labour Society. A.—I could not compel him.

Q.—Would you ask him to do it? A.—Certainly I would.

Q.—Do you not think that is trampling upon the liberty of the subject? A.—

No.

Q.—Not in the least? A.—Certainly not.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Mr. Tardivel, do you know if there exists, in Quebec, a business, or offices, for the transaction of business, called Bucket Shops? A.—No.

Q.—Do you believe them to be a necessity in this city? A.—I do not even know what a Bucket shop is; I tell you candidly I do not.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Did you ever read anything about Bucket Shops? A.—No.

Q.—Well, it is a much simpler thing to understand than Free Masonary, but its affects, or results, are not so beneficial? A.—That I know nothing about.

Q.—You will know when the Legislature shuts them up.

(Translation.)

JEAN ELZEAR LATULIPE, of Quebec, Merchant's Clerk, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—You are employed in a shop which is likewise a manufactory, are you not?
A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How many employees are there in this maunfactory? A.—200 to 300.

Q.—What is the average of the salaries paid to men and women? A.—Men are paid \$7 to \$10 a week on an average.

Q.—You include both clerks and workmen? A.—The clerks and workmen belonging to the workshop.

Q.—What is the average of the salaries paid to women? A.—About \$3 a week.

Q.—What are the working hours of men and women in the workshop, I refer to the workshop, and not to the salesroom? A.—I will refer to a few notes I have with me. The working hours in furriers' working rooms, from the 1st of January to the 1st of May, are from 8 o'clock in the morning to 6 o'clock at night. From the 1st of May to the 1st of January, from 7 o'clock in the morning to 6 o'clock at night.

Q.—What is the age of the youngest employee, you have in the establishment, girl or boys? A.—We employ none younger than 16 and 17 years of age.

Q.—What are the working hours for clerks? A.—The working hours for clerks are as follows: from the 1st of January to the 1st of April the store opens at 7 o'clock in the morning, very few of the employees, big or little, being present; about a tenth part of the whole staff are present when the store opens. During those months we close at 6 o'clock at night. At present we close a little later.

Q.—At what hour do you close the store, during the course of the week? A.—From the 1st of January to the 1st of April we close at 6 o'clock at night. Then from the 1st of April to the 1st of January we often close at 8 o'clock. That is all the week, except the eve of holidays and Saturdays; the eve of holidays and Saturdays, we close at half past 10 and 11 o'clock.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you not work on into the next day, at times? A.—No. Besides, in such a case, as customers become fewer our employer is pleased to dismiss us, so that when the store closes, there remain about as many of the employees as are present at the opening in the morning.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Do the young girls remain as late as the men? A.—Very rarely, not without we are pressed with work.

Q.—After a young girl has worked for 5 or 6 years, is she not able to earn more than \$3? A.—Some earn more; but there are others also, who earn less, even though they have worked that time; but the average is \$3.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What are the highest wages paid to women? A.—\$6 and \$7 are the highest.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—You have not told us at what hour the store opens from the first of April to the first of January, when it closes at 8 o'clock? A.—From the first of April to the first of January, the store opens at six o'clock, a small number of employees being present.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—And these few remain till 8 o'clock; those who arrive first, at 8 o'clock in the morning, do they leave before those who arrive later? A.—No; they all leave together. Only I would wish to observe that those who are present at the opening at 6 o'clock, have not breakfasted, and that when the larger number arrive, at 7.30, these few are allowed an hour's absence for breakfast.

Q.—All the same, they are thirteen hours and a half at work? A.—Yes, during certain times of the year; but it also sometimes happens that they remain less; besides there are breakfast, dinner and supper to be deducted. Three hours must be deducted for meals.

Q.—Have they time to go for their supper when you close at 8 o'clock? A.—Yes, quite. They lose three hours a day, one for each meal.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—During the months in which you close at 8 o'clock, from April to January, are the sales from 6 to 8 considerable? A.—They are not of much importance. We need only refer to the months of May and June, when the sales are a trifle more considerable, the remainder of the time it is quiet. There is not much work.

(His deposition having been read to him, the witness requested to be allowed to

add that "during the months of October, November, and December, the sales are equally important.")

Q.—Do you not think it would be better for employer and employees that, with the exception of the months of May and June, all stores in Quebec should close at 6 p.m. ? A.—I do not think the time has come.

Q.—I do not ask you if the time has come. I ask you, do you not think that, were all the merchants in Quebec to close at 6 o'clock, excepting during the months of May and June, it would be more profitable for both employer and employee ? A.—I don't think so.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—If your neighbors closed at six o'clock at night, on the eve of holidays, you would not be in a worse position than they. Those who would have bought at night would buy the next morning or the day after that ? A.—During the course of the week it might do, but for the eve of holidays and on Saturdays I see objections. We close later on the eve of holidays and on Saturdays in order that those who receive their wages after six o'clock, and who make their purchases between eight and nine o'clock, may be able to make them, and they do.

Q.—Is it not true that workmen are generally paid on Friday ? A.—Not always. The majority are paid on Saturday, and generally after supper.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Is it not very fatiguing for the employees, men and women, to remain in the store, during the warm months, from the hours of six to eight ? A.—In a store, such as that in which I am engaged, well aired, and in a good condition in every respect, it is not very fatiguing.

Q.—And in others ? A.—I cannot say. I have never worked in more than two stores in all my life.

Q.—And as for yourself, have you never complained of heat or fatigue during the hours from six to eight ? A.—No, sir.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you not think that you would feel better on the mornings of holidays and Sundays, if your store had closed at six o'clock instead of ten o'clock ? A.—I do not say that that there would not be more personal comfort ; but I cannot say that it would be to our advantage.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Are the sales you make between the hours of eight, ten and eleven very important ? A.—Very important.

Q.—Do you think that, if workmen were paid on Fridays, the stores might be closed earlier on Saturdays ? A.—It might be. There might be means of coming to an understanding.

Q.—Have any efforts been made among merchants to come to an understanding about closing earlier ? A.—Some efforts have been made during these last years. Two years ago we gained an hour a day for the whole year. We used to close at nine o'clock. We now close at eight o'clock, an hour earlier.

Q.—And the employers lost no money ? A.—I have never heard of it.

Q.—Do you think they would lose money were they to agree to close an hour earlier ? A.—I am not able to judge. I cannot say whether they would lose any or not.

Q.—Is the store in which you are engaged well provided with means of escape in case of fire, and with the requisites for extinguishing a fire ? A.—Yes ; everything is in good order ; our employer takes every means to ensure our bodily comfort and to prevent the danger of fire.

Q.—How many storys high is the building? A.—One of them is three storys high, and the other is five.

Q.—How would persons in the fifth story save themselves in case of fire? A.—They have two means of escape; one by the elevator, and the other by the stairs. It is a very wide stairway.

Q.—Are there any ladders outside? A.—None, that reach from the fifth story to the ground.

Q.—Is there any means of communication between the two stores, so that one took fire you could escape by the other? A.—There is means of communication in two storys of the building.

Q.—You have stated that three hundred persons work in this establishment? A.—From 200 to 300 inside the buildings, and outside.

Q.—Have any of the employees been long there, or do they often change? A.—The employees remain very long with Mr. Paquette, even during vacation places are sought after there. During vacations, openings are very much sought after.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—What is the highest amount of wages paid in your establishment? A.—I can not say.

Q.—If you cannot tell what are the highest wages, how can you tell the average? A.—I can tell pretty nearly; we hear that a good clerk is paid \$1000 a year. I start with this, and I calculate on a descending scale. I do not know what are the highest wages.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do the sewing-rooms close at six o'clock or eight o'clock? A.—The sewing rooms close at six o'clock in the evening from the 1st of January to the 1st of May. From the 1st May to the 1st of January they close also at six o'clock, but during these latter months they begin work at seven o'clock.

Q.—Is the pay always the same from one year's end to the other? A.—The pay is the same. The majority of these people work by the piece.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are any of the employees in your establishment unable to read? A.—They all read.

Q.—What proportion speak both French and English? A.—95 per cent speak both French and English. I mean 95 per cent among the clerks. The average would be smaller if I included all the employees.

Q.—What proportion are able to read both French and English? A.—About 75 per cent.

Q.—What is the proportion of French Canadians among them? A.—Two in a hundred are English, 98 per cent are French Canadians.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—When you state that about 95 per cent are able to speak both languages, you speak of the persons engaged in the factory and salesrooms of the establishment, and not of these who work outside? A.—No; not of those who work outside. I do not know them; I speak of those in the store.

Q.—And the same applies to the other questions you have answered? A.—Yes. What I have stated applies neither to those who work outside, nor to those who work in the factory, but only to the 100 clerks.

(Translation.)

LOUIS PHILLIPE PELLETIER, of Quebec, Advocate and Journalist, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You are proprietor of the newspaper entitled *La Justice*? A.—I am the president of the company that prints *La Justice*.

Q.—Do you know how many men are employed in your establishment A.—About forty or fifty.

Q.—How many among this number are apprentices? A.—Very few. I believe there are about six or seven apprentices. I am not sure; but in any case it is a very small number.

Q.—Do you pay your printers according to the prices fixed by the Typographical Union? A.—I do not employ Union printers in our establishment.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—But are you acquainted with the prices of the Typographical Union? A.—I have heard what the prices of the Typographical Union are. I have seen them in circulars that have been sent me. Here are the prices paid by us. We pay printers from seven dollars to eleven dollars a week, men who work by the day. We pay some men less than seven dollars, Men by the piece are paid according to what they earn. As for the Typographical Union, I have heard what their prices are.

Q.—But you don't mind them? A.—I don't mind them.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is it the foreman who receives eleven dollars a week? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What do apprentices earn? A.—It varies much. Beginners earn less, and others more as they approach the end of their five years.

Q.—Are there children of the ages of nine or ten who work all night for one dollar and a half a week? A.—Such a thing is not to my knowledge, but it may be explained in this way. In our establishment we publish two newspapers, one in the morning, and one in the evening. The printing and distribution are under contract. We have a contract with a man who himself hires and pays his people, so that he may have people hired to work at night at prices of which I have no knowledge, but we are not responsible for this, we have only to do with him.

Q.—What is the name of the contractor? A.—Adjutor Ménard. I should add that the men employed by Mr. Ménard know that they are always well received when they come to us, and no one has yet come to complain of Mr. Ménard's treatment, or of his manner of paying them.

Q.—Are you a member of the Master Printers' Association of Quebec? A.—I am not aware of the existence of such a society in Quebec, but, if the Commissioner, who put that question, refers to the temporary union which the masters formed among themselves, during the strike, it is different.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge, that the men, before being employed in your establishment, have to sign a document declaring that they do not belong to any labour association? A.—Yes. I should explain that, after the strike, to which we were recently subjected, the religious authorities of the Knights of Labour, having declared themselves opposed to the organizations of the Knights of Labour, I considered it my duty to conform to these authorities, and I exacted from all who sought employment in our establishment that a declaration that they did not belong to the Knights of Labour, because such was the desire of the religious authorities. I do not refer to Typographical Unions.

Q.—Have you compelled men belonging to one of the two Typographical Unions, to sign such document? A.—I compel no one to do what he is unwilling to

do. They are as free as I am; and I as free as they; I wish them to be on the same footing as myself.

Q.—Can a printer receive employment in your establishment if he belong to a Typographical Union? A.—We have in our employment men who belong to the Union, and others who do not. We would give employment to some of the members of the Union, and to some we would not. There are some who worked hard for the strike, and those I will not take back unless they sign the declaration. Others who were simply led away, will receive work from us provided they conform to the rules of the establishment.

Q.—Have the members of the Union in your employment signed the document in question? A.—Some have signed but I do not consider myself at liberty to divulge their names, they requested me to keep the matter secret and I will not betray my workmen.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Will you furnish us with a copy of the document your employees are obliged to sign? A.—It is simply a document by which the men agree to work for a certain time, and bind themselves to give due notice before leaving; there are other clauses all of which I can give you from memory.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Have you any objection to give us a copy of this contract which you make with your people? A.—Not at all; a copy for each member of the Commission, if you wish.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you by virtue of this document, the right to send any one of your men to work in another establishment? A.—I would say, in answer to this question, that when the strike took place here in Quebec, we sent some of our printers to hire men in other parts of this Province. We had blanks printed at that time in which was inserted a clause by which the employee was to be sent from one establishment to another, the object of this clause was that he who hired them did so in his own name and was to bring them to the offices in Quebec. That was the object of that clause. Afterwards when the strike was over and masters began to take back their men and the men to return to work, this clause was in a certain number of blanks and was read to some of the workmen, two or three among them did not at first object, but afterwards they asked that it should be struck out, and I made no objection.

Q.—It appears no longer? A.—It appears in some of the documents where the parties have not asked to have it struck out.

Q.—But you do not mind it? A.—No.

Q.—Are you opposed to Trade's Unions? A.—I acknowledge the right of the workmen to protect themselves and am even in favor of their doing so.

Q.—But do you object to employ workmen when you know them to be members of the Union? A.—We have some in our employ, the majority of our men belong to the Typographical Union.

Q.—You do not then object to employ members of the Union if they tell you they belong to the Typographical Union? A.—No; not at all.

Q.—But if they refuse to sign the document? A.—I do not even ask all the men to sign. I ask, especially now, only those who have shown themselves disposed to make trouble in the establishment to prevent their wishing to do so in the future. I should add that there are a certain number of our employees, a very great number even, that have not signed any agreement whatever

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you ever paid, outside of your establishment, higher wages than you

pay your own men? A.—I have never paid wages outside of the establishment. All the wages I have paid have been earned in the establishment.

Q.—You never had work done outside of the establishment? A.—Not by our men.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Was that at the time of the strike? A.—At the time of the strike we tried to, but there was no means.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are you a member of the Society of the lawyers of the Province of Quebec?
A.—I am a member of the Bar of the Province of Quebec

Q.—Must you be a member of this Society before being allowed to plead? A.—Yes.

Q.—If you do not pay your annual tax what will be the consequence? A.—This has never occurred to me, and I hope never will. I have not ascertained what would be the consequence in such a case, but I am of opinion that if a lawyer did not pay his tax at all times he would not be allowed to plead.

Q.—Is this Society not similar to the Trades Unions? A.—I do not see that the principle is the same. I understand that the object of Trades Unions, of those Typographical Unions is amusement, instruction and mutual aid, whilst the members of the Bar of the Province of Quebec pay a tax to maintain a general council, buy a library, etc. I do not see what comparison can be made between the two, except by stretching a point. I understand the Typographical Union to be a benevolent society, whilst the object of the organization of the Bar is to have certain property in common such as a library, paying the expenses of a general Council, etc.

By Mr. HELBRONNER —

Q.—Has the Bar never asked for an increase of fees from the Legislature? A.—The Bar need not apply to the Legislature for an increase of fees.

Q.—Are the fees not fixed? A.—It is the Judges that regulate the fees. That make the rules of practice, and make the tariff.

Q.—Did the Bar not petition the Judges to increase the tariff? A.—The Bar petitioned the Judges to make a revision of the tariff, to have more fees in certain things, and less on others. For instance they desire the lawyers should not pass entire days examining witnesses without receiving a tenth part of what they should receive, and they asked at the same time that things for which they were overpaid should be reduced.

Q.—So the Bar watches over its own interests? A.—Without doubt, like all the world. I know of no one in the world who does not watch over his own interest.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—It has been proved before this Commission that lawyer's fees in small cases are exorbitant, for instance, three or four times more than the debt; it is possible for a lawyer to charge more than the tariff allows him? A.—Never, that is to say, he cannot charge the defendant more, him who loses the case; but an advocate may make an agreement with his own client to charge a retainer more than the tariff, but the client must be a consenting party, because legally we have no right to charge more than the tariff allows.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Can you, if you wish, charge less than the tariff? A.—I believe many lawyers do.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Does the supply of lawyers for their services, regulate the tariff; is the

supply of lawyers equal or greater than the demand? A.—It is greater for there are many lawyers who starve.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Has that anything to do with the tariff? A.—Not at all. When lawyers are poor we pity them, but the tariff is not regulated to support them.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Is the tariff not complained of as being too high? A.—It is a mistaken idea.

Q.—Is it possible for the Commission to procure a tariff? A.—I would put one before the Commission with pleasure, but it is contained in *Wotherspoon's Code of Procedure* in English, and besides you can procure one down stairs (in the Prothonotary's office).

Q.—Is it the same thing for the notaries? A.—We have not here the tariff of notaries, they have a special tariff.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is there not also the tax for the building of the Court House at Quebec, to pay? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Are lawyers not forbidden to solicit business? A.—It is forbidden by the rules of the bar.

Q.—We have had complaints in Montreal, even from members of the bar, that advocates solicited collections, does the same thing exist at Quebec? A.—I believe that in this respect our bar is superior, and that this rule of the bar is respected admirably; nevertheless there are exceptions, as elsewhere.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Do you think it well that advocates should regulate this tariff themselves? A.—They do not regulate the tariff themselves. If they do, it is the first I have heard of.

Q.—Are judges not advocates? A.—Judges are no longer advocates, they are judges.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you know that there has already been a reduction made for the printing of factums? A.—There has lately been a reduction in the printing of factums. The price for printing factums was \$1.75 to \$2.00 a page, and it has been reduced to \$1.00 which I think is not sufficient.

Q.—Do you know the reason for this reduction? A.—It was done suddenly without any previous notice. It was a change that surprised everyone, and which we found very unjust, especially to printers.

(Translation.)

ISIDORE PARENT, of Quebec, Cooper, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are you in business, and do you employ others? A.—I employ other men.

Q.—How many men are in your employment? A.—Ten, just now.

Q.—Are these men employed on flour barrels, or on casks intended to contain liquids? A.—There are some by the job, and some by the day.

Q.—That is not what I ask you. What kind of barrels do you make? A.—Different kinds.

Q.—Are your workmen engaged by the day, the week, or the piece? A.—Some by the day, some by the piece.

Q.—How much do the men get a day? A.—Some get from a dollar, some from seven shillings and a half, some six shillings and threepence and some two dollars and fifty cents. There are some at three dollars and some at four. Some at five dollars and fifty cents a week. And by the job, they go as high as \$6, \$7, \$8, \$9, \$10, and even \$11.

Q.—How much do you pay your coopers a week now? A.—\$5.50 at present.

Q.—Are there not men that work for less? A.—Yes; those who are less able.

Q.—What is the lowest wages given to a cooper in your employment? A.—Some earn fifty cents a day (three dollars a week) these are not very good workmen.

Q.—How much do you give those that work by the job? A.—So much a barrel according to how they work. When they work hard they earn \$9; sometimes \$10, at others \$11.

Q.—What price do you give per barrel? A.—Nothing for shaping them, but fourteen cents for mounting them.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do they make a complete barrel? A.—One puts the barrels together, one shapes the curves, one makes the bottom, another finishes the staves and another the hoops. Each one has his own work as in a shoe factory.

Q.—Do you refer to flour barrels or casks? A.—Flour barrels do not pay in Quebec, we do not make them. We only make tight barrels, pork barrels.

Q.—How often do you pay your men? A.—Every week.

Q.—What day? A.—Saturday.

Q.—Do you give orders on stores in payment of work? A.—Very rarely.

Q.—Do you give order for liquor in payment of your men? A.—We give them for provisions. Sometimes, in the autumn, when they need pork, fish and butter, and frequently they do not do the work for it, once they get the order.

Q.—Then you do not give the orders in payment? A.—These orders are given in advance.

Q.—What are the hours of work? A.—In winter we begin at half-past seven and work until five o'clock, and over hours are paid extra. They can work until midnight if they choose, I give them the key.

Q.—Are there many establishments of your kind in Quebec? A.—No; not many, there are only three others.

Q.—Do any of these men who work by the week, work twelve or fifteen hours a day? A.—Those who work by the piece do if they want to.

Q.—But those who work by the day? A.—They are rewarded, it increases their pay.

Q.—But do you not force them to remain? A.—No, no; if they want to work they work.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What hour do they begin in summer? A.—At seven o'clock and they finish at six.

Q.—Do any of your men earn less than a dollar a day? A.—Yes; there are some. There are some too, that earn more.

Q.—Are journeymen coopers able to acquire property? Are any of them real estate owners? A.—Yes; there are some.

Q.—Are they generally contented with their condition? A.—They make no complaints to me. I have never too much work, but always have work in advance; when the men come to me I give them the work, if they ask for it and do not charge too high. As long as I can meet my expenses it is all I ask.

Q.—Have the master coopers of Quebec formed a society? A.—I do not think so.

(Translation)

JOSSEPH DUSSAULT, of Quebec, Master-printer, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you publish a newspaper? A.—I do not publish newspapers. I have a job printing establishment.

Q.—How many journeymen have you in your employ? A.—Before the strike I had ten men; now I have seven.

Q.—How many apprentices had you before the strike? A.—I had one.

Q.—How many have you now? A.—I have two printers' apprentices.

Q.—What were printers wages before the difficulty? A.—Journeymen received seven dollars.

Q.—What do you pay to-day? A.—The same price.

Q.—Did the men of your establishment, during the strike, ask for a decrease in the hours of work? A.—No; I should add that I received two circulars from the two Typographical Unions and from the Franklin Knights of Labor, announcing that such a thing would take place.

Q.—Did your men leave you? A.—The Thursday before the strike I had finished a certain work, and as I knew that the strike was to take place the following Tuesday, 2nd January, I discharged four men, but not on account of the strike. I had finished a certain work and I did not wish to begin another before the strike would be over.

Q.—What was your reason for dismissing the men? A.—I have just told it.

Q.—Were you aware that these men belonged to the organization before you discharged them? A.—Three belonged to the organization, and one did not.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—But you were aware of it? A.—I was aware of it; they told me of it. I am not a member of the Union.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do think you should deal with your men without taking these organizations into consideration? A.—I have much respect for the Typographical Unions, though I never belonged to them; but I refused to be directed by them as to what I should pay my men.

Q.—Why did you discharge those four men without consulting them personally, and why did you discharge them because you received those circulars? A.—I knew enough about the matter. All week, and for fifteen days previous, they had been talking of it in the establishment. They said they would go on strike even were there no reason for so doing. And I will add, that their letter said that, on the second of January, these regulations would be put in force.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Did they go on strike? A.—They did.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Did you speak to your men before discharging them? A.—Yes; I spoke to them.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What did they say? A.—There were three men whom I would have liked to keep. They were good hands. I said: "You should not go on strike. Have you any complaint against me?" They said "No." I said: "In that case remain at your work. If your neighbours are not satisfied, that is no reason for your going with them.

Q.—Did you offer, if they remained, to diminish their hours of labour? A.—I did not make such an offer, for the very good reason that they only worked nine hours in winter, and nine and a half in summer.

Q.—Do you pay them according to the rates fixed by the Union? A.—I paid them Union wages at the time, and I should add that there were some who did not earn them. There was above all, in our establishment, one man, whom I will refrain from naming, who was most certainly the most violent against us; he was an old man who had come crying, the Thursday before Christmas, begging for work, saying that he had a large family, and that he wanted work to get through the holidays. Through pity, I gave him work. It was through a feeling of pity that I gave him the work, and, after that, he was the most violent against me in my establishment.

Q.—Did you give your ten men the wages fixed by the Union, before this difficulty? A.—Yes; to all, but the apprentices.

Q.—Are you a member of the Master Printers' Association? A.—If you allude to the Union of the Master Printers founded during the strike, I am.

Q.—Does it still exist? A.—It is still in existence.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is there a rule of your society by which you are forbidden to employ men of the Union, unless they sign certain documents? A.—There is no such rule.

Q.—When you sent away these four men, did you need others? A.—I did not need them, for I did not want to begin any more work before the strike would be finished.

Q.—Did you seek for men outside of the city? A.—Yes, I did.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Did you get them? A.—I did.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—If you had no need of men, why did you go outside of the city to get them? A.—The printers set themselves against us, and we naturally set ourselves against them, and I had been chosen to hire three men for the printing establishments of Quebec.

Q.—Who named you for this purpose? A.—All the master printers of Quebec, cepting the proprietors of the *Journal de Quebec* and Mr. Foote.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—And Carroll? A.—Ah, well, we never counted him among us.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Did you get them? A.—Yes.

Q.—By what promises did you secure these men? A.—By no promises. We hired them at so much a week.

Q.—Did you tell these men that there was a strike in Quebec and that you wished them to take the place of those who were on strike? A.—Yes, I told them.

Q.—And they came? A.—They came.

Q.—What were the wages offered? A.—Union prices.

Q.—Did these men sign the document when they arrived? A.—No, they signed the documents there where I engaged them. I engaged them in my own name, and there was a clause in the contract which permitted me to send them from one printing establishment to another in Quebec.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Did those men receive higher wages than printers did before the strike? A.—Some have less, or some have more, or the same price. I do not very well know.

Q.—What were the wages promised these men? A.—There was no promise. It was clearly written that every journeyman would receive eight dollars a week.

Q.—What were the wages of printers before the strike? A.—Eight dollars for men of the English Typographical Union and seven dollars for the French.

Q.—Did you promise these men to diminish the hours of labor? A.—No, it was specified that they were to remain ten hours at work.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Supposing you to be in need of men, would you employ union men knowing them to be such? A.—Certainly.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Did any of the men you engaged at eight dollars a week, take the place of those who had received seven dollars, and who had been discharged? A.—Not with me.

Q.—Did anyone among the men you brought to Quebec take the place in other establishments, of men who earned seven dollars a week? A.—I do not know what men they replaced, but those I hired had, some of them, eight dollars a week.

Q.—Did they go to a printing establishment where members of the French Typographical Union had previously worked? A.—I do not know if members of the French Typographical Union had worked at the *Electeur* or *La Justice*, but some went there, and some to the *Canadien*.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What were the demands of the Typographical Union? A.—They demanded that wages be increased by \$1 a week, and that the working hours be shortened by one hour a day; which would have increased the expenses of my establishment by something like \$26 a week; which it was impossible for me to pay at the time.

Q.—Did the master printers unite and refuse to accede to these conditions? A.—The question of wages was never a matter of discussion among the masters. It was a matter of principle. We would not allow ourselves to be ruled by the Typographical Union and the Knights of Labor. We wished to deal with our men, man to man, so that a good workman would be well paid, and an inferior hand receive less wages. And when I met the Typographical Union, and the Franklin Association of the Knights of Labor, I suggested to them, instead of putting money in a strike, as they were going to do, that they had better buy printing materials, examine their men, and class them with certificates of ability, and fix their salary according to their ability.

Q.—Did the society of masters refuse to grant the demand for nine hours a day of work? A.—They did not positively refuse it without, however, agreeing to it, for they knew at the next session a new demand would be made to shorten the working day from nine to eight hours.

Q.—Therefore, the only objection, if I understand, was being dictated to by the Typographical Union? A.—Yes. We would not deal with any body of persons; we would only deal with our employes.

Q.—Was any effort made, on any side, to meet in order to discuss these questions together? A.—The Typographical Union 159, 160, with the concurrence of the Franklin Association of the Knights of Labor, addressed a circular to the masters stating that such things had been decided, but asking, at the same time for us to meet them. We were not permitted to discuss with them. They said "such a thing has been decided, and will come into force on the first of January."

Q.—Did the masters take any means to try and meet them? A.—I cannot say, myself I did not.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—You believe that at the next Session, they would ask a reduction of work from 9 to 8 hours a day :—I did not quite understand you? A.—That is to say that at the next Session of Parliament, the printers would, with the concurrence of the Knights of Labor, make a new strike, to demand 8 hours instead of 9, if we had acceded to their first demand. And in proof I produced a document which is sufficiently explicit, and proves what I have asserted. Clause 21 of demands of the Knights of Labor reads as follows:—"To shorten the hours of labor by a general refusal to work more than eight hours." And I asked one of my men, who was with me, if he had signed this document, he said no, he had not signed any such document; then I asked him "did you sign the inside" and he answered "yes," then I said it is the back you agreed to, for here is the part which binds you:—"I have read your preamble, and declaration of principle, printed upon the back hereof and signed my name thereto in token of my full approval.

Q.—You know that there is absolutely no law in the Province of Quebec that fixes the hours of work for men? A.—I do not know that.

Q.—There is one, but not yet sanctioned, nor put in force, which fixes the hour of work for women and children? A.—I know there was a law passed last Parliament, but I do not know the details of it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Can you tell us what way the Typographical Union dictated its desires to the masters? A.—In this way:—"This is what we have decided, the 2nd January to be put in force," this was by letter.

Q.—That is the only way in which they forced their rule upon you? A.—The only way I know.

Q.—Has not a man the right to fix the price of his labor, and the number of hours he will work? A.—Certainly, why not.

Q.—Has not a body of men the same right? A.—It is not the same thing. In a body of men, who form a society, there are some superior, and some inferior to whom we cannot pay the same price. To submit to such a rule would be to submit to despotism.

Q.—But if the body are all of the same opinion? A.—But they have not the same ability.

Q.—But has not each of these men to put a price upon his work? A.—Certainly.

Q.—As a body, have they not the same right? A.—They may have the right, but it is for us to accept or refuse.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You consider that you have the right to refuse? A.—Evidently.

Q.—Every one is free? A.—Every one is free in this country.

Q.—Every one is free to sell his work, and every one to buy? A.—Yes, only I will not buy every one's work. I wish to pay each one according to his ability.

Q.—You prefer to deal, to make your contract directly with the individual, rather than with the Society? A.—Yes.

Q.—And the strongest objection you had to deal with the Society, was that they compelled you to take men of inferior capacity to others? A.—Yes, Sir.

Q.—That is the principal reason? A.—I believe that every intelligent man is able to regulate his affairs without having recourse to any association whatsoever. When I make a tender for printing, I make my calculations beforehand, I submit my tender, and then they make me sign a contract, I am not ashamed to sign and I sign. I consider the printers in the same position.

Q.—You do not consult all the printers to ask them if you may make the tender? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You base your offer on the price you will pay to get the work done? A.—Of course, I have to do that.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you make your tenders according to your own calculations, or according to the calculations of your men? A.—I make them myself.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Does the difference between the men lie in the quantity or quality of the work? A.—In the quantity, and the quality.

Q.—Then you consider if you are obliged to take a man whose work is inferior and who does less of it, it interferes with your contracts? A.—Yes.

Q.—If you require ten men, are you obliged to take a number of inferior men or does it happen by chance? A.—If I need ten men, and they are members of the Union, there are among the members of the Union not only good men, but some who are inferior. I may therefore find good men, but what I complain of is being obliged to pay inferior hands as much as good ones.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—But you are not obliged to keep them? A.—No, I am not obliged to keep them.

Q.—It has been said that, even people in Quebec, had their printing done in Montreal, is this the case? A.—Yes, sir. I wish to corroborate the evidence just now relating to factums at \$1 a page. When the rule of Court fixing the price of factums at \$1 a page was first given, Judge Dorion stated that in Montreal factums were made at 75 and 80 cents a page.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you know where these factums were printed in Montreal? A.—I cannot exactly say.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—I speak of ordinary work, is it to your knowledge that it is done in Montreal for the City of Quebec? A.—Yes, sir. Mr. J. B. Laliberté told me that he had invoices printed in Montreal.

Q.—Do you think that if Mr. J. B. Laliberté had invoices printed in Montreal he paid dearer than in Quebec? A.—We offered to do them at the same price.

Q.—And he had them done in Montreal? A.—He said that in Montreal there were engraved plates, or something of the sort.

Q.—Explain how it was that Mr. Laliberté could have printing done in Montreal lower, or at the same rate as in Quebec, when the workmen in Montreal have higher wages than in Quebec? A.—Yes; it is very easy, in Montreal, printers work ten hours, and the foreman of *L'Etendard* told me, when I was in Montreal, that he censured greatly the attitude of the printers of Quebec, asking for nine hours work, and an increase of wages at the same time.

Q.—Is the price paid to workmen in Montreal, who work ten hours, higher or lower than that paid to printers in Quebec, who work nine hours? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you know what are the wages paid in Montreal, for ten hours? A.—Yes; I know what they are.

Q.—How much are they paid in Montreal? A.—Typographical Union rates give \$9 and \$10 a week, and pressmen have as high as \$14.

Q.—Is not ten dollars a week better for ten hour's work, than seven dollars for nine hours? A.—Any man of common sense can draw the conclusion.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You say, yes? A.—How should I answer,—the answer is so simple.

Q.—Answer yes, or no? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—The difference in the time is one hour, and the difference in wages is two dollars an hour? A.—It is one dollar, only, nine dollars, and eight dollars; the wages being from nine dollars in Montreal, and from eight dollars in Quebec.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Have the masters of Quebec a scale of wages for the men of Quebec? A.—We have only the scale of the Typographical Union and another.

Q.—I ask you if the master printers have a scale of prices for the work they do themselves? A.—No, we have none. I should add that the Typographical Union compete very closely with us. There is Mr. Faveur, who was pressman at the *Verité* before the strike, and Mr. Michel, who is now employed at *L'Artisan*, go about soliciting business from merchants at miserable prices. The pressman of *La Verite*, Mr. Faveur, printed one thousand cards on both sides for one dollar and a half a thousand. He did them at night in his bedroom after hours. With such competition as this it is not surprising that we cannot live comfortably in Quebec nor our number increase. As for me, I pay five hundred dollars a year rent, and I do not see how I could compete with such disastrous rivalry.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—I would observe that the same complaint is made by workmen in Montreal, and it is asked that each person having a press, should have it registered in order to pay taxes? A.—The law of Quebec is that we are taxed twelve per cent, no matter what our business is, and if we had ten different branches of business it would be the same thing.

(Translation.)

THEOPHILE LACHANCE, of Quebec, Roofer, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Are you an employer or employee? A.—Only a journeyman.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Have you anything to suggest to the Commission that might be of use to you in your trade and not injure others? A.—All I have to suggest is that the wages are not quite high enough, because in our trade we work mostly in summer, very little in winter. If we do not work in winter, that is if we do not find other work, we cannot manage.

Q.—What are your hours of work? A.—Ten hours; from seven to six in summer; in winter we work from eight to five.

Q.—What wages do you get in summer? A.—Nine dollars a week.

Q.—And in winter? A.—In winter six shillings a day, which makes seven dollars and a few cents a week, a quarter of a day to be deducted. Only a quarter of a day to be deducted on the week which makes six shillings a day.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Is roofing very dangerous? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are proper precautions taken to prevent accidents? A.—Yes, sir; as much as possible.

Q.—Are the necessary materials given you to build the scaffolding, and the requisite time to put it up? A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—You say you begin work at seven o'clock in the morning; are you obliged to go to the shop before going to your work? A.—Yes, sir; we are obliged to go to our shop in the morning.

Q.—Then you go to the shop first, and then to the house which you are roofing, and you have to be at the house you are going to roof at seven o'clock in the morning? A.—We go to the shop a little before seven o'clock; sometimes we only leave the shop at seven o'clock.

Q.—Are you obliged to convey your materials to where you have to work? A.—Not now; but at one time we were obliged to do so.

Q.—Are there not a great many workmen indebted to their masters? A.—Yes; so much in debt that I don't think they will ever be able to get out of it.

Q.—Then it will be a loss to the master? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has it ever happened that workmen, who were indebted to their masters, found, and took jobs, that paid them better than those they had with their masters? A.—That is more than I can say. I have been five years and a-half with my "boss," with the same man, but I never had any trouble with him. When we had any trouble, and I was in the wrong, I had nothing to say; but when he was in the wrong, I knew what to say to him.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—How does it happen that workmen, in your business, become indebted to their masters? A.—I can't say.

Q.—Is it money he has advanced to them on their wages? A.—Yes; it was money lent.

Q.—Then it was lent by charity, or was it a speculation? A.—I can't say any thing as to that, I don't know what passes among my neighbours, I attend only to my own business.

Q.—You say that you do not know the reason why such a thing is done. It is the first time I have heard of a master putting himself out to advance money to his employee, on the contrary, in many lines of business, we endeavour to pay up to time to prevent our employees from leaving. Can you not give us some reason why this system is established here? A.—No, sir; I do not know whether it is to keep them, or to illtreat them; I know nothing about it.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You have no ill-treatment to complain of? A.—No, sir. Up to the present time I have nothing to complain of. When I want to see my “boss” I can always find him.

Q.—Have you ever heard it said that in some cases large interest was charged for these loans? A.—No; I have got some loans myself, at times, and I never was charged interest.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that masters, who advanced money, have sued the workmen for its recovery? A.—I know nothing of that.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—Do you know if a master roofer makes money? Are your masters rich? A.—From what I can learn, I think there are some of them pretty well off, but I cannot tell what they are worth, as it is very rarely that a “boss” will tell what are his profits.

(Translation.)

DOLPHIS MARSAN, of Quebec, employee in the Quebec Shoe Factory, sworn :—

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—In which department do you work? A.—In the men's department in the last story; that is to say, the department of finishing.

Q.—Is the work in this department done by the piece or by the day? A.—By the piece or by the day, according to the work.

Q.—Is some of this work done by sub-contracts? A.—I do not think so, but there are certain employees at certain work who have too much for themselves, and who employ others, such as apprentices, to assist them.

Q.—That is what I mean. Do those who take more work than they can do, and hire others to help them, make a considerable profit, of these employees? A.—Very little of late years, to my knowledge; but I know, not from having seen it, but from having frequently heard speak of it, that, even these last years, they made a profit of thirty and forty dollars a week out of their employees; they employ children to do their work, which is very badly done.

Q.—You say that this is no longer done, or very rarely? A.—Very rarely to my knowledge. I can give an idea of what those who employ others earn. I think it is \$10, \$15, \$18, \$19 to \$20. That is the most they can earn in a week, when work is very pressing.

Q.—Can you tell us what are the highest wages earned by those who are employed by the contractor? A.—I believe that a journeyman who understands his work, and can run a machine, will earn from six to eight dollars a week.

Q.—Are children employed in your department? A.—We employ young people; I think the youngest are about fourteen years old.

Q.—How much do these children earn a week? A.—Some earn one dollar, one dollar and twenty-five cents, a very small number.

Q.—Is the finishing of shoes the same in all shops, or are there many different ways of finishing? A.—I believe it is about the same everywhere. Competition is so great in Quebec that when the shoes are not well finished they are returned. Moreover, it is to my knowledge that, in one factory alone, a couple of cases were returned during the course of the year. In other factories more than that has been returned. They were not according to agreement, and not like the samples.

Q.—Are the machines in your factory worked by steam? A.—They are worked by an engine.

Q.—Is it an engineer who attends to the engine, or is it an ordinary workman? A.—I do not know if he is an engineer.

Q.—Does the man who attends to your engine, do any other work? A.—No other work, but bringing in the fuel.

Q.—Do you think that the manufacturers would be willing that women should work in the winter, from eight to six, instead of from seven? A.—In the factory, in which I am, I can certify there would be no opposition to it, because, to my knowledge, the women do not work, on an average, more than nine hours now.

Q.—Have you had occasion to visit other manufactories besides your own? A.—I have been in a couple of others.

Q.—Do you think the premises are as clean, and the sanitary condition as good as possible? A.—In regard to our own factory, in the men's department, the water closets have been cleared twice this winter.

Q.—Do you think that is sufficient? A.—Considering the locality in which these water closets are situated, I do not think they could be cleaned oftener.

Q.—And now, have you any idea what is the condition of privies in other factories? A.—Only from what I have heard. If you will permit me, I will tell what I have heard about other factories. In some factories they complain that it is too much heated in winter, but that the water closets are not sufficiently warm, they are cold. That it would be even preferable if the water closets were better heated, and the factory less, it would be more healthy for them.

Q.—Have you anything to suggest to this Commission? A.—I will speak first of accidents that have occurred in the shop. I informed myself on the subject I have been through the factory, and examined the shafts and belts, etc., myself, and in my opinion, there is no damage from any belts in the factory in which I am employed.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Is it to your knowledge, that a young girl, in bending, had her hair caught in the belting that passes under the table? A.—I did not know of it at the time, but I heard of it afterwards. I saw the place in which her hair was caught, and I saw nothing in the shaft that could catch her hair.

Q.—Yes, or no, was her hair caught? A.—Yes; it was caught.

Q.—Was it not because the workmen, or workwomen, came to her assistance, that she was not scalped? A.—It was impossible. If it were possible for her to be scalped, it would have been done instantly. As soon as the hair was caught, the shaft turned in the hair. The hair was rolled around the shaft, and the shaft turned in the hair without hurting her.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that one or two young girls had their dresses torn off them, by having them caught in the shaft? A.—Not in the factory in which I am. I heard of it in regard to another factory.

(Translation.)

LUDGER ROBITAILLE, of Quebec, Leather Cutter, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—What position do you hold in the cutters department? Are you foreman or merely a cutter? A.—Only a cutter.

Q.—Do you work by the day or by the job? A.—By the job.

Q.—What sort of leather do you cut? A.—The "buff."

- Q.—Is that the work of women, of girls, or of children or of the three? A.—Women, girls, children, men.
- Q.—Do you only cut the linings and the elastics, or do you cut the leather also? A.—Only the leather.
- Q.—How much do you receive for a case of men's "congress," a case of 60 pairs? A.—\$1.10.
- Q.—How much do you receive for women's boots, by the case? A.—50 cents. When they are buttoned it is 65 cents.
- Q.—And for young girls? A.—The same thing.
- Q.—Children's? A.—The same thing exactly.
- Q.—What wages do the workmen realize generally at that price? A.—A good cutter, when he wishes to work a little hard, makes \$15, \$15.50, \$13.50.
- Q.—Has it never happened to you to cut a piece of leather without noticing a hole, and in that case, have you anything to pay to the factory? A.—No, sir.
- Q.—Then you take another side of leather, and you replace that one which is spoilt? A.—To replace the one which is spoilt.
- Q.—And the factory does not charge for that? A.—No, sir.
- Q.—In your department do you contract directly with the master, or is there not a man who undertakes all the cutting and gives it out? A.—No, sir. We deal directly with the master.
- Q.—Have you women who work as cutters in that department? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—What part of the work of cutting, do they do? A.—They cut the linings, the facings, and the tops.
- Q.—They also work by the job? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—Have the women as many thicknesses of cotton to cut, as the men? A.—No, sir; the women do not cut the cotton, they cut only the sheep skin linings.
- Q.—What wages do the women make, generally? A.—\$7. From \$3.50 to \$7, \$7.50, \$8.
- Q.—Do young girls work there? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—What is the age of the youngest? A.—17 years, 18 years, I suppose.

(Translation.)

BASILE GINGRAS, of Quebec, Carpenter and Bargeman, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

- Q.—Did a bargemen's society exist in Quebec? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—Does one still exist? A.—No, sir; we had at one time a society of bargemen.
- Q.—When? A.—Some fourteen years ago we had a society of bargemen, we did our work quietly, and we were well paid for delays and all that; the gentleman for whom I worked the barge, did not like the society, he managed to break it up, it was not because he did not like to give the price, he was willing to give the price; but he did not like the society, he managed to break it up.
- Q.—When was it broken up? A.—It existed to the best of my knowledge, four years. Before the society was broken up we had raised our prices a little, and he did not find them too high, but from the moment the society was broken up, he lowered them instantly. We used to get six dollars a thousand for clap-board, and he reduced our prices immediately to four dollars and fifty cents, and for planks we had seven shillings and sixpence a hundred; and he reduced them a third, half a dollar a hundred. It was difficult to earn our living this way, and we had much trouble. And then, delays, no more delays. Formerly, in the time of the society we were well paid for delays, and after the time of the society, they kept us as long as they liked and no more delays. We asked for our delays and we received from

this gentleman's "runner" only insults, he insulted us and sent us to the right-about. He was a hard "runner."

Q.—What are the engagements you make now? A.—He has a list or agreement. There are several among us who do not understand it. He makes us sign it, and there are many among us who sign it without even hearing it read. Everything is to his advantage, he pays our delays when he pleases, he discharges us when he pleases, everything is to his advantage.

Q.—How are you treated at the places of loading, were you load your planks? A.—Wharves as we say; we are well treated. There are places where we have trouble, where the planks are delivered slowly, but for the most part we are well.

Q.—Do you work at night? A.—Yes, sir; we work as we are ordered. We are obliged to work as we are ordered. It is on their "list or agreement." By day, by night, at all times. If he orders us to start in stormy weather, we are obliged to start or lose our place.

Q.—In the spring are you obliged to clean your barges? A.—No, sir; we are not obliged to clean our barges, but the master compels us. The gentleman for whom we work is a rich man; well, in the spring he makes us rig our boats at our own expense, and caulk them. If we do not know how to caulk the boat ourselves, we have to give five dollars to get it done. I say then, on my oath, when I and my partner leave with our boat, the owner owes each twenty-five dollars, and we have not a cent. We must do it, or we would lose our place if we did not.

Q.—If I understand rightly the boat does not belong to you? A.—It belongs to the master.

Q.—And you are obliged to rig and caulk his boat at your own expense? A.—At our own expense, and to repair it in wood. There was only one spring I refused to repair it in wood. I got it into my head not to repair it in wood. At other times I worked fifteen days at the barge repairing it in wood, and caulking it at my own expense.

Q.—When you can not do it yourself, have you to send a man to do it? A.—He who does not know how to caulk, has to pay to get it done.

Q.—Have you ever been obliged to leave work you were doing in order to rig these boats? A.—Certainly, sir. Sometimes I was working by the day, for which I was paid, and I had to leave the work for which I was paid, to do the other for which I was not paid. I am a poor man, with a large family.

Q.—When your society existed, and an accident happened to a bargeman, was he helped by the Society? Did the Society give something to the man when he was sick, or did it pay anything to the widow? A.—No, sir; I do not remember very well. Do you mean if anything happened to the barge?

Q.—No; to the men. If you were hurt in working, did the Society give you something every week while you were ill? A.—Not at all.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—How much do you earn now? A.—At the time when we could earn something (now the prices are not worth speaking of, everything is low) but when there was something to be earned, a man could earn fifteen dollars, eighteen dollars, even twenty dollars a week. We are in thirds, and each third earned fifteen dollars, eighteen dollars, even twenty dollars a week.

Q.—And now? A.—I am a good bargeman, and last year I earned scarcely more than one hundred and fifty dollars. That is not much for a summer.

Q.—What do you mean by being in thirds? A.—It is dividing the price of the load in three. Say that there are three thousand boards at six dollars, that is each six dollars.

Q.—How many men are you on board? A.—We are two, but the master has a third for his barge, and we have each a third.

(Translation.)

PHILIPPE MORISETTE, Bargeman, Quebec, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—You are a bargeman? You have just heard the evidence of the last witness?
A.—Yes; and I think he sometimes misunderstood you.

Q.—Will you correct what he misunderstood? A.—There is a great deal that he misunderstood, because he is so deaf.

Q.—How long since the Society was formed, started? A.—To the best of my knowledge about ten to fourteen years; it existed from four to six years.

Q.—Did you receive all bargemen into the Society? A.—Any bargeman could belong to the Society.

Q.—Did you ever refuse anyone for any reason whatsoever? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—What did they pay to enter the Society? A.—I could not say, I don't quite remember.

Q.—Can you tell the prices paid at that time, and what are the prices paid now?

A.—At that time, at certain places, we had a dollar fifty the hundred planks, "standard." In other places we had a dollar twenty. We had six dollars a thousand for clapboards, and a dollar a cord for laths, and fifty cents for the ballast, fifty cents for the "tallow," and now, we get a dollar per hundred for planks, standard, and often, only eighty cents.

Q.—To take them from the wharf to the ship? A.—From the wharf to the ship. At that time, when we were more than twenty-four hours alongside the ship, without unloading, we received nine dollars a day for delay, three dollars for the owner, and three for each man.

Q.—Are you paid for the delays now? A.—No, sir; I, myself, last summer, remained eight days with a load, and I did not receive a cent for delay. In the time of the society, we received an order to go to a certain wharf, and if the required quality of planks was not on the wharf, we returned, and drew six dollars for that, and now we have nothing.

Q.—Have you ever taken any steps to prevail upon your employers to pay for this delay? A.—Often; but they have an agreement, which they make us sign in the spring.

Q.—What did they say to you; did they refuse? A.—They did not refuse; because they did not find it convenient.

Q.—Did you ever remark to them, that when the men lost their time and service, they should be paid? A.—Yes.

Q.—What did they say? A.—They put us off; in that way we never got anything.

Q.—What is the contract you sign in the spring? A.—In the spring, we sign an agreement to take care of the boat, and we bind ourselves to work the barge at their bidding, and they bind themselves to give one dollar the 100 hundred planks, and they are to allow us delays when they they think proper; but they don't often think proper, for when a man has been nine days delayed, I think it would be proper to pay him something. And if we wish to leave the barge, we are obliged to give them fifteen days notice in advance.

Q.—Can you explain why you remained nine or ten days alongside a ship without your load being taken? A.—The last trip, we were ten days. We were sent with lumber to load a steamship from Montreal. We were alongside the boom, and waited there for the steamship. We were obliged to take care of our barge. We were obliged to go every day to see our barge.

Q.—And at night? A.—Sometimes we slept on board, and sometimes we did not.

Q.—They did not oblige you to remain on board at night? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Will you explain, will you state what is the care your employers exact from you in regard to cleaning, and putting the barge in order in the spring? A.—In the spring, we have to take away the snow, empty the barge of water, the master for whom I work does not oblige us to caulk the boat, and paint and rig it for nothing.

Q.—Is the paint provided for you? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—When you are obliged to put on pieces of wood, is the wood furnished you? A.—We do not put it on; we are not obliged.

Q.—But do you put it on? A.—No. Sometimes in the course of the summer a barge may get damaged, and then, if we are at a distance, we mend it ourselves; but we are not obliged.

Q.—You are not bound to caulk your boat yourselves? A.—No, sir, not for our master. Some others mostly require it done.

Q.—Have you ever worked for masters who obliged you to do so? A.—No, sir.

Q.—How many days does it take you to put a boat in good order? A.—One day to empty it, and then we have to paint it, which sometimes takes fifteen days. We are obliged to go to the boat every day.

Q.—You are not paid for that? A.—No, sir. In the time of the society we were paid for it.

Q.—Were you, at first, many in the society? A.—We were, I think, a couple of hundred, two or three hundred.

Q.—How was the society broken up? A.—The society was broken up in this way: The owners did not find the prices too high, but they found they were not masters of their boats, so the master asked us if we would leave the society and form a society among his own men. That, if we were willing to form a benevolent society among ourselves, he was ready to subscribe a thousand dollars for his part. So the men began, one after another, to leave the society, and the first thing he did, after the society was broken up, instead of subscribing a thousand dollars, was to deduct fifty per cent per one hundred planks. They were one dollar and a half, and he put them at one dollar.

Q.—Had he complained of your wages before? A.—No.

Q.—You have just stated that the owners found they were not masters of their own boats, was there any clause in your rules to that effect? A.—I will tell you why they said that. It was because in the time of the society we did not sign; it was against the rules of the society to sign these agreements.

Q.—But the fact of signing, or not signing, an agreement does not deprive a master from disposing of his own boat. Was there anything in the rules whereby an owner was no longer master of his boat? A.—I do not see it. It was only to give themselves an excuse to break up the society.

Q.—Do you know if anyone among you have a copy of the rules of the society, we would like to have it? A.—I cannot say. In the time of the society, if a boatman was hurt, lamed, or was ill, he was paid. He received, I can't say if it was \$2, or more, every week.

Q.—And when he died, was anything given to the widow? A.—Yes, sir. I do not quite remember how much, but I know the widow and children received something.

Q.—Were his funeral expenses paid? A.—I can't rightly say. I know each member was obliged to contribute 25 cents whenever a member died.

Q.—Have boatmen a benevolent society, at the present time? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Would you tell us what are the wages you earned during the last season? A.—I earned \$174 or \$176.

Q.—Did you work continually? A.—Oh, no. We had a great deal of "slack time; it was different in the time of the society. I, myself, in the time of the society, earned \$594 in one summer.

Q.—To earn the \$594, did you work harder than you did this last season? A.—A little harder, but not much. In that time, you see, we were not delayed alongside

ships. They preferred to unload immediately we came alongside the ship, than to pay delays.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—To whom do these boats belong? Are not some of you owners of these boats? A.—There are some, but we work for a “concern.”

Q.—But is there anything prevents you from being owners? A.—The merchants have all the boats for their business, and when they have none, it is a man who is a proprietor of bateaux, who does the work for other offices.

Q.—When a boatman owns his own boat, does he keep all he earns for himself? A.—Yes. He needs to take a man with him, to whom he gives the third part.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that boatmen have been forced to work when there was danger on the river? A.—As a general rule, when a boatman receives orders to leave, he has to leave no matter what the weather is, wind or not, we are sometimes forced to leave. Sometimes they do not oblige us to leave, but I have, myself, been forced to leave.

Q.—But when there is danger for man, there is danger for the cargo, and the masters must wish to save the cargo? A.—They do not mind that.

Q.—They do not mind that? A.—They do not believe there is danger for the cargo; they do not know when there is danger to the cargo; that is why they oblige us.

Q.—Are the goods, and the boat itself, generally insured? A.—No, sir; it is we who answer for the cargo. If we go to a wharf for planks, we sign for the number of planks we get.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—But if the boat upsets in leaving, is it you who pay? A.—I do not know. It would be hard for them to make us pay. We are obliged to sign a receipt for so many planks.

Q.—Do you think that the masters who oblige you to leave in bad weather, are responsible for damages? A.—I do not know.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do boats often upset? A.—Not to my knowledge.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do those who own these boats, generally own other boats? A.—Not that I know of, not to my knowledge.

Q.—Is it the owners of these boats who are obliged to provide beds and other comforts for the boats? A.—We furnish beds and provisions.

Q.—Is it you who see to the food, and all that? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—If you do not put beds on board, you sleep on the floor? A.—We sleep on the boards.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—When the boat-owner told the men that if they would disband their Society, he would contribute \$1,000 to their benevolent fund, was he in good faith? A.—That I cannot say. I do not know what he thought.

Q.—When the Society was broken up, and they did not see the \$1,000, had the men the same confidence in the master? A.—I will tell you: when he offered the \$1,000, they refused to break up the Society.

(Translation.)

LOUIS BERTHIAUME, Boatman, Quebec, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—You have heard the evidence of the other two witnesses. Have you anything to add or to correct in what they have said? A.—I heard that of Mr. Gingras a little, I did not hear the last. I am a little deaf.

Q.—Do you receive your entire pay? Is anything kept back? A.—In the “concern” for which I work, we leave a percentage of ten per cent.

Q.—When do they pay you this percentage? A.—When the boat is outriggered in the fall.

Q.—If you leave your employer, you lose your percentage? A.—If we leave him without the 15 days notice we loose our percentage.

Q.—Do you know if any of the men have ever lost this percentage? A.—No; for I have only navigated for him two years.

Q.—No one has lost it during these two years? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—What did you earn last year? A.—I did not count. I worked for Mr. Dobell all summer. The boat I navigated was sold in the course of the summer. I got my percentage when it was sold, in the month of June. The remainder of the summer I worked for another. I navigated for Giguère; but I almost always worked for Mr. Dobell.

Q.—How much, on an average, does a boatman earn? A.—This year, the boats that earned as high as \$200, were rare. It was generally \$170 or \$180.

Q.—Do you work the entire season, or are there stoppages? A.—We often do nothing.

Q.—During the existence of the Society how much, on an average, did you earn in a year? A.—It was very easy for a man to earn \$350 in a summer.

Q.—Did he have to work harder than you worked this last season, to earn that? A.—No, sir; not harder.

Q.—Who pays you for your work? A.—We have each a third.

Q.—Then, the master has a third, and the men have two thirds? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Who furnishes the oars and boat-hooks? A.—When the boats are new they have oars, but when we break a boat-hook we are obliged to replace it, we always furnish it ourselves.

Q.—When a man takes a barge in the spring, and oars, and boat-hooks are wanted, does he supply them? A.—They always furnish them in the “concern” for which I work, always.

Q.—Did you pay for many? A.—Yes; last summer I bought two boat-hook-handles, and a hook.

Q.—Have you many delays? A.—I have had several, last autumn I had two following, one of eight days in a trip that brought fifteen dollars, five for the third and I was eight days with it.

Q.—You remained eight days alongside of a ship? A.—Yes.

Q.—State what happened to you with the “Lake Huron”? A.—We were loaded for the “Lake Huron” which was coming down from Montreal and was to stop here in passing to take on planks. The news came that it was to pass straight on, and they transferred us to another steamship: we were eleven days with the load, a load of fifteen dollars, five for me.

Q.—Did you sleep on board? A.—Several times.

Q.—The other witnesses stated that they were obliged to clean the boats? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—You are obliged to paint them? A.—Paint and caulk them.

Q.—Can you tell how many days you worked last season to rig your boat? A.—Last spring, I was fourteen days taking away the ice from around the boat.

- Q.—Did they pay you for that? A.—Not a cent.
- Q.—Did you leave other work to go to that? A.—Certainly.
- Q.—What were you doing? A.—I could have had work, work was very plentiful in the spring.
- Q.—How much would you have earned? A.—Wages are not high in the spring.
- Q.—But, nevertheless, how much? A.—About seventy cents a day.
- Q.—You sign an agreement in the spring? A.—Ah, yes.
- Q.—Did you ever read what was in it? A.—No; I have never read it, they explained two or three lines of it.
- Q.—And you signed? A.—Yes; we sign our own condemnation.
- Q.—If you did not sign, you would not have work? A.—No.
- Q.—Do all the masters compel their men to sign an agreement? A.—I cannot say for the others. It is the agent of the concern, in which I work, who does it.
- Q.—Did you ever complain to your employer of injustice, of the delays, of the loss of time to which you were subjected? A.—Once, last autumn, I complained.
- Q.—What did he say? A.—He sent me off.
- Q.—Did you complain directly to the proprietor or to his agent? A.—To his agent.
- Q.—The agent did not report your complaint to the master? A.—Oh, no; I don't think so.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

- Q.—Are there any boats, rigged by the masters, not provided with the comfort, or all the comforts necessary for the boatmen, that is to say, a table on which to eat, a bed to sleep in? A.—No.
- Q.—In other boats? A.—I don't think so.
- Q.—In yours? A.—No; not in ours either.
- Q.—Where do you eat? A.—In the front cabin.
- Q.—Is there a table? A.—We eat on the deck.
- Q.—Are you obliged to bring your mattress when you sleep on board? A.—We bring a mattress, bedding and kitchen utensils.

(Translation.)

ANTOINE LANGLOIS, of Quebec, Printer, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

- Q.—How long have you worked in the City of Quebec? A.—Twenty-two years, or rather twenty-six years.
- Q.—Do you belong to the French Typographical Union? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—According to your opinion, was the last difficulty a “strike” or a “lock out”? A.—According to my opinion, I do not think they wanted the shops to be closed entirely.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

- Q.—You are asked whether it was you who went on “strike” or whether the masters discharged you? A.—We first asked the masters to come to an understanding about wages, to meet us anywhere, that we were ready to come to an understanding with them.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

- Q.—What was the answers of the masters? A.—They answered by courtesy,

not because they agreed to our wishes, but by courtesy, that they could not do so for some months, and we had been asking it for eight or ten years.

Q.—Did the men offer to settle the difficulty by arbitration? A.—They did not give us the chance. We asked them to meet us, and they were not ready to meet us. The masters met at the St. Louis Hotel, and there decided to send the letter of which I spoke just now. They answered us, by courtesy, that they could not meet us for some months. It was the customary answer.

Q.—Is there not a rule of your Society by which all difficulties between you, and your masters are to be settled by arbitration? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Before the difficulty, how many establishments paid according to the Union scale of prices? A.—To my knowledge, there was but one establishment who conformed entirely to the rules of the Union.

Q.—How many establishments conformed to the rules of the Union after the strike? A.—There are four which conform completely. The greater number of the others pay Union prices but they still employ what we call "rats," to whom they pay five or six dollars. Principally those who hired during the strike.

Q.—They do not pay these men as much as the Union men? A.—Oh! no. Nevertheless there are some who signed the contract, and to whom they pay Union prices.

Q.—Were any of the printers arrested during that time? A.—No, not to my knowledge.

Q.—And was the result of this strike advantageous to the men, did it diminish the hours of labor and increase the wages? A.—Yes, sir; it diminished the hours, and increased the wages. But as to the hours of labor, I must say that the greater number gave nine hours before the strike.

Q.—Have you worked in any other establishment outside the City of Quebec? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—In what city? A.—Ottawa, Montreal and Rimouski.

Q.—What is the difference in prices between the cities of Quebec and Montreal? A.—When I worked in Montreal I earned nine dollars a week; but that was sixteen years ago, and now wages are ten dollars and eleven dollars a week in Montreal.

Q.—Could a printer, considering the price of living, live better in Quebec than in Montreal? A.—Comparing the salaries of ten dollars with those of eight dollars, which we earn here, if I were a bachelor I would go to Montreal, but I would not leave Quebec now on account of my family.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You are asked with regard to expense? A.—Being a resident of Montreal I would prefer to reside in Montreal.

Q.—But you are asked, considering the price of living, and the wages you receive, which would you prefer, Quebec or Montreal? A.—Montreal.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Can you state what is the sanitary condition of the printing establishments of Quebec? A.—I believe them all to be good.

Q.—Tell us then what you consider to be necessary in order to assert that an establishment is in a proper sanitary condition? A.—It is when there is good ventilation, for in a printing office there is the oil of the lamps.

Q.—How would you ventilate a room as large as this (the Court of Appeals in the Court House of Quebec), and how would you ventilate a printing office? A.—In the establishment in which I work, there are small wheels in the windows, and the chimneys.

Q.—Is that sufficient? A.—Perhaps something more might be desired, but we are well enough with that.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you know if women work in the printing offices in Quebec? A.—No, sir; I do not know of any printing office in which women are employed in printing; but I know they are employed to put the sheets in the press.

Q.—These women are called "feeders"? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How much do they earn a week? A.—There are some who earn seven shillings and a-half, two dollars, and as high as three dollars.

Q.—What is the age of the women, or young girls, who earn \$1.50? A.—14 or 15 years at least.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do the workmen that belong to your Society all earn the same wages? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you think they all render the same service to those who employ them? A.—They have not all the same ability, there are some more capable than others, but we consider that \$8 is the lowest price that can be paid to a printer who has served five years of apprenticeship.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What encouragement is there for a superior workman if he does not get higher wages? A.—His position is more permanent; when work decreases they dismiss the inferior hands, and keep the good ones.

Q.—Is that all the advantage? A.—All the advantage.

Q.—He would remain at the same salary all the time? A.—Yes; it is according to the generosity of the master.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—I ask you this question because there have appeared before the Commission, workmen who earned only \$5 or \$6 a week when, men of the same family, and the same nationality earned as high as \$20 a week. You have explained as the reason you are satisfied is because you have a permanent salary, do those who refuse to belong to the Association give a reason, and what reason do they give? Would it not be to earn \$20 a week? You have printers who do not belong to the Society, what reason do they generally give for not belonging to the Society? A.—There are not many, that I know, that do not belong to the Society, except those who had put themselves in the wrong before the strike.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How long, before the time fixed for the strike, was it, that the Typographical Society asked the masters to meet for arbitration? A.—In the beginning of December we began to send our price circulars to the masters, afterwards we asked to have an interview concerning this scale of prices, to know if they were ready to give them to us. If they had met us anywhere, and had told us that in the month of March, our contracts ending, they would give us the wages we asked, or even in the month of April, we would have been satisfied; but no, they did not answer, or rather they answered by an act of courtesy, that they could not do it, they put us off later. At that time, there were workmen who were leaving for Ottawa and who did not wish to keep their houses. They wanted to have a decisive answer in this matter, during the course of the month of January, and that is why we fixed upon the 2nd January to have an end of the matter, one way or other, when we saw the masters would not listen to us.

Q.—Were you willing to meet the masters to accede to any suggestions they might make as to the scale of prices? A.—Certainly, we would have taken these suggestions into consideration in preference to going on strike, as none of us wished to have the strike.

Q.—In the circular which you sent to the masters, did you use any threats?
A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—Did you tell the masters that you would go on strike? A.—That if they did not grant what we asked, we would cease to work.

Q.—Was that in the circular you sent to the masters in the month of December?
A.—At the end of December?

Q.—What date had you fixed upon for putting in force the new scale of prices?
A.—The 2nd January.

Q.—Is there any establishments, in Quebec, in which they refuse to employ Union men? A.—I cannot exactly say.

Q.—Are there establishments in Quebec where Union men refuse to work?
A.—Yes, sir.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—So that you happen to be both in the same position. You do not want to work with a man that does not belong to the Union? A.—Nevertheless our Union men work for men who do not belong to the Union, and there are establishments where Union men are not permitted to work.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—We have seen some of the masters, who told us that they had received circulars from the Typographical Union and the Knights of Labor, did these circulars emanate from one or both of these Societies? A.—I believe that these gentlemen have been led into error.

Q.—The masters told us that they had received circulars from two Societies, one from the Typographical Society and one from the Knights of Labor. Is that the case?
A.—Not to my knowledge from the Knights of Labor; from the two Typographical Unions, but I do not think the Knights of Labor sent a circular.

Q.—Is the Society to which you belong, a branch of, or is it, in any way, connected with the Knights of Labor? A.—It has no connection with the Knights of Labor.

Q.—The Knights of Labor do not lead you in any way? A.—No.

Q.—If the Knights of Labor told you to cease working to-morrow morning, what then? A.—They have no control whatever over the Union.

Q.—Still you, as belonging to the Typographical Society, were obliged on the 2nd January, to refuse to work in your establishment, if the masters did not accede to all your demands? A.—I was bound not to work, yes.

Q.—You were not at liberty to refuse? A.—No; because we were engaged in a sort of way, engaged on honor, not a written engagement, not at all, but our word of honor, in the interest, of workmen to do so.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Can a man belong to your Society and at the same time sign a document?
A.—No, sir; he is not permitted to sign any document.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—We have heard of many things you are not permitted to do. Tell us now what you are permitted to do, as a member of the Society. As a free man in a free country, what are you permitted to do once you are a member of the Society? A.—We are allowed to work at a reasonable price.

Q.—With members of the Society, and not others? A.—Pardon me! in Quebec, our Union men work with men who do not belong to the Society.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you know of any establishment in Quebec where men are refused work unless they sign a document? A.—This was the case until lately, but work having increased in these establishments, they were obliged to take workmen. They at first asked these to sign, but the men refusing, saying they could not sign a document, they took them on all the same.

Q.—Do you know of any man who, having refused to sign this document, was refused work? A.—Oh! yes. It was in those very establishments I have mentioned.

Q.—Do you know of any apprentice having been arrested during the strike? A.—Yes. I said, just now, no one had been arrested, but I was mistaken. There were two or three apprentices arrested, two or three arrested, or even four.

Q.—What was the result? A.—I think the case is still pending in Court.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do you know of anything in your rules, in your constitution, anything to which those who do not belong to your society object, and which you do not like, anything which the masters object to, which other workmen will not accept, and which you, yourself, do not like too well, if so, what is that thing? A.—I know of none in our rules.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—If there were any clause in your rules which might be objected to, is it not a fact that it could be put before masters and workmen and be discussed by them? A.—I think so.

Q.—What position do you hold at present? A.—I am foreman.

Q.—What position do you hold in the Typographical Union? A.—President.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—I believe you have not stated to this Commission whether the meeting with the masters, or the request of a meeting with the masters, was made long before you sent the circulars declaring you would go on strike the second of January. How long, before sending these circulars, was it that you asked the masters to meet you? A.—Not very long; fifteen days or three weeks, I believe. But it was more from the answer of the masters that we came to that decision.

(Mr. Louis Phillippe Pelletier asks permission of the Commission to put questions to the witness. After consultation, the members of the Commission permit him to suggest to the Chairman the questions he wishes to put.)

MR. PELLETIER by the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is it not true that the masters offered to speak, to confer individually with each one of their workmen, and not with the corporation? A.—To my knowledge, the masters asked the men to come to an understanding with them. This was submitted to us in council. We immediately named five from one establishment, and they returned to us with no better success than before.

Q.—But did these five go as individual workmen or as representing the corporation? A.—They were named by the Typographical Union, but they belonged to the establishment to which they were sent.

Q.—The question put you is this: Were not the masters ready to meet and treat with you individually, refusing, at the same time, to have anything to do with the Typographical Union? A.—I understood the question put me to refer to the time of the strike. The thing was asked during the strike. The men went to their masters, and asked for an increase of wages, and could never get it.

Q.—Did the masters offer to meet the workmen individually, and not as representing the Typographical Union? A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Before that time did the men go individually, and ask the masters for this increase of wages? A.—Yes, sir.

Mr. PELLETIER by the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is it not true that some among the masters were always willing to pay the price, and that, nevertheless, the workmen went on strike for other reasons than the question of wages? A.—Not to my knowledge.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—When the masters saw that matters were coming to a crisis they were willing to arrange with the men individually? A.—Yes, only then.

Mr. PELLETIER by the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You have said that the Knights of Labour had nothing to do with the strike? A.—I understand I was asked if circulars had been sent to the masters from the Knights of Labour, and from the Typographical Union. Some were sent from the Union, but not from the Knights of Labour.

Q.—You say that the Knights of Labour had nothing to do with the strike. Is it not true that the circular was sent out by the Franklin Association of the Knights of Labour? A.—It was sent out by the two Typographical Unions, and the Franklin Association was only added to give weight, and at the same time, the Association was to help us, financially, in case we should be two or three months idle.

Q.—How does it happen that you are surprised the masters believed them to come from the Knights of Labour? A.—I am not much surprised, they believed them to come from the Knights of Labour; but it was not our intention.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Can you procure us one of those circulars? A.—I think so.

Mr. PELLETIER by the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You say that no printer receives more than \$8 a week. Do you not know that there are, in the office of *La Justice*, printers who receive \$9 and \$10? A.—There must be sub-foremen, assistants to the foreman, who receive that; if he puts in pages, if he is at the form, he may get \$9, but as an ordinary workman, at a case, I don't think he gets \$9 at *La Justice*. I may be mistaken.

Q.—Does the office of *La Justice* pay its men according to the Union scale of prices? A.—I believe not. From what I have heard, those to whom they do not pay the price, are not worth more than is given them. They were anxious the contract should finish to get rid of them, and take Union men in their place.

Q.—If these men belonged to the Union, they could claim the wages of better men? A.—Pardon me; those who are not worth \$8, we consider, in the Union, are apprentices. In that way they are allowed to work. The master is free to give them what he pleases, \$5, \$6, or \$8.

Q.—You have spoken of *La Justice* as though you worked there. Is what you have said, from your own personal knowledge or from hearsay? A.—From hearsay; from a party interested in *La Justice*, from a man who has an interest in *La Justice*.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are the men you speak of as “sub-foremen” printers? A.—Yes; good printers. We consider them first class hands, responsible men.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How much does a foreman receive? A.—\$11.

A.—Are you foreman in a job office? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How much do you receive? A.—\$15 a week, but I do extra work.

Mr. PELLETIER by the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You have said that no member of the Union would sign the contract. Do you not know that there are some who have signed the contract, and who yet belong to the Union? A.—Yes, sir. Because we have not been able to prevent it.

Q.—Nevertheless, you allow them this liberty? A.—No sentence has yet been pronounced. We hope that the “bosses” will not consider these contracts lawful.

Q.—When will the tribunal sit in judgment on these parties? A.—I do not know it myself. I can't say when.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—In the case of a workman who is not perfect in his work, or whom the master suspects is not able to earn \$8 and \$10 a week, does the Union permit that man to accept less? Have you a tariff? Is the master allowed the right to employ this man, and is the workman obliged to accept the price of work by the piece? I am a master; I have doubts whether this workman, who belongs to the Union, and who has a right to \$8, is able to earn his wages; by making him work by the piece I run no risk. Would the master have the right to choose between making this workman work by the day, or by the 1,000 ems? A.—Yes; and if he finds the man is not competent he can dismiss him.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Can you tell us what kind of contract it is the men are made to sign?
A.—I have heard it read, but I have never read it myself.

Mr. PELLETIER by the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—When you went on strike, was it not also to fix the number of apprentices?
(Mr. Kerwin protests against this manner of proceeding. He objects to a lawyer, Mr. Pelletier, suggesting questions to the Chairman. The Chairman adjourns the Session.)

9th March, 1888.

WILLIAM ALFRED MARSH, Quebec, Shoe Manufacturer, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—You are a manufacturer of boots and shoes? A.—Yes.

Q.—About what is the number of people that you keep employed? A.—Two hundred.

Q.—Do you employ young people—young boys and girls—and if so, what is the age of the youngest you have employed? A.—The youngest boy I have in my employ, is fourteen years of age, and the youngest girl is thirteen years and six months.

Q.—Have you got many about that age? A.—Very few.

Q.—What is about the average salary that you pay your men? A.—Well, that is rather a difficult question to answer. Our men work, a great number of them, by the piece, and certain parts of the year they earn more money than others; during the slack season they will not earn much. Other portions of the season they will earn more.

Q.—Can you tell us what would be about the average for the women? A.—I can give you the lowest and the highest. From one dollar and fifty cents per week to ten dollars per week, for girls.

Q.—I suppose the largest number of them would earn about two or three dollars a week? A.—I think the average would be a little higher than that—a little higher than three dollars a week.

Q.—Is any part of the work done in your factory by sub-contract, or do you give your work direct to the hands? A.—In most instances we give the work direct to the men.

Q.—Are you aware that some of the contractors in the boot and shoe trade in factories, sometimes earn big salaries, and that others get very little? A.—I know that is not the case.

Q.—Is that the case in your factory? A.—No.

Q.—Have you many complaints, and, if so, on what grounds? Are there unpleasant remarks made by the hands? A.—If there are any complaints I have not heard them.

Q.—They all seem satisfied? A.—Quite so.

Q.—Have any of your employees houses of their own? A.—I know of one. I do not know a great deal about the private affairs of my employees, but I happen to know of one man who owns a house of his own.

Q.—You are not troubled with strikes on the part of your men in any way? A.—No.

Q.—Was there not something of the kind last fall, in your factory? A.—No; I have had no trouble this winter.

Q.—Did you ever try to export any of your goods to other countries, and, if so, will you state to where? A.—I have sent samples of goods to England.

Q.—Have you had time to get an answer? A.—Yes; I have had an answer; it was not favorable, so far. We would have to alter the style somewhat. They were not suitable for the English market.

Q.—Do you think it would have a good effect to have someone to represent the manufacturers of Canadian made boots and shoes, in other countries? Would it be any help to the manufacturer? A.—I think it would if there is a large enough field, and I think there is. I think we can manufacture goods as cheaply as anybody—in Quebec.

Q.—Do you get your raw material and labor here in Canada for all purposes? A.—We have both the raw material and labor here, and our skill is as good as anywhere else, in certain classes of work.

Q.—Do you find that mechanics are generally well educated in their trade. Do they serve their time so as to be generally good mechanics, or are there more poor hands than good ones? A.—I think the average is of a poor class—I do not mean the average, I wish to correct that word. I mean to say that the biggest portion is of the poorer class. As it is in most trades you find the clever and skilled hands are in the minority.

Q.—Do you enter into agreement with apprentices to learn the trade, or do they learn it as they go along? A.—I have none in my shop.

Q.—Do you believe it would be a good thing if it was the law, if a boy was forced to engage himself to a manufacturer to learn his trade, and, in learning, the manufacturer would be bound to teach him, and will guarantee not to let him go out before he has completed his knowledge of the trade, and that boy would be obliged to show a certificate from the tradesman or manufacturer to the next place that he would go, showing that he had learned his trade and had properly fulfilled his agreement? A.—I think it would be a good thing. I think it would tend to produce better mechanics than under the present system. It would produce better workmen?

Q.—Did you ever visit the School of Art and Design carried on under the auspices of the Board of Arts and Manufactures of the Province of Quebec? A.—I did not, I must confess I never did so.

Q.—Do you think it is a school where a man can learn to make his patterns, so as to make his patterns as ably as his foreman. Do you think it would be a good thing for mechanics to know the whole part of their calling? A.—I do not think a man can know too much, in the shoe making business at any rate.

Q.—Is the ventilation of your factory all that you could wish it to be? A.—Yes; it is very good indeed.

Q.—Have you got ample means of escape for your employees in case of fire?
A.—Well, there is a good stairway from one flat to another and any doors that there are, open outwards.

Q.—Have you anything that you could suggest to this Board that would be of value to yourself and your employees under you? A.—No, unless it was that you could by any means enlighten the general workman in his trade by the establishment of schools, or otherwise.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—You said, a little while ago, that the contract system was not carried on to any extent in your factory. Is it carried on at all? A.—Yes; there are two men I think, in the shop, who engage other men to do the work.

Q.—What work is that they engage others to do? A.—The lasting of boots by peg work, and sewing.

Q.—Have you any idea how many men these contractors employ? A.—Working in my place?

Q.—Yes. A.—There is one man employs two others, and the other man employs one, that is all.

Q.—Do you know how much these contractors get for the work? Do you know how much money they receive per week? A.—It varies. So much per week at so much per case.

Q.—How much in round numbers do they earn? A.—It just depends on the work.

Q.—Do they get one hundred dollars per week? A.—Certainly not.

Q.—How much do they get? A.—It depends on the work, some weeks they get more than others.

Q.—Would these men average ten dollars per week? A.—No; I do not think so. I will tell you at once what you want to know. One man I pay thirty-five cents a case, and he pays thirty cents a case, so that he makes five cents a case on every case, and for that five cents a case he keeps the machines in order, and it is quite worth that five cents on account of the extra trouble and responsibility.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Is that one man who gets the five cents per case profit, responsible to the other men? A.—He is responsible to me.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—And I suppose you consider they are responsible to him, and not to you?
A.—Yes.

Q.—Is any work taken home for the men to do? A.—No.

Q.—Do you get any leather from Ontario, and if so, from what part? A.—We sometimes get some sole leather from London, Ontario.

Q.—Do you sell any job lots to Ontario manufacturers? A.—We sell separate lots to Ontario manufacturers.

Q.—Do you sell to London manufacturers? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know any man to send leather down to Quebec from the west and have goods manufactured here, and sent back again? A.—No; I know of no such transactions.

Q.—Do you know if any paper is used in the manufacture of boots and shoes?
A.—No; I know of no paper. I know of leather board.

Q.—What is that made of? A.—That I cannot tell. I do not make it.

Q.—In what part of the shoe is the leather board used? A.—Usually in the inner soles. Sometimes in the slips.

Q.—Is there any used on the outer soles? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—Does this sub-contractor manufacture boots and shoes? A.—He does not manufacture them he only soles them round.

Q.—Can he last them cheaper than you can? A.—He lasts them at my price

Q.—Supposing you hired his assistants, would you pay them more than what he does? A.—I do not think so, he is responsible to me for any bad work. If he, or his men spoil the work, they have to pay for it.

Q.—Suppose you had to hire these men under the contract system, could you get this work done by those men, by hiring them by the week, as cheaply as you could by hiring them by the piece? A.—No.

Q.—Could you get them cheaper than by sub-contract, by hiring them by the week? A.—Do you mean to say if I can get it done cheaper than this man can get it done, by having the assistance of these men?

Q.—Yes. A.—I cannot tell you—I am satisfied with the work as I get it done.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you mean to say that if this sub-contract system was done away with, the men would get more wages than they do now? A.—They might.

Q.—Do you send shoes to Toronto? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you got any women employed in the manufacture of boots and shoes in your establishment? A.—Yes; certainly.

Q.—How much do you give them for French kid? A.—We do not fit French kid by the case.

Q.—What do you pay first class women boot and shoe fitters? A.—Six dollars a week the machine hands, and four dollars the feeder.

Q.—You pay them by the week? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know the difference between the price that is given to a first class woman boot and shoe fitter in Quebec, and the price given to a first class woman boot and shoe fitter in Toronto? A.—No.

Q.—Did I understand you to say that the biggest portion of your men are poor mechanics? Do I understand you to say that? A.—No; I did not refer to my men. I referred to the general run of shoemakers, and the majority are poor hands, and the minority are the best hands.

Q.—Are all your men good mechanics? A.—Yes; pretty fair; some are good.

Q.—Are there any poor mechanics? A.—There are poor mechanics.

Q.—Can a poor mechanic turn out good work? A.—Not so good as a better mechanic.

Q.—If you heard the testimony of the Warden of the Central Prison, Toronto, in which he says that the Quebec manufacturers can make boots cheaper by free labour, than they can in Toronto by prison labour, what would you say, would you believe it? A.—I cannot say anything to that.

Q.—Can you explain how that can be? A.—I cannot explain it. I do not know what they can produce there at all, or what they cannot produce.

Q.—Do you think that a boy can learn the entire boot and shoe trade in your factory? A.—He could if it was necessary to teach him.

Q.—But that is not the case. No boy ever does? A.—No.

Q.—Do you not give a boy the advantage of going round all the machinery?
A.—No.

Q.—How long do you keep boys before they become journeymen? How many years do they serve as a general rule? A.—Perhaps five years.

Q.—Do you think a boy might be in your factory, say five or six years, and that after being in your factory five or six years, that boy could go up West and start a business in Manitoba, or the Northwest Territories? A.—I do not think so.

Q.—You say that you have only one of your men that owns his own house?
A.—I said I only know of one man who owns his own house, and that I know nothing about the private affairs of my employees. There may be many who own their own houses, and be possessed of private means for all that I know.

Q.—What position does this man occupy? A.—He is foreman of the sole leather room.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—You have a steam engine? A.—Yes.

Q.—Who drives that engine? A.—The engineer.

Q.—Has the engineer got a certificate? A.—I cannot say.

Q.—Is it his trade to be an engineer? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—When you hired him, did you ask him if he had his certificate? A.—I do not think the question was asked him.

Q.—Are you aware that the law requires that he should have a certificate? A.—No, I was not aware of that.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is it a stationary engine? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Is there an inspector of boilers in Quebec? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does he often make visits? A.—No; I do not think he does very often.

Q.—How long since have you seen him? A.—Not for a year at any rate, but I might say that I had my boiler inspected, on my own account, twice.

Q.—Is the inspectorship of boilers a civic appointment? A.—I think it is a Government appointment?

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—There are two inspectors of boilers. There is an inspector of steamboats and steamships, and an inspector of boilers ashore. The question is asked you, if the inspector of boilers of steam engines in factories, is employed by the corporation of the city of Quebec? A.—Not to my knowledge.

GEORGE FERGUSON, of Quebec, Foreman for Messrs. J. H. BOTTEREL & Co., Boot and Shoe Manufacturers, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Have you been long in the employ of Messrs. Botterel & Co.? A.—Six years.

Q.—As a foreman? A.—As a foreman.

Q.—Have you many people working in your factory? A.—From 90 to 100. I am foreman of one department only—the female department.

Q.—You mean the closing up of the upper, or the filling room? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many employees do you think there are in the factory? A.—I could not positively say, probably two or three hundred. I think I am within the limits when I say three hundred.

Q.—What is the average wages that the women receive in your department? A.—They range all the way from seventy cents per week to eight dollars per week. It depends on the age of the young girls. When they get into the work they gradually creep along, and earn more, of course.

Q.—Those who receive seventy-five cents per week what is their age. What is the age of the youngest child in the factory? A.—Thirteen and a half years I think—that is only one.

Q.—How long do you keep them at that? A.—If they are smart they are not at it more than one week.

Q.—And they keep increasing? A.—Yes; it depends on themselves if they get along well.

Q.—Is any of your work done by sub-contract, or are they paid direct by the piece? A.—I think all of those in the room in which I am employed, are paid separately by themselves, by the clerk on Saturdays.

Q.—There are no sub-contractors in your factory? A.—Not under my control. I would not have it. I would always discountenance such a thing.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—For what reason would you not have any sub-contractors under you? A.—Because I think those who take sub-contracts impose upon those under them. Why not? My employer pays me for doing my work, for looking after his business, and why should we pay others for doing the work. I am employed to superintend the work, and I should do it. That is the ground I take.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of your factory? A.—I would call it fair. It is not perfect; but I believe it is as good as it possibly can be, with so many people employed there. It is well ventilated, and there are two watchmen to clear every thing off, every night. There are patent closets.

Q.—Do you know of any other factory besides yours that you could speak of? A.—Not very well. I have been in them, but with regard to the sanitary condition, I know nothing.

Q.—Do you think a sanitary inspector would be some help to the employees about the factories in general? A.—I believe if such an appointment were made it would be a very great boon, a very great benefit to the working public.

Q.—What are the average wages these women earn—about—altogether. That is, those who earn eight dollars and six dollars, and those who earn seventy-five cents a week? A.—I will make it as clear as I possibly can. From twenty to twenty-five earn from seven to eight dollars; about twenty more earn five dollars; about twenty more earn four dollars, and from twenty to twenty-five more earn three dollars, and the others two dollars and fifty cents and downwards, per week.

Q.—What are the average number of weeks that they work in the year. A.—About forty weeks in the year.

Q.—Do you give your work to the girls to finish, or do they only do part of the work? A.—In some cases. Where they get so many different kinds of work to do there are so many different samples; the commoner class does not require so much care and attention as the better class. They work in teams; in the commoner class of work, in teams of two, and in the better class it takes four, that is two machine operators and two fitters.

Q.—Can you find good intelligent labour for your department? A.—I have all that I want, though I have sometimes considerable trouble in finding a perfectly good operator.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Is there always a certain number of young girls employed at seventy-five cents, all the year round, in your establishment? A.—No, it depends solely on themselves if they stop at seventy-five cents, and in fact if they stop at the work for which they can only get that price, I do not keep them very long.

Q.—What are the hours of work? A.—Ten hours per day.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Would it not be in the interest of the manufacturer, if the women only

began to work at eight o'clock in the morning in the winter time? A.—I think it would be a good deal better because, they commence at eight o'clock anyway. They are seldom there at ten minutes to eight in the winter.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do they work at night work? A.—We have worked three nights this winter until eight o'clock. That was to try and save some time that was lost at the beginning of the year, and we wanted to keep up with the rest of the factories in our output, and we asked them if they would agree to it, and they did. They were at perfect liberty to refuse to work at night if they wished to do so.

Q.—Has any department in your factory worked until eight o'clock for the past two months? A.—I have said we worked three nights this winter until eight o'clock.

Q.—Was it not the custom to work at night in the factories in Quebec? A.—It has been I know, most of the winter; that is up to eight o'clock.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do you know if your house has made any attempt to export some of their manufactures to other countries? A.—Not outside Canada, not to my knowledge.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—The young women who receive six, seven or eight dollars a week do they obtain work all the year round? A.—Well pretty nearly so, the best average is the three last months of the year, December, January and February; that would be the best average of the work. They work three quarters time for a portion of the year; but they always work full time from the first of January to the beginning of October.

Q.—Are they paid by the piece or by the week? A.—Some are paid by the piece and some by the week. Those working on some work prefer to be paid by the week.

Q.—How many weeks do these young women work, taking the whole year and including the busy times? A.—As I said a little while ago I would venture to say that they worked forty weeks in the year, and that is taking the inside figures. I am positive on that point.

Q.—You say it is difficult to find first class female boot and shoe fitters? A.—Yes.

Q.—Would it be difficult to find them if you paid them enough wages? A.—That is no matter, wages would not make them any more plentiful.

Q.—Do you know what wages are given in Toronto to boot and shoe fitters? A.—I know by heresay, but personally I do not. I have not worked in Toronto.

Q.—Are you aware that there are many women boot and shoe fitters who go from Canada to the other side, to such places as Boston and Baltimore? A.—I am aware of that.

Q.—How long do you shut down in order to take stock? A.—We do not shut down at all. We do not even stop for that.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Are the wages of boot and shoe operatives higher or lower than they were five years ago? A.—They are about the same, or if there has been any change they are on the increase.

Q.—Is there a steam engine in your establishment? A.—There is.

Q.—Do you know if the man that drives that steam engine is a practical engineer? A.—I could not say.

Q.—Has he been a long time there? A.—Oh, yes; he was there before me.

(Translation.)

MISS ROSALIE CANTIN, of Quebec, employee in a Rope Factory, sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—How long have you worked at the making of rope? A.—I have worked fourteen or fifteen years.

Q.—How many hours a day do you work at present? A.—In winter, we work from eight o'clock to five, and in summer we do twelve hours a day.

Q.—What wages do you earn? A.—Sixty cents; days of twelve hours, seventy-five cents.

Q.—Are there other women who work there, who earn less than sixty cents? A.—Yes, sir,

Q.—What is the lowest price paid to a girl? A.—Twenty-five cents.

Q.—How many girls are there in that factory, who work for twenty-five cents? A.—From what I know, ten.

Q.—Do they receive the same wages in summer as in winter? A.—No, sir; in winter the wages are cut down. Less wages are earned in the winter than in the summer.

Q.—Are there girls who work for less than twenty-five cents? A.—I do not know of any.

Q.—Do they allow girls to be seated at their work? A.—No, sir; those who sit down are fined.

Q.—How much is the fine? A.—Five cents.

Q.—Five cents a day, or five cents each time? A.—Five cents each time we are found seated.

Q.—Are there a great number of fines imposed for this offence? A.—As for me, I have never had to pay any, but I know those who have had to do so.

Q.—Do you know any boy or girl who has been beaten? A.—Never to my knowledge.

Q.—Have you never heard that a boy was beaten? A.—I have heard that girls have quarreled.

Q.—Are there other fines imposed apart from that? A.—Those who arrive after the hour, have a fine of five cents imposed upon them.

Q.—How long after the hour? A.—Five minutes after the hour. We have to arrive five minutes before the hour.

Q.—If the machinery should happen to break, do the girls work at something else? A.—Yes; they are put to work elsewhere.

Q.—Do you lose time when the machine is in disorder? A.—No, sir; unless when it is the shafts which break, then we lose time.

Q.—That is not the question. The question is this: when the machine is in disorder are you kept to make up the time lost while the machinery was being arranged? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there means of escape in case of fire? A.—No, Sir. I don't know of any.

Q.—Do the doors open inwards or outwards? A.—They open outwards.

Q.—Are the doors closed during work? A.—No, Sir.

Q.—Is there any means of escaping by the ladder in case of fire? A.—There would be no means above stairs, but below stairs, there would be.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of the factory at the present time, is it well cleaned, and in good order? A.—Not so well; not very.

Q.—Did the foreman ask the girls, who received subpoenas to appear before the Commission, to come up here with him? A.—Yes, sir. He should be here.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Have you your subpoena with you? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Will you have the goodness to show it to me? Did you show yours to the foreman? A.—Yes, sir; it was he who came to show it to me, with the gentleman who brought it to me.

Q.—When they keep you to make up time lost during the repairing of the machine, are you paid for the time you remain in the factory? A.—Yes, sir; when a machine breaks during the day, and we are obliged to stop, if we lose a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes, we have to make it up in the evening.

Q.—Are you paid for the time you make up in the evening? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do you remain often after your twelve or ten hours, to make up the time lost by the stoppage of the machine? A.—Only for the time it takes to repair the machine.

Q.—Does it happen often that the machine breaks? A.—Not very often.

Q.—What kind of work do you do? A.—I guide the machines that arrange the hemp—comb the hemp.

Q.—Do you oversee, or do you work yourself? A.—I work, myself.

Q.—Is it absolutely necessary that you should remain standing to do that work? A.—No, sir; very often, if we had permission, we might sit down.

Q.—Do you mean to say that during the twelve hours of work you do in summer, it is absolutely forbidden to be seated? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—At what hour of the morning in summer, do you commence work? A.—We commence at six o'clock in the morning, and we finish at seven o'clock at night.

Q.—How much time have you for dinner? A.—One hour for dinner.

Q.—At what hour, at noon? A.—At noon.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Have you anything else you wish to lay before the Commission? A.—Yes, sir; I have something else.

(Mr. Helbronner complains of the proceedings of the foreman who made the witnesses of the factory come at two o'clock though the subpoenas summoned them for eight o'clock at night.)

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Did the foreman tell you what nature of evidence to give? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Does it make any difference to you to say what you wish to lay before the Commission, publicly, or would you prefer to say it privately? A.—I would prefer to say it now, rather than return to-night.

Q.—Say it? A.—It is about the closets. We have no closets there. In summer we have merely a shelter, no door or anything, and in winter we have none at all. We have to go in the fields.

Q.—Have you any other remark to make? A.—No, sir.

(Translation.)

MISS ELISE LANDRY, employee in a Rope Factory, Quebec, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—You have heard the testimony of the person who has spoken of the Rope Factory (Rosalie Cantin)? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Have you anything to add to what she has said? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do you approve of what she has said? A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

- Q.—Have you paid fines? A.—Yes, sir, two.
 Q.—Why have you paid fines? A.—It was because I was seated.
 Q.—You were probably tired? A.—Yes, sir.
 Q.—How much were you fined? A.—5 cents each time.
 Q.—Have you seen a child beaten in the factory? A.—No, sir.
 Q.—Are there little boys and girls employed in the factory? A.—Yes, sir.
 Q.—In your opinion what is the age of the youngest boy, and of the youngest girl? A.—The youngest girl is 14 years of age. As to the young boys, there is one of them of thirteen years.

By Mr. FREED:—

- Q.—What are the smallest wages that the youngest child receives? A.—Twenty-five cents a day.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

- Q.—Is there a clock in your workshop to show you the hour you have arrived?
 A.—No, sir.
 Q.—How do you know when you should leave? A.—By the watch of the engineer, the whistle.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

- Q.—Is the factory sufficiently heated, and is it in good condition? A.—At the present time, yes.

(Translation.)

MISS MARIE MORENCY, of Quebec, employee in a Rope Factory, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

- Q.—You have heard the evidence of the last two witnesses, can you say the same thing as did Rosalie Cantin, and Elise Landry? A.—Yes, sir.
 Q.—Have you had to pay any fines? A.—No.
 Q.—Have you anything to add to what they have said? A.—No, sir.

(Translation.)

FRANÇOIS DROUIN, of Quebec, Rope-maker, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

- Q.—Before putting any question to you, this Commission wishes to be informed, why you sent three of the employees of your factory to give evidence at two o'clock this afternoon, when they were subpoenaed for eight o'clock to-night? A.—Because the man, who served the subpoenas, said to come at two o'clock, and we did not examine the subpoenas. I even asked them to come at eight o'clock to-night, and they would not. They said they would rather come during the day.
 Q.—Is the work done by the last witness, a work which absolutely requires to be done standing? A.—No, sir.
 Q.—It can be done sitting? A.—It should be done standing, but the worker could sit from time to time without doing any harm.
 Q.—Why are they fined when they do so? A.—Because such are the rules. For us, we have to obey them.
 Q.—Are these the orders of the management? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—As foreman, do you not think it hard for a woman or girl to remain twelve hours standing? A.—Yes, sir; even for a man. The work they do is not hard, but when they remain twelve hours standing, it is fatiguing.

Q.—Will you explain to us this matter of the privies mentioned by the young girls. Why are there not privies in your establishment. Is it impossible to have them, or is it for economy? A.—It is not for economy, the proprietor already had them put in the factory, but as they gave a bad smell, he had them taken away, and put outside; but they are not made as they should be.

Q.—Are there no closets in summer? A.—There are the same closets as in winter, the same that I spoke of.

Q.—Why did the young girls say that they were obliged to go into the fields? A.—Because the closets are not made as they should be. I suppose that is the reason.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are those for men and women separate? A.—Yes, sir; there is one in one yard, and another in another yard.

Q.—Did you ever know of a child being beaten in the factory? A.—No, sir.

Q.—You never interfered in a case where children were beaten? A.—I do not remember.

Q.—What is the age of the youngest child in your factory? A.—We have some as young as fourteen years, not many.

Q.—How much are they paid? A.—Twenty-five cents to those little young ones.

Q.—Do they work twelve hours? A.—Ten hours.

Q.—And they are paid twenty-five cents for ten hours? A.—They are paid twenty-five cents for ten hours, and if they work twelve hours, they are paid so many cents extra.

Q.—When the machine is out of order, and the time is made up at night, do you pay for that time? A.—No, sir; but while the machine is being arranged the people do not work. When the machine stops everyone stops. If we lose a quarter of an hour we work a quarter of an hour extra to make up the ten hours.

Q.—They do not work, but lose their time? A.—They lose their time.

Q.—You speak of a quarter of an hour; but if it happens that the machine is stopped for two hours, do you not think that these girls would have a right to their wages? A.—Two hours, it is too long, we would send them away then.

Q.—Then they would lose their whole half day? A.—Their whole half day.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you mean to say that if the machine stopped at four o'clock and the workmen were sent away, that they would not be paid for that afternoon? A.—They would lose only two hours.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—When they work extra at night do you pay them at the rate of the days wages, or do you pay them extra? A.—At the rate of the day's wages.

Q.—Is it the fault of the employees if the machinery gets out of order? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Who makes the rule detaining the employees, is it you or your master? A.—It is the order. Ten hours work must be given for a day of ten hours.

Q.—Who detains them? A.—It is I who detains them, but I have orders to do so.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Who made the rules? A.—It is the master.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—When they do nothing for a half hour are they allowed to sit down? A.—They can sit down then, if they wish, we do not interfere with them. They do what they wish.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How many storeys high is the factory? A.—Three.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—How many persons work in the third story? A.—Sixteen or eighteen.

Q.—Is the stairway sufficiently large to permit sixteen or eighteen persons to escape quickly? A.—The stairway is about three and a half feet wide?

Q.—How many work in the second story? A.—About a dozen in the second story.

Q.—Does the door of the factory open outwards or inwards? A.—Inwards

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you not know that this is against the law? A.—It opens that way.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Is there a steam engine in your establishment? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Is it worked by a qualified engineer? A.—No, sir.

Q.—What is the trade of the man who works it? A.—He served his time, but he has no certificate.

Q.—Do you know what was his employment before he assumed the management of the machine in your factory? A.—He was a machinist, he worked.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is there much dust in the factory? A.—No, sir; not often. When we spin Russian hemp there is dust.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Generally there is none? A.—Generally there is not much; in the Mogul there is not much, nor in other hemp.

(Translation.)

OCTAVE MIGNER, of Quebec, Boot and Shoe Manufacturer, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—How many employees have you? A.—About four hundred.

Q.—How many are of the male sex and how many of the female sex? A.—I think there are more men than women.

Q.—Are there young children, and if so, what is the age of the youngest that works in your factory? A.—I cannot say just now, but last year there were some whom I believed to be too young, and I sent them away.

Q.—Have you any idea of the average wages that the men earn? A.—No; only I can say that they earn as high as sixteen dollars a week, perhaps more. I cannot say.

Q.—Have you any idea of the average wages of the women? A.—From six dollars down.

Q.—Do you think that if an Inspector of Manufactories were appointed it would promote the comfort and cleanliness of factories in general? A.—Yes; for I think there are factories which are not absolutely well kept as regards the privies.

Q.—Have you tried to export your goods? A.—I am just at present doing so.

Q.—What means would you suggest, if there were any, for the larger spread of our produce in boots and shoes? First of all, do you consider the exportation of shoes practical? A.—I do, without being very sure; but it is very difficult for us to export our goods without having an agent who would receive them, and be responsible for them. This agent might be appointed by the Government, or in such manner as to be responsible for the goods sent him; so that we could send our goods to this man, who, besides hiring some one else to sell them, would guide us in the matter of payment, that is to say, he would give us the names of the persons to whom we might safely give credit.

Q.—Do you think that workmen in your kind of business have, as a rule, all the education necessary? A.—About. Even if greater facilities for education were given them, I do not believe they would take advantage of them, for as soon their day's work is done, they amuse themselves walking about the streets.

Q.—Can you state how workmen generally learn their trade, is it by indenture with the masters or journeymen; is there a system to teach them their trade or is this trade mechanically learnt by going from shop to shop? A.—There are some sorts of work, such as cutting, in which we take a few apprentices, but we do not keep them long enough nor have sufficient control over them, to make good workmen of them when they have finished.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—How many hours do they work in summer, and how many in winter? A.—Ten hours a day all the year through.

Q.—Do you sometimes work at night? A.—Sometimes, but not in our factory. That is to say yes; we did work in one department lately. They paid us extra, so much the hour.

Q.—Until what hour do you work? A.—Until half past eight or nine o'clock, during two or three nights a week, for a month past, I think.

Q.—Are they young girls, young women or men who work? A.—They are all men.

Q.—How old were the children you sent away last year? A.—Twelve years of age, I was told.

Q.—This year you did not attend to that? A.—No; I believe there were none so young, that is why I did not attend to it.

Q.—What are the lowest wages you pay to children who work with you? A.—I have nothing to do with these children; they are hired by others. They are nearly all little girls who wish to begin to learn to work, and who hire to an older girl.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do you think that among these contractors, these women of whom you speak, there are some who take the greater part of the wages and give but a few cents a week to these little girls? Do you believe this is done? A.—Without doubt; if a little girl hires who does not know how to work, the one who hires her, teaches her, and gives her the least wages she can. She is an apprentice.

Q.—But when this little girl is taught, can she become independent of this woman? A.—Certainly.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that some of the children who worked for these sub-contractors, employed in your establishment, were paid but ten cents a day? A.—I know nothing of it.

Q.—Can you give this Commission the names of some of your sub-contractors in order that they may be brought before the Commission? A.—I do not remember the names. I have not much to do with the men.

Q.—Are these sub-contractors men or women? A.—There are men, but I do not employ sub-contractors; but a woman may, for instance, take a little girl to teach her and be helped by her at the same time.

Q.—But that is what I mean by sub-contractors, I learnt it, I think, from yourself, I mean those persons, men or women, who employ children and I wish to know as Commissioner—I tell you very frankly—whether in your establishment there are children who work ten hours for ten cents a day? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Can you assist the Commission to find out? A.—Yes; I might perhaps procure the names of some. I might remark that the girls who work by the piece and take apprentices are not bound to work ten hours a day. They work the time they wish.

Q.—Are fines imposed in your factory? A.—I have no knowledge of it.

Q.—Do you know if sub-contractors impose fines? A.—I do not know that either.

(Translation.)

LOUIS ARTHUR PERREAULT, of Quebec, Foreman in a Shoe Factory, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Have you been long in the employ of the firm for which you work now?

A.—Nearly three years.

Q.—Are you foreman of one department only, or of the whole factory? A.—I am foreman of only one department. I have the control of the men, but I have also five women under my control.

Q.—Which department do you oversee? A.—Finishers.

Q.—Have you any idea of the average salary earned by the workmen in this department? A.—It is from \$8 up as high as \$15 a week.

Q.—Are there young men who work in that department? A.—Yes, from 14 years of age up.

Q.—Do you think that there are among these, children who do too hard work for their ages? A.—Not in my department. It is extremely delicate work.

Q.—Do you know if in boot and shoe factories, generally, there are persons or children who are put at machines too strong for them? A.—I believe not, because the work of shoemaking is not difficult in itself, and the workman enjoys an absolute liberty; he is not engaged by the week, but by the job, therefore, he can leave when he chooses.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of the factories in general, that you know? A.—I have a high compliment to pay our own, because there is not a factory in Canada that is superior to it in size, cleanliness, and maintenance in general. There are a great number of factories that are in a worse condition than ours, as to size and the position of the engine.

(Translation.)

AUGUSTE PION, of Quebec, White Leather Dresser, sworn:

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—You are a leather dresser in Quebec? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Are there other factories the same as your own here? A.—No, sir.

- Q.—About how many persons do you employ? A.—Fifty or sixty.
- Q.—Among that number, how many men, and how many women? A.—Among that number there are seven women, seven girls.
- Q.—What is about the average of the wages earned by your workmen? A.—Those who work by the day earn about \$6 a week.
- Q.—Have you any younger, and who earn less than \$6? A.—I have some who earn \$1.50 to \$4.
- Q.—What is the age of the youngest child in your establishment? A.—The youngest is 13 years—the only one of that age.
- Q.—What work do these children do in the factory? A.—To put the wool to dry, and to wipe the skins. It is very delicate and easily managed work.
- Q.—I understand that your work is something special in this country. Could you tell us how these things are done, without revealing the secrets of your trade?
- A.—The tanning of white leather is done by a composition of tannin with alum and the yolks of eggs. It is a special trade, in which we ourselves, the partners, are special workmen.
- Q.—Your skins require to be well worked, well softened, and is this done by means of a pounder? A.—For the softening we have a fuller. We spread the leather on a “turbulent,” as we call it, on a wheel. We have the fuller for the softening, and the wheel for the tanning.
- Q.—Have your skins to undergo other processes after they leave the fuller?
- A.—We have the polishing, which is done by the machine, and, more than that, we have the “pallison,” when the arm of a man is indispensable.
- Q.—What is the “pallison?” A.—The workman stretches the skins on an oval metal plate.
- Q.—Is there not some part of the finishing, which is done in the pressing of the skins, when the men are obliged to work in barrels, either with their feet or otherwise? A.—No, sir.
- Q.—What is the work the women generally do in your factory? A.—They dye the skins, they color the skins by means of a brush on a lead table, and others do the ironing of the skin on a marble table, with an iron, the same as is done to clothes.
- Q.—Is there no other way? Is this the means generally employed for the finishing of those skins? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—That is to say, the work done by these women is work pertaining more to women than to men? A.—To women more than to men. In France it is always women who do this work.
- Q.—This is about all the work done by these women in the establishment?
- A.—Yes, sir.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH DUSSEAULT, of Quebec, Master Printer, re-called :

A person, who was examined as a witness last night, said that he was not aware that the Knights of Labor had, at the same time as the Typographical Unions, informed the master printers of their decision. I produce a circular of the Typographical Unions 159 and 160 and from the Franklin Association Knights of Labor, and this circular is signed by Antoine Langlois himself, the witness to whom I refer. This document is signed by George Gale, Joseph Blanchette, secretary, E. Little, Antoine Langlois, Hector Poitras, Arthur Dugal, R. J. Edwards, Joseph Drapeau, Arthur Gagnon.

(Translation.)

Quebec, 1887.

To Mr. Leger Brousseau :—

SIR :—

We would wish to draw your attention to the following resolutions, moved and passed by the Typographical Unions Nos. 159 and 160, and by the Franklin Association of the Knights of Labor :—

Members of the Union will receive \$8 and over per week, for day work, and \$10 and over, for night work ;

Fifty-four hours, or nine hours a day, will comprise one week's time. Work done over this number of hours will be considered extra, and charged for at the rate of twenty cents per hour ;

All running matter composition, from agate to small pica, per 1000 ems, 25 cents for day work, and 30 cents for night work ;

Overrunning matter per 1000 ems, 17 cents ;

Distribution per 1000 ems, 6 cents ;

All work on arithmetics, dictionaries, primers, and such work, per 1000 ems, 30 cents ;

Foremen on evening papers, \$10 and over ; extra time, 25 cents ;

Foremen on books and fancy work, \$11 and over ; extra time, 25 cents ;

Foremen on morning papers, \$11 and over ; extra time, 25 cents ;

Foremen pressmen, per week of fifty-four hours, \$10 and over ; extra time, 25 cents ;

One apprentice to every five journeymen.

At a meeting of the committee named by the said Unions it was resolved that the chairman of the committee be authorized to communicate to the master printers the resolutions passed by the Unions Nos. 159 and 160, and by the Franklin Association of Knights of Labor, and that, previous to putting these resolutions into force, it is their duty to inform the master printers that a committee has been appointed to meet them on Wednesday evening, December the 21st instant, at 5 o'clock, either in the rooms, No. 22 St. Gabriel street, or in any other place they may think fit, in order to come to an understanding concerning the said resolutions.

(Signed)

GEO. GALE, President,
JOS. BLANCHET, Secretary.

E. LITTLE,

ANT. LANGLOIS,

HECTOR POITRAS,

ARTHUR DUGAL,

R. J. EDWARDS,

JOS. DRAPEAU,

ART. GAGNON,

Committee Assembled.

JOS. BLANCHET,

Secretary.

61 Scott Street, Quebec.

P. S.—In the event of you, or your representatives, not being able to meet us as requested, the committee desire an answer, by letter, to be sent to the address of the secretary (61 Scott Street) between the present time and the 21st instant.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are you acquainted with the signatures of these gentlemen ? A.—These are their circulars. It is the circular which should have been produced last evening, for which Mr. Helbronner asked last evening. These people have acknowledged that it is their signature. I wish to add that the Franklin Association of the Knights of Labor, is composed of printers forming the Typographical Unions 159 and 160.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—This is to your personal knowledge ? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What are your grounds for asserting that Mr. Langlois had declared that the Knights of Labor had nothing to do with the strike ? A.—His own evidence.

Q.—Were you present ? A.—Yes, I was present, and I afterwards read it in the papers.

Q.—I am under a contrary impression. I am under the impression that Mr. Langlois said that the Typographical Unions had sent circulars and had been supported by the Franklin Association of the Knights of Labor ? A.—I am convinced he said what I stated a moment ago. I add that the Knights of Labor directed the printers' strike in Quebec for the following reason, which was that I had a pressman who was not a member of the Typographical Union but was a Knight of Labor, and on Saturday, the 30th of December, after having paid him, he notified me that he could not come and work on the following Monday as he was a Knight of Labor and was forced to join the strike.

Q.—You seem to be well informed of what takes place among the Knights of Labor ? A.—Yes, and I could give you their signs also.

Q.—Do you know under what authority the Knights of Labor go on strike as Knights of Labor ? A.—No, I do not.

Q.—Then you do not know all that goes on among the Knights of Labor ? A.—No; but we have good information.

Q.—Consequently, you do not know if it is true that your foreman went on strike as a Knight of Labor ? A.—He told me so. He was six weeks on strike.

Q.—That is no reason ? A.—It is a very good reason to me, for I had to do without him during that time.

Q.—Did you read in the papers a letter signed by Mr. Redmond ? A.—No. I saw a letter signed by Mr. Helbronner.

Q.—I am not going to enter into a discussion ? A.—Nor I, either.

Q.—Answer the question ? A.—I read many letters. I do not know if any one of these letters was that to which you refer.

Q.—I will put my question. Allow me to finish my question. Did you read a letter by Mr. Redmond, Master-Workman of district 114 ? A.—No, Sir.

Q.—Yet it was a public matter. In this letter, Mr. Redmond declares that the Knights of Labor never encouraged or supported the printers' strike ? A.—In answer to this, I have only to say that my pressman left me by order of the Knights of Labor, that he was obliged to go on strike by order of the Knights of Labor.

Q.—That is what he told you ? A.—That is what he told me, I am certain.

Q.—As regards myself, I tell you, you never read a letter from me on the subject ? A.—I did not say you, I said Mr. Helbronner.

Q.—You never read a letter from me in "La Presse" on this subject.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Is it the seal of the Knights of Labor that is on the document produced ? A.—I do not know if the Knights of Labor have a seal, but it is the seal of the Typographical Union 159, and if you read the letter, you will see that the Franklin Association is there plainly, and that the constitution received its approbation.

Q.—Do you know if such a circular could be issued without the seal of the Knights of Labor ? A.—No, I do not know, and do not very much care.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you know if the Knights of Labor had anything to do with the strike?
A.—I have never assisted at their meetings, and I cannot say.

Q.—I wish you to say if you have any personal knowledge that the Knights of Labor had anything to do with the strike? Do you know, personally, that the Knights of Labor had anything to do with the strike? A.—Not any more knowledge than I acquired through this letter.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—I believe you stated yesterday, that the Typographical Unions 159 and 160, and the Franklin Association of the Knights of Labor, had issued circulars by which they declared they would go on strike the 2nd of January? A.—That was the first.

Q.—Answer the question. Did you say that yesterday? A.—I said that yesterday.

Q.—I see by this circular that the two Typographical Unions and the Franklin Association asked you to meet them Wednesday evening, the 21st of December?
A.—Yes, sir, I was there in person.

Q.—You were alone? A.—There were a couple of others with me.

Q.—What was done? Nothing? A.—Nearly nothing. In conclusion the President made some remarks. He said that as the Masters had not appeared in answer to their invitation, they would put these decisions in force. It was a speech by the President, but it was not a motion.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Was the other paper, you exhibited yesterday, given you by your pressman?
A.—No.

Q.—Do you know whether it came from the Knights of Labour, or not? A.—It is a blank application.

Q.—How do you know? A.—I procured it in order to make application, to see.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—You do not think the Knights of Labour such very dangerous people since you wished to belong to them? A.—No. I could have belonged to them had I wished.

Q.—Is this your application that is on it? A.—No, sir.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—We read in this letter: "It has been resolved that the Chairman of the Committee be authorized to communicate to the masters the resolutions passed by Unions 159 and 160, and by the Franklin Association?" A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—And you swear that this letter is a circular addressed to you? A.—Which was addressed to us.

Q.—To the masters? A.—Yes, sir. This letter was received by Mr. Léger Brousseau. I lost mine, and Mr. Brousseau gave me his, but mine was the same.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—You belonged, or you still belong, to the Union of the Master-Printers, formed during the strike? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—You still belong to it, and you did belong to it? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that the Association of Master-Printers of Quebec threatened to "boycott" Mr. Read if Mr. Read sold the material of the "Nouvel-Liste" to "L'Artisan"? A.—Never. There never was a question of it in their deliberations, either as a body, or otherwise.

Q.—No menace was made to him individually? A.—That I cannot say.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Did you close your establishment during the strike? A.—No, I did not close it.

Q.—Did the men work? A.—Yes, a certain number.

Q.—Had you much work during that time? A.—I had considerable.

Q.—You stated, yesterday in your evidence, that you had been named to procure printers for the printing establishments in Quebec? Were you paid for your trouble? A.—No, Sir.

Q.—Do you expect to be paid for it? A.—No, not at all.

(Translation.)

NARCISSE MALENFANT, of Quebec, Stenographer, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do you know Quebec well? A.—Yes, sir; I have resided here for about eight years.

Q.—Do you know the offices where business in general is transacted, whether in stock, grain or other speculation? Do you know if such offices exist in Quebec?

A.—I know of one, I have known of one for about three or four years, I believe.

Q.—Is "Bucket-shop" the name given to these offices to which you allude?

A.—Yes; that is the name.

Q.—Can you state if these offices are of use, or whether it is desirable that they should not exist, and why? I would like to have a short description of these offices.

I wish, if you know them well, you would give a description of them for public information? A.—I had better, I suppose, describe the transactions as they take place.

For instance, you enter, and the quotations are given as received. They are supposed to give the quotations as they come on the New York Exchange. Here, we have had but one bucket-shop for the last four years, and it gave the New York stocks,

New York oil, and Chicago grain, Chicago pork, Chicago corn, and Chicago lard. These are the stocks generally quoted. Now you ask me how these things are done.

They receive the quotations, and give them to us; they give the quotations as received from the Exchange. As soon as a quotation is given, if you wish to buy a stock, you

give your order and buy it there. They sell you the thing at once, whether you wish to buy it or whether you wish to speculate on the rise or fall.

Q.—How do you see the quotations, are they on a paper or on a board? A.—

There is an operator at the telegraph who reads out the quotations, and they are written on a black-board by a little boy. Then if you give your order to buy any

stock whatsoever, they deliver it to you, they give it to you. Your margin from one to any number of margins. For this they charge you a quarter immediately on your

buying, and you are allowed to close your stock when you wish.

Q.—A quarter for buying and closing? A.—Yes; an eighth each way; if the quotation is against you, you are obliged to margin, in that case you lose. Now this

is more or less honest, from my point of view, and I was able to convince myself of that in a transaction in which they "wiped," and which even gave rise to an action

in the Superior Court here. In this action Guay vs. Hanrahan, Guay had bought a certain stock, the Pacific Mail (P.M.) He paid $54\frac{1}{2}$, and, during the day, the stock

went down to 54; he put on two margins. He thus margined to $52\frac{3}{4}$; the next morning the stock opened on the New York market at 54, and went down to $53\frac{1}{2}$ to

$53\frac{1}{2}$, to 53 to $52\frac{3}{4}$, these were the quotations as given on the New York Exchange, but here, instead of giving these prices as they were quoted, they gave us 53, to $52\frac{3}{4}$.

Guay lost his money. He had \$200 margin I believe, and he lost them. He lost his margin. They pleaded, and he lost his money and his action. Though they bind

themselves to give the quotations as they are given on the New York Exchange, they receive quotations and keep them back, when, and for as long a time as they like, and when at any particular time, they see they can wipe out a certain number of contracts, a certain amount of margins, they give these last quotations, and wipe out the unfortunates who have been foolish enough to deal with them.

Q.—How do they secure custom? Do the people go there of themselves, or is the business advertised in the newspapers? A.—They advertise in the newspapers a great deal.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that many persons have lost sums of money, more or less considerable, in these Bucket-shops? A.—It is to my knowledge that one day a man in good circumstances lost the sum of four thousand dollars in one transaction. This man speculated for a long time afterwards. I am under the impression he must have lost about 12 to 15 or \$20,000. He was a rich man worth about \$60,000.

Q.—Do clerks and book-keepers visit these "Bucket-shops"? A.—Not many. They are generally proprietors, men who have not much to do. There are even merchants who have ruined themselves there; one at least, to my knowledge.

Q.—Had they something worked by electricity in the establishment to which you refer? Had they other means of speculation than by quotations from the Exchange? A.—No; not to my knowledge, the only transactions were on stocks.

Q.—And you believe that the quotations received are not correctly received, are not the true ones? A.—They are not correctly received, that is to say the quotations are sent as they appear on the New York Exchange, but are manipulated when received. If a stock goes down on the New York Exchange they will, if it be to their profit, keep it back to give lower quotations that may arrive later on. When the low quotations are received they will not give them on the board. They will keep them back to announce a higher one later on, if it be to their profit, or if the lower one be to their advantage, they will give it; it is according to the way in which their interest lies.

Q.—Would you recommend these offices to be continued, to be increased, or to be closed? A.—I would not recommend them being left open; I would recommend that they be closed as far as possible, as I believe they are a means of losing money.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Had not the gentleman, of whom you speak, what you call a "ticker"? A.—No.

Q.—Then you had to rely entirely upon them for the quotations? A.—We had to rely upon what might be given.

Q.—Did this gentleman receive quotations directly from the United States, or from Montreal? A.—There are two offices here; one office receives the quotations from Montreal, and the other receives them directly from the New York Exchange, at least so it is reported.

Miss * * * of Quebec, spinster, sworn:—

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—What is your occupation? A.—I am living at home at present.

Q.—What is your age? A.—I am fifteen.

Q.—We understand that you worked for the Riverside Worsted Company? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long ago? A.—Before the thirteenth of June? I left on the thirteenth of June.

Q.—Were you discharged? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many young women were there at the time that you worked there? A.—I cannot say.

Q.—Do you know the age of the youngest girl that worked there? A.—No, I do not know?

Q.—Do you know what the wages were that they were receiving. Do you know what their salaries were? A.—I received three cents an hour.

Q.—How many hours did you work? A.—In the winter we worked from seven in the morning until six at night.

Q.—Ten hours a day? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did all the young women work the same hours as you did? A.—I cannot say. I expect they did.

Q.—Do you know how much per hour the others were receiving? A.—No.

Q.—Were any fines imposed in that factory on account of any of the young women coming in late in the morning to work? A.—I cannot say.

Q.—Do you know anything as to the sanitary condition of the factory, as far as cleanliness is concerned? A.—I cannot say.

Q.—Did you leave of your own accord? A.—No, I was discharged.

Q.—Will you tell us, if you please, why you were discharged? A.—I was discharged because I stayed at home one day.

Q.—Was that any kind of a special day? A.—It was St. Peter and St. Paul's day.

Q.—Was it a statutory holiday? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did any other young women stay at home that day? A.—The ones where I was working, did. There were five discharged.

Q.—Were there only five that stayed at home that day, out of your room? A.—There was.

Q.—Did any stay at home out of other rooms? A.—I could not say.

Q.—Is that a religious holiday? A.—I suppose it was. It was St. Peter and St. Paul's day.

Q.—And you were discharged for that? A.—Yes.

Q.—Was it the proprietor of the mill, or the foreman who discharged you? A.—The manager, I suppose. I do not know what he was.

Q.—Did he give you that as the reason why you were discharged? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you receive your wages in full when you were discharged? A.—No; I did not receive my regular wages—for a certain portion of it at least.

Q.—Was any portion of your wages retained when you were paid? A.—Yes.

Q.—When you were paid, when you were discharged, did they keep back any portion of your money? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much did they keep back? A.—I cannot say exactly the amount, but I think it was somewhere about sixty cents.

Q.—Are there any rules in the factory that states anything about the wages of the employees being confiscated if they were discharged before pay day? A.—I could not say.

Q.—Do you know if any fines are imposed for anything that may be done in the factory? A.—I could not say.

Q.—Do you know if there are any rules? A.—No.

Q.—Are there any men employed there? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they provide separate conveniences for men and women? A.—I could not say.

Q.—You do not know? A.—No, I do not.

Q.—Could you tell us the age of the youngest child working there? A.—No; I could not.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Do they ever work later than six o'clock? A.—No.

Q.—Are the hands paid weekly in that factory? A.—Every fortnight.

Q.—Are they paid in full? A.—Yes, I guess so. I do not know exactly,

(Translation.)

Miss * * *, of Quebec, shoemaker, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do you work in a large manufactory? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—About how many women are there in the factory? A.—About 100.

Q.—Do you work by the piece or by the day? A.—By the job, by the piece.

Q.—What sort of work do you do? A.—Sewer. I stitch by machine.

Q.—Do you work with the silk machines or the waxing machines? A.—The silk machine.

Q.—Do you do only part of the shoe or all the pieces? A.—All the pieces.

Q.—What kind of work do you sew specially? A.—All sorts of common work.

Q.—In polish or buff? A.—In buff, calf and glazed.

Q.—How much do you get for seaming a case of sixty pairs of Balmorals?

A.—There are some of us by the day. They give us forty pairs for a day, and they give us seventy cents.

Q.—Do you furnish anything on that—needles or anything else? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Has it ever occurred to you to deliver imperfect work, for which you had to pay something? A.—Not in the factory in which I work now, but in one where I worked before.

Q.—Are there any women in your factory who take contracts—that is, hire little girls to do work with them? A.—No; I know of none in the factory in which I work.

Q.—Do very young children—young girls—work there? A.—The youngest is thirteen years old. There is one of ten and a half, I think; I am not certain; I know she is young.

Q.—How much do these little girls earn? A.—There are some at sixty cents a week; others at a dollar, and a dollar and a quarter.

Q.—Is the factory you work in well heated—is it comfortable? A.—We are very comfortable.

Q.—Is it generally clean where you need to go? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Are there separate places for the men and women? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—At what hour in the morning do you go to the shop? A.—Those who work by the job go when they choose. I go at half-past seven or a quarter to eight.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do you sometimes work at night? A.—At the present season we some times do.

Q.—Regularly, or are there parts of the year when you work at night? A.—Nearly every winter we work at night.

Q.—How late do you work? A.—In the factory I am in now, we work till eight o'clock, three times a week.

Q.—Is the hour of dinner at noon or at one o'clock? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—When you work until eight o'clock, have you one hour, or half-an-hour, or any time whatsoever, for supper? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Are you permitted to eat in the shop while at work? A.—We eat working.

Q.—In ordinary times, are you permitted to go to your dinner at your own house, at noon, from twelve to one o'clock? A.—Always.

Q.—Are the children that work in the factory generally well treated by the foreman? A.—They are well enough treated.

Q.—Have you ever seen the children beaten? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know how much the young children get a day? How much does the one who earns the least get? A.—Fifty to sixty cents a week.

Q.—When you work at night, do those children who get ten and twelve cents a

day, remain in the factory until eight o'clock? A.—Yes; but I think they get something extra.

Q.—That they are paid extra? A.—I think so.

Q.—Are fines imposed on the children? A.—No; not in the factory where I work.

Q.—You have never seen any fines imposed? A.—Yes; where I worked before.

Q.—Has it ever occurred that these children went home with but a few cents for their weeks work? A.—I cannot say.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Could they not employ more workmen, and dispense with work at night? A.—I cannot say. They tell us that it is because the orders come all at once, and it can't be helped. We are sometimes two months in summer doing nothing, and in winter we are obliged to work at night.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do you work on a machine? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—And you do not have to work these machines with the foot, they are worked by steam? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—In the factory where you work, are the straps placed above the floor? A.—There is one, where I used to work, that our knees nearly touched. Our clothes were on it. One girl had her dress torn off her by it.

Q.—They stopped the machine, turned off the steam, did they not? and no accident occurred? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that a girl was caught by the hair in bending under the table? A.—Yes, her hair wound round the shaft, and they threw down the strap, but her hair was wound around the shaft.

Q.—Have you anything else to state to the Commission? A.—In that factory there are young children who work for almost nothing, that is in the factory I used to work in, and that is also where the shaft is dangerous.

Q.—Have these children, who work for nearly nothing, been working some time, or are they merely beginning to learn to work? A.—Some have been there for a year. They get five cents the sixty pairs, to catch the shoes together before putting on the vamps.

Q.—How many pairs can they do in a day? A.—If they were given enough work, they could do five cases in a day, but there are three or four of them, and they earn about sixty cents a week, often only fifty cents.

Q.—Do people who work by the job, lose much time from not being furnished work as it is required? A.—No.

Q.—Are you furnished work as you want it, regularly enough? A.—Yes.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—What are the largest wages earned by these women, who work at the shop and employ others? Are there any that make more than forty pairs a day? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is that the largest quantity a woman can make when she is very able? A.—She can do two days and a half, in two days.

Q.—That is to say she can make a hundred pairs in two days? A.—No, she can do two days and a half's work in two days, that is, a day and a quarter each day.

Q.—She can do fifty pairs in a day? A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do those who make fifty pairs, do only one kind of work? A.—All the same kind, those who earn seventy cents.

Q.—Do you know how much the children that blackball the shoes, earn? A.—They earn fifty or sixty cents a week.

Q.—By blacking, you mean blacking the edges of the vamps? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Not those that give the polish? A.—No, sir; that is the brushing.

Q.—Do you work from one year's end to the other, or are there times you do nothing? A.—We have a great deal of "slack" time.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are the women that do your kind of work, scarce in Quebec? A.—Oh, no, for my work, they are not scarce.

Q.—But the able ones, those for instance, that do fifty pairs? A.—They are not so common. They have to hurry to make fifty pairs, and they must be girls accustomed to the work, and quick, for we find it hard enough to make forty pairs.

(Translation.)

Dame * * * widow, of Quebec, Shoemaker, sworn.

By Mr. BORVIN:—

Q.—Do you work at present, in a manufactory? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—About how many women are there that work in your manufactory? A.—We are thirty-two women.

Q.—Do you work by the piece or by the day? A.—I work by the piece.

Q.—Do you work at a machine? A.—I am near the machine, but I do not work at it. I press the silk of the sewing machine, and the work of the waxing machine.

Q.—Is it not very hard work? A.—Very hard, sir; especially the work of the waxing machine.

Q.—Do you know the price paid by the case to those who work at a machine; for example, say, at common button boots? A.—I know nothing of those kinds of work, but I know how much can be earned by the week on a waxing machine. It is a good factory, and when there is work they can earn eight or nine dollars a week, and in the slack time three dollars, four dollars and more. One earns even sixteen dollars a week in the time of work and eight and nine dollars a week in the slack time.

Q.—To make sixteen dollars a week has she workers under her? A.—She has only one little girl under her to whom she gives two dollars a week.

Q.—But in that case she must do special work, extra fine, or is it ordinary work? A.—It is all heavy work, work of the waxing machine.

Q.—Do you consider such work too heavy for a woman? A.—It is heavy. It requires a very strong person to be able to endure it. She must get at the machine and work from seven o'clock in the morning until eight o'clock at night, and, like the last three weeks, work every night until eight o'clock.

Q.—But she was not compelled; since she worked by the job she could leave if she was too tired? A.—Ah! yes, it is so.

Q.—Is the manufactory of which you speak well aired? A.—It is not aired; it is not ventilated; we are choking when night comes; the perspiration rolls down our faces; we have all got frightful colds; it is not good for the health, I assure you. Common sense tells us what we must expect when we go out into the cold after that.

Q.—Is there a separation between men and women, there where you have to go? A.—Ah! yes, for that, it is well kept.

Q.—Are there very young children who work in that factory? A.—There are only two young ones, and they are about fourteen years.

Q.—Have you anything to complain of in the manner you are treated? A.—

No, we are very well treated. The only thing I have to complain of is that the shops are not well aired, it is injurious to health.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do they impose fines in the factory in which you work? A.—No, sir. I have already heard that they imposed fines, but the person who said that stated what was untrue.

Q.—When you lose a half day do they not impose a fine? A.—No.

(Translation).

Miss * * * stitcher in a shoe factory at Quebec, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do the machines in your factory work by steam? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know if it is an engineer that has care of the engine, or if it is another person? A.—It is an engineer.

Q.—Do you work at the piece or by the day? A.—By the piece.

Q.—At what kind of work do you, yourself, work? A.—In the straps.

Q.—You do not make a complete piece? A.—No.

Q.—Then, I understand that everything is divided in your factory? A.—A different girl to each work.

Q.—How many hours a day, do you work? A.—Ten hours a day.

Q.—How much do you make generally, how much do the stitchers ordinarily make a week? A.—When we have the work, we earn \$7 or \$8. There are times when we work at night others when we work only during the day.

Q.—How much do you think women work, on an average, in your factory? Do you lose a fourth of your time, or what? A.—We earn in the year about four or five dollars a week.

Q.—Are you numerous in the factory where you work? A.—About fifty.

Q.—Do young children work there? A.—There are two or three.

Q.—What do you call young? A.—It is twelve to thirteen years, I think.

Q.—Do you think these children do too heavy work for their age? A.—They work pretty hard for the money they earn.

Q.—How much do these children earn? A.—The youngest may earn \$1.00 a week, the others \$1.50.

Q.—They are obliged to work the same time as the others, ten hours? A.—

Yes.
Q.—Is there anything in the factory that you would like to see in better condition. Is everything clean? A.—No, it may do for cleanliness.

Q.—Have you anything to suggest to the Commission that the Commission has forgotten to ask you, and which might be an improvement? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Until what hour do you work at night? A.—Until eight o'clock.

Q.—Do they give you a rest between one o'clock and eight? A.—No, sir. We could take a rest if we wished, we are at liberty to stop to eat.

Q.—Do the little girls of thirteen years of whom you spoke, remain until eight o'clock when you work until that hour? A.—Yes, sir, but when they are by the day they have their time to eat at six o'clock.

Q.—Are these little ones hired by the day or by the piece? A.—By the day.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that when you work until eight o'clock they are paid extra? A.—Yes, a little more than usual.

Q.—Do you pay fines in the factory where you work? A.—No, sir.

(Translation.)

Miss * * * of Quebec, Employee in a Corset Factory, heretofore employed in shoe stiffenings, sworn:

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—How long have you been working in a corset factory? A.—About a fortnight; a fortnight next Monday.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Had you worked long at stiffenings? A.—Yes, sir; fourteen years.

Q.—You made the stiffenings? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—You were forewoman? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Were the employees hired by the masters, or were they hired by sub-contract? A.—It was I who hired them generally; the master had nothing to do with it.

Q.—They were paid by the firm? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Were you obliged to cut the leather, or only to glue it? A.—Only to glue it.

Q.—How many women were employed in the factory in which you worked? A.—We were at times as many as forty-two. During the latter part of the time I was there, we were twenty-seven or twenty-eight.

Q.—What wages did the women generally earn? A.—They worked by the job. Some earned four dollars, three and a-half; others, two dollars. Some earned as high as five dollars, as four dollars and a-half. It depended on how smart they were.

Q.—Were women obliged to put these stiffenings under the press? A.—No, sir.

Q.—What was the age of the youngest girl that worked in your department?

Q.—There were some fourteen, fifteen, sixteen years of age.

Q.—What wages did these children, beginning like that, earn? A.—They generally earned fifteen or twenty cents; sometimes less.

Q.—Was it very long before they could earn more? A.—Yes, sir; even after they had been there five or six years, they did not earn more than two dollars, two dollars and a quarter, a week.

Q.—Does the glue, used in sticking these goods, ever happen to spoil, and to smell badly? Is that seen to? A.—Yes, sir; it is carefully seen to. Yet it does sometimes smell badly, too.

Q.—Is it not of a nature to affect health? A.—Oh, no.

Q.—Do the men work apart from the women? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Are the factories you have worked in, comfortable? A.—Yes; very comfortable.

Q.—When were you paid? A.—Every Saturday.

Q.—Had you regular work? A.—Yes; always.

Q.—Is there any reform you wish to suggest? Is there anything you wish to say to this Commission? A.—I have only to say that the first foreman is very hard to the work people.

Q.—But, as you work by the piece, he cannot make you suffer? A.—No; not to a certain point.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Soles are also made in factory you were in ? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Were these soles made by the job ? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What price was paid ? A.—One cent for handwork.

Q.—One cent the pair ? A.—One cent the sole. That is, for a large square sole.

Q.—When these soles are defective, is the person that made them fined ? A.—Yes, sir ; four cents a piece they pay.

Q.—Four cents for work for which they pay one cent when well done ? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—If I am not mistaken, these soles are passed under rollers ? A.—Yes, sir ; and when they take a fold we pay four cents, or if there is a fault in any one, we pay four cents.

Q.—Can it happen that a sole may have a fold, or other fault, without it being the worker's fault ? A.—It may be the worker's fault sometimes, and it may be that it is not her fault. It may be caused by her having to hurry about so much. They have to be taken down stairs, and sometimes they are damp ; we have to move them about a good deal, and it may thus happen that they may take a fold, or some other fault, without its being the workwoman's fault.

Q.—Whether it be the workwoman's fault or not, when the soles have folds, or other faults in them, she pays all the same ? A.—She pays for them, all the same.

Q.—Do you know, of your own knowledge, what the faultless soles are sold at ? A.—I think it is nine dollars a hundred.

Q.—And do you know what is the price of those that are defective ? A.—Five cents a piece.

Q.—Then, if well made, the soles are sold at nine dollars a hundred, and defective soles are sold at five dollars, and the workwoman pays four cents for each sole ; the master pays nothing for the making ; he gains a cent for making ? A.—It is probable.

Q.—Are they assorted before you are paid ? A.—Yes, before.

Q.—Suppose you have made 200 hundred pairs of soles, and of this number 100 are well made, and 100 are defective, you would receive one dollar for the good ones, and you would pay four dollars for the defective ones ? A.—Yes, yes ; that is it.

By Mr. BOIVIN —

Q.—But you receive two dollars for the 200 pairs ? A.—What we do well, we get a cent a piece for, but for the defective ones we get nothing.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Are fines also imposed on small children ? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Why are the fines imposed ? A.—Sometimes when they cut badly, when they cut the pieces of leather a little large, a little too big, and when they make the seams a little wide, their work is counted lost. Sometimes they are charged something ; twenty cents ; sometimes twenty-five cents ; it depends on what is spoiled.

Q.—Is this fine imposed on children, who earn fifteen, or twenty, or twenty-five cents a day ? A.—Yes ; about that.

Q.—Do you know that some children, after having worked all week, have only received a few cents, 2, 3, or 4 cents at the end of the week ? A.—No. Never.

Q.—What do you think is the reason these fines are imposed, are they a speculation of the foreman's, or the master's, or are they used as a means to procure better work ; is it to give style to the children, to teach them to work ? A.—Some are a little in the master's interest ; some, too, speculate a little, the speculation is to save work.

Q.—Can you tell, since you were forewoman, if any of the young girls have been paid but a very small sum, at the end of the week ? A.—Yes ; there was one obliged to go away with a cent ; she was in debt for her work.

Q.—Was she accustomed to do her work well? A.—She was accustomed to work, but I do not know how she worked.

Q.—In the factory, you worked in, is there an engine? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know if the engineer is competent? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Is this gluing of soles, a dirty work? A.—Oh, yes; we have our hands in water from morning to night.

Q.—Is there a room, in which you may wash your hands before leaving the factory? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are the children, that cut the pieces, exposed to any danger; have any been hurt? A.—Yes; some have been crippled, had the ends of their fingers cut off, and others, also, who had been put to work at a sort of roller, had the ends of their fingers taken off.

Q.—Are children put to work at these, when they do not know how to work; are they set to work immediately? A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is any of the machinery worked by the foot? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Are there any factories, in Quebec, where women work machines with the foot? A.—Yes; there are.

Q.—How many hours, a day, do they work with their feet? A.—Some work entire days, and others, by short periods.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—But about how many hours? A.—Sometimes about four or five hours.

Q.—A day? A.—Yes, a day.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you not think that is bad for a girl's constitution? A.—No.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Have you, yourself, at any time, ever worked a machine with the feet?
A,—No.

(Translation.)

Miss * * * of Quebec, Forewoman in a Manufactory of Boots in the department of slip soles, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Are slip soles made in your factory? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they make other things besides these slip soles? A.—And stiffening.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Is it the same factory in which the preceding witness worked? A.—Yes.

Q.—You have heard her evidence? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you anything to add to her evidence? A.—I have to add, that in the department in which I work, where the girls work, it is cold. There is ice under the table; it is frightful.

Q.—Is this to the knowledge of your master, or foreman? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Have you seen the master passing through the factory? A.—Yes.

Q.—What did he say? A.—He said, the factory was old, that it required repairs, but they did not make the repairs.

Q.—Was it this winter, or before that? A.—It was last winter. This winter, I have pointed it out to the foreman only, but he said nothing, he only had a part of the floor repaired; but he did not get the wall repaired, by which so much cold enters.

Q.—Do you suffer much from the cold? A.—Ah, yes; because those who work are always frozen; their feet are always frozen, and they work in the water besides, there is always water on the floor, there is always two fingers deep of water on the floor.

Q.—Then, you are obliged to work in rubbers? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Are there many girls that cough in that factory? A.—There are many for sure.

Q.—Have you paid fines, that is to say, have you paid four cents for soles badly made? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—When you work the full week, at ten hours a day, how many 100 soles can you make in a week? A.—200, 250, sometimes 300.

Q.—That comes to about \$2.50, or \$3 a week? A.—Yes, sir. Sometimes they earn \$3.25, and \$3.50; they work by the job.

Q.—What is the largest sum that you have lost in a week, in paying four cents. Can you remember what was the largest number of soles you lost in a week? A.—No.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do you remember the amount of damages that they deducted on the soles made by you, or on the soles made by others: for instance, how much can a girl lose who is fined for her bad work. Does she lose forty or fifty soles? A.—I cannot say. We pay four cents.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q.—How many have you spoilt in one week? A.—They paid as much as \$2.00 for bad ones.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Have you known of young girls, who, at the end of a week, have received nothing? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Have you known of young girls, who, at the end of the week, were in debt? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Often? A.—To my knowledge, I have only seen one, in debt, but I have seen many pay, who were not in debt.

Q.—Do they also impose fines on children? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Can you tell us how much a young girl must pay for decent board, here in Quebec? A.—\$2 a week.

(Translation.)

Miss * * * of Quebec, Stitcher in a shoe factory, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Are you employed in the same factory as the other young girls who have appeared before this Commission? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do you do any stitching, yourself, in your factory? A.—Yes, sir.

- Q.—Is your sewing machine worked by the foot, or by steam? A.—By steam.
- Q.—Do you do your piece complete, or in parts? A.—In parts.
- Q.—Do you work by the day or by the piece? A.—By the piece.
- Q.—How much, on an average, do you earn in a week? A.—With the wages allowed me, I could earn \$7 or \$8; but I was taken away from that work, and I am now at other work, where I do not earn so much.
- Q.—About how much do women, who are less able, earn in a week? A.—Some earn \$3 to \$3.50, those that stitch.
- Q.—How much do those that prepare the work earn? A.—Two dollars and fifty cents, and three dollars.
- Q.—Are contracts given by which one woman takes all the work, and hires other young girls afterwards? A.—No.
- Q.—What is the age of the youngest girl working in your department, or in the factory? A.—Some are not thirteen years old.
- Q.—Are they apprentices? Is their work easy enough? A.—Their work is to do errands.
- Q.—To carry things in the factory? A.—Yes.
- Q.—How much a day do these children generally earn? A.—Sixty or sixty-five cents a week.
- Q.—Have all these children been to school. Do they generally know how to read? A.—Yes, they have been to school.
- Q.—They go to school before entering the factory? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Is your factory in a good condition, is it clean, comfortable? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Are the divisions for the two sexes all right? There is no communication between the departments? A.—No.
- Q.—Have you anything to suggest to this Commission which might benefit the factories? A.—I would say that the wages are not equal; some earn eleven dollars, and others who work just as hard, earn less than six dollars.
- Q.—You are not bound to arrive before seven, you may even come later, since you work by the job? A.—Yes.
- Q.—When the weather in winter is stormy, can you arrive even as late as eight o'clock? A.—We arrive at the hour we like.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Can you explain why it is that some persons earn eleven dollars, whilst others, who work just as hard, earn only six dollars? A.—It is because some work at men's work, and others at women's; it is not the same.

Q.—Is it the custom to always give the same work to the same person, or to change? A.—No. Those that earn as much as that, have always the same work. They do not give any of it to others.

Q.—Does this distribution of work depend on the foreman or on the department in which you happen to be? A.—It depends on the foreman, I think.

(Translation.)

Miss * * *, Quebec, Sewer in a Shoe Factory, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do you work in the factory with the other women who have given evidence? A.—No.

Q.—How many women work in the factory with you? A.—125 I think.

Q.—What is about the age of the youngest girl in the factory? A.—Eleven and a-half years old, and some are 12, 13 and 14 years old.

- Q.—Do you work by the day or by the piece? A.—By the piece.
- Q.—Do you make a complete article, or only a portion? A.—A complete article.
- Q.—What do you work at? A.—Common laced, and buttoned boots.
- Q.—What are you paid for 60 pairs of buttoned boots? A.—\$2.50 a case.
- Q.—You make the buttonholes then? A.—No; not the buttonholes.
- Q.—Are the boots stitched with thread or silk? A.—With thread.
- Q.—And how much do they pay for the buttonholes? A.—I can't say.
- Q.—About how much do you earn in a week? A.—\$3, \$3.50, but not every week, for some weeks we do nothing at all.
- Q.—Counting lost time, about how much do you earn in a year? Do you work three-fourths of the year? A.—Yes; I work about three-fourths of the year.
- Q.—Do any of the women earn more than \$3.50 a week? A.—Yes; some earn \$6 a week.
- Q.—Is any of the work given out by sub-contract, or do you take all the work, directly, from the foreman? A.—We all get our work from the foreman.
- Q.—Are you obliged to furnish any of the materials? A.—No.
- Q.—Is the factory perfectly clean? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Is it well heated? A.—Yes.
- Q.—How are such young children employed? A.—To fasten the seams, and cut off ends of thread.
- Q.—Is that hard work? A.—No.
- Q.—How much do they earn? A.—10 cents a day.
- Q.—Are you free to come at any hour you choose in the morning? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Do you know whether the man that attends to the engine is a practical engineer? A.—Yes; he is an engineer.
- Q.—Is there anything you would like to suggest to this Commission, in regard to improving the position of the women in the factory? A.—No.
- Q.—Do all the employees seem contented? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

- Q.—Have you ever been a witness of any accident in the factory you are in?
A.—No.
- Q.—Do you sometimes work at night? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

- Q.—Is the sewing on of buttons a special kind of work? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Are you paid by the week, or by the piece for buttons? A.—I think that work is done by the piece too.
- Q.—How much a hundred do they get? A.—I cannot say.
- Q.—Do you know what they get for making button holes? A.—No; I don't know.

(Translation.)

MRS. * * * , of Quebec, employed at a waxing machine in a shoe factory,
sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

- Q.—Do you work by the piece or by the day? A.—By the piece.
- Q.—About what amount do you earn in a week? A.—Taking one week with another I earn about \$5.50.
- Q.—Do you work with any of the other women who have given evidence before the Commission? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there anything you would suggest to the Commission? A.—Only that in the basement there is water from the aqueduct, and up above, water from the reservoir, and we would like water from the aqueduct to be put upstairs, because the water from the reservoir is not good.

Q.—Is that all you wish to ask? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever felt any ill-effect from this water? A.—Not I; but some others have.

(Translation.)

Miss * * * , of Quebec, employee in a Corset factory, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—How long have you worked in a corset manufactory? A.—It will be a year in the month of January.

Q.—How much did you earn, a year ago? A.—When I first began, I had \$1.50 a week, and, at present, I work by the job. I work a machine, and I can, on good days, earn about fifty cents.

Q.—How long have you had a steam engine in the factory? A.—Since the month of November.

Q.—How much did you earn, if you can remember, in the month of October last? A.—I earned \$1.75 a week.

Q.—Since you have an engine, in your factory, have your wages decreased? A.—Yes; almost fifteen per cent.

Q.—What did your master say, when he lowered your wages? A.—I was not working at a machine at that time, but, I believe, he told the girls that they would earn more than when the machines were worked by foot, and have less fatigue, and that is why he took off fifteen per cent.

Q.—You did not work at a machine, before the engine was put in? A.—No; I did not work at a machine.

Q.—Did you begin to work at a machine, as soon as the engine was put in? A.—No; only a month, or a month and a half, afterwards.

Q.—What sort of work did you do, before you worked on a sewing machine? A.—I rolled paper round the steels, and gave out work, at times.

Q.—They lowered your wages as soon as the engine was put in? A.—Yes, sir; that is, they lowered them a fortnight afterwards.

Q.—Did you make more money, before or after the engine was put in? A.—It had nothing to do with the engine.

Q.—Your wages were lowered at the same time? A.—Not ours; only the girls working at the machines.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge, that girls, working in the factory, can, actually, earn the same wages as they did before? A.—I think they earn more, as the machines go faster than they did, when worked by foot.

Q.—Is the factory new, and is it warm in winter? A.—Yes.

(Translation.)

MARCH 10TH, 1888.

ONÉSIME LIMBEAU, of Quebec, Tanner (recalled), sworn:—

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—You have brought the papers in the action that was taken against you?

This action was taken against you in the month of October 1881, for \$4.50? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Will you state what was the nature of the debt? A.—It was rent. I had passed the winter outside the city, and I came into the city in the spring, and my wife had not hired a house, so we took that place. It was in a cellar. That was the year of the fire in the suburbs.

Q.—Were you absent from Quebec from 1881 to 1887? A.—No, I have always lived here.

Q.—Between the year 1881, when judgment was taken against you, to 1887, had they asked you to pay, did they go to your house, and ask you to pay? A.—They sent in the order in 1881, and I heard nothing more of it till this fall.

Q.—In 1881, the year judgment was taken against you, what weekly wages did you earn? A.—I earned \$5.50.

Q.—And what were you earning in 1887 when the seizure was made? A.—\$6. I can say something about the house if you will allow me. In that house, when my wife went in, she was in perfect health, and when we left it, she was very ill, and that is why I would not pay. Water used to come in, and my wife told me to-day that she had shovelled mud out of that house. That is why I would not pay.

(Translation.)

THOMAS PAMPALON, of Quebec, mason contractor, sworn :—

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Are you yourself a contractor, or do you work for a contractor? A.—I am, myself, a contractor.

Q.—How many hands do you employ in the busy season? A.—In busy seasons 60, 75, 50, it depends on the work.

Q.—What were the wages paid last year? A.—Last summer the lowest were \$6 a week to \$8 a week. There were exceptions, two or three perhaps, at the shanty, earned less than \$6.

Q.—What is the work done by those at less than \$6 a week? A.—Generally their work is to wait on the masons.

Q.—They are handy-men? A.—Handy-men. The workmen themselves are paid more.

Q.—Is there a lack of working masons in Quebec? A.—It sometimes happens that they are very scarce. Sometimes during the summer they are very scarce.

Q.—Do you hire your men by contract? A.—No, sir. I hire them from day to day.

Q.—Is there any work for these men in winter? A.—There is very little, much less.

Q.—Wages are lowered in winter? A.—Wages are lowered in winter.

Q.—Do you think that, wages being lowered in winter, a man is justified, in summer, in leaving the place he has, to go to another where he will get higher wages? Do you not think that in summer, when workmen are few, a workman has a right to ask his master for higher wages, and on being refused, has he not a right to work for higher wages elsewhere, he not being bound? A.—It depends much on his position. It is very certain that he is more free. There were men who last year, left me, at \$2 a day, to go to Montreal to earn \$2.75, because they expected to work longer in Montreal.

Q.—Do you think these workmen did right to act thus? A.—It depends, not always. It is certain it paid them better, because they worked later in the autumn.

Q.—Do you believe a man who acts thus to be an honest man? A.—Yes. They even returned. They came back to work for me afterwards.

Q.—Are there many apprentices in your trade? A.—No. I have a few. I sometimes take apprentices. I have two now. They are men to whom I pay more than to laborers, because I consider them as apprentices. They earn money in serving their time.

Q.—Are you also a stone-cutter? A.—I am also a stone-cutter.

Q.—Can it happen, even with an able cutter, that a stone will break under his hands through some natural defect? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think that, when a cutter has worked, I do not know how many days, two or three, and the stone breaks from natural defects, he should lose his wages for those days? A.—No, sir; because I have worked at my business for a long time, forty and some years, and I have never kept a cent back from any man for such a cause.

Q.—I did not say you had done so. I simply wished to learn your opinion on this subject. You have been a workman yourself? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did it ever happen to you, that, while cutting a stone, and giving, at the same time, all possible attention to your work, the stone broke? A.—Yes; by ill-luck.

Q.—About what wages can a fairly able working mason earn in a year? A.—In Quebec, in summer, masons have not all the same wages. The wages begin at 8 shillings and go as high as \$2. In summer, that is the highest they can earn here in Quebec, \$1.60 to \$2. On that there is a little loss, because in the early summer they cannot earn so much.

Q.—Only when wages begin to increase? A.—Only when they begin to increase. That is the most they earn.

Q.—Taking all together, can working masons live comfortably in Quebec? A.—It depends on the families. There are some that earn a great deal of money, and—

Q.—But let us take a man of proper habits, a good father? A.—Things are not too dear for a man to earn a living for his family.

Q.—Can they save? A.—Not much. If he has a family, it is not enough. There are some who work in winter; they are better off, they save in summer. There are men working for me who put by money.

Q.—Do your workmen generally live in good houses? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do many own their own houses? A.—Yes; some own their own houses. Many that are working for me now own their own houses.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Can you say why it is that masons are scarce in Quebec? A.—Because wages are not quite so high as in other places in the country. Wages are higher in summer in the country. Masons' work is becoming very scarce here; workmen are very scarce.

Q.—If they earned higher wages in Quebec, would they remain here? A.—More would remain.

(Translation.)

LOUIS BOIVIN, Joiner and Contractor, of Quebec, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you make doors and sashes? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How many men do you employ in the work? A.—At the present time I have seventeen, comprising the journeymen and two apprentices.

Q.—How many of these men do you consider first-class? A.—About a dozen.

- Q.—What are the wages of a first-class joiner in Quebec? A.—I pay \$1.25 for eight hours' work.
- Q.—Are they constantly employed all the year? A.—As a general rule, yes; the joiners have work nearly all the year. In this line they have more work generally than in other lines.
- Q.—At what time do they stop work? A.—At five o'clock.
- Q.—In summer? A.—In summer we have ten hours' work, but we pay dearer.
- Q.—Is there a difference in wages by the hour in winter and summer? A.—We pay the quarter of a day more.
- Q.—I wish to know if there is a difference in the price by the hour? A.—Yes, sir. The increase is about twenty-five cents for the quarter of a day.
- Q.—How much do you pay in winter? A.—For the best men it is \$1.25 for eight hours' work, and the quarter of a day is less dear in summer because we allow twenty-five cents for the quarter of a day.
- Q.—But taking only one hour? A.—It gives us two hours more and the increase only twenty-five or thirty cents for the quarter of a day.
- Q.—But by the hour? A.—I have not calculated how much it makes by the hour. In summer, we give about \$1.30 or \$1.40 a day. There are some men worth more than that, there are some men we pay more than that; but that is generally the price.
- Q.—What wages do apprentices earn when they are serving their time? A.—Two dollars a week, and we furnish their tools, and if they are sick we do not make them lose time, we pay them the same; and if they lose a couple of days in going to see their parents, going visiting, their time runs on and we pay them the same.
- Q.—How long a time does an apprentice serve to learn his trade? A.—Three years.
- Q.—Are they engaged by written contract? A.—Yes, usually.
- Q.—Do you think this system is better than a verbal engagement? A.—There are some characters that are better with a written contract. It is easier to keep them at work. For ourselves, it is two years since we passed a written agreement, because there are persons who, if they will not work, it is useless to try and keep them; they go off and we have nothing but the trouble.
- Q.—Do they learn to work inside as well as outside? A.—Yes. At all the joinings, the stairs and at all sorts of work. We are obliged to teach them how to work.
- Q.—Is there a difference between the hands that work inside and the hands that work outside? A.—In summer we have not always work inside; we are obliged to make the men work outside. They work for some time at the doors and eashes and then we take them with us to put them up.
- Q.—Is there any difference between those that stay in the shop, and those that work outside? A.—They go where we wish, we send them to work where we want to.
- Q.—Do you not think that a man who is able to work outside should receive higher wages than those men who work in the shop? A.—We consider them both the same, because if we take them to the country we pay their expenses.
- Q.—But do you not think that a man who works outside is worth more than a man who works in the shop? A.—He is obliged to work outside because if he worked always in the shop he could not put his work together.
- Q.—But as to wages? A.—They are always the same and no objection has ever been made.
- Q.—Is it the custom to give out the joining and roofing by contract? A.—We take all by the job, when we have a job, an entire building.
- Q.—And afterwards, you give out the work by sub-contract? A.—When we have not the time to make all the joinings, we are obliged to send it to the factory.

Sometimes we are unable to get workmen easily and are forced to send out the work to be done.

Q.—Is it the custom to give out the finishing of a house by the job? A.—Generally we take all, finish the house completely.

Q.—But you give it out sometimes? A.—We give it out sometimes, certainly.

Q.—Do you give work out by the piece? A.—I have not given out any yet. I finish all my jobs.

Q.—How much do the workmen at the factory earn? A.—They get about the same wages, \$1.50. Some a little more. Few get higher. The best hands are worth higher wages still.

Q.—Have you apprentices, boys who work at the factory? A.—No, sir.

(Translation.)

PIERRE BELANGER, Master Joiner, Quebec, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you heard the evidence of the last witness? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you admit what he has said? A.—To a certain point.

Q.—Do you mean, you differ from him? A.—The difference is that in his position he does what he has to do. I cannot do what he does. I cannot say how his shop is managed.

Q.—But in what do you differ from him? A.—I do not differ from him in much I differ from him as to certain wages he pays.

Q.—What wages do you pay? A.—The wages in winter are \$1, and in summer about \$1.25.

Q.—Can you say why a man is not worth as much in winter as in summer? A.—Because he works less time.

Q.—Is that the only reason wages are lowered? A.—Certainly.

Q.—Can you say whether the shops are kept warm enough? A.—They are kept warm enough, because a man when he is working does not need much heat.

Q.—Have you anything to add to what has already been said? A.—No; I have nothing more to say on this question.

Q.—Have you any machinery in your shop? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do any apprentices work with you? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What are their ages? A.—I have only one apprentice.

Q.—What is his age? A.—18 or 19 years.

Q.—How many men do you generally employ? A.—Generally a dozen; sometimes more, sometimes less.

Q.—Do you pay them by the week or every two weeks? A.—Every fortnight.

Q.—Are they paid regularly? A.—Yes; regularly.

Q.—Do you pay in cash, in money? A.—Yes; in money.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Do you pay the same rates by the hour in summer and winter? A.—Yes, about the same rate. There is a trifling difference.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—How many hours a day, do the men work in summer? A.—10 hours.

Q.—And in winter? A.—8 hours. The men are often better paid than the contractor, because, according to the present law, a man may make us work, and if he does not want to pay he does not.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—That is the way in Quebec? A.—Yes; in Quebec.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Contractors work for less than \$6 a week? A.—Contractors are not day labourers. I say that contractors are often badly paid, because when you have a contract, you pass a notarial deed, and if you do \$300 worth of extra and have not the Notary behind you, you may lose these \$300; I have lost in that way.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You had not the precaution to pass a deed? A.—When you have confidence in a man, you do not care to always bring him before the Notary.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Is there a law in Quebec that protects the workman's wages? A.—The law protects to a certain degree, but not directly.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Does the law in the United States protect them more than here? A.—Yes sir. Here we build for a man. He mortgages his house while it is building, and finally he fails, and we are not paid, and we are left with debts.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of a Bill that has been prepared by the Contractors' Society of Montreal? A.—I am not well acquainted with the provisions of this Bill, but I heard say that this Bill would protect us.

Q.—At the end of this Bill, is a clause which says that: "Before the contractor, or the workman's debt, will pass that of the *Bailleur de fonds*, that is to say, the man who has a mortgage on the house in course of construction? A.—That is what is done here. The man that builds, mortgages the house, and when it is finished, he does not pay.

Q.—According to what you say, if this Bill contains such a clause upholding the *Bailleur de fonds*, this law will not protect you nor the workman either? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You have a mortgage on a lot, a third party builds on this lot, and you would be quite content to loose your hypothec in favour of the contractor who built? A.—No; that is not the way I answer. I say that the proprietor who lends on a house in course of construction should see that he who builds pays the workmen.

(Translation.)

ALFRED LORTIE, of Quebec, Mason, Contractor and Joiner, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—You have heard the evidence of the last two witnesses? A.—Of the last only (Belanger.)

Q.—Have you anything to add to the evidence of the last witness? A.—No.

Q.—How much would a good assortment of joiners' tools cost in Quebec? A.—About \$200.

Q.—What are the average wages, during the year, of a joiner? A.—They range from \$1, \$1.25 to \$1.50.

Q.—By the year, how much—\$100? A.—About \$400 a year.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—How do you make that out? How can you say a carpenter can earn \$400, when his highest wages are \$1.25, and there are only 300 days in the year, without he works on Sunday? A.—The Sundays don't count. The calculation was made hastily; besides, I put the wages at \$1, \$1.25 and \$1.50.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Does a carpenter receive only \$1 a day in winter? A.—\$1 in winter, in summer sometimes \$1.25 and \$2 a day.

Q.—Do you consider these wages high enough for a carpenter, considering the expense he is put to for tools? A.—The wages are reasonable.

Q.—What do bricklayers get here, in summer? A.—\$3.25, here.

Q.—What does an assortment of bricklayers' tools cost? A.—Not much. They cost about \$10.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Can you give us any information in regard to coopers? Do you know anything of coopers' work? A.—Certainly.

Q.—Do coopers receive as high wages as they did five years ago? A.—No; wages are much lower.

Q.—Do you know how many hours a day they work? A.—In summer they work from 7 to 6, and in winter from 8 to 5 o'clock.

Q.—Do you know why their wages have decreased? A.—It is a dozen years since I occupied myself with that. I do not know why.

Q.—Is more machinery employed than ten years ago? A.—No, I think not.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Have you any work just now? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Are there any men working for you who earn less than \$1 a day? A.—Yes, sir, the day laborers.

Q.—What are the lowest wages of a laborer? A.—I pay some of them eighty cents.

Q.—Do you pay any of them more than eighty cents? A.—No, sir.

Q.—How many hours a day do they work? A.—Eight hours.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are they carpenter-joiners? A.—Some are carpenter-joiners, but they earn \$1 and \$1.25.

Q.—Are those to whom you give eighty cents, joiners? A.—They are laborers.

(Translation.)

RAYMOND BUSSIÈRES, of Quebec, Milkman, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—You are a milkman? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Have you many employees in your service? A.—Only one man.

Q.—How old is this man? A.—19 years.

Q.—At what hour in the morning does he begin his work? A.—The earliest is 3 o'clock; but oftener it is 5 o'clock.

Q.—And at what hour does he finish? A.—At 5 o'clock, at half-past 5 o'clock at night. We begin according to the hour we waken.

- Q.—Why does he begin at 3 o'clock? Why does he begin some days at 3 o'clock, and some days at 5 o'clock? A.—It is to carry round the milk earlier.
- Q.—But have you the same customers every morning? A.—Every morning.
- Q.—Why is it that some days he begins at 3 o'clock, and some days at 5 o'clock? A.—When we get up at 5 o'clock, it is because it is too late; we hurry more.
- Q.—When you oversleep yourselves your customers are not served? A.—When we sleep, we have to make use of the time left, we have to make up the time.
- Q.—You say that your man finishes his work at half-past five? A.—At five or half-past five.
- Q.—Has he nothing more to do after half-past five? A.—He has nothing more to do. He often helps me to unharness when he first comes in, but after that I finish.
- Q.—He leaves at half-past five? A.—He lives with us.
- Q.—When he comes in from his work, which has lasted from 3 o'clock to half-past five, has he anything more to do? A.—Sometimes, when we need him.
- Q.—What does he do? A.—Sometimes he goes for water, he does the errands, and he often lies down during the day. When he lies down during the day he works later at night.
- Q.—Does he split wood at night? A.—He splits his wood before that hour.
- Q.—When he has gone for water and has done his errands, at what hour is he free? At what hour can he go to bed? A.—He can go to bed at eight o'clock.
- Q.—Some days he may have to work from 3 o'clock in the morning to 8 o'clock at night? A.—It depends. It is the same work every day when we get up late, he must go to bed late.
- Q.—What wages do you pay him for that? A.—\$3. \$3.50 a week; \$3 a week; he is quite a young man.
- Q.—Since when? A.—He has been with us a week. He lived with us last autumn, but he left. Since that time I have hired many others. But he has been back for eight days.
- Q.—Was the work the same for the one you had before? A.—The same work.
- Q.—How much did he receive? How much did you pay to the other? A.—12 shillings and a half a week; this is very hard work.
- Q.—Your man lives with you? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—Do you give him his board? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—He is not obliged to buy his food? A.—No, sir.
- Q.—The one you had before was he obliged to? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—The one you had before earned \$2.50 and boarded himself? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—The one you had before was Mr. Eugene Maheux, was it not? A.—At first, yes, sir.
- Q.—Why did you send him away? A.—He left of himself. He does not keep his places. He is a little boy that we kept through charity; he is an orphan; he does not stay anywhere.
- Q.—How long did he stay with you? A.—A month before.
- Q.—The one you had before Maheux, was he an orphan too? A.—I had not taken any before.
- Q.—Did Maheux work well? A.—When he chose.
- Q.—But it was not you sent him away? A.—He left of himself—through bad advice.
- Q.—Do you know whether he left because one week he missed 30 cents of his wages, and he had not wherewith to buy food? A.—He was fed. He stayed a month with us. That is the month I hired him.
- Q.—Maheux earned \$2.50 a week, and you fed him? A.—I did not feed him.
- Q.—Let us speak of Maheux. Is it to your knowledge, that Maheux left because he lacked 30 cents to pay for his food, and that he preferred to work where he could be fed? A.—No, sir; Ah! well, the last there.
- Q.—I do not speak of the first, nor of the last; I speak of Maheux? A.—He fed himself, but it happened he did not earn enough for his food. He is a great eater.

He could not keep his places because of that. He is a man that eats extraordinarily; so I offered him to come and live with us, and we feed him. He boards with us, he is certain to be fed. He is with us now, that one.

(Mr. Helbronner desists from questioning the witness further.)

(Translation.)

12th March, 1888.

HONORE MECTEAU, of Quebec, Carpenter and Bargeman, sworn.

I am a carpenter in winter, and bargeman in summer.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Who generally employs you in the summer? A.—It is Mr. Dobell.

Q.—Have you been long employed by him? A.—Sixteen or seventeen years.

Q.—Did you sign a paper with him? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Was it explained to you? A.—Yes, sir. It was read to me as often as I asked to have it read.

Q.—Has Mr. Dobell always acted towards you according to contract? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you get as much work as bargemen in general? A.—I have as much work, as no matter who, in the port.

Q.—Are you paid regularly? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—When the work is done, you are paid all but the percentage? A.—Every Saturday we leave ten per cent. during the summer season.

Q.—As to rigging the barges, is it agreed that the men should do that themselves? A.—Yes, sir; we are accustomed to caulk our barges and prepare them for navigation.

Q.—I suppose, like the other men, you have sometimes little differences with those who employ you, how are these differences arranged? A.—I don't see much difficulty about the matter. When we have any difficulty Mr. Dobell tells us: "When there is anything wrong, come to me and I will myself arrange the affair."

Q.—And does he do it? A.—Yes, sir; that is to say, I never was in trouble, and never went to him.

Q.—Is it known among the men that Mr. Dobell is ready to hear those who go to see him or is the door shut in their faces when they go? A.—I do not think so. I think that Mr. Dobell is too much of a gentleman to shut the door in the faces of the men who go to him, when he has told them to go to him, if they have any-thing to complain of.

Q.—And when you go alongside a ship, how do you generally arrange for the demurrage? A.—Sometimes we are paid and sometimes not; but I do not know who is to blame.

Q.—Do you know that at the time of the society Mr. Dobell promised to give money to the society—to the bargemen? Have you any personal knowledge of that? To encourage you to form a society for mutual protection? A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. BOVIN :—

Q.—Was the society formed after he offered this? A.—No, sir.

Q.—You say that you do not understand how it is that sometimes you are paid and sometimes you are not? Can you suggest some means to remedy such a thing? A.—I cannot, for, of course, we are engaged by Mr. Dobell, and we do nothing inside of the office, we are outside.

Q.—You have no means to suggest? A.—I do not see any.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you know that when you are not paid, Mr. Dobell himself is not paid ?
A.—I think so, for my opinion is if Mr. Dobell were paid he would pay the men who worked for it.

Q.—After sixteen years of experience you consider such to be his character ?
A.—According to me.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Did you belong to the old Society of Bargemen ? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did it do good to the bargemen ? A.—Certainly it did good, sir.

Q.—Why was it broken up ? A.—That is more than I can say.

Q.—If a new society of bargemen were founded would you belong to it ? A.—Certainly, sir.

Q.—Do you believe that you have the right to belong to a Bargemen's Society ?
A.—According to me. I do not see any reason why I could not belong to it.

Q.—Did you sign a document ? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you know that you signed an agreement not to belong to any society ?
A.—When I signed it that year, it was for that year. The paper you have there we sign every spring. They tell us : " If you join a society of bargemen you cannot enter my barge." I am free to sign it or leave it aside, and to join the society.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—That is to say, that this year, you will sign it, yes, or no ? A.—Yes, sir ; certainly this year, I signed it, and am not able to join a society, but when I have not signed it I have the right.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do you remember in what year the society was broken up ? A.—I think it is now, to the best of my knowledge, ten or twelve years. I cannot say, exactly, if it is ten or eleven years, but it is somewhere about ten or eleven years.

Q.—Were the wages higher during the time of the society ? A.—Yes ; the wages were much higher ; we got, at that time \$1.50 for carrying from Montmorency to the Chaudière Falls, (St. Nicholas), and, at present, we have only \$1 ; that makes fifty cents less. At that time we had six shilling, \$1.44, and now we have only a dollar.

Q.—Do you know how long it was, after the society broke up, that the wages were reduced ? A.—I think, if I do not mistake, that we had the same wages for about one year.

Q.—Are they the same wages as you have to-day ? A.—No, sir ; when the society broke up, we had, during a year after, the same wages as we had during the existence of the society, and, afterwards, in the same year, they reduced it to \$1 ; we had six shillings when we took our barges in the bay, or open ; we had six shillings, \$1.44 ; and \$1 when we were at anchor, for many a time we were delayed by the tide. We cannot go out to a ship, with the wind south-west, and the tide ebbing ; we must wait for low tide, when we have the wind north-east, and tide ebbing, we go.

Q.—In the time of the society, were you paid for delays ? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Whether Mr. Dobell was paid for the delay or not, you were paid all the same ? A.—We were paid the same.

Q.—When the society existed, were you paid for the work you did, in the spring, in cleaning your barges ? A.—Yes, sir.

(Translation.)

FRANÇOIS KIROUACK, of Quebec, Grain Merchant, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Is your store in the city? A.—Yes, sir, in the Lower Town, corner of St. Andrew and Dalhousie streets.

Q.—Is not your business supplying flour to bakers? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Can you tell us whether some bakers, naming no one, make use of flour which is injurious to health? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—Does flour that is unfit for use come upon the market? A.—A great deal. There are many kinds of flour that are used in making bread in country parts, that are not used by bakers.

Q.—Do you think that this flour, that is not used in the city, is of a kind to be injurious to health in the country, or is it merely a difference of taste? A.—It is a difference of taste, and inferior flour. In inferior grades of flour, especially those prepared by the Hungarian process, the grain retains more or less middling.

Q.—Do you know how bread is made in bakeries? Do you think bread is sold of the proper weight, and made from proper materials? A.—As to the materials, I believe them to be generally good, but as to the weight, for a number of years, a great deal of bread is sold under weight.

Q.—You approve of the steps taken lately by the City of Quebec, to appoint an inspector of bread? A.—Yes, sir. If Quebec appoints an inspector, the Municipal Council of St. Sauveur, of which I am a member, of which I am Mayor, is ready to do as much.

Q.—Is there anything in connection with the flour trade, and the business of making, you could suggest to this Commission, which might benefit both branches of business? A.—No, sir. I believe the flour used by bakers to be good flour. The inferior grades that may be used with them are not bad flour; they are coarser; patent flour is made from these grades, but they can in no wise be injurious to health.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—But when the flour is sour? A.—Ah! well, that is a different matter.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Is grain exported from the port of Quebec—grain such as is grown in the country parts around? Is grain, such as pease, oats, barley, exported from Quebec? A.—A good deal of grain grown in Lower Canada is exported from Montreal, but not from Quebec.

Q.—Can you say why it is not exported from Quebec? What is wanting? A.—We do not export from Quebec, because, I suppose, merchants give no attention to that business, and because the boats that generally take such loads all go to Montreal. This trade has been done in Montreal for a number of years, and here we lack facilities. Boats do not stop here to take on grain; all is done in Montreal. What might start this commerce in Quebec, and place Quebec in the same position as Montreal, would be to build elevators here to receive consignments from the West, which would come directly here. If we had elevators here, the merchants of Quebec would probably turn their attention to the business of exportation, or other merchants would come from elsewhere and establish themselves here to open up the trade.

Q.—But do you not think that if a merchant were to send round to the country parts, to buy up grain which, instead, of sending to Montreal, he were to send to Quebec, do you not think the ships would gladly take it? A.—But the great difference is, that you would have no place to put this grain, and a ship that would

come here to load would be exposed to delay, waiting for the two or three cars we would have along the road. A ship could not spare the time to wait thus; whilst in Montreal, they can take a ship and load it the same day.

Q.—But in other cities from which grain is exported are there not individual persons who have elevators built for themselves, or are these elevators always built by the Government or by companies? A.—Montreal possesses different elevators some of which are built by railway companies, others by millers and others probably by private companies.

Q.—Then there are individual persons who were owners of elevators? A.—Owners of elevators.

Q.—Can you tell us why no individual person or company in Quebec has had the idea of building an elevator to make the attempt? A.—Up to the present time, the facilities given to railways by reason of the extension of the basin did not exist. There were no conveniences for cars to unload, from any spot whatsoever. Now the thing could be done. The railway company could send its cars down this part of the town to the end of the wharves, and if elevators were not built, I believe a certain amount of business could be done with the West, Manitoba, anywhere. Unfortunately in our line of business, capitalists are rather scarce, and that may be one reason why the enterprise has not been started.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—The loading and unloading of barges is done by your men? A.—The unloading part is done by men we hire by the year, and part by men we are obliged to take by the hour, because the unloading could not always be done by men from the sheds; it would take too long.

Q.—By those you employ by the year, do you mean those you hire for an entire year, or only for the season? A.—Our men are employed for the greater part of the year, are engaged for the year.

Q.—What wages do these men generally receive? A.—From \$6 to \$10 a week.

Q.—What are their hours of work? A.—8 hours in winter, 11 hours in summer.

Q.—At what hour do they begin to work in summer? A.—At 7 o'clock.

Q.—And to the same hour at night? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do they ever happen to work to 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning? A.—Not now. It was formerly the case, but not now.

Q.—What about last season? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—Do you ever work later than 7 o'clock? A.—In our establishment we work very rarely after 7 o'clock.

Q.—Do they ever happen to work on Sunday? A.—Not this year. It did sometimes happen when unloading a barge, last season, at a time when the channels were on the point of freezing.

Q.—When they are obliged to work on Sunday, are they paid for their Sunday?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Something more than the weeks' wages? A.—Yes.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH LESSARD, of Quebec, Saddler, sworn :

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What are the wages of saddlers in Quebec? A.—The wages of saddlers are, at present, one dollar—one, twenty-five at most. But I, to-day, after having sacrificed three and a half years of apprenticeship, cannot get more than four dollars a week.

I am very often obliged, in summer, to leave my trade, and to work by the day, because, by working by the day, my wages are somewhat higher.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Can you not find work in the country, or in the environs of the city ? A.—I have not been in the country.

Q.—Do you know if there are many men who do not earn more than four dollars a week ? A.—There are many ; we are sixteen in the shop. There are two who earn about one twenty-five cents a day. There are some that are much older in the business who only earn three dollars fifty a week.

Q.—Are the wages the same in winter and summer ? A.—The same thing ; but we are not hired by the year. When they are finished working, they “ ship ” us ; when we are “ shipped,” we are idle for several weeks—until they want us again. Sometimes it lasts seven or eight weeks.

Q.—How many hours a day do you work ? A.—Ten hours a day.

Q.—Can you give us the average amount of time you lose in a year ? A.—In a year, we often lose two months, two months and a half, and three months.

Q.—Have you any idea what a saddler can earn in a year, in all ? A.—If a man would make about \$150 to \$160 in his year, that would be all. And again, he does not make it. If he makes a hundred dollars, it is about the utmost.

Q.—How many saddlers, married men, earn less than one dollar a day ? A.—I am a married man, and I only earn four dollars a week.

(Translation.)

CHARLES TOUSSAINT CÔTÉ, of Quebec, Manufacturer of Farm Implements, sworn :

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Can you tell us if this is a prosperous business at Quebec, and its environs ? A.—Not very. As to the manufacture of implements in the environs of Quebec, several attempts have been made, which have not been successful. Nevertheless, there are a great number of machines made in Ontario, that are sold here.

(The witness, after reading his deposition, desires to add the reason of the poor success of this industry in the Province of Quebec, is this :—In Ontario, the manufacturers can get the banks to discount the notes of the farmers, while here they will not do so.)

Q.—You have a general knowledge of the industries in Quebec ? A.—A little.

Q.—Can you tell us what is the condition of workmen in general ? A.—The condition of workmen could be improved ; it is tolerably good. But it could be made more perfect.

Q.—Can you tell us the causes that would render it better ? Is it want of a system of apprenticeship, or something of that nature—a want of education, or a want of practical schools ? A.—The want of education, on the part of the workmen, is the most damaging. There are many industries that could be established in Quebec, and that would be successful, if the workmen had the means of understanding them. But the little they learn, they learn mechanically ; while, if they had schools, they would acquire the theory of their trade—they would do better for themselves, and for their masters.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You speak of technical schools ? A.—Yes ; of special schools.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—As you have been in the dry goods business, can you tell us if there is any thing defective in the system followed by employees?—I speak of the shop; and if there is, what would you suggest to improve the position of these employees? A.—As to the present time, I think that the hours of work are reasonable enough for the clerks; only there is the same want of education here as with the workmen. It is not possible to-day, it is excessively difficult, for a master to engage a clerk that can give him a first or second-class certificate. He is obliged to run his chance, and take the clerk on his own representations. If the clerk he has engaged is competent, it is all the better for him. But he has no means to assure himself of the services of a good clerk.

Q.—Do you think that the closing of stores at six or seven o'clock on the eve of holidays, and on Saturdays, would be a cause of inconvenience—that the workmen would suffer thereby? A.—I think that, for the convenience of workmen, one day in the week is not too much to give them to make their purchases. If the factories closed at one o'clock, the stores could close at six or seven o'clock at night; but we must have, at least, one hour for the workmen, and it is very difficult for the workmen to go to the stores before seven o'clock. They would be obliged to take a day to go to the stores.

Q.—Complaints have already been made before this Commission, with regard to young people from the country, who come to town, and take the places of the men of the town, in the different industries. Do you think that, by a system of apprenticeship, or otherwise, there would be a means of preventing this competition? A.—I think that if the money that is spent in colonization, and, above all, immigration, was employed in making roads in new places, it would stop, to a greater extent, this emigration from country to town. As it is to to-day, it is always the settlers that precede the colonization roads. They are always four or five miles, ten miles, in advance of the colonization roads. They go into the woods; they are obliged to make the roads themselves, while, if a little money were expended to make roads in places colonized, every time they were asked and required, I think that many of the young men, who now seek the city, would remain in the country, and be contented to remain there. Courageous men are not wanting who rush to the forest to fell the trees, and make a clearance, who endure hardships for many years, and who are, at last, obliged to leave it. The want of communication is one of the great causes of these failures. There may be other causes, but this is the principal.

Q.—Do you consider that the system followed by the carters is the best possible? If not, what would you suggest to improve it? A.—As to the carters' tariff, which was made, I noticed that the system worked well in Montreal; but I believe that our carters are placed at a disadvantage with regard to the tolls they are obliged to pay on the public roads. They have every right to insist that their fare should pay the toll, but it is always on this question of toll that trouble arises between the carter and his fare. A person who passes over the Dorchester Bridge four times a day—and that might well happen, because there are promenades near enough—has to pay 23 cents each time he passes in summer. This includes going and coming. He must pay the same toll at the gate of Montmorency Falls. This is for one horse. I believe it is nearly double for two horses. You see, when a carter has to deduct these 46 cents from his fare, it is a matter of consideration for the fare who does not pay it, and much more a matter of consideration for the carter who does. If there was a means of doing here what has been done in Montreal—to extend the toll-gates or to abolish them entirely—it would be doing what has been done in other provinces, and it would be better.

Q.—Do you think that the carters are sometimes not paid by their customers—that they are obliged to submit to loss of time to come to an understanding with these customers, these travellers; and if such be the case, can you suggest a means by which the carters would be paid, and would not lose their time in discussions to

make their fares pay? A.—There is a means, I think. It is that the carters should demand payment from his fare in starting. The carter could give to his customer, on starting, his number on a piece of paper, and if the customer had occasion to complain, he has only to apply to the authorities, to the first he meets. It is as easy for the customer to pay on entering the vehicle as to pay afterwards; and as there must always be a risk, it is as well that the customer should be put to some risk as that the carter should risk not being paid. Besides, being paid in advance, the carter is always sure of driving persons that have money. Sometimes persons get driven and do not pay, because they cannot pay.

Q.—Do you think that there are products that could be manufactured in this country, and that could be exported to foreign countries? A.—There are. There are a number of articles that could be manufactured here and exported—many articles in wood. We have the material, and with a little work on it, to enable us to defray the cost of transport, we could sell them at large profit in many of the European markets.

Q.—If we have the raw material, why is the thing not done? Is it because there is a want of organization? What would you suggest to open a market for these products? A.—We want men who would encourage these home industries, and I think that if depots were established in different foreign countries, where our products could be seen, or rather where persons would exert themselves to make them known, we could develop a number of small industries which are to-day unknown. I see that the Rev. Mr. Labelle has brought a trade from Belgium. He has taken a good step, but no one undertakes to work it, and I think we will have to wait long enough before this trade will become generally known. I speak of that particular trade, but there are a host of industries, which, if once implanted in the country, would enable many to derive great profit and advantage. There are many persons who could work at home, and would not require to work elsewhere.

Q.—Do you consider that a factory law is indispensable in the present state of affairs? A.—A good law is absolutely necessary.

Q.—Do you know if there are many workmen who have debts here? A.—Not exactly. I believe, as a rule, they are thrifty enough, but there are some that have debts.

Q.—Do you think that the law costs considerably augment the debt? A.—Yes. Very often, it doubles the debt, and sometimes triples it.

Q.—Do you think that there are many workmen in debt whose wages are seized? A.—There are a certain number.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do you think that in some cases the notaries charges are excessive? A.—Their tariff is excessive according to my idea. The ordinary charges are higher than the tariff, but even if he charges according to the tariff his charges are too high, but if you object, there is the tariff.

By Mr. CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—For inventories? A.—The inventory is one of the items, but it is more particularly their percentage on the contracts which are too high.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that there are a great number of children who work in these factories? A.—No; not to my knowledge.

Q.—Is it not to your knowledge that a large number of women who work for the stores, in making clothes, are paid in goods instead of money? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—At the present time? A.—At the present time.

Q.—Is it the custom? A.—In my time it was the general rule. The work of

making up clothes was done almost altogether in the lower town and the women were paid in goods. The greater number of them were.

Q.—Did they make a reduction on the retail price or did they give them at the same price? A.—No; it was rather the other way.

Q.—Do you mean to say that they sold them to them at a higher price? A.—A little higher.

Q.—Are you under the impression that this custom still exists? A.—I think it is not so bad.

Q.—But does it still exist? A.—It is practised now.

Q.—What is the general condition of the houses of the workmen, I mean from a sanitary point of view? A.—There is much to be desired.

Q.—Is it the drainage or the manner in which the houses are built? A.—Generally too many live in the same room. As to the buildings, in our climate they are generally built pretty well, and the drainage in the City of Quebec is very good.

(Translation)

FERDINAND LAFRANCE, of Quebec, carpenter, sworn :

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—What have you to state to the Commission? A.—I would like to say a few words on the subject of building; there is very little building done, these last years. There remain now, but small jobs of work, repairing boats, (not large vessels for we may say, there are none now), but repairing small vessels. There is not much work for carpenters now...I would like to know if the men employed by the Government, the night men, are allowed to compete with us. When we ask \$1.50 a day, these men come, and say: "We will do that work for you for \$1.25."

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—You mean to say that these night guardians employed by government, work during the day? A.—Yes, sir. That is what I am speaking of. Those men come at 6 o'clock in the morning.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—After having slept well? A.—I do not know. I am not intimate with them; but they pass the day from 6 o'clock in the morning to 6 o'clock at night, working, and that is from Monday to Saturday.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—But there are not many of these government men? A.—There is one at the work we are doing on these small vessels; there is only enough work for one man for 3 or 4 days in the week.

Q.—How many of these night-men are there? A.—I see only that one.

Q.—Have any other remarks to make to the Commission? A.—I would like to remark that often we are not paid. We lose money.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do you refer to work on board vessels or to work on land? A.—Aboard boats, small vessels. We work, and the boats leave and we are not paid. They are vessels belonging to the port of Quebec.

Q.—Do they come from foreign ports? A.—From Quebec, from Montreal.

Q.—Canadian boats? A.—Yes.

Q.—When you work on these boats do you work for the boats or for a master carpenter? A.—For the master of the boat.

By Mr. BOIVIN :

Q.—But when the boat comes back, can you not then collect what is due you?
A.—The boat comes back but often the name has been altered, and we cannot find it.

Q.—Do you often lose money? A.—Not every day, but it happens.

(Translation.)

EDMOND MERCIER, Quebec, employee in a shoe factory, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do you work in a large factory? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Can you tell us how much the men earn on an average? A.—According to my calculations, there are not many earn more than \$6 a week, because we generally work by the piece in factories. I count one week with another.

Q.—Is this owing to loss of time, or are the wages not high enough? A.—We do lose time, and besides, the wages are not high enough.

Q.—How do you lose time? A.—As for the loss of time, it depends. A man working at a machine may stop work, and then we lose our time.

Q.—In what department do you work? A.—I break off the pegs and I unlast. I do two jobs at once. I do the work of two men, and I have the wages of a child. When 60 pairs of boots pass four times through my hands, and I am given 25 cents for it, it does not pay very well; the work is very hard.

Q.—How much do you get a case for breaking off pegs? A.—Fifteen cents for breaking pegs and ten cents for unlasting.

Q.—Is your pay different for men's women's, and children's shoes? A.—The same price for all. Moreover, a couple of years ago, our "boss" died; before that my wages had been raised, and when the factory changed hands, the foreman cut down my wages. I was paid only 30 cents for men's boots, and 25 cents for women's and these prices were cut down.

Q.—How many cases can you unlast, of how many cases can you break the pegs, in a day, when you have work? A.—I can break the pegs off, and unlast 8 cases.

Q.—Do you do any other work in the factory? Have you worked in other departments? A.—I worked in other departments long ago, 12 or 13 years ago.

Q.—Is there an engine in your factory? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you know if it is conducted by an engineer? A.—Yes.

Q.—In what state are factories, in general, here? A.—Clean enough. Only in the lower part of our place there is a currier's shop.

Q.—Does it annoy you? Are there bad smells, or anything? A.—Sometimes there is a little, but it is only when they iron the leather; but we are very near the dust from machines, though.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do women or girls work in that factory? A.—Not lately in my department, but formerly.

Q.—Are there separate privies for men and women? A.—They are separated a little. They are nearly side by side.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Is there a division between the two? A.—Very little.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—How high are the divisions between them? A.—No height at all.

Q.—They can see each other? A.—They can see each other as I see you now—I think you asked me about the commons.

Q.—We are speaking of the commons? A.—Ah, well; the commons, we have ours, and they have theirs.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is much of the work of Quebec factories, given out by contract? A.—Yes; a great deal of it. Like me, I run a machine, and I have come here to speak of that. It has been broken for nearly a year, and I have long asked to have it mended; they have never got it mended, and it is now in the same state as it was before, and we are threatened with having to pay for the boots, when we injure them. It is useless to expect an answer from that man, we are badly answered. The reply we get, is: "Don't talk too loud, you'll be turned out."

Q.—Are fines imposed in the factory in which you work? A.—Fines are imposed in this way: We pay for the boots or shoes we injure.

Y.—Do they give you the shoes you pay for? A.—Yes; they give us the shoes when we pay for a pair; but when we pay for the sole, or the uppers, we can't keep all, and they often make us pay for an upper and we don't know of it; they write it in our books when we are away; we come back next day and find: "An upper 10 cents, 12 cents" written in our books. I have been made to pay 12 cents an upper, lately.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do they show you the work for which you have been fined? A.—Yes; we see it. Also, we are paid very late on Saturdays. We finish work at half-past three or four o'clock, and we should get our wages then, but we have to wait until five o'clock, waiting there in the factory, doing nothing. When we have other business we have to attend to it at a very late hour.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Taking the whole factory, what are a man's average wages? A.—The average wages of a man are \$5 or \$6 a week.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Are you sure of that, or do you only suppose it to be the case? A.—I suppose it to be that, from what I can see of the work.

Q.—How much time do you lose in a year? A.—I lose about 3 or 4 months in a year.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do you work at night? A.—Sometimes in the autumn; we do not take the time to go to supper.

Q.—In giving this average of \$5 or \$6 a week, do you include the whole year or is it only for the months you work? A.—It is for the whole year.

Q.—About \$1 a day the whole year round? A.—Yes; when a man earns only \$5 or \$6 a week, and pays \$5 a month rent for 2 or 3 rooms, it is hard to get along; and we have to pay \$4 and \$5 a cord for wood.

Q.—You say you can do 8 cases a day? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you lose a quarter of your time? A.—Yes.

Q.—A quarter of the time, that leaves 230 working days; 230 working days at \$3 a day, gives you more than \$1.50 a day. If you judge others by yourself they must earn at least \$1.50? A.—I calculate from my book for six months of work, and it gives me \$7 a week.

(Translation).

ATHANASE DELANETTE, of Quebec, shoe-laster, sworn :—

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Have you any information to give this Commission, other than has already been given by former witnesses? A.—Testimony was given here, a short time ago, in which the witness stated that lasters got \$12 and \$13 a week; I defy any laster in Quebec to earn \$12 or \$13 a week.

By MR. BOIVIN :—

Q.—What kind of work do you last? A.—Men's work and women's work.

Q.—In kid work? A.—Pegs.

Q.—How much do you get for a case of women's shoes? A.—Seven shillings and a half.

Q.—Are the points furnished you at that price? A.—Yes.

Q.—You furnish nothing? A.—Nothing at all.

Q.—How much do you get for a pair of men's Congress? A.—Nine shillings.

Q.—Do you do finer work in kid? A.—I don't do any, but I know what prices are given.

Q.—Do you get the same prices for misses' and children's? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How many pairs of women's shoes, can a man last in a day? A.—Working all the time, some can last a case a day, others can only last 40 or 45 pairs at the most.

Q.—And men's work? A.—A man can last 30, 35, 40; but not all lasters can last 40 pairs. Some last only 30 pairs a day.

Q.—How many can last 60 pairs in 10 hours' work? A.—I don't know of any that can last 60 pairs in 10 hours.

Q.—Do you work in the same factory as the preceding witness? A.—Yes, sir. I am not considered a bad laster, and I last one case of women's boots a day; but I am not able to do it every day.

By MR. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do some factories pay more than nine shillings a case? A.—It is according to the kind of work.

By MR. BOIVIN :—

Q.—But in the same quality, do other factories pay dearer? A.—No, it is about the usual price.

Q.—Do you lose much time? A.—No, waiting for uppers, the stuff, we lose four or five months on the year. It is very rarely that we work a whole day, that we are able to work from morning to night. Wages are not high enough to earn our living.

EDWARD HARPER WADE, of New Liverpool, in the Province of Quebec, timber merchant, sworn :—

By MR. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you wish to make a statement to the Commission before being examined? A.—I can make a statement or answer questions, whichever may be desired by the Commission.

Q.—Perhaps you would rather give your statement first, and then we will question you afterwards, if your statement does not cover the whole ground? A.—If you

would prefer a reversal of the order of examination I might embody in my answers anything that might suggest itself to me, but whatever course the Commission thinks it advisable to take I am quite willing to follow.

Q.—Very well, sir. I understand you are here with reference to matters relating to the ship labourers and merchants at Quebec? A.—Yes. I am here summoned to attend, I presume, in that connection.

Q.—Have the merchants of Quebec, or the shippers of Quebec, any complaints to make as to the manner in which ship labourers do their work? A.—Not in any way, as connected with the work itself. Of course, it is more a question for the ship owners, or shipping merchants, and their agents, who employ the ship labourers, or, rather, they employ the stevedore, who employs the labourers. The merchants have no knowledge, exactly, as to how the ship labourer does his work, but they know that he does it, and express themselves, I believe, as fully satisfied with the manner in which the work is done, in the port of Quebec.

Q.—Do you know anything about the timber trade? A.—I have been engaged in it more than twenty-five years—in the Quebec timber trade, in England, and in this country.

Q.—Do you know, if, in the stowing of timber, the men incur any special risk, or danger to their lives, or bodies? A.—I should think the risk incurred by these men, in certain portions of the work, is considerable.

Q.—Do you know if that risk would be increased if steam were employed in loading square timber? A.—I can give you my own opinion. I am not competent to give as good an opinion as others, whom you could ask, but I can give you my opinion. If I were a ship labourer, I would prefer that steam should not be used, in the loading of square timber. I may say, that of this timber, that is floated alongside of the ships, square timber is put into the hold, independently of the question of steam.

Q.—Is there any other rule that you think could be adopted with reference to loading of steamers, than that which applies to sailing ships? A.—I think the sailing ship trade, and the steamer trade, resolves itself, more or less, into a question of competition from outside ports. Montreal, I think, has taken a considerable portion of our trade. It has taken that portion that can go to Montreal. The portion of the trade, which consists in the loading of hewn timber, which is floated alongside the ships, and is taken by sailing ships, is hardly likely to go to Montreal, under any circumstances. The business of handling general merchandise, and the shipping of sawn lumber, can go to Montreal, it can be done there just as well as at Quebec, and will go to the port where it can be done the cheapest. Thus, the matter resolves itself into a question of competition.

Q.—Do you think that vessels would prefer to load that class of timber, sawn lumber, in Quebec, if it could be loaded here as cheaply as in Montreal? A.—That is rather a wide question. I have had, myself, to send deals from Quebec to Montreal. In that case, it cost me more to deliver them, but the advantage I got was low rates, in which case, I was willing to take it there. Deals, got in Ottawa, and Hull, where the bulk of that trade is now done, owing to the great facility there offered for sawn lumber, command a larger barge freight, to here, Quebec, than to Montreal. Birch, produced here, in some cases, is sent to Montreal, not only to secure an equally low freight rate, but the handling of it will be cheaper. The shipping agents, in Montreal, are very much averse to coming to Quebec. They allege, and with some reason, and, possibly, to a great extent, in their own interests, that the charges of Quebec are excessive, and they use this as a representation to the English owners, in order to prevent the vessels from coming to Quebec. It is partly a matter of fact, and it is partly exaggerated. The ships cannot be loaded at Quebec, as well as at Montreal, but it is exaggerated, purposely, to make them go to Montreal.

Q.—You think then that the Steamship Companies themselves, are largely influenced in taking the trade to Montreal by these reports? A.—No; I think if they

could get the labor done as cheaply here as in Montreal, they would be disposed to bring as much trade here as possible. It is all a question of interest. If labor was as cheap here as in Montreal, no doubt they would stop here. It all resolves itself into a question of cheapness there.

Q.—Is it not a fact, that the channel between Quebec and Montreal through Lake St. Peter being deepened, has something to do with vessels going through to Montreal in large numbers? A.—Well; it might have had something to do with it—and I think has had something to do with it: but during the whole time I have been in Quebec, steamers have gone through to Montreal when the channel was shallower than it is now. They had to complete their cargoes here, during the time of low water. During high water they had no difficulty, but at low water they had to complete their cargoes in Quebec. It is owing to that, that the channel was deepened.

Q.—Do you think that the ships would prefer taking their cargoes to Montreal, that being the head of inland navigation rather than to Quebec? A.—In some cases they might.

Q.—Is it not a matter of fact, that they cannot get goods delivered in Quebec in some cases without their first going to Montreal? A.—I know that some ships in order to save a tide may take Quebec freight to Montreal, and then re-ship it to Quebec. In some cases it has occurred, and is frequently occurring, and on some lines invariably so.

Q.—Do you know if vessels lose a great deal of time in loading here? A.—They do.

Q.—Have they to your knowledge? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it not a fact, to your knowledge, that men who live at Diamond Harbor, are obliged to leave there to go to work on board vessels at Sillery Cove and New Liverpool Cove, a distance of several miles from their homes, and that frequently they work for one or two hours a day, and sometimes get no work at all, receive nothing for their time, and have to pay their own expenses? A.—I know that the laborers lose a good deal of time in the loading of timber ships. I live at New Liverpool and do my business there. I have seen men leave there at a quarter past five in the morning to come here and load vessels in the port of Quebec, and that when the boat arrives at New Liverpool at seven o'clock in the morning she brings men to load ships at New Liverpool. If something could be done by which the men at New Liverpool could load the ships there, and the men here could load the ships in the port of Quebec, it would save all this trouble. If the men at Sillery Cove, Indian Cove, Diamond Harbor and other different places, could load the ships lying there, this difficulty might be avoided, but of course this is not practical to the full extent. It is quite possible that the men at these places might have a small amount of work to do at times, and that, and other causes might bring them to other places; but still, a great amount of lost time might be saved under ordinary circumstances.

Q.—Supposing the material was ready to go on board the ships, how long would it take to load an average sized ship? A.—Well, an average ship would be loaded, I suppose—I cannot answer very closely, it is approximately—I think I can say nine or ten days; others, very large vessels, have taken even longer than I have named.

Q.—Do you know of some ships which have been engaged from twenty-five to thirty days taking cargo on board? A.—No; I do not think they would take as long as that, but they have taken the time named in the Charter Party—thirty days. We have some ships in our cove which have worked full time, and which have taken the full number of days allowed by the Charter Party.

Q.—Do you know if, since the formation of the Quebec Ship Laborers' Society, vessels have been loaded more cheaply than before that time? A.—That question I cannot answer. I was not in Quebec before the formation of the society. I came to Quebec about the time of the formation of the society.

Q.—Do you know if the cost of loading vessels is decreasing, or is it on the increase? A.—I would not be disposed to state that. That is a statement I would not question. I would imagine the decrease is not a very large one, but I would not question the statement if it were made. You mean since the time the Quebec Ship Laborers' Society was inaugurated?

Q.—Yes. But can you say within the last five years? A.—I should suppose that any stevedore would be able to tell you. You see the merchants of Quebec have nothing to do with engaging the laborer for loading the ships. They ascertain that the ship is being loaded and that the work is being done. It is simply a matter of necessity, but we are not called on by the owners to ascertain.

Q.—Then, you do not know? A.—No. I have answered.

Q.—Taking into consideration the nature of the work, and the loss of time by the ship labourer, do you think the wages of the ship labourer is too large? A.—My own impression is that, as far as special work done on board timber ships is concerned, the enforced idleness at the present season, and the great amount of lost time, that it is not excessive, and the labour is skilled labour, and we require it. I agree with the gentlemen who have preceded me, in the opinion that in no other port are the men as skilled in timber stowing as at Quebec. But, for the ordinary labour of the port, the discharging of the steamers, and the loading of sailing ships, I consider the wages are high. I saying that, I wish it clearly understood that I do not begrudge the men their wages. I would be glad to see the wages of the port of Quebec remain at the same level, if so be that the labor and the business remain here; but a high rate of wages is of no good combined with a scarcity of work. If the wages at Montreal were retained at the same level, I should have nothing to say; but I am sorry to see the trade going from Quebec, and we cannot prevent it; I would be glad if we could. It is for the Ship Labourers' Society to apply the remedy, by revising their practical by-laws so as to cover the changes necessary, if we are to retain our share of the changed trade in the port of Quebec, and prevent it going to Montreal. The firm with which I am connected, have sacrificed a portion of their trade—they have allowed their deal trade to drift away rather than go to Montreal to follow it. Now we are bound to follow it or abandon it altogether. Last year we did a larger business than before, and we anticipated doing a much larger business this year.

Q.—Do you think if steam power was used for the loading of birch, longitudinals and other small timber, the trade would come back from Montreal to Quebec? A.—I see no difficulty in the way of doing our share of the business. Certainly longitudinals and birch are cheap in the district of Quebec. They are as cheap in Quebec as in Montreal.

Q.—You do not know of vessels going to Montreal with inward cargoes, taking grain and cattle cargoes from there back, and that birch, deals and other small lumber, which is used as ballast to stiffen the ship, is also taken as return cargo? A.—I am aware that they take such cargoes.

Q.—Do you think that part of the cargo could be put on board ship cheaper in Quebec than in Montreal? A.—I do not say that, but I think that Quebec could lay a very distinct claim to a portion of the cattle trade, as well as the trade in small lumber. I think it would pay shippers to send cattle to Quebec for shipment, as it would save loss on the trip down between Quebec and Montreal, in the summer months. I am not posted on cattle, but I should suppose from what I have been told that the principal loss of cattle takes place on the trip down from Montreal to Quebec, and that the mortality is even greater than on mid Ocean. Besides, I think it would be a benefit to the cattle. As I say, I am not posted on the cattle trade, and am liable to be corrected, but I should think the cattle would be better able to stand the sea voyage if they were brought down to Quebec by rail, and allowed the longest possible time ashore, and suitably fed and sheltered.

Q.—Do think time would be saved in shipping cattle at Quebec—do you think time would be saved by bringing them by rail to Quebec? A.—Yes. It would take

a shorter time to bring them down by rail than it would take the steamer to bring them down from Montreal.

Q.—Could cattle be loaded as cheaply in Quebec as in Montreal? A.—I am told that shipments of cattle cost the same between Quebec and Montreal; but any steamship owner will be better able to give you that information.

Q.—I suppose you agree with the remarks of the previous gentleman, that not only is the timber trade of Quebec falling off, but that the square trade of Canada is falling off? A.—Yes. I would like to add that it has been assumed that the timber trade is suffering a decline, that the forests will all soon be cut away, and that soon there will be no longer any timber to be shipped. I think, as a matter of fact, that Canada produces more wood than ever they did ship before, but it goes to different markets. It is not owing to the scarcity of timber that the trade in square timber has fallen off, but the manner in which it is manufactured and the various ways it is sent out of the country. Saw-mills are now stationed on all the principle rivers. I remember twenty-five years ago the question of the decline of the forests of Canada was seriously considered in England. It was said that the timber was gradually cut away, and that in forty or sixty years it would be all gone. A Commission was sent over to Canada to make enquiry, and they reported that there would be none too much for the English Railways. But as the country is being opened up, new districts are found which are supplying plenty for all requirements.

Q.—As to the question of holidays in Quebec: is any work done in the Cove on holidays? A.—No; not on religious holidays. There is no work done on holidays.

Q.—Do you know if there is a difference of opinion between the merchants and Ship Laborers' Society on the question of working on holidays? A.—I have great respect for the religious opinions of everybody. I would as soon make a man to work on Sunday as I would ask him to work on a day that he considers a day of religious obligation. Still the question of competition with Montreal comes here. If the laborers of Montreal work on Sundays and holidays, it is impossible for Quebec to compete with Montreal unless the laborers of Quebec do the same. A certain amount of work is done on Sunday. Steamers coming in on Sunday are moored to the wharf, and the work of discharging her commences. They may say it is necessitated by competition. I suppose it is. I believe the merchants of Quebec will agree with me when I say that religious obligations must be respected, and I do not think any of the merchants in Quebec would wish any man to work on a religious holiday whose conscience forbade him from doing so.

Q.—But supposing no work was done in the Coves on these holidays, would it result in loss of time—in delays in the loading of cargoes? A.—The work commences very early, to save a tide, and in the Coves they commence work very early, and send down timber to the ships before breakfast. I think the laborers will acknowledge that the shippers at the Coves do all in their power to keep them employed.

Q.—You have kindly answered all the questions that have been put to you. Can you add anything bearing upon the questions at issue between the merchants and the laborers? A.—I have very little to add. I think my views are the same as they would be were I a ship laborer to-morrow, and they are these:—The loading of timber, such as is floated in the log alongside the ship—oak, white pine, &c.—is special work, executed at great disadvantage, and having great drawbacks. The hours of the men doing this class of work are shorter than the hours of any other class of men in business, but I believe it is enough. I honestly believe they get through as much work in eight hours as they could in ten. They are pushed to it. The stevedore pushes them as hard as they can go. There is no doubt about it, and I would not wish any change to be made there; but if the business of the port is to be retained, we must do the same as in other ports, and unless we reduce ourselves to the same level as those in other ports, we can have no hope of retaining it. If the ordinary ship laborers are to hold on to timber rates for ordinary work, they cannot

expect ships to stop here. If I were a laborer, and the Montreal rate was fifty cents an hour, I would take the fifty cents; and if it was twenty-five cents an hour, I would take the twenty-five cents.

Q.—Do you know if the Montreal rate is twenty-five cents an hour? A.—Yes. Twenty and twenty-five cents an hour, I think I have heard it stated, and the work has been done year after year, without the restrictions that are connected with the work in the port of Quebec. I have spent a large part of my business life in the port of Quebec, and I have no desire to leave Quebec. I would be only too glad to see the trade come back to Quebec—sufficient to maintain myself as a merchant, and to maintain the laborer in plenty and comfort. Another point I would like to refer to. We employ other men than ship laborers. We have a large number in the Coves—boomsmen and axemen—who work for us year by year. We never had any difficulty with any of the men in our Cove, and I do not think they have had any difficulty with the men in other Coves. Were I a ship laborer, in order to compete with Montreal, I would work for the same wages that the men work for there. If a man suffers a reduction in wages, and there is sufficient employment in Quebec in summer to not only make up that reduction, but to enable him to live in comfort, he will not be a loser. There are many men that I know who go away to work in other places in the winter, and there are other men who only get one ship in a year in Quebec. I have known men, some years past, who were employed to cut wood in winter. What is a man to do who only gets one ship in the summer, and has little or no employment in the winter? Another reason is, we wish to retain the labor in Quebec, and can do so, I believe, if the men consent to a reduction; if they do not, it will simply tend to send the men, and the trade away from Quebec. I should be very sorry at the possibility of so many men being retained at a low rate of wages, and know that is not desired by the merchants. We want the men to load the fleet in the summer. We cannot distribute the fleet. Formerly there was the fall fleet. Now there is no fall fleet; the ships come in succession, and drop off during the rest of the summer.

Q.—Do you think the whole matter between the Ship Labourers and the merchants can be settled by the Board of Arbitration? A.—My own opinion is, that the Ship Labourers, two merchants, and one outside arbitrator, could decide the question of labor, or anything connected with labor, to the benefit of all concerned—they could decide anything.

Q.—Would you think it an unfortunate thing to go to arbitration? A.—I think any two merchants, and any two men, fully empowered, having the confidence of both the men and the merchants, could settle the difficulty. They could meet and talk over the thing before hand; then, being fully empowered to go into it, they could meet, and consider, and revise the rules of the Society; and should there be any difference of opinion, it could be submitted to some competent outside man.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Has not the deepening of Lake St. Peter an extra tendency to draw trade away from Quebec to Montreal? A.—It allows steamers to go to Montreal that could not previously go there. I do not think it is through that that Quebec is losing its trade; it might, to a certain extent. The vessels are not so deeply loaded going to Montreal; but coming down they have a full cargo.

Q.—If it was shallower, they would have to unload a portion going up, and load a portion coming down, in Quebec? If it was only twenty, to twenty-four feet, they would have to finish loading in Quebec; and, perhaps, discharge in Quebec? A.—Yes. But I do not think that question enters materially into the discussion.

Q.—Can a ship discharge one hundred tons of freight cheaper in Montreal than she can in Quebec? A.—I am told so. I am not connected with steamers myself; but I am told so.

Q.—In the loading of lumber, can the ship laborers of Quebec do more work in a certain given time than the ship laborers of Montreal? A.—That is my impression.

Q.—Have you any grounds for saying so? A.—No; not personally. But I can say the work is exceedingly well done; and then it can be shown that there is more work done in Quebec in the time.

Q.—Is not the season's work much longer in Montreal than the season's work in Quebec? A.—I should imagine it was shorter; it is certainly not longer.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is navigation open later in Quebec than in Montreal? A.—Navigation is open later in Quebec than it is in Montreal. I think so. A few days.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Can you give us from your experience, the average season's earnings of the ship laborers in Quebec? A.—It would be a very wide average. It would vary between the earnings of a man pretty constantly employed, and the man who can scarcely get one ship a year. Unless a body like the Ship Laborers' Society (which I suppose has a knowledge of the earnings of its members) was to give the required information, I think it would be impossible to give the average.

Q.—Do you think if the ship laborers could obtain more employment in the City of Quebec, they would go abroad to seek work? A.—No; I think they would remain in Quebec. I always found that to be the case.

Q.—If they could get better wages you think they would prefer not going elsewhere? A.—If they could obtain constant employment at respectable wages, I do not suppose they would, except, perhaps in the winter time. That is the time of year, when no doubt, a number of them do go elsewhere.

VESEY BOSWELL, Quebec, Brewer, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you do the greater portion of your malting in the winter? A.—Yes, altogether.

Q.—How many malsters do you employ? A.—Six.

Q.—What is the average wages of a good maltster, in Quebec? A.—Well, we pay our foreman different, but the men get five dollars and eighty cents a week.

Q.—How long does the season last? A.—Well, we generally malt about seven months, six or seven months. We commence in October, and finish about the beginning of May.

Q.—Are these men, in the idle season, employed at any other work? A.—I believe they are all ship labourers.

Q.—How many hours can they work at night? A.—Well, they do not work at night.

Q.—Well, how many hours do they work per day? A.—Well, they work eleven hours per day.

Q.—Are the barrels, that you use, made in Quebec, or are they made in other places? A.—We make all our own. We have got coopers, employed by us.

Q.—Can you tell us the number of hours per day, and the wages, per week, that a cooper at tight work receives? A.—Well, our coopers all work piece work, they make from eight to ten dollars a week, and they only work for us in the winter.

Q.—Do you keep your own coopers, regularly, all the time? A.—Yes; we keep one cooper, regular, all the time, and we pay him eight dollars a week, regularly, for the year.

Q.—How many hours work, will a man, on piecework, do, as a rule? A.—Ten

or twelve hours, as they think fit. The more they do, the better for themselves. Other men only work ten hours a day.

Q.—Where do you find a market for your product? A.—All in Quebec, our business is a local business.

Q.—Is it principally Canadian malt, that you use? A.—Yes; it is altogether Canadian malt. We buy the barrel, ourselves, and make our own malt.

Q.—Do you import malt? A.—No.

Q.—What kind of hops do you use? A.—We use, altogether, Bavarian hops.

Q.—Can you tell us if the demand for Canadian hops, in brewing, is on the increase? A.—I do not think so.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do you know anything of what is going on in some of the other manufacturies, beside your own? A.—We are the only brewers in Quebec.

Q.—What is used, generally, in the breweries, that is what I want to get at? A.—I have been through several breweries, but, about their business, I could not say.

Q.—Do you know what they do with all the beer, or porter, that is returned to the brewery. Is it put into use, and if so, for what purpose? A.—Well, last year, we only had a very small quantity of it returned. We used it to season our new casks. It is impossible to use a new cask immediately, it takes three months to put it in a proper condition for receiving beer, and we use our old beer to season the casks.

Q.—Do you think that some proportion of sour beer is used in making porter, for the use of the public? A.—I could not say. I understand that, occasionally, they mix a little.

Q.—From what you know about porter, would you recommend it, generally, for sick people, or is there any special porter that you could name? A.—We do not want any name, we sell ours well enough.

Q.—But, is there any that you could recommend. A.—I think so.

Q.—You think you could mention some special brewing of porter? A.—I think so, ours is carefully made, and bears a good reputation.

WALTER S. RAY, of Quebec, Manager of Messrs. Price Bros. & Co., Lumber Merchants, sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—How long have you been connected with the shipping trade of Quebec? A.—For the last twenty-one years. I spent three years with Messrs. A. Falkenburgh and Company, and the last eighteen years with Messrs. Price Brothers & Company.

Q.—Was Mr. Falkenburgh the Norwegian Consul here? A.—Yes, he was Consul-General for Sweden and Norway at that time.

Q.—Were there any labor troubles connected with his establishment when you were with him? A.—During the time I was in his employ the Quebec Ship Laborers passed a by-law prohibiting the use of foreign crews in the loading of our own vessels. Mr. Falkenburgh, then being the Scandinavian Consul, instituted proceedings against the society, whereupon the society refused labor to all the ships of Messrs. A. Falkenburgh & Company, and this action on their part practically killed his business.

Q.—Are you aware that Mr. Falkenburgh made some representation to the King of Sweden about the treatment of His Majesty's subjects in the port of Quebec? A.—I am not aware of it.

Q.—Are you aware that in any part of Sweden or Norway, Canadians would be prevented from working at their daily labor? A.—I do not think so.

Q.—Where is the bulk of the business done of Messrs. Price Brothers & Co.? A.—The bulk of our business is done outside the port of Quebec—that is outside the Harbor of Quebec. This is a good deal, owing to the action of the Ship Laborers' Society. We have mills at Batiscan and one at St. Etienne.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—How far is that from here? A.—Batiscan is sixty miles, somewhere about that, and we have mills at St. Etienne, forty miles below Quebec. We also have several mills on the Saguenay. We load our deals at Batiscan. We formerly brought them to the Port of Quebec and piled and shipped them here, but of late years we find it cheaper to ship from the outports. We found that we could even get better rates than the Quebec merchants pay for vessels here.

Q.—Do you mean to say you get ships to take freight cheaper at Batiscan than at Quebec? A.—Yes; if not cheaper we get the preference of the ship to load at Batiscan than at Quebec. In fact we have to pay two shillings and sixpence extra at Quebec, that is, vessels ordered to load at Quebec or Batiscan, and loading at Quebec have had to pay two shillings and sixpence extra. I have Charter Parties of ships and the payment is two shillings and sixpence less for outside ports than at Quebec.

Q.—Who pays the expenses? A.—The ship will have to proceed paying towage and pilotage and other expenses; here is the charter party and this clause here covers the ground referring to the clause.

Q.—One dollar and fifty-five cents if loaded at Batiscan and two dollars and fifteen cents if loaded at Quebec? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are your objections to the rules of the Quebec Ship Laborers' Society. What are the rules that you think unfair? A.—Well, their short hours I think is an objection, and in the handling of deal and sawn lumber, I do not think that it requires the skilled labour that handling timber does. And I do not think the rate of pay should be more here than in Montreal.

Q.—Several witnesses that we have heard here think it right that steam ought not to be used for square timber, while they think it ought to be used for the loading of small timber? A.—I am of opinion that steam might be used with advantage in the loading of timber, but I will not speak positively of square timber going through the ports. I certainly think steam ought to be used in putting timber over the rail. I think it should be used for small timber and I have been told by members of the Quebec Ship Laborers' Society themselves, that they would rather work with steam as there is less liability to accident by using steam than by manual labour.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You have heard the evidence about bateaux men? A.—Yes. We employ bateaux men. We have our own bateaux men, and we employ a great many outside bateaux also. We pay here for lighterage a dollar the hundred standards in the port of Quebec. We find the bateaux and they find the lighter.

Q.—How about the preparation of the boat in the spring of the year—about the caulking, at whose expense is that done? A.—That is done at our expense. We put the bateaux in order, caulking her, painting her. We employ, as a rule, but not always, bateaux men to do that work at so much per day. A dollar, or a dollar and a half a day, for that work—transferring deals to the harbour here. We pay a dollar the hundred standards in the summer time, but we have lightered deals as low as as eighty cents per hundred standards of twenty-seven hundred and fifty feet, board measure.

Q.—Will you tell us what the difference is and the average between the earnings of the same bateaux men, and others in your employ? A.—Well, our men will earn from three hundred to four hundred dollars a year, and I have known them make as

much as four hundred and fifty to five hundred dollars in a year, but I think about three hundred dollars a year is the average. Of course with the bateaux men a great deal depends upon their own exertions. Some men are not fitted for it, and make nothing at all at it.

Q.—I suppose the mistake with bateaux men is the same as with others, industry and watchfulness makes all the difference in the pay of the two classes of men you describe? A.—All the difference in the world.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Can you tell us the reason why you pay your own bateaux men one dollar per standard, and yet only pay eighty cents per standard to others who own their own bateaux? A.—I do not think we should pay our own men as low a rate as we occasionally pay others. We pay them a uniform rate of one dollar. There are times when we require outside bateaux, and when we can get it done for eighty cents per standard, but there are times when we pay a dollar to others. It would be unfair to our men if we put them down as a regular thing on the lowest basis.

Q.—Do the men that work for eighty cents a day do the same work as those who work for a dollar a day, and furnish their own bateaux into the bargain? A.—Yes. Identically the same work.

Q.—Therefore it would be better for a man not to be the proprietor of his own bateaux, and to work by the day? A.—Well, I do not quite see the force of that question. These men to whom we pay a dollar are not the owners of the bateaux. We are the owners of the bateaux, and we prefer to give them one dollar a standard. Of course we have an interest in the bateaux. We do not give all the earnings of the bateaux to the men.

Q.—Do you not believe that the proprietors of bateaux, outside of yours, ought not to have an interest in their bateaux also? A.—Yes, and they do. We engaged John Thomas' bateaux at eighty cents; he gets the others, and each agree to receive a share, that is the way it is divided.

Q.—That is the way it is done by outside bateaux-men; they have a share of the eighty cents while you have a share of the dollar? A.—Yes.

Q.—When a bateau-man belonging to you is kept alongside the ship a certain number of days, do you pay your men? A.—Yes, we make an allowance.

Q.—If an outside bateau, one that is not your own, is kept waiting, do you pay something also? A.—Yes; as a rule we make them some allowance in accordance with the circumstances.

Q.—You pay outside men the same price as you pay your own men for the time they lose? A.—As a rule we pay them more, because with our own men we are able to make it up to them by giving them other work reserved specially for them, and with the outside bateauxmen we make this consideration a strictly cash one. If we keep one of our own bateaux outside the ship too long, we say "we will give you another load to make shorter time." In the case of the other men we have no further employment for him, so that as we have nothing to give him in return, we pay him in cash.

Q.—Have you any objection to say how much you give a day to the men who are kept alongside the ship? A.—We have no stated tariff, we pay them in accordance with the nature of the agreement made with them at the time and the circumstances, and because of the delay.

Q.—You cannot give an average of what you pay to these men? A.—Well, I will try to make it up, one dollar and fifty cents to two dollars a day per man.

Q.—That is for the time they are kept alongside the ship? A.—Yes. But it very often happens with outside bateaux that they are required to lighter stuff for a steamship—in fact, it has occurred last Fall, when they were waiting the arrival of the steamers, when they were ready last Fall—that the steamer was detained and that they had to wait for the steamer, and of course that was not their agreement.

They had to wait a week without compensation. Those were our men and outside men as well.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Are you conversant with the wages paid the men in the mills? A.—Not definitely. I have a general idea of what they get.

Q.—Can you speak definitely? A.—No. If you wanted to question me on individuals I could not.

Q.—Can you tell us the general wages paid the men in the mills? A.—From seventy cents to a dollar a day.

Q.—Are these men employed the year round? A.—Not the whole of them. The great bulk of them are. We keep as many as we possibly can during the winter about our establishment, and the good men we employ on the drive, and, as a rule, we do not start our season until our drive hands are down.

Q.—What hours do these men work in the mills? A.—Ten to eleven hours a day.

Q.—What wages do you pay the pilers in the yard? A.—Well, that I could not positively say—I could not positively say what they get. You are speaking of the mills; I fancy the wages would be about eighty or ninety cents, perhaps one dollar a day. It varies one season with another.

Q.—You need not answer this question unless you like. Are your men paid in cash? A.—Our men are paid in cash all round.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Yours is a long established firm? A.—Yes. It has been established for the last thirty-five or forty years as a firm.

Q.—And your firm has always made it an object to keep the same men employed year by year? A.—Yes; they have.

Q.—For that purpose they pay them sometimes higher wages than they give men whom they employ outside their staff? A.—Occasionally—at times they have done so, but, as a rule, we have reserved the work we have to do for our own men. For instance, it would be much more convenient for us to start our season a month or a fortnight earlier, but our best men are out on the drive, and we would not commence our season until they return, because we do not wish them, on their return from the drive, to find their places taken by outsiders; if they did they would be out of employment. In that way we do all in our power to protect the men that are with us. We employ the same men on the drive that we employ in the winter—the same men that we employ in the shanties in the winter are on the drive in the spring, and in the saw-mills in summer.

Q.—When the men are in the shanties in winter time can their families get their money? A.—Yes. The families can get supplies from the mill when required. They are allowed to draw so much a month when the men are away.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—What do you mean by supplies—cash or store goods? A.—It is optional with them whether they take the cash or go to the store.

Q.—Do you make a practice of paying the men partly in cash and partly in store goods? A.—No; we pay them in cash. They can get goods at the store if they like. If they like to go to our store for goods they can do so. At some of our establishments there are no other stores but our own, and, of course, they have got to go to our store.

Q.—That is in remote places? A.—Yes; that is at Sault-au-Cauchon and St. Etienne.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—There are no other stores at these places ? A.—No ; we would prefer if there were other storekeepers there.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you ever loaded a ship or taken any part in the loading of a ship ? A.—I have delivered stuff from the wharf to the shipping company.

Q.—Have you ever loaded a ship yourself or taken any part in the loading of a ship ? A.—If you mean actual stevedoring, I have not, but I have delivered goods in the port of the ship.

Q.—Can you tell us of any rules of the Quebec Ship Laborers' Society that are detrimental to the interests of this port ? A.—Yes, article forty. I refer to the latter clauses. This article specifies the number of men forming timber gangs, according to the tonnage of vessels, down to, and including the second paragraph of the seventh clause, the eighth clause reads: "Vessels of six hundred tons and above, having no bow or stern port holes, taking a part or a whole cargo of timber, shall employ the same gang as double-ported vessels of six hundred tons and over. Under six hundred tons shall employ the same gang as double ported vessels under six hundred tons. Steamships loading or discharging general cargo shall employ no less than sixteen men for each compartment, the stevedore having the privilege to discharge the men at the finishing of the said compartment." The ninth clause reads: "All vessels of six hundred tons and above, taking a cargo of deals, boards, etc., shall employ twenty men at the loading of said vessel, under six hundred tons, sixteen men." Now, I think under that rule, a ship is very often saddled with twice the men she requires, especially in loading lumber cargoes, and this leads to bad stowage. I also think that the rule constituting eight hours a day's work objectionable. I refer to rule forty-one, which reads: "Eight hours will constitute a day's work, commencing at seven in the morning, one hour to breakfast, the same for dinner, and leave off at five in the evening." I have very often seen a whole timber ship's gang idle a whole morning on account of a little rain, and I have seen it fine in the afternoon, when the work would be begun at one o'clock. Then they would "knock off" at five o'clock, so that it would be impossible for them to make eight hours that day, starting, as they would, at one o'clock. I think the working day should be ten hours, the same as in Montreal. Then rule forty-two: "That no member of this society shall work on board any vessel where a donkey engine is used in loading or discharging timber, deals, boards, &c., except spool wood." And rule forty-three, refusing or disallowing the men to work with outsiders. "Any member of this society who works with a foreman who is not a member of this society shall be fined one day's pay for each day he shall have worked;" and the same remark applies to rule forty-five: "No member of this society is to work with an outsider under a fine of one day's pay for each day he has worked," and article forty-six is decidedly objectionable: "All members of this society working overtime, that is before working hours in the morning and after working hours in the evening, shall claim at the rate of time and a half, and double time for Sundays and holidays, under a fine of one day's pay for each day they have worked." In the case of steamships, I think this it particularly hard, and we need never look for any steamship trade here in the port of Quebec if that rule is persisted in. Article forty-nine, I object to, it is this: "No member of this society will work in any vessels where the sailors are employed in the capacity of ship laborers at the loading or taking in broken stowage." I would certainly object to this. I do not see why sailors should not be allowed to work, especially in the matter of taking in broken stowage, and it is a rule that does considerable harm without doing the laborers any corresponding good. In all probability the captain may only have three or four men able to work the cargo, but his liberty is curtailed by this rule. In article fifty-one I think great injustice is done to ships and merchants

here: "All persons loading a cargo or taking a portion of deals, staves, boards, or any kind of lumber must employ four men to stow said cargo, at the rate of four dollars per day; and it shall be distinctly understood that the four men stowing are not to carry under a penalty of one day's pay for each day they have worked." The vessel may have to take in two or three hundred loads of timber, perhaps ten or fifteen, on account of the cargo and the balance of deals, and yet the captain is obliged to take a full timber gang, and towards the completion of the vessel you see these men practically doing nothing, as I have often seen them. Rule fifty-five I object to, it states "If any master undertakes to load his vessel with his crew, a record of such shall be taken and he shall be deprived of labor hereafter by the association." That, I think, is wrong on the part of the society, and prevents vessels from coming here. I think the cost of labor is a little too high, in the discharging of coal vessels particularly. I have a strong objection to that. I know as far as we are concerned, having to employ ship laborers at the rate of four dollars a day for discharging coal, practically forbids us from lightering coal in Quebec; and in fact, it pays us better to take the coal to Montreal rather than to put it down here. There we can discharge it at half the cost we can here.

Q.—Are they all the rules of this society, that you object to? A.—I think so. They are the principal ones, at any rate. I think they are all.

Q.—You have stated which of the rules you consider objectionable, in your opinion. Now, will you kindly give us what you consider as amendments to those rules? A.—Well, I say, as a general amendment, that, in my opinion, labour should be perfectly free.

Q.—And you are of opinion that there should be no rules to govern this trade? A.—No; I think that any class of labour, and, in fact, all labourers, are bound to protect themselves. I am, certainly, with them on that point; but I have a strong objection to arbitrary rules, such as they have laid down, to govern the trade of this port.

Q.—You think, then, that the ship labourers might have a society, and that somebody else should make the rules for them to work under? A.—I think, as a Benevolent Society, they should certainly protect themselves. As far as the Benevolent Society is concerned, I think it is a very good one.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You think, if any man submits to rules, prepared by other persons, that are not for his good, and that are, also, not for the general good, they would not meet with your approval? A.—No; and, I think, suggestions might be made in this case, and considered by the Society.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you any knowledge of what it costs to load vessels in Quebec, before the formation of this society, and if so, are you of opinion, that vessels are loaded cheaper, now, than they were before the formation of the society? A.—No; I should not be surprised to learn that it does cost less. I know that there are not so many vessels stopping here, now, and that the facilities are better for loading.

Q.—Have you heard, that before this society was instituted, the men were sometimes defrauded out of their pay by captains of vessels, and stevedores? A.—Yes; I have heard that.

Q.—And that was one of the reasons why the society was formed? A.—Yes; I am quite aware of it, and I think it very proper, but, I think, they have gone a little farther than they ought to have gone, in framing these by-laws.

Q.—Do you know, that previous to the formation of this society, there was no provision for the relief of the distressed among the labourers? A.—Yes; I am thoroughly in accordance with the benevolent objects of the society, in contradiction to the arbitrary rules, which cripple the trade of this port. I know that the Society forces a captain to take double the number of men that he requires.

Q.—Does the Society not relieve distressed and afflicted members and their families? A.—I think that the rules made have caused far more distress than existed formerly. I know as far as we are concerned—and we have had ample opportunity to observe the effects of the workings of this Society, the result has been to drive vessels into the outports at two shillings and sixpence to five shillings less the St. Petersburg standard, and I know that these vessels go to places they never thought of going to before.

Q.—Do you know that the Quebec Ship Laborers' Society provides relief against accident received by its members; that it relieves distressed members; makes some provisions for the families of those in distress, and for the widow and orphan? A.—That was apparently the object they had in view in organizing the Society.

Q.—Do you know that previous to the adoption of these by-laws, it cost one dollar and forty cents to one dollar and fifty cents per St. Petersburg standard, to load deals? A.—No; but I know that they are loading deals up in Montreal to-day for less than it is done here, or in any of our outports—at half the cost it is done here.

Q.—Carloads are loaded here at one dollar the St. Petersburg standard. Can they be loaded less than that in Montreal? A.—I have no practical knowledge of what it is at Montreal, but I understand that they can be loaded there for about seventy cents.

CHARLES DUBÉ, Quebec, Manager, sworn:

I am Manager of Messrs. Dobell, Beckett & Co.'s bateaux.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q.—How long have you been acting in this capacity? A.—Eleven or twelve years.

Q.—Do you know if there is any written agreement between Messrs. Dobell, Beckett & Co. and their bateau men? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you tell us the terms of that agreement? A.—They bind themselves in the spring of the year, to work the bateaux for the season, and they all get one-third of the earnings. Messrs. Dobell, Beckett & Co. pay for the tear and wear—all the expenses.

Q.—When the men want to get away, are they kept back—are they prevented from leaving? A.—No. Our agreement is for them to give fifteen days' notice, but when a man wants to get away to better himself, we always let him go away, if he gets a man to replace him. If he gets a man to replace him, we always let him go away.

Q.—You do this without referring to Messrs. Dobell, Beckett & Co.? A.—It is the orders that I got when I commenced to work for them, twelve or fifteen years ago.

Q.—Are the men all satisfied with that agreement? A.—Yes; there are no complaints.

Q.—Were they present when it was made out? A.—Yes; they were present when it was made out, and it was sanctioned by them.

Q.—Did any men go to Messrs. Dobell, Beckett & Co. and complain of the agreement? A.—Never.

Q.—Nor to you? A.—Never.

Q.—What are the wages paid by Messrs. Dobell, Beckett & Co. to their employees for their labor? A.—We pay some one dollar the hundred, standard, and four dollars and fifty cents for staves.

Q.—When they are detained, do they receive any compensation for that? A.—Yes. It is not always we can claim demurrage on a ship; but when a ship detains a

bateau by their own neglect, we charge the ship nine dollars a day, and the bateaux men get three dollars each, when it is a just claim. We have an order book in the office, in which the orders are kept from the captains, when they want so many deals for broken stowage and so on. Often, say, perhaps, if I do not get the timber tomorrow, if I do not get the deals when Mr. Beckett gave him the order, I might say to the stevedore or timber-tower, "Do you think that ship will get the timber tomorrow?" I have been promised so and so. When I get it out, it will have to go down the river and wait until the tide turns, and, so as not to keep the ship idle, I provide time for these things. It may happen to one timber-tower that the ship cannot work to discharge the bateaux the next day, and the next. In cases like that, there is a claim for demurrage on the ship, and it is a point Messrs. Dobell & Co. always insist upon to get the men their pay for demurrage; and I know instances where Messrs. Dobell & Co. have sacrificed their own interests, and have given what they have obtained to the men, in order to come to a compromise. They would pay six dollars instead of nine dollars, and of course Messrs. Dobell & Co. would give the six dollars to the men.

Q.—What about the fitting out of the bateaux? A.—The men do it themselves.

Q.—At their own expense? A.—Of course, we furnish all the materials ourselves.

Q.—In cases of dispute between your men and their employers, how are these affairs generally settled? A.—They have been told on several occasions by Mr. Dobell, "If the men have any complaints against the work, or in any way against the agent, let them come to us, and explain their cause, and we are ready to rectify it." I never saw any go to complain, and I have told them any time they were not satisfied, come to us and let us know your grievances.

Q.—What, in your opinion, are the earnings of the bateauxmen to fall off the last few years? A.—Well, that is easy to see. The deals don't come here now. They are shipped in Montreal, and they don't come to Quebec.

Q.—It is said that Messrs. Dobell, Beckett & Company made extraordinary overtures to the men to break up their society, do you know anything about that? A.—No; I know nothing about that. I came after the society was broken up. There is one thing I know, I know they had a meeting of the bateauxmen, that was after the society was broken up; Messrs. Dobell offered to help them.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Were you present at that meeting? A.—I was present at a meeting of the bateauxmen when they made this agreement. Mr. Dobell told them, "If you want to form a benevolent society amongst yourselves, if you want to form it, and make your own laws and conduct it amongst yourselves, we are willing to subscribe every year to your funds." But this was after their society was broken up. There was no Bateaux Man's Society at the time.

Q.—Do you know if, at any time, Messrs. Dobell, Beckett & Company, after making arrangements with a man, tried to break it? A.—No.

Q.—Do Messrs. Dobell, Beckett & Company, in case they want to sell one of their bateaux, do they stipulate that they will employ them in carrying freight that season? A.—Last year they sold five, and it was one of the conditions of sale that the man should remain in the batteau for a year.

Q.—What are the average earnings of the men? A.—I will read to you a memorandum which I have got here, up to eighteen hundred and eighty-seven, you will there see the figures for every year. In eighteen hundred and seventy-seven, each man earned an average of three hundred and eighty-eight dollars and fifteen cents. In eighteen hundred and seventy-eight, each man earned an average of three hundred and sixty-one dollars. In eighteen hundred and seventy-nine, each man earned an average of two hundred and ninety-three dollars. In eighteen hundred and eighty, each man earned an average of three hundred and fifty-six dollars. In

eighteen hundred and eighty one, each man earned an average of two hundred and seventy-nine dollars. In eighteen hundred and eighty-two, each man earned an average of three hundred and three dollars. In eighteen hundred and eighty-three, each man earned an average of two hundred and ninety-three dollars. In eighteen hundred and eighty four, each man earned an average of three hundred and twenty-five dollars. In eighteen hundred and eighty-five, each man earned an average of two hundred and ninety-five dollars. In eighteen hundred and eighty-six, each man earned an average of two hundred and eighty-two dollars. In eighteen hundred and eighty-seven, last year, each man earned an average of one hundred and ninety-nine dollars and eighty-nine cents.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Some men earn a good deal more, and some less? A.—Not much. Because the rule of the bateaux is that every man shall get his turn. When there are four or five bateaux, the first man goes and takes his orders. Sometimes he takes an order and loses by it, and other times he profits by it.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Are they obliged to furnish their boats? Do you know of anybody who is obliged to furnish his boat? A.—His boat has got to be in a fair condition. Every man in the port of Quebec furnishes them, and his grub.

Q.—For their own bateaux? A.—Yes, I will answer the question for bateaux; but for schooners, I know nothing about them.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Are they obliged to furnish oars and boat hooks? A.—No.

Q.—When they break them in the service of the company, are they obliged to replace them? A.—No; they are not. That never happened. Even if a man broke a boat hook, he is supposed to get another in its place.

Q.—He is supposed to get it, but does he get it? A.—Yes.

Q.—When they ask for them, they get them? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does a man, at the beginning, have to clean his bateaux, and repair them? A.—No; the repairing is done by our carpenters.

Q.—You pay them for repairing the boats? A.—Yes.

Q.—What do you pay them? A.—Eighty cents a day.

Q.—Those that clear the ice away, and paint the bateaux, what are they paid? A.—No.

Q.—Why? A.—Because it is partly their duty to do it. It is part of their agreement to work eight or ten days without any pay. It is a thing that is always done. The men, in the spring of the year, go and look after their bateaux.

Q.—If the man who cleans those bateaux, should fall sick and lose time, he would not be able to do it? A.—Certainly not.

Q.—Do you employ a man outside of your own bateaux? A.—I employ men outside of our own bateaux. I employ more than one; I have several.

Q.—Do you pay these men the same price as you do your own bateaux men? A.—No; I pay them eighty cents the hundred.

Q.—How much do you pay your own men? A.—One dollar.

Q.—Did you sell any bateaux last year? A.—We sold five.

Q.—Last year? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you employ the men who work on these bateaux? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much do they receive per standard? A.—One dollar.

Q.—Why do these receive one dollar, while the others only receive eighty cents? A.—Because it is the agreement with the men that bought the bateaux of Messrs. Dobell.

Q.—If you employed a lot of men for a day's work, and they all did the same work, should they not receive the same wages? A.—Yes.

Q.—And yet you employed some men at eighty cents, and some men at one dollar to do precisely the same work? A.—The conditions are different.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You say those in the employ of Messrs. Dobell, Beckett & Company get one dollar, and that outside men are paid eighty cents? A.—Yes.

Q.—They pay their regular men a higher rate than outside men? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—The man who buys Messrs. Dobell, Beckett & Company's bateaux and who work upon it are they not outside men? A.—No; they are on the same terms as our own men.

Q.—They are outside men? A.—Yes; they are considered outside men, but I want to state that they were sold to these men, and that these men get the same kind of work as Messrs. Dobell, Beckett & Company's own men.

Q.—When the orders come out every man gets his order in turn? A.—Yes; The men that work for Messrs. Dobell, & Company, take the orders in turn, that is the nature of the contract they sign.

Q.—Can you furnish a copy of the agreement? A.—Yes; and I want to state in evidence that the men sign the contracts. I want to swear on oath, that I read that agreement and explained it to every man excepting the old hands, and they I asked, are you going to sign the agreement, and they would ask if there was any change, and I would say "yes" if there was, and if not I would say "no," and they would say "all right" and they would sign it. To every man that goes into our bateaux that agreement is read to him before he signs it.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Then you know that every man employed last year knew the conditions of the agreement that he was working under? A.—Yes; I am very positive.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Has it not happened to you that you have kept a bateaux man waiting for eight or ten days alongside the ship? A.—We have never kept them. They are kept by the ship. We never keep them alongside the ship, it is not to our interest to do so.

Q.—Who are the men working for? Are they kept by you or by the ship? A.—If the ship has lots of deals as broken stowage, and does not take them aboard and keeps the bateaux waiting, that ship pays for it. If you want to know who pays the men it is Messrs. Dobell, Beckett & Company, they pay their wages.

Q.—The men that work for Messrs. Dobell, Beckett & Company, have they the right to receive an order from the captain? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then when the men are kept alongside the ship for a certain time, or for several days, they have a right to charge it to Messrs. Dobell, Beckett & Company and not to the captain? A.—The captain gives his orders in writing in our books. When the captain wants deals he goes into the office and gives his orders. He states that he wants so many deals on such a day, and if he does not discharge them, and take them into the ship, the ship is responsible for it, and Messrs. Dobell, Beckett & Company, who are responsible for the bateaux men, do all in their power to collect the money from the ship, and as soon as they collect the money from the ship, they give the money to the bateaux men at once. That is a part of the agreement. When Messrs. Dobell, Beckett & Company do not receive the demurrage from the ship, the men lose the time sometimes, and more times I have seen Mr. Dobell pay it out of his own pocket.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—When the firm did not receive any demurrage from the ship? A.—Yes.

In the case of the French ship "The Pandora," the men got twenty-seven hours demurrage and Messrs. Dobell, Beckett & Company did not collect it from the steamer.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Were there any cases where Messrs. Dobell, Beckett & Company did not pay them? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do any of those engaged by you by contract, work for other people? A.—

No. Q.—If they lose time waiting on a ship whom do you hold responsible? A.—We hold them responsible for the time the captain makes them lose.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you hold them responsible if they do not get their pay? A.—Well, they have got to do their work; if we cannot collect it, the men cannot get it.

Q.—It is part of the profit and loss? A.—It is part of the profit and loss.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—The men who are engaged by Messrs. Dobell, Beckett & Company are obliged to give fifteen days notice to the firm before leaving? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did it ever happen that you kept men waiting, without working, longer than fifteen days? A.—I cannot say, because, of course, I cannot keep the run of every man. Of course, there are certain times when there are no ships, and if we have not got the work to give them, they cannot work. I want you to understand that Messrs. Dobell, Beckett & Company's men are not working by day work, but by the load. If they make six dollars they get two. The more they make the more they get, but they cannot bind us to give them constant work. We cannot do it, but we give them the work when we can get it to give them.

Q.—Well. Then if they do not have any work to do, you do not pay them? A.—No.

Q.—In that case they are obliged to wait for a ship? A.—Yes.

Q.—And they may wait without working, longer than fifteen days? A.—They wait until we have got work for them. I cannot say they wait for fifteen days because, as I say, I do not keep the run of every man.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You act on the principle "No work, No pay"? A.—No. Certainly not.

Q.—The men have to give fifteen days' notice if they desire to leave Messrs. Dobell, Beckett and Company's employ? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many years have you been in their service? A.—Eleven or twelve years.

Q.—And how many men have been obliged, by you, to give fifteen days' notice during that period? A.—Well, I do not believe four men, because if they want to better themselves I get another man, and pay, them off.

Q.—And therefore you do not wish to keep a man grumbling and working? A.—No.

But the men, as a rule, remain with us.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do you retain a percentage of the salary of the men? A.—Yes. Ten per cent off, and that is paid them in the fall.

Q.—If a man leaves does he lose that? A.—I never knew of a man losing his percentage even when he went away. Any man who left a bateau when I was absent, when he came back, he got his percentage.

Q.—Do you pay interest on what you keep back? A.—No.

COPY OF AGREEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE ABOVE DEPOSITION.

We, the undersigned, do not belong to any bateau society, and we hereby agree to work as bateaumen on any one of Dobell, Beckett & Co.'s bateaux, and to obey all orders and instructions in connection with the working of said bateaux, and Dobell, Beckett & Co. agree to pay for all work done at the rates and conditions named in their bateau tariff of 1879, with the exception that nothing extra is to be paid for discharging at vessels in the stream, or at Cap Rouge, the rate being an all-round one of \$1 for deals, \$4.50 for pipe staves and \$1.50 for W.I. staves.

The proportions of the earnings to be divided between the owners and the bateaumen as heretofore.

Should we, individually or collectively, at any time deem ourselves aggrieved, and wish to leave our present employment to make any other arrangement, we bind ourselves, individually and collectively, to give a fortnight notice, in writing, during which time we are to obey and execute all orders as usual in connection with working of said bateaux, under a penalty of forty dollars for each individual for non-compliance with the said orders, and at the expiration of a fortnight after due notice has been given, in writing, we undertake to deliver the bateaux which we worked, together with the outfit of the said bateaux, to the owners, in good order and condition and satisfactory to them, at either Sillery or Point au Pizeau Coves, as owners may direct.

And the said Dobell, Beckett & Co. reserve the right of discharging the undersigned, individually or collectively, on any Saturday of any week, without giving a previous notice, and the payment of monies due him or them on that day will be his or their discharge.

We also agree, in case of collision arising through the fault of one or both of us working in a bateau jointly, to pay our share of any damages that may be occasioned thereby.

At the end of the present season, if not ordered before, we are to bring our bateaux to any cove that the said Dobell, Beckett & Co. may direct, and to deliver the same, with all the outfit, in good order and condition, ordinary wear and tear of the boats being allowed for, and to dry properly the sails, and to store them away in such a place as Dobell, Beckett & Co. may direct, and in such a way as will be satisfactory to them.

Bateaumen not to leave their bateaux until these conditions have been complied with.

It is also agreed that the captain of a bateau shall receive the earnings due himself and mate on the Saturday of each week, and that his receipt will be a sufficient discharge for himself and the man working in the same bateau with him.

And it is understood that Dobell, Beckett & Co. have the right to retain one-tenth of the earnings of each bateau to cover damages which may arise through the neglect of the bateaumen until the end of the season, when a final settlement will be made.

Dobell, Beckett & Co. agree to protect the bateaumen in any claims they may be fairly entitled to for demurrage of their bateaux alongside of ships, and any amount recovered from the vessels to be divided, as usual, and payments made immediately the amounts are collected by Dobell, Beckett & Co.

If any bateauman wishes to be towed by a steamer, it must be at his or their proportionate cost, but if towed at request of owners, they, Dobell, Beckett & Co., to pay the cost.

Signed at Quebec, this 5th day of May, 1887.

LEON GIROUX,
LOUIS NOLIN,
VICTOR HARDY,
C. MCGINLEY,
EUGENE BUISSON,

HUBERT ROBERGE,
JOHN GUILLUIOTTE,
LOUIS MARTEL,
C. MCGINLEY,
FRANCOIS GONEDECK,

ALFRED BERTHRAM,
 IRENE CARL,
 ATHANASE BERGERON,
 BAZILE GINGRAS,
 LOUIS BERTHIAUME,
 THOS. VALLIERE,
 CHAS. DUVAL,
 ANTOINE FOISY,
 HONORÉ MECTEAU,
 JOSEPH MASSÉ,

JOHN FORTIER,
 EUSTACHE ROBERGE,
 JAMES BERGERON,
 JOHN GINGRAS,
 JOS. FORTIER,
 JAS. BRUNETTE,
 HONORÉ BLAIRE,
 EUGENE MARCOIX,
 PIERRE FORTIER,
 JOSEPH DESNOYER.

Witness to the signatures,

CHAS. DUBÉ.

Sillery Cove, May 5, 1887.

WILLIAM H. NAYLOR, Quebec, Manager and Superintendent of the Quebec
 Worsted Company, sworn:

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—How many people are employed in your factory? A.—I could not tell exactly—somewhere about one hundred and fifty.

Q.—How many females are employed amongst that number? A.—About one hundred and fifty.

Q.—What are the wages paid to the females? A.—They run from twenty-five cents a day up to one dollar a day.

Q.—How many receive twenty-five cents a day? A.—That I could not tell you without looking at the books.

Q.—How many hours a day do they work? A.—Ten hours a day.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you employ and discharge all hands? A.—Yes. Well, the foremen under me, if anything is wrong, have the authority in their own hands, but generally, if anything is wrong, they come to me.

Q.—Have you got any girls in your establishment who receive the wages of three cents an hour? A.—Yes; that is thirty cents a day.

Q.—Do you impose any fines in your establishment? A.—No.

Q.—Have you ever discharged a young woman because she did not work on religious holidays? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have they to work on religious holidays? A.—Yes. On certain holidays they are asked to do it, and they undoubtedly do it. It is absolutely necessary that they shall work on certain holidays, if I am to compete with the Ontario manufacturers. If they do not do it, they have only one recourse, and that is to go elsewhere.

Q.—Do you pay the same prices as the Ontario manufacturers? A.—We pay somewhere near the same prices as the other manufacturers for the same work to-day, as near as I can tell. I have been in Ontario for five years, and I can say that we are paying the same to-day, as I know what they are paying.

Q.—Can you tell us what the ages are of the youngest in your establishment? A.—I never ask their age. If they are small, I do not take them, but their age is a question I never ask.

Q.—You never ask their age? A.—No. I take them by their size and general appearance.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of your mills? A.—Good.

Q.—How is the ventilation? A.—Good.

- Q.—Is there much dust in the room? A.—None whatever.
- Q.—Are there separate conveniences for both sexes? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Distinct? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Are they altogether? A.—There are three in each room and one outside.
- Q.—Are there any fire escapes? A.—There are stairways at each end of the factory.
- Q.—Are there any fire escapes outside the stairways at each end of the factory? A.—No.
- Q.—Do the doors open inwards or outwards? A.—They open outwards.
- Q.—What would be the average age of the girls? A.—The ages of the boys and girls are ten to fourteen.
- Q.—Would fourteen be the average? A.—Yes.
- Q.—What would the average pay be for a girl in your factory? A.—They receive twenty-five cents a day first, that is three cents an hour, then they receive three and a quarter an hour, which is forty-five cents a day—according to their skill, and the time they are employed.
- Q.—Do you work after hours? A.—No.
- Q.—Do they eat their dinner in the factory? A.—Those that take their dinner do. The majority of them go home to dinner.
- Q.—What time do they have for dinner? A.—Three quarters of an hour.
- Q.—Are they paid weekly or fortnightly? A.—Fortnightly.
- Q.—In cash? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Have you got any men working in your factory? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Have you many? A.—There are somewhere about thirty or forty.
- Q.—Have your hands ever requested the firm to pay them weekly? A.—No.
- Q.—Are many of your senior employees ever garnished for debts? A.—One was.
- Q.—Was he discharged from the factory? A.—No.
- Q.—He was kept on? A.—Yes.
- Q.—What are the wages of the men? A.—They average from one dollar a day to three dollars a day.
- Q.—What position does the man occupy who receives three dollars a day? A.—Well, he bosses, he is the boss dyer.
- Q.—Are the wages of the employees the same in summer as in winter? A.—Yes. They work the same and the wages are the same.
- Q.—Do they work the whole year round? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Has any accident happened in the mills? A.—Well, we have had a couple since we went there the last year and a half.
- Q.—What was the nature of the accidents? A.—Well, perhaps a girl, boy or man, puts his fingers in the machine and it "trips" him.
- Q.—Does the shafting run on the floor? A.—No. Above.
- Q.—Who attends to the machinery and belting in the work rooms? A.—The bosses.
- Q.—Are the girls charged for any work that is spoiled? A.—No. But perhaps it would be as well for me to say here that I think it would be as well to put us on the level with the English manufacturers as we have to compete with them. In fact we find it absolutely necessary to threaten them (the employees). The value of the work depends upon the quality. In England and elsewhere, they are fined for that reason for imperfect work, and we have to keep up with other manufacturers in the quality of our work.
- Q.—Is the use of Canadian wool increasing more than formerly, or is it decreasing? A.—No; it is decreasing.
- Q.—What kind of wool do you use? A.—We use fine wools—Australian.
- Q.—Why does not Canadian wool come more into use? A.—The reason is, people want soft goods. They do not want hard, lustrous goods; they do not want it now. They want the material to feel soft, and, for that reason, they buy foreign

goods, and, in order to compete with foreign manufacturers, we have to buy foreign wools.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Can you give us the name of any mill, in Ontario, that pays girls twenty-five cents a day? A.—Messrs. McRae, & Company, of Guelph. Do you wish for any more names.

Q.—Just as you like; does your mill run at night? A.—We have to do it. We cannot do all the work we wish in the day time.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Do you think it just to those hands, who decline to work on these holidays, that you should compel them to work? A.—It is not a question of justice. It is a question of business. I have got to keep my hands up to the work, and I have got to look at the extra interest it costs in manufacturing. To one, it might cost only fifty dollars, and to another, one hundred dollars, and, if I entered into an agreement to supply certain goods, if we work, we can supply them, and fulfil the contract; but, if we do not work, and cannot supply them according to the contract, we will have to shut up the shop. The question is, which is the best justice—to pay steady, and fair wages, or to let the place stand idle, and have no work for the work people.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Your reason is, that it is better to keep the mill running, by working on holidays, and night time, in order to compete with other manufacturers, than close the mill? A.—Yes.

Q.—You do not work on Sundays? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Are you not aware that most people respect those days that are set apart as religious holidays? A.—Certainly; and I try to respect them all I can. I do not want to hurt the feelings of anyone, but if we do not work the same number of hours in the year, that the mills work in other places, we cannot produce the amount of work that is necessary to run the mill, and fulfil our contracts.

Q.—Would you like to work on Sundays? A.—No; but, if there was a necessity for it, I would certainly do so, if not, I would wish not to do it. I am quite willing to take all the holidays I can.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Can you tell us, if, last year, your mill was closed, during certain holidays? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you tell us those days that you closed? A.—We closed on every holiday last year; but part of the mill was open.

Q.—Then, there was no holiday? A.—Yes; but we did not run more than fifteen or twenty hands on any holiday last year. These were people who were obliged to run their machines in order that we might keep up with certain others.

Q.—When did you discharge the young girl that did not choose to work for you on a holiday? A.—If you will tell me her name, I might be able to remember; or I can inform you to-morrow, on reference to the books.

Q.—Did you not say, a while ago, that you discharged a girl that did not choose to work on a holiday? A.—I discharged many a one.

Q.—When did you discharge them? A.—That, I could not tell you exactly from memory; and I have sworn to tell the truth.

Q.—Was it last year? A.—Yes; it was last year. In other words—perhaps the order is to deliver work, a certain article a certain time, and all the others have

to work—consequently, why should not these girls that you refer to? I may say that this is done with the full knowledge of the Reverend Mr. Bélanger, Curé of St. Rochs; and all know that it is in cases of extreme necessity that they are asked to work. Fifteen or twenty is as many as we have had working on any occasion on a holiday.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do I understand you to say that at one time the factories shut on a holiday; and at another time you dismissed these young women for not working on a holiday? A.—I do not say that; but I say this: on every holiday last year we had to stop the mill to some extent; that on some of these holidays we had to stop the mill to a great extent; that on some of these holidays we had to run from ten, fifteen to twenty hands. I can tell you by the books. And they have, at times, been forced to work on a holiday: but on such occasions I always tell them three or four days before hand that we want them to work on such and such a day.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—You said there was a decrease in the use of Canadian wool. Do you think that state of affairs will be permanent? A.—No. Fashions undoubtedly change. For instance, some ten years ago the ladies wanted alpaca dresses, also mohair; they now require something soft, such as cashmere and fine wools. But no man can answer for the changes in fashion. The fashions may soon change, and Canadian wools be more in demand.

Q.—Do you think there is some remedy? Supposing the wool could be made suitable for all occasions, by altering the breed of the sheep, by introducing other breeds into Canada? A.—I have told the farmers just what you refer to. I have told them that if they obtained some Morena bucks, and cross them with Canadian ewes, they would then get a coarse breed that would produce wool such as they bring from Australia.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You might have better wool, but you would have less meat? A.—Yes; you would have less meat, but more wool. South-Down wools are better than others, at present.

Q.—Is wool more valuable at the present time than formerly? A.—Wool is always valuable.

Q.—You have no suggestions to make beyond what you have stated? A.—One suggestion I would like to make here; and it is this: It would be a good thing to have a Factory Inspector; not one that would simply “go through” a factory, but one that would carefully and conscientiously discharge his duty. There are some boys and girls in factories that should not be there; and some factories may need reforming. You would find the work of such an Inspector prove a great deal more satisfactory, and a great deal better, than calling us here.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—In discharging this young girl, you only discharged one at that time? A.—You refer to a certain occasion; and I could not tell you without you tell us the name.

Q.—Did ever any young ladies go off, half a dozen at a time, on account of this statutory holiday, and you only discharged one or two of the number? A.—No; that would be favoritism.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Have you any favorites? A.—No. I saw in the paper of Saturday night—the *Telegraph*—that one girl was discharged, and that she was not paid her full wages. We pay by the hour, and if anyone works a quarter of an hour over, she

gets paid. If she is only working ten minutes, she gets paid, and there is no work for which we are owing a cent of wages, that we know of. If this girl comes down to the factory, and there is anything owing her, and she can show the length of time she worked there, we shall undoubtedly pay her. We never let them go away without paying them what is due them.

Q.—Who pays the employees? A.—The secretary.

Q.—Can he not make a mistake, and not know it? A.—He could make a mistake, and might not know it, certainly. But, if she came down, we would certainly have it righted.

Q.—She may be short now of money, and not know this? A.—Yes, but if she goes to the factory she will undoubtedly get it righted.

Q.—Did you hear of anyone of late going away without being paid in full? A.—We are willing to pay them at any time.

Q.—If you discharged them, you would pay them? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—If you discharge them, and they leave the factory, do they get paid at once? A.—Yes, if they come down to the office for it.

Q.—If you discharged them, have they got to wait until pay-day, or if some of the bosses discharged them? A.—I think the bosses have nothing to do with it. Sometimes I discharge them, and sometimes they come to me for redress. I do not discharge them often.

Q.—Any person you discharge, are they paid on the spot? A.—I think so. I do not know of any that are not.

GEORGE GALE, Quebec, Printer.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How long have you been in the printing business in Quebec? A.—Fifteen years.

Q.—What is the prevailing rate of wages, both in the job room and on the newspaper? A.—Eight dollars a week for nine hours a day and twenty-five cents an hour overtime. On the newspapers it is thirty cents a thousand ems.

Q.—How many morning papers are there in Quebec that are getting their type set up by piece work? A.—There are two, I think.

Q.—Are the apprentices indentured in Quebec? A.—They are not. At least as far as my knowledge goes I do not believe there are any.

Q.—Have they a stated term of service as apprentices? A.—Yes. It is generally five years, and some serve six years.

Q.—After they are out of their time do they generally remain in the office—after they have served their apprenticeship? A.—Very seldom.

Q.—Are you acquainted with the cause of the late difficulties? A.—Well, yes; to some extent.

Q.—What was the cause of the strike, or was it a strike? A.—Well, it might have been a lockout; the cause of it was starvation wages—seven dollars a week. In fact sometimes it was as low as five dollars a week.

Q.—Were men expected to support their families on five dollars a week? A.—Yes. I was one of the parties interested.

Q.—Were you willing to submit to arbitration? A.—Yes. I was one of the parties interested and was willing to submit to arbitration. As printers we undoubtedly made every effort to arbitrate the matter, but without success.

Q.—What were the demands of the printers on that occasion—the actual demands? A.—In some instances a dollar increase of wages per week and the shortening of the hours of labour to nine hours instead of ten.

Q.—Were any efforts made to obtain an increase of wages before the difficulty?
A.—Oh, yes. There were two or three.

Q.—Did the men interview the employers verbally or did they write to their employers in connection with their demands before they resorted to extreme measures? A.—Yes. You might say the men were endeavouring to obtain an increase of wages for ten years. And even before the last trouble that we had, the proprietors got due notice, and we also agreed to settle the matter by arbitration, but they refused all overtures in that direction.

Q.—Did any of the men interview their own employers without the sanction of the Union, in this matter? A.—Yes; I believe they did. After the strike had been in progress some time—or the lock-out.

Q.—Was there any other organization in Quebec which assisted or interfered on behalf of the printers, outside of the two Typographical Unions? A.—None whatever, except the moral support of the workmen throughout the city generally.

Q.—Did any person or persons go outside the city to employ printers, to bring them in to take the place of those out on strike? A.—Yes; I am satisfied the country districts were scoured between here and Montreal for printers.

Q.—Did they succeed? A.—They got a few.

Q.—Are any of them inside the city now? A.—There are. And they are working for four or five dollars a week.

Q.—Are they worth any more? A.—I think so.

Q.—How many offices granted the wish of the men in shortening the hours of labor? A.—I might say all the offices of the city, with the exception of one or two, granted the wishes of the men. There are only a few of what we call unfair men who work for less than the Union scale of wages, but generally throughout the city, printers receive eight dollars a week.

Q.—Were any of the printers arrested on that occasion? A.—Yes. Four printers; two at the instance of the publisher of "La-Justice," and two at the instance of Mr. Demers of "Le-Canadien."

Q.—What was the result of the trial? A.—I have it from very good authority, that the verdict was in our favor, only the Recorder seemed a little reluctant to give it to us, on the supposition that it might demoralize us throughout the country.

Q.—The trial is still in abeyance? A.—It is *en delibere*.

Q.—In newspaper offices is there much idle time at night? A.—No; there is no piece work on the afternoon papers, but there is on the morning papers. I do not think there is any lost time. I do not think so—as far as my knowledge goes at all events.

Q.—Is "fat" matter set up by the office? A.—Yes; I believe that one or two men have the exclusive right to that work. In one of the offices at all events.

Q.—Is there anything peculiar in that, in comparison with other cities in Canada? A.—Yes; there is.

Q.—Can you tell us the difference in the scales of wages, in Ottawa and Quebec? A.—It is a difference of three dollars a week, for day hands, and six cents a thousand for morning papers, and five cents a thousand for evening papers.

Q.—In favour of what city? A.—Ottawa.

Q.—Is there an estrangement between employer, and employees, at the present time, with respect to this late labour difficulty? A.—Well; there was for a time, and I do not know if it is healed or not. I suppose it is not.

Q.—Has the difficulty resulted in a benefit to the men? A.—A vast deal. It was an exceptional man that could not get eight dollars a week, now, it is an exception to find a man that does not get eight dollars a week.

Q.—Do you think the printers live more comfortably, and support their families better on eight dollars a week? A.—Yes, certainly, they live better, are better fitted for their work, and have more time with their families.

Q.—Have you got a family yourself? A.—I have.

Q.—What is the rate of wages, in Quebec, to printers, in comparison with other highly skilled industries in the city of Quebec? A.—I think, taking printers in comparison, they are about as well paid as any skilled labour in the city; because, as a rule, those that are steady, have constant employment all the year round. There are some who make three dollars and a half a week, overwork, in summer.

Q.—Is it not on account of the steady employment, all the year round, that you base your remark? You consider they are paid for their industry? A.—Yes.

A.—And not that it is not worth a couple more dollars a week? A.—Yes; it is fully worth that.

Q.—Is it not one of the principles of your Unions, here in Quebec, to resort to arbitrary measures only in cases of extreme necessity, and that, before going on strike, you should use every lawful means to obtain an amicable settlement of the difficulty? A.—Yes; in fact that is part of our loss (?) to-day.

Q.—Can you speak of the sanitary condition of the offices of this city, with regard to ventilation? A.—Some are "A 1," and some are not good. In summer time, the atmosphere is very close. It is very close in some of the printing offices, and sometimes it is unbearable.

Q.—Have you got any suggestion to make with regard to the printing trade of this city, that will be of benefit to the Commission? A.—No; nothing that I can see. I naturally like the place. Regarding the fact concerning the lock-out, and strike, I may say, I saw it reported, by certain parties, that the strike was instigated by the Knights of Labour. They had nothing to do with the strike. The strike was instituted by the Typographical Unions.

Q.—Are they two distinct bodies? A.—Yes.

Q.—One is not over the other? A.—No. There are members of the Typographical Unions who are not Knights of Labor.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Do you know if it is a general desire among the working men of the City of Quebec that a Bureau of Labor Statistics should be opened? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think that would be a benefit to the laboring men? A.—Yes; it would be of the best kind of benefit.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Were the printers prepared to submit their grievances to a Board of Arbitration—to settle these labor difficulties? A.—Well, I would be in favor of it, so long as labor had a voice—so long as labor was represented in the person of one of the three arbitrators.

Q.—Is there a free public library in Quebec? A.—Not so far as I am aware of.

Q.—Do you know if the working classes of this city would take advantage of a free public library, if such was instituted in the City of Quebec? A.—Yes. I find, in Western cities, when a man "knocks off" work on a Saturday afternoon, the first place he goes to is a reading-room of some kind. I would consider it a great public benefit.

Q.—What age do you consider a boy should be when he goes into a printing office to learn the business, and should he have a certain amount of education? A.—I believe a boy should be fifteen or sixteen years of age, and, in order that he should turn out a good workman, he should be possessed of a good common school education. I find the great trouble with boys who go to learn a trade is, that they hardly know how to read and write, and, consequently, they turn out to be poor tradesmen, and a burden to themselves.

Q.—Would you be in favor—from your experience—of compulsory apprenticeships, and of regulating apprenticeships? A.—Yes; and I am of opinion that it should compel a boy to stay with his employer the full time of his apprenticeship, and that it should compel the employer to give a boy a first-class trade.

GEORGE MCGEE, of Quebec, Painter, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you live permanently in Quebec? A.—Yes.

Q.—What wages do you receive here per day? A.—One dollar and fifty cents per day.

Q.—Do you receive the same wages summer and winter? A.—No. I receive one dollar in winter, and one dollar and fifty cents in summer.

Q.—What difference is there in the number of hours between summer and winter? A.—Well, in winter we commence at eight o'clock and finish at five, and in summer we commence at seven and finish at six.

Q.—You work ten hours in summer and eight hours in winter, per day? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any reason why half a dollar a day should be stopped for the loss of two hours in winter? A.—Well, that has been the custom in the past. I do not know anything about it.

Q.—You do not know why it should be taken off? A.—No; I do not know why.

Q.—Are you paid weekly or fortnightly? A.—We are paid every week, every Saturday night.

Q.—Are you paid in full? A.—Yes. We are paid clear—in cash.

Q.—Have you ever had any difficulty in collecting your wages, or have you ever lost any part of your wages? A.—No. I have never lost anything in that way. I work ten hours a day in summer and eight hours a day in winter, ever since I commenced to work. I am thirty-six years in the trade, and I never lost anything with any "boss."

Q.—When you go outside of the city, what is the rule about the expenses? A.—The rule, when I go outside the port, is for the boss to pay my travelling expenses.

Q.—Does that include your board? A.—Yes. I do not pay anything out of my own pocket, except when I want a drink or something else, of course, the boss does not pay for that; we have to pay for it. The "grub" and passage, and all that, is paid for by the "boss."

Q.—Can you give us, as near as possible, the average months in the year that you find employment? A.—For my part, I am an old man, and, old man as I am, I could not say that I get more than four and a half months work in the year.

Q.—Four or five months work in the whole year? A.—Yes. Between four and five months is the most that I can tell you that I do.

Q.—Would that apply to the whole trade. Do you think the whole trade in Quebec do not work more than five months in the year? A.—They work more than that. There are plenty of young fellows and men who obtain more steady employment than an old man.

Q.—You think it is on account of your age that you do not get more employment? A.—I suppose it is.

Q.—I suppose you have to carry your own materials? A.—Certainly. Step ladders, buckets and paint pots and all that belongs to the trade.

Q.—Do you furnish your own brushes? A.—No. The men that are working in the shop do not find any brushes. They (the bosses) find the brushes and all material themselves. We have got to find only our putty knives and overalls, and that is all that we have to find.

Q.—Is it the rule of a painter to report himself at the shop in the morning before proceeding to the premises where he is working? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you get paid for that time? A.—No. We have got to go every morning to the shop to know where we have got to go to work. Sometimes we have got to go into the country and sometimes we have got to go into other parts of the town. We have got so many places for the men to work at and the foreman or "boss"

does not know where to put us until the morning, so we have to call at the shop first thing, and then he sends us one to one place and one to another.

Q.—When a man is engaged on the same job for two or three weeks does he have to report himself at the shop regularly every morning? A.—No. Not where it is a steady long job.

Q.—And you are not paid for the time you lose going to the shop? A.—No. We have to be in the shop by seven o'clock—not before seven.

Q.—Are you paid from the time you leave the shop then? A.—We are paid for our time from seven o'clock in the morning until six at night, and if you make extra work you are paid for it.

Q.—Are you allowed anything extra for overtime besides the regular pay? A.—If we work overtime we are paid for it.

Q.—How much extra do you get? A.—It is according to the hours. If you make a quarter of a day you are paid a quarter of day. If you are half an hour after the time or a quarter of an hour you do not ask for it, but if you work a quarter of a day you are paid for it.

Q.—Have you anything you would like to tell the Commission with regard to your trade? A.—No. Nothing.

Q.—Is paper hanging or calsonining included in the trade? A.—Paper hanging or any other trade is all the same thing it is all the same wages. Graining and paper hanging is about the same thing, there is not much difference—there might be ten cents or so, but there is not much difference between them.

JAMES McDERMOTT, of Quebec, Carter, sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—How long have you been engaged as a hackman? A.—About eleven years including intervals, when I have left for a short time in the winter season. It is about eleven years since I started.

Q.—What is the general average of the amount earned by hackmen engaged in the City of Quebec, in a year? A.—Well, I should say about one dollar and fifty cents to two dollars a day on the average. Some make a good deal more.

Q.—How many hackmen are there in the City of Quebec? A.—Between four hundred and fifty and five hundred.

Q.—What is the amount a hackman pays for a license? A.—Well, it is specified. In Quebec it is according to the style of vehicle. We pay a license of eight dollars a year for driving a *caleche*; eleven dollars a year for a four wheeled carriage; and sixteen dollars a year for a double carriage—that is a two horse carriage. That is the scale of licenses exactly.

Q.—Does that include the sleighs in winter? A.—Yes; you get a licence for a year.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Does it comprise the license for the horse also? A.—Yes.

Q.—As a proof that you have paid that license, have you got to carry any badge or anything? A.—Yes; by law you have got to have one on the bridle and one on the vehicle.

Q.—Are there any parties in Quebec who purchase that license and do not carry the badge or number? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you explain how they have that privilege? A.—Well, I happen to be investigating that case on behalf of the carters, and I find it was a privilege given by the Police Board to certain parties.

Q.—But do not the policemen see that all hackmen's vehicles and horses carry

the proper badges and numbers? A.—I do not exactly know how they class it. I brought up the party I have reference to—to the court on two or three occasions, and I found it was a privilege given by the Police Board to this party not to carry this number.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do I understand you to say that the judge or police magistrate decided that this party was not compelled to carry a number or badge? A.—No, sir; that was a private investigation of the Police Board, but we prosecuted this man for not carrying a license.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is that within the duties of the Police Board? A.—I think not. The law says that each cartier shall have these plates fixed solidly and legibly on the front of the vehicles; and, as cartiers, we are bound to keep to the by-law.

Q.—Does this special grant by the Police Board also extend to the omnibusses of this particular man, in whose favor these concessions are made? A.—Yes; he carries no numbers.

Q.—Does he take out licenses for every one? A.—If he was compelled to carry the numbers, he could easily be detected if he only had license for one or two; but the party, that I have reference to, has a certain number of licenses out—thirteen licenses; and I have known him to have a good many more than that number of vehicles out on particular occasions.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—He has thirteen licenses? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many carriages? A.—I do not know how many.

Q.—And he makes these thirteen licenses do for more than thirteen carriages?
A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is there a law by which hackmen can only go a certain distance on the arrival of a steamer, or at the railway station? A.—The law concerning cartiers says you must be in, or near your vehicle. I do not know what you call near, whether it is ten, or only a few feet; but the judge rules that you must be near it.

Q.—Did you ever hear him rule on it? A.—I cannot say that I have; but I understand that is the way he generally rules. I guess the constable is asked how far you are away from your horse. At the steamboat landing, in the summer season, and at the railway depots in winter time, and summer time, on the arrival of a train, the hackmen are supposed to be all in a line, a certain distance from the depot; and every man is supposed to stand by his horse until the people come out. Now, the grievance of our men is, that the drivers of busses, and hotel porters, are allowed to go inside of the depot and solicit customers for the hotels, and place them in their busses and carriages. We are not allowed to go there; and immediately these parties get into the busses, they are brought to the hotel. A hotel man is in the hotel; and he is put there to run the carriages or cabs, as you choose to call them, and these are the ones without any numbers. It is the same at the steamboat landing; we are kept without any means of intercourse with passengers. The other parties are allowed to stand in a line in a more convenient place, and we are kept away. I am speaking more particularly of the Montreal boat; the busses are allowed to go on the right hand side, and the hotel porters, or "touters," are allowed to go down to the pontoon, taking people away, and putting them in their busses or carriages; whereas, if the people were allowed to come out without any touting, the cartiers would drive them to the hotel, and arrange to drive them around the city and to other places. Our men claim that they should be allowed to compete with these parties.

Q.—That is one remedy that you would suggest? A.—Yes. Then, again, gentleman, you may have a passenger who does not pay you for your work, and you have no recourse against him.

Q.—How is that? A.—If our passenger is a citizen, we can sue him if he refuses to pay us; but if he is a stranger in Quebec, we have no recourse against him. If you state your case to any policeman that is standing by, he will tell you that he has no power to interfere. Immediately that man refuses to pay you for your hire in the city, and the carter calls a policeman, supposing the policeman takes him into custody, and he is brought before the Recorder, the carter is fined for a contravention of a by-law of the city. It is contrary to the Civil Code to bring people up for that.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Is this favor shown to a livery stable proprietor, or to a hotel proprietor? A.—The hotel proprietor did own them, but he sold them out to another party. This person has thirteen licenses, and I think he can run out twenty-five teams.

Q.—And is there no restriction? A.—We are the only ones to find him out, and then we do not get a conviction. If we leave off one of our numbers, we are fined. Very often—that is, we generally have our number hanging outside our robe, and very often we leave the robe in the house to dry, or so that it shall not get wet, and sometimes we will forget to take off our number. Then, if we are brought up before the Recorder, we are fined for having only one number, and, when we explain the reason, he tells us that we should have it.

Q.—Have you drawn the attention of the police to this contravention of the law that you speak of? A.—I have drawn the attention of the police to it, twenty different times, at least. The police reports them. I was told by a constable that he reported these men on two or three different occasions, but we never heard anything more about it. The Carters' Society took legal proceedings on two different occasions, and we lost the cases, but we intend to take it up again.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How did you happen to lose the cases? A.—We lost, I believe, through a mistake—through a lawyer directing us to proceed in the wrong way. We prosecuted him for not having a license, whereas he had thirteen licenses, and we did not know he had a license for that particular vehicle; but if we had had him up for not having a number, we might have gained the case. Of course, we know we are in the right, and that we should gain the case. If we happen to be an hour or two without one of our numbers, we have to sweat for it; and we do not see why a rich man should be able to do as he pleases, in defiance of the law.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Does the fact of the existence of the toll gates interfere with your business? A.—It is a constant source of annoyance. With the majority of people when we bring them up to the toll gate they say it is the remains of barbarism, and the people will not pay, and order us to turn back. When they see it they think it is an extortion and turn back by way of protest, and will not pay it. I heard a gentleman here this afternoon suggest, as a way of improving the position, that as the carters were sometimes paid, and sometimes were not paid at all by strangers in the city, that we should have our tariff, already printed, in our pockets and tell them that the law being such they were obliged to pay before using our services, and it would be for us to refuse it if they did not accept our services under those conditions.

Q.—There would be nothing wrong in that. If there was anything wrong on your part he would be able to find you out? A.—Yes; that is all very well—

Q.—Do you think that would be a good suggestion, to get your pay before you start? A.—I believe that suggestion is simply absurd. In the first place, you do

not know always how long you will be gone, or all the places you are going to. For instance, you may drive a fare to lower town; he may then, after he has done his business, order you to return to the upper town, and you may then drive him somewhere else. If I asked for my pay before I started it would not be a fair way of working. In fact I would not know what my fare would be.

Q.—Have you anything to suggest as a means for better securing your pay?
A.—The only thing that I can suggest is that the law and the police should come to our assistance when a man refuses to pay us our lawful tariff. This is the only city, I believe, on the continent where there is such a notorious law as this which assists strangers to rob us. It is a great injustice. If a carter is in an emergency, threatens to have a stranger arrested, and calls a policeman to his assistance, the policeman has not the power to interfere because they are strangers in the city.

Q.—But if they wish to have the carter arrested, I suppose the policeman would take him right off? A.—Yes.

By MR. CARSON:—

Q.—How does the policeman know they they are strangers, and not citizens?
A.—We can generally tell that.

Q.—Why don't you try to keep them until they pay you? A.—I know the parties generally get out of the vehicle before they have been asked for their pay. I know a driver who brought a man (dressed like a gentleman) down to the Montreal boat. When he got out of the hack the driver asked for his fare. He had driven him around a good deal, and as the carter had made no bargain he asked him for three dollars—the correct fare. He refused to pay. The driver tried to get the police to take him in charge, but owing to this barbarous law the man was allowed to walk on board the Montreal boat, and he went away with this carter's three dollars in his pocket.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—I suppose if the law was as you desired it, you would drive your passenger to the station and there lodge a complaint against him? A.—Yes; the same as in Montreal, and other cities. There they drive their fare to the station, and he either pays up or stands his trial for refusing to pay his carter.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—When a constable sees you driving with no number on your sleigh or *calèche*, he reports you, and you are summoned before the Recorder? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then, why do not the policemen report the carters who are employed by this hotel, or liverymen, who have no number on their sleighs or *calèches*? A.—I cannot answer that. I do not know why they do not do it when they are applying for hire, except that the proprietors are a little more wealthy than ordinary hackmen, and have more influence to get out of any technicality, or anything like that.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are you acquainted with the system in vogue in Toronto as regards hackmen? A.—I have heard that the police go to the assistance of any party who calls them, and that the carters are supposed to carry their numbers and a copy of the tariff, and present it to the party demanding the tariff, and they are fined if they charge over their tariff.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—If you have two *calèches*, can you use the same number on one as you can on the other? A.—Yes; so long as you take them out one after the other.

Q.—Do you pay water tax for your horses? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much? A.—A dollar a year, and seventy-five cents for each stall.

Q.—You have empty stalls? A.—Yes.

Q.—The inspector comes round and inspects your stable? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know if the police inspects the places of everyone who keeps horses? A.—I can only speak for the carters. I do not know about any other people.

Q.—Can you furnish us with a copy of the rules of the Corporation of the City of Quebec, concerning carters? A.—Yes; I have handed, to one of the members of the Commission, a copy of the by-laws, as we wish to have them amended by the Corporation, and this is one particular clause, which we would like to have inserted by which we can call upon a policeman to arrest any person, whether they belong to the city or not, who refuses to pay us our fare. The Corporation states that is illegal, and that they have no power to do such a thing. I went to Montreal and saw the Clerk of the Recorder's Court there, and he told me that was based upon the Common Law of the country, that it was in their By-Laws and that the police brought people up every day before the Recorder for refusing to pay their carters, and that they were fined or imprisoned if they still refused to pay. It did not matter who the person was or where he came from, he had to pay or go to gaol. In Montreal the carters are protected the same as any other citizen.

Q.—Have you a tariff for outside the city limits? A.—Heretofore we had no tariff for outside the city limits, but the new tariff comes into force on the first of May. We had no tariff for outside the city limits, so we depended on the Montreal tariff here, with the exception of the clause which relates to outside the limits, because we did not think it fair to drive by the hour in the country—to drive along at the rate of eight miles an hour, and only get paid seventy-five cents an hour. That would not be fair.

Q.—Are you allowed to leave your horses alone on the streets? A.—No. Never alone.

Q.—I suppose it will depend upon circumstances? A.—The law states you must be on or near your vehicle.

Q.—Supposing you had a fare who wished to elude you, and escaped into a tavern, and you followed him? A.—Well, the law says you must be on or near your vehicle.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you think the Recorder would consider a case of that kind? A.—Yes. He generally investigates a case like that and is generally very lenient. Still the law says you must be on or near your vehicle.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Are you allowed to attach your horse to a weight by a strap, and leave him on the street while you go into any building? A.—Twenty-five years ago that was allowed, but not now.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Supposing your passenger is drunk, and you follow him into a hotel for your fare, will you break the law? A.—Then if you leave your horse you are liable to pay for it accordingly.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—I suppose these are very exceptional cases? A.—Yes. They are very exceptional cases that are brought up like that.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Have you any other suggestions you would like to make before this Commission with reference to your business? A.—No. I think that is about all.

PATRICK SHEA, member of the Quebec Fire Department, sworn.

By MR. KERWIN :—

Q.—You are a member of the Quebec Fire Brigade? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are the wages of a fireman in Quebec? A.—Well, lately, seven dollars a week.

Q.—What are the duties of a fireman, in addition to attending fires? A.—There are several duties in the fire department.

Q.—What are they? A.—Besides going to fires, the fireman has to do the labor around the stations.

Q.—Does he have to do anything besides work around the stations? A.—At times he is engaged in regulating the water, and watering the streets.

Q.—Have the firemen to pay anything out of their salaries for the accommodation they receive in the stations? A.—Yes; they have to pay rent, four dollars a month, such as I have to do at the present time.

Q.—Has every fireman to pay that? A.—No; some get a lodging for three dollars a month, and some for four.

Q.—What accommodation are you afforded for this rent? A.—Four small little rooms, and others have three pretty good-sized rooms.

Q.—What is the sleeping accommodation in the stations for the men? A.—Well, we have our own bedsteads, and straw ticks, a blanket, a quilt, and what we call a covering—a dress blanket or covering.

Q.—Are these articles furnished by the Corporation? A.—No; merely the dress quilt, and a dress pillow case.

Q.—Have you to furnish the rest yourselves? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are the firemen permitted to undress when they lie down at night? A.—No; we sleep like horses, all but our boots.

Q.—How many times a month are the firemen allowed to sleep outside the station? A.—About four.

Q.—How many days are they off duty in a month? A.—Four afternoons and four nights. Sometimes they are not able to get off. On Sundays we come on at six in the morning, and get off at night; that is the rule as regards leave at some of the stations.

Q.—When the firemen are engaged in watering the streets, do they get extra pay? A.—No. None whatever.

Q.—How much of the day does it take to water the streets? A.—On some of the streets it takes a quarter of an hour, and on some it takes six or seven hours, according to the district.

Q.—Have the firemen any benefit fund attached to the brigade, or society? A.—No; not that I know of.

Q.—Have they any insurance? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much do they pay? A.—Ten cents a week.

Q.—What do they receive? A.—Well, the amount depends. If you get hurt at a fire, you receive a benefit of five dollars a week.

Q.—Does your pay run on also? A.—As far as I can learn about it, it does.

Q.—In case a fireman loses his life, by accident, what would his family receive? A.—His family would get one thousand dollars.

Q.—Is there any provision made for the firemen, in case of sickness? A.—Yes; he gets his pay.

Q.—Does he get any medical attendance? A.—No; I never get it, anyhow.

Q.—Is there anything you would wish to state to the Commission, in connection with the Brigade? A.—No; there is nothing that I know of, at all.

Q.—How are the men promoted in the Brigade? A.—They are promoted from a private, to be a waterman, and from a waterman to a guardian.

Q.—Are you promoted according to the length of service? A.—Well, it depends upon the capacity of the men. Some men get promoted quicker than others.

- Q.—Do you think the system a just one to the men? A.—At times.
- Q.—In what condition are the ladders? A.—Well, so far, they are very good.
- Q.—Have you no complaints to make with regard to them? A.—No; not as far as I know of.
- Q.—Have you any complaints to make with regard to the sanitary condition of the stations? A.—Not at the present time. It is far superior to some I have been in.
- Q.—Do you think sufficient care is taken, by the city, of the health of the men at the stations? A.—Yes; we take care of that ourselves.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

- Q.—Is there an Ambulance Wagon connected with the Fire Brigade, in Quebec?
A.—No; there is none here.
- Q.—Do you think it necessary to have one? A.—Well, that depends upon the city.
- Q.—If one was kept, ready for emergency, in Quebec, I suppose it would prove of use at times? A.—Yes.
- Q.—There are often accidents, I suppose, in the city of Quebec? A.—Yes; we have accidents here the same as in other places.

(Translation.)

CHARLES BEAUMONT, of Quebec, carter, sworn :—

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

- Q.—Have you understood the deposition of your confrère who was examined a moment ago? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—Have you anything to add to what he has stated? Do you wish to be examined on any point? A.—I approve of all he has said. I have not much to add to what he has stated.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

- Q.—Are the places where the “busses” stand at the railways and steamboats public places, or do they belong to the companies? A.—The wharves belong to the Richelieu Company.
- Q.—And the “busses” stand on these wharves? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Then it depends on the Company whether you are allowed to stand there or not? A.—It depends on the Company.
- Q.—Do you know what interest the Company can have to prevent you going there? A.—It is hard to understand; but they have always favoured the “busses,” while we carters have always been kept away, and this has continued for the last 24 years during the time that I have driven.
- Q.—In 24 years, you have never seen the carters on the wharves? A.—We have always been on the wharves but always behind the others. When I arrive with my carriage the first, I must go behind and allow the “busses” to stand in front of me.
- Q.—Is there a conductor or other person with these vehicles? A.—There is a driver and a man who takes the pay, and in summer, two or three runners.
- Q.—And at the railways, does the place where the “busses” stand belong to the Railway Company? A.—It belongs to the Railway Company.
- Q.—Is it not outside of the dépôt? A.—It is outside of the building, but the land belongs to them.

Q.—Did it ever occur to you to lose money in consequence of the non-payment of your fares? A.—Yes, this occurred to me not more than two months ago.

Q.—Tell us how it occurred? A.—Two months ago I drove a man for a couple of hours. He would not pay me and threatened, in front of the market, to beat me if I insisted on demanding payment. I preferred to lose my money.

Q.—Was it a man of the city? A.—No, it was a stranger.

Q.—You knew there was nothing to do? A.—I knew that even if I had driven him to the Police, they would not have done anything at all.

Q.—Have you complained to the City Council and asked them that a law be passed, have the carters done so? A.—Yes, certainly we have asked them, and they answered that they could do nothing.

Q.—Did you tell them that such a law existed in Montreal, for instance? A.—I did not speak, but several of my friends told them that such laws were in force in other countries. I wish to speak also of the transfer omnibusses. These omnibusses should transfer from one dépôt to another, but they take people from a dépôt and drive them to the hotels; and they drive them again from the hotels to the dépôt. Then you see, if they drove their fares only to the hotel, we would have a chance to have some work, but there are omnibusses at all the trains who drive the passengers for nothing, to try and secure one paltry boarder. If these people would content themselves with driving their fares to the hotels, it would give a chance to carters.

(Translation.)

ALPHONSE DEMERS, of Quebec, shoemaker's apprentice, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do you work in a large factory, or in a retail shop? A.—In a factory.

Q.—In what department do you work? A.—In several shops. We have no fixed place; we work in our three shops.

Q.—You do not understand my question. You say you work in a factory. Now, in a factory there are many departments, which do you work in, in the cutters, lasters, button-makers or sewer's department? A.—In the sewers.

Q.—Do you do hand work or machine work? A.—Machine work.

Q.—Do you do the sewing, or the work to be done after the sewing? A.—I sew.

Q.—What machines do you use? A.—Sewing machines.

Q.—There are different makes of sewing machines, what is the name of the machine? A.—I do not know the name. I call it a machine.

Q.—Do you work by the piece or by the day? You are an apprentice? A.—Yes, an apprentice.

Q.—How long have you to serve? A.—3 years and a half.

Q.—How long have you served? A.—Two years.

Q.—What is your master obliged to have you taught during your apprenticeship, only sewing? A.—Pegging also.

Q.—Have you begun to work at the pegging machines? A.—No; not yet.

Q.—Will you state what you have to remark to this Commission; is there anything you wish to complain of, and if so, what is it? A.—There is this I want to complain of, the wages are not high enough.

Q.—What agreement did you make with your employer when you entered his factory? A.—He was to pay me \$1 a month, to give me my board, and get my mending and washing done.

Q.—What sum does he give you? A.—He gives me that, \$1 month.

Q.—Why, since you made that bargain, do you complain? Did you not know what you were doing at the time? A.—I knew what I was doing.

Q.—Do you think he is obliged to give you more for your services? A.—No; I am hired for that.

Q.—Do you believe from the way that you are being taught that when you have finished your time you will know your trade? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you well treated? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Are you apprenticed in a factory, or to a workman who works in a factory? A.—To a workman that works in a factory.

Q.—When he changes factories, do you change with him? A.—Yes.

Q.—At what time do you go to work in the morning? A.—7 o'clock.

Q.—At what time do you leave work? A.—That is according to the work we have on hand. When we are hurried with work we finish late; but when there is no great hurry, we leave at six o'clock.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—How long an apprenticeship have you to serve? A.—Three years and a-half.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Do you sometimes work in the factory at night? A.—Yes.

Q.—At what time do you get home when you finish work at night? A.—At 8 o'clock.

Q.—When you go home at night to your master's house, have you any work to do? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you split wood? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is that in your indentures? Are you obliged by your agreement to do this work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Were you engaged to learn your trade, and to do work at the house? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What sort of sewing machines do you work at? A.—Machines for the soles.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—When you work to 8 o'clock at night, does your master pay you more than when you work to six o'clock? A.—No; the same thing.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Are you the only apprentice? A.—No; there are five.

Q.—In the same house? A.—No; I am the only one in the house.

Q.—You are the only one hired to your master? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is your age? A.—Eighteen years at the end of April.

Q.—How long have you worked with your master? A.—Two years.

Q.—Did you hire to him by yourself, or had you a father or tutor to pass the contract for you? A.—I had my father.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Do you know how much the other young men earn, that do the same work as you do? How much do the four other apprentices get? A.—They get \$2 a week.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do they get their board? A.—No; they do not get their board.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do you know how long an apprenticeship the others have to serve? A.—Three years.

(Translation.)

TÉLESPHORE DARVEAU, of Quebec, currier, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Have you worked long as a currier? A.—Twenty-two years.

Q.—Is an apprenticeship generally necessary in your trade? A.—I served five year's apprenticeship.

Q.—Did you pass indentures, or were you apprenticed merely on honor? A.—On honor.

Q.—What do you earn a week, on an average? A.—I work for about three months in the year by the week, and for nine months by the piece.

Q.—About what wages do you get by the week? A.—This year, I may earn, on an average, \$4.50 or \$5.00.

Q.—Do good workmen, in your trade, earn about the same? A.—Some earn less, and I think, that even at that rate, there are very few. I speak of those that work by the week; there are "jobbers" besides.

Q.—Are "jobbers" people who undertake to curry so many skins, and hire others to help them? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do such "jobbers" generally earn large wages? A.—I can't say; I never undertook their work, and I never asked for any.

Q.—Are currier's shops generally well aired and comfortable? A.—In the shop where I work I think the first story is as high as this, that is, I think it is 14 or 15 feet high.

Q.—Is there an engine in the factory? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is the engine attended by an engineer, a safe man? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Is there anything you would like to say to this Commission? A.—I wish to say that all persons who do not serve an apprenticeship, such as day laborers, should be prevented from working, as they do injury to workmen.

Q.—You would wish everyone to serve an apprenticeship for a certain time, as you did yourself? A.—Yes, sir. He who has served five years should pass before him who has not served any apprenticeship.

Q.—Among tanners—can any save enough money to buy a house for himself? A.—He would have to be very economical to do so, with the wages we get now.

(Translation.)

GEORGE COOKE, of Quebec, Printer, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You have heard the evidence of Mr. Gale? A.—Yes; I heard it.

Q.—And do you concur in this evidence? A.—Yes, sir, I do.

Q.—Have you anything to add? A.—I have to add that there are printing establishments where they make them sign agreements. I, myself, went to ask for employment in a printing office, and they asked me to sign an agreement. I refused to sign, and they refused to give me the work.

Q.—Can you give us the name of the establishment? A.—*La Justice*.

Q.—Are your wages paid on the scale of the prices of the Printers of Quebec?
A.—Yes; they are paid according to that scale.

Q.—Are the printers, better now, working under the present system, than they were before? A.—Yes; much better.

Q.—Do you know if any boys, under twelve years of age, work in printing offices? A.—No; I do not know of any.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—I do not assert it, but I think I heard it stated by some one, that there was not, altogether, a good understanding between the printers of the Union, and those who do not belong to the Union. Why does not this understanding exist, which should exist among confrères working at the same line? A.—I believe, that before the strike, there were some who did not belong to the Union, and who joined us during the strike.

Q.—Whether they did belong to the Union, before the strike, or whether they do not belong to it, to-day, is not the question. I say that I heard there existed an ill-feeling. What is the cause of the ill-feeling? A.—I do not know what cause they have.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH JOBIN, of Quebec, Laborer, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Where do you work? A.—At "Spencerwood."

Q.—What work do you do? A.—I work in the garden in summer.

Q.—Are you working at that work at the present time? A.—No, sir.

Q.—How much do you earn? A.—At the present time I earn seventy-five cents; in summer I earn one dollar.

Q.—Are you employed at "Spencerwood" now, and do you earn seventy-five cents a day? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How many hours a day do you work? A.—Ten hours in summer, and eight in winter.

Q.—How often are you paid, in summer; every week, or every fortnight? A.—There is no fixed time, they pay every fortnight, or every three weeks.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Who sees to paying the men's wages? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Is there no pay master? A.—A man comes and pays us.

Q.—And what is the name of the man that pays you? A.—Mr. Nullin.

Q.—What is the name of the man for whom you work? A.—We work for the Government.

Q.—Have you been seven or eight weeks without being paid? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—Have you been a month? A.—The longest I have ever been, is three or four weeks.

Q.—You don't worry them; you leave them alone? A.—We have to.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Is seventy-five cents the usual wages for a labourer? A.—No; we are paid seventy-five cents for eight hours work.

Q.—But is it the regular wages? A.—Yes, sir, for eight hours work.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Have you any perquisites, besides your wages ? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Are you a gardener ? A.—I work in a vegetable garden.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH LAMONDE, of Quebec, Gardener, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—You have just heard the evidence of the last witness ? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you work with him ? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Have you anything to say, to add, or to contradict, in his evidence ? A.—
No, sir.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you receive the same wages as he does ? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Are you a day labour, or a gardener ? A.—I am second gardener.

Q.—Are you paid as regularly as he is ? A.—At times. There are times when
we are paid regularly enough.

Q.—What is the longest time you have been without receiving your wages ; is
it four, five or six weeks ? A.—Eight or nine weeks.

(Translation.)

FRANCOIS XAVIER DUMONT, of Quebec, Laborer, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do you work in a factory for making earthenware pipes ? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How many hours a day do you work ? A.—Ten hours and a half.

Q.—What wages do you get ? A.—Three shillings a day.

Q.—In winter ? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—And in summer ? A.—In summer the wages are a dollar.

Q.—Do you work longer in summer ? A.—The same length of time.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is there much work there in winter ? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How long have you worked at this work ? A.—I worked seven weeks, and
then gave it up.

Q.—On account of the wages ? A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Is the work very hard ? A.—Very hard ; it is unendurable.

Q.—You have large pieces of earth to carry ? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much do these pieces of earth weigh ? A.—There are some that
weigh from 80 to 100, to 150 pounds.

Q.—Do they put one man or two men to carry these ? A.—Two men. One
man for the little ones of eighty pounds.

- Q.—How much time during the day have you to rest? A.—We take our mid-day hour.
- Q.—When you worked there, how many workmen were there? A.—We were four laborers.
- Q.—And all received the same wages—sixty cents a day? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Do you know if these laborers were fathers of families? If among these laborers there were heads of family? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—Do you know how many children they had? A.—I am not able to say.

(Translation.)

ABRAHAM DUBÉ, Fireman, of the Fire Brigade of Quebec, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q.—How many firemen are there in the Fire Brigade? A.—We are forty here.
- Q.—Are you divided into more than one class? A.—We are divided into three classes.
- Q.—Can you state the wages of each class? A.—Yes, sir. There are the guardians, who earn \$8.40 a week, and who get lodgings, heat and light; there are the watermen, who turn on the water, and who earn \$8.40 a week, only they do not get lodgings; and the firemen, who receive \$7 a week.
- Q.—Must the men remain in the station from one week to another? A.—Yes, sir; we remain four days and four nights. The fifth day, we remain from 1 o'clock to 8 o'clock the following morning.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

- Q.—You go to bed? A.—We lie down in our clothes for four days and four nights; we only take off our boots.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q.—Are you permitted to leave the station at any time but the hours of meals? A.—The people who live outside of the station have an hour and a half for their meals.
- Q.—Apart from that? A.—No, unless we get permission to go out.
- Q.—Do they allow you vacation during the year? A.—Yes; eight days.
- Q.—Do they give them to you all at once? A.—It is according as we want them. We can, if we wish, take four, or two at a time; but they give us eight days in all.
- Q.—Are the stations all in good condition at Quebec? A.—Not all.
- Q.—Do you know of stations in the city that are badly ventilated? A.—Yes, sir; we have Station No. 5, which is not fit to live in.
- Q.—Do you consider that the sleeping place in No. 5 is good and clean enough for the men? A.—We have three stations that have no sleeping room for the men.
- Q.—Can you tell us where the sleeping room is? A.—We, of No. 4, have slept for the last four years about 15 feet from the horses—15 to 20 feet.
- Q.—Have you ever heard the men complain of the smell of the stations? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—Have the firemen any other work to do than attending fires? A.—Yes.
- Q.—What are firemen's duties? A.—We have to cart away the snow, saw the wood, and to attend to our duty, apart from this. If the pipes break, we are obliged to be on duty all the time; we have no afternoons nor evenings to ourselves. In

place of going out the fifth day, we are sometimes three or four weeks without going out.

Q.—Is it a part of the fireman's duty to water the streets? A.—Yes; we always did so until last summer, the middle of the summer.

Q.—Did you receive extra pay for that extra work? A.—No; we never received a copper extra.

Q.—Have you a personal tax to pay in Quebec? A.—We pay \$2 taxes.

Q.—Do they charge you rent for sleeping in the station? A.—No, we don't pay, but we pay the rent of the station; we pay to live there with our families. My family lives in the station, and we pay four dollars a month.

Q.—Do all the firemen pay \$4 a month? A.—Only those who live in the station.

Q.—Is there any benevolent fund in connection with the Fire Brigade? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Is there an insurance fund? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How much are you obliged to pay for this insurance? A.—Ten cents a week.

Q.—What benefit is secured to the firemen, or their families, by this insurance? A.—If we are crippled at a fire we get five dollars a week for six weeks, and if we die within the six months our families draw \$1,000.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—And after the six months? A.—After the six months, nothing. The poor devil may die if he wishes.

Q.—Do they supply a doctor to the firemen? A.—Yes. When they are supplied, we have to supply the pay from our pockets.

Q.—When you receive \$5 a week, does the city pay your wages or does it retain them? A.—We are paid our wages and we receive \$5 a week the time we are crippled.

Q.—If a fireman is ill does his pay continue? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Can you give us some information on points that we have not questioned you, whether to improve the general condition of firemen, or to supply a want of the city? A.—I think that the men are not well enough paid, because the wages are not sufficient for men who have a large family, and this is not work like any other. You know that you leave, but you know not if you will ever return; your life is always in danger.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Apart from this information have you anything else to tell? A.—No.

By Mr. HEAKE'S:—

Q.—Do the citizens of Quebec make donations to the Brigade in compensation of services rendered? A.—Yes. It happens sometimes.

Q.—What use is made of this money? A.—For a time it was kept for the men's clothes, afterwards the chief divided it among the men.

Q.—Do the city give you clothes? A.—Yes, sir. They give us two suits a year, one in the spring and one in the autumn; but no boots.

Q.—Have you rubber overcoats? A.—No, nothing at all. A winter overcoat, (no vest) trousers and blouse; in summer, trousers, vest, blouse and helmet.

Q.—When you are long working at a fire are refreshments given to you? A.—Yes, it often happens.

Q.—Has the work of firemen increased during the last few years? A.—No, not these last years. We had a good many before, but these last years there was nothing to complain of. Quebec has few fires, owing to the activity of the brigade.

Q.—I wish to know if the duties of a fireman are more numerous, and if his work has increased? A.—No, it is the same thing. We have less even, because formerly we sprinkled the streets, and we do it no longer.

(Translation.)

LOUIS ROY, of Quebec, Laborer, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

- Q.—What sort of work do you do? A.—I am a laborer.
- all. Q.—Where are you working at present? A.—At present, I am not working at all.
- Q.—What sort of work are you in the habit of doing? A.—Any kind of work for laborers on board vessels.
- Q.—Is it some time since you have worked? A.—Fifteen days since I stopped.
- Q.—What is the last place where you worked? A.—At the rubber factory.
- Q.—What wages did you get when you were working at different places this winter? A.—At the last place I worked, I earned seven shillings a day.
- Q.—Did you work anywhere this winter where you got less than that? A.—No, sir; not this winter.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you anything to suggest to the Commission? A.—What I would suggest is, that for two or three years we have worked at the Sacred Heart, at the Church we built there, and we worked for fifty cents a day. Working so hard that there were some who took pleurisy, and nearly died.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—In the summer? A.—In the spring. We gave it up in the month of May.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—You worked so hard as that because it was for God? A.—For God, but we must eat first, and for fifty cents we cannot eat and serve God.

(Translation.)

FRANCIS SCHRYBURT, of Quebec, Leather-cutter, sworn.

The witness swears that the following are the resolutions of Leather Cutters' Union :—

“That this Society (Union of the Leather Cutters of Quebec) having taken cognizance of the evidence given before the Royal Commission of Labor, during Session, the said Society alleges that the evidence stating the wages of the leather-cutters of Quebec are \$14 and \$15, and that the wages vary from \$8 to \$14 is devoid of all foundation and is completely false, and that this Society, that to-day counts among its members all the leather-cutters of Quebec, declares boldly that the real scale of prices, or variation of prices, is from \$5 to \$9 a week, that this scale of prices, or variation of prices, is based on the testimony of cutters from all the factories in Quebec. Given at the present sitting of this Society, this 9th day of March, 1888.”

(Extract from the resolutions of the Union of Leather-cutters of Quebec.)

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Are many men employed in the shop you work in? A.—We are five cutters; I am the foreman.

Q.—Do you think that in shops where there are more workmen, there are more advantages, because of there being different kinds of work? A.—It is about the same thing. Wages vary according to the workmen.

ALEXANDER LARMONTH, of Quebec, Mechanical Engineer, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are you a mechanical engineer? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you employ any men? A.—Yes.

Q.—Skilled or unskilled labor, or both? A.—Yes; both.

Q.—What are the wages of a skilled engineer in the City of Quebec? A.—About one dollar and fifty cents to two dollars a day.

Q.—Is much of that kind of work done here? A.—Not a great deal.

Q.—Do you find any difficulty in getting skilled men for the work? A.—I get plenty of men for all the work I have got to do.

Q.—How many skilled engineers do you employ? A.—Six; sometimes eight—but before the falling off in the trade I used to have from eighteen to twenty.

Q.—Do you know to what causes may be attributed the falling off in the trade? A.—Well, we used to get a good deal of repairs to do from the steamships, and now they all go to Montreal, and they get the work done there. We get very little work now from the steamship trade.

Q.—How many unskilled men do you employ? A.—Two or three.

Q.—Any more? A.—Skilled men—yes.

Q.—What do you pay your laboring men about the machine shop? A.—One dollar a day.

Q.—Do you have any apprentices? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long do you expect them to remain with you? A.—They generally remain four or five years.

Q.—How many years does it take a boy to learn his trade? A.—It takes six or seven years to learn the trade correctly.

Q.—What wages do the boys get who are apprentices to learn the trade? A.—Two dollars the first year.

Q.—Two dollars a week? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you have much machine engineering besides steamboat work? A.—Oh, yes.

Q.—Do you have much mill work? A.—Yes, we have mill work, and work to do for shoe factories and printing offices.

Q.—Do you build any engines? A.—Yes.

Q.—Many? A.—We build a few, not very many. Sometimes two or three—perhaps four a year.

Q.—If you had a good capable boy as an apprentice, would he be able to put an engine together after his time was out? A.—Yes.

Q.—He would learn his trade thoroughly? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many hours would he work a day? A.—At the present time he works eight hours a day—ten.

Q.—Do you have any night work? A.—Sometimes.

Q.—Are the men paid overtime for it? A.—Yes. We give them time and a half.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Can you tell us if engines are conducted or run in the city of Quebec by capable engineers, that is to say, men of experience? A.—No, they are not.

Q.—Do you see any danger in that? A.—Yes, a great deal.

Q.—Then you would consider it a good thing to have an inspector of boilers and engines? A.—Yes, certainly. Very much. We require men of experience to drive steam engines. Some men who are employed in driving steam engines, do not know the principles of steam at all.

Q.—Are you aware of any accidents that took place through mismanagement of men employed in the running of steam engines, who were not exactly in their proper place—that is to say, in their proper occupation or calling? A.—I have heard of such, but nothing of that kind has occurred in any place under my control; I have never had anything occur of that kind.

Q.—Are the machine shops in the city of Quebec in good sanitary condition? A.—Yes, they are pretty well ventilated. I do not see anything that I can complain of.

Q.—Have you anything to suggest with respect to your trade, or mechanics generally? A.—Well, there is just this: sometimes, for instance, we get orders to do work aboard a ship, or for a factory, and the party becomes insolvent before we are paid; the men employed by the parties get a preference shown them, whereas we have our men employed in working for them and we get no preference. We are compelled to rank with the other creditors. Now, we have to pay our workmen, and I think that something ought to be done by which we can obtain some better payment for the work done by us. Suppose I am employing six or eight men to work on a steamboat, or in a factory, repairing machinery, and the party becomes insolvent, I contend that I should get paid just the same as the crew of the boat, or the hands in the factory. Instead of that I am thrown back to rank with the creditors, and if there is nothing to be got, I not only lose that money but I have to pay my men out of my own pocket. This is the drawback here. It is very seldom that it occurs, but it is a drawback.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—How frequently in your opinion should boilers be inspected? A.—New boilers, once a year; old boilers are more likely to get in a dangerous state, particularly if the men running them do not understand them perfectly. All steamboat boilers are regularly inspected.

Q.—Are not boilers on land liable to be equally as dangerous to life and property? A.—Yes. Just as dangerous to people as on the river.

By Mr. MACLEAN :—

Q.—Do you know if there are many boilers in Quebec in use that are not in a good condition? A.—Well, I could not say.

Q.—Are there any more machine shops in Quebec besides yours? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many more? A.—I believe there are three more.

JOHN ROACH, QUEBEC, sawmill owner, dock owner, repairer of ships and steamships, sworn :—

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Did you employ many men last summer at the graving dock? A.—Not many.

Q.—About how many? A.—Last summer was a slack summer. Perhaps we employed fifty—not continuously.

Q.—What were the wages paid per day? A.—One dollar and twenty cents to one dollar and fifty cents per day, and boilermakers one dollar and seventy-five cents to two dollars a day.

Q.—What was the character of the work done by most of these men, with regard to building that dock; I am speaking of work done in repairs? A.—You mean what wages did I pay to the men who were building the graving dock belonging to myself? I paid the same wages that I paid to carpenters and caulkers. I paid them one dollar and twenty cents a day, for work on the graving dock.

Q.—Did they have to take advantage of the tide? A.—While they worked at these repairs I always paid them tide work.

Q.—Did they have much idle time? A.—They are kept pretty constantly at work.

Q.—Well. At low water it must have been dirty work? A.—To some extent.

Q.—How many mill men have you engaged? A.—We generally employ at that work, fifty or sixty men.

Q.—What are the wages paid to a millwright? A.—Three dollars a day.

Q.—And the men working in the mill? A.—From eighty cents to one dollar and fifty cents a day.

Q.—What would be the average? A.—I suppose it would average from one dollar and five cents to one dollar and ten cents.

Q.—Have you a practical engineer in the mill? A.—Well. The man that is with me has been with me for the last fourteen years. He has not got a certificate, but he is a thoroughly reliable man.

Q.—Do you ever allow any boys to drive the engine? A.—Yes. The engineer's son, a young fellow, he drives it at times.

Q.—Does he understand it? A.—Yes. He is a very intelligent young fellow. He drives it at times.

Q.—What are generally the scale of wages paid to boomsmen in the cover during the summer? A.—They receive from forty-five dollars to sixty dollars for the season of navigation and house and fire free.

Q.—Do they have a certain number of hours to work? A.—They work the ordinary hours—of course their hours are controlled a good deal by the tide; if it is high water about four or five o'clock, they are out earlier than they otherwise would be, but that is very exceptional.

Q.—Are the men charged for lost time? A.—No; if the men lose a month they are never charged anything.

Q.—What are the general rates paid to shippers? A.—One dollar is the lowest, and one dollar and thirty cents. Liners get one dollar and forty cents a day.

Q.—Are there many boys employed at that business? A.—There are very few boys. I employ a few boys in that mill, and I pay them from forty cents to sixty cents a day. If he is a little fellow he may only get thirty-five cents a day, but there are very few who do not get forty cents a day.

Q.—When the men are working by the day, how many hours are they engaged each tide? A.—It depends entirely upon the vessel being repaired, and the nature of the damage to the vessel. If it happens to be the after part of the ship, the hours will be shorter as the injured part will be nearest the water. They would work from two hours to four and a half hours.

Q.—How many hours do they work a day? A.—They are paid a day for a tide; that is the rule.

Q.—Do the men furnish their own outfit? Do the men furnish the rubber boots for working in the water on these vessels? A.—Well, they are furnished with these rubber suits when the work is very dirty under the ship's bottom. I furnish the rubber suits; of course they would get wet below the knees, and we have got to provide these things for them.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Then you have had occasion to visit many of these steamers and ships ?
A.—I have never visited any except those that come to my place to be repaired.

Q.—You see a few of them anyway ? A.—Yes.

Q.—In what condition do you find these steamers or ships, as far as cleanliness is concerned ? A.—Ships very frequently come to my place to be repaired, but I never go aboard of them.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You just look at them from the outside ? A.—Yes.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Have you noticed what the accommodation is for the matelots (sailors) ?
A.—No.

Q.—Did you have occasion to meet any of these sailors and talk to them ? A.—No; none.

RICHARD TURNER, Quebec, Merchant, Broom and Brush Manufacturer, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How many years have you been in the broom-making business ? A.—Twenty years.

Q.—Is the industry as prosperous, now, as it was twenty years ago ? A.—Not in the city of Quebec.

Q.—How many broom manufacturers do you employ ? A.—Well, at the present time, I think, I have in the vicinity of eight or ten.

Q.—What wages do you pay your broom makers ? A.—It is all piece work. In winter, we pay them eighty cents a dozen, according to the quality, and in summer, one dollar, but we get men, in winter, who make from one dollar to one dollar and ten cents, and one dollar and twenty-five cents a day. In summer, I think, there are none of them but what make as much as twelve dollars a week.

Q.—Why are the wages of broom makers reduced in winter, rather than in summer ? A.—Well, of course, there are a greater number of that class of people offering their services in winter, and it is on account of that.

Q.—Do you increase your working capacity in winter ? A.—Certainly, I increase my working capacity in the winter for that reason.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—And, without the cheap labour, you would not increase your working capacity ? A.—Well, you see, on the other side, I have to include the interest on manufactured stock, which is carried over until the summer; so that the difference between eighty cents, and a dollar, does not represent the actual difference to me, and, then, there is interest on stock.

Q.—Is stock cheaper in winter than in summer ? A.—It varies the same as any other commodity.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Has the industry of broom making increased in Quebec, during the past five years ? A.—It is stationary.

Q.—Where do you get your broom corn from ? A.—Chicago is the market for broom corn.

Q.—And any other ports ? A.—Also in the Western States.

Q.—Where do you find your market, principally? A.—My market is found in the Province of Quebec, and in the Maritime Provinces.

Q.—Do you ship any west of Montreal? A.—I ship very little west of Montreal. I took in the whole Province of Quebec in years gone by.

Q.—Do you find prison labor enter into competition with your free labor? A.—Yes; very materially. The product of prison labor has come down here and affected my sales, so that I had to reduce my capacity.

Q.—Do you find any of that kind of labor done in the prison in the present day? A.—I have not watched the matter very closely for the last few years, but prior to that time it affected the rates.

Q.—What wages do you pay first-class brush hands? A.—Well, I have no first-class brush hands. I have female brush makers, and the wages to that class of labor run from thirty-five cents to seventy-five cents a day.

Q.—Have you girls that earn less than thirty-five cents a day? A.—They may when they first come in, but it is for a very short period, just to accustom them to the work.

Q.—How old are your girls? A.—There are none under sixteen—sixteen, eighteen or twenty.

Q.—Are these girls employed all the year round? A.—Yes. It is very seldom that we have to discharge them.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of your factory? A.—Very good.

Q.—Do the men and women work in the same room? A.—No.

Q.—Have you got in your factory separate conveniences for both sexes? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you a Grocers' Guild in the City of Quebec? A.—Yes. I am President of that Guild.

Q.—What are its objects? A.—Its object is first to regulate—grade—certain articles in the grocery business, and also to fix prices on some of the articles. That is the chief object of the Guild. Of course, there are minor objects. That the wholesale merchants who become members of that Guild, that is, the wholesale grocers that I refer to. It is only

Q.—You say you regulate the price of some of the necessaries of life? A.—Some few articles.

Q.—Do you regulate the prices of tea, coffee and sugar? A.—We do.

Q.—What would be the consequence to a member of the Guild who sold sugar below the prices of the Guild offices? A.—Well, we would remonstrate with him, and if he persisted we would not allow him to continue in the Guild; he would have to send in his resignation.

Q.—Are all grocers members of the Guild in the Province of Quebec? A.—All wholesale grocers, with two exceptions.

Q.—Supposing a retail grocer, who is not a member of the Guild, came to get his stock, could he get it as cheap as members of the Guild? A.—Do you mean from each other.

Q.—From a merchant belonging to the Guild? A.—Members of the Guild between themselves can sell at any price—that is, the wholesale members outside the Guild have to pay on white sugars an advance of three-eighths of a cent or fifteen cents a barrel more, that would cover cost of freight. We would have to deduct the freight between Montreal and Quebec. That would be called a profit of a quarter per cent on granulated sugars.

Q.—My question was, do the merchants who are members of the Guild sell to retail merchants who are not members of the Guild? A.—We do. We do not care to whom we sell as long as we get the price, but members of the Guild can sell between themselves at any price they wish, but to outsiders we sell at a quarter of a cent advance in the cost.

Q.—In the case of bad debts—in the case of parties who cannot pay, is there a list kept of their names? A.—No.

Q.—There are no “black lists” kept in the Guild? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Were they ever kept by the Guild? A.—I do not think it. I never heard of it.

Q.—Do you know there is not? A.—I do not think there is.

Q.—Well, if a man has cheated his neighbour would his name be posted. I am speaking of a man's neighbour in the broad sense of the term? A.—I do not know of any black lists whatever. I have not heard of any.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do not the wholesale tobacconists of the country—the manufacturers, prefer to sell to members of the Guild rather than to outsiders? A.—I should think they would. And also from the fact that it costs the manufacturer less than to place it among the retailers in small quantities; it costs him from five to ten per cent less.

Q.—Do you know if tobacco is sold cheaper by the manufacturers to members of the Guild than to those outside of the Guild? A.—That I could not say. It is a benefit to the trade because prices are regulated weekly. He knows the prices, and can sell at the regulation prices accordingly. Formerly there was no fixed price, and the value changed according to the rise and fall of the market. One retailer can sell to another, and there is an expense saved in travelling.

Q.—The members of the Guild cannot sell at any price? A.—No; not to outsiders.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—When there was a contest between the retail grocers, the workingman got his sugar cheaper than now? A.—Before the institution of this guild, prices of sugar were very low; it could almost be obtained at retail at cost prices. In fact some retail grocers were said to have sold sugar at a loss.

Q.—Then at that time the laboring man was better off than he is now at the at the fixed price? A.—To a very trifling extent.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you think the consumer is benefited when he buys some of his groceries at less than cost price? A.—No, he is not.

Q.—Do not you think the grocer makes it up on other articles? A.—Yes; the public are well aware of the conditions under which the Guild was instituted. We have no objection, at the present time, to show our rules. We have nothing whatever to hide. We consider the Guild a benefit to the trade.

By Mr. HEAKES.

Q.—Can you give us a reason why grocers give so much credit? A.—I do not know the reason.

Q.—I suppose it is a custom pursued long before you were born? A.—Yes; the Quebec wholesale and retail grocery business both give longer credits than any other city in the Dominion.

Q.—Do you think if the working classes of Quebec were more constantly employed, and received better wages it would have the effect of shortening credits? A.—I could not say; the presumption is that it would.

Q.—Are you a member of the Board of Trade? A.—Yes, and I am a member of the Council of the Board of Trade.

Q.—Are the builders and contractors of Quebec members of the Board of

Trade? A.—Well, I do not know of any except Mr. Peters. He is a member of the Board of Trade.

Q.—There is not any building section in the Board of Trade? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Supposing a merchant, once a member of the Guild, were to desert it would you ostracise him? would you refuse to have anything to do with him, or his work? would you refuse to speak to him, or render him any assistance; and would you consider that man not to be a man? A.—In other words would I “boycott” him? No, I would not. I would not look upon a man leaving the Guild as worthy of being treated less than as a man. I should treat him according to his behaviour.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are you able to tell us what would be the difference in the cost of sugar if the manufacturer sold it to the retailer direct? A.—If the manufacturer sold it to the retailer direct, I do not think there would be any difference. The increase in price is to cover the extra trouble.

Q.—Can you tell us what effect prison labor, in the manufacture of brooms and brushes, has on the wages of those engaged in the business? A.—Well, the effect it has is this: It has had nothing to do with the wages, but it has reduced the output.

Q.—Can you compete with the manufacturer whose brooms are made in the Central Prison, Toronto? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know if any brooms or brushes are made in the penitentiaries and reformatories in the Province of Quebec? A.—I am not aware of any.

Q.—Is the cost of material more here than in Toronto? A.—A little more.

Q.—Have you ever considered the question of prison labor—the employment of labor in prisons? A.—I have not.

Q.—You could not give any idea as to the best mode of employing prisoners? A.—I could not.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Does the Society fix the price at which the merchants shall sell raw sugar? A.—They do not.

Q.—Is there a clause in your rules that forbids retail merchants from selling it under cost? A.—No.

Q.—At present the rates of opposition can be just the same as before the institution of the Combine? A.—Quite so; I do not interfere with them whatever.

Q.—In that way, the Combine is only a benefit to the wholesale merchant? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there any wholesale houses in Quebec that do not belong to the Guild? A.—Yes, one, the firm of A. Joseph & Sons.

Q.—Do they refuse to come into the Guild? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Were they “boycotted?” Did you “boycott” them? A.—No.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—In that way, that house is obliged to buy their sugar dearer than the rest? A.—I suppose so; that is a matter with the refiner.

Q.—What difference is there between that and ordinary “boycotting?” A.—Well, the difference is, we have nothing to do with parties outside of the Guild. There is no “boycotting” at all.

Q.—In that way, if you do not belong to the Guild, you pay one and one-half cents more? A.—That is, in buying sugars from the refinery?

Q.—Yes. A.—Yes, I believe you would; it is about a quarter, I should think.

Q.—Would you not call that "boycotting"? A.—Not at all. He does not buy sugar for us.

Q.—Is it not boycotting on the part of the refiners? A.—I do not think it. He can sell at any price he wishes. He is not bound to sell at a fixed price. I buy at one time at one price, and another time at another price. They are competing one with another.

Q.—Do you know something about the cost of loading coal here? A.—Yes; I have some knowledge, indirectly, about coals.

Q.—Can you tell us the cost of unloading coals in the Port of Quebec? A.—The cost of unloading would be about thirty-four cents per ton, that is what it cost last year. I was then interested in connection with some coal Companies in Nova-Scotia. It costs about a third less, and can be discharged in less time in Montreal, than in Quebec.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—I understand that the work done in the prisons is injuring the work done in the factories by free labor,—the ordinary work done in the factories? A.—Yes.

Q.—What would you suggest towards preventing that and also affording labor for the prisoners in the prisons? A.—Well, the only way to obviate it would be for the manufacturers to pay a higher rate in the prisons, for their labor.

Q.—Do you not think if the authorities were to manufacture in the prisons something that has not yet been made in the country it would be better? Would that be good advice do you think? A.—Certainly.

Q.—With regard to the material used in your manufacture, could it not be grown in the surrounding country? A.—We have tried that, but our season is too short. It has also been tried in Ontario, and such has been the result there.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Has it not been tried in the Niagara District successfully? A.—I have seen it exported from that part of the country, and I say it is not a success.

Q.—Do you know if sugar was imported last year into Canada cheaper than the refiners could sell it here? A.—Yes; it was.

Q.—Do you know if since the sugar combine, the grade of manufactured sugar has become lower—the standard lower? A.—I am not aware of it.

Q.—Are you not aware that they have turned out more of the lower grades, and also lower grades generally as to quality? A.—No; there is no difference in the quality. There has been no better qualities of sugar imported. I do not consider that imported from Scotland any better—I do not consider it equal to the Canadian.

Q.—It was sold cheaper? A.—Yes; half a cent per pound in favour of the Scotch sugar.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Do you know how long it would take to discharge five hundred (500) tons coal in Montreal? A.—There was a vessel called the "Viola" in June last. She had fourteen hundred and fifty tons of coal aboard of her in Montreal, which was discharged in thirty-six hours.

Q.—Do you know how many men worked on the vessel—how many gangs? A.—I could not tell. It says "in Montreal." This information is contained in a note of one of my friends interested in coals. It is also my object, in making note of this, to encourage as many steamers as possible to come here. Not only am I interested in coals, but I wish to give merchants an opportunity to ship at a lower rate to the Maritime Provinces; I know here they work three hatches, and they work right along until the vessel is discharged, and at night they have night men working, night gangs.

By Mr. KIRWIN :—

Q.—Do you know that steamers discharged here, having the same quantity of coal, in eight hours last year, and cheaper than it is done in Montreal? A.—I do not know anything about the cost.

Q.—I am not at present speaking of the cost, I am speaking of the time it takes to unload? A.—Well, that is the cost. I am not speaking about the number of men you can put upon a ship. If you have got many men in one place unloading a ship you must have an equal number of men in another. It all means cost, and whether you have six hatches, or three hatches, it all means increased pay.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you know if that sugar would have been imported from Scotland if it was not for the sugar combine here? A.—That sugar would have been imported from Scotland just the same, if there had been no combine among the refiners.

Q.—Even if there had been no combine among the refiners? A.—Yes; without speaking of the combine.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Had the burning of the St. Lawrence Sugar Refinery, in Montreal, last July, anything to do with the increase in the price of sugar? A.—It removed a refinery supplying three-fourths of the sugar supply of the whole Dominion. It reduced the quantity one-half. If the Saint Lawrence Sugar Refinery had not been burned, sugar would have been about the same rate as in New York, and as what it was sold for and laid down in Scotland.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Was not sugar on the rise for several months at that time? A.—Well, it had been falling off, but at that time raw sugars were on the rise. We imported considerable from the West Indies, Porto Rico and the Barbadoes.

Q.—Have any of your coal vessels unloaded in Sorel? A.—No.

Q.—Then you do not know the price it would cost there? A.—No.

JAMES REID, of Quebec, Papermaker, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—You sell the paper on which the journal known as *L'Artisan* is printed? A.—Yes.

Q.—At the time that you made the sale were you threatened by certain people, who used to buy from you, that they would not buy from you if you sold paper or material to the proprietor of *L'Artisan*? A.—I was informed, in general conversation, that there was such a thing attempted.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q.—You are asked if anyone threatened you? A.—No; no one threatened me, I only know what I heard of my own knowledge.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are many people employed in the manufacturing of paper by you? A.—Yes, about forty.

Q.—Are these men or women, or both? A.—They are both men and women.

Q.—What wages does a man receive? A.—About one dollar a day.

Q.—And a woman? A.—Forty cents a day.

Q.—Do many earn more than that? A.—No.

Q.—Do many earn less? A.—No.

Q.—How many hours a day do they work? A.—The men or the women?

Q.—Both? A.—The men work eleven to thirteen hours, and the women work about ten hours.

Q.—Have you any children employed in the mill? Do you employ boys or girls? A.—No.

By Mr. HELBRONNER.

Q.—The persons that spoke to you about threatening to take their business away from you, were they in the printing trade? A.—No.

Q.—Were they master printers—employers? A.—No.

Q.—Did any of your customers threaten you? A.—No, it is only what I heard indirectly.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Did any of those employing printers, about the time of the printers' difficulty, stop taking paper from you? A.—Oh, they are off and on. I have not tested the thing yet as to whether some will come back or not. Sometimes I will sell a firm a lot of paper for two or three months, and after that they will cease coming to me, and go to some other place. I cannot say if any persons have stopped purchasing paper from me on that account.

Q.—Did your customers stop purchasing from you to such an extent as to rouse your suspicions that something was wrong? A. I cannot say yet, I will know in the future.

ROBERT STANLEY, Quebec, managing clerk of Messrs. Henry Fry & Co., ship brokers and merchants, of the City of Quebec, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Perhaps it will better facilitate the proceedings, Mr. Stanley, if you say what you wish to say, and then kindly permit us to put a few questions to you afterwards. We understand you are one of the gentlemen who would like to make a few remarks with regard to the matter at issue between the merchants and ship laborers. A.—Yes; I would like to make some remarks with respect to what I consider some of the causes for the diminution of the trade of Quebec in connection with our own business (the business of the firm which I represent here to-day.) I would like to say, with regard to steamers, that the high rate of wages, coupled with the 50 per cent. extra, charged for night work in the port of Quebec, has almost prevented our firm from coaling vessels here. We can get it done cheaper in Montreal. For the same reason, a great many of the steamers consigned to our firm have carried a general cargo to Montreal, and have sent Quebec freight back by the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the Richelieu & Ontario Navigation Company's steamers. In 1886 the "Albina" was consigned to us. She loaded an entire cargo of timber and deals. The largest portion of the timber was birch and longitudinal—sleepers. All these have to be loaded over the side of the ship; and, although the vessels are provided with steam winches, we are not allowed to use them. This increases the cost and prolongs the time of loading; and we have letters from the owners, saying that this vessel would not load again at Quebec, under similar circumstances. With regard to sailing vessels, there is no objection raised by the owners as regards the wages charged by those loading square timber; but it is considered a great hardship when the ship is obliged to employ more hands than she requires, and this bears especially heavy on vessels loading mixed cargoes, such as house timber, &c.—small timber. Sometimes they could take ten hands less than they do take, whereas we

are obliged to keep a full timber gang on board until the vessel is completed loading. This is considered a great source of complaint—a great hardship to the owners of vessels. It seems to me, that, in order to compete with Montreal, it would be to the interest of the ship laborers if they charged the same rate of wages, not only in the loading of deals and coals, but any other thing that comes in the way of business. These are all the suggestions that occur to me. I shall be glad to answer any questions that you choose to ask of me.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Concerning the loading of coal, do you know the price per ton, paid to the men for unloading coal? A.—I think it is three dollars a day.

Q.—Do you know the Montreal prices—what tariff it is? A.—I am not certain. I know it is considerably less than in Quebec.

Q.—You know it is not larger? A.—It is greater in Quebec. As regards steamers, it is not so much the daily wages as the fifty per cent. for night work, which is objected to. The day is short, and the night is correspondingly long.

Q.—Do you know that, last year, the Allan Line sent their steamers to Montreal to load their coal? A.—No; I am not aware of it.

Q.—The only difference, I understand, between you and the Ship Laborers, is this night work? A.—That is all; and the wages are higher, of course, for loading deals. But, I say, it bears hard upon the merchants, this extra labour, especially on goods applying to steamships; on account of the cost.

Q.—Do you know the cost of handling the same kind of cargo in Boston and New York? A.—No.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of southern ports, Pensacola and Mobile? A.—No.

Q.—Have the merchants of Quebec ever made any special efforts beyond writing these letters to meet the Ship Laborers? A.—I suppose efforts have been made by interviews with the Board of Trade.

Q.—Can you tell me why the gentlemen of the Board of Trade, and the Council of the Board of Trade, decline to name the rules of the Ship Laborers' Society that they object to? A.—I do not know. I never attended any of the meetings of the Board of Trade in that particular.

Q.—You have loaded steamers in Quebec and Montreal? A.—We have loaded coals not only in Quebec, but in Montreal. Our agents have the management in Montreal.

Q.—Can you give us the difference that you pay the stevedores in Montreal, as compared with what you pay the stevedores here, for work done on mixed freight? A.—No; I cannot. I do not know what the rates are in Montreal.

Q.—How can you expect the Commission to base an opinion when you cannot give any statistics? A.—I have no knowledge of what takes place in Montreal. I can only give you what I have knowledge of—what comes under my notice in Quebec.

Q.—Did you send steamers to Montreal, with the idea that it is cheaper to send them to Montreal than to allow them to remain at Quebec to load? A.—We do not order them there; it is a special clause inserted in the Bill of Lading that they have a right to proceed to Montreal, and they invariably go when the quantity of cargo is not large for Quebec.

Q.—The quantity of freight you import is more for Montreal than for Quebec? A.—Yes. A much larger quantity.

Q.—Is it not to the interest of the shipper to go straight to Montreal rather than to stop at Quebec on his way up? A.—It is on account of the charges being less in Montreal than here.

Q.—Even if the rates were cheaper in Quebec, would it not be to your interest having freight to go to Montreal, to go straight through rather than stop here? A.—No. It would be to our interest to stop at Quebec.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Is it not inevitable that the head of navigation would be preferred by steamship companies, to way ports like Quebec? A.—I do not know whether it would be, if this port was as cheap as the others.

Q.—Have they any better railway facilities for handling freight in Montreal than in Quebec? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Has it not been shown that in several cases freight has been sent to Montreal to load, and is not that cheaper for the shipper than for the steamer to stop here to load? A.—Yes. That depends. The only consideration is the difference in the wages, and the night labour.

Q.—Would it not be cheaper for the freight to come by railway from Montreal to Quebec. Would it not be cheaper than paying the wharfage and harbour dues and so forth? A.—No. Because these charges are only in proportion to the amount discharged.

Q.—Is there not a port charge in addition to the charges for tonnage and wharfage? A.—I do not exactly understand you. The harbour dues are in proportion to the quantity discharged. The harbour dues are so much per ton on the quantity discharged.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you not think the men are entitled to more wages for night work than for day work? A.—Well, they may be entitled to it but if it is not allowed in other ports, and they wish to compete with other ports, to preserve their trade, they should follow suit.

Q.—Is there more night work done in Quebec than in Montreal? A.—I do not think so. I do not know when night commences in Montreal. I do not know what length their day is.

Q.—Do you think night work is made compulsory to a great extent for the purpose of catching a tide in the morning? A.—Of course we have to work immediately a vessel comes in.

Q.—Is not night work more compulsory in the port of Quebec than in the port of Montreal on account of the necessity of catching the tides? Is not night work compulsory, to a great extent, in order to allow vessels to proceed without delay up the river? A.—It all depends upon how the tide serves. Vessels may generally leave here about low tide. My firm's vessels leave at very low water.

Q.—Have you ever known night work to be caused through that? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you known vessels proceeding to Montreal for the purpose of saving the cost of a steamboat and tow hire here? A.—You refer to steamers?

Q.—Yes? A.—I think not. Of course, steamers require no tow here, they propel themselves, and they generally go to a wharf to load, and unload their goods.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—There are certain dues paid on all vessels in the port of Quebec whether they go to Montreal or not, such as pilotage, lights, etc.? A.—Yes.

Q.—So that it makes no difference, does it, in these charges, whether the vessels go to Montreal or not? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You stated a little while ago that an account of the expenses was sent to the owner of vessels? A.—No. I said that that vessel, the "Albina," would never load again under these restrictions.

Q.—What restrictions? A.—The time it took to load—the restrictions placed upon our manner of loading, and the consequent cost.

Q.—You send an account of the expenses consequent upon the unloading and loading of vessels to the owners, I believe? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is the expense of the labour a distinct item in your accounts sent to the owners? A.—The expense of the labour is a distinct item.

Q.—It is a distinct item in the papers that go to the owners? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever known items, that do not really belong to the ship labourers' item, being placed to their credit in the papers, such as "tips," and one thing and another, to captains of vessels? A.—We do not know anything of it in the office, but where a contract is taken, of course, all the items are not kept separate, not if a ship is loaded by contract. Of course, there are various items included that we do not apply to labourers.

Q.—Have you ever known these items to be put down in writing to the credit of the labourers—have you ever known outside items, having nothing to do with the labourers, being put down to their credit? A.—No.

Q.—Have you ever known a fraudulent account to be made out against the labourers, an account that should not have been put down to the labourers? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you agree with what the other merchants have said in this matter? A.—Yes; in full.

Q.—And you persist in the statement, with regard to these dues, that you only pay so much a ton for the cargo unloaded, in proportion to the whole cargo? A.—Yes.

Q.—That is, the harbour dues, and so forth, on the cargo unloaded? A.—Yes.

Q.—You pay so much per ton, in proportion to the whole cargo of the vessel? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—The wharfage and moorage dues, are they upon the actual quantity unloaded? A.—Yes.

Q.—The moorage charges of the ship is one thing, and wharfage charges is another? A.—The moorage charges are different to the others.

Q.—Vessels passing by Quebec, save these moorage charges? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—The fact is, from your experience, ships avoid Quebec, to a great extent, to go to Montreal? A.—Yes.

Q.—Without giving any further particulars, that is the result as far as you are concerned? A.—Yes.

Q.—The rules of this society, as carried out, hinder you in your own business; and, therefore, you would be in favor of having the matter settled on conditions favorable alike to the laborers and the owners? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG —

Q.—Your firm get their work done by contract? A.—Yes.

Q.—These rules do not affect the firm seriously if the work is done by contract? A.—It is no benefit to the firm; the benefit goes to the stevedore, if any.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do you believe if somebody paid attention to the shipping of grain and flour from Quebec, that it would be a success, and a benefit to ship owners, and so on? I understand that the port is ready, and that everything is ready for that trade. Do you think if capitalists were to undertake to build an elevator, and furnish grain, that it is practicable to send grain from Quebec? A.—I think so.

Q.—You do not see that it is difficult for the thing to take place? A.—No.

Q.—You see no difficulty in the way? A.—None whatever.

WILLIAM RAE, of the City of Quebec, in the Province of Quebec, Merchant, member of the firm of Messrs. Allans, Rae & Co., Merchants and Ship-owners, re-appears and says: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: I appear before you in accordance with my promise, when giving my evidence on the seventh instant, and submit memo with respect to the Saint Lawrence route, and Port Charges at Montreal. The actual cost of loading cargo, in Quebec, is about thirty-nine (39) cents per ton. The same work, in Montreal, costs twenty three (23) cents, to twenty-five (25) cents per ton. Harbor Dues, in Quebec, on vessels, are five cents per ton, register, provided all her cargo is landed here; if only part, they only pay in the proportion same bears to the whole cargo. Wharfage, or Moorage Dues, on a three thousand ton (3,000) vessel, here, is about fifteen dollars (\$15) per day, and one-half cent per ton for three thousand (3,000). On Cargo, thirteen (13) cents per ton, and one-tenth of one per cent *ad valorem*. Sea Pilotage, Sick Mariners' Fund, and Police Dues, are the same as on vessels bound to Montreal. Only one charge is charged for both Ports, therefore it need not be particularised.

(Translation.)

FELIX GOURDEAU, of Quebec, Tanner and Currier, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Can you tell us if there are inspectors of factories in Quebec? A.—I do not know of any.

Q.—Do you think it would be to the general benefit if there were? A.—I do not see that they would be of any use.

Q.—Do you know if there are inspectors of boilers? A.—Yes; I know there are.

Q.—Can you state whether the introduction of machinery in your business has had the effect of raising or lowering wages? A.—It has not had the effect of lowering them; on the contrary, it has raised them a great deal.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that sub-contractors undertake a certain lot of work for the master, thus depriving the workmen of large wages? A.—Not in our line; in shoemakers' work it is very much done.

Q.—Are children employed in your business, and if so, at what age do you employ them, and what is the age of the youngest? A.—Fifteen years of age up.

Q.—What is the system of apprenticeship among tanners and curriers? Is there any? A.—They generally give four years' apprenticeship.

Q.—Is that in the curriers' business or the tanners'? A.—In both the curriers' and tanners' business.

Q.—Do you think the thing is practically carried out, or do they take a man, sometimes the first comer, and just put him to work? A.—There are fewer apprentices now than there used to be. Day laborers are now generally employed to do work that was formerly given to apprentices, because we do not like to have apprentices. We hire them for four years, and generally at the end of two years and a half, or three years, they leave us to go and work elsewhere as journeymen.

Q.—Is their leaving due to there being no law which makes a contract between apprentices and masters binding? A.—Yes; there are laws for that, but when we want to engage them according to law, they refuse to engage at all.

Q.—What are the hours of work for curriers and tanners? A.—Ten hours a day.

Q.—About how much are the average wages of curriers and tanners? A.—We get about \$8.00 a week; tanners get nearly the same thing. We pay about from \$5.00 to \$12.00.

Q.—Do you believe that there are tanneries where a man gets sixty cents a day? A.—Yes; there are.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—In winter? A.—Yes; in winter.

Q.—And in summer? A.—In summer they give a little more, but not much; but it is not first-class hands that get that.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of curriers' and tanners' factories in general?
A.—The sanitary condition is good enough. Care is taken to keep everything clean, and night watchmen are employed who clean the factories every night and put things in order.

Q.—Has the work done in jails anything to do with your business? Does it injure you in any way? A.—Not at all.

Q.—Have you ever attempted the exportation of any of your wares, or do you export them? A.—Yes; we export our goods to England, and from there they are sent over Europe. We have exported them for ten years past.

Q.—Will you state what are the special goods you export to the other side?
A.—They are patent leather, buff, cow kid, and what we call "splits."

Q.—Do you think any varnished leather is exported? A.—Yes, in certain quantities.

Q.—Is it grained or smooth? A.—Both are exported.

Q.—What arrangements are made for exportation? Do you send your leather directly from here, or have you to send it to Montreal first? A.—We export from Quebec, but we have often been obliged to export from Montreal, because the vessels would not stop here, on account, so they told us, of the charges being too high for the value of the freight, owing to the Ship Laborers' Society. It cost them more than the value of the freight they took on here.

Q.—Have you ever had occasion to import goods from elsewhere, and, if so, by what route did you receive them? A.—I received them by Quebec and Montreal. Last year we got nearly all our goods by Montreal. They were carried to Montreal, as they did not stop here. The goods went to Montreal, and were sent here by the Pacific Railway.

Q.—Since you export leather, do you not think boots and shoes could be exported as well, if there was a company organized? A.—Yes; they could certainly be exported in several specialties. I went to Europe, and I studied the European markets, and there are several specialties that could be exported if manufacturers would give themselves the trouble to send representatives there.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Have you a steam engine in your factory? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Is the man who attends to it an engineer? A.—No; he is not a certified engineer.

Q.—Is he any kind of an engineer? A.—Yes; he has always done that work? He has attended to an engine fourteen or fifteen years.

Q.—Has he worked for fourteen or fifteen years for you? A.—No; only for the last four years.

Q.—Did he attend to an engine before he went to your place? A.—Yes, sir.

(Translation.)

WILLIAM CARRIER, Flour and Grain Merchant, Quebec, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Is it you who engage and pay the men that you employ to load and unload the barges? A.—Pardon me.

Q.—Have you in your service men who, in the summer, load and unload the goods that belong to you? A.—I have nothing whatever to do with these people. We get our goods from the wharf.

Q.—Are the men that take your goods from the wharves employed by you? Yes, sir.

Q.—How much are these men paid during the season? A.—Six dollars a week.

Q.—What are their hours of work? A.—From seven to seven o'clock. Eleven hours work.

Q.—Does it ever happen that they are obliged to go to the wharf between one and two o'clock in the morning? A.—No, sir; it has never happened to me.

Q.—Does it happen that they are obliged to be on the wharf before seven o'clock in the morning? A.—It happens very rarely.

Q.—It happens? A.—This has not happened for many years except sometimes when we are delayed. It does not happen twice a year.

Q.—Does it happen to them to work after seven o'clock? A.—Sometimes, they are engaged for that, when there are ships to finish loading, cars to unload, they work until 8 and 9 o'clock.

Q.—The employees at six dollars a week are engaged for eleven hours of work? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—When they work later than seven o'clock at night are they paid extra? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do they work on Sundays? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Never? A.—No, sir; nor holidays.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Can you give us some reasons why commerce is not as good in Quebec as Montreal? A.—First, we have not the elevators, and then we have not the men.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—If you had the men, perhaps you would have the elevators? A.—It is probable, if we had a little money with them.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—As it is then, do you think your port is in a sufficiently good condition for exporting, are your wharves in order? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Then it is only a want of organization among your men of business? A.—Yes, sir; I believe, if I can rely upon the newspaper reports, that Mr. Kirouack in his deposition has said, that prepared flour may be bad for health. I, myself, make prepared flour, it is I who sell the most of it, here in Quebec, and I assert it is not hurtful to the health notwithstanding what Mr. Kiourack said yesterday. I have made it for 14 or 15 years. It has been examined by doctors. The powder we put in it, is the baking powder that is sold in stores, and I cannot see why prepared flour should do more damage to the health than baking powder. The powder is put in it together with salt, so that the flour is all ready to bake.

Q.—You declare, under oath, that your flour was inspected and that it is not injurious? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you export flour to the lower ports? Flour in barrels? A.—No, sir; I sometimes sell to the lower ports, not the Maritime Provinces, but from here to Rimouski.

Q.—Could you tell us, if during these last years, this exportation has increased or diminished? A.—I think it has increased. We have no chance to export to the lower ports, because the freight from Upper Canada is almost as low as to the lower ports.

Q.—The freight from Upper Canada to the lower ports is cheaper than from Upper Canada to Quebec? A.—Yes, sir; I myself have flour brought to the lower ports for the same rate as to Quebec.

(Translation.)

MICHEL VALLIÈRES, of Quebec, Foreman Carrier, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—You received a notice to appear? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Can you inform us whether the factories, in which you work, are generally in a good sanitary condition? A.—Our place is in good condition, very good. I do not often go into other factories; I cannot say what state others are in.

Q.—Do you know what wages are generally paid a carrier, in your own or other factories? A.—Yes, sir; the average wages of carriers are from \$5.50 to \$6.

Q.—Do you include the wages paid to apprentices, or men who take the place of apprentices? A.—Apprentices are not included, that is to say, the boys that take the place of apprentices, and these boys earn \$3, \$3.50 to \$4 a week.

Q.—Do you consider that the introduction of machinery in your business, has had the effect to lower wages, or has it raised them? A.—In our place, I think, it has had the effect of lowering them. The machines we use in our place are absolutely necessary.

Q.—Do any of the men undertake contracts from the master, and then give out the work at lower rates, to others? A.—No, sir, not in our place.

Q.—Is there a system of apprenticeship in your business, or has such a system been abandoned? A.—In some other shops, they still take apprentices. They pass a paper. I believe they take them for three years. There are, I think, a couple of shops, on St. Vallier street, where they take apprentices by indenture.

Q.—Do you think the present system, of not taking apprentices, as good a system as the former one of taking them? A.—I will tell you; young men do not care much to bind themselves as apprentices. First, as apprentices, their wages are not high enough, they earn \$2.50, and \$3, I suppose, the last year; and even when they are journeymen they earn a small salary of \$5.50 to \$6. So they say, "It is not worth while to serve three years' apprenticeship, to earn \$5.50 or \$6. These are the wages of labourers in summer time."

Q.—Is there anything you would suggest to the Commission? A.—No, sir.

(Translation.)

FRANÇOIS FERDINAND PARADIS, of Quebec, Roofer, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—How long a time, on an average, do you work in a year? A.—Taking all together, about eight months, eight months and a half in all the year.

Q.—Do you work constantly in summer? A.—Some weeks we work only four or five days, sometimes all the week, but not very often.

Q.—Are the men employed in your business roofers? A.—Oh, no.

Q.—Do masters employ men who are not roofers? A.—In some shops they employ day laborers whom they make work with us, the greater part of them, as if they were roofers.

Q.—How many hours a day do you work? A.—Ten in summer.

Q.—At what hour do you go to work in the morning? A.—In some shops they are not all alike—in some shops we have to go before the hour; in some, when we arrive at the shop, we have work to do.

Q.—Do any shops begin work at seven o'clock? A.—At seven o'clock, in summer.

Q.—Do you have to go to the shop before seven o'clock, to take orders before

proceeding to the place where you are to work, in order to be at that place at seven o'clock? A.—Formerly, some time ago, the masters we worked for, used to tell us to be at the shop at seven o'clock, because at night we were sometimes at one work and they wanted us to change in the morning. We sometimes worked at three different places in the course of a day.

Q.—What I would like to know is: does your day's work begin at seven o'clock?
A.—Yes.

Q.—If you had to work at a house a mile away would you have to be at the shop at half-past six o'clock, to take orders, and be at the house at seven o'clock? A.—No, sir.

Q.—It is not to your knowledge that masters oblige their men to be at the shop half an hour before the day begins, to get their tools and materials? A.—Some oblige them to come as early as possible; there are all kinds: they are not all the same. I have been through some of the shops in Quebec, and they are not all the same.

Q.—Do you speak of your own? A.—I am not in any shop just now, I am not working.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that working roofers have sometimes to carry their tools, and even their materials, to their work? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Are you paid extra if you work overtime? A.—We sometimes work an hour overtime, when it is to finish some work, and we are not paid for it. If we worked longer, I believe we would be paid for it.

Q.—Do you make your own scaffolding? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Are you given what is required? A.—Sometimes, not often, because sometimes we have nothing to make scaffolding of. We have to take what we can find. Other times they give us materials, but they are not too generous.

Q.—Are you sometimes obliged to begin roofing very high buildings without scaffolding? A.—Yes, it very often happens. Sometimes they say: "It is not worth while scaffolding." We have to begin working on roofs without ladders.

Q.—Do you consider scaffolding dangerous, that it puts your life in danger?
A.—We are certainly in danger, without scaffolds.

Q.—Have you ever complained to your master of insufficient scaffolding? A.—I have sometimes; he said: "There is no danger, you can work that way---you can work that way very well."

Q.—Have you any knowledge of accidents having happened on account of such scaffolding? A.—Yes; to myself.

Q.—What accident happened to you? A.—I fell from a building on account of a board. It was an old building, very rotten. I had nothing but this old board given me for a scaffolding. I fell and dislocated a hip, bruised my thigh, and was twenty-seven months without working.

Q.—Did your master indemnify you for your illness? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Did he pay your doctor? A.—No, sir, nothing at all, only fifteen cents for the carter.

Q.—What can working roofers earn in a year, now? A.—To the best of my knowledge, counting lost time, and because of the winter, when we do not work often, we may earn about \$200, \$225 or \$300 a year at the very most.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that certain masters advance money to their workmen?
A.—I have never seen any given myself, but the person that got it told me of it himself.

Q.—Do you think that a roofer, employed as roofers are now, can earn enough to keep his family in a suitable manner, and bring up his children? A.—No, sir.

(Translation)

GEORGE LÉVESQUE, of Quebec, joiner, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What wages do joiners earn in Quebec at the present time? A.—Joiners earn, at the present time, from 90 cents to \$1.

Q.—Have the joiners, of Quebec, work all the year? A.—No, sir; not all of them. There are some remain working in shops a long time, and the masters keep them all the year because they do not pay them very high wages.

Q.—Can you state, as near as possible, what length of time joiners can get work during the year? A.—He would be a very lucky joiner that would get work for 10 months of the year.

Q.—Do you work in a shop where machinery is used? A.—No, sir; I work in a shop where hand work is done. That is, for some months I have worked on my own account.

Q.—Do many joiners work by the piece? A.—No, sir; I do not know of any.

Q.—Do you know why wages are lower in winter than in summer? A.—I know the reason, it is because in winter it is difficult for a workman to go to other cities. This winter, we have, here, \$1 a day—and we think it a high price—because there are very few joiners in Quebec; the greater number have gone to Montreal or to the United States. Last winter I was hired to work at a house at the rate of \$5 a week for 10 hours work, because there was scarcely any work for joiner, and I had worked for the Corporation all summer. I lost a great deal of time in the winter.

Q.—Were you married? A.—Certainly. I had worked all the preceding summer for the Corporation, that is in 1886, and I had earned very little. There was scarcely anything to do here in Quebec. We had \$1 a day, we joiners, to work for the Corporation, and we were paid every 3 or 4 weeks; we were 9 weeks without being paid.

Q.—Do you think that a man who works only 10 months in the year, and gets only \$1 day, is able to support a family? A.—A man earning but \$1 a day, and having a moderately sized family, must have his wife's help. She must either beg or work for others, for them to be able to live. I think that joiners and carpenters are the worst treated class of men in Quebec, for there is great competition. Farmers come in from the country parts, and if a "boss" has need of 7 or 8 joiners, he will take one or two able joiners to do the difficult work, and he will hire all sorts of men to nail boards and do the rough work, so that there is great competition in wages.

Q.—Have you any trouble in drawing your pay from private individuals? A.—None.

(Translation.)

JEAN BRISSON, of Quebec, laborer, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—We have already heard many laborers. Have you received a subpoena? A.—No; I came voluntarily.

Q.—Will you state why you come before the Commission? A.—I worked, last summer, for nearly two months, for a company that worked in the Basin, and we were badly treated there. We worked at a canal. As long as we did not work into the tide, things went pretty well. We worked ten hours a day, and as soon as we got to the tide—the tide went out at eleven o'clock at night, or in the morning, —we had to work according to it. The tide varies three quarters of an hour a day, and we had to work two tides to make a day, whilst in other places it is one

tide for one day; and we were badly treated, with that; we had only \$1 a day, and we had to work in mud up to our knees.

Q.—Was that job done by a contractor? A.—By a Government contractor.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—When you worked for one tide, were you not paid for a day? A.—Not for a whole day. We were obliged to work two tides for a day.

Q.—How many hours did you work between the first and second tide? A.—The high tide was five hours coming in, and five hours going out. We may have worked three or four hours each tide.

Q.—How many hours did you work when you began working at the first tide and finished at the second? A.—The tide comes in twice in every twenty-four hours.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—From the hour when you began to work until you finished, how many hours were there? Suppose you began at low tide, at five o'clock, how long could you work until you finished at night? A.—We might do something like four hours' work.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How many hours were there between the tides, that you could not work? A.—About three hours.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—How many hours between the moment you began work and the moment you finished? A.—The tide varies, you know; it loses three quarters of an hour a day.

Q.—How long between the tides? A.—Five or six hours between the two tides?

(Translation.)

GEORGE RACINE, of Quebec, Tailor, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—You wish to make some remarks before the Commission? A.—I have not heard what the other tailors have stated here, I only saw the reports given in the newspapers.

Q.—I ought to tell you that the newspaper reports are not always exact? A.—I do not wish to say that they are. I found that certain things concerning our trade which should have been stated, were not mentioned. The system of apprenticeship that apprentices are bound to follow, is somewhat light, and the prices too are somewhat exaggerated, for there are some that earn \$9 to \$10 a week, and many that earn only \$4 and \$5. Apprentices serve generally four and five years, this depends on the agreement. We generally give them \$1 a month, and their board, and on their time, we may calculate, that they generally lose a year and a half in doing errands, sawing wood and in doing many other things not in their trade, and the persons who take them in this way leave no one in the shops where they are employed, to oversee them and to teach them the way to acquire their trade. They learn only from those who are there, and who give them some pieces to commence, and they never follow what is called a thorough course of study to enable them to become good workmen. And then it is not unusual for a workman, an apprentice,

as in certain shops, to serve a year or two, and if he is not satisfied to go elsewhere to finish his apprenticeship.

Q.—Are they not bound by indenture to their masters? A.—We see very few who finish their apprenticeship in the shop where they commenced.

Q.—Is this generally the fault of the master or the apprentice? A.—That I cannot say. It may occur sometimes that it is due to the master, and at other times it is owing to the apprentice not being satisfied where he is. Then our trade is divided into two classes, that is to say, there are the sewers and the cutters, and the sewers generally serve four to five years of apprenticeship, and I find it strange that the cutters have no rule, that they do not give as much study, nor is there as much time given to learn to cut as to sew. It seems to me it requires as much precision to cut as to sew. A man learns to cut in one month, two months, three months the time he wishes, and it even depends on the time he is disposed to give to it. If he only learns one month, he will learn less and be less of a workman. If we named a reasonable period so that a man might have the time to study the thing seriously, and if this period were fixed according to the needs of the work taught, it would be preferable than to leave the apprentices who have finished their time, to sew and learn in any way they can.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—There is no system? A.—There is no system. Then there is another thing in the trade that injures it. That is people who do our work and who are not tailors. There are merchants, in certain parts of the city, who do cutting, and give out the suits to be made by persons who are not of the trade, and naturally these persons, by whom the suits are made, are generally paid in goods for which they are charged 20 to 30 per cent.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that this is done? A.—To my knowledge.

Q.—Is it carried on on a large scale? A.—Possibly large, and I find that it is an injury to our trade.

Q.—Do you know persons who work on these conditions? A.—Yes, sir; and these persons work almost day and night, and they require to work. They are women who have not their husbands and who need to work. I know a family where there are three daughters, and these persons work day and night, and it is all they can do to live. They might be given more than that.

Q.—Do you know how much the three make in a week? A.—I cannot say exactly, but in any case they do not make enough to live, for it is to my knowledge that they lived in a house and had to leave it in debt for their rent, and they are people who do not spend much.

Q.—What do these women do? A.—They make ready-made clothing for sale. They get patterns from the people who employ them, or they get a suit or two from the tailors, and then they take these patterns and work from them all the rest of the year; while we are obliged to pay licences, extra taxes, to do the thing properly; and when we sell a pattern at twenty-five cents we do so for the rest of the year.

Q.—Are the clothing which these women make from the goods given them sold by them to customers, or are they re-sold to the store? They get goods in payment, do they not? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—With these goods they make clothing? A.—No, no, not at all. Suppose that one of these merchants who employs one of these women says:—“How much do you charge for making vest and trousers. And suppose it is three shillings and sixpence for the work, he says: ‘I will pay you seven shillings and a half, but in goods; you come to the store and buy goods to that amount;’ and these goods are for themselves.

Q.—These goods may be cloth or anything else? A.—It may be anything at all.

Q.—What do they do with the clothing? A.—No, I cannot say that they make clothing. It is for themselves.

Q.—You have just told us that they make clothing from patterns that they pro-

cure? A.—No, no, the merchants furnish their patterns, or they themselves take patterns from a suit. Suppose I cut a suit for a merchant, and suppose that the merchant sends this suit to the woman, then she takes a pattern off it.

Q.—You have told us that the women made clothing from the goods given them in payment? A.—No, if I said that I made a mistake for I did not understand that.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Have you anything to suggest to the Commission? A.—Then the apprentices begin their apprenticeship somewhat young, that is to say, they should, before commencing their trades, learn to read and write and have a certain education. When they come to sew they have little need of it, but when they come to cut, if they have not a fair education they cannot learn any mode or any system, for as a general rule among the tailors, since there have been any in Quebec, these systems are nearly all American, there are none written in French.

Q.—Are there many cutters of coats, of clothes, that are able to reduce or enlarge their patterns; for instance, cut a coat of a certain size from one of smaller proportions? A.—It is done always, but many do it by the eye, who do not know the proper way to do it.

Q.—Do you know if any school exists here where this could be learnt for nothing? A.—Yes. I went to one myself. I did not learn to reduce a pattern there, for I already knew how to do it. They do it for boots, and could do it for coats. They never tried at the School of Arts and Trades to teach us this. Only during the time I was there I learned geometry; a thing absolutely necessary for our trade, and I learnt by the pattern of boots that the same system can be adopted for clothes. I think it is absolutely necessary, that a child, before commencing to sew, should have a certain education so that if he wishes to learn to cut it will be easier to teach him.

THOMAS KENNEDY, of the city of Quebec, a member of the Fire Brigade, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—In what capacity are you employed in the Quebec Fire Brigade? A.—As Waterman.

Q.—What are the duties of a waterman in the Brigade? A.—To look after the hydrants, in winter, and also in summer; to keep them oiled, and see that they work well.

Q.—You have other duties to perform, I suppose? A.—Yes; we have to attend at fires.

Q.—Are you frequently employed, for any length of time, on that work; attending to the hydrants? A.—Yes.

Q.—What pay do you get? A.—Eight dollars and twenty-four cents a week.

Q.—What work do you do, in addition to the ordinary work of a fireman? A.—That is all according to circumstances. That is all according to the work we get on the hydrants, according to the cold weather.

Q.—Have you anything that you would like to tell the Commission, in connection with the Fire Brigade, or with regard to the duties, and conditions of the firemen? A.—No; I do not know that I have anything to say.

QUEBEC, March 13th, 1888.

CHARLES FITZPATRICK, of the city of Quebec, in the Province of Quebec, Esq.,
Advocate and Barrister, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you any statement to make to the Commission? A.—I have no particular statement to make. I am not familiar, from actual experience, with the loading of ships in Quebec. At the same time, I take some interest in the matter, in so far as the cost of loading ships, and the time occupied in loading them is concerned, and I have got some statistics, which go to show that since eighteen hundred and fifty-six, the time used in loading ships, is about one-third less than it was before the formation of the Quebec Ship Labourers' Society.

Q.—Will you furnish the Commission with those statistics? A.—Yes; I do so now. I may state, that in 1855, the average despatch of a ship, was 6.56 days per 100 tons, and 1886, 2.24 days. A ship gets greater despatch at Quebec, than in any other port in North America. These statistics shew how long it takes to load a ship at Miramichi, Shediac, St. John, St. Thomas, Three Rivers, and Pugwash, which, as you are aware, are the great shipping centres for lumber in North America. The figures which I now furnish you, have been handed to me by the Norwegian Consul here in Quebec, and I may add, that there is no more competent authority than this gentleman, as the Norwegian vessels almost completely monopolize, at Quebec, the carrying trade, in so far as the export of lumber is concerned. These statistics cover all the years, from 1855 to 1886. This is not hearsay evidence, but official information. That document is in the handwriting of the Consul. I may also say, that from 1860 to 1886, there has been a decrease in the annual export of lumber from the Port of Quebec, of from twenty-six million of feet to eight million of feet. I think that accounts, somewhat, for the decrease in the trade. Of course, if there is nothing to carry, there is very little use for ships to come here. It is also an ascertained fact that the loading of vessels, taking mixed cargoes, that is taking part square timber, and part deals, must, of necessity, occupy greater time than vessels taking all deals, because, if you take the average of mixed cargoes, it is not so great as it should be; although the average of mixed cargoes, in Quebec, is greater than that of any port in North America.

Q.—From your knowledge of the matter, is it your opinion that this trade has left from natural causes? A.—Yes; from other causes than those generally given. I may state here that I have never worked on board ship in my life, but I was brought up among those who do. I was brought up in the Coves, and I have seen ships loaded from the time that I was able to walk. As I stated a moment ago, the quantity of square timber coming to Quebec has greatly fallen off owing to natural causes, and it is perfect nonsense to assume that the Ship Laborers' Society is to blame because vessels do not come here. Now I speak from general knowledge simply. So far as lumber is concerned, when a vessel comes from the other side, particularly steamers with cargo, the general tendency is to go to the head of navigation, that is the invariable rule. On the other hand, the shippers seek the cheapest freight. Now it seems to me that if freight and freight room offers more cheaply in Montreal we cannot expect the shippers to lighter freight down to Quebec to load it here. That would be contrary to common sense. I may not be very accurate in my judgment, but I am of the opinion that the development of steam, the construction of the Intercolonial Railway, and the construction of other railways, all entering Montreal; the deepening of the St. Lawrence Ship Canal, so as to enable large vessels to come to Montreal, cannot have improved trade here. The building of the Intercolonial Railway, while it has improved intercommunication between Canada and the rest of the world, has not assisted Quebec. It causes no trade to come here. We are tied up in Quebec for seven months in the year, just the same as we were years ago.

Q.—You think, then, on account of the superior railway facilities at Montreal for the distribution of freight, the steamship companies prefer that their vessels should proceed to Montreal, as being the head of navigation? A.—Yes; Montreal is at the head of navigation for sea going vessels; it is the centre of the commerce of Canada—it has secured that position, and has the energy and capital necessary to maintain it. The men there have got money and know how to use it to create and facilitate trade, and they do not do that here. I have only one thing to say with reference to the by-laws attacked here the other day. I do not appear here as the advocate of the Ship Laborers' Society, but I perfectly understand the by-laws of the Society, and I say that they never have been declared illegal. The Society exists under a charter, granted by the old Parliament of Canada in 1862. The objects of the Society and the purport of the by-laws, can be indicated in a few words. Firstly: the Society is chiefly a benevolent one. Secondly: The by-laws regulate the rate of wages, and the hours of labor for members—that is perfectly legal. Thirdly: They determine under what conditions they will work on board ship; how many men shall form gangs for the several classes and descriptions of work, and so on. Now I say a Society ceases to be legal when it prevents the free exercise of the right which every man has, to do as he chooses with his labor, and this Society does not pretend to interfere with outsiders, who are free to do as they choose; nor does it prevent those, who are not satisfied with the rules, from leaving the Society.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—In that case, I presume, they can be improperly used—improperly administered if so, that would not be legal. A.—No. I contend that the by-laws are perfectly legal.

Q.—The Society has no right to regulate the rate of wages that any man shall receive. A.—I am of the opinion that it has, so far as its members are concerned, and that is also the law of common sense.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you know anything about the "George Gilroy?" A.—No.

Q.—Can you tell us anything with respect to the time occupied in loading vessels? A.—Yes. There was the _____, _____ tons, took _____ days, and the cost of the labor was _____; the "R. G. Carver," 3,700 tons, was loaded in nine days, and the cost of the labor was \$269.

Q.—The work of a ship laborer is very hazardous in the port of Quebec, is it not? A.—Yes. The life of a ship laborer is not one to be envied. It is such as to warrant the existence of such a society. Daily, the ship laborer takes his life in his hands, as he goes to work, and is liable to be brought home any night either dead or maimed for life, by the neglect or want of skill of a fellow-workman; and, in consequence, rules are made to regulate the way the work is to be done, so as to, as far as possible, minimise the risks incident to the occupation.

Q.—Can you tell us the average earnings of a ship laborer? A.—Of course, I could not tell you much about that. I never worked aboard ship. Some of my own friends have. But to-day the earnings are not large. I know the majority of them earn about enough to live through the summer, and as much as will take them to the Southern States in the winter; and I know a good many ship laborers' families in Quebec who live on money earned down in the South during the winter; and I believe there is a great deal more sentiment, than anything else, about the men remaining in Quebec at all.

STATISTICS REFERRED TO IN THE ABOVE DEPOSITION.

AVERAGE DISPATCH OF VESSELS IN BENEATH MENTIONED CANADIAN PORTS, DISCHARGING AND LOADING CARGOES OF WOOD GOODS.

Days per 100 reg. tons.

	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	1860	1861	1862	1863	1864	1865	1866	1867	1868	1869	1870
Quebec.....	6.56	5.93	6.42	5.86	5.00	5.86	6.00	4.76	5.37	4.81	5.00	4.67	4.52	4.20	4.05	3.74
Miramichi.....				6.42	5.72	6.11	6.58	4.77	4.97	6.16	5.21	5.00	5.37	4.41	5.39	4.33
Saguenay.....				7.27	7.16	5.37	7.00	5.17	5.12	3.42	?	3.90	3.70	3.55	4.38	3.94
Dalhousie.....				8.24	7.81	9.56	8.13					6.99	7.76	4.34	6.50	5.56
Richibucto.....				9.47	5.72	10.43	9.45	8.31	9.17	7.61	9.32	7.72	7.61	8.78	7.91	8.30
Shediac.....				7.50	8.00		6.56	6.60	6.79	6.13	6.37	6.70	6.60			
St. John.....				4.26	5.57		5.92	4.51	6.44		3.09	3.90	5.85	3.81	5.25	4.96
St. Thomas.....												4.88	4.33	4.94	3.63	
Three Rivers.....										5.37	5.00			6.01	3.25	4.51
Pugwash.....						5.58	5.57	5.18	5.73	5.41	4.70	4.22	4.75	4.66	4.69	4.29
	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885	1886
Quebec.....	3.36	3.82	3.13	3.77	2.59	2.56	2.54	2.44	2.54	2.58	2.45	2.42	2.54	2.31	2.69	2.24
Miramichi.....	4.34	4.88	4.72	6.00	4.23	3.98	3.82	3.92	4.31	4.46	3.94	4.33	3.45	4.03	3.42	3.28
Saguenay.....	3.48	3.73	3.03	3.53	3.41	4.20	3.00	2.83	3.37	3.13	3.16	2.74	3.50	3.65	3.80	3.46
Dalhousie.....	8.85	6.93	6.41	6.20	4.19	4.92	3.99	4.26	4.78	5.33	4.65	4.20	4.83	4.89	5.14	4.25
Richibucto.....	8.11	9.88	10.33	7.26	6.78	6.47	6.73	7.12	6.36	5.95	6.79	5.69	5.75	6.01	5.97	5.82
Shediac.....	4.71	5.73	5.67	6.68	5.37	4.92	4.94	5.83	6.66	5.33	5.81	5.46	4.90	5.60	5.40	5.32
St. John.....			4.23	5.94	4.59	4.00	5.50	3.29	3.99	4.17	4.30	3.90	4.30	3.40	3.00	3.18
St. Thomas.....	3.63	5.19	4.21	4.10	3.82	4.13	3.49	3.97	3.65	4.36	3.31	3.48	3.46	3.74	3.54	3.93
Three Rivers.....	4.27	2.94	3.23	3.81	2.29	2.70	1.93	4.00	2.37		2.61	2.69	2.32	2.99	2.67	2.21
Pugwash.....	6.55	6.04	4.64		7.04	6.16	3.28	4.27	5.06	6.06	4.80	4.76	4.20	4.02	3.97	4.70

MEMO: Quebec.—Lumber and square timber, late years principally the latter. For a fair comparison with the other ports, deal cargoes should, I think, be deducted $\frac{1}{2}$. With the present competent labour given by the ship-labourers, I think, and I believe it is admitted, that Quebec is at the top of giving despatch, of any port all over the world.

Other Ports.—Principally lumber, with exceptionally trifling quantities of timber.

Saguenay.—It has been stated, and I believe it is a fact, that the ships always discharge their ballast at the mouth of the river, and are kept waiting there until convenient for the shippers to commence loading, which time is not included in above average.

Three Rivers.—Nor is this a fair comparison, many of the ships arriving there fully prepared to commence loading, partly after having discharged ballast or cargo at Quebec or Montreal.

At St. John, cost of loading of late years, \$1.00 to \$1.10 per pet. standard, which is more than cost here for deal cargoes, which, after the alteration of the rules, a few years ago, from ten to eight hours a day, I should say, would average about 90 cents. Previously, I know, deal cargoes were exceptionally loaded as low as 70 cents, inclusive of stevedore, captain paying the men himself, and a certain amount to the stevedore. At Miramichi, cost of loading varies, I believe, from \$1.50 to \$2.25 the standard, including batteaux hire. At all other ports, the ships are loaded by their crews, with the assistance of laborers, and frequently also stevedores, from shore, at the option of the captain; but everywhere more or less expense is incurred, on an average, I should guess, at 25 cents to 35 cents per standard.

Comparison between results of a voyage to Quebec and St. Thomas, where other expenses than those connected with loading are about the same, with a vessel of say 1,000 registered tons, carrying a cargo of say 455 feet pet. standard :—

Average time occupied in discharging of ballast and loading at Quebec (principally timber cargoes, but accepting the same also for deals).....	25 days.
Do. do. do. do. at St. Thomas...	37 "
Difference.....	12 "
Deduct for extra time on voyage up and down for Quebec ship.....	2 "
Credit despatch at Quebec.....	10 "
At say only £12 per day	£120
Add 2s. stg. higher freight to Quebec	56
Credit to Quebec	£176
Cost loading 450 feet pet. std. deals at Quebec, say 90c. per std.....	\$405 00
Assistance of stevedore and loading at St. Thomas, say 25c. per std	\$112 50
Travelling expenses of pilot and captain at St. Thomas, carriage and stores, &c., &c	48 50 or 160 00
Debit to Quebec	\$245 00 or 50
Balance credit of Quebec voyage	£126

Advantage gained by the quicker dispatch at Quebec, due, to a large extent, to the employment of the most competent labor, and to which should be added the value of the labor of the crews of ships at Quebec, attending to other work on board, as wear and tear on the eastward voyage, &c., &c.

STATISTICS OF THE LUMBER SHIPMENTS OF QUEBEC, COMPILED FROM THE
MESSRS. T. BELL, FORSYTH & CO., ANNUAL CIRCULARS.

			TIMBER.		
			Mean annual quantity in millions cubic feet.		
			PINE.	HARDWOOD.	TOTAL.
1860	to	1864	22.5	4.0	26.5
1865	to	1869	18.8	4.1	22.9
1870	to	1874	15.3	5.1	20.4
1875	to	1879	11.9	3.7	15.6
1880	to	1884	10.0	3.3	13.3
1885	and	1886	6.0	2.4	8.4

Mean annual shipments of deals 1860 to 1864, 45 million Cu. Ft. Std.
" " " " 1885 and 1886, 47 " " " "

* Decrease of timber shipment (mean annual) 18.1 mill. cub. feet.
Equal to about 362,000 load, and
" " 280,000 Reg. tons of shipping.

JAMES PAUL, Stevedore, Quebec, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Would you prefer to make a statement to the Commission, or would you rather be questioned? A.—It is all the same to me.

Q.—Is it about the organization of the Ship Labor Society since its inception, or on what do you propose to speak? A.—I wish to make a few remarks with regard to the Society, and the trade of this port.

Q.—We should be glad to receive all the information we can get about the Society, and the difference existing between it and the merchants? A.—Well, gentlemen, in eighteen hundred and sixty-three, I joined the Labour Society, and was appointed Secretary, and acted for about seven years as Secretary of the Society. In eighteen hundred and sixty-three the ship labourers' wages varied from four or five dollars in the spring, to one dollar, and as low as eighty cents a day in the fall, and a great deal of dissatisfaction existed both on the part of the ship owners and ship labourers and masters visiting the port. At that time I advised that we should provide a constant (regular) rate, which would be better for all parties concerned, both for the labourer and the ship owner, but they could not arrive at the basis on which the profits might be determined. They (the merchants) said if they sent out ships, they would have to pay according to existing rates. They could not really make any basis, what rates they should demand for carrying from Quebec, and it was finally on their recommendation—I think in eighteen hundred and sixty-five—that we fixed the rates at two dollars and sixty cents a day for holders, and one dollar and sixty cents a day for winchers. This lasted for a couple of years. We got the wages then increased to two dollars a day, and in a couple of years after that to four and three dollars a day. The labourers' wages were increased as the cost of the necessities of life were increased. I suppose it was the same elsewhere, but at

present time, I am only speaking of Quebec. There was no difference in the wages of ship labourers until trade began to turn. They commenced to start mills on all the River St. Lawrence, and the tributaries of the St. Lawrence, from Batiscan up, and the ships used to go there, and as the population of the country increased in the West, ships found it more convenient for the trade to go to Montreal, that being the head of navigation. Then, they commenced to find fault with the Ship Labourers' Society, saying that its rules took the trade away from Quebec. I was President in eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, of the Quebec Ship Labourers' Society, when the merchants commenced to point out the arbitrary rules of the Society, and one rule they pointed out then was the loss of time incurred by our not working on holy days and our not working with the sailors. We showed how those rules were not against the interests of the men, or of the merchants; that if we worked on holidays, we were idle the next day, as the men on the booms in the coves, refused to work on holidays, consequently there would be no saving of time. So, we introduced this law; if they wanted us to work on holidays they should pay us two days for one; and the reason they objected to work with the Norwegian sailors was, that they could not understand our language, and thus we were liable to meet with accidents in the hold, in fact accidents did occur in the hold on account of this very thing.

Q.—You say that accidents occur on account of employing foreign sailors who did not understand the English language? A.—In one instance that I know of where a man asked for a rope, deals were hove down on to his head.

Q.—Were they the only rules the merchants considered arbitrary at that time? A.—Yes. After explanation, we did waive the right to charge two days' pay for working on a holiday, but one of the merchants, at that conversation, stated what was true, that it was no right to introduce men to work on a holiday, when the great majority refused to work, and intended to keep that holiday. We took that extra rate of the holiday, and allowed any man the right to work on a holiday, and only charged one day for it. That lasted for a year or two, and was the cause of a great deal of dissatisfaction. Half again would be at work, and half would remain idle, and it would be difficult for them to get their places back the next day, and then the law was altered back again to double time for holidays. It is only since the Royal Labor Commission commenced its sittings that I have heard of the arbitrary rules of the Society.

Q.—You are a stevedore? A.—Yes.

Q.—And are thoroughly acquainted with shipping and the loading and unloading of vessels, I suppose? A.—Yes. I have been at it all my life.

Q.—You are aware that objection have been raised to one of the rules as being an arbitrary rule; it is with regard to the number of men allowed on vessels of a certain size? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you say whether the number mentioned is the maximum or minimum amount. Do the rules ask for more men than are required? A.—I have been twenty-five years in the business, and never had occasion to send one away, and I think the stevedore, the best authority, if he knows anything at all of his business. I do not consider the number of men too much. I never had enough, and I always employ two, three or four more than the laws of the Society lay down.

Q.—Is it to the advantage of the stevedore to keep the gang until the ship is completed? A.—I must undoubtedly say, it is to his advantage to keep all the hands right up to the finish of the ship.

Q.—What difference does it make to the shipper if the stevedore reduces the number of men? A.—None at all. The stevedore makes a bargain with the Captain at so much a load. He makes it a condition with the captain or owner. If he agrees at so much per load, he has got to keep to his contract price; and if he keeps more men than he requires, he is only so much out of pocket.

Q.—Now, do you know whether or not a great deal of time is lost by men employed at the loading of vessels, in consequence of timber not being furnished to

the vessels as required? A.—Yes; on account of there being no barges. There is not so much lost time for want of large timber.

Q.—It is true that the laborer has to pay the cost of going to his work and back again to his home out of his own pocket? A.—He has to pay the cost of going to his work and back again whether he gets work or not. I have known them to go for a week to Sillery and back every day, a distance of four miles. They got four hour's work that week, and paid twenty-cents a day for their boat fare—that was on the barque "Argonaut"—a Norwegian vessel.

Q.—Because there was not a sufficient number of barges? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever known it to occur, that a captain has asked for more barges and could not get them? A.—I have, and it has occurred to myself when there is a little rush of vessels. It has occurred very often when sixty and seventy ships have arrived. Say we are commencing to load this morning; I have disposed of my laborers; they are all on their respective ships ready to proceed with their labor, but there is not enough stuff arriving to keep them going, as only a little parcel is sent to each of the vessels.

Q.—Does that occur frequently? A.—Yes.

Q.—What difference does that make? A.—It costs the men who ship it so much per ton, and the delay in loading makes a great deal of difference to the ship if she cannot get any cargo, and it makes a difference to the stevedore, because he knows the amount he has to pay his laborers. He knows he has to pay four dollars a day and three dollars a day, and consequently knows what he has to do.

Q.—If there is not sufficient cargo alongside, will it increase the expense on that vessel? A.—None whatever, so far as the cost of the stevedore to the owners is concerned.

Q.—Have you ever known it occur that merchants have insisted on loading vessels at their own berths when they could be loaded more conveniently and speedily at other berths? A.—I have known them to insist on the captain taking ships inside their berths, when there are plenty of good berths with plenty of accommodation down town.

Q.—Can a vessel be loaded more quickly from the wharf than from bateaux? A.—From bateaux in Quebec.

Q.—Does it often occur that merchants load from the wharf? A.—Only in the one instance from berths—deals

Q.—Does it sometimes happen that there are difficulties some days in loading some vessels with different cargoes? A.—Yes.

Q.—What would that be attributed to? A.—It might be from different causes. It might be what we call a mixed cargo. I have known vessels to take a great quantity of oak—it is pretty hard to handle—and we might take white pine upon other days; and there might be a difference of half a day, or a quarter of a day in securing a berth for that ship in a tide way with a very strong tide running—that would increase our labor account too.

Q.—Can you tell us why ship laborers object to the use of steam in the loading of lumber and deals? A.—As I said before, the person who is accustomed to do this work, ought to be the best authority on it. If I, as a stevedore, take a contract, I am going to do that work as economically, as quickly, and as well, as I possibly can.

Q.—Can sawn lumber be handled and stowed away by hand power as quickly and as well as by steam? A.—Yes, it is safer to the people working it.

Q.—If steamships were to use steam in the loading of birch, longitudinal, and other small lumber, would steam vessels remain here and take such a cargo at Quebec in preference to Montreal? A.—No; they will go to the head of navigation.

Q.—Can you give any reason why the merchants should ship deals at Montreal in preference to Quebec? A.—Well, the merchants ship deals where they can make the most money, and that is the reason they have to pay the difference.

Q.—But the merchants claim that they can ship deals cheaper in Montreal than in Quebec? A.—Montreal is a big distributing point, and it is easy to get deals

down to Montreal. Anyone in the trade knows that, and there are better facilities in the shape of freight room than at Quebec. My opinion is that no matter what the ship labourers might do, if they were to tear up their by-laws and pitch the pieces into the fire, it would make no difference to Quebec.

Q.—Previous to the time of the formation of the society, were vessels loaded in the port of Quebec cheaper than they can be loaded now? A.—No. Vessels are loaded cheaper now than they were then.

Q.—Can you tell us why steam was not used in the unloading of vessels, when no objection was raised against it? A.—I could not say; there were many steamers coming to the port of Quebec, at that time, and, I suppose, the merchants considered that they must give a reason for the disappearance of the trade, and it offers them an argument.

Q.—Do you know anything of the lumber trade of the Southern Ports? A.—Yes; I have worked in the Southern Ports considerably.

Q.—Do they use steam in the loading of ships in these ports? A.—No; they have abolished steam, thirteen or fourteen years ago, as dangerous to life and limb. You see, gentlemen, you cannot so readily stop a steam winch as you can a hand winch, and you cannot so readily hear a man's voice, when the winch is being run by steam, as when it is run by hand. By hand winch; you hear his voice directly he shouts.

Q.—Steam is not used there so much as hand power? A.—No; on account of the many accidents. On account of the danger to life and limb.

Q.—Can you state the rate for loading coal? A.—Thirty-seven and a half cents an hour. A labouring man gets three dollars a day in Quebec. I think it is thirty cents an hour in Montreal, and they work ten hours a day, that is three dollars a day.

Q.—Is it a fact that the ship labourers of Quebec, do, in eight hours, as much work as the ship labourers of Montreal do in ten hours? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know, from your own knowledge, whether the shippers, or steamship companies prefer to go to Montreal, to take cargo at Quebec? A.—Yes; one inducement, for going to Montreal, is that they can get a full inward cargo there, that being the head of navigation for Ocean vessels. They take their freight there.

Q.—Do you know if vessels, coming here, take advantage of the tide, and go straight to Montreal with Quebec cargo on board, and ship said cargo back to Quebec? A.—Yes; I have heard the merchants complaining.

Q.—What is the reason? A.—Well; here there is a dangerous place, called Cap à la Roche, and they come in here at certain stages of the tide, when it is most convenient for them to proceed and pass Cap à la Roche, and it is cheaper to send the Quebec freight back by the cars from Montreal, than for them to wait here, leave the cargo, and then proceed to Montreal.

Q.—How long would they have to remain? A.—About twelve hours, and they might remain here a day.

Q.—Do you know that is one reason why vessels, with cargo for Quebec, proceed up to Montreal? A.—I believe that is the reason.

Q.—Do you know if since the deepening of Lake St. Peter a larger number of vessels proceed to Montreal, that previously loaded and unloaded in Quebec? A.—Well, certainly, if there was not water enough, they would have to discharge here.

Q.—Previous to the deepening of the channel, vessels stayed here and loaded? A.—Yes; and since the deepening of the channel, they go straight through.

Q.—Do you know if it is a natural tendency on the part of steamship companies and others to pass by Quebec and go to the head of navigation? A.—Yes; they go where they can get the most freight, and that is Montreal, just now.

Q.—Do you know if the railway companies have anything to do with shipping to Montreal? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Can you tell us whether the railway companies and shipping companies, for the purpose of facilitating the disposal of Western freight, combine together, and ship

Quebec freight to Quebec on its arrival by steamer in Montreal? A.—I cannot. It might be. That might be one reason.

Q.—Might that not be the reason why Quebec cargo is taken to Montreal and shipped from there by rail to Quebec? A.—It might be.

Q.—Will you tell us, as far as you know, why it is that in loading mixed cargoes the same rate of wages is charged as in loading square timber, deals and longitudinals? A.—Yes; previous to that rule being introduced, in cases where ships took mixed cargoes they would begin by taking in portions of square timber; after that would be in, the men would knock off and go to deals. You must understand there were two different rates for large timber and deals. For deals, there would be only four men stowing at four dollars a day. It was a man's duty to take the time of the men who were employed, consequently, they would work three or four hours at timber or deals, and the men would keep track of their own time, and on Saturday night, there was always a dispute about the different times they worked, as some of the working men were always knocked off after three or four hours work.

Q.—So that the rule of the Society, insisting that the men employed in taking in the timber be allowed to continue and finish the ship, even when lumber and deals were taken on board, was made because of the fact that disputes were constantly arising about the time given by the men, in loading square timber, and in loading lumber? A.—Yes. That was the reason we made it a law to pay the men from the time they commenced a ship until the last stick of timber was stowed. That was to prevent them from being defrauded of their pay for the time they worked.

Q.—It is true, then, that parties working a mixed cargo, lost a portion of their wages in this way? A.—Yes; I was a victim myself.

Q.—That was a cause of loss to the men? A.—Yes.

Q.—And that was the reason you objected to the mixed charge for loading? A.—Yes.

Q.—In loading a vessel of three thousand tons, how many days would it take to load her? A.—Taking the average, it would take from sixteen to eighteen days to unload and load her.

Q.—How many days would it take to load her? A.—I would have her loaded in eight days.

Q.—That is a vessel loaded under the ordinary circumstances? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are they not sometimes detained much longer? A.—In some cases. They are if the cargo goes down in "dribs."

Q.—Is that through any fault of the laborer? A.—No.

Q.—Is it the fault of the merchants when a vessel is detained for want of cargo? A.—It is some body's fault in connection with the merchants; and there is nothing in the law to prevent it; but, unfortunately, the way the barges come down, it is not possible to run about from one ship to another. The laboring class do not average seventy-five dollars the whole summer previous to the adoption of these rules that are considered obnoxious.

Q.—Can you tell us what it cost to load vessels ten years ago? A.—One dollar and twenty-five cents a load, and one dollar and sixty cents a standard; and last summer, it was sixty-two and a half cents, which is one half.

Q.—Do you know the cost of loading deals per the St. Petersburg standard? A.—One dollar and ten cents, one dollar and fifty cents, and one dollar and sixty cents.

Q.—Do you know what would be the cost of the same deals loaded in Montreal? A.—I have heard ninety cents.

Q.—It is twenty cents a standard cheaper than it is done in Quebec? A.—Yes; a. d. th difference of a dollar in the pay of the men.

—Would the difference of twenty cents between Montreal and Quebec be a sufficient inducement to cause a vessel to go to Montreal and take cargo? Do you think a vessel, which is charged one dollar and ten cents in Quebec, would prefer to

go to Montreal and take it for ninety cents? A.—No; because here, you would get more cargo into her. You pay more, but you get more work for your money.

Q.—Do you know that vessels are loaded more expeditiously in Quebec than in Montreal? A.—Some vessels loaded per standard are loaded in a much shorter time. That is my experience.

Q.—Then, according to your judgment, the introduction of these rules into the Quebec Ship Laborers' Society has not increased the cost of loading vessels? A.—Not at all.

Q.—And do you think it has any bearing whatever upon the loss of shipping to the port of Quebec? A.—Not one particle of it.

Q.—The falling off in the shipping trade of Quebec is due to natural causes—entirely beyond the scope of this Society—not connected with the Ship Laborers—foreign to the men? A.—Most undoubtedly.

Q.—Do you know if the men, through their President, Mr. R. H. Leahey, wrote to the Secretary of the Council of the Board of Trade, and requested the Board to name any of the laws objected to, by the Council of the Board of Trade? A.—Yes. The Board of Trade was asked to mark the by-laws they wanted modified, and to what extent, when we promised to place it before the various sections of the Society and to acquaint the Board of the result. I have been connected with the Society ever since eighteen hundred and sixty-three, and I know that if the Merchants were to point out what they consider to be arbitrary rules, they, (the Society) would never get back as much as they cover.

Q.—Do you know if the Council of the Board of Trade replied to Mr. Leahey's letter? A.—I could not say.

Q.—If the merchants were to send the Quebec Ship Laborers' Society a memorandum of the clauses they object to, would the laborers consider their objections? A.—I believe they would take them into consideration.

Q.—You think they would deal with them, if the merchants pointed out any they object to? A.—I really believe that the laborers would consider it because it would bring grist to their own mill.

Q.—So far as you are aware, the laborers—many of them, a majority of them, at all events,—if the merchants pressed sound logical arguments showing that these rules were arbitrary and adverse to the trade of this port, the laborers would meet them? A.—Yes; but they must prove that they stand in the way of trade.

Q.—My attention has been drawn to article 56, of the by-laws of the Society. I will read it for you, and you can explain exactly what it means:—"That in all cases wherein a suspicion may be entertained that the rate of wages will not be paid the laborers, the President and officers of the Society have authority from this Society to send such vessel the necessary gang of men to load her, to prevent dishonesty of action. Captain agreeing thereto, otherwise labor to be refused such vessel"? A.—It was the captains of vessels and the stevedores that were the cause of introducing that clause.

Q.—Explain how it was? A.—They introduced a system here of tendering; that is seven or eight stevedores would send tenders in. If I did not pull the lucky number, I might say to the man who got the ship: "He must not be paying the rate; there is so much talk about it he must be doing something crooked." I go to a certain part of the laborers or stevedores, and we all know that in the event of any suspicion, the officers of the society can send up a gang to work in my gang's place. Supposing, we may say, I did not pay the right thing, and had a gang constantly working for me in every ship, and I happened to be alone in my business, some of them would say, perhaps: "He cannot load for those figures (meaning the amount I have tendered for), we must send him a gang of men. Paul has not got enough to load that ship. It is easy to see that he is not paying the rates of the society." Then they would send a gang of men if they wished, who would only work at the proper rates, and who would see if I was prepared to put up with it (the low tender.)

Q.—And has that rule been enforced? A.—I do not know of any instance where it has occurred.

Q.—Have you ever known barge owners to go to Montreal instead of going to Quebec? A.—Yes, I have heard of it; they can get a great deal more freight, and they do it in Montreal for a great deal less than they could if they came here. If they came here they could get no freight back. Here there is nothing for them to take back.

Q.—Do you know if it is the case that steamers having inward cargo to Montreal, take grain and cattle cargoes from there back, and that birch, deals and longitudinal, etc., are obtained for ballast and stiffening purposes? A.—If you can get grain you do not want anything else.

Q.—If you cannot get grain you look for the others? A.—Well, we have to look for something or other. It was only last year they took to longitudinal, and if Montreal could load the timber they would do so and save a good deal more. If they could they would save towing it down to Quebec.

Q.—Are any cargoes discharged in Quebec where steam is used? A.—Coal—general cargo.

Q.—Did the ship laborers make any objection? A.—No; because it is hoisted in tubs. We do not handle coal the way we handle timber; but I really believe if the ship laborers could induce half a dozen merchants to go and man a ship with steam, that would be an end to the question.

Q.—Then you think that is the only thing that steam should be put to in the loading of vessels? A.—Yes.

Q.—If it was not for the danger you would have no objection to it? A.—No. And another thing, timber can be handled quicker by hand than by steam, or the loading of deals either; it is all nonsense to say you can handle them better by steam. It is true you can hoist them ten at a time, but I have heard of the deals being split when loaded by steam in Montreal. We handle them as quickly and load them closer.

Q.—What is the amount that the Ship Labourers' Society allows a man in case of injury? A.—Six dollars a week, and if he dies from injury, we pay his burial expenses; and his sister, father, mother, or relatives get twenty dollars.

Q.—Previous to the formation of the Quebec Ship Labourers' Society, what benefits were received by those who were injured? A.—Previous to the formation of the Quebec Ship Labourers' Society parties were buried by a shake of the hat—public subscription.

Q.—I cannot think of any more questions to put to you, but if you have anything further to say, we shall be glad to hear it. Perhaps some of the other members of the Commission may have some questions to ask you? A.—Well. I think you have sifted me thoroughly out.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do you know anything about the Norwegian barque, "Frederick," when she was loading here? A.—A sailing vessel—I know all about her

Q.—Do you know anything about the difficulty there was between the owners and the Ship Labourers' Society? A.—Yes. There was no difficulty between the owners and the Quebec Ship Labourers' Society. There was a misunderstanding, and in my opinion it was intentionally done. The "Frederick" was chartered to take a cargo of deals. They wanted to put on about thirty standard of birch on that ship after they had loaded that ship with deals. It was a plain cargo of timber. It would appear that the agents asked for a gang of sixteen men because it was a single ported vessel. The stevedore got "crooked" for reasons best known to himself—probably a little money. He told the agents the Society would not allow him to take less than twenty-nine men to do the work, while all the time he had more men than the Society called for. My opinion is that he wanted to make money on it. I believe it was a business transaction all through. I spoke to the stevedore that

loaded the ship in presence of another—O'Connell. I asked "What trouble did you get into about the ship? Did you not have more men than were required to load this timber." He said "I do not know anything about it." I said "Well. You had a right to enquire before you raised such trouble as this."

Q.—According to the rules of the Society, more than sixteen men were not necessary? A.—Yes.

Q.—According to the rules of the Society, only sixteen men were necessary to fill a vessel of that size with a full cargo of timber, instead of twenty-nine men?

A.—By the rules of the Society, he did not want twenty-nine men; that would be too many inside of her. He was not acting in accordance with the rules when he put twenty-nine men aboard of that ship.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—He should have been guided by Clause 5 of Article 40: "Single ported vessels shall employ no less than nine winchers, five holders, one swinger, and one stager?" A.—Exactly. Anyone could tell him that.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—There is another point I want to call your attention to. It is a by-law or correction at the latter part of the constitution, as given by the Secretary of the Board of Trade: "The foregoing practical by-laws appear as printed in the Society's rules and by-laws in 1885, and it is understood that since that date Article 50 has been repealed, and two new articles enacted, which are in effect that nine laborers be employed in the hold in discharging coal, and that the sailors attend to the lines on deck, and that in large ships there be an extra winch man on the after winches." Tell us why this latter clause was substituted. A.—That they put an extra man on the after winches. It was time that they moved in that direction. The after winch is the hardest in the ship. You have to move the log the whole length of the ship, and three men could not last it out. I would not like to be one of the three men to have to do such work.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—As to loading and discharging vessels, you have different gangs for each vessel, according to the size of the vessel? A.—Yes, and the nature of the work.

Q.—The number of men to be employed is governed by the extent of the work?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Who would be the best judge of that? A.—Well, I think the man that has to do it will be the best authority. I do not see the merchants on the ship. If a merchant was to come to me, and tell me how many men I would require to work the ship, I think I should have as much right to go to his office and tell him how many clerks he requires.

Q.—At the time you say the men objected to be employed with Norwegian and other foreign sailors, who did not understand English, did that action on the part of the laborers meet with the approval of the merchants? A.—Yes. Well, the merchants seemed to agree with us, and Mr. Rae was one to say that it was ridiculous to expect us to work with people who did not understand our language, and that it was dangerous to do it.

Q.—What benefit would you derive from that? A.—No benefit except greater security from accidents.

Q.—In what way would it benefit the ship owners? A.—Well, they would get it loaded quicker and cheaper. It is cheaper to have a ship loaded with all laborers—they would get through it quicker. Because, when working with sailors, two or three sailors are sure to get ashore and be half drunk, and they do not work very handy. Some of them, when they get ashore, get as full as you please—full of whiskey.

Q.—Then at such times you cannot get anything out of them? A.—It would be

difficult. They are not good ship laborers at any time. You see it is not their regular work. With the ship laborer it is different; it is their regular work. He knows that he has to be sober or there is no work for him on another ship.

Q.—With regard the victuals on the vessels? A.—Yes, we had difficulty about that. These Norwegian captains sometimes own a portion of the vessel and feed their crews very poorly; the men are consequently weaker and are not able to work by the side of a ship laborer, so we found we must adopt some rules to place us on a par with them, to compete for the carrying trade, particularly when they do not know our language, and that was the reason that rule was introduced.

Q.—When a captain returns his papers to a vessel owner, are the amounts itemized? A.—Not at all; it is only a general disbursement account—the sum total gives the disbursements on the ship for beef, pork, or labor and increased work.

Q.—Does it show the loss of time? A.—No.

Q.—Does it itemize the amounts? A.—No; that is the reason for the increase.

Q.—Do you know of any items that are laid to labor account that are not entitled to be laid to that account? A.—Yes. In one instance a bill went home for gear that was never used in the ship.

Q.—And that was put down to labor account? A.—Yes,

DANIEL KANE, Quebec, Stevedore, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you heard the testimony of the last witness, given to-night? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you corroborate that testimony? A.—Yes; I believe it to be correct.

Q.—Do you wish to add anything to it? A.—I cannot add much; I have heard parties say here, that lumber and deals can be loaded cheaper at Batiscan, Pierre-ville, Three Rivers, and Montreal, than they can be loaded in Quebec. I say, it is not so, and I speak from experience. I say, we save money, in time, here in Quebec.

Q.—Do you mean, that you can load a vessel quick, and save money by the time saved? A.—We can save money for the owners. That is the main point.

Q.—Do you know what the difference is in the cost of loading vessels in Montreal and Quebec? A.—There is nothing to boast of. If you take everything into consideration, it will cost more. You have to hire a steamboat to pull you to Montreal and back again, and there are other charges that are made, and, taking it all together, I think money can be saved by loading at Quebec.

Q.—You do not think it is loaded cheaper in Montreal? A.—No; I do not. I believe, if the cargo offered it, could be loaded cheaper here.

Q.—Cheaper than in Montreal? A.—Yes; cheaper for the owners. I worked for eighteen or nineteen winters, down south, in connection with stevedoring with Quebec Ship Labourers, and I tell you gentlemen, there is no occasion for a stevedore to talk to them. Instead of a stevedore driving them, they, in fact, drive the stevedore, and wherever a Quebec man shows himself, down south, he can always get a job, if a job is going.

Q.—On account of the way in which he does his work? A.—Yes; he does it quick and well.

Q.—By the rules of the Quebec Ship Labourer's Society, are you obliged to employ more men than is required? A.—No; I quite agree with the Society, and I believe in their making rules for their own guidance.

Q.—Do you think it would make it better for the men, if you were sometimes to have less men in completing the loading of a ship in a manner as described by some of the witnesses? A.—It would be no better.

Q.—Would it take more time? A.—It would take more time to load.

Q.—Have you anything further that you think it necessary to add to what has been already said? A.—I heard some talk here the other day about vessels costing two shillings and sixpence, and five shillings less per standard to load outside of Quebec; I have loaded vessels by the standard. I loaded a vessel two hundred and forty standard, and the cost of loading that vessel came to fifty cents a standard, that is one hundred and twenty dollars, and I have known it cost five hundred dollars the two hundred and forty standard, and that would make it two dollars per standard. I do not see that the owner made any money there.

Q.—What is the general rate in Quebec? A.—We do that work in Quebec in some cases for a dollar per standard. One dollar to one dollar and twenty cents. These owners on the other side are led to believe that these outports are cheap, but when they are led to take the whole bill into consideration, they find they are at a loss.

Q.—Can you give any reason, other than that which has been given already for the loss of trade in Quebec? A.—I think it is the competition in the outports and the work done down south. The quantities of good pitch-pine that you can get down south.

Q.—Is that timber considered as good in the market as ours? A.—It may not be as good as ours, but they substitute it—and use it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Did it ever come to your knowledge that men were cheated out of their wages by the stevedores, and captains of vessels? A.—That was before my time. That was before the formation of the Ship Laborer's Society. I know my father be cheated out of his wages, but I have been always on the right side.

Q.—Have you ever known men to be abused on board ship? A.—I have known some cases.

Q.—Have you known any to be injured on account of the defective gear? A.—I have heard of it, but I am not personally aware of any. I always look out for my men.

Q.—Does the stevedore furnish the gear? A.—There is a blacksmith here who furnishes the gear, and if he does not furnish it the stevedore furnishes it to the captain.

Q.—Have you known men to be injured through the carelessness of the employes? A.—No; I cannot say that. I have known a man to be killed through carelessness. I have known a man to be killed through a defect in the gearing, unknown to the people.

MICHAEL KENNEDY, of Quebec, Ship Laborer, sworn.

Q.—Have you heard the testimony given to-night? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you agree with what has been said by the previous witnesses? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you anything to add? A.—No; I have not. I think that is about all I could say.

Q.—You corroborate their testimony? A.—Yes.

March 13th 1888.

THOMAS CULLEN, of Quebec, Stevedore, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you heard the testimony of the previous witnesses? A.—Yes. The first was Mr. Paul here.

Q.—Mr. Paul's evidence? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you corroborate his statements in full? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you anything you wish to add to these statements? A.—Well, nothing. Only I wish to say that before the formation of this Society those were the days of oppression and poverty for the ship labourers. The men were the victims of very hard usage. They were looked upon as nothing. I have known men to leave their work wet and cold and slimy with mud—full of slime. After they would leave on a Saturday night they would have to go to the stevedore's house in the hope of getting their pay, very likely a man would meet his wife on the way with her bonnet and shawl on, and the two of them would wait out in the cold for the stevedore in the hope of getting sufficient pay to keep his wife and family in food for the following week. They would wait, and wait, and wait, and often would see no stevedore and get no money. At other times they would wait until eleven or twelve o'clock of a Saturday night, when the stevedore and the captain of the ship that the poor man had been working on, would arrive at the Stevedore's house together—for sometimes the men would be kept waiting until that hour, or even later, and the consequence was, the Captain and the Stevedore would be very drunk, and the stevedore would be unable to pay his men, and was not willing to do so in many instances. Now these men were very often in the spring and fall, waiting in the cold, and were kept waiting out in the sleet and snow, or rain, (for the stevedore's wife would consider her house too good to accommodate ship labourers) and when some of the men got their pay after waiting all these hours it was not unlikely that they would seek the tavern. You see gentlemen the treatment they received demoralized them. And it caused them to seek the tavern. It drove them into the taverns, waiting for these people to come and pay them. This has all been changed since the Ship Labourer's Society was formed. The men receive their pay regularly now. At the end of the week we receive our pay, and if we do not receive our money we have not to follow the stevedore but look to the ship.

Q.—It was a matter of self defense for the labourers to organize? A.—It was absolutely necessary that they should organize. I know an instance of my own self, where I myself worked a portion of twelve nights and days. I took a ship which had received some damage down below, it was very late in the fall. In those days you could not remain at home in bed, you had to look out for work. It was seventy-five cents, eighty cents, one dollar, and one dollar and fifty cents a day—different rates according to the number of ships there were in port. I lived about a mile from the ship, and the first thing my wife would know of my coming home was the way I hurried home with my bones half frozen. I finished that ship about the fourth of December and a cold freezing job it was. I got my pay ticket for the contractor, I showed him my ticket that afternoon and asked him if it would be convenient for him to pay me. Yes, he said, he thought that it would be if I called at six o'clock. At six o'clock I called at his place and sat down and enjoyed myself as well as I could. When he came in I asked him if he could give me my money and he gave me a ten dollar cartridge, I left with the ten dollar cartridge in my pocket. There was a depreciation in silver in those days, and this stevedore would change our pay into silver in order that he might get the percentage off the men. Well, I brought it home and handed it to my wife. Now you know gentleman that women are a little inquisitive and she no sooner received it than she counted it out before me on the table. There were just nine piles containing four quarters each and one fifty cents. That man (the contractor) not content with shaving me of the percentage on the silver left his own place where he was standing to take this fifty cents out of the cartridge and handed me the nine dollars and fifty cents. This is only one instance in which the men were deprived of their wages. I have known ships to be half way across the Atlantic before the men have been paid. The stevedores paid the men just as they thought fit. They paid them one or two days short, and also deducted twenty or fifty cents off the wages. This was the reason why the men bound themselves together for self protection. These times that I speak of were previous to the formation of the Quebec Ship Labourers' Society.

Q.—Since the formation of the Society have all these abuses disappeared? A.—In every case.

Q.—Do you think if the ship laborers had no Society that the trade would have remained in the Port of Quebec as prosperous as it was a few years ago? A.—No. Not by any manner of means.

Q.—Do you think the Ship Laborers' Society is in any way responsible for the loss of trade in the Port of Quebec? A.—No, sir; not at all. I cannot see any reason why it should be.

Q.—Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the Society? A.—Well, I do not know, there have been so many explanations about it before, I do not see that I could improve on it. I consider that the Society and the working of it has been the means of putting its members in a more respectable position in life, than they would be without it. They are a different class of men to the Montreal men. They are industrious and take care of their earnings, not like some you see in Montreal; men, in fact, who work three or four hours, or half a day, and then, if they can get it, go and get drunk on the money.

Q.—Do you think there is any disposition on the part of the ship laborers to injure the merchants? A.—They would be willing to meet the merchants on any reasonable terms, and consider any question with the exception of steam. I myself have loaded sailing ships where people have got hurt, and where we have had a hospital full of them. There is no reason in laboring under these circumstances.

Q.—In your experience, then, steam should not be used in the loading of vessels? A.—No.

(Translation.)

DOLPHIS J. MARSAN, Quebec, Secretary of No. 5 Ship Labourers' Society, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you any report to make to this Commission? A.—If this Commission desires to question me as to the object of the Society, although this Commission is acquainted with it, and as regards the labour of certain workmen I know of, I am ready to answer.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—But we have all the information we require on these questions—

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do you know of any reason why there should be a division between the gentlemen belonging to the Ship Labour Society, and those who do not belong to it? A.—I know of none. There has never been any trouble between them, so far as I know.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you heard the evidence of Mr. Paul and of Mr. Fitzpatrick? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you corroborate what they have said? A.—I do, in part. There are some questions on which I am not prepared to give an opinion; I have not been long enough in the Society. Mr. Paul referred to 1862. I cannot agree to all he said. As regards the last 6 or 7 years I can, in everything, corroborate Mr. Paul's evidence.

Q.—Is there anything you would like to say in addition, that has not already been stated by Mr. Paul? A.—Certainly; I would like to speak to this Commission

on the subject of working men's labour. I believe no evidence has, so far, been given testifying to the excessive labour of workmen. To my knowledge, the work of unloading coal was very hard, two or three years ago; but since these last years all means and measures seem to have been studied in order to put a man in rivalry with steam, to make him do as much work as an engine. I believe that for the last two years Donkey engines have been put on the wharves, which are about twice as fast workers as the old ones they used to have. Two or three years ago steam engines were likewise used, but they were of an old fashioned kind. To increase the speed of the engine they now roll 2 or 3 rows of rope around the rollers of the winches which alters the diameter of the roller by 2 or 3 inches. The speed is much increased. I would remark on this subject that the tubs used for raising the coal, are much larger than they used to be, and yet they employ only the same number of men to unload coal as they did before.

By Mr. HELBRONNER —

Q.—This increase in the size of the tubs gives more work only to the men above, those below take time to fill the tubs? A.—They take the time. They are driven hard enough to be ready with the tub when the other comes down.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Is that why they need nine men? A.—Certainly; that is the reason.

Q.—When they increase the side of the roller of the winch by rolling rope around it, do they also raise the height of the guards, to prevent the rope slipping off the winch? A.—Doubtless, if they are warned beforehand. The winches are strong enough; they are used for other work; some certain kinds of labour require stronger resistance than unloading coal does.

Q.—A man was killed in that way in Montreal. They had increased the diameter of the winch, the cord slipped and the man was killed? A.—That may have happened, but no accidents have, to my knowledge, resulted from it.

Q.—Can you tell us whether the number of tons of coal unloaded last season by nine men, was an increase on the number unloaded two years ago, before the steam engines were changed? A.—Certainly. I have enquired of several of my fellow labourers who work at unloading coal, and they all tell me that from week to week and from month to month there is an increase in the amount of work they are required to do, and that if this state of things continues they will soon have to do about the same amount of work as a horse.

Q.—Can you state how many tons nine men can unload in a day? A.—I am not very sure on that point, but I think from what I have been told, that they can unload 220 tons weight.

Q.—Large tons, or 2,000 pounds? A.—I cannot say.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—When you speak of a day, do you mean a day of 8 hours or of 10 hours? A.—8 hours.

Q.—Can you give any other information on this subject, to this Commission? A.—I am not sure, but I think an efficient inspector ought to be appointed to see that the plant used in unloading coal or other cargo, is in perfect order.

Q.—Have you reason to suppose that this plant may not be all that it should be? A.—I have not knowledge of any fatal accidents, but I know that very serious ones have occurred. Each year accidents have happened through defects in the cordage or other appliances for the discharge of vessels.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you anything to add to the evidence already given? A.—I believe not.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Did you hear that a piece of wood had fallen and broken the tunnel of a vessel?
A.—I do not know if you refer to the same vessel, but such an accident did happen to a boat when I was on board of it.

Q.—Dow you know how the accident occurred? A.—I believe there had been amendments in the regulations for steamers. That spring, several steamers had loaded square lumber; they used steam power to load this square lumber.

Q.—Did this accident occur because steam power was used in loading? A.—I see no other reason.

(Translation.)

LOUIS MICHEL GAGNÉ, of Quebec, sales clerk in a dry goods store, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—What are the hours of work in dry goods stores? A.—For the Lower Town, we commence at half-past six in the morning, and we finish, in the majority of stores, at ten o'clock, half-past ten during the week, and at midnight on Saturdays. Sometimes it is after midnight, half-past twelve, one o'clock Sunday morning.

Q.—Is it necessary that the stores should open as early as that? A.—We might open an hour later, it would make no difference.

Q.—Do you open at that hour in winter? A.—At eight o'clock in winter, at our place.

Q.—Do you consider it absolutely necessary, for the business of the Lower Town, to open at six o'clock in summer? A.—I think not, in dry goods.

Q.—Is it necessary on account of the departure or arrival of the boats? A.—I do not think it is necessary for the boats.

Q.—Do you do much business in summer from six to eight o'clock? A.—No, not much.

Q.—Do you consider it absolutely necessary that the stores should remain open during the week till half-past ten, eleven o'clock? A.—No, sir.

Q.—At what hour during the week do those hours end that may be considered the paying hours? A.—Eight o'clock, half-past seven, eight o'clock. We may say seven and eight o'clock.

Q.—Do you close also at ten o'clock, eleven o'clock, in winter? A.—There are stores that close at seven o'clock, and others at six, in winter.

Q.—Has there never been an understanding come to, between the masters, to shorten the time? A.—The employees have tried, but the masters laughed at them. They closed later after that.

Q.—What are the average wages of an employee in a dry goods store? A.—In the Lower Town, I cannot say exactly, because those are not things known generally among ourselves, but I knew married men who have been in dry goods stores during one or two years, and who earn \$7 or \$8 a week. I do not know much about the prices.

Q.—When you work from six to eight in the evening, how much rest have you during the day? One hour for dinner and one hour for supper? A.—There are some who have an hour for dinner, but generally they have not an hour. Those who live in the Lower Town near by have half an hour, sometimes twenty minutes.

Q.—In the store in which you work, are the clothes made by women? A.—No, sir. If it happened, it was not to my knowledge. I do not know if they made them.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH ARSÈNE ROY, of Quebec, clerk in a dry goods store, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

- Q.—In what part of the city do you work? A.—In the Lower town.
- Q.—Did you hear the evidence of the last witness (L. M. Gagné)? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—Is there anything further you would like to say? A.—Yes, sir, it is this: where I am engaged, we have to be at the store at 7 o'clock in the morning in the summer, and from the 1st of May to the 1st of January, we rarely leave the store before 10 o'clock in the evening. We close more frequently after than before half-past ten; we have even been as late as eleven o'clock, and we close at midnight on Saturdays.
- Q.—Did you ever happen to close after midnight? A.—Once or twice we closed at a quarter past, but never later than that.
- Q.—Are young children employed in this establishment? A.—There is a boy of 15 or 16 years of age, works in the store.
- Q.—He leaves at the same time as the others? A.—Yes, the same as the others.
- Q.—What is he paid a week? A.—He gets \$1.50 a week and his board, that is to say, he gets his dinner and supper. Our employer pays for these meals, and he breakfasts at home. From the 1st of January to about this time of the year, we open the store at 6 o'clock in the morning, and we close at 8 o'clock at night. From this to the 1st of May, the time of closing varies from 8 to half-past 9 and 10 o'clock.
- Q.—Is much business done at night? A.—Very seldom. There are few sales of any importance after seven at night, but we have to stay all the same. Towards the end of the day the goods are generally pretty well scattered about the store, after our day's work serving customers, and we are obliged to remain in the store to put it in order. We might certainly do so earlier in the day, but we know we have to stay late, so we do not hurry.
- Q.—What class of people buy in the Lower town; are they workmen generally, or people of means? A.—Our customers are of all classes; working people, and people of means.
- Q.—Which of the two classes gives you most night custom? A.—Well, it is hard to say; the fact is, we see so little of any class, at night.
- Q.—Are there stores in any part of the town that close early, as a regular thing? A.—Yes, sir. The Lower town is the exception to the rule. In other parts of the city, the rule is to close at 6 o'clock in winter and 8 o'clock in summer.
- Q.—Is it not precisely in that quarter of the city, most inhabited by the working class, that stores close early? A.—Yes, sir. Stores close the earliest in St. Roch's, the workingmen's ward, but there are also stores in the Upper town that close early.
- Q.—Are women employed in making clothing in the store in which you are engaged? A.—Yes, a great deal. Our principal trade is done in ready-made clothing.
- Q.—Do you happen to know how these women are paid, whether in money or in goods? A.—They are generally paid in goods. They do sometimes get money, because they employ other women, and when these want to be paid in money, our employer pays in money; but as a general thing they are paid in goods.
- Q.—Have you, yourself, ever sold goods to these women? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—Did you sell the goods at the prices paid by ordinary customers? A.—Yes. I sold them at the usual prices paid by our customers. I think that is always done at our place. I know that there are stores where they are made to pay higher prices than are asked of ordinary customers, but it is not the case with us.
- Q.—Have you any report to make to the Commission? A.—You referred to our meals, not long ago, what length of time we were allowed for them. The summer

season, that is, from the 1st of May to the 1st of January, is the busiest time of the year, and our employer insists that we shall live as near the store as possible, in order that as short a time as possible may be taken for meals. Well, we generally take half an hour or twenty minutes for dinner; when we take longer our employer notices it. We are allowed about the same for supper, that is, as short a time as possible.

Q.—Are fines ever imposed? A.—No, it is not customary.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you know what is the price for making shirts? A.—There are different makes of shirts. There are laced shirts and buttoned shirts; and then we take orders for shirts. Ten cents per shirt is paid for an ordinary buttoned shirt. I do not remember whether it is 15 or 20 cents we pay for a laced shirt. I am not certain which it is.

Q.—Paid in goods? A.—Yes, sir, in goods.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—How long does your employer take for his meals? A.—Generally an hour for each meal.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How much do the women get for making white shirts? A.—We do not make them.

(Translation)

SIMON BILODEAU, of Quebec, Clerk in a Dry Goods Store, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—In which quarter are you employed? A.—In the Lower town. My evidence is the same as the one who preceded me, except that I could add that the store is very unhealthy.

Q.—In what way is it unhealthy? A.—It is damp.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—They give you half an hour for dinner and supper? A.—The least possible time. Sometimes we take our dinner in ten minutes and fifteen minutes.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Do you make women's clothing in your store? A.—Yes, sir; it is as the other stated.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH DÉSIRÉ GRÉGOIRE, of Quebec, Clerk in a Dry Goods Store, sworn.
I have some remarks to make. It appears to me that when a store gets into difficulty the clerk should be paid regularly, as if he worked the entire year.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—At what period are the engagements made? A.—Usually in the month of February.

Q.—To commence at what time? A.—The engagements begin on the first of May.

Q.—When an employee is engaged and his master fails, is it easy for that employee to find employment elsewhere? A.—Very difficult when the time of engagement is past. Sometimes it happens, but it is very difficult.

Q.—In any case, he can only find an engagement for a small salary? A.—A small salary. The principal places are taken.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Are the hours the same as those mentioned by the other witnesses? A.—From the first of May to the first of January, we generally open at six o'clock and half past six. From the first of May to the first of January the closing of the store is at ten o'clock, half past ten o'clock, eleven o'clock, and on Saturdays at midnight.

Q.—What amusement do you take? You have no time to amuse yourself? A.—Never. They never speak of vacations for us: when we have them our salary is diminished.

Q.—They sometimes allow you to go out in the evening? A.—With great difficulty—very rarely. They allow us, but is very seldom.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—During the day do they give time to go out? A.—No; never.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do they give you an annual holiday of several days? A.—They give us a holiday, but our salary is diminished; sometimes three or four days, but it diminishes our salary.

Q.—In that case you pay for your own holiday? A.—We pay it from our own purse.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What chance have you to amuse yourselves with your friends in the evening? A.—We have only the winter, from the first of January to the fifteenth of April.

Q.—At what hour do you close at that period? A.—At our place it is at seven o'clock, and a quarter past seven in winter.

Q.—For summer, what amusement can you take when you have left work? A.—Go to bed to rest and have good dreams. Now, I have some remarks to make regarding the closing; try to have a reasonable hour for closing. It seems to me that half past seven or eight o'clock in summer, and at six o'clock in winter would be reasonable.

(Translation.)

ARTHUR GOLBOUT, of Quebec, Clerk in a Dry Goods Store, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Have you heard the evidence of the last witnesses? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you corroborate their evidence? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Pray, state in what you differ from them? A.—I would like simply to say a few words on behalf of an employee who boards with his master. We generally open the store at from six to half-past six in summer, and the person I speak of has to be at the store at that hour, and has to remain there until half-past ten and eleven o'clock at night; nor is he allowed to go out for a moment.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You are not allowed to go out during the twenty-four hours? A.—Of course, we are allowed a few minutes, but we are well abused for it.

Q.—You dare not ask permission? A.—We would be refused, if we did ask, and, moreover, be threatened with the loss of our place.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—How much are clerks, boarding with their employer, paid? A.—They generally get \$2 a week and their board.

Q.—Are clerks who board with their employer obliged to buy their clothes at their employer's store? A.—No; they are not obliged to do that. And, for the closing and opening of the store, it is just the same in other stores.

Q.—Have employees, boarding with their employers, work to do, other than is done in the store? A.—Of course. We are obliged to take care of the lower part of the store in winter, but not of the upper part—that we have nothing to do with.

Q.—Are you obliged to rise at night to attend to the fires? A.—No; we hire lodgings elsewhere, for which we pay out of our salary. We take only our meals at our employer's; we have no room there.

Q.—You receive \$2 a week and your board? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Is that for apprentices or clerks? A.—They are beginners, of course.

(Translation.)

ERNEST FERLAND, of Quebec, Clerk in a Dry Goods Store, sworn :

I don't think the merchants would lose anything by closing at half-past seven, or eight o'clock. It is merely a rivalry among them. I cannot see why they do not do like the merchants of St. Rochs. It is only a notion they have, for often there is not enough custom to pay the expense of the gas.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—There is no reason for keeping open, as in the workmen's quarters? A.—It is not the same thing as in the workmen's quarters; the business is very much less.

Q.—Did the employees ever unite and ask for earlier hours? A.—We tried last year, but did not succeed.

Q.—What did the masters say? A.—They laughed at us.

Q.—Do the masters generally remain in the store during the evening? A.—Yes; they remain, only they take more time than the employees for their dinner. They warn us not to take more than a quarter or a half hour; but they take two hours, and two hours and a-half; and if we arrive a little late in the morning, they abuse us before the other clerks.

Q.—You state you open the store at six o'clock in the morning until the 1st of January? A.—From the month of May to January, we open at six and half-past six o'clock.

Q.—Are the customers in Quebec fond of promenading in the snow in the early morning? A.—No. But the bosses are not in the store in the morning, and they think that customers come. The bosses come at half-past ten, eleven o'clock, and sometimes not until the afternoon.

Q.—At what hour do customers generally begin to come in, up to the 1st of January? A.—Not before noon in winter; sometimes not till the afternoon.

Q.—If the store opened at seven o'clock, would that be early enough? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you obliged to light the gas in the store in the morning, from the end

of October to the 1st of January? A.—Not at all; we do not light the gas, for we see no person.

Q.—But to open the store? A.—It is light enough; we light it very rarely.

(Translation.)

ALEXANDRE BLAIS, of Quebec, clerk in a dry goods store, sworn:—

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—You have heard the evidence of your comrades? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What have you to state to us? Have you been long at the business?
A.—I have now been two years.

Q.—What did you earn the first year? A.—I did not earn enough to pay my board the first year.

Q.—How much did you earn a week the first year? Did you get anything?
A.—I was paid by the month.

Q.—How much a month? A.—\$10, and I paid \$12 for my board.

Q.—How much did you get the second year? A.—I got \$4.50 a week.

Q.—And now, continue? A.—At present we are obliged to stand all day long and besides that to stand all evening; we are not allowed to sit down. If they see us seated they find fault with us; this is very injurious. In the store I am in, the ceiling is so low that the gas touches our heads. We have often to take off our coats, and when we work in the back shop where it is very damp, we run the risk of taking some sickness, and some even have died from the effects of this.

Q.—Is the store opened and closed at the same hours as those stated by the witnesses that have preceded you? A.—At the same hours.

(Translation.)

GEORGE RACINE, of Quebec, Tailor, sworn.

I have just to state that we do not earn enough in the course of the year, to enable us to live. We, married men, having four or five years of apprenticeship, are offered \$4.50 and \$5 a week when our apprenticeship is over. It should be observed, that we work about eight months in the year, and that four months of the year we have no work; that is, for two months in winter—January and February there is no work, and in August and September there is not much to do either. Then, we are made to work rather long. As a general rule we are hired to work from 7 o'clock to 7 o'clock, but the greater part of the time we work to 8 o'clock, and on Saturdays to 10 o'clock, and we are not paid extra for so doing. I think wages would be higher if so much ready-made clothing were not sold, if a tailor were quietly left his own proper work, and nothing more done. If merchants had no tailoring done in their establishments we would have more work. And then those who work by the job, they naturally earn better wages, that is, they have the advantage of hiring other workmen, and young women, and to employ four or five in a shop and to pay them as cheaply as possible, and in that way they earn better wages.

March 10th, 1888

JAMES KIRWAN, of Quebec, a member of the Quebec City Police Force, sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—I believe you are sergeant in the City Police Force? A.—Yes.

Q.—Will you please explain to the Commission the conditions under which the police are insured. Is the insurance provided by the police force, or by the Corporation? A.—We are insured against accident. In case of injury we receive five dollars a week from this fund. We pay every month forty-two cents into this fund. I do not know who pays the other, whether it is the Corporation or who.

Q.—Have you any printed documents respecting it? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Have you any policy or anything? A.—No.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Is this amount stopped out of the pay of the police, or is it a voluntary subscription on their part? A.—The Chief told us the Board had come to the conclusion to insure the men, and advised us to pay 42 cents a month, and we did so. I know no more about it than that.

Q.—Does that cover accidents and sickness? A.—No. It only covers accidents.

Q.—In the event of a policeman being injured, how long does he receive that \$5 a week? A.—For six months.

Q.—And at the end of six months, does it cease? A.—It does, sir.

Q.—Does he receive medical attendance? A.—No.

Q.—Does he receive his wages also? A.—Well, I was injured twice, and I was sick a week one time and ten days another time, and I got my pay.

Q.—You do not know that it is part of the rules that policemen shall receive it? A.—No.

Q.—What amount would a policeman's family receive in the event of his death? A.—We were told they would get a thousand dollars—that is, the widow, or whoever is entitled to get it. They would get it if we were killed by an accident.

Q.—If a policeman, while in the discharge of his duty, was so injured as to die six months or more after receiving the injuries, would his family receive that money? A.—If the time had expired, I suppose they would not; but if it was inside the six months, I suppose they would.

Q.—You cannot tell if the insurance would hold good outside the six months? A.—No.

Q.—Can you tell us if Constable Holliwel does the same duty as the other members of the police force? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is he on duty the same number of hours? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know any reason why his pay should be reduced from one dollar a day to sixty cents a day? A.—No.

Q.—Have you any benevolent fund in connection with the police force? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Before the Board came to the conclusion to levy this insurance money, were the men consulted beforehand? A.—Well, the Chief of Police told us the Board wished to have us insured, and that it would be a very good thing for us to be insured.

Q.—Who are the custodians of this fund? A.—I do not know.

Q.—When do you pay the 42 cents per month? A.—At our last payment in the month, this money is stopped out of our pay, and that is all that I know about it.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Do you really believe that at the end of six months a policeman can make no legal claim for this insurance money? A.—If the six months has expired I would consider that I would have no claim.

Q.—You really believe a policeman would not have any claim? A.—No.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Is this insurance based upon the forty-two cents per month paid by the men, or does the Council also contribute? A.—I understand that is half; the other is contributed by somebody.

Q.—Who pays the other forty-two cents per month? A.—I do not know. They get half the indemnity. They get five dollars a week, and we get five dollars a week.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Do you not think you should know as much about this as any one else. Do you not think you should know how this money is invested? A.—I should think so. Well, for my part I never asked.

Q.—Why did you not? A.—I do not wish to explain my reasons on that point.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—You have just stated that if a policeman is sick, the policeman receives five dollars a week and the Police Board five dollars a week of this insurance? A.—Well, the other party gets it—whoever pays the other half of the policy. The Insurance Company pays ten dollars a week, the policeman gets five dollars and the other party gets five dollars. I do not know who the other party is.

Q.—Have you ever heard? A.—I do not remember, and I never asked.

Q.—When a policeman dies does his widow receive one thousand dollars and does the other party receive one thousand dollars? A.—I was never told anything about the other party.

Q.—Has a policeman died since you have been on the police force, leaving a widow and family, and has the widow received one thousand dollars? A.—No.

EDWARD FOLEY, Quebec, Advocate and Barrister, Clerk of the Recorder's Court, Secretary to the Police Board, sworn:

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Will you explain the insurance scheme for the benefit of the police force of the city of Quebec? A.—Well, a mistake has evidently made by the last witness touching the insurance policy. There is no doubt the widow or relatives of any member of the police force gets the insurance of a thousand dollars at his death. He is insured for a year, and if he dies during the year, through any accident, his family gets the thousand dollars. That is as clear as noon-day; even though he would not be six months laid up, that would not make any difference.

Q.—Will you tell us, please, if the policies are made out in favor of the policeman for ten dollars a week, and if the policeman only receives five dollars a week, what becomes of the other half? A.—I would have to look at the minutes of the Board to give you any information on that point, because I do not remember now what the arrangement was; but by reference to the minute book, I could of course do so. The Chief of Police is in a proper position to give you that information, as he has to deal with the monies that are received from the Insurance Company, and hands them over to the men. They do not pass through my hands.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Is it a fact that the indemnity is ten dollars a week, and that the policeman only gets half of it? A.—The Chief of Police can answer that question.

Q.—Who pays for half of the premium? A.—I think it is the Corporation of the City of Quebec.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—No portion comes out of the Police Fund? A.—That, I could not tell you without reference to the papers. I know there was the additional sum of three hundred dollars voted by the Corporation for the Police Force last year. The Corporation generally gives us an appropriation of twenty-five thousand dollars a year. We of course have been asking for a larger appropriation, in order to pay some of the men better—in order to increase the expenditure of the Police Force.

Q.—In the event of a man getting killed or dying from his injuries, would the Corporation receive a portion of the money? A.—No; certainly not. The money goes direct to the man's family.

Q.—You say this insurance is continued every year. If a man remains sick at the end of the year, has he got the right to continue the insurance, so that his family will benefit in the event of his death? A.—I should have to look at the policies in order to answer that question. I have not seen the policies, as I have already said, that is a matter for the Chief of Police; you might enquire, and get from him, or I could enquire, and get that information for you. Not knowing that I would be questioned on these points, I have not the information.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—On your return to your office, you might ask the Chief of Police to come up and give us the information? A.—Well, the Chief has his office in a different building to mine altogether, but I will call and tell him at his office, or if he is at his office, I will communicate with him by telephone. I will ask him to come here, and bring that information, if it is your wish. It is a public matter, and it is no interest for me to hide anything, if it is you desire to know it. Of course, we consider ourselves bound to give the public the benefit of anything that transpires. Our Body is not a private Body, and any information that the Police Board can give to this Commission, we shall be very happy to do so.

Q.—What amount of clothing do the men receive in a year. Do they receive the money to purchase clothing, or does the Police Board furnish the clothing? A.—There is a regular schedule, by which a constable gets certain articles of clothing. He gets, for instance, so far as my memory leads me, a pair of summer boots, a serge suit for summer, he gets a pair of cloth pants, and a tunic, supposed to wear for two summers, and I think he gets two pairs of rubbers for the winter season. He gets a helmet, that has to last him two or three years, and a winter cap, which has to last about the same time, and a pair of mits. This information I could also give you, more correctly, by referring to the books, it would probably take twelve or fourteen minutes to look it up.

Q.—Is any portion of a policeman's pay deducted for clothing? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—In the handling of this insurance money, are the men represented? A.—Well, they are supposed to be. As I said, a moment ago, the Chief of Police, is the intermediary party. I am not the person, and could not tell you what transpires.

Q.—Was this scheme, or insurance fund, originated with the Board—did it emanate from the Board in any way? A.—It was thought that it would be a good idea. I think that it first sprang up in that form, and it was found to have been a good thing in other places, but I was always under the impression, and am still, that the men were consulted in the first instance, that is, as I have said before, it was done by the Chief of Police.

Q.—Was the proportion increased? A.—I do not think that the proportion has been increased—for some time, if I remember rightly, at any rate, my books will tell me at once whether the proportion was increased or not, if I refer to them.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Is any portion of the fund, which may be collected as contribution, or rewards or gratuities to the men, in behalf of services rendered by them, set apart for the payment of this additional premium? A.—Any money that comes into the hands of the Board, or the Chief of Police, for distribution among the men, is paid to them.

Q.—And no part of that is held back by the Board? A.—No; the whole of it goes back to the men, but it is a very small amount of money. The Chief of Police places it in the bank to the credit of the men, and distributes it at the end of every six or twelve months.

JAMES G. SCOTT, of Quebec, Manager of the Lake St. John Railway, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How many men have you employed on the line as brakemen and conductors? A.—We have about fifteen.

Q.—Are they paid by the trip, week or month? A.—They are paid by the month.

Q.—What are the earnings of a brakeman, on an average? A.—They vary from one dollar a day to thirty dollars a month.

Q.—What do the conductors get? A.—Forty-five, fifty and sixty dollars a month.

Q.—What is the pay of an engineer on the railway? A.—The engineers get fifty, fifty-five and sixty dollars a month.

Q.—And the firemen? A.—The firemen get thirty dollars a month.

Q.—How many hours are they supposed to be on duty, from the time they go out to the time they come in? A.—Well, on wood trains, they run about eleven hours. On passenger trains, it is according to the run. They do not get generally more than six or seven working hours a day.

Q.—When a train is detained by accident, or by storm, at some point between the different termini of the run, will the pay of the brakeman run on during the time he is out with his train? A.—Yes.

Q.—Nothing is stopped? A.—No.

Q.—I suppose the same rule applies to all the other train hands? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have any accidents occurred to brakemen on trains on your line? A.—Not a great number.

Q.—Would you tell us some of the most frequent causes of accidents to trainmen on your line? A.—Car-coupling, as a rule.

Q.—Have you ever seen a car-coupling that is absolutely safe? A.—That is very hard to say. You generally get some new patent car-coupler every second day shown to you.

Q.—What are the couplings used on freight trains that you consider most dangerous? A.—The link and pin coupling is the most dangerous.

Q.—Have the accidents been more frequent, in your opinion, by the link and pin coupling than by the "deadwoods"? A.—Yes.

Q.—The deadwood is a large square block of wood bolted on the end of a car just above the drawbar? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know if accidents are caused more frequently by the deadwoods catching the hand of the brakeman, or by the link and pin? A.—I should say by the link and pin.

Q.—You never saw a drawbar that was automatic in its action in coupling trains? A.—Yes; I have.

Q.—Do you think the principle can be applied generally with safety and usefulness? A.—I do.

Q.—Do you know any general disposition on the part of Railway Companies to adopt such a thing? A.—Well, there seems to be a good deal of hesitation about it, but it is a very desirable thing.

Q.—Would the question of expense in supplying such a coupling to trains be an obstacle in the adoption of such a contrivance? A.—Well, I do not think it would be a very serious obstacle. It all depends upon the nature of the coupler.

Q.—Do you remember ever seeing a coupler that you approved of? A.—Yes; I saw one, the invention of a man named Parent in Quebec, and it was very ingenious.

Q.—Is that the one in which the bar moves up and down when the car comes together? A.—It is a coupler weighted at the inner end. The pin of the car advancing slips up this side, and when it reaches a certain point the coupler comes round. It advances up the slide to the link pin—and when it comes to this notch here, or kind of teeth the link slips round and the coupling is then made without any manual effort.

Q.—The coupler of which you speak, is there sufficient slack to admit the moving of the train easily after it has been coupled? A.—Well, it is speaking from memory, and it is some years since I have seen it, but I would think so.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—How much do you say your conductors and brakemen are paid? A.—The lowest is paid forty-five dollars a month, and the highest sixty dollars.

Q.—You have none that are paid one dollar a day? A.—Not conductors; no.

Q.—How many hours are they supposed to work a day to earn their salary? A.—Well, they have got to work different hours. They work as they are required. Occasionally there are detentions. And the men are supposed to submit to it, but when there are no detentions the hours are comparatively easy.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that the men who take a train out on Monday, say, only get off on Wednesday, and receive no extra salary for it? A.—No; it is not true.

Q.—If that happened would you make up the pay of the men—would you pay them extra? A.—Yes, I should think so.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that the Company has paid extra to the men under such circumstances? A.—Occasionally, I think we have done so.

Q.—Is it the custom of the Company to pay them extra, or is it the exception? A.—It is the exception.

Q.—Are the brakemen obliged to load the coal on the engine tenders on your line before starting? A.—On the engines?

Q.—Yes, are they paid for that? A.—No.

Q.—It is part of their work? A.—It is part of their work.

Q.—Are they obliged, before the train starts, to put on the coal? A.—It takes about half an hour before the train starts.

Q.—They have no fixed hour? A.—Well, that is a matter that comes under the mechanical department.

Q.—The Company can make them work ten or fourteen hours a day without their having any recourse? A.—The men would very soon object to that.

Q.—Are there any that have made objections? A.—I think we have had trouble with one man since we have been working.

Q.—What was the nature of the trouble? A.—He was discharged as not fit for the work, and after he was discharged he made a claim for extra time.

Q.—When you engage your men do you tell them the number of hours they would have to work? A.—Yes, we explain the conditions beforehand.

Q.—You know that in another department from your's—the chief engineer's department—the men are paid extra for all they do? A.—Not in all cases, in some they are.

Q.—Do you know if, when they have been compelled to work outside their

limited hours, or on a Sunday, they are paid higher than the regular rate? A.—They do not work on Sundays as a rule.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—As a rule do the train hands earn more or less than the average day's pay for each working day? A.—Do you mean including lost time?

Q.—Including every time. A.—Well, of course if a man has lost no time and works overtime he makes more than the average.

Q.—Do you think it is the custom with them to get more than the average? A.—As compared with men who work in the city I think that they get a little more than the average.

Q.—Do you employ many men on the road? A.—There has been as many as two thousand men employed on the work of construction at one time.

Q.—Do you employ any men at repairs on other works? A.—Yes. We have a force of a hundred, or one hundred and twenty men.

Q.—What wages do they get? A.—Section men get eighty cents a day, and section foremen one dollar and twenty-five cents a day.

Q.—Do they get constant employment the year round? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many hours a day do they work? A.—From six in the morning to six at night.

Q.—How many hours a day do they work? A.—That is twelve hours.

Q.—Are they allowed any time for meals? A.—Well, they generally get their breakfast before they leave, and they take an hour for dinner.

Q.—Do they work overtime at all? A.—Not often; very seldom.

Q.—If they do work overtime do they receive extra pay? A.—Yes. They receive the same rate of pay for overtime.

WILLIAM McWILLIAMS, Quebec, confectioner, sworn:—

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—How long have you followed the business of a confectioner? A.—Since eighteen hundred and forty-two—forty-five years, I think.

Q.—You must have turned out a lot of apprentices in that time? A.—Not many. I have had a large number of boys in my employ since that time, but very few have become perfect in the business.

Q.—How many of your apprentices after serving their time in your place are kept on as journeymen? A.—I could not say, they go away—they remain at the trade a little while, and then fall out and try something else. After they have made a little money they leave and go away to try and do better.

Q.—How many journeymen have you at the present time? A.—Two.

Q.—And how many apprentices have you? A.—Six apprentices and two office message boys.

Q.—How many years does it take to learn the trade? A.—Very few learn the trade altogether. They generally serve five years. I am paying to-day all the way from four dollars to sixteen dollars a month, to apprentices, and they get their board besides.

Q.—Do they get four dollars a month the first year? A.—Yes. Every boy gets four dollars a month the first year.

Q.—How many hours do they work? A.—Sometimes they are not working more than perhaps six or seven hours a day when the work is slack.

Q.—But what is their regular time when there is plenty of work? A.—Their regular time is supposed to be ten hours a day.

Q.—Do they ever work longer than ten hours a day? A.—We do sometimes.

Q.—Do any of your apprentices perform the work of journeymen? A.—Some of them are pretty good workmen. I suppose I have got three or four who are equal to the men I get in Quebec.

Q.—Do apprentices receive a thorough knowledge of the business? A.—Well, it is there before them if they like to learn.

Q.—Do apprentices to the trade learn the business in five years? A.—They can do so if they apply themselves to it, but they do not generally apply themselves to the business.

Q.—If they are employed for a ball or a party until two or three o'clock in the morning, do they get anything extra for that? A.—That is a thing that does not occur more than once or twice in a year. Sometimes they have been paid—the parties pay them. Sometimes they get paid for their extra services, but I do not pay them anything extra.

Q.—If they are sick for several days, is anything deducted from their wages? A.—No.

Q.—How often are your men paid? A.—Every Saturday.

Q.—What are the wages of shop girls in that business in the city? A.—From one hundred dollars to two hundred dollars a year, with their board. They sometimes lodge in the house. There is a special lodging prepared for them in the house; and sometimes they prefer going home. I have some who go home, and some who sleep in the house.

(Translation.)

MRS. ELIE MARCOUX, of Quebec, Seamstress, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do you work in men's clothing? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How many years have you sewed men's clothing? A.—Since I was 13 years old, and I am 40 years old now; you see it is a long time.

Q.—How are you paid, in money? A.—No, sir; in goods.

Q.—Since you began to work, have you always been paid in goods? A.—No; I have been paid in money, and I have been paid in goods; and at the present time I work for goods.

Q.—How many years have you worked for goods? A.—I can't say. One year I was paid only in goods, and other years I was paid nothing but money.

Q.—Were you paid in goods from the store? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Were they sold to you at the same price as to other customers? A.—I can't say.

Q.—Do you employ other people, workwomen? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you pay them in goods also, or in money? A.—In goods; I am paid in goods.

Q.—Can you tell us what prices you get for coats and vests? A.—I get 25 cents for vests, and 25 cents for trousers, 25 cents each piece; for coats, I get 6 shillings for overcoats and 80 cents for undercoats.

Q.—Is it the habit, in many stores, to pay in goods? A.—Yes, sir; it is the general custom now.

Q.—Would you prefer to be paid in money? A.—It is the same to me.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do you employ many workwomen? A.—Fifteen.

Q.—How much do they earn in a week? How much do you pay them a week? A.—I pay them by the piece. If they make a dozen vests or a dozen pairs of pantaloons, I give them \$2.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How much can these women earn in a week, working ten hours a day?
A.—They are not paid by the day? they do this kind of work when their home work is done. They have their house work to do.

Q.—How much do you think one of them could earn in a week, working constantly and ten hours a day? A.—\$2.50.

Q.—About ten pairs a week? A.—Fifteen pairs, I think.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—When you happen to have more goods than you require to pay your women, do you sell the remainder? A.—If I had too much, I would sell the remainder.

Q.—Do you sell at the price you bought, or do you lose anything? A.—I lose, of course.

Q.—And you thereby lose so much on what you have earned, so much on what was paid you? A.—We do not think of that when we need money.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—In what sort of goods are you paid? A.—In whatever we want, no matter what.

Q.—Can you get groceries? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Only dry goods? A.—Yes.

(Translation.)

DAMASE LACASSE, Quebec, Sergeant of Police, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What are the duties of the Police? A.—The duties are that they are 24 hours on duty, and 24 hours off duty.

Q.—Do you know if any money was voted to the Board of Police to give larger wages to the men? A.—I am not able to say. I heard it said that something was given, but I do not know. We have not had any augmentation of wages.

Q.—Was it understood that the men were to have an increase of wages? A.—No; we asked every year, but our chief, Colonel Vohl, did not give it to us. Every year we ask that our wages be increased, but we have not got it.

Q.—Do you think that the Police in Quebec are paid in proportion to the work they do? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do you think that the wages of a constable are sufficient to enable him to support his family? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Have you anything to add to what the witness (Sergeant Kirwin) has said?
A.—No.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do you know anything of the system of insurance? A.—No; only what Sergeant Kirwin has answered. Only he did not say that as to insurance policies not any of us have one.

Q.—Are you punished by means of fines when you do not do your duty? A.—No, sir; when we neglect our duty some are punished. They get extra duty.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—When there are vacancies in the force are there many applications for the place? A.—A great many.

Q.—Have you any knowledge that policemen were reduced in rank or discharged because they did not make enough arrests? A.—I know of Constable Holiwell and of Constable Morin who were reduced and of Paradis who was reduced and is since dead.

Q.—Were they reduced in rank for the reason above stated? A.—I am not able to say for what reason, but I know they were reduced.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Have the police orders to arrest or to report carters who have no numbers on their vehicles? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—If you see a carter who has no number taking a fare, what do you do? A.—We report him, and if he is a stranger we have sometimes the right to take him a prisoner.

Q.—Do you know that there are carters in the City of Quebec who take fares regularly without having numbers on their vehicles? A.—There may be some that escape us at night. I have seen some myself, but they are rare.

Q.—Do you know that there is a livery stable in Quebec where none of the vehicles carry a number? A.—Yes, sir; there is one.

Q.—Why do the policemen not arrest these drivers? A.—We have no orders to arrest them.

Q.—Have you orders not to arrest them? A.—The livery stable people, who live in St. Anne street, it is well known since I have been in the Police Force, drive without a number, but I think, to the best of my knowledge, though I am not positive, that they pay the Corporation for the liberty of driving without a number.

Q.—Are there in the City of Quebec other livery stables but that one? A.—There are some that rent horses, but there is no stable as large as that one.

Q.—Are other livery stables forced to put numbers on their vehicles? A.—They have what are called family carriages and other carriages that they rent and that they send into the country, and these do not require a number.

Q.—But in the city when they take a passenger from the St. Louis Hotel, for instance, (I do not speak of the large livery stable, but of the others, the small livery stables) are they forced to have numbers on their vehicles? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—When a policeman sees a vehicle without a number how does he know whether it belongs to the large livery stable or to one of the small ones? A.—We know nearly all of them, sir.

Q.—Since you have been in the force have you ever known of a special order being given authorizing the large livery stable to drive without numbers? A.—If I do not mistake, something took place at the Recorder's Court concerning this affair, to compel them to take numbers, but some settlement was made, I am not able to say what was the nature of it.

Q.—Have the police the right to arrest a traveller who does not pay his carter? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—Can you distinguish the livery stable vehicles from other vehicles? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you think it just towards the carters to act thus? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are there a law for the large livery stable and a law for the small ones? A.—As to the large livery stable I have no knowledge that they go on the "stand," but the others have vehicles on the "stand," and it is these that have numbers.

Q.—Is there not a formal law that states that all those who take passengers should have numbers on their vehicles? A.—There is a law which states that all persons having vehicles that go from one place to another within the limits of the

city require a license. All persons that take, no matter who, from one place to another within the limits of the city require a license.

Q.—How can you know if a person has a license if he has no number? A.—They are subjected to two numbers.

Q.—How can you know if a person has a license if he has no number? A.—We cannot know then.

Q.—Then the law is not strictly applied? A.—It is always put in force, but some always escape, that we cannot get at.

Q.—Is it the duty of the police and of the sergeants to see that this law is applied? A.—Our orders are to watch over all that I have mentioned.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—But you obey the orders of Council, of the Mayor and Council? A.—We receive our orders from Colonel Vohl, he gives us our instructions.

Q.—It is your duty to obey their orders and not those of other persons? A.—We are always obedient.

By Mr. CARSON.

Q.—Do you know why this livery stable has more privilege than the others? A.—I am unable to say.

(Translation.)

LEON P. VOHL, of Quebec, Chief of Police, sworn anew.
follows :—

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Can you give us any information on the subject of insurance? What we wish to know, what I at least, wish to know, is how much a week is allowed those who are sick, and whether there is an amount paid to others? A.—First of all, the Corporation pay their insurance, and the men give their share of forty cents a month, and on this the men have the right of five dollars a week when they are sick, and the Corporation draw five dollars a week also. Now, in the event of death there is one thousand dollars goes to the party insured, that is to say the man insured.

Q.—Does the Corporation receive anything at the death of the man? A.—No.

Q.—How much does the Corporation pay for insurance for each man? A.—I cannot exactly say. I think it is ten dollars a year for each man; it is that, I am sure of it now.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Can you tell us, whether a man, though he be ill, may not remain insured on paying his monthly instalments, or can they cancel the policy and remain insured? I have no knowledge of such a law. Up to the present time men have always been regularly paid during illness until they were able to resume duty. I am sure of no law to that effect.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Are they insured after they leave the Force? A.—That question has not arisen but they should be. I correct myself; it cannot be, for they cease to pay. They pay every month. They pay 40 cents a month and from the moment they

cease to pay they cease to be insured. The man is replaced by another and this other pays 40 cents for himself.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—When a policeman is ill, does he receive his salary? A.—I have already said: he receives half of his salary in virtue of a by-law of the Board of Police, but when he recovers he makes application for the other half, and I cannot recall a case in which it was ever refused.

Q.—When a policeman is ill, is he replaced by another? A.—No, never.

Q.—If a man is wounded in the discharge of his duty, and is ill beyond this six months, does he still continue to draw his money? A.—No; not after the six months. Such a case has not yet occurred, but he should not; according to the insurance rules it is 26 weeks. They pay for 26 weeks.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—When a policeman pays his insurance every month, for how long is he insured? A.—It is the Corporation that insures. Now if any of the men leave the force, or are dismissed for one cause or another, they are not insured from the time the month is finished, for they no longer pay.

Q.—How can a policeman be insured for a year if he only pays monthly? A.—It is done under a by-law of the Board of Police. The Board pays in one lump sum the amount for the insurance of the policemen, and the policemen have to pay it back little by little, 40 cents a month retained from their wages.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Is it 40 or 42 cents? A.—They have to make up \$5 by the end of the year.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—The Corporation pays in a lump sum, but if a man is discharged, he loses that insurance? A.—He does not lose it for he does not pay it. Another man replaces him, and this one pays.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Has money been voted for increasing the salaries of the force? Was money voted for that purpose last year? A.—Not for salaries, the appropriation was perhaps increased; I know nothing of the matter.

Q.—Are all those, who have vehicles for hire, compelled, by law, to take out a license; has every person who demands a license the right in law to receive one? A.—Up to the present time, yes; but, according to a law which has just been passed, a person has no right unless he gets a certificate from the chief of police.

Q.—Under the old law were all those who received licenses obliged to have numbers? A.—I think so.

Q.—Are there some in Quebec, at present, who have licenses, and who have no numbers? A.—I have already been examined on this point. I can repeat what I have already stated; there are carriages which do not go upon what is called the "stand," and they have no numbers, but every vehicle that goes on the "stand" must have a number, and if it has not, it is reported for not having it.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Does such distinction exist in the law? A.—I do not think that it does, but there was an understanding, if I remember right, about two years ago. Certain carters complained that these carriages had no numbers, and there was an agreement that, provided these carriages did not go on the "stand" to compete with the

carters, but would only carry passengers when hired in advance by the hotels, they would not be forced to have numbers.

Q.—With whom was this agreement made—with the carters on the “stand” or the police? A.—With the carters on the “stand,” and particularly at St. Louis elsewhere it does not signify, for these carriages do not go elsewhere.

Q.—Would a policeman, obedient to the orders he receives in conformity with law, not be bound to arrest these carters? A.—If he acted strictly; but when he is told of the agreement, and that he should not interfere in the matter, he will not do so.

Q.—You allow citizens to make agreements among themselves which are not in conformity with the law? A.—It is a matter that interferes with no one but the carters, and they are satisfied. We are not always astride of the law.

Q.—Carters have come here to complain, they were not parties to such an agreement, and they maintain that there was never any such agreement. Have you, as Chief of Police, received complaints from certain carters about these vehicles that have no numbers? Have carters ever appeared before the Board of Police, or before you as Chief, to demand that the law be put in force? A.—Not directly that I remember that they told me that there were persons who had more horses than they had licenses. I answered: “If it is so, and we discover it, we will have them fined.”

Q.—If a man has a number of vehicles, and does not put numbers on these vehicles, how can you tell that he does not send out more vehicles than he has licenses? Suppose that a man has twenty-five vehicles, and thirteen licenses, how can the Police know if this man sends out, in one day, his twenty-five vehicles? A.—There is only one person who acts in this way, and we know him well.

Q.—Could you know if he sent out his twenty-five vehicles in one day? Have you any means whatever of knowing? A.—We would know quick enough, for they could not send out so many vehicles, nor a quarter of those for which they have licenses, without our knowing it.

Q.—But positively you could not? A.—Under oath I could not.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Has the Council named two men as Inspectors of bread? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are these men so named, practical men? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You know that bakers are obliged to leave their bread in the oven a certain time? A.—I do not know if there is a law to that effect, but I know that the custom is to do it. If it is not perfectly baked it is not perfectly wholesome.

Q.—When this bread is put on the market, do you think it is wholesome? A.—It cannot be if it is not sufficiently baked.

Q.—How long is it since these inspectors have been named? A.—About five or six days.

Q.—If the men who are named are not practical, how can they inspect the bread? A.—We have among the men of the Police force tradesmen, and though one or two inspectors are named, we take as many of these men as are necessary to make the inspection.

(Translation.)

AUGUSTIN PERRON, Quebec, Mason Contractor, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Are you engaged on work just now? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How many men do you employ? A.—Thirty-four men.

- Q.—How many hours a day do they work? A.—Eight hours.
- Q.—What are their wages? A.—Masons get \$1.50 a day, and day labourers sixty cents.
- Q.—Are there any among your men, who earn only fifty cents? A.—No, sir.
- Q.—Are you a mason contractor? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—Do you sometimes pay the men their wages in groceries? A.—No, sir; they are free to take only what they need.
- Q.—Does it ever occur that some of your men only work two or three days in a week? A.—Yes; some of the men only work one day, two days, three days, according to the state of the weather. When the weather is bad, they do not work.
- Q.—And naturally, when the weather is stormy, the men, at sixty cents, do not work any more than the others? A.—No, sir.
- Q.—Is it not true that the greater number of your men get their pay in advance in goods from your store, nearly the whole of their pay, before it is earned? A.—Some of them do.
- Q.—How often do you pay them? A.—Every fortnight.

(Translation.)

CHARLES BAILLARGÉ, of Quebec, City Surveyor, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

- Q.—How much do labourers, working for the city of Quebec, earn? A.—In the department of roads and markets, they earn \$1, some \$1.10, and others seventy-five, eighty, and ninety cents, in winter. Carters earn seven shillings and a half, in summer, and six shillings and three pence in winter. Carpenters, working at side-walks, and at the wharves, and repairing streets, earn \$1.10 and \$1.20. The greater number get \$2 a day.
- Q.—Is there a difference between the hours of work in summer, and the hours in winter? A.—They work ten hours in summer, and eight hours in winter.
- Q.—Are snow shovellers included in these prices? A.—Yes, sir; for working in snow, carters earn six shillings and threepence, and the men eighty cents, and ninety cents.
- Q.—How often are the men employed, by the Corporation of Quebec, paid? A.—Every week or every fortnight? A.—Every week.
- Q.—To your knowledge, have the workmen ever had to wait six or seven weeks for their pay? A.—Yes. It generally happens, once in the autumn, when the appropriations have been exhausted, until the Corporation can make a new grant, that the men have to wait three, four, or five weeks, and I believe that it happened last fall that they had to wait nine weeks; but that was the only time they ever had to wait so long.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

- No. Q.—Did this happen through carelessness on the part of the Councillors? A.—
- Q.—The want of money? A.—The want of money.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q.—Are the head officers of the corporation paid in the same way; do they wait for their money? A.—No; there is a special appropriation for the salaries, and the employees are paid every month.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Are all classes of employees paid in the same way? A.—Yes; because there is a special appropriation for the employees' salaries.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have the workmen never asked to be paid every week? A.—They are regularly paid every week, except, as I have said, when there happens to be a lack of money.

Q.—Is all corporation work done under the inspection of the City Surveyor? A.—Yes; of course he appoints foremen.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Can you tell what is the proportion of houses having water and water-closets in them? A.—There are now more than four-fifths, because of late years a great deal has been done; great additions have been made. There are now only a few ends of streets that have no water or drainage. A great many families, however, through want of means to do so, do not put closets in their houses, but keep the outdoor privies.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Is the delay in paying the men due to an actual want of money in the city, or merely to a default in appropriation? A.—I can't say that it is due to an actual lack of money, that the treasurer could not find money to pay the men, but he does not believe himself justified to go beyond the amount appropriated for a special purpose.

Q.—The custom is to exceed the appropriation in such a case? A.—Unfortunately, yes, to exceed it by a great deal. Each councillor gets the most he can for his ward.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is a certain appropriation to be made for certain works to be carried on during the year? A.—Yes. Each year there is a certain amount appropriated for certain works.

Q.—Does the cost of these works exceed the appropriation? A.—Yes, it always exceeds it by nearly every item. The fact is, the amount voted is never sufficient for requirements, which accounts for it always being exceeded.

Q.—Is the amount appropriated to paying the workmen, applied to other objects? A.—No. Each amount is fully applied to the purpose for which it was appropriated. Every year a certain amount is appropriated thus: for instance, for the twenty-six weeks of summer, say \$500 a week; for the twenty-six weeks of winter, say \$150; for so many thousand planks, so much for nails; so much for blacksmith work; so much for macadam; so much for broken stones for street repairs; so much for paving; and then there are special amounts for making steps, for wharves, for everything like that. The sums are applied, to their full amount, to the purpose for which they were voted.

(Translation.)

VINCENT-CÉLESTIN COTÉ, machinist and manager of a furniture factory, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How many employees have you? A.—Thirty.

Q.—What are the wages paid to a good workman? A.—\$5 to \$10 a week, for ten hours' work.

Q.—Are these wages paid summer and winter? A.—It is \$5 for ten hours and \$10 for ten hours; and in winter we only work eight hours; we take off two hours on the amount of their wages.

Q.—What amount of wages do you pay inexperienced workmen? A.—\$5.

Q.—Is there much machinery in the factory? A.—There is machinery to the extent of \$44,000.

Q.—Do accidents ever occur from this machinery? A.—They occur sometimes.

Q.—What is the principal cause? A.—The cause is the want of care of the workman. Two years ago a turner, after having fastened a piece of wood in his machine, did not take all the necessary precautions, and he lost his life in consequence.

Q.—Are there guards around the machinery? A.—Certainly. There are guards around all the machinery. All the belts come under the floor, which lessens the danger for the workmen.

Q.—Do boys work in that factory? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What is the age of the youngest, and what are his wages? A.—16 years. \$2 a week.

Q.—Are there any that work at a circular saw? A.—No; they work at circular saws, but there is always a man with them, one who has more experience than they; there is one young man who for a long time, three or four years, has worked in machinery. He works alone at the little round saws.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—What sort of furniture do you manufacture? A.—Chairs.

Q.—Chairs only? A.—Chairs only, and afterwards joining. All the little jobs usual in a factory; no large contracts. The greatest part of our work is chairs.

Q.—You do not manufacture first-class furniture? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do you employ experienced men to work these dangerous machines? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What wages do you give the man who work the "carver" and the "shaper"? A.—We have no "carver;" we have a "shaper;" we give \$9 a week to the man who works it.

Q.—How much do you give able men who make the chairs? A.—We pay \$6 and \$7 a week.

Q.—When you take apprentices do you make them sign an indenture? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do you export your goods to other countries? A.—No, sir; we have only local trade.

Q.—Did you ever try exporting your chairs? A.—Not in my time.

Q.—Do you think if the attempt were made it would succeed? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Why do you think that? A.—Because there is no means of competing with other places. There is the cost of transport, and many things, that would prevent us from competing with others, and making a profit.

(Translation.)

TREFFLÉ DUMAS, of Quebec, foreman in a Shoe Factory, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—You work in a large shoe factory? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What department do you oversee? A.—The women's department.

Q.—The seaming? A.—The seaming, the stitching, the cutting.

Q.—Can you tell us the age of the youngest employee in the women's department? A.—About sixteen years.

Q.—Can you tell us the age of the youngest cutter in the department of cutters? A.—The youngest cutter is seventeen years of age.

Q.—What is the average wages of all the women that work in your department? A.—There are women who earn \$9.10 between them, the stitcher, and the one who prepares the work. Others \$6, and \$4, according to their ability.

Q.—When you say \$4 and \$6, you speak always of two that work together? A.—Always of two who work together. The stitcher pays two shillings in the dollar to the one who prepares her work, which gives her sixty cents and forty cents to the other.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—When there are \$4 given to two, one receives \$1.60? A.—Yes.

Q.—For how many hours of work? A.—We commence at seven, and we leave work at six, and those by the job, return when they please, nine o'clock or eight o'clock.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Is the cutting, at your place, done by the day, or by the job? A.—By the job.

Q.—In every kind of leather? A.—In every kind of leather.

Q.—Can you give us an idea of the price these women receive for seaming, say the congress in buff? A.—The congress in buff, \$1.80 for sixty pairs.

Q.—And those who seam the Balmoral in pebble, buttoned boots, for women? A.—\$3.25 a case, and we have some at \$4.

Q.—Does that include buttonholes? A.—Those at \$4, the buttonholes are not made, we get them made outside.

Q.—Have you often trouble, complaints in the factory with employees? A.—Sometimes we are obliged to put them in their place without hurting them, but we are obliged to. They want to quarrel among themselves, and we must put them in their place.

Q.—Are fines imposed in your factory, for work badly done? A.—No, sir; we don't make them pay.

Q.—Do you think that an Inspector of Factories, in general, whether tanners, curriers, shoemakers, etc., is necessary in the city of Quebec, to see to their cleanliness, and comfort in general; do some of the masters, sometimes, not neglect certain things? A.—I don't think that is absolutely necessary. In our department, I see that everything is in order. I have visited different places, and according to what I saw, everything was in pretty good order.

Q.—Have you anything to suggest to the Commission, whether in the interest of the workman, or of the master? A.—I have nothing.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH GIGUÈRE, Carpenter, Quebec, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—You have worked at the Louise Basin? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How much did you earn a day? A.—\$1 a day, at night \$1 20.

Q.—Will you inform us how you worked? A.—I worked in the night "gang"; and it is a very dangerous place.

Q.—Was it lighted by an electric light? A.—At the end of the wharf; but when we were at the other end, there were nothing but lanterns.

Q.—Have accidents ever occurred? A.—One occurred two years ago; a man was killed.

Q.—Were you there? A.—No.

Q.—And while you worked there did any accidents occur? A.—No, sir.

Q.—How many hours do you work for \$1? A.—Nine hours.

Q.—And the night nine hours at \$1.25? A.—Well, yes; nine hours. We commence at seven o'clock and we work till half-past three o'clock; four hours in the morning.

(Translation.)

ANTOINE FISET, Fruiterer, Quebec, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Will you state what you have to say to this Commission? A.—I have to say that we pay high rents to the Corporation.

Q.—What are the rents you pay? Market stalls? A.—For market stalls on the Champlain market, and near the wharves. We pay £15 and more, and even £25 a year for six months.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—You have the right to make use of your stall all the year, but you trade during only six months of the year? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Why do you complain of this state of things? A.—Fruits and all kinds of things are sold.

Q.—Are you satisfied with your position? A.—Yes, sir. But people come from the country with all kinds of produce they buy from other farmers, and they pay only what a farmer would pay, and the clerk of the market lets them do as they like.

Q.—Have you ever complained of this to the proper department? A.—A number of us complained to the Clerk of the Market himself, and he said he did not know them, and he knew them very well.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Are you acquainted with the municipal law of Quebec? A.—Not altogether; but all the same I know it a little. All persons having things to sell can come and sell them, but all persons who have effects they have bought from other persons, must not sell them at the price a farmer sells.

Q.—The farmer himself should sell them? A.—Certainly, sir.

Q.—A trader cannot sell on the market? A.—Yes, but he must pay a tax for a stall, as we ourselves do, and a clerk of the market has no right to keep a stall, and sell on the market himself. He is paid by the Corporation, and he has no right to keep stalls, and sell on the market.

Q.—Are there any who do so here? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Themselves? A.—Themselves: the sign boards bear their names.

Q.—Have you ever complained? A.—No, sir. That is, we complained, but not to the Council, only sometimes to councillors. Some merchants of the city tried to sell on the market, and the clerk had them arrested and brought before a court of justice, because they had not the right to sell on the market, and he allows merchants from the country to come, though he knows them well. When we speak to him of it he says it is none of our business. He turns us away; treats us with contempt.

Q.—But does not this law which prevents a trader from selling on the market, apply only to Quebec traders? Is not a country merchant allowed to sell on the market? A.—According to my view of it he can sell on the market, but he must pay a tax. A country trader is charged twenty-five cents.

Q.—And a farmer? A.—Five cents if he has veal, etc.

Q.—This is the only complaint you have to make? A.—Yes, sir, and it is quite enough for us.

(Translation.)

ALCIDE MONTRÉUIL, of Quebec, Leather Cutter, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—What are the average wages of a cutter for the year, by the week? A.—It is about five or six dollars a week; some have ten.

Q.—The majority get from five to seven dollars? A.—The majority get from seven dollars, about seven to eight.

Q.—What are the wages of a cutter by the job? Does he earn more or less than the others? A.—According to my opinion the cutter by the job earns less, because generally he has a longer slack time than a cutter by the week. They earn more during a certain time, but there are times when they earn less.

Q.—Do you think that it is more advantageous for a master to employ cutters by the week than by the job? A.—Yes, sir, much more. In my opinion it makes a great difference to a master between hiring by the week or by the job.

Q.—Can you explain to me how it is possible to deceive a master as to the quantity, when he gives so many feet for so many pairs, or so many pounds for so many pairs? A.—Now, my master allows on an average 145 feet for a case. We can get the case in 140 feet, and yet when we are by the job we are supposed to work for ourselves rather than for the boss, whilst when we work by the week we calculate the profit. If we can get the case from 140 we get it; sometimes we can even get it in 138 feet. Whilst, on the contrary, when we work by the job we know that the master will be satisfied if we get it from 145 feet, so we get it from 145 feet. It is so much lost to the master.

Q.—How long do you think it would take a young man of ordinary talent to become a good cutter? A.—It would take a young man of fair talent not less than three, or three and a half years; but there are some who work six years and we cannot rank them yet as cutters.

Q.—Have you anything to suggest to the Commission? A.—I would suggest that the apprenticeship be made as long as possible. An apprentice works for five or six months in a shop and then goes elsewhere and gives himself out as a cutter, and often a master has a foreman who does not know much about the cutter's department, and there is much waste and the master does not know of it. The leather goes. It would be to the advantage of the master, and cutter, at the same time, if this state of things were changed.

Q.—A regular system of apprenticeship is required? A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Is work furnished more regularly to men by the day, than those by the job? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—The reason why a man by the job can cut a case from 145 feet while the other gets a case in 140 feet, is that the latter, the man by the day, takes more precaution? A.—Yes, he does better work. He puts the good and bad leather where it should be. On the contrary, by the job we work for our own profit, not for the master's. According to my opinion the master who knows that, would never give out his cutting by the job.

THEODORE ALAIN, of Quebec, leather-cutter, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—You have heard the evidence of the last witness. Have you anything to add to what he has said? A.—Yes, sir. I will add that there are certain bosses who employ cutters by the day and cutters by the job, in the same shop; so that when work is “slack” they dismiss the cutters who work by the job; and also when work is plentiful they put others to work by the week, and when the “slack” time comes they put them to work by the job. They work one or two days a week.

Q.—With regard to the wages, do you think they are about the amount mentioned by preceding gentleman? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you believe with him, that a more regular system of apprenticeship would be advantageous to both the master and to the workman? A.—Yes, sir, because I was overseer during three years, and I have found that an apprenticeship was better.

Q.—Do any of your workmen attend the school Arts and Trades? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there many cutters in your shop that know how to make their own patterns, to reduce it or to enlarge it? A.—No, there are not many able, perhaps a couple.

Q.—Do you know that you can learn these things, every one of you, at the school of Arts and Trades, for nothing? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How many months can a leather cutter work in a year? A.—About eight months in the year.

(Translation.)

BENONI GAUVIN, of Quebec, Carriage Maker, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Carriage makers have already given evidence before this Commission, concerning matters pertaining to their business. Can you now tell us whether the carriages sent here from the Montreal Reformatory compete at all closely with you? A.—That is exactly what I wish to speak about. We carriage makers have good cause of complaint against the Government, for the Reformatory is under Government control; and the vehicles manufactured at the Reformatory are, of course, made very cheaply. They are sent here to Quebec free of charge, and, naturally, sell at low prices.

Q.—Can you tell us what a buggy, made at the Reformatory, sells for here? A.—They sell at prices thirty-five and forty per cent. lower than we can manufacture them here.

Q.—Are they as well made as the vehicles made here? A.—Yes; they are well made.

Q.—Are many of them sold here? A.—They began to be sold here three years ago. Last year the sales had much increased; this year they are enormous. We have carriage merchants now—I can name three or four here in Quebec—whose sole business is exporting these carriages, and that at the expense of the Quebec carriage makers.

Q.—Has the number of carriage makers employed in Quebec factories decreased within the last two years? A.—Yes; and the fact is easily proved. Numbers have given up the business altogether, and others hire fewer hands, by a good many, than they used to, because there is so little to do.

Q.—And does this decrease in sales date only from the time these Montreal vehicles were put upon the market? A.—Yes, to the best of my knowledge.

Q.—In your opinion, then, about the same number are sold as there were three years ago, only they come from Montreal instead of being made here? Q.—Yes; the sales are about the same.

Q.—Do you know if any other Montreal makers, besides Messrs. Heney & Lacroix, send carriages here? A.—I can't say.

Q.—If any are sent here, they are not sent in such numbers as to be noticed? A.—There may be some others, and I not know of it.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—You are doubtless aware that these carriages are manufactured for the purpose of teaching a trade to the children in the Reformatory? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you suggest to this Commission any means by which these children could be taught their trade, and yet not interfere with manufacturers? A.—If a similar house, under Government control, were established here, we would have no right to complain.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—That would give two factories to compete against, instead of one? A.—But the money expended by the house would be spent here, and, besides, I do not believe they could be sent here so cheaply then, or, better still, they could be taxed the same as other traders.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—But do you believe your position would be bettered by having two Reformatory Schools in the Province, instead of one? A.—I do not very well know. I think a tax would answer better. At least, they would help to pay our taxes. There would be fewer traders, because the profits would be less.

Q.—I suppose you know that these carriages, which you admit are well made, are partly made by workmen paid in the same way your Quebec workmen are, and that the children only help and study under them? A.—I know that the carriages are made cheaply because the Government pays the most of the expense.

Q.—But do you not also know that the expenses paid by Government are those necessary to teach the children to read and write, and to be taught their trade; that all the different professors teaching in the Reformatory School are men paid like any other men? A.—Yes. But in any case it is at the expense of the Quebec workmen. Quebec carriage makers are made to suffer by the large sales of these cheap carriages.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Is the competition general, or only in one kind of vehicle? A.—They make different kinds, though they mostly send light carriages here. Still, others are sent, such as rockaways and coupés.

Q.—Do they make first-class carriages at the Reformatory? A.—Yes, very good carriages.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—But are they really first-class? A.—Their work is well done for the price.

ANDREW COHEN JOSEPH, of Quebec, Wholesale Grocer, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—How long have you been in the wholesale grocery business in Quebec? A.—Ten years.

- Q.—Are you a member of the Grocers' Guild? A.—No.
- Q.—Do you find it to your disadvantage not to belong to it? A.—We have not found it so, so far.
- Q.—Can you procure sugar from the refiners, who are members of this Guild, at as cheap a rate as those who are connected with the Guild? A.—No; we have to pay one eighth of a cent per pound, and we lose the discount of two and a half per cent., which is equal to three sixteenths of a cent per pound, which makes a total difference of five-sixteenths of a cent per pound that we have to pay higher than those who are members of the Guild. That was, I believe the advantage so far. And it is because the sugar market has been constantly decreasing up to within at least, a few weeks. Now, that the sugar is falling, it is greatly to our disadvantage, because we have to sell sugar at less price.
- Q.—Do you find the same system pursued with reference to manufacturers of tobacco? A.—We have stopped purchasing from those factories on account of the Guild obliging us to sign an agreement.
- Q.—Do the manufacturers of tobacco belong to the Guild? A.—Some of them do and some of them do not.
- Q.—Are you aware that, on account of this combine, sugar is brought from Europe to Canada? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Is it as good a quality of sugar as is made in Canadian refineries? A.—I think it is better.
- Q.—Is it as cheap? A.—It has been at times; that is to say, we have imported some. We have imported some English granulated sugars which we sold at a better profit than, perhaps, the Guild were selling at from the refineries, and, therefore, we would have had to pay the refineries half a cent more than the Guild would have to pay if we had purchased from them.
- Q.—Has any species of "boycotting" been practiced upon you because you are not members of the Guild? A.—We consider that we are "boycotted" because we have to pay five-sixteenths of a cent per pound more for our sugar than members of the Guild have to pay. Of course, the refiners maintain that they have no combination, but we maintain that they have a combination; that the refiners and the grocers are combined together to regulate the prices, and that the Grocers' Guild could not exist, so far as refers to sugars, if the refiners did not countenance the Grocers' Guild and be dictated to by them, and charge an extra price for their sugars with the assistance of the refiners. No Guild could exist because we could undersell them all the time.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q.—Do you think that the burning of the St. Lawrence sugar refinery in Montreal had anything to do with the increase in the price of sugar in Quebec? A.—For a time it created a scarcity in the remaining refineries, because the demand was greater than the supply.
- Q.—Is the supply equal to the demand without the supply of the refinery that was burned? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Do you know of any other firms, besides your own, firm who imported sugar from Europe? A.—Yes. Messrs. Lightbound, Ralston & Company, and Messrs. J. A. Mathewson & Company, of McGill Street, Montreal.
- Q.—Do you believe that they imported sugars from Europe for the same reasons that your firm did? A.—Yes.
- Q.—And do you think that that sugar is quite equal in value for general consumption as that made in this country? A.—Yes. We imported only granulated sugar, and there was a scarcity of it. We considered it was better than what we got at the refinery. At least the confectioners said so.
- Q.—Were you able to sell it for the same price or less than you sold Canadian sugar? A.—We sold it for the same price.

Q.—I understood you to say that you had a larger profit on that than you received on Canadian granulated sugar? A.—We had.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—How many firms in this city belong to the Grocers Guild? A.—There are only seven wholesale grocers in the City of Quebec, and six belong to it. I think only one of them was in favour of the Guild, but the others were forced into it; some of those plainly declared that they were against it. They were told by the deputation that came on from Montreal that the refineries would refuse to sell them sugar; that they would be clearly boycotted, but as for ourselves we wanted to see how they would force us to join it, and we have ever since kept out of it.

Q.—Did they use that threat towards your firm? A.—Yes. They spent three hours in our office; since they had several names on their list they thought we would fall into line.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Can you speak with any authority on the importation of Scotch sugar? A.—We class Scotch and English sugar together.

Q.—Very well then, is it as good as our Canadian sugar? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you give us a reason for saying this? The reason why I say this, is because a gentleman gave evidence yesterday, that it was far inferior. Do you refer to white or yellow sugar? A.—Well, I think it was yellow sugar. He might refer to one grade which was a very dark yellow sugar, and which certainly is selling very readily. I think the holder of it who is a member of the Guild is quite satisfied with his return on it.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Do you think if this combination continues for any length of time, much sugar will be imported? A.—I do not think so, because the refiners are capable of keeping their prices low enough to prevent this importation. Of course, with a very high duty they are able to get a handsome profit and do this too.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—What is the intrinsic value of sugar? Is it the sweetening property? A.—Yes; and also the color and the grain.

Q.—Is the sweetening property the great value of the sugar? A.—Not so much as the appearance, except for the confectioners. For general use they do not calculate the sweetening properties so much.

Q.—How do you get at the value of the sugar. Being an importer you say that Scotch or English sugar is of more value than Canadian? A.—That is regarding the granulated. That which we imported was stronger in saccharine matter than Canadian, and we got that information from some of our customers.

Q.—Is not that the sweetening property of the sugar? A.—Yes.

Q.—Just a moment ago you said it was not the sweetening property of the sugar, but its appearance that recommended it in the market? A.—For the manufacturer it is the sweetening property that recommends it; but for the retail grocer, it is not so much the sweetening property as its appearance and grain.

JOHN HELLECY, Quebec, Diver and Engine Driver, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you wish to make a statement before the Commission? A.—I just merely come here, to you gentlemen, to know what is the cause of the deplorable state of this port, in the discharging of ships, with regard to bad gear.

Q.—We shall be very glad to hear anything you wish to say, that may tend to benefit the port. Possibly, you can tell us the reason. Perhaps you had better tell us in your own way? A.—Well, gentlemen, there is nothing but broken cordage in working coal ships, and steamers, coming to this port.

Q.—Who is it owns the donkey engines and the gear that discharges the coal; are they the property of the stevedore, or are they the property of private parties? A.—They are the property of the stevedores, sometimes of the ship.

Q.—What is there about the engines, that you complain of? A.—I do not wish to speak, as far as the engines are concerned, just now, but I wish to make known to you about the cordage. The cordage used in ships is most disgraceful for the men to work under. We will say, supposing a ship is being discharged, and you come to me, and say, "Well, that is the only gear I have got to give you," I have got to work with it or go without the work, if that gear was not fit for the men to work under.

Q.—What kind of material is the gear composed of; what class of gear do they use? A.—Well, they generally use Manilla rope, and steel wire rope.

Q.—What is the diameter of the steel rope? A.—It is one-half inch diameter. With that we can raise twelve hundred tons of coal, and after that it is beginning to get the wrong shape.

Q.—Do you not think that where the same gear is constantly used, for the unloading of ships, it ought to be examined, and where necessary, changed, before the whole of the cargo is out, so as to give it a chance of being overhauled and repaired.

A.—I think so; after unloading a ship, of twelve hundred tons, that gear should be renewed.

Q.—Are accidents frequent? A.—Well, fortunately, we do not have many. It is owing to the manner in which we look after these ships, and the careful men we have employed on them.

Q.—What do you propose, as a remedy for this state of affairs? A.—Well, it is your gentlemen's place to see to that. You know better than I do. I think there should be a gear inspector for this place, a responsible man; a man that is able to go aloft and see that the gear is properly put up. It is very hard on a labouring man, who has a wife, and, perhaps, five or six children to support, if a link gives way in a chain, or a rope breaks, and a block falls and kills him, it is a poor shew for that man's family. I have been in the shipping business for over thirty years, and I can say, from experience, that, in Montreal, it is a different case altogether. In Montreal they have not got half the hoisting that we have, the hoisting that we have got here with our material, for instance, we have got to hoist a tub of coal, forty-five feet. It slings right clean back, and the whole weight is six, or seven, or eight hundred weight, and is checked down. In Montreal they have got nothing of that. All they have to do is to hoist it twenty feet, with a tackle, and two men on a stage. They just take it over on to the jetty, or carry it on to the wharf.

Q.—How many sheaves do you use? A.—We use double and single purchases. We use no sheaves in this port. We use cast iron chains.

Q.—Is that the whole of your complaint—that you require an inspector of gearing? A.—I think it would be very requisite, it is for you to say whether it is required or not. Now there are a few other remarks I would like to make. I have worked amongst hoisting engines for twenty years, and I do not believe the Government Inspector has for one moment put on a steam gauge or water gauge to see how much they would carry, since they came out of the shop. They have not got a proper water glass or two drop cocks, and another thing the men who take hold of these engines know no more about them than a person who has been five weeks at the business, sometimes there is no water in the second cock, and when the water comes down again there is none in the first cock. There was one engine that I knew of had a steam gauge last summer, and one the summer before last, and I said to the proprietors that I would have nothing to do with those engines, unless they put on a steam gauge safety valve with one level, and one of these common spring balance scales to test this lever. I screwed the lever down to one hundred and fifty pounds of steam,

caused it to blow from the safety valve, and had sixty pounds on the steam gauge. Sometimes they are run with one hundred and fifty to one hundred and eighty pounds of steam, and sometimes they do not know what is on them. My attention was called at another time in this Port to an engine where I happened to be working. The party owning the engine called on me, and said there was something wrong, and he wished I would go and look at it. I looked at it and saw the steam blowing through the leaks of the boiler. I had scarcely time to get away from her and shout to the man "Pull your fire." He pulled his fire and then I went and looked, and the check valve was open. When the engine cooled down I went to the check valve, and examined the cover of the check valve, and finally I found no check in the valve itself. Consequently, the whole of the pressure of that boiler was going through the feed pipe, and the cold water could not get into the boiler with the pressure that was on her. It was a good job it did not burst, or very likely I would not have been here to night.

(Translation.)

Miss * * * , of Quebec, employee in a woollen factory, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—You received no subpoena, you came of you own free will? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Will you state what you wish to say to this Commission? A.—It is because of the work. The work is too hard for the pay. We are not paid proper prices for the work we do.

Q.—At what hour do you go to the factory? A.—At 7 o'clock in the winter, and at half-past six in the summer.

Q.—At what hour do you leave work in the winter? A.—At 6 o'clock at night.

Q.—At what hour in summer? A.—A quarter to one on Saturdays; other days we leave at 6 o'clock.

Q.—At what hour do you take your dinner in summer? A.—In summer we begin at a quarter to twelve, and in winter we finish at half-past 4 and recommence at a quarter to one.

Q.—What wages do you get now? A.—45 cents a day.

Q.—What kind of work do you do? Are you obliged to stand? A.—We are always standing.

Q.—Are you permitted to sit? A.—No, sir; they will not permit us to sit.

Q.—Are you fined when you sit? A.—No, sir; but they say our work does not allow of our sitting down.

Q.—Do any workwomen earn less than you? A.—There are some; the highest is 50 cents.

Q.—And the lowest? A.—The lowest is 15 cents.

Q.—Are those that earn 15 cents, children? A.—Children of about 12 years of age.

Q.—Do you spin or do you weave? A.—We spin.

Q.—Is weaving done in the factory? A.—Yes, sir; but not in the room we work in.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do you think the work given to little girls of twelve years of age, is too hard for them? A.—Some have too hard work; it is a work that requires them to keep their arms up all the time.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Could your work not be done sitting as well as standing? A.—When things go well, we might sit down; but they will not let us sit. There is a bobbin to be put in, high up, and we have our arms over our head all the time.

Q.—Have you anything else to complain of in the factory? A.—We are hard driven by the foreman at times. Sometimes for the least little thing the foreman tells us to go. Then, if we are sick, they say it is not because we are sick we stay away because we want to amuse ourselves; and all the time we may be as sick as well as others.

Q.—Do the foremen ill-treat the children, are they brutal to them? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do they strike them? A.—No; they do not strike them, but they treat them roughly.

Q.—Little girls or little boys? A.—Little girls.

Q.—As to little girls that earn 15 cents, are their wages raised often, or do they work a long time at 15 cents? A.—It is always the same.

Q.—Their wages are raised when they grow big enough to take the places of grown girls? A.—Yes; to take the places of grown girls. Some of the foremen are cruel. There is one, the foreman in our room, who, a short time ago, pushed a girl to make the others laugh; sometimes they want to joke the girls, and in passing he gave a kick to one who was at her work. She made a face at him, and he kicked her in passing.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Is the factory comfortable—well heated? A.—Yes; it is well heated, too well.

Q.—Are the doors always open when you arrive in the morning? They do not keep you waiting outside? A.—No; the doors are open. It is always warm.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—And when you come late in the morning? A.—They are not pleased; they scold us.

Q.—But they do not retain anything on your wages? A.—No; but when we lose time on account of the steam, it is not our fault, but we are obliged to make up the time lost. If we have to lose ten minutes, a quarter of an hour, we have to make up the time at night.

Q.—Do you ever work at night? A.—Not this year.

Q.—To return to the foreman. Does he often take the liberty of joking with the workwomen? A.—Now and then; it is according as the girls pay attention to him.

Q.—Have you ever seen little girls cry, and heard them complain of having been roughly treated? A.—Yes, sir. It has been said that we do not work on feast days; we work on every feast day. We may not work all the whole day, but we work part. It has been said that we do not work on feast days, but even when we say we will not work, they tell us to leave; some were sent away because they would not work on holy days.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Apart from feasts of obligation, did you work on other feasts—the feast of St. John the Baptist, or any other. A.—No, sir, we do not work; we are not accustomed to work. They make us work on holy days, and lose time afterwards. The next day comes, and we have no work.

Q.—What feast was that? A.—Epiphany.

Q.—You worked on Epiphany, and the next day you had no work? A.—The next day we had no work.

(Translation.)

Miss * * * *, of Quebec, Employee in Woollen Goods Factory,
SWORN.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—You have heard the evidence that has been given, have you not? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Has anything been said which you cannot corroborate? A.—No, sir; she has said all there is to be said.

Q.—You have nothing to add to her evidence? A.—Only that I work harder than she does.

Q.—Do you receive higher wages? A.—The same wages.

Q.—Have you been in the factory a long time? A.—Six years.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—What kind of work do you do? A.—I spin.

Q.—Does the preceding witness also spin? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Why is your work harder than hers? Have you several looms? A.—I have more looms.

Q.—How many looms does the preceding witness oversee? A.—I am not able to tell the number.

Q.—And you? A.—I “run” four looms.

Q.—And you say you work harder than she does. You should be able to say, then, how many looms she “runs”? A.—That young lady “runs” three and four, and the looms that I “run” are larger.

Q.—You are not paid more than she is? A.—No; the same wages.

Q.—And you consider that your work is worth more? A.—Yes; a good deal more.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—You also work on feast days? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you work on feast days, such as the feast of St. John the Baptist? A.—No; we never work on those days.

Q.—The Queen's Birthday? A.—Nor that either.

Q.—The first of July? A.—No; we never work on that day either.

Q.—Will you say on what feasts you have worked? A.—On Epiphany and Ascension Day.

Q.—Did you work on the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul last year? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Have you seen children illtreated in the factory? A.—Certainly, sir.

Q.—Have you seen them beaten? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How did they beat them? With their open hands, or how? A.—They have been pushed about.

Q.—Did the children cry? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Was it men that beat them that way? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Have you seen the foreman strike the women or the young girls? A.—Not I; I have not seen them. I did not happen to be there.

Q.—Have you seen the foremen joke with the women and the young girls? A.—At times. Those who are nice to them.

Q.—Have you anything more to say to the Commission? A.—No, sir.

(Translation.)

GEORGE DROLET, of Quebec, shoemaker, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Did you receive a subpoena? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Will you state to the Commission what you have to say? A.—Yes, sir. I have to say, with regard to the work we have to do, that it is very hard work for the pay.

Q.—What sort of work do you do? A.—I am a shoemaker. My regular business is finishing.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—What part do you finish, the bottoms or the edges? A.—The shanks and the heels, that is to say, the whole sole from one end to the other.

Q.—Do you sand-paper the shoes? A.—Sometimes, some few cases, at other times I get them already brushed.

Q.—You are not paid the same for all these different kinds of work? A.—No, different work, different prices.

Q.—How much can a man earn working at all these different works in this department? A.—Not much. Persons who take jobs, and then hire numbers of little boys to work for them, may make something, but those who work singly by the job can't make much.

Q.—How many boys do these men generally employ? A.—I myself worked one winter at a job by the piece, there were ten of us working, and earned \$2, \$2.50, others \$5. I had the highest, and I earned \$6.

Q.—Did the contractor make much more than that? A.—He made a great deal of money; because when we lost an hour's work he deducted ten cents from the one that earned, say, a dollar a day. If we lost two hours, twenty cents were cut off; sometimes we lost a whole day. The jobber, in the meantime, always drew his \$17, \$18, and sometimes \$28 a week.

Q.—But you were learning your trade in the meanwhile? A.—I was working. I was as able to work then as I am now.

Q.—And as to the others, what of them? A.—The others were young people he was teaching to work; but he was always putting them off, from one week to another, so they would remain one or two years at the same wages, which was greatly to his profit of course.

Q.—Is there anything else you would like to remark, anything you would like to suggest to the Commission? A.—I would like to remark, though it may not be very interesting, that there are some factories here where the men are very badly treated by the foreman.

Q.—What do you mean by badly treated, do they swear at you, or what? A.—We are badly sworn at, at times, and very often, when work is pressing, our work is accepted no matter how it is done; at other times, when we are not so busy, we can never work well enough, and then it is we are sworn at and threatened to be turned off. He says, if you can't do this or that, off with you, and he talks until we answer him back and give him some excuse to turn us off.

(Translation.)

OCTAVE VÉZINA, of Quebec, shoemaker, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Were you subpoenaed? A.—Yes, sir.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q.—Did you hear the evidence of the last witness? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Have you anything further to say on the subject? A.—Yes, sir, for I am not in the same line.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—In what department are you? A.—I am a laster.

Q.—Do you last boots or finer work? A.—I generally work in imitation stitches in fancy work.

Q.—It is generally in mens' wear that is done? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How much do you get for 60 pairs with raised stitches? A.—It depends on the factories; the lowest price given for work in mens' work, in imitation stitches, is \$3 for 60 pairs, and there are factories that pay as high as \$5.10.

Q.—How many pairs can a good workman last in a day? A.—An ordinarily able workman can last 25 pairs at the utmost. There are some can certainly do more, but more still that can do less.

Q.—Having heard so much evidence on this subject, it would be useless to detain either you or the Commission any longer. Is there anything you wish to suggest? A.—I want to report that the sanitary condition of shoe factories is generally most deplorable. I worked, last winter, in a factory where the heat was intense. It depends, I suppose, on the way the factory was built, but we could scarcely stand the heat up stairs, whilst those below were freezing. The building is five storeys high, and heated by steam. By three o'clock in the afternoon we could scarcely work, and yet we were often obliged to work until ten o'clock at night in an insupportable atmosphere. I know of one night we were warned we would have to work until ten o'clock. The heat was unbearable. At six o'clock we decided, of one accord, to leave work. At the front door we found the foreman, who told us we could not get out, as the master had the key. This was naturally received with murmurs and threats of getting out the back way, but the foreman got in advance and prevented all but one leaving. This man got out by the window. The next morning this man, who had worked till six o'clock, was sent away by the boss. As to laster's wages, I took the trouble, last week, to find out what are the prices paid in our factory, and I find that the following are the prices paid lasters in one factory. We are seventeen men, and we earned \$115.02 among us, giving an average of \$6.75 a week. I must observe that that was one of the busiest weeks we have had. We don't work at night, but that is all. Our master would like to force some of us to work at night, but we lose no time.

Q.—Do you work ten hours a day? A.—Yes, ten hours.

Q.—Were any young men included in the seventeen workmen? A.—No, sir.

Q.—These were all journeymen? A.—All men.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Are the engines attended by engineers in the factories in which you have worked? A.—As far as I know they are generally labourers. I know of only one factory in which there is practical engineer.

Q.—Do you feel quite safe when you work in these factories? Are you not occasionally afraid of being blown up? A.—We get so accustomed that we don't think of it. I may add that in certain factories sufficient precautions are not taken to guard against accidents. I know of a young girl who, last fall or last summer, was caught by the clothes in the axle of a wheel which was uncovered. Her clothes caught, and if it had not happened that she was seen by a man who had the presence of mind to slip off the belt that set the wheel in motion, she would have been killed.

By Mr. BOIVIN—

Q.—Have you heard anything of an accident happening this week? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do many accidents occur? A.—Not very many to my knowledge.

Q.—Are very young children employed in shoe factories? A.—I have seen children not over ten or eleven years working in shoe factories.

Q.—Is that lately? A.—Now, in the factory that I work in, I think the youngest is twelve years, it may be thirteen.

Q.—Is their work hard and tiring? A.—No, they generally black the shoes.

Q.—Do you know what they are paid? A.—I could not say.

(Translation.)

ISAÏE COTÉ, of Quebec, Carter, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—What have you to state? A.—I wish to say that our working days are rather long for the wages they give us; 50 cents a day, to work from 6 o'clock in the morning to 6 o'clock at night, and our wages are \$5 a week in summer, and \$3 a week in winter.

Q.—Do you work the same number of hours in winter as in summer? A.—We don't work quite as long in winter. In summer we generally get up by starlight. We usually begin work at 6 o'clock in summer and work till 7 at night. In some other places I have worked in, the wages were \$4 in winter and \$5 in summer, no matter how long we worked. They never hesitate to make us work overhours; by starlight night and morning. We often had to work evenings, sometimes whole nights over and above our day's work.

Q.—They did not pay you extra for extra work? A.—No; what we did had to be given over and above.

Q.—And on Sundays, did you work? A.—Sometimes on Sundays, on Sunday afternoons we harnessed the horses to go to work. On Sundays our work was over and above also, it was what was called the extra turn of the screw, extra work.

Q.—What work did you do on Sundays? A.—We harnessed the horses to carts and worked in drawing flour, grain, fish.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—And where did you cart this to on Sunday? A.—It was when boats came in, and we had to unload; we, very often, had to unload by cart loads of a single horse.

Q.—Is that work often done on Sunday in Quebec? A.—Since I have been working at the business, it has happened five or six times.

Q.—It has happened five or six times in five or six years? A.—It seems reasonable enough once a year.

(Translation.)

NAPOLÉON RUEL, of Quebec, joiner, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What have you to state to this Commission? A.—We work eight hours and a half in winter when we work in any shanty, at all comfortable, or when we work in the shop, and when we have to go elsewhere, to work for customers, we often

work eight and three quarters and nine hours because we have to leave our house before the hour, to enable us break the place when we work at the hour. In winter when we work the short days, we get ninety cents and a \$1 a day. In summer we get \$1.25. And I wish to report to this Commission that when the masters have night work, they make us do it at the same rate as day work, for the same price. I worked for a master several nights without his notifying us that he would only give the same wages as we earned during the day. We were obliged to come from St. Sauveur, at the end of the city, to work here at the Skating rink, and he made us work in summer two hours and a half for a quarter of a day. There are other "bosses" who use the scale of winter rates until late into the spring. There was one in particular who paid his ninety cents in winter and when he charged in the spring he only gave us 10 cents for the extra hour and a half. Afterwards he did give us summer prices but he brought us to that gradually by adding five cents a week, so it took us four or five weeks to come up to summer prices and in the meantime he had pocketed the balance.

Q.—Have you anything else to say? A.—They often make us work outside in bad weather, and the next day when it is fine they keep us in the shop under shelter.

Q.—Have you never taken any means to improve your condition? A.—We do not work only in one place.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—The gentleman asks you if you have ever tried to get a better place? A.—When we work in a shanty the joiners have to stay there until the work is finished, we cannot stop to look for work elsewhere.

Q.—Did the carpenters themselves complain to the masters to try and improve matters? A.—It is of no use for when the masters have an important work on hand it has got to be finished as quickly as possible.

Q.—How do you think the Commission can improve your position, can assist you, if you yourselves make no complaint?

Q.—How do you think he can assist you? A.—I have no means to suggest. I come here simply to give my evidence.

Q.—Tell us how we can assist you? A.—I would ask this Commission to regulate properly the hours of work.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

The Commission cannot do that.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—That depends on yourself. We cannot regulate the hours of work nor the rate of wages? A.—The masters are all able to consult one with another, to unite, the workmen can unite too, but they are too numerous. My master himself told me last autumn that another boss had come to him to change the wages of the men eight days before he had done so, but that he would not make the change at the time.

Q.—Would it not be better for the men to go in a body to the masters with regard to what you have told us? A.—If the workmen would unite together and agree upon some course, it is well known they would succeed better.

(Translation.)

PRUDENT NOEL, Joiner, Quebec, sworn.

I have seen in the papers, that certain masters have come here and testified that they pay \$1.25, while the wages are from \$1 or 90 cents, let me say \$1, in general,

\$1.10 is the highest. The preceding witness (Ruel) has told you the hours of work. He has said that they pay \$1.25 a day, for ten hours; but they pay \$1, \$1.10 or 90 cents for eight hours and a-half. I have come only to contradict what has been said, because they say the men complain because the wages are not high enough, and the masters come here and say: "We pay \$1.25, \$1.50, as high as \$2.50. Here, in Quebec, with \$1.25 in winter, and \$1.50 in summer, there would not be a workman who would complain. But they say: we pay \$1.25, \$1.50, while they do not do so. This is all I wish to say before the Commission.

(Translation.)

THÉOPHILE GUAY, Quebec, Currier, sworn.

I have seen this evening that curriers' wages were \$8. I do not believe that. The highest they earn in the shop in which I work in, is \$7, and the lowest \$4.50, and that is without speaking of the fines we pay. I, myself, have paid five cents fines, and I have known those who have paid twenty-five cents, for leaving before our work was done; we work by the job. There are men who earn \$8 and \$9, but they work by the job, and they are "taxed" on a scale of \$5.50 and \$6 a week.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—What do you wish to say by "taxed"? A.—It is the sum a man can make in one day. If he works a day and a quarter, he works more. Those men, who earn \$8 and \$9, do more than the ordinary day's work; they work harder than ordinary. As to the engineer, we have none in our shop. It is a tanner who "runs" the engine.

Q.—Has he "run" the engine a long time? A.—Yes; three and four years.

(Translation.)

EDWARD FAUCHER, Quebec, Cabinet-maker, sworn.

I have come before the Royal Commission to speak of my apprenticeship, with a certain master. We make a bargain with a master for four years, we pass a contract to work one evening a week, and a master makes an apprentice work five evenings a week.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What do you wish us to do; do you wish us to go and speak to this master? A.—No; that is not what I wish, I simply make a report before the Royal Commission.

Q.—But what do you wish to do? A.—I want the Government to abolish the laws on apprenticeship.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are you in favor of a system of apprenticeship for apprentices? A.—Yes; I am in favor of apprenticeship by contract.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—How many years of apprenticeship have you served? A.—Four years apprenticeship.

Q.—You have worked during four years? A.—Every evening, though it was agreed that he should not make me work more than one evening a week.

Q.—Have you worked every evening during four years? A.—Every evening, till ten o'clock, and half past ten at night.

Q.—At what time do you begin in the morning? A.—At seven o'clock in the morning, and if we are twenty minutes after the hour, he shuts us out, and we cannot return till midday.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—And you lose your time? A.—No, I lose no time at all since he has agreed to give an apprentice \$10 a month.

Q.—But what do you do? A.—I go home. I cannot work, and I return at one o'clock, and work till supper, and I then go to supper.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—But he retains some of the money? A.—Without doubt.

Q.—How much have you earned? A.—Twelve shillings and a half a week this last year. The first year I earned \$1 a week, then \$6 a month, then \$8 a month, then \$10 a month. More than that, it happens that a master will often, in the middle of the winter, cut down apprentice's wages, and give \$6 instead of \$10.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Have you your father and mother? A.—Yes, I have my father, but he is in the Highlands, in the States.

Q.—You have no relations, no uncles? A.—I have uncles; but it was my father who made the contract with the master.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Have you anything else to say? A.—Where I work, with a certain master, there are wooden racks that are dangerous; they are four feet; they are made of hardwood, and when we ask the master to have them nailed—for they are ready to fall—the master answers “They are well nailed.” The we have not high wages, \$5.50, \$6, and \$4 a week in the year, and we get no certificate from the master when our time is out.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH BROUSSEAU, of Quebec, currier, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Is there anything you wish to say to this Commission? A.—I read yesterday, in *L'Artisan*, that one of our employers had stated to the Commission that currier's wages are from \$8 a week up. It is true that there may be one or two in our shop who may earn that much, but it is because they work by the job, and when they can't get a job they work by the week, and then they earn \$5.50, and oftener \$5 only. It would take, without exaggeration, 12 or 15 men to do my work on the “jacker” or leather stretching machine, because the machine does better work; and yet I am not paid wages to correspond; I am only paid \$5.50 a week.

Q.—Are you married? A.—No, but I have a family to support, my mother and a young sister, and I have been in my present place for three years. The first year I earned \$5 a week; last spring I asked for a rise, remarking that I was now a good workman, for he said so himself, and he answered me: “If you are not pleased with your wages, look for work elsewhere.”

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Cannot you leave Quebec and go to Montreal or the States? A.—I have not the means to take my mother and sister with me.

Q.—But cannot you go alone? A.—Who will take care of my mother and sister? No one. Last spring I tried to make arrangements with a grocer, but he would not accept my security, and said: "If you go away, you'll get married, and I will have no security." After working three years for him, I asked my boss to raise my wages, on account of my having worked so long for him. He gave me the same answer as before: "If you are not pleased with your wages, you can leave." And yet this man asserted before the Commission that we earn \$8 a week, which is false. I would like also to remark that the man whose place I took got \$6 a week. One reason for not giving me \$6, was that I had never learned the trade; but it is not necessary to learn the currier's trade to work on the machine.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Where could you get work if you were to leave Quebec? A.—In Montreal, there are curriers' factories there, as well as in the States, and several other places.

Q.—Could you earn higher wages in Montreal than in Quebec? A.—Certainly. "Jackers'" wages in Montreal and elsewhere, are \$8 and \$9. I asked my boss, seeing I had never served an apprenticeship, if I worked as well as the man he had before me, and he said I did better, because I was more able, stronger. Curriers' average wages are \$5.50 a week. As to the sanitary condition of the factory it is very good in the part I work in. There are certain places in the factory, where all the oils and different compositions are kept, that smell very bad, worse than an apothecary's shop. I must add as to the engineer, we have no engineer.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do you work in the same factory as the last witness? A.—Yes, sir.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—The other witnesses has already made a report concerning the engineer?
A.—But I know of things of which the other witness is ignorant. That gentleman forgot to say, or rather did not know, that the engineer takes too much liquor.

Q.—The engineer is not present. If he were to hear you speak of him in this way, don't you think . . . A.—I am sure of what I assert, and if there is an engineer here present, I would like to ask him whether it is a dangerous thing to take the weight from the drum and knock it backwards and forwards. You are all acquainted with Mr. Peters' case. Well, the same thing happened in the place I am in. The engineer guages the pressure while he has liquor. Unfortunately our boss does not give us fair play. I told him that the engineer was a drunkard. But here is a point concerns me rather closely: I work in a room about eight feet over the boiler, and if the boiler were to burst, where would I go? It is evident; and the thing may occur, for a year ago the boiler was mended in one particular spot, and naturally, the place next that spot must be weak. Speaking of this to the engineer, I asked him how long it was since the boiler had been inspected, he said that it had never been inspected; but we have no factory inspector. The boilers in our factories are bad, and our lives are always in danger as we work. And we work ten hours a day. That is about all I have to say.

 APPENDIX.

 LETTERS, DOCUMENTS, AND PAPERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE
 FOREGOING EVIDENCE.

QUEBEC, March 12, 1888.

THE HON. JUDGE ARMSTRONG,

Chairman Labor Commission :—

DEAR SIR,

Agreeably to my promise when giving my evidence before the Commission, I now enclose memorandum *re* St. Lawrence route, which gives port charges at Montreal :

The actual cost of *landing* cargo in Quebec is about thirty-nine cents per ton. Same work in Montreal costs twenty-three to twenty-five cents per ton.

The harbor dues in Quebec on vessels are five cents per ton register—provided all her cargo is landed here, if only part, they only pay in proportion same bears to the whole cargo.

Wharfage or moorage on a three-thousand ton vessel here is about fifteen dollars per day, and one-half cent per ton over three thousand. On cargo thirteen cents per ton, and one-tenth of one per cent. *ad valorem*.

Sea Pilotage, Sick Mariners' Fund, and Police dues are the same as on vessels bound to Montreal. Only one charge for both ports, therefore need not be particularized.

Your obedient servant,

WM. RAE.

 COPY OF JUDGMENT.

 CANADA.
 PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,
 District of Quebec.

No. 1782.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT,

SITTING AT QUEBEC.

The ninth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-two.

Present : Honorable N. Casault, J. C. S.

 AUGUSTIN PARADIS, of the Parish of St. Romuald,
 Laborer,

Plaintiff.

 The Quebec Ship Laborers' Benevolent Society, a
 body corporate and politic, having its principal place of
 business in the City of Quebec,

Defendant.

Having seen the proof, the Court condemns the Defendant to pay the Plaintiff thirty-six dollars for the reasons set forth in the declaration, with interest from the fifteenth day of July last, and the costs distrated, in favor of Messrs. Andrews, Caron, Andrews & Pentland, his attorneys.

Quebec, March 6, 1888.

(True copy.)

TEL. DISSAINT,
Deputy Clerk C. C.

(Translation.)

AMYOT, PELLETIER & FONTAINE, }
Advocates,
Lower Town, Quebec.

G. AMYOT,
L. P. PELLETIER, L.L.M.,
A. FONTAINE, L.L.D.

QUEBEC, June 21st, 1888.

SIR,—

Please find enclosed a copy of the contract of engagement which the owners of the printing establishments in Quebec had the men sign after the strike which occurred in this city.

Yours, etc.,

LOUIS P. PELLETIER.

JULES HELBRONNER, ESQUIRE,
Ottawa.

(Translation.)

I, the undersigned, engage myself, to Mr. _____, of Quebec, to work in his printing establishment, at Quebec, for the space of _____ months, in consideration of _____ dollars) per week, the work days only will be paid.

This agreement to be tacitly continued at all times after the expiration of the said three weeks.

I must give fifteen days notice, in writing, before I can leave my work.

*Mr. _____ can, at any time, transfer my engagement to another printing establishment in Quebec, subject to the conditions herein mentioned.

Wages due will be forfeited if I fail to comply or threaten to fail to comply with the conditions of my engagement.

I will not submit to the orders or by-laws of the Typographical Unions, nor to those of the Knights of Labor, or any other association of a like nature.

I will only receive orders from those who employ me.

*The lines in italics were erased by a stroke of the pen in the document sent by Mr. L. P. Pelletier.

J. HELBRONNER.

LEVIS.

(Translation.)

STANISLAS BEAULIEU, of Levis, Ship Laborer, President of the Levis Section, sworn.

I have seen by the papers, that the Ship Laborers' Society has not paid much attention to

The CHAIRMAN, interrupting him :—

Q.—Do not quote the papers, but state what you, yourself, have to say ? A.—I have here a letter from the Board of Trade, requesting a meeting with the officers of the Ship Laborers' Society. I therefore called a meeting of the Society here, in Levis, whereat it was resolved that the Board of Trade should be requested to state its cause of complaint, in order that we, the officers, should lay before the Society the demands made by the Board of Trade.....The Ship Laborers' Society is organized for the purpose of paying those wounded during the summer, and for burying our dead.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Is the Society of Levis, affiliated with that of Quebec ? Is it the same Society ? A.—It is the same Society as in Quebec.

Q.—Is your scale of labor prices the same ? A.—Yes; we have the same scale of prices.

Q.—Is much shipping done here in Levis, with outgoing sea vessels ? A.—Not much of late years.

Q.—Has the Society anything to do with the loading or unloading of the railway boat ? A.—No; we have nothing to do with that.

Q.—Have you anything to do with the loading or unloading of the river boats ? A.—No.

Q.—Are there many members in the Levis Society ? A.—There are about 300 members belong to this section.

Q.—Do they cross the river, and work in Quebec ? A.—Certainly; they work wherever they can find work to do in the port.

Q.—What do you think would be the average wages, a good average, of a ship laborer in Levis, for one year ? A.—To the best of my knowledge, I should say it would be about \$160 or \$170.

Q.—Do you do any other work besides that of loading, and unloading vessels ? A.—Some few do, but generally, ship laborers are expected to keep to that work, and they usually do not do much else, because otherwise they would not get so much work as ship laborer.

Q.—But they and their families can hardly live on \$160 a year ? A.—They work a little in winter at snow-shovelling.

Q.—What work do they do in winter ? A.—Some shovel snow, some get employment as carpenters, some work as lumber men.

Q.—Are there any factories or shops where the children of ship laborers can get employment during the year ? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Do you know if many ship laborers here in Levis or Quebec, leave this part of the country to seek better paid work elsewhere? A.—Many workmen go south in winter.

Q.—And do they come back to Quebec in the summer? A.—Yes.

Q.—Would the others have a better chance of work here, if those who go south remained there? A.—That is a thing I can't answer with any certainty, because I have never been away myself.

Q.—However, those who go south, return to Quebec in the spring to work at ship labor? A.—Yes; the greater number do.

Q.—None remain away? A.—None to my knowledge, they all return.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH EDOUARD MERCIER, of Levis, Printer and Bookseller, sworn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Have you resided long in Levis? A.—For twelve years.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Are printers engaged by the week or by the piece? A.—By the week.

Q.—What are the usual wages at Levis? A.—That depends on the ability, experience and knowledge of the employee.

Q.—What would be the highest wages for a good printer? A.—I pay eight dollars a week.

Q.—Are there many printers employed at Levis? A.—There are forty-two employees, in all, in our establishment, including those in the store, and those in the printing, and book-binding shop.

Q.—Are many of these printers able to buy themselves a home? A.—To that question, I would answer that I offered my foreman to buy him a house, on condition that he would repay me week by week, or month by month, and he refused. In my opinion, a printer with eight dollars a week, if he wished to economise, could buy a house. He could live on that very comfortably; for, when I first came to Levis, I worked for a company, that is, for two partners, at six dollars a week.

Q.—Do you think that a man with a family, say of three or four children, could live comfortably on a dollar a day? A.—I did it, and I had two children at the time.

Q.—How many rooms could men, earning a dollar a day, have in their houses? A.—I had six.

Q.—Could a man with such a family, living on a dollar a day, dress himself and family comfortably and decently? A.—I did it.

Q.—Could he, on a dollar a day, furnish sufficient food for himself and family to keep them in health? A.—I doubt it.

Q.—Such a man would, of course, have to live very prudently and temperately? A.—Very temperately. I did so.

Q.—Are you familiar with the condition of the working class of Levis? A.—I think, without presumption, I am.

Q.—Do you think that the men of Levis live in comparative comfort? A.—I know some who do, and some who do not.

Q.—And that is because they are unable to earn sufficient money to live comfortably? A.—There are two conditions: Some who are economical enough, and others who are not. In all cases there are men who have very economical wives, and when the husband himself is so economical, they agree perfectly about the management of affairs and are able to live, if not in comfort, at least without debt.

There are others who have wives that not only cannot sufficiently economize, but who can never correctly calculate, who are above their position, and who can never spend enough. And there are men in like manner, some drink continually and have no thought of their family, who do not trouble themselves to provide for their wives and family the necessaries of life, but rely entirely on public charity. About a month and a half ago I had just arrived from a journey, and found at my house a poor woman seeking alms, that is to say the actual necessaries to feed her children, her husband being a drunkard. I knew him to be such.

Q.—Is there sufficient employment in Levis to enable almost any prudent, industrious person to earn a comfortable livelihood? A.—In my opinion there is; and I may add that I myself, last spring, tried to get workmen, and offered them one dollar and twenty-five cents a day, but they refused the work, stating that they were expecting work on board of ships; but they did not get any for two or three weeks after; and it is very difficult to get men to saw wood, or work about a house, and this applies to winter as well as summer.

Q.—About what wages are given, in summer, to unexperienced laborers in Levis? A.—Some are paid one dollar, others one dollar and twenty-five cents, others one dollar and a half, and others even less than one dollar. Much depends on the liberality of the employer.

By Mr. HEAKS:—

Q.—Are there any printers who work for six dollars a week in Levis? A.—No, not in my establishment.

Q.—Are there any that work for less than eight dollars a week? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Is it the majority of printers that get eight dollars a week? A.—Perhaps so; since the strike I don't know.

Q.—Can you tell us what is the proportion of those who earn less than eight dollars a week at Levis? A.—This is a question which I must answer in an indirect way. When I began, ten years ago, there were no printers at Levis. When I established the *Quotidien*, I had only two apprentices from Levis, and it was necessary for me to bring workmen from Quebec. I was enabled to procure the assistance of two intimate friends—friends of my childhood, school companions, and, later on, sharers of my work. We commenced work, with the help of a few apprentices, and for several years worked indefatigably. I tried to engage printers in Quebec, and met with great difficulty, being often disappointed. That is to say, the men would hire, but work only two or three days a week; that class of men one often meets with in large cities. Then I had to study the question how to procure workmen, and how to keep them to their work. I concluded that, notwithstanding the many and painful difficulties I would meet with, it was better to form my own workmen. First of all, it was in the interest of the city, because it would employ a certain number of men, who, later on, would become printers, and thus printing would become permanently established in this city. During these ten years, six or seven of these apprentices have become journeymen; some for personal, and some for family reasons, have left the place; others have been driven away for want of work; others, being unable to remain without work in a small town with but one printing office, sought in larger centres the work they could not procure here, and the greater number of these have never returned. That is why I am again obliged to employ apprentices for the necessary work of the establishment; and, moreover, I myself prefer to engage and teach my own apprentices, than to hire a man who knows more or less of printing, and whom it is impossible to teach without wounding; as has already happened to me, the man pretending that he could not be bothered at his work. I pretend to know my trade, and, in forming my apprentices, I naturally form them according to my lights; for, as the proverb says, "If you want your work well done, do it yourself." That is why I have now, besides apprentices, journeymen to whom I pay seven dollars a week. I have ps twelve dollars a week to work

men, but they were worth it; they commanded their own price. I have paid eleven dollars to some, to others I have paid eight and seven dollars, and to some I have paid six. I have paid them according to their worth; and I consider myself well qualified in judging all work done in a printing office, for my knowledge has been acquired by a personal experience of over twenty-four years.

Q.—Do many work by the piece? A.—No, sir, none; but I have a system by which I can ascertain if an apprentice progresses or not. Each apprentice has a number, and, without forcing him in any way, the number of letters in the work done is counted at the end of each day. None of the employees have any stated task given them, but all are free. By this means I discover if an apprentice has done his best and, if he has, I increase his wages according to what he can do.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How many compositors have you in your establishment? A.—I could tell by referring to the list.

Q.—How long a time do your apprentices serve? A.—Five years.

Q.—How many apprentices do you employ? A.—I could tell by referring to my books.

Q.—How many workmen have you in the compositors' room? A.—I could tell by referring to my books. I manage all my establishment myself but I never had any occasion to count my men; I pay them at the end of each week, that is all.

Q.—How many men receive \$1.50 a week? A.—One at present.

Q.—How many receive \$3 a week? A.—I could tell by referring to my books.

Q.—Your establishment is the only one of its kind in Lévis? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What is the population of the town? A.—About 8,900 souls at present.

Q.—Can you tell us how many men in your employ, earn from \$1.50 to \$4 a week? A.—I can tell you by referring to my books.

Q.—Could you procure us this information for the evening session? A.—I think so.

Q.—How many young women have you in the bookbinding shop? A.—Six.

Q.—Could you tell us what are their average wages? A.—From 80 cents to a \$1 a week, they are only beginners, there are some that have only been with me for a few days.

Q.—How many pressmen have you? A.—My pressman left me on Saturday last; he has gone to the *Justice* and, as I am in favor of promotion, I have taken the apprentice who was under him, and made him a printer.

Q.—You make him your pressman? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Is he as good as the one who left? A.—He will become so.

Q.—How long has he been at this work? A.—He has been in my establishment two years and a half.

Q.—Have you an engineer? A.—No, sir; because the coal oil engine which I have does not require an engineer. It goes alone as soon as the valves are open.

Q.—When you went to Quebec for workmen, why did you not secure steady hands? A.—Because there were none, I suppose; I took those I could get.

Q.—How much did you offer these men? A.—The ordinary wages paid at Quebec.

Q.—You could not say whether the wages you offered were according to the scale of the French or English Typographical Unions? A.—I have just told you it was the wages paid by other establishments.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—But do you know anything with regard to these two Unions? A.—No, sir; since 1880 when I left the Union, I know nothing of what has passed since then, and I never asked these men I hired, what were the prices paid by the Union, I gave them the prices paid by other establishments.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What are the wages of the girls to whom you pay 80 cents and \$1 a week?
A.—I never employ young girls under sixteen years of age.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What is the age of the youngest child? A.—I don't take any under fourteen, I suppose he is over fourteen.

Q.—How much do you pay them? A.—Seventy-five cents for the first six months, one dollar for the rest of the year; one dollar and twenty-five cents for the second year; one dollar and fifty cents the third; one dollar and seventy-five cents the fourth, and two dollars a week for the last year. It is the same wages that I myself received when I was an apprentice.

Q.—And is it because you, yourself, got small wages that you want to give them to your young workmen? A.—I suppose they are not worth more than I was, and I do not exact more work than I did myself from those willing to engage with me. I have always five or six applications for employment and I don't see why I should pay more, when should I do so, my receipts would probably not be sufficient to enable me to pay my men regularly.

Q.—Do any of your employees work at night? A.—Yes, sometimes; when there is work to do.

Q.—Do you pay them extra for it? A.—Yes; always.

Q.—Do you give them more for night work than day work? A.—Yes, sir; and on Sundays I give them double the price of ordinary work.

Q.—Are you sometimes obliged to work on Sundays? A.—Yes; we are sometimes obliged to do so.

Q.—How many printers have been taught their trade by you, during these last three years? A.—I am not certain, three or four, I think, I am not sure; I could tell by referring to my books.

Q.—When these young men have finished their apprenticeship and learned their trade, do you keep them on with you, and pay them printers wages? A.—Yes; I always do; I have some from Quebec and some from Lévis.

Q.—Do the greater number remain with you? A.—Yes, sir. My present foreman knew very little of the printers' trade when he came to me, and I taught him to work, and he is now my foreman. I had others before him to whom I paid \$11 and \$12 a week, and because I refused to insert a reporter's copy in one of my issues, they threatened to strike and I turned them off.

Q.—Do you pay your workmen by the week? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you pay them in money? A.—In money.

Q.—What sort of a house can be hired for six dollars a month? A.—I can hardly say, for the last six years I have owned my own house.

Q.—Do you think a workman can hire a good house in Lévis for six dollars a month? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Have rents risen in Lévis during the last six or seven years? A.—Not much, they may have a little.

Q.—What is the price of good cordwood, maple and beach for instance? A.—About \$3.80 or \$4 a cord, but this has been an exceptionally cold winter and the price of wood has gone up.

Q.—How much is coal per ton? A.—Six dollars.

Q.—Do the working classes heat their houses with wood? A.—Yes, generally.

Q.—How many cords of wood do they use? A.—I myself use between four and five cords for the whole winter.

Q.—What does the heating of a house cost the workman for a year? A.—Four cords in winter, which would cost, for hardwood, twenty dollars, and on an

average about twelve dollars for soft wood for summer, which would make about thirty or thirty-five dollars for the whole year.

Q.—Can you tell us the price of meat on the market? A.—Nine cents a pound, that is what I pay for beef, and I pay twenty-five cents for butter, twenty-five cents a dozen for eggs. I pay nine cents for meat of all kinds, whether beef or pork. We can get butter cheaper by making an arrangement by the year with a man from the country.

Q.—What is the price of bread, a large loaf? A.—I cannot say exactly, but about sixteen or eighteen cents for a large loaf.

Q.—When a workman pays six dollars a month rent, thirty-five dollars for wood and so much for food, how much can he save on one dollar a day? A.—I have given you the prices in general; but if a man wishes to economize he could economize on everything, and succeed in saving money. I know that with eight dollars a week in Quebec I saved six hundred dollars in four years.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—And did you support a family during that time? A.—No, sir; I was not married.

Q.—How many hours do those girls work who get eighty cents and one dollar? A.—Ten hours a day.

Q.—That makes one cent and three-quarters an hour? A.—At that rate I could get twenty to twenty-five that would be very glad to earn a few cents an hour.

Q.—Do you know if these girls live with their families, or are boarding? A.—I do not know. When they enter my establishment, and are under my control I enforce discipline. By discipline I mean order.

Q.—Do you know how much these girls can save in a year after buying their clothes? A.—I don't know the cost of women's clothes.

Q.—How much do these girls get the second year? A.—That depends on their capacity and knowledge. They get what they are worth.

Q.—Are you the judge of their capacity, each year? A.—Yes, sir, by the medium of my foreman. Permit me to add a few words with regard to the early closing of stores. I myself keep two stores, and as the question of early closing is being discussed in Montreal, Toronto, and Quebec, I wish to say a few words on this subject. The grocery stores of Levis, in general, close very late, and this is certainly injurious to the clerks. There are some grocery stores that open at five o'clock in the morning, and close at ten o'clock at night, and sometimes even at midnight, and this work must be most fatiguing and wearing to the employees. I know some grocers who are in favour of early closing, and I believe, by agreement, we would be able, like in large cities, to close the stores at eight o'clock, which would be an advantage, not only to the clerks, but even to the masters. I myself have closed my stores at six o'clock in the evening, while one of my confrères kept open until nearly ten o'clock. I have, as a journalist, already heard many persons, especially clerks and employees in general, express their satisfaction at the early closing movement, and I may add that the greatest number of store-keepers are also in favour of it.

(Translation.)

ALBERT BARON, of Levis, carpenter and caulker, sworn :—

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What wages does a carpenter earn in Levis? A.—\$1.25.

Q.—Do you work more on houses than on boats? A.—I have never worked on houses. I work on boats.

Q.—What are caulkers wages? A.—I have been working for Mr. Paradis this winter, for about a week, and we get eighty cents a day for eight hours' work.

Q.—Is that a caulker's regular wages? A.—It is about the amount we have generally got these last few years.

Q.—Is there much ship labour here? A.—Not much these last winters, but some winters we have considerable work here.

Q.—In shipbuilding or in repairing? A.—In both.

Q.—What is the number of men employed in work on board ships? A.—I can't say exactly how many we are now. I know, however, that we are only eight caulkers.

Q.—Have you constant employment here? A.—No. We began work last Thursday, we began eight days ago, and we worked only two days and a half last week.

Q.—About how many weeks' work do you get in a year in Levis? A.—I worked for about three months last summer on board ships—in loading ships—and in the Davis shanty.

Q.—What sort of work do you do when there is none to be done on board ships? A.—I am both a caulker and a carpenter. When I have no work as a caulker I work at carpentering.

Q.—Can you state about what amount you earn in a year? A.—Last year, in the year, or rather in about eleven months, I earned \$162.

Q.—Do you think there are many men earn \$300? A.—I sometimes meet many of my fellow-labourers who have worked at lumbering, like myself, or on board ship, and I have never heard one say that he earned more than \$300, or who had earned even as much as \$300.

Q.—Are the men, as a rule, able to live comfortably in Levis on such wages? A.—As far as I am concerned, I have a wife and two little children, and last year, I was obliged to go into debt in the very middle of summer.

Q.—Is there much work here for women? A.—I see none, except they go out to work by the day, washing.

Q.—Do you know whether working men's wives do go out to work by the day? A.—Yes, I know of some that do.

Q.—Is that because their husbands are not able to earn enough to maintain their families? A.—I am acquainted with one, a man who does not drink, and who works, like the rest of us, when he can find work, and yet his wife has to go out by the day. He worked all last year with me.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Did you have more work a few years ago than you have now? A.—There was more work for caulkers a few years ago.

Q.—Have many caulkers and carpenters left here since work has become scarce, or have they remained here? A.—To my knowledge about twenty have left who have never come back to Quebec.

Q.—Twenty out of how many? A.—That I can't say.

Q.—How many were you in all before? A.—I can't say, because I never noted the number of workmen. We are usually 200 men in all, working at Mr. Davis, caulkers and others.

I have a few words to say about the request we made of boss Davis last year. We were working for \$1.25 for a day of ten hours, and we went to our boss and asked for \$1.50 a day. After a few words in answer, he threatened to turn us off, but he, afterwards, gave us the \$1.50, when he saw that he could not get others in our place. But three days afterwards he turned us out, and a day and a half afterwards he took us all on again except two, and a week later he put us back to \$1.25 in.

* * * , of the City of Quebec, Laborer, sworn.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Where are you employed at the present time? A.—I am working as a boat hand on board the ferry steamer "Borealis," taking in and discharging cargo.

Q.—What do the deck hands receive on the "Borealis"? A.—They get eighteen dollars a month; two dollars are deducted from our wages each month, but if we work out the season we get eighteen dollars a month; if we do not, we get sixteen dollars a month.

Q.—If they put a man off the boat, does he get only sixteen dollars a month? A.—Yes. After working the whole season through you get eighteen dollars a month and your board.

Q.—Do you sleep on board the boat? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you work very hard? A.—Yes; we work very hard every day.

Q.—How long do you work a day? A.—Fifteen hours.

Q.—But you are not hard at work all the time? A.—We get as much as we can do. We get five minutes rest while crossing the river—each time we cross the river.

Q.—How much time do you get at your meals? A.—We eat it as quick as we can eat it, and just get time to light our pipes.

Q.—Do you eat crossing the river? A.—Sometimes we eat crossing the river.

Q.—Do you have seats to sit down on while taking your meals in crossing the river? A.—We do. Yes.

Q.—You have not a great deal of freight to handle in the morning? A.—Not in the morning. The first trip is at seven o'clock in the morning and we generally handle this freight at the last trip at night ready for the morning.

Q.—Can a man raise a family on the wages you receive? A.—I am a single man and I do not see how he can support a family on sixteen dollars a month.

Q.—Are any of these men married? A.—There are fifteen hands and three or four of them are young men, the others are married.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How long have these married men been on board the boat? A.—It is ten years that one of them has been on board the boat (he was taking account of it a night or two ago) and he has to support his family on what he earns.

Q.—How large a family has he? A.—He has three or four children.

Q.—Are any of these able to work? A.—Well, he has children able to work. He has got a boy I think of seventeen, but he has no work as yet. His wife sews and it is just "nip" and "tuck". He has told me himself that it took all he could do to live, and that he neither could live or keep his family if it was not for his wife.

Q.—His wife takes in sewing? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any danger in performing this work? A.—Yes. Lots of danger.

Q.—Have you known men to be hurt? A.—Frequently. But I have never seen any seriously hurt.

Q.—If you are laid up from injury does your pay go on the same? A.—No, it is stopped.

Q.—Is there any insurance provided for the men? A.—No.

Q.—How are you off for sleeping accomodation? A.—There are very bad bunks and they are very dirty.

Q.—The dirt. Who is to blame for that? A.—The Company, because they do not get these clothes and pillows washed from the fall to the spring and the men change their bunks and you do not know who has been in them.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Is the place where you sleep very close? A.—Yes.

Q.—Where is your bed situated? A.—Our beds are close away in the fore-castle forward, but the steam valves are not closed and it is full of steam all the time. Some used to go of into the cabin, and sleep on the cushions but the Captain ordered them out, and told the watchman not to let them in there.

DAMASE MARCOTTE, of Levis, Caulker, being sworn, produces, in the name of all the Caulkers, a document, and declares he has nothing further to say.

This document is placed in the hands of the Chairman.

(Translation)

ONÉSIME DROUIN, Moulder, Levis, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What sort of moulding do you do? A.—I work by the piece.

Q.—Do you make stoves or machinery? A.—Stoves, generally.

Q.—What are the average wages of a moulder of stoves? A.—Regularly taking one week with another, we can make from \$8 to \$9 a week.

Q.—How many hours do you work a week? A.—When we work full time, we usually work from six to seven o'clock.

Q.—How long do you take for your meals? A.—We take the time to eat, that's all.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You breakfast before you leave? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—And about supper? A.—We take supper at home after our work is done.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you work less time on Saturday? A.—It is all the same.

Q.—What are the weekly wages of a moulder working by the day? A.—The wages by the day vary, they are from 16 to 18 cents an hour.

Q.—Are their apprentices at this trade? A.—Yes, sir; I think there are two or three in our shop.

Q.—What were the ages of these apprentices when they began? A.—From fifteen to seventeen years.

Q.—What wages do they get the first year? A.—\$1 a week the first year.

Q.—How long do they serve? A.—I think they serve four years.

Q.—Are the men paid every week or every fortnight? A.—Every week.

Q.—On what day of the week? A.—Every Saturday night.

Q.—Do you prefer being paid on Saturday to any other day? A.—Yes, sir; I us' 'y do my business better on Saturday.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Would you not prefer being paid on Friday evening? A.—The pay is gn'ar, and we are well paid, and therefore it makes very little difference.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are the men paid in money? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Are the apprentices engaged by written contract? A.—I think they must be engaged by written contract.

Q.—Do the moulders by the day prefer this system of apprenticeship by indenture? A.—I think they do.

Q.—How many moulders are there at work in Levis? A.—There is only Mr. Carrier's shop, and I think at this moment in number from fifteen to eighteen.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Are you employed from one end of the year to the other? A.—Yes; generally.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q.—Are the wages the same in winter as in summer? A.—No, sir; because we have "slack" time in winter.

Q.—Apart from "slack" time, are the wages the same? A.—We make much less when working by the piece, because we get much less to do.

Q.—Have you anything to add? A.—I wish to speak about the shop. The ventilation of the foundry particularly, (I don't know anything of the other departments) is very bad.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is the building too low? A.—No; the building is very high, but there is no ventilation. We have no stove in our shop in winter; and we suffer much from cold. Last autumn two of us went to the office and asked them to put in heaters, and they replied that others had got through the winter without heaters before, and that we must put up with it. We suffer most from gas. We are well treated and well paid.

(Translation.)

TELESPHORE GAGNON, of St. Romuald, laborer, sworn.

Last spring I hired as night watchman in a saw-mill, a large shanty. I was to get one dollar a night for twelve hours' work, from six o'clock in the evening to six o'clock in the morning; and in the fall, from five o'clock at night to seven o'clock in the morning, for six weeks. My master insisted that I should live in his house, two miles away. I paid fifteen dollars a year rent. I had to walk the two miles each way, and be at my watch at the hours I have mentioned. During six weeks, I had fourteen hours' watch, and had to walk four miles a day besides. I was paid every fortnight, well paid.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—What do you wish the Commission to do? A.—I was brought here, with many others, but I do not know what is wanted of me.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Can laborers generally earn one dollar a day in Levis? A.—I don't know about Levis; I do not live in Levis.

Q.—In St. Romuald, then, where you reside? A.—In summer, some earn one dollar, others a little more, and many less than that.

Q.—Can a man support his family comfortably on one dollar a day? A.—If he earns that all the year round, he might be able to live; but when he works only five or six months in summer, and in winter for forty cents and his board, and sometimes one dollar a day on the railway —

Q.—Do many heads of families send their children to work in the factories?
A.—I can give no evidence on that point.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is the cost of living higher than it was five or six years ago? A.—I can not tell what may have been the cost of living five or six years ago; I did not provide for myself then. I have been providing for myself for about only four years. Before that I worked as lumberman, in shanties, in mills, in one place and another, here and there.

WILLIAM BÉLANGER, of St. Romuald, Laborer, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What kind of work are you engaged at? A.—Just now, I am making match boxes for a match factory.

Q.—How much can a man earn at that work? A.—I get 60 cents a day, this winter.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Are you still engaged at that work? A.—I have not worked for three weeks; I am ill.

Q.—When do you go back to work? A.—I don't know.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How many hours a day do you work? A.—I work ten hours a day. We have to arrive five minutes before, and stay five minutes after the time, making twenty minutes a day.

Q.—Do others engaged at the same work get the same wages? A.—Some have worked all summer for seventy cents. Others would not tell what their wages were, I could not discover what they earn.

Q.—How much do these men earn in summer? A.—I can't say what they get this summer, I have not worked this summer. I want to say, that there is a great deal of dust in the factory.

Q.—Is the dust injurious to health? A.—I think it has hurt me. I worked there two winters, and I have been ill every spring.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do they make matches there? A.—No; they make only boxes where I work, but they make matches in other rooms.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Are there fans, or any sort of machine for driving the dust away? A.—No; there is nothing of the kind, the dust remains. It is only dispersed when the doors open, and that happens very rarely, for we suffer from cold, in winter.

Q.—Do married or single women work in that factory? A.—Yes; there are young girls. I cannot say how many, but there are a large number. There are 13 or 14 machines in our factory, and three girls to each machine.

Q.—Can you give the age of the youngest girl? A.—I can't say, because I have not gone into the room where the youngest ones work, for over two years.

Q.—Tell us as near as you can? A.—I have seen little girls of not more than 12 years old.

Q.—Do they employ many boys? A.—Many small boys.

Q.—How old? A.—Some have begun to work as soon as they made their first communion.

Q.—At what age do they make their first communion? A.—10, 11 or 12 years old.

Q.—Do you think that any of the boys are under 10 years of age? A.—I am not sure enough to say.

Q.—Do you know what wages they earn? A.—I can't say, I think they get 25 cents a day in summer. I don't know what they get in winter.

Q.—How many hours a day do these children work? A.—As long as the rest.

Q.—Are they ever obliged to work at night? A.—Not in this factory, to my knowledge.

Q.—Are the rooms they work in warm and comfortable enough? A.—I don't remember hearing any complaints on this subject this winter.

Q.—When you make mention of a factory in the evidence you have so far given, do you mean a factory where matches are made, or where the wood is only split for matches? A.—The little boys make the matches, and it is they, also, who put the blocks of wood into the machines, for making into matches.

Q.—Is the work they are employed at generally considered unhealthy? A.—It is for me; I don't know if it affects others in the same way, but I find the black oil has a bad smell.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is it the sulphur? A.—No; they don't use sulphur; they pack the matches in boxes and ship them.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How many children are employed in the factory? A.—I can't say exactly.

Q.—Tell us as near as you can? A.—About twenty. There may be twelve, fourteen or fifteen, but I don't know exactly.

Q.—Do you know whether they are ever punished by the master or foreman? A.—I don't remember of any being punished; not to my knowledge.

Q.—Do you know whether any of the workmen, young or old, have been fined? A.—I have no recollection of such a thing? Q.—Are any of the machines at which children work considered dangerous? A.—They are for children. Some have been lamed.

Q.—Seriously injured? A.—I think one had the top of his hand taken off. Others had their fingers cut off. I don't know whether it was from carelessness or not.

Q.—Do you know of any child having had his fingers cut off? A.—That was in another factory, belonging to another man. A young man had his leg broken there.

Q.—Do you know of any case of an accident having happened? A.—I remember that this winter a young man had his fingers crushed between the rollers of a "matcher." It may have happened through his own carelessness, but I saw his hand half in and half out.

Q.—Are the children obliged to wheel large blocks, heavy loads, in that factory? A.—Yes, sir. There are two factories belonging to the same "boss." Two boys wheel blocks in barrows—the work is too hard. I myself wheeled blocks three or four years ago, and it is too hard work.

Q.—When they can no longer do this work, are they given work elsewhere? A.—They may be, when there is other work to give them. But I don't remember any other having been given. Some years ago, in another factory, where they made boxes, and window, and blinds, and small houses for shipment, I used often to work at a "hinger" for splitting planks in two, and they sometimes took me from that work, and put a man in my place, to whom they gave seventy and eighty cents, whilst they gave me only fifty cents for the same work.

Q.—How old were you then? A.—It was three years ago, last summer, and I will be twenty-two in the spring.

Q.—Are children employed there? A.—Yes; young children.

Q.—What was the age of the youngest? A.—About thirteen or fourteen years old.

Q.—Do you know what wages they get? A.—I can't say what they get this winter, I don't work there.

Q.—Do you know what the men earn? A.—I cannot remember. That was the factory where a man had his leg broken. There was a bolt in the shaft, his trowsers caught, and drew his leg against the shaft, and broke the leg.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you know whether changes were afterwards made? A.—No; I know of no changes having been made.

(Translation.)

LÉPHIRIN MERCIER, of St. Romuald, employed in a Match Factory, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How old are you? A.—Fourteen years.

Q.—How long have you been working in this factory? A.—Nearly five months.

Q.—Are there younger boys than you employed there? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—About how old are they? A.—About twelve years old.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Have any of them made their First Communion? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—To your knowledge, what was the age of the youngest child, when he began work at the factory? A.—There were some thirteen years old when they began.

Q.—What is your work? A.—I run a machine.

Q.—Is the machine dangerous? A.—Yes, sir, it is.

Q.—Did you ever get your fingers caught? A.—Yes, sir, I had them crushed.

Q.—Do you know of any child having had his fingers cut off? A.—I don't remember.

Q.—How many hours a day do you work? At what hour do you begin in the morning? A.—At 7 o'clock.

Q.—And when do you stop work at night—before or after supper? A.—Before supper; we finish at 6 o'clock at night.

Q.—How much time do you take for dinner? A.—We are given an hour, from noon to one o'clock.

Q.—What money do you get every week? A.—We are not paid weekly; we are paid every fortnight. We get \$2.40 every fortnight in winter, and \$3 a fortnight in summer.

Q.—Is there any child earns less than you do? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How much less? A.—Their wages are 15 cents a day.

Q.—Do they work as many hours a day as you do? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you know whether young children wheel blocks of wood? A.—Yes, sir.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you do that kind of work? A.—No; I do not wheel barrows, but they bring me blocks of wood.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Are the children who wheel blocks as young as you? A.—No; they are about 16 years old.

Q.—Do you know whether any boys or girls have ever been punished? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Were they beaten? A.—No, sir; but the foreman slapped them on the face.

Q.—Were they often punished in that way? A.—Yes; but it is according to how they behave.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Did such a thing ever happen to you? A.—Yes. We are always at work on large blocks at night, and I had placed one row too many in my boxes. The foreman found that too high, so he threw the extra row at my legs.

Q.—Did he hurt you much? A.—No; not much.

Q.—What does your father do? A.—He is a mason.

Q.—Have you any brother at work? A.—Yes, sir.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Does he work in the factory? A.—No; he is away.

Q.—How many of your brothers work? A.—Two.

Q.—Have you any sisters at work? A.—No, sir.

Q.—How long did you go to school? A.—Eight years.

Q.—Eight years at school? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did you learn anything besides reading and writing? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Can the other children that work in the factory read and write as well as you? A.—Some can, but not all.

Q.—Are there any of them who cannot read and write? A.—Yes, sir.

(Translation.)

Miss * * * , Employee in the Match Factory at St. Romuald, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How long have you worked in the factory? A.—I have worked in this factory about four years.

Q.—How much did you earn when you began to work there? A.—Twenty-five cents a day.

Q.—How much do you earn now? A.—The same wages.

Q.—Do the other girls who have worked there for several years earn the same wages as you? A.—Just the same.

Q.—How many young girls work there at twenty-five cents a day? A.—I can't say; there are a number of us.

Q.—Do these young girls, who work for twenty-five cents a day live with their parents? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How often are you paid? A.—Every fortnight.

Q.—How many hours a day do you work? A.—Ten hours a day.

Q.—Is the factory comfortable to work in? A.—No, sir; it was cold this winter.

Q.—Were no fires made? A.—There were fires in the furnaces, but they did not give enough heat.

Q.—Is the factory ventilated—aired? Are there ventilators? A.—No, sir; it is lofty, but there are no ventilators. The factory is old, and the wind comes through.

Q.—Are fines ever imposed for any cause? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How many fines have you paid? A.—When we do anything they reduce our time. The foreman is at liberty to reduce our time.

Q.—For what reasons are these fines imposed? A.—When we do anything wrong of any consequence, the foreman scolds us, and the “boss” tells him to reduce our time.

Q.—Is that when your work is badly done? A.—Yes, sir; when our work is done badly, or when we amuse ourselves talking.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do they fine you for looking out of the window? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do they not allow you to talk at all? A.—They give us permission to talk now and then, but not much. When we talk too much they fine us.

Q.—Do you know of any young girls having been punished? A.—Yes, sir; I know that their time was reduced, but never saw them severely punished.

Q.—What is the age of the youngest girl that works in the factory? A.—There are some that are very young. Among the little girls there, are some of twelve and thirteen years of age.

Q.—Do boys younger than that work there? A.—Oh, yes.

Q.—What is the age of the youngest child you have seen working in the factory? A.—There are some of 12 and 13 years of age and some of 15.

Q.—Is your work very hard? A.—Yes; it is very hard.

Q.—What do you do? A.—We arrange the matches and place them in the “racks.”

Q.—Do you soak the matches in sulphur? A.—No.

Q.—Do you think that all the girls in your department know how to read and write? A.—No; some can neither read nor write.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Do they ever fine the girls when they come late in the morning? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Suppose you arrive ten or fifteen minutes late what would be the fine? A.—They impose no fine for that.

Q.—What time do you lose? A.—A quarter of a day, that is ten cents.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Does that often happen? A.—Often enough.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are you obliged to lift heavy weight when you pack matches in boxes? A.—No, sir; we only lift the racks. When the matches are green they are heavy, but not when they are dry.

Q.—Have you employment all the year? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Have you any holidays, do you work on such days as religious feasts? A.—We don't work on feast days.

Q.—Are the feast days deducted from your wages? A.—Yes; they are deducted.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—Do the girls take their meals in the factory where they work? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Is there a separate room for that purpose? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do boys and girls work in the same room? A.—Yes, sir.

(Translation).

Miss * * * , employee in a Match Factory, of St. Romuald, sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Have you heard the evidence of the last witness? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you think that what she has stated is correct? A.—Yes, sir; but I do not work in the same factory.

Q.—What kind of work do you do? A.—I work at match making also, but not under the same "boss."

Q.—What wages do you get? A.—Twenty-five cents a day.

Q.—Do you know what is the age of the youngest girl, working in this factory?
A.—Thirteen years old.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What age were you, when you began? A.—I was thirteen years old.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—And you can only earn twenty-five cents a day, now? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do all the young girls, that work in the factory, live with their parents?
A.—There are some.

Q.—Are those, who do not live with their parents, able to live on twenty-five cents a day? A.—No; it is not enough.

Q.—Have you anything to tell us, that has not already been asked of you?
A.—We are not allowed to speak or laugh without being reprimanded.

Q.—Do you know of any of the children being punished? A.—Yes; the little boys.

Q.—Are they beaten? A.—Sometimes they slap their faces.

Q.—Are any of them ever fined? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Is any deduction made in their wages, if they are late in the morning?
A.—I have no knowledge of it. If they do anything wrong, a quarter or half a day is sometimes deducted from their time.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q.—What sort of work do you do at present? A.—I work at the machine for making matches.

Q.—Do you work the machine? A.—No, sir, a little boy works it. They board up the windows in summer, and we suffer from heat.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Why do they board up the windows; is it to prevent you from looking out?
A.—Yes.

(Translation).

Miss ***, employee in a match factory of St. Romuald, sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Have you heard the evidence of the last two witnesses? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you believe their statements to be correct? A.—Yes, sir; they are perfectly correct.

Q.—Have you anything to add to what they have said? A.—No, sir; except that they rob us of time. At one o'clock they call the time before the hour; they make us work 20 minutes over our time every day, for in the morning we have to begin at five minutes to seven, at noon we finish at five minutes past twelve, and we begin again at five minutes to one.

Q.—You work 20 minutes more than the ordinary time every day? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—And you are not paid extra for this time? A.—No, sir.

Q.—What age were you when you began to work? A.—14 or 15 years I think.

Q.—What were the wages you got when you began to work? A.—Twenty-five cents.

Q.—How many hours a day do you work in winter? A.—It is always the same. From seven to six all the year round.

Miss ***, of St. Romuald, employed in a match factory, sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Did you hear the evidence of the last witnesses? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you believe their statements to be correct? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you get the same wages as they? A.—No, sir; where I work, we work by the job.

Q.—What are your wages? A.—I get two and a half cents a case.

Q.—How many cases can you do in a day? A.—16 or 17 cases at the most.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How many do you generally make? A.—Generally 16 at the most,

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Do you live with your parents? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Is there anything you would like to add to the evidence already given?
A.—I would like to say that the windows are too high for summer weather; they do not admit air enough for the number of people inside.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Are boards nailed over the windows? A.—Not on our side, but the windows are too high up.

Q.—You cannot see out? A.—No, sir; not at all.

Q.—How old were you when you began to work? A.—I was 12 or 13 years of age.

(Translation.)

LOUIS ROBERGE, of St. Romuald, Employed in a Match Factory, sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How long have you been employed in this factory? A.—Six or seven years.

Q.—How old were you when you first went there? A.—I was 12 years old.

- Q.—What did you earn when you began to work? A.—Twenty-five cents a day.
- Q.—What are you earning now? A.—Sixty cents a day.
- Q.—Do you work very hard? A.—No; not very.
- Q.—Are there separate places for men and women? A.—Yes; there are some for men and others for women. They are apart. Those for the men are outside the factory, and those for the women are inside.
- Q.—Are they kept clean? A.—Those for the men are not at all cared for, but those for the women are.
- Q.—Have you any further evidence to add to that already given by the young ladies we have heard? A.—I would like to say few words about the unloading of barges. We work very hard, and we are paid but seven, or eight or nine cents an hour. The barges we unload are laden in Ottawa, and there the men are paid twenty-five cents an hour.
- Q.—Are boys employed in unloading? A.—No; the youngest I know of is eighteen years of age.
- Q.—How many hours do you work when engaged in unloading? A.—Those working by the day, work ten hours. We work extra, and we are paid extra; the same prices as are given in the factory.
- Q.—Do you not get extra pay? A.—Yes; we get extra pay when we work over hours at night. We are paid at the same rate of sixty cents a day, and eighty cents in summer.
- Q.—You work eight hours a day, and when you work overtime you are paid at the same rate, no more? A.—The same rate.

(Translation.)

ETIENNE ROBIN, Labourer, St. Romuald, sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What work do you do? A.—At all sorts of work.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you not work in the factory? A.—I work for the factory, but outside.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What do you earn? A.—60 cents in winter, and in summer sometimes 60 or 80 cents. Some factories pay 60 cents, and some 80 cents. They fix the prices themselves.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Are you satisfied with that amount? A.—We are not satisfied, but we have to accept it, there is no other work.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are you employed all the year through? A.—No; we lose a great deal of time.

Q.—How much time do you think you lose in a year? How many months do you work during the twelve months? A.—We work about ten months in a year.

Q.—Is that time lost through want of work? A.—Yes; through want of work, and on account of bad weather.

Q.—Are you a married man? A.—No; I am single.

Q.—Do you know of any married men earning no more than you do? A.—Yes; there is one of my brothers.

Q.—Is he able to live on 60 cents a day? A.—No; he manages to live, but he has to go into debt.

Q.—Do any of the members of your brother's family earn besides your brother himself? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Does his wife work? A.—No, sir; she does not work.

Q.—And none of the children are old enough to work? A.—No.

Q.—And the family is able to live on 60 cents a day? A.—He earns a little more in summer, but he has to go into debt in winter, but he clears himself in the summer.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—How much does he earn in summer? A.—He earns 80 and 90 cents a day.

(Translation.)

RÉGIS GAGNON, employee in a Box Manufactory, St. Romuald, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Where is this box factory situated? A.—At St. Romuald.

Q.—How long have you worked there? A.—Eight months.

Q.—What age are you? A.—Fifteen years.

Q.—How much do you earn? A.—35 cents.

Q.—Did they pay you when you began to work there? A.—Yes.

Q.—What work do you do? A.—I nail the boxes together.

Q.—Are there younger boys than yourself working there? A.—Yes; there are some of 12 and 13 years.

Q.—Are there any little boys working at machinery in that manufactory? A.—Yes; there are.

Q.—At what machines are they put? A.—At the saws.

Q.—Have any of them been lamed at the saws? A.—Yes; there are some that have been lamed.

Q.—Have any of them had their fingers cut? A.—There are some that have had their fingers cut.

Q.—Are they circular saws? A.—Yes; round saws.

Q.—When these children had their fingers cut in that way were they paid by the master? A.—No.

Q.—What wages are paid to the youngest boy there? A.—25 or 30 cents a day.

Q.—Do you live with your parents? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How long were you at school? A.—Three years.

Q.—Did you learn anything but reading and writing? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know any boys in the factory that can neither read nor write? A.—Yes; I know some.

Q.—What does your father do? A.—He is a carter.

Q.—Have you any brothers that work? A.—Yes; they work in the same factory.

Q.—When any of the children get lamed does the proprietor pay for the doctor? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Are wages paid to those who are sick? A.—No, sir. We do a man's work and only get 35 cents, while some get 60 and 90 cents for the same work.

Q.—Are you strong enough to do a man's work? A.—My work is nailing.

Q.—Is it hard work? A.—Pretty hard.

Q.—Still you do it? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you very tired at night when you have finished? A.—Pretty tired.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—But you are ready to commence again in the morning? A.—Yes; because we must do it.

(Translation.)

ALFRED LAFRANCE, of St. Romuald, Labourer, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What work do you do? A.—I am hired in a box factory this winter.

Q.—What kind of work do you do? A.—I drive a saw, and with great difficulty.

Q.—What do you earn at that work? A.—Thirty-five cents.

Q.—Do you live with your parents? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How old are you now? A.—I am nineteen years old.

Q.—Were you lamed in the factory? A.—Yes; through want of proper care. It is their fault that I am lame.

Q.—How did the accident happen? A.—The wheel caught my leg. I was caught by a nut on the wheel.

Q.—Was it a large air wheel? A.—Not very large.

Q.—What sort of a wheel? A.—It was the wheel of a machine.

Q.—And did it catch your trowsers, or what? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What was the consequences? A.—The leg was torn off.

Q.—Did you have to undergo an amputation? A.—Yes; they never inquired after me, nor did they ever give me anything.

Q.—Did they not pay the doctor? A.—No, sir.

Q.—How long were you laid up? A.—I was unable to do anything for four years.

Q.—How old were you when the accident happened? A.—I was fifteen years old.

Q.—How long were you kept in the house? A.—Four months.

Q.—Did you go back to work at the factory, at the end of four months? A.—Not to work; I was not able to work.

Q.—You did not go back to the factory? A.—Yes; I went there, but not to work.

Q.—What for then; just to look about? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long a time were you unable to work? A.—Four years.

Q.—And you were four years unable to do anything? A.—Yes; four years unable to work.

Q.—How long is it, now, since you recommenced work, in the factory? A.—Going on to a year.

Q.—Has the machinery been arranged, so as to be less dangerous? A.—Yes; it has been arranged, there is no danger now.

Q.—Do you know of any other accidents having happened? A.—Yes, sir. A good number were caught at the same place, but they escaped being crippled.

Q.—Do you know if anyone lost a limb there? A.—Not in the factory. They have had their fingers crushed.

Q.—Do you know of anyone having lost their fingers? A.—No; not altogether.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How do you manage to work now; are you obliged to use crutches? A.—I must have a support for my knee.

(Translation.)

LOUIS CAOUETTE, of St. Romuald, employee in a Boot Factory, sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Did you hear the evidence of the last witness? Yes; sir.

Q.—Do you think his statement was correct? A.—Oh, yes.

Q.—What do you earn a day? A.—Thirty cents.

Q.—How old are you? A.—Sixteen years of age.

Q.—How long have you worked in the factory? A.—Two years.

Q.—What is your work? A.—I peg boots.

Q.—How long have you been at that work? A.—About a year.

Q.—Is not that too hard work for a child of your age? A.—Not at all.

Q.—Are you not tired when you go home at night? A.—No.

Q.—Do you live with your parents? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long did you go to school? A.—Five or six years.

Q.—What work does your father do? A.—He is dead.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is your mother living? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Have you any brothers able to work? A.—Yes; but my brothers don't work at the factory.

Q.—Do they work at all? A.—They are on the heights.

(Translation.)

ANDRÉ LISABEL, of St. Romuald, Laborer, sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—What kind of work do you do? A.—I work at a saw mill in summer.

Q.—What particular kind of work do you do at the saw mill? A.—I work at the circular saws.

Q.—Is not that rather rough work for an old man like you? A.—It is hard, but we must always work. I did not find it hard work when I was young, but now it is very hard.

Q.—How many hours a day do you work? A.—Ten hours a day.

Q.—How old are you? A.—I am 64 years old.

Q.—What do you earn? A.—I sometimes earn four shillings, and sometimes \$1 a day, in summer. It is of no use to mention winter, for we don't work in winter. I used to get work in the winter when I went to the shanties, but now I am too old to go.

Q.—How much do you earn in a year? A.—I can't rightly say. I don't think it can be more than \$100 a year.

Q.—Have you a family depending on you? A.—No; my children are all grown up now.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do your children help you? A.—They do, a little. When they have work they give me a little help, but they come home when they are out of work.

Q.—You could not live on \$100 a year? Could you support yourself on your own earnings? A.—No; my children help me a little. My daughters earn a little.

Q.—Do you know what are the highest wages given in a saw mill? A.—We used to earn more some years ago. Now, sawyers get as high as \$15 a fortnight in summer. They work twelve hours a day.

Q.—Do you work twelve hours a day? A.—No; at the wind mill we only work ten hours a day, and those working at the saws, the sawyers, work only ten hours a day, too; they work by night and by day; we work only by day.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q.—At what hour in the morning do you begin work? A.—At 6 o'clock in the morning.

Q.—And when do you leave off at night? A.—We begin at 6, and we go to breakfast at 8 o'clock; we begin again at 9 and work till noon. At 1 o'clock we begin again, and work till 6 o'clock. We give ten hours work.

Q.—Do you work on holidays and Sundays? A.—No.

Q.—Did you work on the 1st of July, Dominion day? A.—Sometimes it is observed, but the mill works, only on holidays we do not work.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Can a man and his family live comfortably and put money by on \$1 a day? A.—If they do not eat too much.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH ROBITAILLE, former night guardian, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—What wages were you paid when you had employment? A.—Four shillings for the first year, and in autumn they lowered my wages to three shillings and sixpence.

Q.—Were you employed seven nights in the week? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Had you a family to support on your wages? A.—Yes.

Q.—Were you able to support your family on 80 cents a day? A.—Not always.

Q.—Do any of your children help you? A.—Not just at present.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You have only yourself to depend upon? A.—Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q.—Are you able to live on such wages without going into debt? A.—No, sir.

Q.—You are obliged to go into debt? A.—Yes.

(Translation.)

ALFRED TANGUAY, of Levis, Engineer, sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—Are you employed at a stationary engine ? A.—Not just now ; I am hired by Mr. Davis to work on board a steamboat ; I work at the boilers.

Q.—How much do those working at the boilers earn ? A.—All sorts of prices. Some, such as the riveters, earn one dollar and twenty-five cents in winter. Some of the shippers get one dollar a day in winter and others get four shillings ; I, myself, am getting four shillings, but I am able to earn a great deal more than that though.

Q.—What wages do you get in summer ? A.—I began working at Mr. Davis last spring, and I earned one dollar and twenty-five cents for four months, and last January I worked on board the "Tower" for Mr. Davis at eighty cents a day.

Q.—How much do you earn when you work at machinery ? A.—There are different prices for different work there too. I earned thirty-five dollars a month. In the spring, we began in the month of April, to rig boats, and we were paid one dollar a day ; and when the steamer was on the other side we had to pay twenty cents to go to and return from it, that is ten cents each way. In the month of May, on the first of May, I began to work for my board and wages. I worked seven months at thirty-five dollars a month.

Q.—Are you married ? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Are you able to support your family on such wages ? A.—If we had these wages all the time we might, but we do not get them all the time.

Q.—What is the number of your family ? A.—Three ; myself, my wife, and child.

Q.—Are you able to put aside money ? A.—No, I am in debt just now.

Q.—What rent are you able to pay ? A.—I pay two dollars a month rent.

Q.—How many rooms do you get for two dollars a month ? A.—Three.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q.—How much do the boys, that heat the rivets, get ? A.—Fifty cents a day.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How old are the boys ? A.—There are boys of sixteen, seventeen years of age, and some of thirteen and fourteen years.

Q.—Do the riveters working outside and inside earn the same wages ? A.—Yes.

(Translation.)

TELESPHORE LAFRANCE, of St. Romuald, employed in a box factory, sworn :

By Mr. FREED :—

Q.—How old were you when you began working in this factory ? A.—I was eleven years old.

Q.—What work were you put to when you began ? A.—I cleared a saw.

Q.—Were you behind the saw ? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it dangerous work ? A.—No.

Q.—How much were you paid ? A.—25 cents.

Q.—What are you paid now ? A.—30 cents.

Q.—How old are you now ? A.—I am fifteen years old.

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- Q.—What is the age of the youngest child working in the factory? A.—The youngest is 10 or 11 years old.
- Q.—What does the youngest boy earn? A.—20 or 25 cents.
- Q.—Do you know whether accidents have happened to little boys? A.—No.
- Q.—Are they ever punished? A.—No.
- Q.—Are they ever struck or beaten? A.—No.
- Q.—Are they ever fined? A.—Yes.
- Q.—What amount are they fined? A.—A quarter of a day.
- Q.—How many hours a day do you work? A.—Ten hours a day.
- Q.—Do you live with your parents? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—How long did you go to school? A.—2 years.
- Q.—Did you learn anything more than to read and write? A.—No.

SHERBROOKE.

21st April 1888.

FRANÇOIS-XAVIER DUFRESNE, of Notre-Dame des Bois, in the county of Chisholm, farmer, sworn.

In the absence of the stenographer this deposition is taken at length by Mr. Helbronner ; the questions are put by Mr. Boivin :—

I have a knowledge of the trade in wood that goes on in the shanties of the surrounding parts ; I know that there are persons who suffered loss and I know of employees that lost their wages. In the last case when it occurred the contractor was given a check of \$1600 and stated he had lost it. It often happens that contractors do not pay their men and there is no recourse, because these contractors are often men without means. It is thus that workmen lose their wages. In the last case of which I have just spoken there were twelve. They were twelve laborers, but there were also sub-contractors who were not paid, and consequently could not pay their men. These sub-contractors may have received a portion of their money, enough to defray the expenses of the shanties, but not sufficient to pay their men. The men go to the shanties in the fall, and return in the spring and are given the necessaries of life. Their families get credit at the stores and the merchants are paid when the men return from the shanties. In the last case of which I spoke, the men complained to the company, and the Company sent for the contractor, and with the consent of the men who put faith in the promises of the contractor, this latter was given the check for \$1600. The men are under the impression that they have no privilege on the wood. In the State of Maine the men have a privilege on the wood. Mr. Bowman, whose interpreter I was, in the State of Maine, exacted receipts from his men in order to protect himself from all claims. It is the first time to my knowledge that men working in this district were not paid, but before this, for two years following, Canadian farmers working on Canadian soil, engaged by Canadian contractors, lost their wages, some having again lost them this year as I have said, making three years loss. These losses do much injury to the families and to the merchants, one farmer alone to my knowledge having lost \$150. To remedy this state of things the men should be given a privilege on the logs as is done in the State of Maine.

(Translation).

APRIL 23RD, 1888.

NAPOLÉON PELLETIER, of Sherbrooke, working weaver, sworn :—

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—You are employed in the Paton Mill ? A.—I am employed in the woollen factory.

Q.—But at the Paton Mill, you work for Mr. Paton ? A.—Yes.

- Q.—What age are you? A.—Nineteen years old.
 Q.—How long have you worked? A.—For four years.
 Q.—Do you work under the orders of the foreman, or on your own account?
 A.—I work for another. I work by the job for a weaver.
 Q.—Are you paid by the factory or by the foreman? A.—I am paid by the workmen in the factory.
 Q.—How much do you earn on an average? How much did you earn last week, for instance? A.—Nine dollars, seventy-five cents.
 Q.—For what length of time? A.—Two weeks.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

- Q.—You are paid every two weeks? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

- Q.—Were you paid on the last fortnight? A.—We are always two weeks behind.
 Q.—Have you been obliged to lose much time during the four years you worked there, or have you had continual work? A.—I have worked continually.
 Q.—At what hour in the morning do you go to work? A.—At half-past six in the morning. Just now we work only half time, we begin at seven in the morning, and we stop at noon.
 Q.—At what hour do you finish at night when you work full time? A.—At six o'clock.
 Q.—At what hour do you take your dinner? A.—At noon, or ten minutes past when we get home.
 Q.—At what hour do you recommence work? A.—At one o'clock.
 Q.—Do you eat in the factory or outside? A.—I eat at my own private house.
 Q.—Do any of the workmen eat in the factory? A.—I can't say.

By MR. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q.—Are you paid in money? A.—Yes. I am paid in money.

(Translation.)

OCTAVE GENDRON, of Sherbrooke, Corset Manufacturer, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

- Q.—You manufacture corsets? A.—Yes, sir.
 Q.—Can you tell us how many employees you have? A.—We employ from 140 to 165 hands.
 Q.—Can you tell how many men, and how many women are in your factory?
 A.—We employ about eighteen men, the others are all women and children.
 Q.—Can you tell us what are the average weekly wages, earned by men in your employ? A.—There are several apprentices among the number, which necessarily lowers the average.
 Q.—State what are the salaries of the men? A.—The men and boys earn from \$4 to \$12 a week.
 Q.—Will you tell us what are the wages of the women, not including children?
 A.—The average wages of the women are \$4.50 a week. Some earn only \$3, but some also earn as high as \$6.50 a week.
 Q.—Now, will you tell us what are the average wages of the children? A.—Children from thirteen to sixteen years of age, earn \$2, \$2.50 a week on an average.

Q.—How do you pay your people, by the week, or by the month? A.—They are paid every month, the 15th of every month.

Q.—In what do you pay them, in money or goods, or what? A.—In money.

Q.—Are there any apprentices among your people? A.—We always have apprentices. The apprenticeship of those who work on the machines, is six week's long, and those that work otherwise are paid immediately; that is to say, they begin to earn immediately. Even the apprentices who work on the machines, though we do not pay them when they leave us, when they remain, are afterwards paid for their first six week's work.

Q.—What are the work hours in your factory? A.—Nine hours the year through, except when we have, occasionally, to work overhours.

Q.—Are sub-contracts given out to any of your employees? A.—Never.

Q.—Have there ever been any misunderstanding between you and your people, any strikes? A.—None.

Q.—Have your work people ever asked to be paid oftener than every month? A.—Never, because they are all young people who board with their parents, and are in a position to wait for pay day.

Q.—Can they, if they require it, get money between the pay days? A.—Every day between the pay days, if they need it. We can give them money, if they require it, any day, and every day.

Q.—Will you tell us why you pay your people monthly, since you allow them the privilege of collecting every day? A.—It is on account of the greater convenience of paying monthly, which is an important detail in our business. I mean, the convenience of making up the monthly accounts.

Q.—Are fines ever imposed in your establishment, penalties exacted for badly done work, or anything of that kind? A.—Only when goods are spoiled.

Q.—Are fines frequently imposed? A.—Although it is among our rules to fine for work spoiled in the doing, I do not remember our having exacted more than a quarter of the fines that should have been imposed.

Q.—Have you any idea of about what these fines amount to in a year? A.—Not to more than \$50.

(The witness' deposition having been read to him, he requested to have the following added to the preceding answers.)

Having examined my books, I have come to the conclusion that the fines imposed do not amount to \$20 in a year.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of your factory? A.—To the best of my knowledge, it is in a perfect sanitary condition.

Q.—Are the water closets for men and women apart from each other? A.—Yes, sir; in every story. That is, one story is for the men, and two other stories for the women, with water closets inside the building, arranged according to the best approved system.

Q.—Do you import your raw material, or do you procure it in this country? A.—We import the greater part of our raw material.

Q.—What kind of raw material do you chiefly import? A.—Mostly whalebone, cordings, jean, sateen and French drill.

Q.—Jean; is that a fabric? A.—Yes; a fabric.

Q.—Are such cottons not manufactured in this country? A.—There is a manufactory of Nankins, that is Jeans, which manufacture only second class goods. We are greatly distressed at the difficulty we experience in procuring what we require, though we have granted them every facility for improvement.

Q.—Do you pay duties on the material you import, or do you get them free? A.—We pay from twenty-five to twenty-seven and a half per cent. duty, which is very exorbitant, seeing that we cannot procure what we require in this country.

Q.—Are the goods on which you pay twenty-seven and a half per cent. not manufactured at all in this country? A.—No; the goods on which we pay twenty-seven and a half per cent. are not at all manufactured in this country.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You say you employ eighteen men—how many of these earn twelve dollars a week? A.—There is only one, as far as I remember.

(The witness' deposition being read to him, he desired to rectify the preceding answer in the following way:—I know now that there are two earn as much as that. One earns \$12 and the other earns \$14.)

Q.—How many earn less than twelve dollars, and more than four dollars a week? A.—Thirteen receive between seven and twelve dollars, and three receive four dollars. There are some earn nine dollars and fifty cents, some ten dollars and fifty cents, and some eight dollars a week.

Q.—How many get four dollars and fifty cents? A.—Three boys, I think.

Q.—Are there any employees under thirteen years of age in your factory? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do you always enquire their age when you employ them? A.—Always.

Q.—Do the women working at the sewing machines furnish their needles and thread? A.—Only the needles.

Q.—Do many ask for money during the time intervening between pay days?

A.—It may occur two or three times a month.

Q.—I suppose they would not ask for money without they were in need of it?

A.—I suppose not.

Q.—Do you not think if you were to pay your employees more frequently, it would obviate the necessity of their asking for money? A.—They are mostly men whom I pay weekly that ask for money during the week.

Q.—Do you pay some of them every week, and some every month? A.—I pay the married men weekly.

Q.—All the married men? A.—Yes, except when they do not ask to be paid every week.

Q.—May not a young woman, earning \$2.50 to \$3 a week, be put to some embarrassment in regard to making necessary purchases, or in paying her board, through having to wait a month for her pay? A.—I would not care to employ a person whose pay was not sufficient to meet her necessary expenditure. I believe the prices I pay are high enough to enable any industrious girl to earn six dollars a week, and I have need of one who cannot earn that much.

Q.—Are printed copies of the rules of the establishment, mentioning what fines are exacted for certain offences, posted throughout the factory? A.—Here are the printed rules of the factory. (The witness produces a copy of the rules). This copy contains all the rules of our establishment, excepting one clause which has been added to the rules since this copy was printed, and which relates to the six weeks' apprenticeship we have found it necessary to adopt.

Q.—I see that as regards fines no specified amount is mentioned; is the amount left to the discretion of the foreman? A.—The amount is understood to be so much for each piece spoiled. We charge them the cost price of the piece wasted.

Q.—When a young woman is fined is she notified of it at the time the fine is imposed, or does she only hear of it on pay day? A.—When she is fined, it is immediately charged to her account on her card; it is stated on her card as soon as the fine is imposed.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—But does she know of it? A.—She knows it immediately.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are your employees obliged to work overhours? A.—Sometimes, when it cannot be avoided.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Does it occur frequently? A.—Very rarely of late years. In former times we were obliged to work harder.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—When they work overhours are they paid extra? A.—Yes, they are paid extra.

Q.—Do all receive extra pay? A.—All. And those who work two hours or two hours and a quarter at night, receive a quarter of a day's pay.

(Translation.)

FRANCOIS CODERRE, of Sherbrooke, Hardware Merchant and Master Tinsmith, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—How many workmen do you employ? A.—There are ten men working for me in my shop.

Q.—Have you any apprentices? A.—I have three apprentices, and three journeymen. I call a man that knows his trade, a journeyman. The others are learning their trade.

Q.—Are the apprentices you engage not indentured to you? A.—I hire them by the week. There is no written agreement, only a verbal engagement.

Q.—What wages do your workmen, your journeymen, receive? A.—One gets \$8.50, and the two others \$10 a week.

Q.—And what do you pay the apprentices? A.—One of the apprentices earned \$1.50 a week for the first year, and the other earns his board and 75 cents a week.

Q.—Does he board with you? A.—No; he boards elsewhere.

Q.—And you pay for his board? A.—Yes.

Q.—For how long are they apprenticed to you? A.—For three years.

Q.—What wages, as a journeyman, can an apprentice earn after having served three years? A.—It is hard to say. So much depends on the man's ability and intelligence; they earn from \$4 up to \$7 or more.

Q.—Have you ever had any trouble with your men, such as strikes? A.—No; I have nothing to complain of in that way.

Q.—Have you any objection to employing men who belong to a working union? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Be good enough to tell us why? A.—Because I like to be my own master. I do not like to be dictated to by others.

Q.—Have you ever had any trouble with your workmen in that respect? Have any of them ever tried to lay down conditions to you? A.—Not exactly, not quite that. I heard that some of my men wanted to join the Knights of Labor, and I told them: "If you want to join the Knights of Labour, I give you notice to leave here, I don't want you."

Q.—But they never said anything to you, never demanded anything from you, nor threatened you in any way? A.—No, sir.

Q.—It was only a supposition on your part. You only thought they wanted to belong to the Knights of Labour? A.—Some among them had told me they wanted to belong to them.

Q.—And then you told them that if they belonged? A.—(Interrupting) I told them if they wanted to belong to the Knights of Labour, to leave the shop, for I would not have Knights of Labour in my shop.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you not think if a man gives a full day's work, he has a right to belong to any society he chooses? A.—If the society is approved of by our Ecclesiastical superiors, I am ready to acknowledge it.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of men belonging to a working union having ever wished to dictate to their masters? A.—I saw it in the papers, that is about all.

Q.—Do you not think that a man has a right to fix the amount of his salary, the price of his own labour? A.—Yes; if he works by the piece, not if he works by the day.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—But supposing a man works for a dollar to-day, has he not the right to ask for a dollar and a half to-morrow? A.—No, sir; I don't say that. I don't say that if he earns one dollar to-day, that he has no right to ask for one dollar and a half to-morrow. I had not understood the question.

Q.—You are asked if a man has the right to fix the price of his own work? A.—Certainly he has.

(Translation).

LOUIS EDMOND PANNETON, advocate and Mayor of Sherbrooke, sworn :—

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Has it ever come to your knowledge, in your capacity of advocate of Sherbrooke, that a large number of workmen, either in the city or beyond it, have lost their wages, have not been paid? A.—There were a certain number in connection with a particular contractor.

Q.—What was the nature of his business? A.—It was the construction of a railway. The sub-contractors did not always pay the men and caused a considerable loss to the poor workmen who had worked quite a long time for them.

Q.—Did this happen also to those who are called "shanty men"? A.—Yes.

Q.—These men go to work for three or four months of the year, and leave their families here? A.—There are few of these men here in Sherbrooke, but from the environs there are quite a number.

Q.—When these men lose their wages, they lose the wages of the season, do they not? A.—They generally lose that part of their wages that they receive in money, but they are usually boarded at the place where they work by the contractors, the wood merchants.

Q.—From the number of cases that have come to your knowledge, can you tell us what amount of wages, on an average, is lost by these workmen? A.—It is difficult to answer this question. There are times when fifteen to twenty persons have come to the office, asking us to take proceedings against the railways, against the principal contractors to secure their wages.

Q.—Do you know how much these men have lost? A.—Some have lost \$15, \$20, \$40, \$50, \$60 by these railways. And with the contractors in the wood business, some have lost \$30, \$100, \$150, even as high as \$200.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Could you suggest to this Commission a means of some sort to protect these workmen? Is it a privilege on the wood that is wanted? A.—There is already a statute on this subject, that does not seem to have been put into force, which provides that every Friday or Saturday, the workman or labourer, by a single notice to the principal contractor, can force him to retain in his hands the money due to

the sub-contractor. But this only secures payment in the event of there being money in the hands of the principal contractor; if there is none, which happens in the majority of cases, the notice is useless.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—But the men who work in the woods could not possibly send a notice to their employers? A.—Not easily as they are generally too far away. I have already stated that this notice is not much in use.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—But what about a privilege on the wood? A.—A privilege on the wood already exists, but the law is defective; that is to say, that the privilege can only be exercised if the wood be in the hands of the contractor. If, at the expiration of a week or fifteen days, the wood is stamped, it passes to the person so stamping it, the person who had the wood cut, and the workmen lose their privilege.

Q.—But if the privilege could be exercised against all persons, the end would be accomplished? A.—Yes, a privilege against all persons would meet the difficulty. Besides as to the payment, I think the workmen should be paid every week, even those who work on railways or in the woods, and it should even be declared that any contract changing this mode of payment should have no effect, though in certain cases this might be somewhat arbitrary.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Could you tell us, in your capacity of advocate, if there are many workmen sued for small debts due to merchants? A.—There have not been many sued for the last five or six years. Such actions have considerably diminished. Merchants in general, have either become more careful, or they prefer to lose their claims than sue these poor people; collections are few.

Q.—Can you tell us if it is customary here, to pay the petit jury when they are called upon to serve? A.—I cannot say positively. I thought that they were paid, but as I asked a person, who informed me that those from the city were not; the information was not, however, from an authorized source.

Q.—Do you not think that a man should be paid for his time particularly when he is serving his country as a jurymen? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—By which, do the men lose most wages, by the contractors or sub-contractors? A.—Generally by the sub-contractors.

Q.—Is the Corporation work done by contract or under the immediate supervision of the Council? A.—It depends upon the work. Some work is done by the day, the road work for instance

Q.—And the drains? A.—We have no drains in Sherbrooke, we have no system of drainage, excepting a few short drains in the streets of the city, but which do not connect with the drains of the individuals residing outside the city.

Q.—Does the Corporation make sewers in the streets? A.—There are only three or four sewers. There is one near the Eastern Townships Bank, and another in Wellington Street.

Q.—Are there many applications for assistance at the Mayor's office? A.—I only became Mayor on the 18th of January last. I do not think there have been more than three or four applications for assistance from the people of Sherbrooke. Sometimes, however, people come from elsewhere, I cannot say where, to the Mayor's office asking for work or assistance, but they are few in number. There were only two or three cases of strangers coming in this way.

Q.—Are the sidewalks and crossing made by contract or by the day? A.—They are made by day labor.

Q.—Are the Corporation employees for this sort of work paid by the week ?
A.—I think so; such is my impression.

Q.—How much do they get a day ? A.—I think they get a dollar a day, or something like that. It is a matter that belongs to the Road Department, and I was never connected with that department.

Q.—Has it ever happened in the Road Department that the appropriations were insufficient, or that the men were not paid ? A.—No; it never happened.

Q.—Have the the applications for assistance decreased ? A.—I cannot say; I have only held the office of Mayor since last January.

Q.—But outside of your position as Mayor, do you know ? A.—I do not think there is much difference; it is about the same thing.

Q.—Who are they that make these applications ? Are they persons from the place or emigrants ? A.—There was an application from a widow, another from a family, where the husband had been ill all winter, and the wife was unable to support the family, as she had a large number of children. These are the only cases that I remember at present.

Q.—Can you give us the amount of taxes how much in the dollar ? A.—There are thirteen thousand dollars for municipal purposes, and four thousand for scholastic; making in all seventeen thousand.

By Mr. HELBRONNER —

Q.—Is your water supply owned by private companies ? A.—Yes; by private companies.

Q.—And any who wish it can take water ? A.—Yes; it not obligatory.

Q.—The water tax for a house, if I mistake not, is \$12 ? A.—Yes; for one tap; for a second it is \$8.

Q.—Do you not think that if the water tax was lower the workmen would be induced to take it into their houses ? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—From a sanitary point of view, do you not think it necessary ? A.—Very desirable.

ANDREW PATON, Woolen Manufacturer, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How many hands do you employ ? A.—I think nearly five hundred and fifty, somewhere near that.

Q.—How many men, women and children do you employ on the whole—altogether ? A.—Somewhere near five hundred and fifty, but I do not know how many of each.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You cannot say how many ? A.—No. Some of my people can tell.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—If we summoned Mr. Hargraves would he be able to give us that information ? A.—Yes. No. You had better summon Mr. Thomson. Mr. Thomson has the special business of paying the men and making up the pay sheets—John Thomson is his name.

Q.—Do you employ your hands directly or do you employ sub-contractors ? A.—Well. There is only one department I think where there is any sub-contracting; except in the spinning room, I think we pay them all directly—we pay them all directly, but the spinners engage their help that is all.

Q.—Do you stipulate yourselves the wages of the hands for the sub-contractors,

or do they fix those wages themselves? A.—No. Sub-contractors fix them. The way is this, to explain thoroughly:—there are several men in the spinning room who get so much per one hundred run, piece work, and they pay their own help. There are only four or five in the spinning room.

Q.—Can you tell us the age of the youngest child in your factory? A.—No. I cannot do that.

Q.—About? A.—I think about thirteen is the youngest, as to that I am not quite certain. I have not been enquiring of late, but we take as few young people as we possible can.

Q.—Is that a boy or a girl that is aged thirteen? A.—Both.

Q.—When they begin their work on first entering the factory, do you ask how old they are—do you ask their age? A.—We instruct the Superintendent to make enquiries about that, and to take no children or young people on that are in a delicate health, or that are not likely to stand the work. We have not very many of that kind and those that are young have very light work to do.

Q.—Do you impose any fines upon your employees? A.—In one department. Yes; in one department only. In the weaving department.

Q.—If the fine imposed is an unjust fine, can the party appeal to the head of the factory? A.—Oh, yes; we do not allow any fines to be imposed that are considered unjust. My instructions are to all to be as lenient to the young as we possibly can. We impose no fines except for bad work in the weaving department. You will be able to examine some of our men who exact the fines, and they will be able to tell you all about it.

Q.—Could Mr. Thomas give a statement of the fines imposed last year? A.—Yes; I think he can.

Q.—The amount? A.—Yes.

Q.—When you work full time, what are the hours? A.—We work sixty hours a week. That is, ten hours a day. That is considered full time.

Q.—Do you make some overtime at night? A.—Well, in some departments. Not much of late—very little.

Q.—When you work at night, are the young children kept at work at the factory? A.—No; they are not. Any overtime that has been made for many years is in the carding or finishing room. And there are no young girls engaged in it.

Q.—Have you any separate water closets for the women and girls? A.—Yes. I would not think of anything else.

Q.—Is your factory visited by the sanitary inspector of the city? A.—I do not know of any official inspection that the mill has had.

Q.—Has the health officer visited the mill? A.—I do not know of the mill having been inspected by any official inspector.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Can you speak with reference to your business from a practical point of view? Have you a practical knowledge of the business? A.—Yes.

Q.—The only sub-contracting that is allowed in your mill is done in the spinning room? A.—That is all.

Q.—How many women have you got in the spinning room? A.—Well, I fancy in the weaving room there are from one hundred to one hundred and twenty—probably more.

Q.—Of women? A.—Of that number—all women.

Q.—What would a woman earn that runs three looms, as compared with the one who runs one loom? A.—The same as in a cotton mill.

Q.—What would a woman earn who runs more than one loom? A.—According to what she makes.

Q.—What would a woman earn who runs one loom? A.—We have some who earn one dollar a day and some who earn fifty cents a day. It is according to the work they do and according to their experience in the business.

Q.—How long would a woman be at the weaving business before she would earn fifty cents a day? A.—She would be there some little time.

Q.—Would she be at it a month or more? A.—She might.

Q.—You say fines are imposed for bad work. Is it always the fault of the weaver that bad work is done? A.—I think so. We have very few fines, and it is only in the weaving room that any fines are imposed at all, and that is from carelessness that they make bad work, and I think that some weavers, in fact a great majority of them, are not fined all—that is from one year's end to the other the great majority are not fined at all. If a warp happens to be bad and they make any complaint they not only are not fined but they are paid for their work.

Q.—Do you impose any fines for coming in late? A.—I do not have any rule exacted without good cause. I do not think there has ever been a fine exacted for that.

Q.—Supposing a young woman is ten or fifteen minutes late is the door locked and has she to go home? A.—Oh, no.

Q.—The door is not locked? A.—No.

Q.—Do you pay them anything for overtime? A.—Of course; any overwork that is done in the place is done in the carding room. If they work overtime they are paid overtime.

Q.—Is your extra rate, or your rate for overtime, the same as for day work? A.—I am not sure of that. You can get that from others.

Q.—How high is your factory? A.—One of the buildings, I may say, is four stories above the basement.

Q.—Are there any fire escapes? A.—We have two staircases, and we naturally suppose that if one was on fire the employees would be able to escape by the other. The building is constructed in the form of an "L" and in front of each building there is a staircase, so that there is a door leading out of one into the other, that is equal to a fire escape. Of course we do not suppose that a fire will take place in each end of the building at the same time. There are two staircases.

Q.—How wide is the staircase? A.—I think the staircase would be about four feet wide, I should think so, as far as I can recollect.

Q.—Is it one straight stairway or is it a winding stairway? A.—There are platforms and landings.

Q.—Do the doors open outwards or inwards? A.—The doors open outwards, all the main doors.

Q.—Have you got a list of rules put up in the different rooms? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are these fines named in connection with these rules, and are the operatives at the option of the foreman or manager? A.—Well, we had rules posted up and they all distinctly understood these rules. We do not impose the fines, but it is with a view to prevent any injury to the machinery or any neglect of duty, these are the rules.

Q.—How often do you pay your hands? A.—Every two weeks.

Q.—In cash? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are any wages held back? A.—About eleven days. We count up to the Saturday night and we pay on the Friday, so that I may say we keep back about eleven days, nothing more than that.

Q.—If any persons are discharged are they paid up to the moment they are discharged, or have they got to wait until pay day? A.—As a rule they are paid when discharged.

Q.—Supposing they leave without notice, what is the consequence, is this eleven day's pay held back? A.—If they leave in some of the departments they have got to give notice; that is why it is held back.

Q.—How long a notice do you require? A.—Two weeks.

Q.—Supposing a person is discharged, is he given two weeks notice? A.—If he is discharged through no fault of his own he would receive the notice, but if he was discharged for any gross neglect to duty or for immorality, or for anything of a

criminal nature, such as would bring him into Court he would be discharged instantly.

Q.—Supposing there was a break in the work—in the machinery—have the operatives got to make up any overtime? A.—They might have to.

Q.—If they did do it, would they remain idle in the time of the firm? A.—If they were on piece work, it would be at their own loss, but under certain circumstances they have got to lose a certain amount of time in order to fix up things.

Q.—Yes, but it would be no fault of their own in the case of a breakage? A.—Yes; but I do not think that such a thing has occurred, such as a breakdown in the carding room.

Q.—What does a first-class carder get? A.—I do not think you put that question as a person understanding the nature of carding. Our head carder gets one hundred dollars a month, another under him gets three and a half dollars a day, and under these are people who get from two dollars a day downwards. Women get from three and a half to four dollars a week, but you will get all these facts more accurately from the wages report.

Q.—Are you positive in saying that the parties, working under sub-contract, get their wages? A.—Oh, yes.

Q.—Are you positive in saying that the parties, who work under these sub-contracts, get their money? A.—Yes; and if there was any trouble at all, as far as I am concerned, if they complained about their wages, we would look into it. We are responsible to nobody working in the mill, under sub-contract, but we see that they get their wages. It is a mere matter of convenience, not that we get them any cheaper, but these men, four or five have, probably, under them, eight or ten "subs," and they get so much for doing the work, and they pay the small help that they get.

Q.—Would it not be best for the firm to do away with the middle man business, and pay all the employees direct themselves? A.—Well, I do not think it would make much difference.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you consider them as middle men? A.—No.

Q.—Not like the contractor on a railway? A.—No; they are employees, and I consider them thoroughly responsible and respectable men, and I would not allow any other to fill the position at all.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you heard any remarks made, or wishes expressed, by any one of the hands, to be paid more often than once a fortnight? A.—No; that has always been the custom for twenty-two years.

Q.—Are there separate entrances to these water closets? A.—Yes; that is a thing I am very particular about. I should think it disgraceful to have the same water closets for both sexes.

Q.—Do the males, and females, stop working in the factory at the same hour? A.—Yes; at the same hour.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Are the water closets, for men and women, in different parts of the building? A.—No, but they are entirely separate.

Q.—Are they together? A.—They are together, with a partition entirely up.

Q.—How far does this partition run from the entrance of the water closets? A.—Not very far; but there are doors on the whole thing.

Q.—Can you tell what amount was paid in fines, last year? A.—Yes; I will get our pay clerk to give you that. If you want him to-morrow, I will tell him this afternoon to have them prepared.

Q.—Thank you. Do you know if all the children have read the rules posted up

in the factory? A.—Well, I do not know that all of them can read; but they are put up, and in our weaving room they sign a contract which is put up there, and we never had the slightest trouble about it after they understood it. We had some trouble; but I got the Rev. Mr. Dufresne, the Parish Priest, to go around with me and explain the thing to them. Since then, we have had no trouble whatever.

Q.—Where do you find a market for your goods? A.—All over Canada.

Q.—The question that I am about to put to you, you need not answer unless you like. It is this: Are you a member of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association?

A.—I think we pay the annual subscription, but we never attended a meeting.

Q.—Have you any objections to tell us the aims and objects of that Association?

A.—I would not have any objection, if I knew.

Q.—You pay the subscription, but do not know the aims and objects of the Association? A.—Well; I suppose it is to discuss trade questions.

By MR. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—And to keep up prices? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—If so, it is very much like Labor Organizations, which are formed to keep up the prices of labor? A.—Well; it has never been in the woollen line, but we would keep up prices if we could.

By MR. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—That is to say, supposing you could make arrangements to sell at certain prices? A.—Yes; but we could not do it because different things are different prices—ours are fancy goods. It may be done in other lines of staple articles; but it could not be done in ours.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you think there should be combinations of any kind? A.—No; I think it is a mistake. I may tell you I do not think that cotton manufacturers tried to make any such arrangements with woollen manufacturers. I think they have tried to come to an arrangement about tariff questions, but nothing with regard to anything else.

By MR. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You say your employees sign a document? A.—Yes; I will send you one to-morrow. They sign an agreement to serve us for a certain length of time. We found that the law of Quebec did not bear us out in applying rules generally, so as to put them in force, so we obtained the services of a lawyer, so as to retain anyone's wages that did not give notice, and to do this, it was necessary to have a contract, and we got them to sign a contract.

Q.—Do you mean to say that was in connection with the labor troubles? A.—No; I never had any trouble with my employees. It was only a mistake on their part. Some did not understand the form of the contract, and thought they were asked to sign it in order that we might take some advantage away from them. The Rev. Mr. Dufresne, the Parish Priest, explained the terms to them in French, and it was entirely to their satisfaction. Most of these people are his parishioners, and we always find him very good in explaining any question to them. After his explanation no one demurred to it. If any of them have anything that they wished explained they go up and show it to him, and he explains it satisfactorily to them.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You feel that you have confidence in him, and you know that your em-

ployees also have confidence in him? A.—Yes; and I never had trouble since; the only trouble was among the French—they did not understand.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Are all your employees natives of Canada? A.—No; the great bulk of them are. I should say three-fourths of them are French Canadians.

Q.—Have you any persons in your employ who were engaged in the old country? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you make the contract there? A.—No.

Q.—Did you engage them there? A.—No; we have never engaged them there. We do not change our hands. The fact is most of our hands have been with us a long time. The heads of departments have also been with us a long time—twelve or fourteen years.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Are many of these old country people? A.—A fair proportion.

Q.—Are there many that came direct from the old country? A.—We have quiet a number.

Q.—Have they improved their position since they come to Canada? A.—I think so. I think here they work shorter hours.

Q.—Speaking of farmers; are there many farmers that came out from the old country? A.—I am not acquainted with the farming population sufficiently to answer that question. As a general rule, part of our people are from the old country.

Q.—They support themselves without any charge or burden to the rest of the community? A.—I think so. I think very few old country people are subjects of charity. With regard to the condition of the farmers, I may say the rigs of those we used to see at the market were in a very dilapidated state; they had harness tied up with strings and ropes; now they come into town decently, with better harness and with better looking traps. They seem to be in a much better condition, on the whole, than they were twenty years ago. I may say the amount we have paid in wages alone lately has been one hundred and fifty thousand dollars a year. This year we have paid one hundred and forty thousand dollars alone in wages.

Q.—Have wages increased during the last five years? A.—Very much so.

Q.—Are there a great many old country emigrants, skilled labourers? A.—Yes; and skilled labour has increased very much—thirty per cent and over.

Q.—Do any of them save money? A.—Yes; I could tell you of one man who could retire to-day, that came here without a cent.

Q.—What position does he occupy in the factory? A.—He is boss spinner; he got two dollars a day, and, for a long time, he has been receiving one hundred dollars a month, in rents, from his properties; but he saved, he did not drink, he has been careful, and has got quite a number of houses. I think, this last year, he could sit down, free of any labour, and his income would be over two dollars a day.

Q.—Do you know many of the working people, that is to say, do you know how they live outside the factory; for instance, how much would they pay for five rooms—a man and his family,—and the ordinary conveniences? A.—I cannot tell you that.

Q.—Have you any trouble in getting skilled labour? A.—Yes; skilled labour is very difficult to get; they go to the United States. When we get good men, we try to keep them, and we do not change much. We make our people as comfortable as we know how, and there is not much changing in our factory.

Q.—I suppose your employees go into the factory as apprentices? A.—Yes; we have got a boy with us, to-day, who is getting three dollars and fifty cents a day.

Q.—And it is your belief, that any boy, who is sober, can get in Sherbrooke, a chance of making a living? A.—I think so, as good as anywhere else.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—The great consideration, I suppose, is being sober and steady? A.—Yes.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Could you tell us, if the raw material, used by you, is the raw material of the country parts? A.—We buy largely from the Eastern townships, and all around, and we use a great deal of foreign wool. We have some coming in from Australia, to-day, and on the water, one hundred thousand dollars worth of wool.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—That is a class of wool that cannot be obtained in this country? A.—Yes; it is finer wool than can be produced in Canada.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Can you tell us, if the manufacture of Canadian wool, is increasing or decreasing? A.—We buy in the Eastern Townships, and I think very much the same quantity that we bought twenty odd years ago.

Q.—You do not know whether the use of it is increasing or decreasing? A.—I do not think it is increasing.

Q.—Do you suppose in order to improve your business more that it would be an advantage to raise a finer grade of wool, such as southdown, and a mixture of Canadian and Merino? A.—Oh, a great deal, the Canadian wool suits well for certain purposes.

Q.—You think the farmers could grow a suitable wool for your purposes? A.—I do not think they could grow so fine a wool, but I think they could improve the wool.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you import any wool from the United States? A.—Not much. The only thing that we import is material for making coarse cloth.

Q.—You do not import as much as formerly from the United States? A.—No, we get wool that is landed in Boston and then comes through in bond; we get hardly anything from the States—we get some dye and some cotton warp.

Q.—Have you got an engineer in the factory? A.—Yes; he was brought up with ourselves.

Q.—Has he served his time as an engineer? Has he got a certificate as an engineer? A.—I understand not—that is, we had an engineer in charge and he is now in charge of the water works. We had a young man who came in under him and this young man that came in under him has been with us for twelve years—he took his place.

Q.—Have you had any accidents? A.—We have had no boiler accidents. We have had people who got hurt in the machinery, who got their hands hurt.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Is your machinery manufactured in this country or is it imported? A.—When we were filling up our factory with machinery there was very little made in this country. We got some cards made at Galt and all our repairs are done here. When we were fitting up our mill with machinery it could not be got here.

Q.—And what you got made here do you find it as well made as that which was imported? A.—Very nearly.

Q.—And you say that all your repairs you get done here? A.—Yes. In fact we keep a large machine shop and all the repairs are done here.

Q.—Is your belting of Canadian manufacture? A.—Yes.

WALTER BLUE, Sherbrooke, dry goods merchant, sworn :—

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—You are a merchant tailor, a manufacturer of clothing. A.—Yes.

Q.—The greater part of your employees work outside? A.—Yes. They work directly for me. I am responsible of their wages.

Q.—What would be the wages that a good male tailor would receive a week? A.—Well. Of course, in the manufacture of clothing, the work is mostly done by women, but any shop that carries on a custom trade, employs good tailors, who earn from ten to twelve dollars a week; some of the first-class hands earn as high as ten or twelve dollars a week in the busy season.

Q.—Do they work by the day? A.—The greater part of my hands do.

Q.—How many weeks in a year would a tailor earn in your shop ten or twelve dollars a week? A.—Not over six months.

Q.—What would the women earn in the custom department? A.—They are paid by the week, some of them earn 60 cents a day, and some of them earn a great deal more.

Q.—How many hours a day do they work? A.—They commence about half-past eight in the morning and leave about five in the evening.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—What do your best female hands earn? A.—Seventy-five cents to a dollar a day.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do the women get as much for a vest as they get for a pair of pants? A.—I think the pant hands get a little more, about five cents, I think.

Q.—Can women, as a rule, make pants as well as men? A.—No. A woman cannot make as good a job as a man, anyway, not in this part of the country.

Q.—On ready-made work, outside, how much do women earn, say on making pants, outside? A.—That is a very difficult question to answer, because they get part of the work done by other people, they may have two or three daughters at home to assist. Again, some are made by women in their spare time. They perform their domestic duties and afterwards go on with this work. Two dollars a week is, I think, as high as they get, perhaps a family where there are three or four girls, they make more.

Q.—Is this work examined when it comes into the shop? A.—Yes; it is all examined.

Q.—I suppose if it does not pass the examiner it is sent back to be changed, and if they spoil a garment you would make them pay for it? A.—The work is examined and if it is not made properly, that is if the garment is spoilt, it has to be made over again. The man who does the pressing examines it.

Q.—If a garment is spoilt what do you do—do you charge them with the garment? A.—If they spoil the work we do not employ them again.

Q.—Do men and women work in the same rooms? A.—The accommodation is separate for men and women. It is not so convenient as I would like it to be. I own the store.

Q.—Are there separate conveniences for men and women? A.—There is a closet to which the girls have to go and the men have to go, but they do not go at the same time.

Q.—Is that water closet kept clean? A.—Yes; I see that it is kept clean and respectable.

Q.—How is the ventilation in the shop? A.—It is good ventilation; it is a large room at the top of my store, and there is a skylight on top.

Q.—Is there a stove kept burning in the summer time for the purpose of heat-

ing irons for pressing the clothes? A.—I use a small French press, the heat is not furnished with a heating stove.

Q.—Is that not in the room where the women work? A.—Well, it is a large room sixty-five feet by forty.

Q.—And you put them in that room? A.—Yes.

Q.—Still the heat could be felt in July? A.—To a very slight extent.

Q.—Have you heard them complain of the heat? A.—Almost everybody complains of the heat in July.

Q.—Can you let down the windows? A.—Yes; and they can lift the windows from the sills and there are large ventilators at the top.

Q.—How often are your ready made hands paid? A.—Every Friday. They bring in the work every day and mark it in the book, every job, and every Friday morning they are paid.

Q.—Are they paid in cash and in full? A.—Yes; they are paid all cash.

Q.—And the custom hands, when are they paid? A.—They are paid on Saturday afternoon.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you know of any truck system being practised in this town? A.—I do not know of any. I do not think so.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—If a garment is spoilt do you charge the employee for it? A.—Yes.

Q.—And does the employee have the privilege of keeping the garment? A.—Oh, yes. I do not charge for the garment and keep it too. Often when we give an employee a job it has got to be of a particular shape and we are obliged to have it properly done. In such a case we would probably have to rip a seam and ask them to do it over again.

HARRY HOPKINS, Sherbrooke, Brewer, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You are a brewer? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you do your own malting? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many malsters do you employ? A.—Three.

Q.—What wages do you pay? A.—Eight dollars a week.

Q.—Do you do your malting in winter? A.—Oh, yes, not in summer.

Q.—How many months in the year do you employ those malsters? A.—From September till May.

Q.—Do you employ them about the premises, in any other business, after the malting season is closed? A.—Yes; after the season is over.

Q.—What do the cellar men get? A.—Eight dollars a week.

Q.—Are they employed all the year round? A.—Yes, all the year round.

Q.—Has the Scott Act had any affect in your output? A.—Not yet.

Q.—Is it Canadian malt that you use? A.—It is upper Canada malt, principally.

Q.—You do your own malting? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you use Canadian hops? A.—Some foreign, and some Upper Canadian.

Q.—Do you get any English, or Bavarian hops? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think the use of Canadian hops is on the increase? A.—I should not think so; they are on the decrease, I fancy. I think we get hops from Germany, as the price is so low they will beat the Canadian hops out of the market, and besides we can use them to more advantage.

Q.—I think the price of hops depends on the crops? A.—Yes; it depends very much upon the season.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do you make any porter? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you tell us, if porter is generally made from pure malt and hops, or if, on the contrary, it is made from old beer, which has been brought back to the brewery, and which you make porter with? A.—Well, that is a question I could not answer. I make it from grain, but I fancy there are some who make it from the old stuff, the old thing.

Q.—Do you think all the porter, that is consumed in a town, could be made from old beer, that is rejected by the customers, and is brought back into the brewery—returned? A.—I speak for myself, I make the pure beer.

Q.—Do you think there are some men who make their porter out of the beer that is returned to the brewery? A.—That is a thing that I could not say. That is a trick of the trade.

Q.—Where do you find your sales for your beer? A.—All through the Eastern Townships. All over this section of the country.

Q.—Do you not go to Upper Canada? A.—No; it is too far away.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do any Ontario ales come down here? A.—A few; in the summer—the surplus stock at the end of the season.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is it as good as the home manufacture? A.—I say “no,” but they say “yes.”

ALEXANDER G. LOMAS, Sherbrooke, Manufacturer of Flannels and Dress goods,
sworn :

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are you the proprietor of any mill? A.—Yes. At least I am one of the proprietors. I am the senior member of the firm of Alexander G. Lomas & Sons.

Q.—Is there much demand for high class flannels in the Dominion of Canada? A.—There is at a very low price.

Q.—What would a weaver of high class flannel earn in a week? A.—We have them earning from three and a half, to five dollars a week.

Q.—Five dollars is the highest? A.—No. Sometimes they go higher, but I give you the average.

Q.—The employees that you call weavers, would these be young people? A.—Oh, no. Well they would be from eighteen years of age upwards—*young women.*

Q.—What time do they commence to work in the morning? A.—Half past six.

Q.—And when do they leave? A.—At six.

Q.—They work ten hours a day? A.—Yes. Sixty hours a week.

Q.—Do you allow a full hour for dinner? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do many of them go home to lunch or do they eat their lunch on the premises? A.—The majority go home, some of them eat their dinner in the factory.

Q.—Is the machinery stopped during working hours? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there a “winding room” in the factory? A.—I do not understand you. That has more reference to cotton.

Q.—Well, sometimes they are called “winding looms”. In the spinning room what would a good spinner earn? A.—Well they are mostly all boys and girls from thirteen years of age upwards.

Q.—What would a good hand earn? A.—I think from two and a half dollars to three dollars a week.

- Q.—How often are they paid? A.—Every two weeks.
- Q.—Are any fines imposed? A.—Fines are imposed for bad work.
- Q.—When the bad work is not the fault of the spinner or the weaver, can it be detected where the fault lies? A.—Yes; we can always trace up where the fault is.
- Q.—Are fines only imposed for bad work? A.—Only for bad work, and damage to property.
- Q.—What is done when the employees come late in the morning, do you do anything, do you allow them to go in? A.—Yes, of course; but if they do it repeatedly we discharge them.
- Q.—Are there separate conveniences for men and women? A.—Yes; two for the women and two for the men, but I won't say positively that they use them in that way. We have four water-closets, one in each story, in the lower room (the first story) is for men, of course; in the second story is for women; in the third story it is for men, and in the fourth story it is for women.
- Q.—Still there are men and women working in each flat? A.—Yes.
- Q.—The water-closets are placed in separate rooms? A.—Yes.
- Q.—How old might the youngest girl be? A.—I made enquiries from all the foremen before I came here, and I learned that the youngest employee was thirteen years and six months, and that is a boy. Fifteen is the age of the youngest girl.
- Q.—Do you know if these young children can read and write? A.—I am afraid the majority of them cannot. Of course I do not know personally.

ROBERT DAVIDSON, Sherbrooke, Chief of the Sherbrooke Fire and Police Departments, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q.—How long have you been Chief of the Police and Fire Departments? A.—Since eighteen hundred and eighty-two.
- Q.—Do you know, or have you given any study to the sanitary condition of the factories in Sherbrooke and the dwelling houses? A.—Yes, somewhat.
- Q.—Would you give us your experience of the city in general? We will take the dwelling houses first? A.—They are in a fair sanitary condition. Some are scrupulously so, others are not, but generally they are in a fair sanitary condition.
- Q.—How is the sanitary condition of the houses of that class known as mechanics and the skilled labour classes? A.—At present they are not satisfactory. Of course, this is a bad season of the year, but that department being immediately under my own supervision, I am quite conversant with it, and the city generally. We have a system whereby we remove all night soil and other offensive matter and manufacture it into a fertilizer. We have the necessary machinery, etcetra, for that purpose. We have what we call fertilizing pits. I mix the night soil with black muck, that absorbs all the matter, and makes a very good fertilizer, and that fertilizer is sold.
- Q.—Does the sale of that pay for the cleaning of the privies? A.—Not yet; but we expect in a few years that it will be self-sustaining.
- Q.—How many water closets or privies in Sherbrooke are open pits? A.—Mostly all.
- Q.—In these tenement houses where there are more than one family residing, how many water closets on the average would there be in them? A.—They generally have one for each family in a tenement house.
- Q.—How often are the water closets or privies cleaned in a year? A.—They are all cleaned generally once, and a large number of them a second time during the year.

Q.—Is there a body of men set apart for doing that work? A.—Yes; regular scavengers.

Q.—Under the auspices of the corporation? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition, as a whole, of the factories in the city? A.—Very good.

Q.—Could you classify the kind of factories as you go on? A.—I may say that all are in a very good condition. I have just finished an inspection of the whole of them and I find they are in a very good condition.

Q.—Do you find, generally, that there are separate conveniences for the sexes? A.—In most of them there are. In some there are not.

Q.—How many factories are there in the town of Sherbrooke that would not have separate conveniences for the sexes? A.—They can be separated, of course. I have no personal knowledge. They can be separated, provided the instructions of the employers are given and carried out. They could be marked "male" and "female" on the door of each, or "gentlemen" or "ladies," whichever you please—anything of that kind. I think that is necessary.

Q.—And you also think it necessary to have a division board pass out in front of the doors? A.—Yes; I think some distinction should be made.

Q.—In the majority of factories how do you find the ventilation? A.—In some it is not very good. Not as well as it ought to be. I have made some recommendations during the last couple of months in looking matters over, and I think the most of them have been complied with, and if so, things are in a much better condition.

Q.—Do you know if the air space where the operatives work is sufficient in factories? A.—Yes; I think there is sufficient air space.

Q.—Is there a cigar factory in Sherbrooke? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of that factory, and its condition as to ventilation? A.—That is the only thing I was going to object to—is the air space, that is in one room where I thought there were more hands than there was air space for, in that factory. The ceiling was too low.

Q.—How many hands work in that factory? A.—Forty-five, more or less.

Q.—Do you know the dimensions of the room? A.—I have not got it here—I have got it in my office. One room is too small for the number in it. The factory contains three rooms.

Q.—How is the sanitary condition of that factory? A.—Very good at present.

Q.—What is the condition of the working classes generally,—has their condition improved during the last five years, or since you came into office? A.—Yes; I consider their position is much better.

Q.—Have you got any further information that you think would be of benefit to this Commission? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Is your Fire Brigade a volunteer Fire Brigade, or is it paid by the city? A.—It is part of both, it has a call force of fifteen and a permanent force of thirteen—the Fire and Police Force are together—one.

Q.—What is the condition of the fire halls, do the men sleep in them at night? A.—There is only one fire hall and seven men sleep there at night. My own residence is in one end of the fire hall and seven men sleep there at night. The rest are married men and they sleep in the vicinity.

Q.—Are there many fire escapes attached to the public buildings and factories in Sherbrooke? A.—Not any.

Q.—What is your opinion on that point? A.—My opinion is that there should be more fire escapes or modes of egress from buildings than there are. The large woollen factory has two stairways which I consider sufficient. They are outside the main building in an outside tower. There is no cellar and no means of their catching fire from the immediate rooms which would always leave one stairway free from fire.

Q.—Have you noticed the way the doors are hung. Do they swing outwards? A.—Yes.

WILLIAM R. WEBSTER, Sherbrooke, a member of the firm of Messrs. Nutler and Webster, Cigar Manufacturer, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—How many persons do you employ in your factory? A.—I think we have about seventy now.

Q.—How many amongst them are children? A.—I cannot tell you exactly, we have got sixteen girls and some of them are small girls, and we have got perhaps fifteen or twenty boys—small boys—some are learning the trade and others work by the week.

Q.—How old are these young people—girls and boys? A.—I presume there are some there as young as thirteen, I am not always able to tell the ages. I usually ask their ages, but if they are of fair size, and are large enough we do not always ask their ages. Some I presume are as young as thirteen; others are fourteen and fifteen and so on.

Q.—Do you know what is the age fixed by law to employ children in the province of Quebec? A.—I do not know that I do.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you know that there is a law fixing the age and the hours of children working in factories? A.—I believe there is a law but I have never looked it up.

Q.—Perhaps it will be well for you to do so. A.—It can be enforced any day?

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—How many women and girls are there in your factory? A.—Well, we have got, perhaps, I should presume, sixteen or seventeen. I could not tell you exactly the number of men but they are somewhere in that neighbourhood.

Q.—Are the children working in the factory hired by contract? A.—Some of them are.

Q.—They are not all hired by contract? A.—Oh, no.

Q.—Is there an advantage—do those that are hired by contract learn their trade? A.—Of course if a boy applies himself to learn the trade we allow him to do so. We take him in for a couple of weeks and see if he is able to learn to make cigars, and after we see that he is likely to make a good apprentice, we have a written contract of apprenticeship for three years for him to learn the trade are in that his wages, stipulated to be one dollar a week for the first year; one dollar and fifty cents for the second year, two dollars a week for the third year, and we give him this privilege in fourteen or fifteen months—perhaps they do not usually do it in the trade—but we put them on piece work and give them an opportunity to learn more than if they were working by the week, and they generally do it, although some do not. We have boys at the present time that would be only entitled to one dollar and fifty cents a week and who receive one dollar and seventy-five cents a week, two dollars a week; two dollars and twenty-five cents a week; two dollars and fifty cents a week; two dollars and seventy-five cents a week, and some as high as three dollars a week. These are boys in their second year. I think they average about one dollar and ninety cents a week.

Q.—What is the average salary of the women? A.—It is not very high; we use this class to strip tobacco, they receive so much a pound: some one dollar, some one dollar and fifty cents, some one dollar and seventy-five cents, and some more.

Q.—How many hours work have they to do to make a dollar; have they got to do ten hours a day? A.—They have to work the regular hours.

Q.—What is the age of the women, earning one dollar a week? A.—Those are small girls, and after they have worked their time, they will earn more, and learn to strip more rapidly, and the more they strip, the more pay they get.

Q.—Are young women employed in any other business than stemming and

stripping? A.—Yes we have girls pasting labels on to our cigars and boxes; we have only two at present, sometimes we have four.

Q.—How much do they earn a week? A.—From one dollar to two dollars.

Q.—Are they paid by the piece? A.—No.

Q.—They are not? A.—No; we calculate it amounts to the same thing, but they are not counted as being on piece work.

Q.—How old is the child or woman, working on that work, who earns a dollar a week? A.—I should say, perhaps fourteen or fifteen, but that is only for the first week or two, until they get their hand in. We are always willing to give more as they improve in their work.

Q.—Since how long has this one girl been putting the labels on the cigars; how long has she been there? A.—They usually come in and go out as they please.

Q.—I mean this particular one, how long has she been there? A.—I do not know, perhaps four or five weeks, possibly. There is one that does better than another, and she gets one dollar and fifty cents a week.

Q.—Have you any women making cigars? A.—We have no women making cigars. We have two girls making bunches, but they are only at it a portion of the time. One did so until two weeks ago, but we will not have the men with the girls at all, because find that they lose time, and get laughing and talking with the men. We had orders for goods in a hurry, that we had to get out very rapidly, and so we put the girl in there, but it is not going to be permanent.

Q.—Have you any rules or regulations? A.—Yes; I have got copy of them. These rules are not carried out very strictly, and some of them are not carried out at all.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Will you please mention those that are not carried out? A.—Here is something here that is not always carried out. I do not impose any fines on employees that work by the week, nor are they fined if they are a little late. If they are ten or fifteen minutes late we never object to it any further than to tell them they must be earlier in future. Now, here is one thing that is to the effect that they are not to stop work during work hours. Of course, as you know, gentlemen, there can be a great deal of time lost by talking and fooling between the employees. When the bosses back is turned, and when you go to lay out your money in fitting up a factory and running a business, you can lose a great deal if you do not try and stop it to some extent. Then there is another rule that all employees be searched before leaving the factory; this is a rule that we carry out, or try to as well as we can, in order to prevent imposition. Boys will take tobacco out with them if they get it, and, of course, it is in our interest to prevent any loss of material. If any employees are found wasting tobacco or throwing it on the floor, where it is likely to be wasted, we have provided that they can be fined for each offence, but we have never fined any yet. We have scolded them frequently, but we have never fined any yet. There is another rule providing that no tobacco shall be left on the table at night, and that anybody infringing this rule shall be fined; this rule is carried out the same as the others, under the instructions of the foreman. Then there is another rule that no one is allowed to comb their hair in the factory. Of course, it is necessary that this rule shall be carried out. If a girl wishes to comb her hair she has plenty of opportunity to do it at home as much as she likes; but you can easily see, gentlemen, that it would be objectionable to allow this to be done in the factory. That rule is carried out. Then there is another rule, that no one is allowed to leave the department during working hours; we do not carry that out, but we have that rule standing in order to prevent them from frequently and unnecessarily leaving the factory.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you mean to say that you do not allow them to speak to each other in

the factory? A.—What I mean is this, gentleman: it is not any easy thing to run a factory where the employees are largely composed of young people, and you must have some system. Now, the moment your back is turned, it may be, three or four of the hands will jump up and commence to knock each other down, and have, what they consider, a good time. If this kind of thing is allowed the material is wasted, and the machinery or plant may be broken. If you were to step out for a few minutes and were to step in again, and find three or four of the leading spirits jumping up and laughing, etc., and encouraging the others to do the same, you would be ready to order them to leave the factory. The rule is there for the purpose of preserving order, and not with the view of being harsh to them. I have been in other factories of different kinds and I find that similar rules are enforced there; anyway, as you will have noticed in visiting other factories, it is all work and no play, no talking. They can talk as much as they like, and carry on as much as they like, when they leave the factory at twelve o'clock in the day and six o'clock at night.

Q.—Are these the rules of your factory? A.—These are the printed rules.

Q.—Have you some not printed? A.—Yes; I think we have some not printed. Of course the rules with regard to the apprentices are carried out, they are not in that list.

Q.—Do you know them? A.—Yes; when an apprentice is ready and disposed to go on to piecework, he is allowed so much stock with which to make one thousand cigars. If he wastes the stock he is fined, to cover the cost of that stock.

Q.—That is supposing he does not make the one thousand cigars? A.—Yes; and it is the same thing with the journeymen. If a journeyman uses more than the required amount of stock to make one thousand cigars he is fined for it as near as we can get at it.

Q.—The stock for which you fine an employee, is it in the wrapper? A.—The wrapper, and sometimes the binders. Of course we do not fine for fillers.

Q.—The wrappers are in bunches? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much does each package contain? A.—Well, for our five cent cigar we allow four ounces to the hundred. For our larger cigar we allow five ounces to the hundred.

Q.—What kind of tobacco are the wrappers made of? A.—It is called Sumatra leaves.

Q.—You do not count the wrappers, do you. You weigh them? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are all the leaves of the same size and weight? A.—They are not of the same size and weight.

Q.—When the leaf is heavy there are less leaves than when the leaf is lighter? A.—Yes, certainly.

Q.—When the leaves are heavy, that is when the leaves are less in number, do you make the apprentices pay for them if he cannot make them last out? A.—No. I will tell you, our Sumatra leaves are pretty much about the same size. There is not the difference in the size and weight of the Sumatra leaf that there is in the Havana; the size runs pretty much about the same thing. A certain quality of Sumatra leaf runs pretty much about the same size and weight, and we use these Sumatra leaves as covers for the five cent cigars; they run pretty much all the same all through.

Q.—But there is no certainty about it, and when it runs short the working man, and the apprentice has to pay for it? A.—Not at all. If, when they receive their package, they do not think it enough, it is examined, and if the thing is short it is put right. If a man or an apprentice says he does not think it enough to make his own hundred, we get the foreman to go through it, and if he says there is not enough, they are given the necessary quantity.

Q.—In this case, the working man is obliged to count the leaves? A.—No. He can tell if he can make his one hundred cigars from it; there is the package before him.

Q.—And the time that it takes him to count the packages, is it in his own time?
 A.—That would not take him long; he could almost tell in a moment if he has not enough. He acquires that knowledge by practice.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—May it not happen that he may not get the required quantity, and that he finds that when he has made a number of cigars, say he has only enough for eighty cigar wrappers? A.—He could tell that before he began; they generally look through their wrappers. If he says, "I have not got wrappers enough," it is looked into by the foreman. We don't want to persecute them; we want to give the boys enough, and we don't want them to waste the stock.

Q.—When only eighty cigars are made, do you make them pay for the twenty cigars less than the hundred? A.—If we find the wrappers are not sufficient, we give them enough to make them sufficient.

Q.—You say, in that case, that you make up the quantity necessary for the hundred cigars? A.—Yes. The thing might be overlooked, but on pay day, on the Saturday when the thing comes up, we give them enough to make their stock.

Q.—You admit that in some cases the quantity is not sufficient. You admit that it might average a few less? A.—Yes. But since it does happen, we are willing to remedy it. In fact, I have offered a prize to boys who would not get fined at all.

Q.—You impose a fine for nothing else but the wrappers? A.—Once in a while we do on binders.

Q.—What do you call the binder? A.—It is the tobacco that is given to fill in the shape. The wrapper is then put on the cigar. We offered a prize to the boys who would not get fined at all. We used to fine them, some five cents and some ten cents, but lately the foreman told me there was very few fines for binders.

Q.—You are sure you do not impose any fines for any other offence than those two—waste in using the wrappers and the binders? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You impose no fines for late hours—for coming in late? A.—No. But if a boy, working by the week, came in at nine o'clock instead of at seven, we would cut him down two hours, and we would perhaps fine him if it occurred three or four times. If a boy used profane language or injures the forms, he is fined—but that is something that occurs very rarely indeed—it seldom occurs.

Q.—Is it not a fact that in your factory some of the women whose salary was three dollars a week, have received only one dollar and fifty cents a week owing to the fines that are imposed? A.—Not that I know of.

Q.—The women do not get fined? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do the girls get fined? A.—No women get fined. But during the last two weeks we sent two girls away. But the boys who are grown up, and have their hands into the work, if they do not use the stock judiciously, they are fined. The women who are employed in stripping the tobacco—there is no fine for those.

Q.—You are sure that no fine is imposed on any girls or any females? A.—No.

Q.—Within a very short time? A.—No, there is not now.

Q.—But within a very short time? A.—Not that I am aware of. Of course I do not pay particular attention to the inside of the factory, but I am not aware of any.

Q.—I think you are the person who does the outside business of the factory?
 A.—I do.

Q.—Mr. Nutter, your partner, is generally occupied about the management of the business, inside? A.—No. I take a trip on the road sometimes for a week, and he is then there.

Q.—But surely you would know something about the paying part of the business. If an entry was made of fines in the books you would know it? A.—Yes. Sometimes he is away and then the book-keeper would attend to it.

Q.—Can Mr. Nutter submit an account of fines imposed last year? A.—I will ask him.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are all your girls searched on leaving the factory? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are the young girls searched? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever found any tobacco in their possession on leaving the factory? A.—We did.

Q.—What is the punishment? A.—Well, we concluded to discharge them. We had a boy in our employ, an apprentice and on coming down stairs he was searched and we found that he had some cigars in his stocking legs. We sent for a policeman to have him arrested; he was sent to the lock-up and we spoke to the Judge on his behalf, and he said this was his second offence, and I said as he seemed penitent, perhaps it would be better to keep him, and he said he had better call him up and let him go, and I said very well and we let him go.

Q.—The firm inflict no punishment by their own hands? A.—Not that I am aware of.

Q.—They do not take the matter into their own hands? A.—No.

Q.—Do you make any cigars by mould? A.—Yes.

Q.—You make cigars by mould? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there any women making cigars? A.—No. Men and boys make the cigars as I said before, except these two women.

Q.—How much does a journeyman make a week—how many cigars by the mould? A.—That depends upon how much they do.

Q.—What are the average wages of a man making cigars? A.—These men loaf one day in the week, sometimes half a day and sometimes two or three days.

Q.—Supposing a man was working sixty hours a week how much would he make? A.—Somewhere between five, eight, and nine dollars a week. It would depend a good deal upon the cigar he was working on, whether it was a ten cent cigar or a five cent cigar.

Q.—Are there many ten cent cigars made by shapes? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much money do they get for making a ten cent cigar by mould? A.—Not by mould, by shape—five dollars a thousand.

Q.—How much money does an ordinary man make per thousand? A.—Three dollars, three dollars and a quarter, to three dollars and seventy-five cents a thousand.

Q.—What is the highest price paid a man per thousand? A.—Nine dollars—eight dollars.

Q.—Are there many men employed in making cigars at nine dollars a thousand? A.—It is an exception with us.

Q.—Where do you find a market for your goods? A.—We find a market for our goods in the Province of Quebec. We ship a few to Ontario, and a few to the Northwest, and so forth.

Q.—Do boys, after serving their time, remain with you? A.—We have not had any boys serve their time with us. We have not been in the business more than three years, and we did not commence to take apprentices until a year ago.

Q.—Your apprentices are indentured? A.—Yes.

Q.—What ages do you take them on? A.—Thirteen, fourteen and fifteen. Some are sixteen, and so forth; but they do not always give their ages. I could not tell you the youngest boy in the factory, but we calculate to take them no younger than thirteen.

Q.—How many girls have been in the factory nine months that only earn a dollar a week? A.—Well, I do not think there are any; I do not think so.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Can all your employees read these rules that you have printed and posted up in your establishment? A.—I do not think so.

Q.—Are the rules read to them? A.—I do not think that they can read, many of them; but the foreman can point them out to them.

Q.—How do the boys and girls who cannot read the rules know there are such rules? A.—I presume there are some who cannot read and write; I do not know; and I presume that there are some who can read and write, and I think that the foreman can always point out the rules to them. We instruct him to do it, but whether he does so or not I cannot tell.

Q.—You said, a moment ago, that you give a bunch of tobacco to an apprentice, with which to wrap or gather so many cigars, and if they do not succeed in making the tobacco to cover the one hundred cigars, you fine them? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think it fair to the apprentice, who is making cigars out of a bunch of tobacco, to insist that he should cover that number of cigars with it, when you do not know the regular weight of the tobacco? A.—We always know the regular weight. The stock is all weighed.

Q.—Will not some of these packages make more cigars than other packages? A.—Of course, they will vary a little; but I think they will run over that many. They may vary a little occasionally, but that is the general run.

Q.—Supposing a package does not contain sufficient leaf to cover the requisite number of cigars, and the apprentices are fined for it, that would not be fair; that would not be his fault? A.—If it did not, and he proved it, or called the foreman's attention to it, it would be made right. This is Sumatra leaf, and I think it will run over one hundred cigars. That is what we calculate—that it will cover one hundred cigars.

Q.—But if this bulk runs under and will not make these cigars, it is not fair to fine the apprentices? A.—We do not calculate to do that at all.

Q.—But you do do it? A.—I did not say that we do do it, that I remember of.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is there any other way by which a certain amount of tobacco could be given as the accurate amount for a certain number of cigars? A.—If we take the boys' work we find out if it is running all right or not, and as soon as we find out it is not, we calculate it and rectify it at once.

Q.—But supposing you find out the cigars are badly made? A.—We throw them out and make them give us another cigar.

Q.—Do you give him the cigars that are thrown out? A.—No, we do not do that. We have no right to do anything of the kind.

Q.—What is done with the cigars that are thrown out? A.—They are smoked up.

Q.—Smoked by whom? A.—Different ones smoke them; we smoke them ourselves. Just as soon as a man makes a hundred cigars they are brought to the foreman and he examines them.

Q.—How many cigars do you make in a day? A.—We make from seven to eight thousand cigars in a day, and may be we would find forty or fifty out of that lot, or seventy-five, that are bad.

Q.—If a customer comes in would you give him one of these cigars? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you not think customers are entitled to better cigars? A.—I think it is a good thing for the men, and I think it is a good thing for the boys. It makes them work well.

Q.—Do your employees pay for the gas? A.—No; that is something I never heard of, until I heard of it in Montreal.

Q.—Supposing there are a number of leaves over the prescribed weight does it go to the credit of the boys? A.—Yes, it does at handwork.

Q.—How often, in your opinion, does this occur? A.—In some instances.

(Translation.)

DAME AGLAE BOUCHER, of Sherbrooke, Workwoman, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—You had, I believe, three sisters that worked in cigar factories? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What were the ages of your three sisters? A.—The oldest was seventeen, if I remember rightly.

Q.—When was that? How long is it since they worked there? A.—They worked two years and a half; they only left lately; it is not more than two months since they left.

Q.—The eldest was seventeen? A.—About seventeen.

Q.—And the second? A.—The second was sixteen and the third fourteen years.

Q.—How long did they work? A.—Two years and a half; the eldest, however, was a while in the summer without working.

Q.—How much on an average did the eldest earn? A.—This autumn they told her: "If you will come and work you will earn \$3.00 a week." She went to work but only earned \$1.00 and \$1.10 a week that was all.

Q.—And how much did the youngest earn? A.—The younger earned, so they told me, sometimes seventy, sometimes sixty cents; it was very rare that they earned \$1.00 a week; that is what they told me. I did not always see them. Sometimes I asked them how much they earned and they told me sixty or seventy cents a week.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that they had to pay fines? A.—They told me so. I asked them: "Why do you not bring in more money?" And they answered: "Because we have to pay fines." I have no knowledge of it myself.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Did these young girls sometimes complain? Did they complain of anything? A.—They considered they did not get enough for the work they did.

Q.—Apart from this, did they make any other complaint? A.—They said they suffered from cold, and that the shop was not fit to work in.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Did they ever complain of being beaten? A.—They never, to my knowledge, complained of being beaten.

Q.—Did your three sisters leave because they did not earn enough in Sherbrooke? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—They have gone to the United States? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—They are orphans, I believe, are they not? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—At what do they work in the United States? A.—They work in the cotton factories.

Q.—If they had received the wages they were promised, would they, in all probability, have remained here? A.—I think so; but they could not with the wages they got. They were only here two years and a half, and if they had been able to earn their livelihood, I believe, they would have remained here.

(Translation.)

LOUIS DAIGLE, of Sherbrooke, Cigar-maker, aged 12 years, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—How long have you worked ? A.—Since the 13th of last June.

Q.—How much do you earn a week now ? A.—I earn a dollar a week, and there are errors very often ?

Q.—What do you mean by errors ? You mean that they keep back money on your week's wages ? A.—Yes.

Q.—Why do they keep back your money ? A.—I don't know.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Did they never tell you ? A.—No.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Is your father living ? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did he never ask why they did not pay you your full week's wages ? A.—No.

Q.—How much did you receive last pay day ? A.—Ninety cents, and we " loafed " half a day.

Q.—Was this ninety cents for fifteen or ten days ? A.—For a week.

Q.—Did they not tell you why they kept back ten cents ? A.—We had " loafed " half a day.

Q.—Are you fined for talking ? A.—Not often.

Q.—Sometimes ? A.—Not often. I don't think we have ever been fined for that.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Does the foreman sometimes beat you ? A.—No ; he only struck me once ;

Q.—What had you done ? A.—It was because some of the cigars were too short, and I thought they were useless and throw them aside ; but I was told they were still good.

Q.—What did he strike you with ? A.—With his hand.

JEAN BAPTISTE LAVOIE, working tinsmith, Sherbrooke, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER.

Q.—You work at the cigar factory ? A.—I have worked there a short time, two or three weeks, I believe.

Q.—Did you sign a contract ? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Have you left the factory ? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Why did you leave ? A.—Because my parents would not let me work there.

Q.—Was there any reason why your father would not let you work there ? A.—Yes ; there was a reason. It was because they did not give high enough wages. They had promised to give me \$1 a week, and they only gave me 83 cents.

Q.—Why did they give you only 83 cents ? Was your work badly done ? A.—That I don't know.

Q.—You do not remember having been fined ? A.—No.

Q.—When you were paid 83 cents did your father or you remind them that they

had promised you one dollar? A.—Yes; when I first went there I was promised one dollar.

Q.—Did you ever ask for a dollar? A.—My father asked me for the dollar, and I told him they had not given it to me.

Q.—Your father did not ask the master for it? A.—No.

(Translation.)

ALPHONSE FOURNIER, Cigar-maker, Sherbrooke, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—How old are you? A.—Fourteen years and four months old.

Q.—How long have you been working at the cigar factory? A.—A year and a half.

Q.—Were you hired by written contract? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Was it your father signed the contract? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Is your father in Sherbrooke at present? A.—No, sir; he is in Montreal.

Q.—When did he go to Montreal? A.—About two months ago.

Q.—Did you accompany your father to Montreal? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What happened when you went to Montreal with your father? Will you tell the Commission what occurred at that time? A.—We left Sherbrooke because our wages were not high enough. They had promised to give me two dollars the second year. My father said that was the agreement they had signed.

Q.—And how much did they actually give you a week? A.—We worked by the job, and they gave me 90 cents, \$1. \$1.50, \$1.80 and sometimes they gave me only 70 cents. Once I got only 40 cents for four days and a half's work.

Q.—Can you give any reason for this? Did they impose fines, or was it because you did not do work enough to earn more? A.—We did work enough, but they fined us for stock. They accused us of wasting it.

Q.—When you were fined, were you informed of it at the time? A.—Yes; they told us of it.

Q.—Why did you return here from Montreal? A.—They came for us. A policeman was sent after us, and they brought us back.

Q.—Were you brought before the Recorder in Montreal? A.—Yes. A policeman brought us. We were working at Mr. Fortier's in Montreal.

Q.—Then you returned here? A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do you work in the same place at making cigars? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How much are you paid now? A.—I get \$1.10, \$1.25, \$1.40 a week since we came back from Montreal.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is your father still in Montreal? A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Are you boarding now? A.—Yes; I board at my sister's here.

Q.—Do you pay for your board? A.—Yes, sir; I pay \$1.50 a week.

Q.—Do you owe her anything? A.—Yes, sir; I owe her a good deal on my board.

Q.—Where was your contract signed? A.—At Mr. Archangeault's, the notary, here in Sherbrooke.

By Mr. BORVIN :—

Q.—Is there any saving in tobacco now or do they still lose? A.—There is still a loss. I have been ill-treated by the foreman. I have been kicked by him, and been given blows on the head.

Q.—Who struck you? A.—The master, and the foreman as well. There are two masters, but I mean Charles Nutter.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What did he strike you with? A.—With his foot.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Is it long since you were beaten? A.—About three years.

Q.—What had you done? A.—I was playing in the passage when he came in and kicked me.

Q.—Did you ever see other children beaten? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Many? A.—A few, yes, a good many. And by the present foreman.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Did the children cry when they were beaten? A.—Yes; one cried.

By Mr. BORVIN :—

Q.—How much did you earn when you worked in Montreal? A.—I earned \$4.05, and \$2.25 a week.

Q.—Had you worked an entire week the time you earned \$2.25? A.—No; I had not worked the whole week when I earned \$2.25.

Q.—How long did you work in Montreal? A.—I worked a month in Montreal.

Q.—How many days did you work during the month? A.—I could not say. About twenty-eight days.

Q.—Do you remember how much you earned during these twenty-eight days? A.—I drew about \$8.80 pay for the month.

Q.—Had you been fined there? A.—No.

Q.—Did you lose tobacco there? A.—Yes; but they did not fine us.

Q.—Did you lose as much tobacco there as here? A.—Oh, no.

(Translation.)

THÉOPHILE FOURNIER, of Sherbrooke, cigarmaker, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—You are the brother of the preceding witness? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What is your age? A.—Fifteen years.

Q.—You were engaged by indenture in the cigar factory? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Long since? A.—Two years ago.

Q.—You went to Montreal with your brother? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—You also, with your brother, worked in a cigar factory in Montreal, did you not? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did you return with him when the police went for you? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did the policeman himself bring you back here? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—He arrested you there? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Was it a Sherbrooke policeman that went for you? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Was it you that paid the costs? A.—We paid our passage.

- Q.—Did you also pay the policeman's passage? A.—No, sir.
- Q.—When you left for Montreal with your father, how much were you making here a week? A.—\$1 and \$1.60.
- Q.—You were then in the third year of your apprenticeship? A.—In the second.
- Q.—According to your written agreement, you should have been earning two dollars a week? A.—This is what we agreed to, what we signed; but it is not so in the contract. In the contract it is put down one dollar and fifty cents.
- Q.—Do they ever impose fines on you? A.—Sometimes, for the deficiency in the tobacco.
- Q.—Were you ever fined for speaking or playing? A.—Yes.
- Q.—How many times, do you know? A.—No.
- Q.—How much do they fine? A.—Sometimes ten, sometimes five, and sometimes twenty-five cents.
- Q.—Have you been beaten? A.—Yes, a couple of times.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

- Q.—Were you beaten once too often? A.—Sometimes there was cause, and sometimes not.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

- Q.—How did they beat you—with the hand, or with a stick? A.—With the hand.
- Q.—Did they hurt you? A.—No.
- Q.—Have you seen other children beaten? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—Have you heard any cry or scream? A.—No.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

- Q.—What do you complain of at present? Have you any complaint to make? A.—Yes; we are driven like horses.
- Q.—Is the factory comfortable—is it warm? A.—Yes, it is comfortable.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

- Q.—When will your time be up? A.—In a year from this

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

- Q.—How much did you earn when you worked in Montreal? A.—\$3 or \$4 a week.
- Q.—Did they beat you there? A.—No, sir.
- Q.—Did they fine you there? A.—No, sir.
- Q.—What do you pay for your board? A.—\$1.50.
- Q.—Is your expenditure greater or less than your pay? A.—A little less at present.

(Translation.)

PHILIPPE MORIN, of Sherbrooke, Cigar-maker, aged thirteen and six months, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

- Q.—How long have you been working at the factory? A.—Nearly twelve months.
- Q.—Did you sign an agreement when you entered? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you remember how much you were to receive a week, the first year?
A.—\$1 the first year, \$1.50 the second, \$2 the third.

Q.—What amount did you receive, the last time you received your fortnight's pay? A.—\$1.40 a week.

Q.—You are working by the job? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever paid any fines? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Why had you to pay fines? A.—I was fined for playing, and also fined for the wrappers.

Q.—Why are you fined for the wrappers? A.—Because they give us four, five or three ounces for a hundred cigars, and if we cannot do them from that quantity, we are fined.

Q.—Do you lose the wrapper, or are they wanting? A.—They are wanting.

Q.—Did it ever occur to you to have too many? A.—In some rolls there were too many, but in others we had not half enough to make one hundred, and nevertheless, we were fined.

Q.—Who imposed the fines, the foreman or the boss? A.—The master.

Q.—Did he ever beat you? A.—Yes, I got a box on the ear once, and was struck on the head with a book.

Q.—Was it a large book? A.—A middling sized book, but big enough.

Q.—Did it hurt you? A.—Yes; he once struck me on the ear, and my ear swelled up.

Q.—Can you read? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you read English? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Can you read the rules? (The Commission, asking this question, showed the witness a printed copy of the rules). A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you sometimes work at night? A.—I have worked some evenings. I was told I was working by the job, and I was compelled to work, but at the end of week I found that I was not working by the job.

Q.—Did this often happen? A.—It happened one week, two nights in one week. I had made forty cents in the two nights, and I had only got eight cents for them.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Can you tell us the largest fine imposed on a child during the week? A.—I cannot say. I was fined eighty cents for three rolls, and the usual fine was only ten cents a roll; this occurred in the same week.

Q.—How much did you receive, the week you were fined eighty cents? A.—I received \$1.40, if they had not fined me I would have \$2.10.

Q.—Was this for one or two weeks? A.—For one week.

Q.—You are paid, then, every week? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much do you get for a hundred cigars? A.—I get fifteen cents a hundred, and I make them as well as others, to whom they pay twenty cents.

Q.—Are they the same cigars? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Whom do you call the others; your comrades? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Apprentices? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did you ever ask your master, why he gave your only fifteen cents, when he gave the others twenty? A.—Yes; I asked him this noon, and he said he paid more to the old hands.

Q.—Do you live with your parents? A.—My father is dead.

Q.—Do you live with your mother? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Are there any children beside yourself? A.—There is only one little child, a little brother, that goes to school, one of my sisters and a brother grown up.

Q.—Does your mother need the money you earn for her support? A.—Yes.

JOHN JAMES DUFFY, of Sherbrooke, Lumberer and Railway Laborer, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Were you employed last winter in the lumber camps near this town? A.—Yes, and last summer I was employed as a railway laborer, and I expect to be so again.

Q.—How many men were there in the lumber camp which you were employed in? A.—There was quite a quantity of men in the lumber camp that I was in—from thirty-five to forty.

Q.—When did they go into the camp? A.—Some go in in the fall, when the ground is bare, and others do not go in until the snow is down. We generally quit the camp between the first and the fifteenth of March.

Q.—You have five months of it? A.—I never got six months. I got a little over four months.

Q.—Can you tell us how much the men earn lumbering in the woods? A.—Well, in the woods that I was in, the men were earning from eight dollars to twenty dollars a month.

Q.—Do the men board themselves? A.—No.

Q.—A man getting eight dollars a month what would he do, what would he be employed at? A.—Anything that he could do.

Q.—He would not be a good man? A.—Well, sometimes a man goes in for that hire a little more in the spring.

Q.—How many men out of the gang you were in got less than twenty dollars a month? A.—They were all getting less than twenty dollars a month, excepting four.

Q.—What would be your average? A.—Well, for a certainty, I could not tell, because I had nothing to do with the books. I should say the average might probably be fourteen or fifteen dollars a month, not more.

Q.—How frequently were you paid? A.—Well, some got money through the son, others did not get any at all, and some are not paid off yet, and for the last winter's work—for work done last winter—I never got a cent, and I do not know of any man that got paid for the winter's work in the camp that I was in. I heard them all say that they never got a cent.

Q.—Do you know if many men composing the gang you were in lost their wages? A.—I have just told you. It was in that way that I know, I could not exactly say because I am not acquainted. I have not been in this part of the country long, but I do not know of any man that got paid for his winter's work.

Q.—Did you ever take any steps to collect that money? A.—No, I did not take any steps; I did not think it worth while spending money in trying to collect it, because I never thought I would get anything after I found out what the men were.

Q.—Can you tell us the cause of your not getting your wages? A.—I cannot tell you any cause, except that the man did not seem inclined to pay.

Q.—Now, about the railway work? A.—Yes; as I was saying; I was working all last summer, working for a man who had a sub-contract for doing the rip-rap—I was one of the men employed at that. Well, for a spell, he employed as high as thirteen teams; and we had, I think, six men besides the team, and there was a great number of those teams, the owners of which did not get paid. I know, to my own knowledge, that I did not get the whole of the pay. Some got a little, and some did not get any at all; and I know one man who asked me last week, when I expected the contractor back, and he said that he never had got a cent for any work that he had done for this contractor.

Q.—Was there no stated pay-day? A.—Well; it was supposed to be the 15th day of every month, and when the 15 days were up, they hardly ever got paid on the 15th. It would generally go on to the 20th or the 21st.

Q.—What railroad was that on? A.—On the railway near here—it is what they call the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q.—Is this their line, going through to St. Johns? A.—Yes; and I was in one of the contractors' offices when he was paying off his help, and there was one young man who had left him to go to another firm to drive piles, and he came back to get his back pay, and he cut him down from a dollar and a quarter a day to a dollar a day. I do not know whether the young man took the dollar or not. He asked my advice, and I said that I would leave it and see the Emigration Agent, and they said he would have to sue to get it, and I believe he got his after the suit. There was another man left to get a few day's rest. He called to come back, but he would not pay him, and when pay-day came he cut him down twenty-five cents a day, and the rest he never did get it, for I heard the other day that he never got it, as the contractors went off just then.

Q.—You have no security for your pay except the honesty of your employer?
A.—I guess that is all about it.

Q.—Are there many men employed on that railway now? A.—Well, just now, I do not think there is any number, because the work is shut down. One of the contractors shut down last week. He brought out a few men, but all have gone back again, excepting some two or three.

Q.—You lost some money yourself in the road? A.—No, I never lost anything on there, because I had his books, and he paid me to get his books.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—What would you suggest to secure your pay? What would be your plan?
A.—Well, I could not say, except the contractor was worth something that we could put an attachment upon—anything on which we could secure a judgment, or make the company responsible. I think if the law compelled him to pay once a week and made the company responsible for the pay of the men, the men would be secured.

Q.—About these parties working in the bush; do you think it would be practicable to make the principal pay once a week? A.—Well, this man last winter has his lumber scaled every Friday, and he received his money for it. So, I do not see any reason why he could not pay his men on the Saturday.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you know of any men who were paid on store orders? A.—I could not exactly say whether they were or not. I know that he had things in the camp which he used to sell pretty high.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Boots and underclothing? A.—Well, such things as underclothing, shirts, drawers, tobacco, and such things as we took out of the store.

Q.—Do you consider that you paid too much money for them? A.—Yes.

Q.—As regards the railway was the contractor ever made aware of the fact that the sub-contractor did not pay the men? A.—Yes; he was. I think so. There were three contractors.

Q.—It was sub-let a second time, and the one that sub-let the first time, was he made acquainted with it? A.—I do not know that. Whether the first contractor was or not, I could not say.

(Translation).

PIERRE FLEURY, of Sherbrooke, contractor, sworn:—

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—A year ago, did you not work for another contractor? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Were you paid? A.—No. He owes me \$173.

Q.—Did you use your own horses when you worked for him? A.—Yes. I did not work, myself. I do not work, but some of my men worked for him and used my horses; they worked with four spans.

Q.—Where was that? A.—At Little Lake Magog. At the work spoken of by the preceding witness (Duffy) at a railroad.

Q.—Did you take legal proceedings to recover your pay? A.—No. I asked him a couple of times for my money, and he said he had not yet been paid for his work.

Q.—For the C. P. R.? A.—Yes.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Did he never tell you the reason he was never paid? A.—There was a good deal of snow and the stones were covered, and he said that was the reason he could not take measurements in order to be paid.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Has the snow gone since your work is finished? A.—No, there is still snow. The work was done last season.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Have you lost hope of being paid? A.—No, not quite. The man is not here.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Were you able to pay the men that worked for you? A.—Of course I paid them.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do you know of any men having lost money in that way, whether working in the shanties or on railways? A.—There are a good many. I know many, for I have worked a long time in shanties. I have worked in shanties for thirty-four years.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Looking back a long number of years, can you say whether there are men that lose money in that way every year? A.—Yes. Hereabouts there are men who lose money in that way every year.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Is that because the sub-contractors lose money themselves, or do they make their workmen lose their money for the fun of the thing? A.—I think there may be some among them who spend their money before the men are paid, and then, when pay time comes, they have no money wherewith to pay. But there are others too, who have to wait for their money themselves.

Q.—Can you suggest any means whereby these men could be assured of their pay? A.—The first one who gives out the job would have to be made responsible for the money. As far as I am concerned it would be unnecessary, for, during the thirty-four years I have owned a shanty, I have never failed to pay my men.

Q.—Do you think it would be practicable to pay the men, in the woods, every week? A.—I have about twenty men working for me this winter, and not one has asked to be paid weekly. When winter is over and their time out I pay them.

Q.—Are they, in general, bachelors, or are they married men usually, that go to the shanties? A.—Some are bachelors, and some are married men. I usually give money to the latter, at intervals during the winter.

Q.—Are their families obliged to go into debt during the winter on account of the men not being paid, or do you think they have enough money left in the autumn

to provide for the wants of the winter? A.—Some have enough, some have not; that depends on the families. I paid my "boss" \$26 a month, and he had not sufficient. His family were in want every week I paid him.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you always pay your men in money? A.—In money. For twenty-seven years I have worked for the Land Company here, and have always been paid in money. Therefore I also pay in money.

JOHN McCARTNEY, of Sherbrooke, Teamster, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you been employed with the same party as the last witness? A.—Yes, I had a team of my own in the woods.

Q.—How did you succeed with your wages? A.—Well, I have got part and the rest I have not got yet.

Q.—Did you lose your money while working on the railroad in the woods? A.—I had nothing to do on the railroad.

Q.—Did you lose any money there? What percentage of your wages did you lose while working in the woods? A.—About thirty dollars.

Q.—In the winter? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Were these men in the woods cutting timber last winter or the winter before? A.—It was last winter. It is all delivered now.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you been refused payment? A.—No, I have not been refused payment. I have received lots of promises that he will pay, but I cannot get it from him.

Q.—Do you think you will get it from him? A.—Well, I do not know.

Q.—How long is it since it was due? A.—About two months ago.

Q.—Have you taken any means to collect it? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Has he been paid for it? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there many men that you knew last winter that have not received their money? A.—There are a good many men that I know who have not received any of their pay yet.

Q.—Would that be for the same employer who retained the wages of the men the winter previous? A.—Yes.

Q.—The same person? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Where are these woods that you have been working in? A.—They are about nine miles from the city, out on the Montreal road.

Q.—When you go to work in the woods, do you have a fixed time for the payment of wages? A.—No, no fixed time.

Q.—You just take it as you get it? A.—Yes, you have to.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Did you say you were working last winter for the same firm as you have been working for this winter? A.—No; others did.

JOB AINSWORTH, Sherbrooke, Weaver, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

- Q.—Where are you employed? A.—In Mr. Paton's Woollen factory.
- Q.—Have you any charge of the factory, which you are working in? A.—Yes; I have charge of it.
- Q.—How many weavers are there in your room? A.—One hundred and thirty one, with looms running.
- Q.—How many of these would be females? A.—I could not say; I suppose two-thirds of them would be females.
- Q.—Are any young children working in that room? A.—Well, there may be some four or five.
- Q.—How many have you, under fifteen years of age? A.—Well, there would not more than that. It is those that I allude to.
- Q.—Can you tell the youngest of these? A.—I could not.
- Q.—Do you know if there are any fourteen years of age? A.—Well, I should think some of them, and probably not. These are girls,—I take no part in engaging them. I leave that with the girl in charge of them.
- Q.—How many looms has each weaver got to attend to? A.—One.
- Q.—Do they work by day work, or piecework? A.—Piece work.
- Q.—How much per cut do they get on these looms? A.—It depends altogether on the width of the cut.
- Q.—What can a weaver earn in a week? A.—Well, I could not tell you; it would be merely guess work, so I shall not say anything about it.
- Q.—Have you any girls that you have to put on by day work? A.—Those work the narrow looms.
- Q.—What do they receive? A.—Five dollars a week.
- Q.—And those working the broad looms? A.—Six dollars a week, I consider that is the average. They may not, possibly, make that.
- Q.—Can a weaver, on a broad loom, make that, and not a weaver on a narrow loom.
- Q.—How many hours a day do they work? A.—Ten hours a day, sixty hours a week.
- Q.—Are they fined for bad work, anything else? A.—They are fined for bad work.
- Q.—How does this bad work occur? A.—It occurs in a great many ways. It is hard to say. A great deal of it is through carelessness.
- Q.—Is it always the fault of the weaver? A.—Yes. A good deal.
- Q.—What amounts do you fine them? A.—It depends altogether upon the defects of the cuts.
- Q.—Tell us the highest—the very worst—the highest fine? A.—Twenty-five cents is the general rate—for a large cut it sometimes might go one dollar, and one time I had to fine a man two dollars, and the next piece of cloth that came off from that weaver I discharged him.
- Q.—Have you any rules or regulations for the work-shop? A.—There are rules and regulations. I do not know that we have any posted up in the mill, except rules warning them not to clean the machinery while in motion.
- Q.—You have no rules stating what amounts they would be fined? A.—No.
- Q.—Are they told at the time they are engaged that they would be fined? A.—No.
- Q.—They are not told at the time they are engaged that they will be fined? A.—All weavers expect it for bad work.
- Q.—But, are they told it when they are engaged—that for any individual work put in the loom that is not according to quality they will be fined for? A.—It is on the back of each ticket. It is told them that they will be charged for all defects in the cuts.

Q.—Can you tell us what amount the operatives paid in fines during the last year? A.—I could not. I cannot say anything, but the books will tell that.

Q.—What wages do the children receive? A.—I think the lowest was twenty-five cents a day. That is four or five of the youngest ones.

Q.—Do they work the same hours as the others? A.—Yes. Their work is very easy.

Q.—Do they pay any fines? No.

Q.—Are they well treated? A.—Yes. They are well treated, so far as I know of. I have heard of no complaints.

Q.—You have heard of no complaints? A.—No. I never heard of any complaints.

Q.—And no beating? A.—No.

Q.—How many flats are there to your factory? A.—I have two flats.

Q.—Is the drinking water good? A.—Yes. We have drinking water and ice in summer, and in winter the same.

Q.—How many stairways are there to get out of the second flat? A.—There is just the one stairway out at each end of the building; they can get out of either of them.

Q.—Then there are two outlets? A.—Yes; there are two stairways, one at each end of the building.

Q.—Are there any fire escapes on the outside of the building? A.—No; there are none.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How many female weavers are there under your control? A.—I could not tell positively. I should think there are somewhere about two-thirds or a little over. I should suppose I should have one hundred and sixty altogether, and out of that two-thirds or a little more are women.

Q.—How many of these would earn a dollar a day or five dollars a week? A.—I could not tell you that.

Q.—Do the majority of them earn that? A.—No; I do not think they would, except that we are running steady. I know that narrow loom weavers can make five dollars a week, and the broad loom weavers a dollar a day. I might say that any good weaver can make from eight to nine dollars a fortnight on the narrow looms. We have broad and narrow looms.

Q.—Are those working on the narrow looms all five dollars a week or five dollars a fortnight? A.—Five dollars a week of course—although I pay little attention to the sum that is mentioned on the envelope. I may say that if I put any on I would pay them five dollars a week. There is such a broad difference in weavers, some stick at it close. Some fifteen or sixteen live with their parents in the city and do not have their board to pay, so they do not work so close at it. Some work better than others, ten hours work with some weavers is worth more than twelve hours work with others. I have seen weavers make more in an hour than others do in a day.

Q.—Are they allowed to sit down? A.—They would make some mistakes in their work if they sat down.

Q.—Is there any dust? A.—None that I would notice myself; perhaps a stranger would notice it.

Q.—Is the ventilation good in the summer time? A.—It is very good ventilation in each room. The windows are raised up in the summer time when fine.

Q.—When an employee is fined are they told that they are fined, or do they have to wait till pay day before they know it? A.—In most of cases they are told of it at once. It is not anything serious, and they are shown the defects in the goods to prove it. We do that not only as a fine, but more as a safe-guard. The fines do not begin to pay the damage as a general thing. They did at one time but that was

given up. Fines are charged in the finishing department in place of the weaving department. Two yards were allowed for each defective piece without any charge. After that a charge of five cents per yard was made every time they put bad work in. They rebelled against it. As a general thing I am glad to show them the defects in the goods when I make the charge.

Q.—Supposing the machinery gives away or breaks down in the weaving room are they compelled in their own time and at their own expense to make it up? A.—No.

Q.—Is there any overtime? A.—Yes.

Q.—What overtime? A.—It is not worth mentioning. As I say, we do not often do any overtime. We have not done any overtime—it must be now two or three years since we have done any at all in my department.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Were any fines paid last year for damages done? A.—They do not pay for the damage in a great many instances where the fines are put in. In some cases it would be very small. These other girls for fixing the bad work on each cut, work two hours without being charged with it, and after they get five cents an hour and have the privilege of going back to the old standard.

(Translation.)

FIRMIN LORD, of Sherbrooke, spinner, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—You have heard the evidence of the last witness? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you work in the same department? A.—Not in the same room, but at the same kind of work.

Q.—How many assistants do you employ? A.—There are six.

Q.—Are they young boys? A.—Young girls and boys.

Q.—What is the age of the youngest girl? A.—I think the youngest is 14 years old. I cannot say precisely.

Q.—And what is the age of the youngest boy? A.—About the same age.

Q.—What is their work? A.—They tie the ends of thread together when they happen to break.

Q.—Is there any danger of their being hurt by the motion of the machines? A.—None, so long as they attend to their work. They may get their fingers pinched when they are not attending to their work.

Q.—Are they paid by the day? A.—Every fortnight.

Q.—How much do they earn? A.—They are paid from \$4 to \$4.75 every fortnight. The oldest hands get \$4.75.

Q.—What is the age of the oldest hand? A.—She is about 17 years old; 16 or 17 years old.

Q.—How long does it take one of these young people to become a good spinner? A.—It is according to their ability. Some take longer, some take shorter. Some never learn.

Q.—Can they take a position as spinner in this same factory, once they have learned their trade? A.—Perhaps so, but it would take a long time.

Q.—Who pay these young people, do you? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Their names are not on the factory pay list? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do the masters, the directors of the factory, see to these children being paid regularly? A.—They are supposed to. We send in our bills of the amount of money we require to pay our people.

Q.—But you, yourself, are paid by the job? A.—Yes.

Q.—So much wool, so much yarn, so much money? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—That is the bill you send in? A.—No; that they keep account of themselves. But we send a bill for the money we need to pay our people.

Q.—And no complaints are made? Are the children paid regularly? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that if a workman failed to pay these children regularly, he would be instantly dismissed? A.—I think it very likely.

Q.—Do you know anything about the other departments? Have you seen them? Have you ever passed through them? A.—Yes, often. I have worked in the factory for the last nineteen years.

Q.—Have you often seen young children working there? A.—There are young people work there.

Q.—About how old are they? A.—I do not think there are any younger than twelve years of age.

Q.—There are some twelve years old? A.—I think there are some 12 years old.

Q.—In what department? A.—If I remember rightly, I think they fill the blades in the weaving room.

Q.—What do you mean by filling the blades? A.—It is they put the threads on the blades to hold the mesh.

Q.—Do the children working in your department know how to read and write? A.—Some do, but I can't say if all of them can read and write. But I am sure that some of them can.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Are you well acquainted with factory workmen? Do some of them earn enough to put by, are they able to buy property, or to have bank deposits? A.—Yes; I think a number are, for many factory hands own property.

Q.—Do you think that many among them have money put by, have saved money? A.—That is hard to say; but they seem to live well, and they may have saved something, too.

Q.—Have you heard any complaints made as to low wages, or of any particular thing concerning the factory? A.—No; I have heard no such complaints.

Q.—You have never had "strikes"? A.—No, not in my department. I think there was something of the kind, a few years ago, in the weaving room.

Q.—Was that long ago? A.—I can't remember, but I think it was five or six years ago.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—You have just stated that you have worked for nineteen years in Mr. Paton's factory? A.—Yes, sir; nearly that.

Q.—Are the wages better now than nineteen years ago? A.—They are much the same in my department.

Q.—Do you think the cost of living is higher, that living is more expensive now than it was nineteen years ago? A.—That I cannot say.

FRANCIS P. BUCK, of Sherbrooke, Manufacturer of Chemical Pulp, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Where is your factory? A.—My factory is at East Angus, about sixteen miles from Sherbrooke, on the Quebec Central Railway.

Q.—How many men do you employ in your mill? A.—In the Pulp Mill proper I employ from fifty-five to sixty men.

- Q.—Are they all men? A.—Yes, all men. There are no women.
- Q.—And no boys? A.—Well, they have perhaps one or two young men who are perhaps fifteen or sixteen years of age.
- Q.—What are the average wages of the men employed in your Mill—that is, the highest and the lowest? A.—Well, the lowest we pay in the Mill is one dollar and ten cents a day, and the highest is three dollars.
- Q.—The highest would be the foreman? A.—Yes.
- Q.—What would be the highest for a laborer? A.—A laboring man's pay—about one dollar and a half is about the highest for laboring men.
- Q.—When is your pay day? A.—Once a month.
- Q.—What day of the month do you pay them? A.—The fifteenth, twentieth or twenty-fifth—somewhere along there.
- Q.—How many days after the month has expired do you pay your men? A.—Not very long after; five or six days. We are living in the country, and sometimes we do not get around. The pay-day does not vary much—five or six days.
- Q.—That is to say, the men are paid up to the time they work? A.—No; we keep back fifteen or sixteen days.
- Q.—For example, men who have worked all the month of January, when would you pay them? A.—Well, we would pay them on the fifteenth of February—from the fifteen to the twentieth; that is, as I say, it varies five or six days, generally.
- Q.—Does the company pay in cash? A.—Yes; all are paid in cash.
- Q.—Is there a store connected with the company? A.—Yes; we own the store. We have a store.
- Q.—Does the company pay the working men at the store, by orders on the store, or do they give *bons*? A.—No. They buy what they want at the store.
- Q.—Does the company give some *bons* to the working men to go to the store? A.—No. The men at the Pulp Mill have an account at the store, and they get what they want there. They are not obliged to go there. If they go to the store, they get it, and it is deducted from the wages.
- Q.—Can you tell us if the men working in your Mills have been paid for the month of February? A.—No, they have not.
- Q.—Since February last, have you given any orders to your men, or employees, for their salary, of February, on the store; that is, store orders on their salary for the month of February? A.—No, not in our Pulp Mill.
- Q.—The Company has a certain number of houses leased to the employees? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Is there a doctor connected with the Company? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Does he give his assistance to the working men, professionally. A.—He is supposed to. I think he does.
- Q.—Does the Company retain, from the wages of the work people, fifty cents a month, in order to pay the doctors' fees? A.—I think that is the amount. It is a separate association of their own. They formed an association of their own, and they have a committee of their own, and the men pay it out themselves. We simply retain the money and pay it into the committee's hands. The men of the committee manage it themselves.
- Q.—When a man receives notice to leave the works, is he obliged to leave the house with his family—the house belonging to the Company? A.—I do not remember any case of that kind occurring. I do not know of one.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q.—What would be the value of a house, a man would live in? A.—I think they run from three to fifteen hundred dollars.
- Q.—What would be the average value of the houses leased to the men employed on the works? Well, they have several kinds of houses.
- Q.—Would they be worth less than three hundred dollars? A.—I do not think any would be insured for less.

Q.—What rent do your operatives pay? A.—From two to three dollars a month.

Q.—For two dollars a month, is it a large sized house? A.—It is an ordinary cottage.

Q.—How many rooms would there be in it? A.—I could not say.

Q.—Is your mill at Angus? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long is it since the men were paid at Angus? A.—They were paid last month. I think we have paid them twice within the last two or three months.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—And up to that time they were regularly paid? A.—We were very busy, and one thing and another, that prevented us from getting around.

Q.—Are there any other stores in the vicinity of the mill? A.—Yes.

Q.—The men can deal where they like? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—How is it they do not go to other stores? A.—They can if they like.

Q.—Do you not think it would be better to pay them weekly, or fortnightly? A.—We never had any difficulty about it.

Q.—Would it not be better to pay the men regularly and allow them to pay out their money at any other store? A.—Yes, but being in a country district, it is not always easy to get around, and we were very busy the past two months.

Q.—Are the men charged any extra percentage on the value of the goods they buy for credit or cash? A.—No, it makes no difference. The men receive cash and pay cash, if they wish. I do not see how they suffer at all. They can deal where they like.

Q.—Have you many single men in your employ? A.—We have a number.

Q.—Do they draw their wages in cash? A.—Yes, quite a number do.

Q.—Do single men board with the married men? A.—Some do, others live in boarding houses. There are two boarding houses besides some that are kept by the working men.

Q.—Are these boarding houses under the control of the firm—the Company? A.—Not at all.

Q.—What percentage of the operators wages are retained in the hands of the firm after pay day? A.—Fifteen days' wages.

Q.—Do you pay them up to date? A.—Yes. We retain fifteen days' wages.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Supposing a man was discharged for misconduct, would you pay him up to time, or would you keep any of his wages back? A.—He would be paid up to time unless there was cause.

Q.—If an employee left previous to pay day, would you require him to give you any notice? A.—Fifteen days.

Q.—If he did not give the required notice, would he forfeit his wages? A.—No, they never have forfeited their wages.

Q.—Is there a rule in operation by which he shall forfeit his wages if he does not give the required notice? A.—Well, the rule may be there, but it is never carried out, not to my knowledge.

Q.—Are there any printed rules for the guidance of the operatives? A.—There used to be. I do not know that there are now.

Q.—Are there any fines for misconduct or bad work? A.—No, there are no fines at all.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—What is the pulp made from? A.—Wood fibre.

Q.—Where do you find a market for it? A.—Well, we find a market for it partly in Canada, and partly in the United States.

Q.—What part of the United States? A.—Different places. We sell as far west as Ohio, Indiana, and we send some to the West Indies.

Q.—Do you find business increasing? A.—It is better than it was a year ago. Of course, our business is increasing. It is much better than it was a year ago. It was not worth much five years ago.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Supposing a man left you in the middle of the work, would the damage be greater than the amount of wages due him? A.—Sometimes very much more.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Sometimes, I believe, you have discharged a man, and have retained his wages, and have not given any notice? A.—Well; if we discharged him for cause, we did not.

Q.—Is there not always a cause for a man being discharged? A.—Not always. —What I mean is, that sometimes there may be a serious charge against him, and there might be good reasons for sending him away at once.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—If a man misconducted himself, you would not give him fifteen days' notice. You think it would be better to discharge him at once and let him go? A.—If the cause was a serious one, it might be perhaps better to let him go at once.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How many months in the year is the mill shut down? A.—I know of no cause, except perhaps it would be the fitting of any extra shaft in.

Q.—When they would be paid extra for that? A.—Oh, yes.

Q.—Would they be paid at day rate, or would they be paid more for night work?

A.—They would be paid at the same rate.

Q.—What are the wages of skilled hands? A.—Some at seven dollars and fifty cents a week, and some at one dollar and fifty cents to one dollar and sixty cents a day.

Q.—Do you go to the woods and cut your own material? A.—We buy a good deal, and we have a saw mill in connection with our Pulp Mill. We have cut a large number down, but we now buy our fuel wood and pulp wood. We buy by contract.

Q.—You are not able to tell us what the men earn in the woods, cutting out that class of timber? A.—No, I could not tell you; our logs that we cut down are generally let out by contract.

Q.—You say you have a saw mill? A.—Yes.

Q.—What would be the wages of the head gangman? A.—Two dollars and a half a day.

Q.—And the tail gangman? A.—One dollar and seventy-five cents a day.

Q.—What would pilers earn? A.—One dollar and twenty-five cents. We always pay them one dollar and twenty-five cents a day. The ordinary laborer gets a dollar and a quarter a day.

Q.—Do these same men who work in the saw mill go to the woods for you? A.—Oh, no; the men who work in the saw mill never leave it while it is running. It is a water mill, and only runs in the summer.

Q.—What do they do in the winter? A.—Some of the men work for us in the winter, teaming, and cutting logs, and one thing and another. Most of them get employment.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Will you tell us if this fee of six dollars that the men pay for a doctor, applies as well for the whole family, as for the men? A.—It applies to the whole family, I believe.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You say you have nothing to do with it? A.—No. I do not manage it at all. I think it applies to the whole family.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do you know if when these men meet together they do any other business besides appointing a doctor? A.—They do their regular business.

Q.—Is there any other Association besides this one? A.—No. I do not think there is any other Association.

Q.—What other business do they do? A.—I think a committee is formed, and officers appointed for the year to manage their affairs—a president, vice-president, secretary and committee of five all among these men. If any of these men is taken ill, he applies to the committee, and if deserving, is assisted with money.

Q.—Is it common for the doctor to get paid by the family at so much a year? A.—It is there, and elsewhere.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is it compulsory for the employee to pay this doctor this fee? A.—I do not think it is.

Q.—Not so far as the firm is concerned? A.—Not at all.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Did you ever have any strike or trouble with your men? A.—No. We never had any trouble with our men.

Q.—Never any strike? A.—No.

A.—Well. The principal part of the labour at the mill are people of this country; but we employ a lot of men at the mill. It takes a lot of men for our wood business; our lumber business. I must apologise for not being here at two o'clock. I had it on my list of appointments for to-morrow, and only discovered my mistake late in the day on looking at the summons. I am much obliged to you for examining me to night.

CHARLES THORNTON, Sherbrooke, Spinner in the Woollen Mills, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you charge of the mill in which you work? A.—Part of it; not the whole of it. I am the working boss.

Q.—Have you any persons under you to help you? A.—Yes.

Q.—Who employs them? A.—I do.

Q.—Is the firm responsible for the wages of the help you employ? A.—Well, no. I pay them myself.

Q.—Have you got a contract from the firm? A.—I turn out so much work, and am paid so much money. I am paid so much a pound for spinning it.

Q.—What are the wages of a spinner? A.—Do you mean what would I get? Well, of course, it would depend upon the way we work. Now, we are very slack;

but when we have full time we can make about from thirty-five to forty dollars a fortnight.

Q.—How much can your help earn in a fortnight? A.—From three to four dollars a fortnight.

Q.—What would the ages of this help be? A.—I could not tell you, sir.

Q.—Would any be under fifteen years of age? A.—I think I have one that would be under fifteen years of age.

Q.—And the rest—what would their ages be? Would it be about fifteen years of age? A.—Yes.

Q.—And I understand you to say the wages of your help would be from three to four and a half dollars a fortnight? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do any of these pay for their own board? A.—I think they are all living at home.

Q.—Are they bound by you in any way? A.—No.

Q.—Are they fined for any offence? A.—No.

Q.—Is there any portion of their pay kept back on pay-day? A.—Never.

Q.—Are they always paid in cash and in full? A.—Yes, every two weeks.

Q.—What hours do they work a day? A.—Ten hours a day and less. Of course, we are working piece-work, and if we get a chance we let them go at four or five o'clock in the afternoon.

Q.—Then, you do not always work ten hours a day? A.—No. I said ten hours a day and less; and we also always quit work at twelve o'clock on Saturdays.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—You are solely responsible to the hands you employ then? A.—Yes; they allow us so much a pound for what we spin, and we find our own help. It has always been the way since I have been there. We always make it by the pound, and we employ our own help.

Q.—And where does this help live? A.—Do they live at home with their parents? A.—I do not know.

Q.—You did not enquire about that? A.—No.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Have you ever had any occasion to whip them? A.—No, sir; I hope not.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—How many have you under your control—that is, that work full blast? A.—I have five now.

Q.—Are there many departments conducted on that system in your factory? A.—I think we are the only department—I think so.

Q.—Are you the only man that takes a contract from the factory in your department? A.—There is another man in the same run. He has ten mules; I have five, and my mate has the third part.

Q.—Is his about the same thing? A.—Yes; it is all about the same thing.

24th April, 1883.

RICHARD WILLIAM HENEKER, Banker, Sherbrooke, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—What is your occupation, business, or profession? A.—Gentleman or banker, whichever you please. I have a variety of occupations, if I may so term it;

I am President of the Eastern Townships Bank, and the British America Land Lumber Company is under my charge.

Q.—Have you such an institution as what we call an Art School in this town?
A.—Oh, yes.

Q.—Are you getting a subsidy from the Government of the Province of Quebec for that school? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you tell us how many scholars you had there this winter attending the drawing classes? A.—There were two drawing classes; one was a drawing class for mechanical drawing, and the other a class for geometrical drawing. I think in the mechanical drawing class, there were thirty-two scholars, and in the geometrical drawing class were thirty-two scholars; some attended both classes. Then there was a Freehand drawing class, which began with eighteen scholars, and before the close of the season there were twenty-eight scholars, so that the class increased in membership from eighteen to twenty-eight. The mechanical and geometrical classes have just closed. The Freehand drawing school began in the beginning of February, and is also just closed.

Q.—Are they all young boys who attend these classes, or are they men working in the factories? A.—Most of them are people working in the factories, and who are engaged during the day at their daily work. In the freehand drawing class some of the younger boys were quite beginners, in fact they are all to a certain extent beginners in the freehand drawing class. The school is very prosperous.

Q.—Do you really think if your school was devoted to a particular branch of industry it would prove a greater success to the public. It is all very well to have geometry, but supposing you were to open a class to teach the practical part of the work; supposing, say you taught a child to make even a stair in a practical way would it not be well for them? A.—They are doing that in the Geometrical Drawing Class. Geometrical drawing is taught them for the purpose of understanding how to build a flight of stairs, how to make the newels of stairs and so forth—or such as making a particular piece or class of machinery—in fact, all that is practical is taught them, and the purposes for which the drawings are made are also taught them.

Q.—It is a very admirable school? A.—Yes.

Q.—But, if in making drawings they were taught to measure off from it, if they were taught to make a roof, say on a small scale, it would be good for them, I think? A.—It would be good for them. I may say that many are engaged in the workshops where they have an opportunity of getting that information.

Q.—Technical schools in my opinion should not be only for the purpose of teaching and learning the work of drawing, but it would be a very good thing if general information and instruction were afforded in the particular trades which the pupils follow. Have you got such a technical school in Sherbrooke as can be turned to the advantage of the manufacturers of this place? A.—Yes; I believe it is the only true way of teaching, and I think the work done in the Art School is better than ever before. The school was only open for two or three months—too short a time, but the progress made in that short time was quite wonderful; considering that these boys were engaged the whole day, and considering the little time they have been able to give to the work, the progress is simply wonderful.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you teach them in the line of designing patterns for textile fabrics?
A.—It is naturally simply confined to what I tell you. If what Mr. Boivin said, could be done, it would be very advantageous. Of course, there are five or six hundred persons engaged in the woollen factory, and there are other woollen mills, therefore the ability to design patterns for textile work would be of very great value, the most valuable aid to the manufacturing interests here.

Q.—Have you ever given any consideration to the question of improving your Art School on that point? A.—I am only appointed, with other gentlemen, to watch the interests of this Art School in behalf of the public; there are Mr. Paton, Mr. Jenks, myself and others. We get no pay for our services; we simply act in the public interest. I have taken special interest in this Art School. I have been there watching the whole course of the work, and I have taken great interest in it; and I think if money could be raised for the purpose of establishing a Technical School, it would be highly successful. I may also say I am connected very largely with Bishop's College, Lennoxville. I am Chancellor of the University and Trustee of the College. We recently established in that College a Chair for Science, Practical Chemistry and Physics; and it is our intention to offer to the people of Sherbrooke the benefit of the Professor's lectures here. We do not know if the people will take hold of it, but that is our intention.

Q.—Have you any knowledge of the effect of these Schools of Design in other countries? A.—I have a knowledge of the effect such schools have in England. I know extraordinary results have been achieved in the school at South Kensington, London, and other schools throughout the country.

Q.—Do you consider it absolutely necessary to the manufacturing interests of the country? A.—I do consider it absolutely necessary to a manufacturing country; the better the labor, the better the work.

Q.—Do you think that the necessary training could be obtained by attending evening classes, or that a special training is needed? A.—Well, I think, if it is to be of use to the working classes, these schools should be held in the evening.

Q.—Do you know anything about the Technical Schools in the United States? A.—There are schools in cities in the United States, at Hoboken, and other places, and these are all places where young men go to study every year. The first thing is to get the young mechanics who are employed in the city to be anxious to obtain some knowledge in these studies, and then afterwards raise the class. Our classes are largely devoted to mechanical labor, and they are well fitted to take up almost any branch of manufacture.

Q.—But both might be taught simultaneously? A.—Yes, if we receive the requisite encouragement.

Q.—You are a Commissioner of the British America Land Company? A.—

Yes. Q.—Has that company some mills on the River St. Francis? A.—It has some

mills. Q.—And water privileges on the river? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does that company disfavor the establishment of factories by other people? A.—No, not at all; we have sold water powers in the city held by others.

Q.—Does your company manufacture lumber? A.—Yes, we have a mill under our own special management.

Q.—Can you tell us how many hands you employ? A.—In the height of the season from sixty to sixty-one hands.

Q.—What would be the wages of the head gangman? A.—It is a circular saw-mill. We pay him two dollars a day.

Q.—And the tail gangman? A.—We pay them whatever the class of work may be. The highest wages.

Q.—Next comes the man that marks the lumber after it comes from the circular saw? A.—The price varies from two dollars to two dollars and a half a day. I have a list of the wages in my pocket as I thought you would like to know them.

Q.—Well, what does the principal circular sawyer get? A.—Two dollars a

day. Q.—The piler? A.—One dollar and fifty cents a day.

Q.—And the marker? A.—One dollar and twenty-five cents a day.

Q.—And the man on the slip? A.—One dollar and twenty cents a day.

Q.—And the man on the pond? A.—One dollar and fifteen cents a day.

Q.—The man behind the saw? A.—One dollar and ten cents a day.

Q.—The screw boys? A.—They are men—one dollar and ten cents a day.

Q.—The edgers? A.—One dollar and fifteen cents and one dollar and ten cents a day, and another piler gets one dollar and twenty-five cents a day. All ordinary men—laborers get one dollar a day.

Q.—That would be the pilers in the yard? A.—Yes.

Q.—And there are some men engaged in taking lumber from the ponds? A.—We call that ordinary labor. We employ during the height of the summer from sixty to sixty-one men, and we have also sometimes two and sometimes three boys, the youngest is sixteen. They are engaged in the lathing and shingling work. The youngest is sixteen, and of two of these one gets sixty cents and one seventy cents a day.

Q.—How is the lathe mill run? A.—The lathe mill runs by day work and so much per thousand. It varies; sometimes we pay by the thousand, but sometimes it is not satisfactory and we run it ourselves, but we prefer to do all that class of work at so much per thousand.

Q.—Do you ship any lumber by day work or so much per thousand? A.—By day work.

Q.—Do you pay at the same rate of wages as you pay the other men? A.—Yes; we employ all our own labour.

Q.—Do you go to the stump for lumber? A.—We go to the stump for lumber, we have contracts of the shippers. They get the bill as they get their own loads.

Q.—Do you employ your own cullers? A.—Yes.

Q.—What do you pay your cullers? A.—Well, they are men who are employed about the works in the winter. They are men who have charge inside, they cull together, and they get about the rate of six hundred dollars a year—that is the rate they get.

Q.—Do your men find constant employment all the year round? A.—Yes; the best class of men, and we try as much as possible to keep them during the whole winter. We generally close our mill on the first of December and there is generally a good deal of work going on. We do not generally give the same rate of pay. The principal sawyer, we employ him all the winter. We like as much as possible to keep them employed.

Q.—How frequently are your men paid? A.—Every Friday evening, in cash.

Q.—Do you find any great difficulty in paying them weekly? A.—No; we prefer paying them every week in cash so that their wives can go to the market and make the best use of their money before the husband returns home on the Saturday.

Q.—Do you not think it a hardship to compel a man to wait a month for his pay? A.—Well, I never worked in a mill.

Q.—You prefer paying every week? A.—It is far better for the men if they receive their pay on the Friday. Their wives can go to the market on Saturday morning and have all their purchases made and the home comfortable when the husband returns from work. It prevents their names from going on the books of the store keeper to a very great extent and is a decided benefit to the labourer.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—This School of Art is free to the pupils? A.—Yes; I think the Corporation of Sherbrooke pays the rent of the room, and the Government pays the teachers.

Q.—You say the largest proportion of the pupils are children belonging to the working classes and are working people themselves? A.—I think the intention was not to provide a school for those who obtained an education elsewhere, but rather for the working classes in order to assist them in obtaining a better knowledge of their several businesses in their daily work.

Q.—What is your business, sir? A.—I am president of the Eastern Townships

Bank, that is what I would say. I could not say, exactly, what occupation I follow, for I am occupied in various capacities.

Q.—What is the rate of interest, in Sherbrooke, at the present time? A.—Seven per cent.

Q.—Do you know of any Bank deposits being made, in Sherbrooke, by the working classes? A.—Yes; we have got what we call a Saving's Bank branch. I may say these deposits have increased. Our people are generally well off.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—I understood you to say, you hold a considerable amount of property here, do you hold by a lease? A.—No; we, that is, our Company, hold a great quantity of what we call the waste lands about the town, that is bought for building purposes and also that is not yet in demand for building.

Q.—Do you consider that you offered those lots at a purchasable price? A.—Oh, yes. The market price.

Q.—You offer it at the market price? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it true that a pulp factory, or paper mill made you a considerable offer, and that after a time, you decided not to sell them? A.—We had pulp mills and paper mills here. We had the Canada Paper Company here in Sherbrooke until they removed to Windsor. A pulp mill was lately established, and was burned out in the course of last summer. I do not know of any paper mill wanting to come here, they could not have come here if they wished. In the manufacture of pulp, there is scarcely any labour, indeed, in proportion to the power required. It is offensive. It requires the use of chemicals, which make it offensive, if there are residents in the neighborhood; therefore, it is not desirable to have in the city. We had this large Paper Company doing business here. until recently, and their mill was considered a great objection by the proprietors of the Magog House, our principal Hotel, but still we made no objection. The mill was there, and if they had not themselves removed, we would not have objected to them. There is an objection, although we raised no objection, to a pulp mill.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Can you tell us what was the reason the Canada Paper Company removed from Sherbrooke to Windsor? A.—I cannot tell you.

Q.—Were they proprietors when they manufactured here? A.—No; they were lessees, and the building became very old, and unfit for the purpose. They became in a ruinous state, and the Company transferred its business entirely to Windsor.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—In the purchase of water privileges, does your Company give a clear deed? A.—Certainly.

Q.—For all time? A.—Yes. We made a present to the Paton Company of their water power for twenty set of wheels, a free gift —

Q.—So that it is a matter of indifference to your Company whether they lease or sell their water privilege? A.—Yes; quite so.

THOMAS W. FULLER, Sherbrooke, Manager of the Boston Bakery, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How many bakers have you employed at present? A.—We employ at the present twenty-three hands.

Q.—Are they all bread bakers? A.—Biscuit bakers, and bread bakers.

Q.—We will take the bread baking first. How many have you got baking bread? A.—Four.

Q.—What might be their wages? A.—The men get nine dollars a week. There are two men and two boys. One of the boys gets six dollars a week, and the other gets three dollars a week—these are apprentices.

Q.—How old might the youngest boy be? A.—Sixteen.

Q.—Have you any bread bakers? A.—Yes; four. The two that work at night get down about six o'clock, and they go off about three, four or five in the morning. The latest hour that they leave is about five. They make two batches of bread, and the sooner they get them done, the sooner they get off.

Q.—Do they work extra time for that? A.—No.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of your bakers' shop? A.—It is very good.

Q.—Has it been visited by the Health Inspector? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has he pronounced it good? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is the ventilation good? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any machinery in use on your premises? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have the boys met with any accident in connection with the machinery that they use? A.—Not very often.

Q.—What is the nature of the accident? A.—We have not had an accident for ten or twelve years.

Q.—Is the cracker work made by day labor? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are the wages paid to cracker laborers? A.—The lowest that any apprentice gets is three dollars a week.

Q.—How much do the men get? A.—Seven, eight, nine or ten dollars a week.

Q.—How many are employed at the cracker making? A.—Six.

Q.—How many of these six men receive twelve dollars a week? A.—Two. One would be the foreman, and the other would be his assistant. They are what are called first and second bakers. The foreman gets twelve dollars a week, and the second baker gets nine dollars a week.

Q.—What would be the average wages of the other four? A.—There is one that does the baking and runs the engine. He also gets twelve dollars a week.

Q.—Is he a practical engineer besides being a practical baker? A.—He is neither. He is a man we always had with us, and he is not a practical engineer.

Q.—Have you any girls employed in the cracker department? A.—No.

Q.—In the confectionary department, what are the wages paid to the men? A.—The foreman gets seventeen dollars a week.

Q.—How much does a journeyman? A.—A dollar a day.

Q.—What might their hours be? A.—From seven to six.

Q.—Do they get an hour for dinner? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any girls employed in the confectionary department? A.—Yes.

Q.—How old might they be? A.—From nineteen to twenty years of age—full grown girls.

Q.—What part of the work are they engaged in? A.—Baking candies and rolling caramels.

Q.—Have you a sugar boiler in the shop where they work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have they any extra work? A.—No.

Q.—In the summer time, have they plenty of ventilation? A.—Yes.

Q.—Taking all your branches together—taking the whole establishment, how many months in the year are you employed steadily at work? A.—All the time.

Q.—Do you pay weekly, fortnightly, or monthly? A.—We pay weekly.

Q.—In cash? A.—Yes; every Friday night.

Q.—Do your men prefer Friday night? A.—Yes; I believe they consider it better than Saturday.

Q.—Can you tell the reason why they prefer to be paid on Friday? A.—So as

to give their wives an opportunity of going to market early on Saturday. The marketing is all done, and every thing nice and tidy when they arrive home.

Q.—Do you use Canadian refined sugars? A.—Yes; we do at present.

Q.—Have you used any of the American make? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you find an improvement in Canadian made sugar in the making of candies? A.—I do not know that I do.

Q.—Is it cheaper than imported sugar? A.—It is, with the present duty. We find American sugar.

Q.—Where do you find your market? A.—We find a market for our candies in the townships.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How many bakers are there in Sherbrooke? A.—We are the only ones that make biscuits and candies.

Q.—How many bread bakers are there in Sherbrooke? A.—Six, I believe, besides ourselves.

Q.—Have you got an association here? A.—No.

Q.—Is there an understanding among the bakers of the town of Sherbrooke as to the price bread should be? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do many of your men own their own houses? A.—Yes; a majority of them do.

Q.—How did they pay for them—out of their earnings? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Can you tell us if the cost of sugar has increased to the consumer recently? A.—Yes; it has.

Q.—Can you give any other reason than the natural increase in price, why sugar has gone up? A.—We suppose it was owing to this combine inaugurated in Montreal some five or six months ago.

Q.—Have you had any experience? A.—The last time I went in the refinery they would not sell to me.

Q.—Did they give any reason for not selling to you? A.—At first he said he could not answer any questions. Then he said "I can sell you if you pay three-eighths of a cent more than you buy for outside, and afterwards I went to the Chairman of the Guild, but I could not buy.

Q.—They refused to sell you at the current prices of those belonging to the combine? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you go elsewhere for sugar? A.—I went to Moncton, New Brunswick; but we had to pay them more than the confectioners do in Montreal, or west.

Q.—Did you receive any notice from this combine that such an organization had been formed—did you refuse to join it at all? A.—I tried to join it, and the chairman told me he did not think I could get in, and that it would take several months anyways. I tried and applied and was finally informed that if they allowed us to come in it would make a competing point in Sherbrooke.

Q.—They would not allow you in then? A.—No.

Q.—They just shut right down on you? A.—Yes.

FLORENCE McARTHUR, of Sherbrooke, Cotton Factory Operator, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What business are you employed in? A.—Both carding, stitching and joining in the cotton factory.

Q.—What would be the wages of an active girl in that factory? A.—Four to six dollars a week.

Q.—How many hours do you work per day? A.—Well, we work nine and a half hours a day.

Q.—Are you constantly employed all the year round? A.—Yes, we are employed all the year round, except when the factory is closed for repairs.

Q.—Are there any young women fined in your department? A.—We are fined if we soil the pieces.

Q.—Are there any fines imposed for going in late in the morning? A.—No; we are all there, generally, on time. We go at seven in the morning, have an hour for dinner and commence again at one o'clock in the afternoon.

Q.—Do you leave at six? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there any complaints made if the hands are a little late in the morning? A.—Well, they hardly ever come late in the morning.

Q.—Are you on piecework? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are the majority of girls in your department doing the same kind of work as you are doing, on piecework? A.—We are all on piecework.

Q.—How often are you paid? A.—On the fifteenth day of every month.

Q.—Are you paid in full? A.—Yes.

Q.—And in cash? A.—Yes.

Q.—None of your pay is kept back? A.—No.

WILLIAM ROUTELLE, Builder and Contractor, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You are also proprietor of the sash and door factory? A.—Yes.

Q.—As a builder and contractor, what work do you do? A.—Brick work, and plastering. We have a carpenter's shop, a stone mason's shop, bricklayer's work, and plastering. We sub-contract.

Q.—What does a good first-class joiner—a general workman, receive per day? A.—One dollar and seventy-five cents a day, we call pay suitable for a first-class man. An extra good hand gets two dollars a day.

Q.—Do you make any difference between inside and outside work? A.—No.

Q.—How many months in the year do they work? A.—We find employment for our men for from seven to eight months in the year, except the shop men, and they get employment nearly all the year round.

Q.—Is it the practice to take an inferior workman, and put him to work with a good workman here for the purpose of reducing wages? A.—We employ cheap help. We can do it to advantage.

Q.—Does that cheap help take the place of skilled help? A.—No.

Q.—Do you take on apprentices? A.—Yes.

Q.—What wages do you pay them? A.—Fifty cents a day the first year, seventy-five cents a day the second year, and one dollar a day the third year. Some other shops begin at fifty cents a day, and increase it as far as they deserve it.

Q.—What would be the custom? A.—I have only been in business one year, so I cannot tell you what would be the cost of it in our shop.

Q.—Can you tell the number of years the apprentice serves? A.—Three years generally.

Q.—Do you think three years sufficient for a boy to learn the trade completely? A.—I do not. I have been employed in two of the largest shops in town, and I never knew one to be bound for longer.

Q.—You do not consider it sufficiently long enough for a boy to serve his time? A.—I do not.

Q.—Do you know what percentage of the workingmen of Sherbrooke could take their work off from plans and drawings of an eight scale? A.—I do not know how many.

Q.—Do you think the number would be very large? A.—No.

Q.—Have you a technical school in Sherbrooke? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you consider it an advantage to the working man? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think the boys take advantage of it? A.—Amongst the mechanics there are many attending the school.

Q.—Do you think a boy would become a good carpenter by attending the school, and by paying attention to his work at the shop? A.—I think so.

Q.—Do you employ wood working machinery? A.—Yes; in the shops that I have been employed in, they can do pretty much the same as carpenters.

Q.—What does a special man in the sash, door and blind department get? A.—One dollar and seventy-five cents a day.

Q.—He is one of the first-class men? A.—Yes.

Q.—What would stair builders' wages be? A.—Two dollars a day.

Q.—What are the wages of bricklayers here? A.—I do not know.

Q.—You cannot tell anything outside your own business? A.—I think bricklayers get two dollars and a half to three dollars a day.

Q.—How many months do bricklayers work in the year? A.—It varied a good deal the last few years.

Q.—Taking one season with another, how many months, can they work in a year? A.—Six months steady employment.

Q.—Can you tell us why bricklayers work the same number of hours as carpenters, and yet get more wages than carpenters? A.—No, I cannot; but I know they do.

Q.—And yet the carpenter has to find more tools? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Can you tell us if there are many men employed in the building trade who lose their wages through the dishonesty of contractors, or sub-contractors? A.—There are some who have lost their wages through the mis-tunes of contractors.

Q.—Would the majority be the sub-contractor, instead of the contractor? A.—I think the most losses that I have known of, have been from sub-contractors.

Q.—Do you know the wages paid to lathers? A.—Twelve and a half cents a bunch. I have known it to be ten cents. It is from ten to twelve and a half cents

GEORGE LONG, Sherbrooke, Cabinet-maker and Carpenter, sworn.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—How many men are employed in your factory? A.—We do some outside jobbing; we had forty-nine this winter.

Q.—Is that your average staff of men? A.—No; our average is about sixty or sixty-five.

Q.—Classing these men, for instance, taking the best men, what would a first class benchman average? A.—Well, what you call first class men are scarce around here. We pay them as high as two dollars a day.

Q.—Carpenters or cabinet-makers? A.—Carpenters.

Q.—What is the average that a cabinet-maker receives? A.—One dollar and fifty cents to one dollar and seventy-five cents a day.

Q.—That would be the average wages? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you employ any boys in your factory? A.—Yes; we have two, or three or four.

Q.—About how old are they; what ages would these boys be? A.—Well; one, he is about fourteen. He is the youngest.

Q.—Are those boys learning the trade? A.—Well, they are not bound.

Q.—Have they come on to work with that understanding, or have you hired them at set prices? A.—No; we have paid them just what they are worth. The youngest boy gets two dollars a week, and the others four dollars and a half and five dollars a week.

Q.—What are your hours of labour? A.—Well, they work seven and a half hours a day, in winter, and ten hours in summer.

Q.—Are your machines properly protected? A.—I consider so.

Q.—Have you ever had any accidents in your factory? A.—Yes; a man had three fingers cut off.

Q.—When was the last accident? A.—This winter.

Q.—Was that from carelessness? A.—The man was "boss" planer, that is how he got it, that is the only machine by which you could get that.

Q.—Do you generally put these boys on machine work at two dollars and a half a week? A.—Yes.

Q.—What part of the work do you put them on to? A.—The boring machine.

Q.—Do you finish your own furniture? A.—Yes.

Q.—What would painters receive? A.—From seven dollars up to ten dollars a week; ten dollars and fifty cents a week we pay the highest one.

Q.—Taking a man who is capable of taking off the board the dimensions and sizes of material—a man who would be able to take his work generally off the board—what would he receive? A.—Well, it is generally the carpenters who do that work. We do outside jobs and repairing, and so forth, and they get out stuff and do the work for making window frames and job work, and so forth; they make one dollar and seventy-five cents a day.

Q.—Your hands, do you keep them steadily employed? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have they been with you for some time? A.—Yes. I have been in the business three years; I was in business before that, in my father's business before that.

Q.—How many of your men own their own houses? A.—I could not say.

Q.—Are there any of them? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you in a position to tell the Commission whether the men in your employ are steady, industrious and saving, and have they put by anything out of their earnings? A.—Yes. Those that are saving and industrious are putting money by, and are owning their own property.

JOHN M. JENKS, of Sherbrooke, Secretary of the Jenks Machine Company, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What class of goods do you manufacture? A.—Saw-mill machinery, and do repairs to steam engines and boilers.

Q.—Have you long been engaged in that business? A.—Yes.

Q.—What wages are paid to machinists? A.—From one dollar and fifty cents to two dollars and twenty-five cents.

Q.—What kind of work is a man earning one dollar and fifty-cents a day engaged in? A.—Repairs, as a general thing.

Q.—He is more of a handy man than anything else? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are the average wages of the skilled machinists? A.—Two dollars and twenty-five cents a day.

Q.—Do they get pretty constant employment at that? A.—Yes, sir.

- Q.—Do you take any apprentices on as machinists? A.—Yes, four.
- Q.—How many years do they serve? A.—Three.
- Q.—Is three years sufficient to make a boy a machinist? A.—I do not think so.
- Q.—Do they learn the business thoroughly, or is it only a branch? A.—Well, they are put at it for three years, as it is called here.
- Q.—Do you think they are capable of building machinery after three years, apprenticeship? A.—No.
- Q.—When a boy is finished his apprenticeship, what are his wages? A.—Seven and a half dollars a week.
- Q.—And what does a skilled mechanic get? A.—Two dollars and twenty-five cents to two dollars and fifty cents a day.
- Q.—How much do you pay moulders? A.—Moulders' wages run from ten dollars a week to seventeen dollars and fifty cents a week.
- Q.—Do they work piece or day work? A.—Day work altogether.
- Q.—How many hours a day do your men work? A.—Ten. And occasionally they do overtime.
- Q.—When they work overtime, how much extra do they receive? A.—Time and a half.
- Q.—How frequently are they paid? A.—Every two weeks.
- Q.—Are they paid in cash and in full? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Are any wages kept back? A.—Fourteen days.
- Q.—Is there any special reason why these men should be deprived of fourteen days' pay? A.—We think so. If a man has not got something to hold him, he might walk off.
- Q.—So you think that a good reason for keeping his pay back? A.—Yes.
- Q.—How many of your moulders receive seventeen dollars and fifty cents a week? A.—One.
- Q.—Is he the foreman? A.—No.
- Q.—Is he on day or piece work? A.—Day work.
- Q.—How many furnace men have you? A.—Two.
- Q.—How many moulders have you about the place? A.—One.
- Q.—How many pattern makers have you about the place? A.—Twelve.
- Q.—How much do they receive? A.—Two dollars a day.
- Q.—Would that be the average pay all round? A.—No. We pay as high as two dollars a day and as low as nine dollars a week.
- Q.—The man who received two dollars a day, is he the foreman? A.—No.
- Q.—What wages would you pay your foreman? A.—I have no foreman pattern maker.
- Q.—Do they men take their own work off? A.—No. The manager of the concern takes that work off for them.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q.—Do you do your own moulding? A.—No.
- Q.—What would you call that, then, that your moulder does? A.—That is cleaning the piece after it is moulded.
- Q.—Is it well ventilated, the shop? A.—It is out in the open air that that is done.
- Q.—What is the sanitary condition of the shop? A.—It is high and well ventilated—thoroughly so.
- Q.—Is the water closet inside or outside? A.—It is outside.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

- Q.—Are there any unsanitary workshops to your knowledge in the town of Sherbrooke? A.—Not that I am aware of.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—You say you keep two weeks wages back from the men in order to prevent them from leaving your employ summarily. When a man is being discharged, unless your immediate reason is a just one for discharging him, do you give him proper notice. Do you give him the same notice that he is expected to give you?
A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—When you discharge a man do you pay him up? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you make that a practice or rule of the shop? A.—Yes, he comes to the office and is paid.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What notice do you require from a man? A.—Sometimes two weeks. If he is an exceptionally good man we won't let him go under that.

Q.—Supposing he goes and insists upon leaving? A.—Well, we pay him.

Q.—You do not retain any portion of his wages? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—In leaving without notice—in going away summarily—does an employee do you injury? A.—Yes, I know of several cases.

Q.—He does you greater injury than the pay left in your hands would satisfy?
A.—Yes, the work at the time might be particular, and if several of them took it into their heads to leave at once, it would do us considerable injury.

Q.—What is the cause for a man leaving? A.—Well, it is generally because he can get higher wages in another place.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you blame him for leaving you without notice? A.—No, but we do not consider that he has used us fairly.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Supposing this man was getting the same pay in your shop as he could get at other places, would he leave you? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You do not complain of their receiving higher wages, but you want them to treat you as you would treat them? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it an understood thing when you employ these men that they must give you notice? A.—No, it is not an understood rule, if he goes to work for you, that he does not get anything for fifteen days, and he knows that that amount of money will be kept back as a guarantee of good faith.

LOUIS LUKE, Sherbrooke, Contractor, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What business do you follow? A.—I am a contractor.

Q.—What class of work are you engaged in? A.—Railway construction.

Q.—Do you employ many men? A.—Not on this piece of work here. We sub-let it all.

Q.—Can you tell us if on the section you had the contract for, and that you

sub-let, the men have not received their wages? A.—We pay the sub-contractors every month.

Q.—Have you any knowledge that the men have not received their wages for some length of time? A.—I am not aware of it.

Q.—Are you not responsible for the men employed by the sub-contractors? A.—We do not consider that we are responsible. We consider that the sub-contractor is responsible to them.

Q.—Do you retain any portion of money in your hands until the work is completed by your sub-contractors? A.—Yes.

Q.—I suppose you employ no men yourself? A.—Not on this contract.

Q.—Have you any other sections of the road yourself to complete? A.—Not on the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q.—Can you tell us the earnings of the men? A.—It depends upon the season, and the supply and demand. They received one dollar and twenty-five cents a day last year.

Q.—How many kinds of labor do you employ? A.—It depends upon the work.

Q.—Supposing it is rock and earth? A.—I cannot give any opinion as to what sub-contractors were paying their men, not unless we got some notice. I do not know of any sub-contractors not paying their men.

CLARKE GORDON, Sherbrooke, Brickmaker, Builder, and Contractor, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—How many men have you employed in the brick yard? A.—Generally, from twenty to thirty, and three boys.

Q.—About what would be the earnings of the men in the brick yard, taking them on the machine first? A.—The foremen of the yard receive two dollars and twenty-five cents a day, and the moulders get two dollars, and the men building the bricks in the kiln, two dollars a day, and all the other labourers, one dollar and ten cents a day, wet or dry. The firm generally oversee the operations.

Q.—Do the men receive anything extra for night work? A.—They receive the regular pay, nothing extra.

Q.—What kind of buildings have you been engaged on? A.—Different kinds of buildings.

Q.—Do you employ many brick-layers? A.—Well, a year ago last summer, we employed from eighteen to twenty, say twenty-five. Last summer, we only employed seven.

Q.—What are the wages of brick-layers? A.—The average wages of brick-layers, is two dollars and fifty cents a day. A few get two dollars and twenty-five cents, and some receive as high as three dollars and fifty cents. We have paid four dollars, and four dollars and fifty cents a day.

Q.—That is a special kind of work? A.—Yes; work that was needed to be done in a hurry.

Q.—Can you tell us anything about the employment of men in railroad construction here? A.—I employed one hundred and fifty men last summer.

Q.—Do you know anything about men not receiving their pay on the work? A.—I cannot think of any. They never did on my work.

Q.—Have you ever supplied material to sub-contractors, and not received pay for it? A.—No.

Q.—Has such a thing occurred recently? A.—No; not that I am aware of. I have hired a good many sub-contractors. I always managed to get paid, and I saw that the men were paid.

Q.—You have no knowledge, then, of any sub-contractors, who have not paid

their men? A.—I have not, on this road here, because I have not done anything on this road.

Q.—Can you tell us of any security there would be for the men on this piece of road? A.—It is generally conceded, on this Railway, that where the Company receives a bonus from the Government, the labourer should get his pay.

Q.—Do you know if the Company has received the whole of the amount of bonus that has been granted to it? A.—I do not.

Q.—When you give out work, to a sub-contractor, do you make it a point to see that the sub-contractor pays his men? A.—I have. I generally do it.

CHARLES H. NUTTER, Sherbrooke, member of the firm of Messrs. Nutter & Webster, Cigar Manufacturers, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Did you bring with you, to-day, a statement of the fines imposed in your factory last summer? The fines imposed for cigar wrappers and fillings, and so on, anything of that kind? A.—The foreman says, since August up to date there has been levied one dollar and fifty cents in fines in all. The foreman does that. These fines were imposed on the hands for leaving their seats, flying around—fooling in the shop.

Q.—What is the amount of the other fines for bad work? A.—We do not fine them for bad work. Of course, if the work is bad it is taken out, and they leave the shortage in the stock. I could not tell the exact amount of that.

Q.—What is the highest amount of fines imposed, for leaves of tobacco missing in the package of wrappers? A.—For Sumatra leaves we fine them at the rate of five cents an ounce; they are made up in four ounce packages.

Q.—Do you impose a fine by the weight or by the number of leaves? Will you please explain what is done from the moment you give the tobacco to the child, up to the time you perceive there are some leaves missing from the wrapper—what takes place? A.—Well, the stock is so much, and I know they get enough to do the work with, and if they take and tear the stock, at the end of the week we fine them. There is no difficulty in ascertaining the right thing about it. If they were not given the proper quantity, we would make it right, but of course we can easily ascertain, because some of the hands make it work well. We weigh it out in packages, and then the amount is punched on the hand's card every day. They have cards that they get this tobacco on.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q.—You see to that every day? A.—Yes.

Q.—You give the pack of wrappers to the employee, and you tell him how much that pack weighs? A.—Yes. It weighs three ounces. It averages four ounces for the five cent cigars, that is, Sumatra leaf, and it averages five ounces for the ten cent cigars.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—How many cigars must be covered out of that package? A.—One hundred cigars.

Q.—But what do you impose the fine for? A.—We impose the fine when they destroy the stock if they are short.

Q.—How do you explain it? A.—Well, if five of them are making cigars and one of them is short, consequently we fine him at the rate of five cents an ounce.

Q.—Would it not happen that some of the wrappers would be longer than some, and that others would be heavier than others? A.—Yes. But you cannot be very

much out in some extra leaves; it is all very thin—it is also so much alike that there is no difference in the bundles.

Q.—And the worker who is short, pays for the difference? A.—There would not be much difference; it is examined and we have no desire to impose upon the hands. It is better for us to work harmoniously with them.

Q.—Would he pay a fine or not if he was short? A.—He would pay a fine if he was short; if he loses stock.

Q.—Does it not happen sometimes, that some of the wrappers are injured in the pack, and with which you could not make cigars? A.—It might possibly be.

Q.—Then if that happens the same workman pays for it? A.—But there are always some leaves extra. We always allow a little extra for that. The packs of wrappers are made in our factory.

Q.—Who puts them up? A.—We have a foreman down stairs in the stripping room, and the girls see to the weighing.

Q.—Why do you not follow the rule in your factory, as they do in other factories, to give one hundred wrappers with which to make one hundred cigars? A.—I calculate there are one hundred wrappers.

Q.—If you gave one hundred wrappers for one hundred cigars, would it not do away with the fine system? A.—No; because they are liable to tear a good many, and in case that would make poor cigars we allow them some extra. That is the only fine they get, for making poor stock.

Q.—Do you not think it would be better to make them pay for bad work, than for missing wrappers? A.—The fine would be a good deal heavier if carried out on that line. In a package there are about one hundred and ten wrappers, but if counted out there would only be one hundred.

Q.—Is it not true, that in the cigar trade the raw material is lost or spoiled by other reasons than the fault of the workman? A.—That might be, I do not know but what one hand might steal from another, I do not know but that if they have got the stock they have got to look out for it.

Q.—What do you do with a badly made cigar? A.—Smoke some ourselves, and give others to the hands. We have got a few of them down there yet.

Q.—You never sell them? A.—No.

Q.—Do you hire your apprentices by indenture? A.—Yes.

Q.—For how many years have you followed that rule? A.—For three years.

Q.—Have you one of these indentures with you? A.—No.

Q.—What are the wages mentioned in those indentures? A.—For the first year it is one dollar and fifty cents, for the second year two dollars, and for the third year three dollars.

Q.—Do you pay the wages? A.—Yes. After a time, if they prefer to go on piece-work, we allow them to; we give them that option. They have a chance to make more, and we think it makes better boys of them.

Q.—Why do you make an agreement with them by indenture, and then change the nature of the agreement, while the man is working under it? A.—We do it because it makes it better for the boys and better for ourselves; and they do it because they earn more.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—The point I would like to have settled is this: you sign an agreement with a boy, knowing that he knows nothing about the trade at first, and for some weeks he only receives fifty cents a week, or sixty cents a week, because you know you have an agreement with him. You know that he does not know his trade. Then, how is it that he comes to be fined, when you have signed a document with him, in the first place, admitting that he does not know the business, and agreeing to teach him it? A.—To begin with, in answering your question—First, he works for nine months or a year. He is then allowed to go on piece-work. If he prefers not to go on piece-work, he can remain as he is. If he goes on piece-work, he knows the

prices he will receive; and if at any time he is dissatisfied, he can go on day-work again. He knows that the stock is valuable, and must not be wasted.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—If he works by the week, is he sure to get the salary mentioned in the agreement? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know by law what the age of children should be that are employed in factories? A.—I never heard that there was such a law.

Q.—It is worth your while to enquire. Do you know that there is a Factory Act, which is now law, passed by the Legislature of this Province, as well as the adjoining Provinces, regulating the wages and the hours of labor of children in factories, and also the hours of women? A.—I have never heard anything about it.

Q.—It can be enforced any day, and as you may be held liable it is worth your while to look into it.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Have you men doing the same work as the children in your factory? A.—Yes.

Q.—The cigarmakers who make the cigars, are they fined if any wrappers are missing? A.—When all earn the same, there is the same fine.

Q.—Are they on piecework? A.—They are on piecework, and they are all used alike.

Q.—When you take an apprentice do you think you take a man that knows his trade? A.—No.

Q.—Then do you think it is fair to impose the same fine upon a beginner in the business as you impose upon a full grown man who knows his business and has known it for years? A.—We do not fine a beginner, we do not fine him as a beginner. We do not fine him until he claims to know something.

Q.—You take the children for three years? A.—Yes.

Q.—And during the three years you impose the same fine on them that you impose upon the men? A.—Not until they go on piecework.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you levy any fines on them when they go on piecework? A.—No, not for stock.

Q.—When a child changes the nature of his indenture from work by the day to work by the piece, do you consider that he is still an apprentice? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then in your factory the apprentice is fined just the same as the men? A.—When they are on piecework they are.

Q.—Are they paid the same wages as a man when they do the same work? A.—They are not paid the same as a journeyman because they do not do as much work.

Q.—Do you impose the same fine? A.—We do not. We only impose a fine which does not quite cover the cost of the stock, so of course when we fine them we just fine them the cost of the stock.

Q.—When an apprentice does the same work as a man do they receive the same salary? A.—No. They do not do as much work as a journeyman of course.

Q.—Do they pay the same fine? A.—Yes.

Q.—Those apprentices work on the same class of goods as the journeymen? A.—No. There may be one or two of them—one or two of the older ones.

Q.—Are not Sumatra wrappers put on the same goods? A.—No, not on all classes.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What do you do with these bad cigars that the apprentices make? A.—We take them out. If the rolling is bad we throw them out.

Q.—You throw out these cigars ? A.—Yes.

Q.—And you make the apprentice replace them with better ones ? A.—Yes.

Q.—And the apprentices have to make them just as good as the journeymen ?
A.—No. But if he prefers to go on piece work he must make a good cigar.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—There are different varieties of cigars, are there not ? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it mentioned in your indentures or agreements with these children that you shall have the right to change the payment by the week for payment by the job ? A.—I do not know whether it is or not. I do not think it is. We do that to accomodate the hands. The hands make more pay out of it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—In these four ounces that are supposed to contain sufficient wrappers for one hundred cigars, if there is more than the boy finds it necessary to use, does the surplus go to the credit of the boy ? A.—Yes.

Q.—Why does it ? A.—Well. He keeps them until he has finished his case for us.

Q.—He might find himself short on another bundle ? A.—Yes.

Q.—And when he has finished his case, if he is short do you put that down as wilful destruction on the part of the boy ? A.—Well, if we are positive.

Q.—What means do you take to know that ? A.—Because we allow all the way through for a shortage, He always has a little over.

Q.—If the stock runs bad ? A.—He can call the foreman who examines it.

Q.—Can the foreman give a guarantee that the necessary quantity will be there ? A.—Well, he is there for the purpose, and it is for him to see as near as possible that the hand has the proper quantity.

Q.—So you say you do not impose fines upon the boys until these boys go on piece work ? A.—Not for stock.

Q.—Supposing a boy goes to the cigar making for three years, do you fine him if he goes on piece work ? A.—It is just like this :—when boys become proficient, they are permitted, with a view to increase their salary, and to encourage them in their work, to go on piece work. If they are girls and waste the stock they are fined ; if they are careful and do their work properly they are not very likely to be fined. If they believe that they have not sufficient stock to put into the work required of them, they can have it examined, and if it is found short they have the proper quantity given them.

Q.—Have any boys been kicked by the proprietors or foreman ? A.—No ; I do not think it.

Q.—Could it have been done without the knowledge of the proprietors ? A.—I am one of the proprietors—I kicked one journeyman once.

Q.—You do not know if it ever happened in the shop ? A.—No.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—How much does a man receive for making a thousand five cent cigars ?
A.—Three dollars and twenty-five cents.

Q.—How much do you pay the apprentices ? A.—We have one apprentice who is in his first year, and he makes two dollars and twenty-five cents a week.

Q.—Do you not think that those apprentices should get the same as journeymen for that kind of work ? A.—If they did the same kind of work.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Take fifteen cigar makers, what percentage of them would fill their own quantity of wrappers week after week ? A.—I could not tell you exactly.

Q.—Is it not a fact that one cigar maker is more apt to fall short in the quantity of work that he may have to perform, than another? A.—Yes.

Q.—That shortage is more apt to be by neglect than anything else? A.—Yes; or carelessness on the part of the operator. With regard to the question of wrappers, they might by carelessness slash them with a knife and otherwise injure the stock and thus incur expense upon the proprietor. This tobacco costs one dollar a pound, and if we allowed them to use the stock without checking, we should soon become heavy losers.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Could you give us a statement of the wages held back by you last year for missing material? A.—No; I do not think I could. I worked them on the sheet; I just made it up on the pay sheet for the day.

Q.—How high is the room that the operatives work in? A.—I could not tell you exactly. I measured it with the Chief of Police, who was down there to measure it, but I could not tell exactly.

Q.—Are they children or men working in the upper flat? A.—Well, there are two men and a couple of girls generally.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Do you sell these five cent cigars, made by the apprentices, for the same prices as you sell those made by journeymen? A.—Yes.

Q.—Why don't you pay your apprentices the same as the men? A.—We pay our apprentices, and we also teach them, and suffer loss by them sometimes. Supposing they use three dollars worth of stuff the first week, and we take and teach them at a loss, it is but reasonable that, towards the latter end of their time, we should expect make some profit out of them.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Will any of your apprentices go on piece work, after they have been with you a year or less? A.—Yes.

Q.—You begin to make profit out of them, then? A.—Yes.

Q.—If you lose any material on them, they are fined? A.—Yes; but they make more money.

Q.—Yes; but you said, just now, you were not making any money upon them, except on piece work? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—You had two apprentices arrested in Montreal, did you not? A.—Yes; we did not put them under arrest, and the officer did not handcuff them, nor anything.

Q.—Did you make any complaint here, before the Police Magistrate, to have them arrested? A.—I suppose so. My partner, Mr. Webster, attended to all that. He got out the papers here.

Q.—Do you remember how long ago that happened? A.—About two months ago.

Q.—Can you give a statement of the weekly wages of these children, before their arrest, a month before they were arrested. Do you know what they were paid? A.—They know, sir. I just looked up four weeks of these two little ones. One amounted to two dollars and twenty-nine cents a week, and the other one dollar and fifty-three cents a week, that was a week before they came back.

Q.—Can you give a statement of the salary paid to those children, for the four weeks preceding the arrest of these children? A.—Well, I am not so positive whether I could or not. I have no data or sheets since this thing happened. I

would draw up the sheets, and not put the date, and I do not know that we could identify these very weeks.

JOHN THOMSON, Sherbrooke, book-keeper in the employ of the Paton Manufacturing Company, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you a statement of the wages paid to the employees of the woollen mills, and fines? A.—Yes. This statement might require a little explanation. I am the book-keeper of the Paton Manufacturing Company, and I may state that this is a comparative statement of the wages paid in November, eighteen hundred and seventy-seven, eighteen hundred and eighty-two, and eighteen hundred and eighty-seven, and a list of the fines for eighteen hundred and eighty-seven—the fines charged weavers during the year eighteen hundred and eighty-seven.

Q.—Was there any reduction of wages during the past year? A.—I find no cases during the past year. This shows the total number of the employees, and there is appended to it a copy of the printed indenture of agreement, in French and in English, together with a copy of the rules enforced in the mill.

HENRY A. ELKINS, Sherbrooke, manager of the Elkins Manufacturing Company, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What does your company at present manufacture? A.—We manufacture and fit up stoves. We sold out our foundry, boiler and engine business to Mr. Jenks in July last. Previous to that, we had carried it on for fourteen years.

Q.—Are you able to tell us the average earnings of a stove-plate moulder? A.—Last year it was one dollar and fifty cents to two dollars a day.

Q.—Where apprentices are taken, are they taught the whole business? A.—We have taken one on, but we have not taken any the last year. We take on a few at the foundry and engine business.

Q.—Do you find the stove-plate moulders take only that branch, or do they take the whole? A.—They take the whole.

Q.—Do moulders in Sherbrooke find constant employment? A.—No, not steady employment; we are only just working up the stove business.

Q.—Have you been long enough in the business to get a business outside? A.—Yes; we sell outside the city.

Q.—About how many months in the year do moulders obtain constant employment? A.—Ours is the only stove concern in the city, and, as I said before, we are only beginning to work up a business. We are only just started.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Are the men in your employ steady, active, industrious men? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you know if any of these men possess property—do they own their own houses? A.—Yes; a good many of them do.

Q.—Those who do not, have they money laid by? A.—I think they have.

Q.—Do you think an active, industrious man, with a saving wife, can save money? A.—I have no doubt about it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Have you any information to give to the Commission that you think would be a benefit to it? A.—No. As I said before, we have only been a short time in the stove business—since last July. Previous to that, we were fourteen years in the

general machine business, building engines, boilers, repairing wood-working and board mills—everything of that kind, the same as Mr. Jenks.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that the working classes are in a better condition to-day than they were fourteen years ago? A.—I think they are, as a rule.

Q.—Has business in connection with your works increased? A.—Well, somewhat. I think fifteen years ago we paid about as high wages as are now being paid. Then in 1877 and 1878 they fell down lower, very much, indeed. Afterwards they increased, and went up to the standard that they were fifteen years ago.

(Translation.)

ALFRED MARCHESSEAU, of Sherbrooke, Baker, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—How many are employed in your bakery? A.—Two men, at the present time.

Q.—Do you employ any children? A.—No.

Q.—What wages do you pay the men? A.—I pay \$8 a week to the first, and one dollar a week to the other.

Q.—What is the age of the one earning \$1 a week? A.—I cannot say.

Q.—About what age do you think? A.—He is a young man of about 17 or 18 years of age.

Q.—How long has he been with you? A.—He has not begun yet. He will begin on the 1st of May. The other is an old man of 64 years of age.

Q.—This old man of 64 earns \$8 a week? A.—No. The old man of 64 is the father-in-law of the one that earns \$8 a week.

Q.—How much does he earn, the man 64 years of age? A.—He does not earn anything at all. He works with his son.

Q.—What is the present price of bread in Sherbrooke? A.—The price is 16 cents for stores and 18 cents for private customers, and we give 13 to the dozen.

Q.—And do you give 13 to the dozen to private families? A.—We give 13 to families only.

Q.—Is that for six pound loaves? A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What is the price of flour by the barrel? A.—It depends on the quality. The price of the kind I use is from \$4.40 to \$4.60.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Has the price of bread gone up during the last few years, say the last five years? A.—No, on the contrary, it has fallen two cents in the last five years.

Q.—And has flour fallen also? A.—Yes, flour has also fallen.

Q.—Do you remember what were the prices five years ago? A.—No, I don't remember exactly. I could see by referring to the books.

Q.—Is there any kind of an understanding among bakers in Sherbrooke, by which the price of bread is kept up? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—Were there one, you would know of it? A.—Well, I think so. I came here five years ago; bread was then selling 18 cents to families and 20 cents for stores. I was told that such were the current prices, and I was also told, that, in reality, two bakers alone kept up the price of bread. When bread fell to 16 and 18 cents, I lowered my prices along with the other bakers.

Q.—Have you ever sold your bread at cheaper rates than other bakers? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Was there an understanding among you bakers when prices were lowered? A.—No, I heard it when I was delivering my bread. I was told that bread was selling at such a price. I was not warned when it was lowered, because, I suppose, I was too recent an arrival. They did not mind me.

Q.—How long a time is it that bread has been down two cents? A.—I can't say. About eighteen months or two years.

Q.—Can you remember what was the price of flour two years ago? A.—No, sir; I could not tell before consulting my books.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—At what hour do your bakers begin working in the morning? A.—They work at night. They begin at night; they set the bread to rise between 5 and 6 o'clock. Then they recommence work at 11 o'clock when the bread has risen.

Q.—At what hour do they leave off work? A.—At about 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

(Translation.)

ALBERTINE CORBIVEAU, Accountant, of Sherbrooke, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—What is your occupation? A.—I am book-keeper in Mr. Octave Gendron's factory.

Q.—What salary do you receive? A.—Three dollars.

Q.—How many hours a day do you work? A.—Nine hours and a half in summer, and nine in winter.

Q.—Any one else employed with you? A.—Yes, sir; one young lady.

Q.—What is this young lady's salary? A.—I am unable to say exactly.

Q.—Do you know what wages young girls employed in the factory earn, no matter what department they may be in; we will say first-class hands, what salary do they get? A.—On an average \$4 or \$5 a week.

Q.—And how much do inferior hands receive? A.—Two or three dollars.

Q.—What are the wages paid to little girl apprentices who work by the job, but do not do hard work? A.—I am not quite sure.

Q.—Is the factory clean and in a proper sanitary condition? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Are the employees, in general, quite satisfied with the existing state of things in the factory? Are there no complaints? A.—They are, in general, well satisfied.

Q.—Is there anything concerning the improvement of the factory you would like to suggest, any alteration for the welfare of those concerned? A.—I think not.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are fines imposed in the factory for badly done work? A.—Very seldom.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—When fines are imposed, do you believe them to be imposed because the goods are really injured, or merely as a species of speculation? A.—They are imposed in all possible justice.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do the workmen furnish anything besides thread and needles? A.—They furnish, that is, they pay for needles only, not thread.

(Translation.)

NAPOLÉON TIMOLÉON DUSSAULT, of Sherbrooke, Merchant Tailor, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Be good enough to state how many men are in your employ? A.—Generally eight men.

Q.—And what wages do you pay them? A.—On an average of \$1.75 a day.

Q.—Do you employ women? A.—Yes; men and women, thirty-five in all. Twenty-two women and eight men.

Q.—Can you give us any idea of their average weekly wages? A.—They earn, on an average, \$4.50 a week.

Q.—What are the hours of work of those working by the day? A.—They all work by the piece. They generally begin at eight o'clock in the morning and leave work at six o'clock at night. They have an hour for dinner.

Q.—Do you work up the cloth or material of the country alone, or do you import? A.—It is nearly all imported.

Q.—Where do you generally deal, in this country, or from abroad? A.—I import from abroad.

Q.—Have you ever had any trouble, such as a “strike,” with your workmen? A.—Never. I do not remember anything.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do all your work-people work in the shop, or do some of them work at home? A.—Only two work at home. They are old hands who have been twelve or fifteen years with us.

Q.—Do the women that make vests and trousers work by the piece? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they get the same price for making a vest as for making trousers? A.—Yes; they get the same thing.

Q.—How much does a woman get for making a pair of tweed trousers? A.—Three shillings, whether they be of tweed or any other material.

Q.—Do you make “overalls”? A.—No.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—When you speak of giving sixty cents for making a pair of trousers, does that include buttonholes, and everything? A.—Yes; everything except ironing, which is too hard a work for women to do. Men do all the ironing.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do men and women work in the same room? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is the stove used for heating the irons in the same room? A.—Only in winter; it is outside in summer.

JAMES DINSMORE, of Sherbrooke, Cloth Cleaner, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—In what capacity are you employed? A.—I have charge of the cleaning department, in the Woollen Mill, of the Paton Manufacturing Company.

Q.—What do you call the cleaning department? A.—Cleaning the cloth after it comes from the weaving room, and washing it after it comes from the mills.

Q.—Is it very laborious work? A.—It is.

Q.—How many hours a day do you work? A.—We are supposed to work ten hours a day.

Q.—Is that the limit? A.—Well, during eighteen hundred and eighty seven, I suppose, I would work on the average, perhaps thirteen hours a day.

Q.—What is the longest time you have ever been worked consecutively? A.—Two days and a night without stopping.

Q.—Was that the same class of work? A.—Yes. Cleaning cloth that was in a hurry to go away, and pattern pieces.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—How long were you allowed to sleep after that? A.—I went home and came back the next morning.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What wages would you receive in that room for ten hours work? A.—One dollar and twenty cents for a day's labour of ten hours. Two men receive one dollar, and one other man receives one dollar and twenty cents a day, the same as myself.

Q.—What is the rate you are paid for overtime? A.—Unfortunately we receive the same rate for overtime,

Q.—You work all day and all night for the same pay. A.—Yes.

Q.—That is in eighteen hundred and eighty-seven. A.—Yes.

Q.—Since then, in eighteen hundred and eighty-eight, what have you received? A.—Since then, the factory has not been so busy, and I suppose we would average eleven and a half, perhaps twelve hours a day.

Q.—Would that be because you have not got sufficient help in the room? A.—Oh, no, as far as I understand it, I would venture to explain it, in order that you understand me a little better. There are certain colours in the cloth, which if not washed out and cleaned off, and sent to the dyer, as soon as possible, it will run and spoil the colour of the cloth. Of course these are things which we try to do, we try to prevent. When I receive an order, I do it.

Q.—How old is the youngest man employed at this work? A.—There is one boy aged thirteen, he works ten hours, and he never works overtime.

Q.—Do you think you are sufficiently paid for your long hours and your laborious work? A.—Not for overtime. Oh, no.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Have you applied to get more pay for that overtime? A.—I have given my overseer many a "rub" about it, and it is of no use. It is of no use here unless it is made compulsory by law. I believe at one time they used to pay extra—as I understand time and a quarter, but for some cause or another they have discontinued it.

Q.—Does it require much skill? A.—Well, it requires a good deal of attention on the part of those in charge of the thing. I have never got a chance to sit down. I am on my feet all the time working.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Did you ever speak to the President of the Company about it? A.—About what?

Q.—About your wages? A.—Oh, no. He does not interfere about such things. I may say in that factory that every man, so far as I understand, is treated in a really good style. In fact it is really model treatment for working men. There is no doubt about that. There is one thing, now that I am here, that I would like to say. I do not know whether it is in order or not, but I have always been accustomed to be in the mining work where a large number of persons are employed, and I have seen a few things which I might explain. I find that none of the workmen have been here, and there are a good many of them, and I think they should be examined.

Q.—Where were you before? A.—I was employed in one of the Capelton Copper Mines.

Q.—Were you ever working in a mine in the old country? A.—Oh, yes. I have worked in a mine in Scotland.

Q.—How long is it since you left the Capelton Mines? A.—Two years ago. I left there two years ago.

Q.—What wages did you receive? A.—From thirty-five to forty dollars a month; that was on contract work. Every man there that is engaged in blasting is paid by the amount of work he does. He is supposed to be paid on the fifteenth of every month—sometimes the twentieth and sometimes the twenty-sixth.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Are you paid on any orders from stores? A.—No.

Q.—Have you worked in woollen mills in the old country? A.—No. This is the first mill I worked at.

Q.—Were there any boys employed at the Capelton Mines? A.—Yes.

Q.—How young are they? A.—I have seen them twelve years of age.

Q.—Have you seen any younger? A.—No; none under.

Q.—What class of work do they do? A.—They work on the surface picking out the stones from the ore as it comes out of the mine.

Q.—You saw none younger than twelve years working there? A.—No.

Q.—And you say they work on the surface? A.—Yes. Simply taking away the refuse stones from the copper ore after it has been broken in the crusher.

Q.—What is the age of the youngest person employed in the mines? A.—Seventeen. I have known them as low as sixteen.

Q.—Is that the age of the youngest miner you have seen? A.—I have seen a miner in the old country at thirteen.

Q.—Do you consider the men here as good as those you have seen in the Old Country? A.—Yes; and I think most of them are from the Old Country—those that are any good at any rate.

Q.—It is the custom to have a society in connection with these mines in the Old Country? A.—It is invariably the custom, and every man is compelled to attend these societies, which ought to be done here.

And at the evening session of the Commission held on the 24th day of April, 1888, re-appears the said JAMES DUNSMORE and continues his evidence, being re-called by

Mr. COMMISSIONER HEAKES :—

Q.—Will you tell us, please, whether sufficient care is taken in copper mines to prevent accidents? A.—In some of them there is not. The mines under the charge of Captain Bennett were properly taken care of, and every care was taken with the men.

Q.—Was that at Capelton? A.—Yes; there were three mines at Capelton, in the "Alfred" mine belonging to Messrs. J. H. Nichols & Company of New York, every care was taken, so also, with Captain Bennett's mine, he was one of the best miners in Canada; but in the other mine, I do not think it safe for a competent miner to work there.

Q.—On account of what? A.—On account of the recklessness and incompetency of those in charge.

Q.—Did you ever work in that mine? A.—I wrought for a while, two days and a half.

Q.—What was the cause of your leaving there? A.—Because I was not ready to die.

Q.—Have you known accidents to occur there through this carelessness and incompetency? A.—Certainly; frequently when blasting. There were places there where the men worked that were not safe. When I was there, which was five years ago, where the men were working it was impossible, under any circumstances with the light that they had, to see anything of the walls, what you would call the ceiling. It was perfectly impossible to see that. Now any competent miner will not work where he cannot see the surroundings. It would be the best thing for you gentlemen to go down that shaft. If you do, I do not think you will go again. At that time it was the custom to fire perhaps twelve or fourteen shots at once. While the men would be coming out yelling out “fire” “fire,” they did not much care whether you were out of the reach of danger or not, you had not a moment to lose and they were utterly reckless. After you heard the “bang,” “bang,” “bang” of the shots they would rush right back in again. They did not know whether all the charges were exploded or not, and I suppose they did not care. I think it was the second or third day that I was there, there were two partners—two men work together at drilling, they work together in two’s a man and his mate. These two men were working in the one hundred and forty fathom lift when they exploded three shots. One of them ran back after the first explosion, and one of the shots hung fire. The other man followed him just as the second explosion took place, and it laid them both out. I have also seen them there, in that mine, drill or pick out shot that had not exploded, which is one of the most dangerous things that can be done in mining. It is prohibited by law—that is, it is prohibited by the mining regulations in the Old Country. To explain it to you, gentlemen, I will say there is a hole full of powder which has failed to explode. Perhaps it is filled with dualin, and they go and try and draw it and pull it out, or take it out, for the purpose of saving themselves the trouble of boring a new hole. They would rather run the risk of being killed—they are so ignorant—than bore a new hole. It would be much safer to bore a new hole. I have even seen—perhaps you would scarcely believe it—I have even seen young fellows there playing with fulminating caps (dualin) an inch and a quarter long and perhaps of the thickness of an ordinary lead-pencil. These, in all well regulated places, are taken the greatest care of. I have seen these boys, in one particular place, put one of these caps in a pair of pincers, and squeeze it; and in another place I have seen another of these boys put one of these fulminating caps into his mouth, and squeeze it with his teeth. It is exactly the same kind of cap as the Chicago Anarchists used; and he squeezed it in the same kind of a way as that Chicago Anarchist did when he blew himself to pieces. Well, gentlemen, I saw that boy actually take that ounce of dualin into his mouth, and squeeze it with his teeth; and when I told him he was doing wrong, he said: “You go to bloody hell.”

Q.—Are these things done with the knowledge of the people in charge? A.—Well, they must be, because he went there when I was in the place; he was there, and he did not obtain charge of such things without the previous knowledge of the officials. He could not have got these fulminating cartridges unless they had been given him by those employed in the mine, and what I blame them for is, for allowing him to have such things in his possession when he was such a reckless and dangerous person.

Q.—Were the explosives properly taken charge of while you were in the mine? A.—There was no care at all taken of the explosives. There was no care shown in the charge of the explosives. I will tell you what I saw, I saw two young sweeps boring a hole in the side wall, one of them had a bottle of powder in his hand, and I saw the young devil (for I can call him nothing else) take a handful of gun powder and throw it at his mate’s candle. That is a very serious thing. Recklessness in a mine should be carefully guarded against in my opinion, and any employee who attempts to trifle with the lives of others, or of himself, should be instantly discharged.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—You say you saw him throw the gun powder at the candle, were you over him in authority? A.—I was in a kind of a way.

Q.—Which do you consider the most to blame then, you or the man whom you allowed to do it? A.—I acted like this: I had no control over him.

Q.—Could you not control the boy? A.—No; and that was one of the reasons why I left the mine; they all seemed to do as they pleased. That same day I heard some of the men tell the boys to go to a "warm place."

Q.—Are the boys allowed to handle the explosives? A.—Yes. They were boys about sixteen or seventeen.

Q.—Who were the proprietors of this mine? A.—They are in New York.

Q.—Was there any one in charge? A.—Well, after I was sent there by Captain Bennett some one else was in charge.

Q.—Who was it—do you know, or do you not know? A.—I do not know of my own personal knowledge.

ANDREW SANGSTER, Superintendent of the Sherbrooke Gas and Water Company sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are your men generally employed at night? A.—Not just now; some times in the winter time, for a short time at night.

Q.—How many men have you got working for the company? A.—Three, just now.

Q.—What would be their hours of labor? A.—From seven in the morning to six at night.

Q.—In the day time? A.—Yes.

Q.—What wages would they receive? A.—I have one at twenty dollars and two at fifteen dollars.

Q.—What peculiar position do they occupy? A.—There are two works. There is the gas works. One in connection with the gas works, and one in connection with the pumps. This last man looks after the pumping machinery.

Q.—Have you got an engineer? A.—No.

Q.—How many stokers have you got? A.—It is water-wheels we have in connection with the gas. It is water-gas that we use, so we do not require stokers.

Q.—When the men work at night, are they paid extra? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many hours do they work at night, as a general thing, when they are called back? A.—Last winter, I had a man working until eleven o'clock. I put on a man at six o'clock, and he worked until eleven or twelve o'clock.

Q.—He never worked past that hour? A.—No.

Q.—And that night work counts as a day? A.—Yes. I generally get him on in the afternoon, and he works from three until eleven; that counts for a day.

Q.—In the winter time? A.—Yes.

Q.—How are they paid—weekly, fortnightly or monthly? A.—Every two weeks, in cash and in full.

Q.—Have you got any boys engaged on your works? A.—No; we have no boys.

Q.—You do not use coal in any respect? A.—Just for heating up; we use hard coal for heating up—anthracite coal.

Q.—Did you ever try the coal of Nova-Scotia? A.—It would not do for our work.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What does the labouring man earn for putting in the gas mains? A.—I pay one from one dollar to one dollar and fifty cents a day.

Q.—Would that be the average for the labouring man here? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are the wages the same in winter as in summer? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has your Company obtained the privilege from the Town of Sherbrooke?
A.—Yes.

Q.—They have obtained the privilege for supplying both gas and water to the town? A.—Yes. The Company is under contract to supply the town with water for fire purposes, and gas for the street lamps for twelve years.

Q.—Have you obtained a bonus and exemption from taxation? A.—We have an exemption from taxes I think, at the same time—municipal taxes—not school taxes.

Q.—What is the capital of the Company? A.—Two hundred thousand dollars.

Q.—It is all paid up? A.—Yes, it is paid up, in full.

Q.—What was the dividend paid by the Company last year? A.—Am I obliged to answer that question.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—We will not force you to answer, if it is not public? A.—No.

Q.—You are not obliged to answer then.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you a tariff for the rates? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any objection to state the number of houses you supply with water in the town of Sherbrooks? A.—We have about three hundred consumers, just now.

Q.—Is the water introduced into the houses of workingmen paying therefor five or six dollars a month? A.—Yes, perhaps there may be four or five in one house, they run from three dollars a year to six dollars a year, tenement houses.

Q.—How many families do these houses contain? A.—One of them has four families, another six families, and old John Edwards has thirty-two families.

Q.—In the one house? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q.—Thirty-two families residing in one tenement house? A.—Yes, they say there is about that.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Is that what is called "Castle Edwards"? A.—I believe that is the name.

Q.—How much do you charge by the family? A.—Twelve dollars for the first tap, if there are two tenements from the same pipe, that is the general run of it.

Q.—Do we understand you to say that of these thirty-two families, one pays twelve dollars, and the others all pay eight dollars each? A.—No. The proprietor pays for that. He pays twenty-four dollars a year for the lot.

Q.—It is a private contract? It is a private arrangement between you and Mr. Edwards? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know, if the rate of water was lower, would it not have the effect of introducing water into a larger number of houses? A.—I suppose it would. This Company bought it from the original contractors, only a year ago, so that it is very likely they have that under consideration.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Are families obliged to take water from you when you are ready in the street? A.—Yes, they take it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—I suppose the greater the number of persons who take water from you the more you will decrease the rates? A.—It may be decreased after a time.

JAMES SEIVRIGHT, of Sherbrooke, Master Mechanic, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What railway are you employed on? A.—The Quebec Central Railway.

Q.—Have you many men employed in the shops? A.—Not many.

Q.—How many men have you got there? A.—About thirty altogether, I guess.

Q.—What trades are there represented—engine fitters and machinists? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are the wages of the machinists? A.—Very fair. We give good wages to good men.

Q.—What do you call wages sufficient for a good man? A.—Two dollars a day.

Q.—If that would be the highest for a machinist what would be the lowest? A.—One dollar and seventy-five cents a day.

Q.—How much do you pay your fitters—engine fitters you generally call them, I believe? A.—They are all one class, we pay them the same.

Q.—Have you any laborers about the shop? A.—Yes.

Q.—What do they receive? A.—One dollar and twenty-five cents a day.

Q.—Have you any apprentices? A.—No.

Q.—Do you not take any at all? A.—No.

Q.—Have you any other classes of mechanics besides locomotive engineers? A.—Yes. We do car building and repairing.

Q.—Are they classified in any way? A.—They are repairers, carpenters.

Q.—Are they skilled carpenters or handy men? A.—Handy men.

Q.—What wages do the carpenters get on new work? A.—One dollar and seventy-five cents a day.

Q.—Is that the pay of the highest? A.—Yes.

Q.—What does the lowest get? A.—One dollar and forty cents a day.

Q.—Do they frame the whole car complete or is the material made ready for them? A.—They frame the whole thing complete.

Q.—Do the men who construct the cars build trucks? A.—No.

Q.—What do truck builders get? A.—Of course they put the trucks together.

Q.—What wages do the truck builders get? A.—About the same.

Q.—What do the blacksmiths get? A.—One dollar and seventy-five cents to two dollars a day.

Q.—What do blacksmiths' helpers receive? A.—One dollar and twenty-five cents a day.

Q.—Do these workmen find constant employment all the year round? A.—All the year round, wet or dry.

Q.—What wages are paid to car repairers? A.—One dollar and fifty cents.

Q.—Do these car repairers go out on the auxiliary trains at an accident? A.—Sometimes.

Q.—What wages do they get when on the road? A.—They generally get time and a half.

Q.—How frequently are the men paid? A.—About the fifteenth of every month.

Q.—Have the men always been paid up in full to the fifteenth? A.—Not always. Sometimes they are two or three days behind, and sometimes they are two or three days ahead.

Q.—How are the men paid on the road? A.—I do not know about the road. I only know about the shops and the men in the shops.

Q.—And you say there are no arrears in the shops? A.—No.

Q.—You do not know if the men on the road have wages owing to them, any arrears? A.—No.

Q.—Is there any insurance fund on the Quebec Central? A.—Yes.

Q.—How is that fund managed? A.—I do not have anything to do with the insurance at all.

Q.—What is it? Is it a benevolent fund? A.—No; it is not a benevolent fund.

Q.—Can you tell us the nature of it, please? A.—Well, I scarcely know myself. I am not insured myself, therefore I never made enquiry into it.

Q.—Do you know if it is compulsory on the men to join it? A.—No; I do not. I suppose they can join it if they like, or leave it alone if they like.

Q.—Have the men any voice in the insurance fund, or does it belong to the company? A.—It belongs to the company.

Q.—And the men have no voice in the disposal of the funds? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Is it an insurance fund under the control the railway company? A.—No; I do not think the railway company have anything to do with it at all.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—It is under the control of the Insurance Company? A.—Yes.

Q.—And it is not compulsory to join it? A.—No.

Q.—I think you have an insurance scheme, the same as the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the Grand Trunk Railway? A.—No.

Q.—You cannot tell anything of the wages of the men on the road? A.—I think the section men get from one dollar and twenty-five cents to one dollar and fifty cents a day.

Q.—Do you know anything about the wages of the track masters or conductors? A.—The brakemen, I think, get from thirty to thirty-five dollars a month, and the conductors fifty dollars a month.

Q.—Is the conductor supposed to furnish a certificate from a guarantee company before obtaining employment in that position? A.—No.

Q.—What do railway engineers receive? A.—We have two rates, fifty-five dollars, and sixty dollars a month.

Q.—And the firemen, what do they receive? A.—They generally run about fifty dollars a month.

Q.—Are the firemen promoted to be engineers? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many years does a fireman generally run before he gets charge of an engine? A.—Sometimes two years.

Q.—Do you consider that a fireman gets sufficient knowledge of an engine, so as to be able to take charge of one, in two years? A.—Yes.

Q.—What examination do they undergo before taking charge of an engine? A.—We do not examine them. We find out what a man can do before he takes charge of an engine.

Q.—Do you examine them for color blindness? A.—No.

Q.—Do you examine them as to the signals on the road? A.—No.

Q.—You just put them on when you consider them capable of taking charge of an engine? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know if the frogs on the railway are filled? A.—I do not think they are.

Q.—Do you know of any law in the Province of Quebec, that all frogs shall be filled within two inches of the surface of the line? A.—I do not think there are any covered yet, at least I have not seen any that I know of.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do any of your married men in the shops, own their own houses? A.—In Sherbrooke?

Q.—Yes. In your shops. A.—I could not say.

Q.—Do they remain long in your employ? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are their wages ever garnished—seized? A.—No; I do not think so.

Q.—Have you ever asked to be paid more frequently than once a month? A.—No; at least, I never heard of any. I have heard of one man asking for a little money before pay day.

Q.—Does he get it? A.—I do not think a man has been refused yet.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—On leaving the employ of the company, are the employees supposed to give notice? A.—There is no law to that effect, but they generally give about fifteen days, and if a man wants to leave right away, he does so.

Q.—In your repairing department of the railway, does the company furnish the tools, such as bars, wrenches and spinners? A.—Yes; the company furnishes all the heavy tools.

Q.—If there are any tools broken or lost, are the men charged with them? A.—No.

FREDERICK ORTON, Sherbrooke, Machinist, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What class of machinery do you work at? A.—I run the big machine in the locomotive department of the Quebec Central Railway.

Q.—What wages do you receive? A.—One dollar and ninety cents a day.

Q.—Would that be good average wages for the men in the shop as machinists? A.—Yes.

Q.—How frequently are you paid there? A.—Once a month.

Q.—Are you paid regularly? A.—Yes, pretty regularly. Well, it will vary sometimes two or three days.

Q.—Are the arrears paid up? A.—Well, yes.

Q.—Just about the same as ever? A.—Yes. Sometimes they run from the 7th of the month, sometimes to the 15th, and sometimes to the 17th.

Q.—How many days' pay do they keep from you? A.—Fifteen days in arrears.

Q.—Do they always keep fifteen days in hand? A.—Yes.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—When a man is discharged does he have any trouble in getting his pay? A.—I do not think so. I know if a man leaves he gets his money. I at least have heard them say so.

Q.—Have you a comfortable shop to work in? A.—Yes, I have a pretty comfortable place.

Q.—About this insurance company, can you tell us whether it is compulsory for the men to join it? A.—I am not quite satisfied on that. It is optional.

Q.—The company has nothing to do with it? A.—No, it is an insurance company, and they send their travellers around here; they were around here this winter, and I had the option to join it or not.

Q.—In the case in question is the company liable for that insurance? A.—Well, no. There never was any question about that in the shops, I do not know how that would be elsewhere.

Q.—Do they provide medical attendance? A.—I do not think they keep a doctor.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—When a man leaves the employ of the company or is discharged, is he paid at the time he is discharged, or has he got to wait until pay day? A.—I have reason to believe that he gets his money right off—directly he goes to the office.

Q.—Do you think the men would like to be paid more frequently than once, or twice, a month? A.—I do not think there have been any complaints. I think they are satisfied to be paid once a month.

FRED. CRUIKSHANK, of Sherbrooke, Cigar-maker in the factory of Messrs. Nutter and Webster, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—How long have you worked as a cigar-maker? A.—I have worked about four years.

Q.—Did you serve your time in Sherbrooke? A.—Yes.

Q.—What wages can you earn? A.—Six dollars and fifty cents to seven dollars a week.

Q.—Piece work? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much a thousand do you get? A.—Five dollars.

Q.—How many of you are employed in this cigar factory? A.—I should say there are about fifty, I could not say for sure. There are quite a number of young fellows about my age, and smaller.

Q.—How many journeymen are there? A.—Fifteen.

Q.—Then outside these fifteen, the rest are boys? A.—Yes; some of them are of a pretty good size.

Q.—What is the age of the youngest boy? A.—13 and 14.

Q.—He would be an apprentice? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many foremen have you? A.—There is one in our room, and another down stairs. There are two departments.

Q.—Are these boys on piece work or day work? A.—Some of them are on piece work and some on day work.

Q.—Have they got to manufacture a number of cigars a week? A.—No; they make what they like.

Q.—Have boys on day work got to make up a number of cigars in a day? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—What do boys on day work get? A.—One dollar a week the first year.

Q.—And the second year? A.—The second year they would get two dollars.

Q.—What would they get the third year? A.—Three dollars to three dollars and a half, I do not know which.

Q.—Would you be surprised to know that they do not get more than two dollars on the third year? A.—I never saw it during the time that I have been engaged in the business.

Q.—How many cigars did you make after being one year in the business in a week? A.—I suppose in a week I would make about one thousand cigars—one thousand or fifteen hundred in a week.

Q.—Do the apprentices get as much as you? A.—If they can make the same cigar they will get about twenty-five cents or thirty-two cents the hundred—between twenty-five cents and thirty-two cents the hundred.

Q.—Can a boy make a thousand or twelve hundred cigars in a week? A.—They can if they want to.

Q.—Do you know what they get? A.—Some make three dollars, some four dollars, and some two dollars.

Q.—How many are there that get less than two dollars? A.—I could not say. I am not sure. Some get less. I could not say how many.

Q.—When a boy is given a package of cigar wrappers, are they counted out to him? A.—The foreman looks them over first.

Q.—Are they counted? A.—They are weighed. The packages are weighed.

Q.—Is the tobacco charged by weight? A.—No.

Q.—Well, they all have the same weight? A.—They are expected to have packages all containing the same quantity of tobacco leaf. Sometimes there is more in a package than in others. We can have them weighed if we like.

Q.—How long do these packages run? A.—Well, I have never found anything wrong.

Q.—How much are these boys charged if the packages are short? A.—Five cents an ounce, I think.

Q.—Have you ever been charged that yourself? A.—Yes.

Q.—How often? A.—A couple of times. A month or so ago I was fined for an ounce or two.

Q.—How soon is a boy put on piece work when he goes to learn the trade? A.—As soon as he is able to make his allowance.

Q.—What is his allowance? A.—One dollar a week the first year.

Q.—Do you think a boy who has been six months at the trade is capable of going on piece work? A.—Some can and some cannot.

Q.—What is the authorized time for putting them on piece work? A.—I could not say that any have been put on, before they have been there a year or more. I could not swear that they are put on piece work before their time.

Q.—If they make bad cigars are they charged with them? A.—I would suppose so, if they are on piece work.

Q.—Are many of the cigars forfeited? A.—I do not understand you.

Q.—Are any taken from them? Are any taken away as bad cigars? Are they used by the customers? A.—Not that I know of.

Q.—What becomes of the cigars that are confiscated as bad cigars? A.—I could not say.

Q.—Who takes them? Does the foreman? A.—I could not say.

Q.—You do not know what becomes of them? A.—No.

Q.—Do the boys have to replace these cigars? A.—Yes.

Q.—Now, if the boys receive two dollars a week the second year when they are put on piecework, and on account of the shortness in his cigars and wrappers, he only receives eighty cents a week, is his agreement carried out? A.—I should not think so.

Q.—Have you ever heard of a boy getting eighty cents a week? A.—No.

Q.—What is the smallest amount known to you that a boy gets on piecework? A.—I could not say.

Q.—What is the smallest amount that you have known a boy to receive on piecework? A.—I could not say. I do not remember exactly.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Did he ever receive as low as a dollar? A.—Yes; when I first went into the trade—when you first go into the trade that is all you get—as low as a dollar, and you do not get much lower.

Q.—Did you ever hear of anybody being kicked in the factory? A.—I have heard tell of it, but I never saw it.

Q.—Such a thing might take place without you knowing it? A.—It might.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you believe that any one was kicked by the foreman? A.—I do not believe there was.

Q.—Is it possible for two packages of wrappers, being of equal weight, but one to contain a less number of wrappers? A.—Yes; there may be a difference, but not much.

Q.—Are all kinds of wrappers weighed out? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is that the universal practice in the factory? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—How many boys and girls are there working on piecework? A.—I could not say.

Q.—These packages, are any left over after the required amount of the cigars are made? A.—If there are, they have them on the next week's work.

Q.—Are there any left over? A.—Sometimes there are.

Q.—Does that occur very often? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does it happen very often that the amount of tobacco leaf given the boys for making the cigars is more than enough to make the required quantity? A.—Well, with some kinds of cigars it is.

Q.—Take the average all round? A.—Well, it is about the same; some fellows use wrappers closer than others.

Q.—How is it that some get shorter than others? A.—Some may not have as good wrappers as others, or do not use them as close as others.

Q.—Is that the reason that some are more skilled than others? A.—Yes.

EDWARD E. RENNIE, Sherbrooke, Cigar-Maker, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—You are in the employ of Messrs. Nutter & Webster? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you heard the testimony of the last witness? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you anything that you would like to add to it? A.—No. I have nothing to add.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you know of any children being kicked in the factory? A.—No. I have not seen any get kicked.

Q.—Would you have opportunities to see whether such a thing happened or not? A.—I could see it, if it was going on.

Q.—How long have you been there? A.—About a year and a half.

Q.—Do you swear according to the best of your belief that there has been no such thing happened as the foreman or any other person in the factory kicking any one of the children employed there? A.—I could see it, if it was done while I was there.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Were you asked to come up and give your evidence in this case? A.—Yes. I was asked.

Q.—Did you get any pointers as to how you were to answer any questions that might be put to you? A.—I do not know what you mean.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—If you believed that any false charges were made against your employers—that is the firm you are working for, would you come up of yourself and give evidence? A.—I would have come up by myself.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Did you hear any employees say that they have been kicked or ilused since you have been employed by that firm ? A.—I never heard them say so, and I did not see it.

WILLIAM R. WEBSTER, of Sherbrooke, P.Q., a member of the firm of Messrs. Nutter & Webster, Tobacco Manufacturer, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Are the wrappers kept in a room which is of the same temperature all the time ? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does not the tobacco leaf absorb moisture quickly ? A.—It does, some.

Q.—Does the excise allow a percentage for moisture when the tobacco is wet ? A.—Certainly.

Q.—And that percentage varies according to the moisture of the tobacco ? A.—Yes ; if the tobacco is very moist, we get a percentage allowed us of fifteen to twenty per cent, sometimes ten per cent and sometimes nothing.

Q.—When the wrappers are made in your shop on wet days, do they not weigh more than on fine days ? A.—I do not think so, because they are very moist. I do not think a dry or wet day would make any difference.

Q.—Does it not make some difference when the tobacco is wet in your shop, than when in the excise department ? A.—These wrappers before they are used are all moistened, and we calculate to keep them at the same moisture, and when the tobacco is put into pads it is moist ; it is always wet.

Q.—It is always kept at the same degree of moisture ? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is not the degree of moisture exhausted from that time to the time it is stripped and put into pads or packages ? A.—It remains at about the same thing as far as the moisture goes.

Q.—Although you cannot state that the moisture is always the same ? A.—I could not state that positively.

Q.—When there is more moisture there would be less wrappers in the package ?

Q.—When it is weighed do you mean ? A.—Yes ; when it is a wet day there is more humidity in the air. I do not think it can make any difference to the leaf.

Q.—Would not a package when wetted weigh more than a dry package ? A.—Certainly.

Q.—And a wet leaf weighs more than a dry leaf ? A.—Yes.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Are those packages prepared by the employer in your factory before they are wetted ? A.—It is after they are wetted. They are prepared before they are wetted, certainly.

Q.—Would they not make a mistake in weighing up these packages, so as to weigh less ? A.—They might.

Q.—Then a person working on the tobacco would have to pay for it ? A.—Well, if they made any mistake they would have to.

(Translation.)

GEORGIANA DORION, of Sherbrooke, employee in a wool factory, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

- Q.—In what department do you work? A.—In the weaving room, below.
- Q.—Are many women employed in your department? A.—We are seven girls in all.
- Q.—Do any children work in the weaving room? A.—No.
- Q.—What are your hours of work? A.—We begin at half-past six in the morning, and we finish at six o'clock in the evening.
- Q.—How long a time are you allowed for dinner? A.—One hour.
- Q.—What are the wages the women in your department generally earn in a week? A.—I am not able to say.
- Q.—How much do you, yourself, earn? A.—I earn all sorts of prices; sometimes \$5.50, sometimes \$6.50 or \$8 a fortnight.
- Q.—Eight dollars is the highest amount you earn? A.—The highest is \$8.50, in the Grindrod Factory.
- Q.—Do the other women earn about the same, or do they earn less? A.—Some earn less, and some more.
- Q.—Do they work by the day, or by the job? A.—They work by the job. I began to work by the day, and then they would not say how much a day they would give me, so I recommenced working by the job, because they would not tell me how much they would give me a day.
- Q.—When will you know how much they will give you? A.—On Friday of next week.
- Q.—Have you worked long? A.—I began to work there last autumn. Before that I worked at Mr. Paton's.
- Q.—Do you often change factories? A.—I have only changed once.
- Q.—And the others? A.—The others don't change often. I can't very well say, but since I have been at Grindrod's there have not been many changes.
- Q.—Are the work people, in general, well satisfied? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Have you no cause of complaint, nor anything to suggest to this Commission? Are there no changes you would like made? A.—No.
- Q.—To what hour do you work on Saturdays? Q.—We do not go to dinner on Saturdays, and we work to 2 o'clock.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

- Q.—Are you ever fined? A.—No, not in this factory.
- Q.—Do very young children work in the factory? A.—I am not able to say.

(Translation.)

CLÉOPHAS BOURGUINON, of Sherbrooke, Cabinet Maker, being sworn, deposes as follows :—

By Mr. HEAKES :—

- Q.—Do you work by the day or by the piece? A.—By the day.
- Q.—Do you work at the bench? A.—Not just now, I did work at the bench for three or four years.
- Q.—What wages are earned by those working at the bench? A.—I was, earning \$10 a week, when I stopped working at the bench.

Q.—What are the wages of those who work at the machines? A.—\$10 a week is what I earn working at the machines.

Q.—Do those who make chairs, work by the piece or by the day? A.—They work by the day.

Q.—Are children employed in the chair factory? A.—There is one, a young man.

Q.—What wages does he earn, and what is his age? A.—He is about 13 years old, but I can't say what are his wages.

Q.—What machine does he work at? A.—I don't often see him, he works upstairs, and I work below.

Q.—What are the wages of finishers, of trimmers? A.—I do not know what these men earn.

Q.—Are children put to work at any machine in any department of the factory?
A.—There are not many; there are a few young people.

Q.—How many hours a day do you work? A.—Ten hours.

Q.—When are you paid? A.—Every fortnight.

Q.—Are you paid in full? A.—Yes.

Q.—In money? Yes.

(Translation.)

CHARLES BEAUREGARD, of Sherbrooke, Shoemaker, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do you keep a shop of your own? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you employ any persons? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—About how much do they earn in a week? A.—They all work by the week. Some earn seven dollars and some eight dollars a week. They work from seven o'clock in the morning to six o'clock at night, and when they have to work overtime, this extra is paid for by the piece.

Q.—Are there other shops here in your line? A.—Yes, sir; there are several.

Q.—Are they of more business importance than yours? A.—No; I think not.

Q.—Have you ever had any difficulty with your workmen? Did they ever go out on "strike"? A.—No, sir.

Q.—There is no very important shoe factory? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Are your men obliged to work overtime, or is it as they choose? A.—No; I do not oblige them to work overtime, they are at liberty to refuse.

(Translation.)

MAXIME MARCOTTE, of Sherbrooke, Tailor, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Are you hired in a shop, or do you work for yourself? A.—I work in a shop.

Q.—Are there many employees in that shop? A.—We are about thirty altogether.

Q.—What are the average weekly wages of the men? A.—The average wages are about \$9.00 or \$10.00. The highest wages are earned by those who work by the piece, but they do not always earn the same amount. The lowest wages earned in the shop are about \$5.00 a week, and the highest may be \$14.00, \$15.00, even \$18.00 a week.

- Q.—Is your work cutting or sewing? A.—I am a cutter.
 Q.—Are you a first-class cutter, or do you cut from other's patterns? A.—I help the first cutter.
 Q.—Does the first cutter understand geometry? Is he able to enlarge a pattern? A.—He cuts from patterns made by himself.
 Q.—Have any of the tailors here ever attended the school of Arts and Manufactures to learn their trade? You never paid any attention to that? A.—No.
 Q.—Do you keep ready made clothing in your shop? A.—No, sir; ours is all custom work.
 Q.—Are the work-people, in general, satisfied with their wages, and with the way they are treated in the shop? A.—I can't say.
 Q.—Are you yourself satisfied? A.—I am very well satisfied.
 Q.—Are there many shops of as much importance as yours here? A.—I don't think there are many.

(Translation.)

ADJUTOR GAUTHIER, Sherbrooke, Cigar-maker, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

- Q.—What age are you? A.—I am nineteen years old.
 Q.—How many years have you worked at the cigar business? A.—(Going on five years.)
 Q.—Were you engaged by written contract? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Was it made before a notary? A.—Yes, sir.
 Q.—Do you remember what were the condition of this notarial agreement? A.—No; I cannot say.
 Q.—Do you remember what wages you were to receive the first year? A.—I was to receive \$1.50 a week the first year, \$2 the second, and \$3 the third.
 Q.—During the first year were you put to work by the piece? A.—I cannot say if, during the first year, I was put to work by the piece.
 Q.—Can you remember if you were put to work by the piece during the second year? A.—No; I cannot say, but I know at all events that I was working by the piece the second year.
 Q.—How much, on an average, did you earn a week during the second year? A.—I may have earned about \$2, \$2.50.
 Q.—Did you pay any fines? A.—Yes; during my apprenticeship, I often paid them.
 Q.—Did you pay any fines the first year you worked? A.—Yes; I paid some occasionally but not often.
 Q.—Do you remember if you paid any fines during the time you earned \$1.50 a week? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Do you remember why you were obliged to pay these fines? A.—For using too much tobacco, and for playing in the shop.
 Q.—About how much do you earn a week at present? A.—I can earn about \$7 or \$8.
 Q.—Have you paid any fines recently? A.—It does not occur often at present, but sometimes I pay five, or ten cents.
 Q.—These fines imposed are for the wrappers that are wanting? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Do you lose these wrappers or are they wanting in the roll? A.—Of course I do my best, but there are some rolls better than others.
 Q.—What do you mean by one roll being better than another? Is it when a roll has more than the right number of wrappers, or when it has just the right number? A.—Sometimes the wrappers are more torn in one roll than in another.

Q.—Do they give a roll of torn wrappers? A.—Yes; sometimes we find in the rolls torn wrappers out of which cigars cannot be made.

Q.—When wrappers are torn are they counted as if missing? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Can you not return them? A.—No.

Q.—If you find a wrapper, that is not good, can you not return it? A.—No.

Q.—Did you ever try to return wrappers that were no good? A.—No. I never tried.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—The Commission did not ask you to come here, who sent you? A.—My employer told me to come here.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you ever find rolls with which you can make more than a hundred cigars?
A.—There are some rolls out of which we can make more, and some out of which we can make less than a hundred cigars.

Q.—What do you do with the tobacco out of which you can make more than a hundred cigars? A.—We keep it, to use for another hundred.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—It is to your gain? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :

Q.—When you earned \$1.50 a week and paid fines, did you work by the piece or by the week? A.—I worked by the week, and at one time by the job.

(Translation.)

THOMAS LEJUNE, of Sherbrooke, Cigarmaker, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—What is your age? A.—Seventeen years.

Q.—How long have you worked in the making of cigars? A.—A year and six months.

Q.—Are you an apprentice? A.—I am an apprentice.

Q.—Where you indentured by notarial deed? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much did you earn the first year? A.—I got a dollar a week the first year.

Q.—Did you work by the piece or by the job the first year? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did you earn more than a dollar when you worked by the job? A.—Sometimes more and sometimes less.

Q.—What were the lowest wages you earned in a week? A.—The lowest wages were fifty cents.

Q.—How long did you work at a dollar a week before you began to work by the job? A.—Three weeks.

Q.—Were you ever fined during those three weeks? A.—No.

Q.—Were you ever fined afterwards, during your first year, while working by the job? A.—Yes, I was fined.

Q.—Can you remember whether in the week you earned fifty cents, you had

earned more, and the sum had been reduced by fines, or whether the fifty cents was all you earned? A.—I had to pay fines for the balance.

Q.—How much did you pay in fines that week? A.—I paid seventy-five cents of fines that week.

Q.—Who told you to come here? A.—My employer.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—And did you ask to work by the piece, or did your employer put you to it? A.—It was my employer that put me to work by the piece.

Q.—If you had preferred to work by the week would he have allowed you, or would he have forced you to work by the job? A.—It was he himself that put me to job work.

Q.—Did you prefer to work by the week? A.—I preferred to work by the job.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Have you paid many fines since you worked there? A.—In the beginning I paid a good many, but at present I don't pay many.

Q.—What was your last pay? A.—My last pay was \$3.31.

Q.—Did you pay any fines on this amount? A.—No.

FRANK X. THIBEAUDEAU, SWORN.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What is your occupation? A.—I work at joiner and carpenter work—house work.

Q.—What are the wages you get? A.—I work at general bench work and joiner work. Well, I should judge, from experience, I am worth about one dollar and seventy-five cents a day—that is, for a day of ten hours.

Q.—Do carpenters and joiners get that in Sherbrooke? A.—I think so—good bench hands. That is paid in shops that I worked in.

Q.—What do you get outside? What do outside men get? A.—That depends upon the capacity they are employed in. If employed as foremen, I think they should get about two dollars a day. If employed under the foremen, I should say they should get one dollar and fifty cents a day.

Q.—Do you see any reason why outside workmen should not get as much as inside men? A.—Well, in answering that question, I would perhaps say that there are inside men who are conversant with machinery, and therefore can utilize the time-saving machinery in the work of the shop, whereas outside workmen do not know that; therefore, inside workmen are worth more in the shop than outside workmen, and consequently they are paid a little higher.

Q.—Do you know that outside workmen are better than the men in the shop? A.—In their line?

Q.—In any line—any branch of the work? A.—Not in any way.

Q.—The fact is, a man has got to learn to be a wood-working machinist before he can be a good inside workman in Sherbrooke? A.—No, I should not say so, because there are men employed about the shop as laborers who have a good knowledge about the business; but, in order to secure employment constantly, he has got to be good enough to adapt himself to the machinery, as it were.

Q.—How many joiners are competent wood-working machinists? A.—I really could not say.

Q.—What machines does a joiner have to work? A.—Planers, joiners, jig-saws, sewing machine jig-saws, and several other kinds of saws, and so forth.

Q.—Have you enough joiners in Sherbrooke? A.—Yes, enough to run four shops at the present time.

Q.—Are these men known as machinists and joiners? A.—Well, they are known as joiners and carpenters, but of course you will find exceptions.

Q.—And these exceptions are in the shops? A.—Yes, but they are capable of doing outside work. Most of them learn to work outside, before they get work in the shop and gain constant employment.

Q.—Do you know if it is the practice in Sherbrooke, to put a leading hand on one side of the bench, and an inferior hand on the other side? A.—It is not the practice where I am; during the last six years, there has been one man died, and another has been put on to work, who never did a day's work in another carpenter's shop in the place before.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How long have you been here? A.—I have been here for twenty-three years, but I have been away, off and on.

Q.—Did you work in any other places beside Sherbrooke? A.—Yes.

Q. Where? A.—I worked in several towns in the United States, and I, with another fellow partner, have built ten houses in the last fourteen years, fourteen years ago this summer.

Q.—Can you tell us the wages paid in Sherbrooke, as compared with places you have been in, having the same population? A.—Well, they are a little inferior, they are on the low side here, in Sherbrooke; on the other side, in the United States, I think a good hand gets about a dollar a day more in wages, that is, a man of my capacity. In fact, I know there are men who have gone there to work for some firm or other who have told me so, and in my line of business it averages about a dollar more a day than it does here.

Q.—Taking into consideration the cost of house rent, and the cost of living on the other side, is the advantage on the side of the Canadian carpenter? A.—To the tune of fifteen per cent. in favour of the other side, as near as I can make a calculation.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Does he live cheaper here? A.—There are some things, house rent is cheaper, and the cost of provisions is cheaper. For instance you pay nearly double as much for butter, eggs, and potatoes, as you would here, nearly double as much on the other side, and you have to pay fully double as much as an average tenant for house rent. You get cloth and dry goods in a general way, a little cheaper for a very small advance over what you would give for them here. Take it all, in all, as near as I have been informed, it is about fifteen per cent. in favour of the working man on the other side.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do you speak of ready made clothing, or clothing made to order? A.—Well, I speak in a general way.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—You do not know it as a fact yourself? A.—No; I give the information as I got it from friends who have gone to the other side.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Did you ever buy clothing in the United States? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you ever buy cheap store clothing at the same prices as you can buy them here? A.—No; I have not been a resident of the United States since eighteen hundred and seventy-two. And you will be aware that prices were a great deal higher on account of the money being inferior in value, it being only worth about seventy-five to eighty cents on the dollar. So that you would make a difference in prices.

By MR. HEAKES :—

Q.—Is there any piece work in the carpenter line in Sherbrooke? A.—No; not that I know of.

Q.—In finishing? A.—No; not that I know of.

Q.—Are the same wages paid in winter as in summer? A.—In the shop I work in, the same wages are paid all the year round.

By MR. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have the wages of carpenters increased during the last five, eight or nine years? A.—Yes; ten years ago a better carpenter than ever I expect to be offered to work for me at lower wages than are paid now.

Q.—Can you tell me the reason why you prefer to work here than in the United States? A.—There is no such a reason. I do not prefer to work here. I am native born. I was married here, and I settled down here, but I would much prefer being on the other side of the line and settle down there. Of course it is a bother to get there. In fact at the present time I contemplate going there.

By MR. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do the workmen in your shop change their places very often. Do they come from the States here? A.—Not very often. They do not come from the States here very often, but they very often go from here to the States.

Q.—That is what we are given to understand in some places where we have been, that the outside workmen generally go to the States in winter. That they start in the fall when the business closes? A.—Yes; when the business season closes here, if they do not wish to be idle they must look around and get a place where there is work.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—How is it that thousands of workmen in the city of New York cannot find employment? A.—I really could not say, not having been there.

Q.—There are societies and organizations for the relief of the distressed among the working-classes in New York? A.—So I see by the papers, but I do not know how to account for that.

By MR. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do you know the tenement house generally known as "Castle Edwards?" A.—I know there are some tenement houses belonging to Mr. Edwards, and that most of them have a name.

Q.—I ask you the question because I want to know. A.—I could not say; I am not posted enough. Although I have lived here a great while, off and on, I could not tell you which one is known as "Castle Edwards." There may be some people here, in this room, who may be able to tell you, for a certainty, but I do not know. I should judge it was the building on King street, and I should think it is a building about four stories high, with a mansard roof.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—That makes it really five stories. A.—Yes, something like that. I should judge, if it is any of his tenements, it would be that one.

Q.—Can you tell us the breadth and size of it? A.—I should judge from casual observation, though I could not say positively what the dimensions are; but I should judge it would be about forty or fifty feet. I should think it would be in that neighborhood, as near as I can judge from casual observations.

GEORGE GILMAN BRYANT, Sherbrooke, Contractor and Manufacturer, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What do you pay carpenters per day? A.—The average wages of good hands is one dollar and seventy-five cents a day. We pay them all by the day.

Q.—How many hours constitute a day's work? A.—Ten hours.

Q.—Do you make any difference between a carpenter who is on outside work and a carpenter who is on bench work? A.—No. The work is of such a nature in a place like Sherbrooke, that we have them sometimes at outside work and sometimes at inside work. If he is an extra good man, we pay him two dollars a day. but the ordinary wages are one dollar and seventy-five cents a day.

Q.—Are the average wages one dollar and seventy-five cents a day? A.—Yes. There are three classes, but the average wages are one dollar and seventy-five cents a day. We pay our carpenters from one dollar and twenty-five cents to one dollar and seventy-five cents a day, and an extra good man we pay two dollars a day.

Q.—Do not some get only one dollar a day? A.—None that I am aware of.

Q.—What do you pay a wood machinist? Supposing he is a good hand, what do you pay him? A.—They range from about one dollar and seventy-five cents a day.

Q.—Have you got any machinery that is run by boys? Have you got a shaper in your establishment? A.—Yes. We have a number of boys but they are usually assistants to the men. They hand the lumber to the men behind the saw, or take the lumber away from the planers, or do some light work with the saw.

Q.—Is there any back-guard to these saws? A.—Yes?

Q.—How is the shafting? A.—The biggest part is on the top. We have got many of the saws that run from below.

Q.—Is this shaft boxed up? A.—No. But it is all up seven or eight feet from the floor and the bolt down from the corner floor close up.

Q.—Have you got a fanning mill to take away the dust? A.—No. We have a carrier that takes it away from the shaft to the mill near by that takes it away for fuel.

Q.—Do you employ any turners? A.—No. No turners.

Q.—Do you employ others besides carpenters? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you employ house painters? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are the wages of house painters in Sherbrooke? A.—They average one dollar and fifty cents, and we have some at one dollar and seventy-five cents, and some at two dollars a day—the average is one dollar and fifty cents.

Q.—Do you take on apprentices at the carpentering business? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long do they serve? A.—Three years.

Q.—How are they paid? A.—We take them and pay them by the day, and we increase their wages as they progress. The first year they get sixty cents a day. The next year they get from sixty to seventy-five cents a day, and the third year one dollar a day; and sometimes in the third year they are worth more than one dollar a day.

Q.—Do you teach these apprentices all branches of the trade? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think them competent carpenters in three years? A.—They can not be competent carpenters. A carpenter can be learning all his life time. It is a trade in which there is always something to learn.

Q.—Do your men remain with you? A.—Yes; I have some that have been with me twelve or fifteen years. One of them is getting three dollars a day. When he started with me he was getting half a dollar a day, but I never bind them down; if they want to leave they can leave at any time.

Q.—Do you employ any tradesmen outside painters and carpenters? A.—Yes; I sometimes have plasterers, and sometimes masons, and frequently stone cutters, but not permanently.

Q.—What are the wages of brick-layers in Sherbrooke? A.—Two dollars and fifty cents a day.

Q.—And stone masons? A.—Their wages are about the same. I have one working for me now. Stone masons are paid from two dollars to two dollars and fifty cents a day.

Q.—Is the work of stone masons and brick-layers included in the one trade? A.—We have a few who work at both trades, but not many.

Q.—What are the average wages of plasterers? A.—Two dollars a day.

Q.—Can you give us the wages of lathers? A.—They are paid generally by the bunch; they are paid twelve cents a bunch, that would be one dollar and twenty-five cents a thousand.

Q.—Can you give us the length of the building season in Sherbrooke, the number of months in a year that the men in the building trade are employed? A.—Well, frequently it lasts all the winter; very often if we have a building on hand the work is proceeded with until it is completed, but I suppose we might call it eight months of active work, but frequently we have as much work going on in the winter as in the summer.

Q.—Are any of the building trade in Sherbrooke organized? A.—No. I do not think so. I think they had an organization, but I believe it is broken up.

Q.—How often do you pay your hands? A.—Every two weeks.

Q.—Have the men asked to be paid more frequently? A.—No. Sometimes they get money on account, but not many of them.

Q.—Do many of these men—mechanics in the building trade—own their own houses in Sherbrooke? A.—Yes; a good many, because part of them that I have employed—the regular hands, own their own buildings. There are a good many of them. I furnish them with all the material and they generally get the labour done some way, and leave me so much of their pay every two weeks.

Q.—Do you charge any interest on it? A.—Not for the first year—not for the first six months of the first year.

Q.—Can you tell us the wages received by the builders' labourers, that is those who carry the bricks and mortar—the hodmen? A.—They get one dollar a day, sometimes in the summer time they get as high as one dollar and twenty-five cents, but generally they get one dollar a day.

Q.—Is there any difference between the builders' labourers' and the plasterers' labourers? A.—No. They get about the same.

Q.—Can you tell us what a mechanic pays for a house of five or six rooms, in a locality handy to his work? A.—I think the average is about six dollars a month.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Is that the average that they pay. What is the average? A.—I think the average would be about six dollars a month for mechanics, and for labourers three to four dollars a month, but I think for mechanics six to eight dollars a month.

Q.—That would be a house completely by itself? A.—No. That would be probably a tenement house with two families in it.

Q.—Then I understand you to say that a house which would cost six to eight dollars a month would also be a tenement house? A.—For a home by itself where a man occupied all the rooms in the house himself—that is an isolated house, he would pay from ten to fifteen dollars a month, that is with all ordinary conveniences.

Q.—Can you tell us if the wages in the building trade have increased during the past five years? A.—They have, but not a great deal. It is a little higher but not a great deal—the last five years.

Q.—Do you know for a fact that the cost of the necessaries of life have increased during the last five years? A.—I do not think there is much difference.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you not think as a fact that flour has diminished in price during the last

five years? A.—I do not think there has been much difference in the price of flour here during the last five years. Of course not being engaged in that business I do not know any more than what I buy. I think if anything it is a little lower.

Q.—Can you come to morrow and tell us what flour was selling here in Sherbrooke for, in eighteen hundred and seventy-seven, eighteen hundred and eighty-two, and eighteen hundred and eighty-seven, and the price of sugar during the same period; and pork and any other articles in groceries that you may please to name?

A.—Sugar I do not think was ever lower than it is now, and all the other necessaries of life I think you could probably get the price of much better from some of our merchants. I know that for the years eighteen hundred and seventy-seven, eighteen hundred and eighty-two and eighteen hundred and eighty-seven you could get that perhaps best from the merchants. They used considerable groceries in building the Canadian Pacific Railway here, and they can tell you what they have been for the last four or five years.

Q.—We are now speaking of Sherbrooke? A.—Yes. Our merchants, I think, could obtain that for you better than I can.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You consider on the whole that the necessaries of life have increased in price during the last four or five years? A.—No. I do not say that—I say that I think they have been a little lower, some articles may have increased.

Q.—And have the wages of the working classes increased in a corresponding ratio? A.—Both have increased, just about equal I think.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—I suppose you are of opinion that there has not been much difference in the prices of flour and pork? A.—No.

Q.—Has flour since 1877 been continually on the decrease in Montreal, and in Sherbrooke, and other provisions the same way:— salt pork, beef and sugar? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you not think the corners in wheat tend to lower and raise the price of flour? A.—No doubt of it.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that some of the contractors and sub-contractors have not paid their men for this last year in Sherbrooke? A.—Yes. In a very few cases—in a few cases where they have gone away, but it is not often the case.

Q.—Have these contractors remained in Sherbrooke or left the place? A.—They have left, I believe. I do not think that there are any now that have remained in Sherbrooke, but what have paid their men. There have been some cases where they have gone away and not paid their men, but not many of them.

Q.—Have you any knowledge that the Contractors' Association of Montreal were trying to pass a bill to have the first mortgage on property, under construction in the interests of the workmen and contractors? A.—Yes. I have seen an account of that in the newspapers. That is all that I know.

Q.—Would you be in favor of a law, making the proprietor responsible on the work by which he is benefitted? A.—Yes. I think it would be a fine thing, not only for the laborer but for the contractor, and another thing I think, it would be a fine thing for the laboring classes, if the law was passed by which his pay could not be seized. It is a great hardship in many cases, and a great nuisance for us to have a seizure put on us for our men's wages, and if we happen to be engaged and cannot go to Court and swear to it, we are liable to get into trouble. I think it would be a great benefit if the garnishing system could be done away with, or altered in some way.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you not think it would tend to decrease the garnishing system if the men were paid once a week? A.—I do not think it would. In the winter season some of the men get into debt and are improvident.

Q.—But if the garnishing system were done away with, it is probable that they would not get into debt? A.—I would not trust them.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Other people besides workmen get into debt I suppose? A.—Yes.

REGULATIONS OF THE E. T. CORSET MANUFACTURING COMPANY, SHERBROOKE, P. Q.

Be careful to clean the machines thoroughly, after having oiled them; as a fine will be imposed for every oil spot found on the cloth, or on the thread, according to the damage done.

Employ no spotted pieces, but put them aside, otherwise you will be held responsible for damages. Badly done work will be repaired at the expense of the workman who last worked at it.

Always write your name, legibly, on the tag; otherwise credit cannot be given you for your work.

When you receive work, always see to it that the size marked on the work, corresponds to the size on the tag.

Your work requires fourteen or eighteen stitches to the inches, according to quality; each tag should indicate the number of stitches required. We reserve, to ourselves, the right to refuse all work not so done.

The clasps must be firmly sewed, and the seams taken very close to the steels.

Persons doing work, at home, must send their work in bags on which their names are clearly written.

Persons working in the factory must conform, on all points, to the rules of each department, which rules will be strictly put in force.

Conversation is not allowed during work hours.

Workmen, not coming regularly to work, will be liable to dismissal.

Pay day will be the 15th of every month, between the hours of 3 and 5 p.m.

When the 15th falls on a Sunday, or a holiday, the following day will be pay day.

Each month's wages will be paid separately, and the books will remain in the office, if they are not claimed before the 6th of each month; otherwise they will be retained till the following month.

No money will be paid to any, but the workman himself, without they present his written order, together with the book. We will not hold ourselves responsible for envelopes which have not been asked for on pay day. And any workman, wishing to leave our establishment, must give fifteen days' notice, in advance, at the office.

In default of which notice, his wages will be refused him.

Any employee, entering our service, must consider this clause as a necessary condition of his engagement.

O. GENDRON, Manager.

RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE FACTORY.

1. Ten hours constitute a day's work.
2. All employees working by the week must be at work at 7 o'clock, a.m., and 1 o'clock p.m.

3. No one allowed to stop work during working hours. All employees to be searched before leaving factory. Loud or profane talking strictly prohibited.
4. All employees wasting or dropping tobacco on the floor will be fined for each offence.
5. No tobacco to be left on the tables after work. Anyone breaking these rules will be subject to a fine.
6. All instructions from the foreman to be strictly obeyed.
7. No one allowed to comb their hair in the factory.
8. No one allowed to leave their department during working hours.
9. All employees must be ready to leave the factory sharp at 12 noon and 6 p.m. ; Saturday night at 5 p.m.

May 27th, 1885.

WEBSTER, NUTTER & Co.

RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE PATON MANUFACTURING COM'Y.

NOTICE.

Any employees of the Paton Manufacturing Company leaving the Mill before the Bell Rings, without written permission from their Overseer, will be liable to a fine or dismissal.

NOTICE ON THE BACK OF FORM NO. 10 OF THE PATON MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

Deductions will be made for all imperfect weaving of every description, such as barring, mis-picks, wrong drafts, scobs, gaps, floats, wrong tied in or misplaced threads, threads cut, wrong colors, change of weave, thick or double threads in warp or filling, thin places, deficient number of picks, &c.

The fixers are required to see that warps are properly started, and will be held partially responsible for all imperfections above enumerated, and are requested to report any imperfect warping to the Overseer.

The Overseer must see that the above is understood by those under him.

A. PATON, Managing Director,

NOTICE.

Any employee detected cleaning any of the machinery while it is in motion will be immediately discharged; and any one seeing another doing so and failing to report to the Overseer, will be liable to discharge.

The Company will not hold themselves responsible for the cost of surgical or medical attendance, resultant upon accidents caused by violation of orders.

THIS INDENTURE entered into between the Paton Manufacturing Company and _____, Witnesseth that the said Company do hereby engage the services of the said _____ to work in and about this Woolen Mills, Sherbrooke.

It is understood that the said _____ is to work by the fortnight, and to continue in their employ during his good conduct. His wages are to be what is customarily paid in said mills for the particular kind of work in which he may be from _____

time to time engaged, and are to be paid him every alternate Friday, the first fortnight's work payable on last Friday of second fortnight and so on.

The said shall give two weeks' notice to the Overseer of his department of his intention to leave the employment of the said Company, otherwise he shall not be entitled to draw or secure his wages, and shall forfeit the same.

The said may be discharged at any time by said Company, without notice, for improper conduct, want of skill, disobedience, carelessness or neglect of duty, and in any other case, by giving him two weeks' notice. And in the case of his being discharged without notice for any of the causes mentioned he shall not be entitled to draw his wages, but shall forfeit the same,

The said agrees faithfully to observe the rules and regulations of said Company, to be obedient to the Foreman or Overseer of his department, not to be absent without his consent, except in case of sickness, and then to send him word of the cause of the absence.

Sherbrooke, 188 .

PATON MANUFACTURING COMPANY,

Per Overseer Department.

RETENTION OF WAGES.

Can remember no case where the wages of any employee have been held as forfeited during the past year.

TABLE SHOWING NO. OF EMPLOYEES.

18th July, 1887.

	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Waste Department.....	10	....	8	7	25
Wool Coating.....	9	....	4	..	13
Dyeing.....	17	....	2	..	19
Picking.....	7	....	6	..	13
Carding.....	13	2	3	25	43
Spinning.....	12	....	7	23	42
Winding.....	1	3	..	26	30
Spooling.....	1	1	..	10	12
Twisting.....	1	....	2	20	23
Warping.....	2	....	..	7	9
Weaving.....	16	10	25	117	168
Finishing.....	21	7	33	37	98
Miscellaneous.....	34	1	10	3	48
	144	24	100	275	543

244 Males.
299 Females.
—
543

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF WAGES PAID BY PATON MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

	10th Nov. 1877.		4th Nov. 1882.		5th Nov. 1887.	
Waste Department..	4	\$ 27.85	19	\$ 138.70	22	\$ 181.60
Woolsorting.....	12	160.15	7	103.75	11	161.40
Dyeing.....	17	162.40	18	253.75	18	279.85
Picking.....	5	39.95	9	101.50	14	136.05
Carding.....	36	276.70	36	364.95	41	407.60
Spinning.....	41	274.80	56	473.10	43	337.50
Winding.....	15	84.70	32	188.05	18	123.45
Spooling.....	11	86.05	13	96.25	14	108.80
Twisting.....	20	145.00	25	184.25	18	115.95
Warping.....	9	84.45	13	120.15	9	114.95
Weaving.....	150	1121.68	161	1299.00	168	1531.45
Finishing.....	68	478.45	83	761.35	104	1041.20
Miscellaneous.....	40	518.55	48	931.08	65	1263.88
	428	3460.68	520	5015.88	540	5803.68
		\$ 8.09 per day.		\$ 9.65		\$ 10.65
Total wages paid.....		\$2,946.83		\$120,913.58		\$143,900.76
		\$ 217.17 P.A.		\$ 232.53		\$ 264.04

FINES CHARGED WEAVERS DURING 1887.

131 Weavers Earned.....	\$26714	average \$204.00
Fined.....	575	" 4.00
Paid.....	\$26139	" 200

Fine \$4.00 per Weaver or 2 per cent.

Fines for bad work we retain. But fines for misconduct we apply to relieve any case of suffering occurring in this department that may be brought under our notice and authenticated.

We make an allowance over the tariff rates for weaving that may prove more difficult than ordinary.

Per Weaver	W. Room Department	Wages
26714	37114	143900
2 per cent.	155 per cent.	4 per cent.
		10

Probably reducing fines to one-half amount shown.

CAPELTON.

JOHN BLUE of the village of Capelton, in the Province of Quebec, Superintendent of the Orford Mine, sworn.

By MR. HEAKES:—

Q.—Will you please tell us who owns the Orford Mine, of which you are superintendent? A.—The Orford Copper and Sulphur Company.

Q.—Is it a Canadian company? A.—No; it belongs to New York parties.

Q.—How many men have you employed in the mines? A.—There were one hundred and twenty-seven men employed last month.

Q.—Do you employ any boys? A.—Yes. Of these twelve are boys, they are employed picking the stones from the ore at the mouth of the pit.

Q.—Can you tell us what the earnings of the miners are? A.—I can show you our pay roll—our men average forty dollars a month—that is, our miners.

Q.—How old are the boys? A.—I think our youngest boy is about twelve years of age, but if a lad is sixteen or seventeen we call him a boy.

Q.—Do you work two shifts? A.—We work three shifts, and we work day and night. Our labourers work eight hours a day.

Q.—Are your labourers supposed to be skilled miners? A.—No.

Q.—What are the wages of labourers here to-day? A.—From one dollar and ten cents to one dollar and twenty-five cents.

Q.—Have you had any difficulty with your men until now? A.—No; no difficulty whatever.

Q.—The relations between yourself and the men have always been friendly? A.—Yes; very much so.

Q.—Is there any organization amongst the miners—benefit or otherwise? A.—Yes; there is one. It is the Sick and Accident Association, to which every member is bound to subscribe. They subscribe fifty cents a month, and they pay for their medical fees and for the attendance of the doctor, and they pay for a man's board if he happens to be off work through sickness, three dollars a week.

Q.—Every man belongs to it you say? A.—Yes.

Q.—For how many weeks does he receive this sick benefit? A.—Thirteen weeks. His limit is thirteen weeks.

Q.—And at the end of the thirteen weeks he is on his resources again? A.—Yes; I do not know what action the society might then take, it is all governed by themselves.

Q.—How about accidents, are they frequent at all in the mine? A.—We have had no accident here for five or six years, except one man whose leg was broken last summer.

Q.—Is every care taken with a view to prevent accidents, such as the erection of scaffolding, supporting the roof and sides of the mine, and so on? A.—Yes.

Q.—You said your miners are paid by the month? A.—Yes. Our miners always work by contract. We furnish them with the material to work with, and they do all their own mining as well as blasting.

Q.—Are there any rules for regulating the miner as to the manner in which he shall conduct his work in the mine? A.—There is no particular rule established.

Q.—Is every care taken to prevent accidents—to keep the men out of danger while blasting the rock? A.—Every care is taken when a blast is fired to keep the men out of harm's way.

Q.—Until the blast is fired? A.—Yes. I have on record, proof of that.

Q.—It is this mine, perhaps, that we have heard some complaint of yesterday?
A.—From a miner?

Q.—Yes.—From a man who had formerly worked here. I believe it was this mine? A.—Perhaps we had discharged him. Could you give me his name?

Q.—No. But I will put this question: Have you ever known of a case where a man had been working at a blast, and after he had fired it he ran in before a second cartridge of Dualin had exploded, and his mate ran in after him, and they were both killed? A.—No.

Q.—Have you had two men severely injured in that way within two years?
A.—No; nobody except this man last summer.

Q.—It was within two years that this thing was mentioned? A.—No; I have no knowledge about it; if you ask the men you will find they will say the same thing. There was only this one accident last summer.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How did he happen to break his leg? A.—The same as this gentleman has said; he went in too soon after an explosion. A successful or experienced miner will not go in too soon after an explosion. He waits and gives sufficient time for the blast to do effective work.

Q.—Sometimes one cartridge will explode before the other? A.—Yes. He went in after it had exploded a short time. He went in to look at one hole when the other one exploded.

Q.—When the charge does not explode, is it the rule to drill a fresh hole, or are the men allowed to bore out the powder? A.—They take out the powder. They bore out the powder carefully.

Q.—Is there any danger attached to that? A.—Not at all, if they use ordinary care.

Q.—Do you know if that practice is prohibited in other countries—the boring out of the powder? A.—It is not in the places that I know.

Q.—How many hours do these men work on a shift? A.—Our laborers work eight hours, and our miners or contractors about nine.

Q.—Do they have constant employment all the year round? A.—Yes.

Q.—How often are the men paid? A.—Once a month, as regularly as the day comes round.

Q.—Did the men ever make any complaints about their treatment? A.—I never heard of any complaints. I get along very well with them.

Q.—You have no trouble with them? A.—No. We get along very well together. Very much so.

Q.—Have you any information about the working of the mine that you would like to put on record yourself? A.—No; nothing with regard to the working of the mine.

Q.—When the blast is being drilled or bored out are there any candles near where the men are? A.—Yes, they must have lighted candles.

Q.—How far from where the men are working? A.—Within a few feet of where they are working.

Q.—I mean is this light near them when they take out the charge that they are boring, or taking out the powder? A.—Yes, within a few feet. Still every care is taken that there will be no explosion of the powder.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Did I understand you to say that the boys do not work underground at all?
A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you heard at any time or known of a case in your mine where powder has been thrown at, or fired at, a candle by a boy in your mine? A.—We have no boys working in the mine; there are none under twenty-two years of age. There was a man killed there five years ago.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—What was the nature of the accident by which the man was killed? A.—Five years ago we had a man killed named Lynch. He was killed by a car wheel falling off, and he was dragged down the shaft. One of you gentlemen was asking about our relations with the men, if you think it worth while to take it down, I may say that we do all we can to make our men comfortable and happy. This company furnishes a school and pays an English teacher—a certificated teacher. The company provides a large schoolhouse and there are sixty or seventy children attending it.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Have you any Catholics employed in the mine? A.—Yes, we also subscribe liberally towards the support of the Roman Catholic school on the hill, and we have weekly church services in our own school hall, for the Protestants, and every second week for the Catholics at the school on the hill.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is strict discipline observed in and about the mine? Has the manager or superintendent and the foreman strict control over the men—are the orders obeyed? A.—Yes, strict discipline is observed.

Q.—Do the services of the doctor cover the families as well as the men? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are the men insured against death at all? A.—Yes, not in this association.

Q.—Do you send all your ore to the United States? A.—Yes, to New York city.

Q.—Is the demand increasing? A.—There is a good demand for copper ore. The ore also contains sulphur, for which there is not so great a demand as we would wish. The sulphur from our ore is made into sulphuric acid, and that is the first process of making copper ingots.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you any objection to state why you discontinued smelting the ore at the mine? A.—We would simply waste our sulphur. We have no market for our sulphur.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Is this mine owned by the same company that owns the “Alfred” mine and the chemical works at the station—Messrs. G. H. Nichols & Company? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is the output of your mine on the increase? A.—Yes, considerably. Our last was two thousand three hundred and fifty tons last month.

Q.—Do you control the output according to the demand for the ore? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are the wages of the boys? A.—The wages of the boys average from forty to sixty cents a day. We keep stocks of our ore that has been mined in the mine at all times, so that if there is an extra demand, we simply go to these stocks and supply the demand.

Q.—Has the company any stores? A.—No, the company has no stores. *The men purchase wherever they please.*

Q.—There are no orders given to the men on stores? A.—None whatever.

Q.—How do you arrive at the value of the work of the men. Is it measured? A.—The men work on contract. They work on contract monthly by measurement.

Q.—Is it measured in the car that goes up from the mine? A.—It is measured in the mine; not the amount of ore, but the amount of ground, the superficial area of the ground that is mined.

Q.—Is it measured before it is taken up, or is it measured after? A.—Some times it is.

Q.—The taking of it up, does it not shake down the ore, so as not to make it measure so much? A.—Oh, no. We have some contracts measured by the car-load, and these are filled at the bottom, and checked afterwards, so that it does not hurt the men.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Have the men's wages increased during the last five years? A.—Not materially. It is much the same.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—How long have you been engaged in this business? A.—I have been here since 1879.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do the men walk down the mine, and walk up the mine again? A.—They always do.

Q.—They are not, then, lowered down by a lift or shaft, but they walk down by means of ladders, I suppose? A.—Yes. It is all by means of ladders, and these are kept constantly in repair.

Q.—They have never asked to be taken up in the shaft, after their day's work? A.—No.

Q.—Do they prefer to walk up? A.—Yes.

Q.—That is a difference of several hundred feet, is it not? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you compel them to walk up as a matter of economy or precaution? A.—It is done as a matter of precaution.

Q.—You can give us no information in connection with the other mine belonging to Messrs. G. H. Nichols & Co.? A.—No; I know nothing about that. You had better see them for any information concerning that mine. If you have a wish to visit the mine, I shall have pleasure in accompanying you down one of the shafts.

JOHN WEARNE, of the village of Capelton, in the Province of Quebec, Miner, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How old are you Mr. Wearne? A.—Fifty-seven years of age.

Q.—How long have you been working in this mine? A.—I have worked in this mine about five years, I think, altogether.

Q.—Have you ever worked in any other copper mine? A.—Oh, yes; several.

Q.—What can you earn here in a month? A.—Forty dollars on the average, or about that.

Q.—And how many hours do you work in a day? A.—Well, about nine hours a day, I suppose.

Q.—Is your work steady all the year round? A.—Yes; all the time.

Q.—Is every necessary precaution taken to prevent accidents? A.—Yes; every precaution is taken that I can perceive.

Q.—Do they keep the excavations properly supported to prevent them caving in? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they keep the explosives properly stored? A.—Yes.

Q.—And placed in such a way as to keep the men free from danger, both in the mine and out of it, and while working in the mine? A.—Yes; there are rules for all that.

Q.—What would these rules be? A.—The rules are to be very careful. Mr. Blue is here with you, he can tell you what they are, better than I can.

Q.—But we want you to tell us; it is you who are giving your evidence? A.—Well, as near as I can tell you it is to see that everything is properly secured, and that care is to be taken against unnecessary exposure—not to put yourself in the way of more danger than is necessary.

Q.—Are these rules in writing, or is it an unwritten law for the guidance of the men in the mine? A.—I do not know anything about unwritten laws, but I believe it is the law.

Q.—What means are taken for the security of the miners? A.—Well, proper means are taken as far as I am concerned. When there is a piece of timber wanted to strengthen the shaft we send out the "boss," and he sends men here and they put it in. That is the way it is done. You see how these timbers all round here are put in, this is done to prevent the falling in of the ground, as we call it, or rock overhead; and that is the way it is done all through the mine.

Q.—Is everything done that you consider is necessary for your safety while working in the mine? A.—Yes.

Q.—I see you burn only tallow candles. I would suppose from that, that there are no inflammable gases in the mine? A.—Oh, no. The mine is properly ventilated; there is a continuous current of air passing through this mine.

Q.—How do you find this work affect your health? A.—It has not affected my health any. I work regular, eat regular, and sleep regular, and I suppose that is the secret. I have worked forty-four years underground and I think I am as good looking as any of you. I have been working as a miner ever since I was thirteen years of age, and I am now fifty-seven years of age. My son who is here with me, is my mate. We work together in couples, and I prefer working with him to any one else, and I know he prefers to work with me.

By Mr. BLUE:—

I may say, gentlemen, that John Wearne is one of our best miners. He is a teetotaler—he never touches liquor and is superintendant of a Sunday School here. He has purchased a farm out of his earnings as a miner.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Did you work in the mines in the Old Country? A.—Yes.

Q.—How do miners' wages compare here with the wages that are given in copper mines in the Old Country? A.—We get a great deal more money here than in the Old Country in copper mines.

Q.—Is the labor more hard? A.—It is pretty tough.

Q.—Do you not get more advantages here than in the Old Country? A.—Yes; I think so.

Q.—Do you consider this a better country, on the whole, for a copper miner to work in? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you consider yourself better off? A.—Yes; I consider myself so.

Q.—Do the copper miners of Capelton, or wherever else you may have been in Canada, as a rule save money? A.—Well, I can only speak for this section of the country; some do. Well, some that are careful. You have to be careful if you want to save money as a miner. There are a good many temptations, and those who have

to go into town (Sherbrooke) may spend a great deal while they are there, but those that are careful, as I am myself, may save money.

Q.—And they have done so, of course? A.—Yes; of course there are ways of spending money very quickly, if you want to spend it.

Q.—Has there been any trouble between the employers—any disagreement between the employers, and the men working in and about the mine? A.—No.

Q.—Are the men friendly disposed towards their employers? A.—Yes; we are all friendly, all amicable, and that is the way we have been going right straight along.

Q.—How about the school system? Is it a public school system? A.—Perhaps Mr. Blue can tell you all about that.

Q.—I am speaking of the school in connection with the mines? A.—I do not live at the mines. We have a district school over at our place, and they go to school eight months a year.

Q.—What provision is made by the Orford Copper and Sulphur Company for the education of the children of miners? A.—I understand they pay so much towards supporting a teacher here—a schoolmaster here, right in this locality—right in this mine, to school all the children around.

Q.—Belonging to the miners? A.—Yes; there are no others. The company gives a fee of three hundred dollars a year, and we get a small grant from the township of seventy-five dollars, and we make up the rest, so as to pay the teacher five hundred dollars a year. We furnish the building with light, fuel, and so on. That is the teacher's salary, but he is also supposed to keep night-school.

Q.—You have a sick and accident fund here? A.—Yes; that is our association.

Q.—What benefit do you get from that? A.—I think we get fifty cents a day if we are sick or disabled from work.

Q.—Do you get a doctor? A.—Yes; we get the doctor provided free. There is a doctor provided by that association for the whole thing.

Q.—How much do you pay for that? A.—Fifty cents a month.

Q.—Do you think it a good provision? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does that cover medicine? A.—Everything, I believe, without there are some medical delicacies that the doctor has not got, and that he may tell them to get, such as cod liver oil, a little whisky, or anything like that.

Q.—Can you tell us now about how many feet you are below the surface of the ground? A.—We are now about one hundred and forty-five fathoms deep, which is eight hundred and eighty-feet below the tunnel by which you came in by.

Q.—Is the ventilation and light very good? A.—It is reasonably dry; it could not be any more comfortable for a miner.

Q.—I suppose mines are always damp? A.—Yes, just as you see them.

Q.—There are no traps; nothing by which you could meet with an accident? A.—You can just see for yourself how it is.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are you paid in cash? A.—Yes, every month.

Q.—Can you go to any store you like and buy your provisions? A.—Yes.

Q.—You are not hindered in any way by the officials? A.—No, there are no restrictions at all; every person is free to buy where he likes.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—This insurance fund, who has the control of it? A.—The men appoint their own committee. They have a meeting and vote for those they wish to see elected.

Q.—They virtually control it? A.—Yes.

Q.—It is virtually a miners' association? A.—Yes, it is specially got up for that.

Q.—And you think the men are generally satisfied? A.—Yes.

Q.—You do not hear of any complaints at all? A.—No. If they wish to give a man thirty or forty dollars, they can give it to him; that has been done a month ago.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Does your helper get the same pay as yourself? A.—Yes, he is my son, we just divide.

Q.—You get the same pay? A.—Yes.

Q.—I suppose the other miners have helpers also? A.—They have in some cases.

Q.—Do they pay their helper? A.—Yes. They mostly hire one at one dollar and twenty five cents a day.

Q.—Do the men work at night the same as day? A.—Yes. You work six days a week, and then you work five nights, and that counts the same in pay as six days.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is it in accordance with the mining regulations of England, and when any charges that are placed in the blast holes do not explode, the miner should not be allowed to pick them or draw them out, but that they should bore a fresh hole? A.—We take every precaution against accident that we can take. If the charge does not ignite, we pick it out with a picker.

Q.—Is that in accordance with the mining regulations? A.—It can be done safely enough. I never put the drill in the hole under those circumstances.

Q.—Is that in accordance with the mining regulations of England? A.—I do not know anything to prevent it.

Q.—Are the parties who pick out the charge liable to ignite it? A.—That is the way it is done; you pick it out with a picker. That is the common way.

Q.—What is a picker? A.—The picker is a sharp pointed piece of iron, and you need not strike any fire with it unless you go recklessly to work. If you went recklessly at it you might strike fire against the rock, and that might cause an explosion, but if you go carefully to work there is no danger.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Has this mine been free from accident during the time you have worked in it? A.—Yes. Accidents are very scarce here.

CHARLES WEARNE, of Capelton, Miner, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Did you hear what your father said? A.—Yes; the whole of it.

Q.—Do you agree with the statements he has made? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you anything fresh to add to it? A.—No.

GEORGE BABB, of Capelton, Ore Dresser, sworn.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—How long have you been engaged with this Company? A.—Eight years.

Q.—What wages do you get at the work you are at now? A.—One dollar and twenty-five cents a day.

Q.—Is that steady work all the year round? A.—It has been mostly.

- Q.—How often are you paid? A.—We are paid on the 15th of every month.
- Q.—Are you paid in cash? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Are you paid in full? A.—Well, there are always fifteen days that they keep back, from the 1st to the 15th.
- Q.—That fifteen days is kept back what for? A.—I suppose it is kept back, supposing a man should leave the mine, he would come back to pay his board.
- Q.—Do they require you to give notice before leaving? A.—Yes; two weeks.
- Q.—And do they give you the same when they discharge you? A.—No.
- Q.—Have you a Benevolent Fund in connection with this mining business? Have you a Sick and Accident Fund? A.—Yes.
- Q.—By whom is it conducted? A.—I suppose by Mr. Nelson Martin, the book-keeper.
- Q.—And for that you receive—what? A.—Doctor's attendance, and three dollars a week when sick.
- Q.—For how long do you receive that? A.—For as long as you are unable to work.
- Q.—Are you aware that it is limited to any length of time? A.—No.
- Q.—In case you are killed, what does your family receive from them? A.—Nothing, unless something is given by the Company.
- Q.—Have you, during the time you have been employed by this Company, worked in the mine? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Do you know of any accidents? A.—Yes.
- Q.—What was the nature of that accident? A.—The man slipped and fell, and was killed.
- Q.—Have you ever known of any accident through the neglect of the proprietors? A.—I could not say if it was or not, but it was not, that I know of.
- Q.—The men who go up and down the mine to work, do they walk up and down the shafts? A.—They walk up flights of stairs.
- Q.—Would they rather walk up than be brought up by machinery? A.—Yes.
- Q.—You consider it safer? A.—Yes.
- Q.—And you think to ride up by car dangerous? A.—So it is considered.
- Q.—You think it preferable to walk up? A.—That is the law of the Company.
- Q.—And the men are satisfied with it? A.—Yes.
- Q.—With regard to the management of the Benevolent Fund, have you heard any expressions of discontent by the men? A.—I have heard some of them say that those who are old and diseased before they come here have no right to belong to this fund.
- Q.—Do you not undergo an examination? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q.—How much does a man contribute towards this fund? A.—Fifty cents a month.
- Q.—Is it compulsory? A.—No. No man need belong to it unless he likes.
- Q.—And he need not have the doctor unless he likes? A.—No.
- Q.—Do you own the property you live in? A.—No.
- Q.—Are you a married man? A.—No.
- Q.—Do you live in one of the Company's houses? A.—Yes.
- Q.—What rent do you pay? A.—Three dollars a month.
- Q.—What is the size of the house? A.—It has three rooms.
- Q.—You think it a reasonable rent? A.—Well; I cannot grumble.
- Q.—Well, for a man in your condition and with the wages you receive, do you think that you, yourself, and your fellow workmen are in a position to save money? A.—No.
- Q.—You receive work all the year round? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Where do you purchase your supplies? A.—At Mr. Blue's.
- Q.—Where is that? A.—Mr. Walter Blue, he has a store in Sherbrooke.

Q.—Is he any relative to the superintendent of this mine? A.—I think he is a brother.

Q.—And do you think you get your things there as cheap as any where else? A.—I cannot say. We might get it as cheap as at some places, and we might not.

Q.—It is perfectly optional with you where you deal? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you known any accident to occur in the use of explosives? A.—No.

Q.—Have you ever known any carelessness to be exercised by the men while at work in the mines? A.—I do not think so.

Q.—Have you ever heard of any accidents arising from that cause? A.—I do not think there has been any accidents happened.

Q.—Have you any complaints to make with regard to the condition of the mine? A.—No.

Q.—Is there any scale of taxation or contribution levied upon the men for the maintenance of the school? A.—I think each man pays so much for his children a month.

Q.—Then they have a night school? A.—Well, they did have a night school.

Q.—And this sum was for the support of the night school? A.—I suppose it was.

Q.—Do you think the children working around the mine in any capacity are able to read and write? A.—A good share of them, I think, can write their own name and read a little—not much.

Q.—Is there any ill-treatment practised by the overseers upon the men? A.—No; I do not think that.

Q.—Have your wages been increased since you came here? A.—I was taking charge of the dressing of the ore for a couple of months, and I received one dollar and fifty cents a day.

Q.—What kind of work was that? A.—It was ordinary work, taking out the refuse, or stone from the ore.

Q.—Have your wages been increased? A.—No. There was one rise of ten cents, and one cut of ten cents. That made it one dollar and a quarter.

Q.—These houses for which you pay three dollars a month rent for, are they good ordinary houses? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much do you pay for fuel? A.—Three dollars a cord for the wood delivered.

Q.—Does the wood belong to the company? A.—Yes.

Q.—And they deliver the wood? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think in this neighborhood you should pay so much? A.—Well, I do not think so, but you cannot get it much less anywhere.

Q.—You consider on the whole that your circumstances here are as good as at any other mines that you know of? A.—Yes; I do.

Q.—How do you know that? A.—From what the other men tell me—just men leaving other mines and coming here, pretend to say that this is as good as the other mines.

Q.—What other mines do you refer to? A.—There is the "Albert" Mine right over the top of the hill, at the back of the Chemical Works, which you can see at the station; then there is a village that lies near the mouth of that mine, right at the back of the hill. That is all.

FRANK COTTON, Capelton, Laborer, aged fifteen. sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How long have you been working here? A.—Two years last March.

Q.—Do you always work about the mouth of the mine? A.—Yes.

Q.—What work do you do? A.—I pick out the rocks from the ore.

- Q.—What wages do you receive? A.—Forty-five cents a day.
 Q.—What pay did you get when you started work? A.—They paid me thirty-five cents a day.
 Q.—Do you expect to get any more? A.—Yes, some of them get sixty cents a day.
 Q.—How many of them? A.—Ten.
 Q.—Are you pretty well treated? A.—I have nothing to complain of.
 Q.—Are the men kind to you? A.—Some of them, and some of them are cross.
 Q.—Do they abuse you at all? A.—No, they do not.
 Q.—How long did you go to school? A.—For two years.
 Q.—Can you read and write? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Is there a night school in connection with the mine? A.—Not now.
 Q.—Have they night schools in the winter time? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Are there any boys who go to the night school? A.—All the boys.

By Mr. CARSON :—

- Q.—When do they hold this night school? A.—Twice a week.
 Q.—And do the boys who work around the mine generally go to this school?
 A.—Yes.
 Q.—Do your parents live here? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Are you living at home with them? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Is your father a miner? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Do you pay anything to go to school? A.—No.
 Q.—Do they find you the books also free? A.—Yes.

(Translation.)

FRANK DORÉ, employed in the mines of Capelton, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

- Q.—How long have you worked here? A.—A year next month.
 Q.—How old are you? A.—I will be fifteen on the 1st of May.
 Q.—How much do you get a day? A.—Forty-five cents a day.
 Q.—Do any of your brothers, any other members of your family, work here?
 A.—No.
 Q.—Does your father work here? A.—He works under ground.
 Q.—Did you ever go to school? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Do you know how to read and write? A.—Yes, sir.
 Q.—In both French and English? A.—No.
 Q.—In which language? A.—In English.
 Q.—Are there any French schools here? A.—Yes: there is one on the hill.
 Q.—Did you not attend the French school? A.—I don't know.
 Q.—Was it your father told you to go to the English school, or did you go of yourself?
 A.—No one told me to go, I went of myself.
 Q.—Have you any little sisters? A.—No, sir.
 Q.—Are you an only child? A.—No, sir; I have three brothers, two younger and one older than I am. The eldest works in the store.
 Q.—What are the ages of the two younger than you? A.—One is six, and the other is thirteen years old.
 Q.—Has the one who is thirteen, ever been to school? A.—Yes, he goes now, he goes to the English school.
 Q.—Is the other too young to go? A.—No, he goes to school too.

- Q.—What do you pay at that school? A.—50 cents a month.
- Q.—Are the books provided for you? A.—They provide them, but our father pays for them.
- Q.—Is your mother living? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—Of what nationality is your mother? A.—Half Irish and half French.
- Q.—Does she speak both languages? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—Is your father French? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—How much does he earn a day? A.—\$1.35.
- Q.—Do you know how many hours a day he works? A.—He begins work at 7 o'clock in the morning and leaves work sometimes at 5 o'clock at night, and sometimes at a quarter past seven.
- Q.—Does he never work at night? A.—They all work night and day alternately. This week he is working at night.
- Q.—When he works at night, how long does he work? A.—The same number of hours as when he works in day time.
- Q.—How many hours is that? A.—About nine hours and a quarter, something like that.
- Q.—Do the boys make any complaint of how they are treated, or that they do not earn enough, or of anything? Have you heard any of the boys complain? A.—No, sir.
- Q.—Are you pleased with the work you are given to do? A.—Yes.
- Q.—What sort of work do you do? A.—I shovel gravel.
- Q.—Are you obliged to shovel a certain quantity a day, or do you never work too hard? A.—I don't work too hard.
- Q.—Then they do not overwork you, and you are quite satisfied? A.—No, sir; they do not overwork us. Sometimes we are given tasks, and we finish early.
- Q.—So you have no trouble, you agree well? A.—Yes, sir.

JOSEPH LEDOUX, of Capelton, Miner, in the employ of the Orford Copper and Sulphur Company, Eustis Mines, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

- Q.—How long have you worked in this mine? A.—I worked nine months at first, in this mine, then I was absent about eight months, and now I work above ground.
- Q.—When did you return here? A.—I have been working here for the second time about three months.
- Q.—How much do you earn a day here? A.—The first time, I worked in the shaft and earned \$1.15 a day.
- Q.—And how much do you earn now? A.—I earn \$1.10 now, that is ever since I worked at the covered shed.
- Q.—How many hours a day do you work? A.—Ten hours a day. We commence at seven, we dine at noon; we begin again at one, and leave at six o'clock.
- Q.—Do many children work here? A.—I am unable to say, I never counted them.
- Q.—In your opinion what is the age of the youngest? A.—To the best of my knowledge, the youngest is about 10 or 11 years.
- Q.—How much do these little ones earn a day? A.—It is more than I am able to say.
- Q.—Do you not think that the position in which they have to work, on their knees, is of a nature to do them harm? A.—There might occasionally be one to whom it would do harm, but they move about so much, that I do not think that the position in which they have to work, can cause them any injured.
- Q.—Do these children go to school, or were they taught when they were younger? A.—There are some among them, who have been to school.
- Q.—Are you a married man? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you children of an age to attend school? A.—No, I have not, children are generally seven years old when they begin to go to school.

Q.—Do many of the French Canadian children, go to the French School, or do they go to the English School? A.—I think that nearly all of them about here go to the English School, I know some who go to the French School on this hill.

Q.—Is it because the French School is too far away? A.—I think so.

Q.—Do you have Divine Service here, from time to time? A.—Every fifteen days.

Q.—Is the school far from the Church? A.—The School is at one end, and the Church at the other, they are both in the same building. The building is separated in the middle and, during Mass, the door is opened, and it becomes one building.

Q.—You have never had any strikes here? The workmen have never had any trouble with their masters, have they? A.—We know nothing of that here.

Q.—Is there any organized Society here for workmen? A.—I don't know.

Q.—Do you pay fifty cents a month? A.—Yes.

Q.—What for? A.—It is for doctors' fees; and we have a Society, in which every member who pays, receives so much a week when he is sick.

Q.—Who manages this Society? Is it the Company, or some of the men? A.—I cannot exactly say. I think, however, that it is managed by all the members of the Society.

Q.—You are not one of them, then? A.—No, I am not. I think, though, that it is the Company that names the members. Since I have been about here, the Society has always existed.

Q.—Do you know if many French-Canadians belong to this Association? A.—It is a Society for mutual assistance, and we all belong to it. Every one working is obliged to pay fifty cents; it is retained from our wages.

Q.—What would you do if you were ill? A.—If I were ill, I would telegraph or send for the doctor, and he would call and examine me, and note the time I was ill, for it is the doctor who regulates that matter.

Q.—How much a week would you receive if you were ill? A.—Three dollars a week.

Q.—And how long do you receive it? A.—Some say that it continues for three months, and then stops.

Q.—Have accidents ever occurred in your Company? Are the men often injured or lamed? A.—No; we have been very fortunate here in that way. There has only been one man lamed, to my knowledge.

Q.—In general, then, you all seem to be satisfied? A.—Yes, as far as I know.

(Translation.)

EDOUARD HÉBERT, of Capelton, Laborer, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—How long did you work in the Chemical works of Capelton? A.—About a month, a month and a few days.

Q.—Do you know how many men work there? A.—I can't say for certain. About thirty.

Q.—Do any children, any young children work there? A.—No.

Q.—What wages did you earn there? A.—\$1 a day.

Q.—Do any of the men earn more than you? A.—Yes; I am the one that earns the least of any.

Q.—What are the highest wages earned by any? A.—I cannot say with certainty.

Q.—Have you any idea how much it may be? A.—Someone told me it was \$2.

- Q.—Do all the men work in the factory, or outside? A.—Except the labourers
The labourers work both inside and out.
- Q.—Do the workmen keep their places long, or do they often change? A.—I
can't say. I have not been there long enough.
- Q.—Do you think that factory is injurious to health? A.—Some of the work is
against nature.
- Q.—Do any complain, any one say that things could be better organized. Is
the danger you refer to, due to the nature of the work itself or is it due to want of
proper management? A.—It is due to the nature of thing itself, to the nature of
the work.
- Q.—When are your wages paid? A.—The 24th of every month.
- Q.—What was your reason for leaving that work? A.—Because my wages
were not high enough.
- Q.—Were there many who worked for a dollar a day? A.—I was told that I
was the only one.
- Q.—Do you know if any of the workmen have well founded complaints to
make against the factory? A.—I have not heard of any.
- Q.—Have you also worked at the mine here at Capelton, at Mr. Nichol's mine
(the Albert mine)? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Have you worked here long? A.—I have worked here fifteen days, fifteen
and a half days this winter.
- Q.—What wages do you get here? A.—\$1.15.
- Q.—Those are the wages given for working in the shaft? A.—Yes: for the
work I did, but some got more.
- Q.—Do you know what are the highest wages earned there? A.—\$1.50.
- Q.—Did many earn \$1.50? A.—I could not tell how many. All the drillers,
and all those who work on the machines.
- Q.—Do you know what wages are earned by those who worked elsewhere, in
the shaft? A.—The others earned \$1.15.
- Q.—Is that mine very damp? A.—No; the mine is dry enough.
- Q.—Do the men often get wet, whether it be cause by the dampness of the
mine, or by hard work? A.—Yes; by the work.
- Q.—Is there a place where they can change before leaving? A.—No.
- Q.—Should there be one? A.—Yes; there should be one.
- Q.—Are the men accustomed to bring a change of clothes with them, to wear
home? A.—Some have the habit of doing so, others have not. They go back to
the boarding house without having changed their shirt.
- Q.—Do you think it would be an improvement to have a place in which to
change their clothes? A.—Yes; it would be better.
- Q.—Have the men, in general, any cause of complaint? A.—Yes; they com-
plain of the danger of the mine.
- Q.—Do you know in what that danger consists? A.—I know some of the dan-
gers. When I was working there I became acquainted with some of the dangers;
that is, I saw places that were dangerous.
- Q.—What was the nature of that danger? A.—The places were not well pro-
tected. There should have been railings on the ladders, at the foot of the ladders
and on the bridges.
- Q.—And how were you paid there? By the month or by the week? A.—
Always on the 24th of each month.
- Q.—Were you always paid in money? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Did they never offer you *bons* in payment? A.—No.
- Q.—Was the Company stores here? A.—No.
- Q.—How do they treat the men? Are they badly used or well used? A.—Up
above, they are not well treated.
- Q.—But you do not work above ground, do you? A.—Yes; I have worked in
that department for 15 days.

Q.—And are you badly treated? A.—Badly treated in this way, that we have to work beyond our strength.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—Do you quarry by the day or by the job? A.—Some work by the job, and some by the day.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do they retain money on your monthly wages for any purpose? A.—They keep back 50 cents for the doctor.

Q.—Did you have to pay that when you worked there? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has the Company the sole right to dispose of that fund or can the men see for themselves how the money is employed? A.—I think the men can find out if they want to.

Q.—You have not examined into the matter? A.—No.

Q.—You have never heard of any complaints on that subject? A.—No.

Q.—Are the workmen contented? A.—Yes.

(Translation.)

THÉOPHILE VERVILLE, of Capelton, Miner, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—How long did you work in the mine; (the Albert mine)? A.—I cannot say; I have worked under ground, and above ground. I worked under ground about a month and a half.

Q.—And how long above ground? A.—Two or three months, two months and a half, I think.

Q.—How much did you earn when you worked above ground? A.—One dollar a day.

Q.—And when you worked in the shaft below? A.—One dollar and fifteen cents.

Q.—Did any of the others earn more than that? A.—Yes.

Q.—What did they do? A.—They "ran" the drilling machines, they drill by air power; the helpers get \$1.40, and the first class machine hands get \$1.65.

Q.—Is the mine in a good condition to work in? A.—Yes; in pretty good condition, no accidents have happened, and I have no knowledge that anyone has ever been lamed.

Q.—How long is it since anyone has been lamed? A.—I don't know.

Q.—Has any one been lamed, for the last five or six months? A.—During the time I was there, there was no one lamed to my knowledge, and since I left, I never heard of anyone being lamed.

Q.—Do you consider that the mine is sufficiently aired? A.—We are all right, as regards the air.

Q.—Has every precaution been taken to guard the men from accidents or could thing be better? A.—Things could be better, but they get along in that way with- out accidents.

Q.—Was any part of your monthly wages retained for any purpose whatever? A.—Well, we used to leave fifty cents a month for the doctor, and when we left fifty cents a month, and no one got sick, they gave us—I don't remember whether it was two dollars and fifty cents or three dollars a week. It was one or the other.

Q.—Are the men satisfied that fifty cents a month should be retained for this object? A.—Nobody complained.

Q.—If they had not been satisfied, they would have complained? A.—No person complained.

Q.—Is there anything about the mine that you would like to see put in better order, or is everything done for the best? A.—For my part, I think everything works well enough.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Have you ever worked in any other mine? A.—I worked several days under ground in the Eustis mine.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Were you satisfied with what took place there? A.—I was well satisfied ; I only worked eight days there.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Are you paid in money? A.—Yes.

Q.—When are you paid? A.—The twenty-fourth of each month.

Q.—Are you married or single? A.—I am single.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do you think it would be better for the men to be paid every week? A.—Some of them, perhaps, would like it better, but after all it is the custom and they all seem contented with it.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—How much a month does a single man pay for board? A.—Twelve dollars a month.

Q.—Does the company own houses to lease to the workmen? A.—I can't say; I believe so.

Q.—Have the company stores where they sell goods? A.—No, they have no stores.

Q.—You buy where you please? A.—Yes, certainly.

Q.—Have you ever seen young boys throwing powder in the mine in play?

A.—No, never.

Q.—Is it customary for miners to have young boys with them in the mine, in the shaft? A.—No, it is not customary; there is only one boy who works with his father.

Q.—But is it not the custom to allow children to go underground? A.—No.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH NADEAU, employed in the Capelton Mine, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Have you worked in Mr. Nicholl's Mine (The Albert Mine)? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long did you work there? A.—I don't know.

Q.—Was it a month, two months, or a year? A.—I don't know, I think it was a year.

Q.—What is your age? A.—I am not yet thirteen years old. I will be thirteen on the 7th of next October.

Q.—How much a day do you earn? A.—Forty cents.

Q.—Were you obliged to work hard? A.—We worked hard when we liked.

Q.—Were you badly treated? A.—No.

Q.—Were the other boys also pleased to work there? A.—I don't know.

Q.—When were you paid? A.—The 24th of every month.

Q.—Were you paid in money? A.—Yes.

Q.—When work begins again at the mine, will you work there? A.—If they will take me.

WILLIAM H. NICHOLLS, Esq., of the town of Capelton, in the Province of Quebec, and Dominion of Canada, and of the City of New York, in the State of New York, one of the United States of North America. A member of the firm of Messrs. G. H. Nicholls & Company, Manufacturing Chemists & Miners, Proprietors of the Albert Copper Mine, Capelton, sworn.

By MR. HEAKES:—

Q.—Excuse me, Sir, but are you Mr William H. Nicholls? A.—Yes.

Q.—We are very glad to have met you. We have been to your works down opposite the railway station, and we have been up to your mine over the hills, where we awaited your arrival and examined several of your hands. We are now proceeding to the Railway Station on our return to Sherbrooke, and would like to ask you a few questions with regard to the working of your mines? A.—I am very sorry if I detained you, gentlemen, but I was away in Sherbrooke and have just arrived at Capelton. I shall have pleasure in answering any questions you like to ask of me with regard to the condition of the men working in the mine.

Q.—I suppose you have no objection to be sworn, on the Queen's Highway? A.—Oh, No. (The witness is duly sworn.)

Q.—How many miners have you, working in the mine? A.—Do you mean miners or labourers?

Q.—No. Miners working in the mine, the average number? A.—Fifty, about.

Q.—Do they find work constantly throughout the year? A.—I think ever since we started, and that was about six years ago, they have had constant work every day with the exception of when they did not want to work, and of course any regular holiday.

Q.—How do they work, do they work wholly by contract? A.—They work sometimes by contract and sometimes by the day.

Q.—What are the wages paid them? A.—One dollar and sixty-five cents a day.

Q.—Is that the average wages paid? A.—They are all paid alike.

Q.—How often are they paid? A.—Every month.

Q.—Are there any days held back from them? A.—Yes. Our month ends on the fifteen of every month, and as soon as the pay rolls are sent to New York, the cheque comes back, and they are paid in full, with the exception of fifty cents a month which they pay to their Association.

Q.—Has there been any accidents in the mine? A.—Four or five years ago a man was killed.

Q.—How was he killed? A.—By disobeying orders.

Q.—Are the explosives properly guarded both inside and outside the mine? A.—Yes. They are placed in a proper house by themselves. It is a fire proof house with iron doors, and it is carefully locked and guarded, and it is under the control of a man specially appointed for the purpose.

Q.—Are all necessary precautions taken to prevent accidents, in exploding the blasts, and in the handing of explosives by the miners? A.—Yes. We explode the blasts by battery, and the charges are exploded simultaneously. When the holes are charged, all go out, except the foreman or person who fires the blast. They are all sent out. They then go to dinner, and when they come back, the coast is clear, and all danger is over.

Q.—Does it sometimes happen that charges do not explode? A.—I think since we have used explosives, there has been very few that did not explode.

Q.—Do you use dynamite? A.—Yes, it is dynamite, made in Canada.

Q.—Have you any boys employed? A.—Yes. We have a dozen, or fifteen. I do not know exactly how many.

Q.—What might be the age of the youngest? A.—Now you have got me, I do not know.

Q.—Are they employed at heavy work? A.—No, it is not heavy work, it is picking the stones or rock from the crushed ore. It is light work. The ore is first broken, and the boys pick the rock out.

Q.—Do the boys all work on the surface? A.—Yes.

Q.—None work underground? A.—No, there would be no use for them.

Q.—As regards the maintenance of the school, does the Government assist?

A.—There are both Protestant and Catholic Schools, we assist, and they pay a fee themselves.

Q.—Are there any miners who have remained long with you? A.—Yes. We have got a good many, that have remained with us since we started.

Q.—Has the condition of the miners improved of late years? A.—Oh! Yes, very much. They are a different class of people altogether.

Q.—Is it true that there was a great amount of drinking amongst miners in the past? A.—Yes. No liquor is allowed to be sold here. I see a difference. The difference is so marked when they speak to me.

Q.—Do any of them own property? A.—I think there are some. I think there is.

Q.—Do you think the habitations of the miners superior then they used to be as regards ventilation and comfort? A.—Yes, and their social condition is very good. They have their Societies and Base Ball Clubs, in fact they beat the whole country around here, their Ball Club did, and they have their Good Templars Lodge, and Lacrosse Club.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Since you have owned the mine, have the wages of miners increased any? A.—When we started, the wages of miners was one dollar and twenty-five cents a day, now, it is one dollar and sixty-five cents a day.

Q.—What is the pay of an unskilled labourer—what would a labouring man receive a day—a common labouring man? A.—One dollar a day.

Q.—And I understand you to say they are paid regularly every month. A.—Yes. They were paid yesterday for the past month. They are always paid regularly, every man of them. As the month comes round the pay roll is sent to New York, and the money arrives, and they are paid promptly.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Have you any carpenters employed around the mine? A.—We have had during the winter, in the neighbourhood of thirty carpenters employed over the yard. We have got fifteen at work now, and there has been as high as fifty carpenters employed on our work.

Q.—What would be the pay of one of these carpenters? A.—I could not tell you.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What are the hours of the miners? A.—The miners work ten hours a day, and ten hours at night. A week at night work constitutes five nights. They work in shifts, and the men who work five nights are paid for six shifts.

Q.—Does it happen at any time, that they work longer hours than that? A.—No, unless it may be in the machine department. If anything goes wrong they

would then be asked to work extra hours, in order to put it right and not delay the miners.

Q.—How deep is your mine? A.—It is eight hundred feet by the incline, and four hundred or five hundred feet straight down.

Q.—Is the capacity of your mine increasing? A.—Wait until I get that new mill up that you doubtless saw, and I will double the output.

Q.—The output is governed by the demand? A.—Yes; a large portion of it goes to our work in New York. We work it also for the sulphur. We make it into sulphuric acid at those works, at the foot of the hill.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—How much do you pay your boys? A.—Sixty cents a day—the lowest receives thirty-five cents a day.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Your relations with your men appear to be friendly all through? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you ever have any labor disputes with your men? A.—No.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—This benevolent fund—who directs it? A.—I think the clerk, Mr. Spafford.

Q.—Do the men have control of the Benevolent Fund? A.—Yes; they hold their own meetings, select their own doctor and officers, and have absolute control. We also look to the direction of the fund, and if their happens to be more sickness than the money of the Society will stand, the firm comes in, and settles it by finding the necessary money. We have had a great deal of experience of men, both on the good side and on the bad side. We desire to work with our men; if the men prosper, we prosper. Any information that you may require, that I am able to give at any time, I shall be glad to do so.

Q.—In Canada do you find the men as steady as on the other side? A.—There are no better men anywhere than you see around here. They are good citizens and good miners, and know how to appreciate the comforts of life. You should only see them turn out in their best clothes, and stove-pipe hats on Sundays. I can tell you it would be a surprise to you. If you saw them when they go to church, and in their homes on Sundays, you would say they were by no means behind city folk in intelligence, appearance and comfort.

ST. HYACINTHE.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH OCTAVE GUERTIN, of St. Hyacinthe, Notary and Secretary-Treasurer of the City of St. Hyacinthe, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

- Q.—Are you Secretary-Treasurer of the City of St. Hyacinthe? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—Can you tell us if the population of St. Hyacinthe has increased within the last five years? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—What is the amount of increase of the population during the last five years? A.—I could answer with greater precision if the question covered a shorter period. The roll of tenants is made every year. In 1887 His Honor the Mayor wished to ascertain the population, and the person who makes the roll was ordered to take the names of all persons, so as to obtain the required information, and in January, 1887, it was shown by the roll, that the population numbered 4,500 and some souls, and this year it exceeds 6,000. I do not include in this number that part of the city which was annexed last autumn. In that part I would give, as an approximate figure, about 2,000 souls to be added. The part so annexed was part of the parish of St. Hyacinthe.
- Q.—Could you furnish to this Commission the valuation of real estate in 1886, and the three previous years? A.—For the three years previous I could only give you an approximate idea; for the year 1886 it exceeds \$12,000. In the month of January of this year the Council ordered a valuation of properties that had increased in value on account of the buildings erected, and of detached lots of cultivated land. This valuation showed an increase of \$122,000.
- Q.—Do you also give a valuation of rents in the City of St. Hyacinthe? A.—No, sir; the tax on the rents is according to the rent paid by the tenant.
- Q.—Can you give the total amount of this tax? A.—Last year the amount was \$1,900 and some dollars taxed against the tenants.
- Q.—Is that the tax of five per cent. on rents? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Could you furnish us with the list of industries that received bonuses from the City of St. Hyacinthe? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—Speak of those industries that now exist? A.—Yes; do you mean those that now exist?
- Q.—Are there any that have ceased to exist? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Give us the names of those that still exist, and of those that have ceased to exist? A.—.....existed, but exist no longer. It received a bonus of \$2,000, but failed in 1887. It was a boot and shoe manufactory. Afterwards the Granite Mills, a bonus of \$12,000.
- Q.—Did this also become insolvent? A.—Yes.
- Q.—The Company to which the bonus was granted became insolvent, and it is a new Company that now exists? A.—According to current report, it is composed of the same persons, with others. There was a sort of assignment by certain shareholders to other shareholders.
- Q.—Are they under the same obligations? A.—They have drawn their bonus.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Have they fulfilled their engagements? A.—Yes; they were only obliged to build.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—I suppose the bonus was given on condition that they would employ a certain number of hands? A.—Not that one. Then there is Messrs. Seguin and Lalime, boot and shoe manufacturers, to whom a bonus of \$14,000 was given. Before that, there was Mr. Beauchemin's shirt factory, to which a bonus of \$1,000 was given; it has ceased to exist.

Q.—Are there other factories that have received bonuses? A.—Yes. There is Mr. Mosely, tanner, who received \$15,000. Then Mr. Aird, shoe manufacturer, received \$1,000. There was also a bonus of \$5,000 granted to Mr. King, of Upper Canada; he is in the iron industry.

Q.—Does the town of St. Hyacinthe make loans of money to these factories? A.—Yes, sir; it loaned \$25,000 to the woollen factory.

Q.—At what rate of interest was this loan made to the woollen factory? A.—The loan was made as follows:—The Corporation issued debentures for the sum of \$25,000 at 4 per cent, with two per cent of a sinking fund.

Q.—Does the City of St. Hyacinthe pay six per cent a year for interest and sinking fund? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did it obtain the money on those debentures? A.—The Corporation gave the debentures to the municipality, and took security for the property of the factory, and payable in the same way by the Company.

Q.—Was the security taken in the form of an hypothec? A.—Yes, sir; on the property.

Q.—I see in the charter of St. Hyacinthe, clause 94, which says: Workmen exercising any mechanical art, or trade, within the said city, will be divided into two classes. The first class shall comprise all owners of shops employing four men or more, and all contractors; and the second, all other workmen. Those of the first class shall be assessed annually \$5 and those of the second class \$1. Must I conclude from that clause, that a man employing 200 men pays but \$5, the same as the man employing only four? A.—Yes, sir; not more.

Q.—Who are the workmen on which the tax of \$1 is imposed? Is it imposed on all workmen? A.—On all persons whom the Corporation considers as workmen. Generally, on all who work in manufactories.

Q.—Laborers and all? A.—Laborers and all; include all persons, all men who work in factories.

Q.—For how many years has this tax been collected? A.—It was collected before my time, and I have been Secretary for fourteen years; but the rate has been changed, the tax has varied. It has been at this rate since the fire, that is to say since 1877, before that time it was \$1 for the masters of the shops, and 30 cents for the workmen.

Q.—What did that tax amount to last year? A.—I could give a more correct statement by referring to the books.

The Secretary-Treasurer refers to his books and says:—

For 1887.....	\$428.50
“ 1886	293.00
“ 1885.....	230.00
“ 1884.....	183.00

Q.—Did you impose this tax on workmen living outside the city, but working in the city? A.—The names of these people do not appear on our roll, as we only take down the names of those in the place. It happens that we have collected sometimes, but rarely, from those outside the city; for the very good reason that we believe we are unable to compel payment by law.

- Q.—There are some, nevertheless that pay? A.—There are some.
- Q.—Where do you send the notice? A.—To the domicile.
- Q.—But when the workmen live outside the city? A.—We send it to them personally, it is a personal tax.
- Q.—Do you send it to their masters, or to where they live? A.—We generally send it to the post office.
- Q.—The fifth paragraph of section 93 reads; that a tax of one dollar shall be imposed on each male inhabitants of twenty-one years or more, who has resided in the said city during six months, and who is neither proprietor, nor tenant, nor apprentice, nor servant. How do you apply this clause? A.—We do not apply it. It certainly forms part of our by-law, which we pass every year, but we do not apply.
- Q.—In 1887 you collected \$428.87 for the \$1, and \$5 tax? According to that statement there are more than 428 workmen in St. Hyacinthe? A.—Yes, it is those who have paid.
- Q.—Who are they who, according the roll, have paid? A.—I will state those who are on the roll: By the roll of 1887 it appears that fifty-five have not paid. The number to collect from is fifty-five.
- Q.—Does not this figure, which is very low, since it only gives \$483 to collect, indicate that a distinction is made among workmen? Do you impose that tax on laborers? A.—No.
- Q.—Do you only impose that tax on workmen? A.—On workmen that exercise some art in a manufactory, or are with a brickmaker, mason or painter; in a word, on all who are not laborers.
- Q.—The loan made to the woollen factory was not made because it was a new factory; it had existed some time? A.—Yes, sir; it had existed for a dozen years.
- Q.—Why then did the municipality make the loan to the factory? A.—The company having suffered loss in consequence of the fire, and the Corporation considering that it was in the interest of the city that the company should continue its operations, deemed it its duty to aid it. Even more than that, the city wished to make a gift of it, but the company preferred a loan, which it would return.
- Q.—Did the City of St. Hyacinthe make any other bonus to persons whose properties were burned? A.—No, sir.
- Q.—Not even in 1875? A.—No, sir. In 1875 the loans were made by strangers, and given to the city as charitable contributions.

By Mr. BOUVIN :—

- Q.—Do the workmen complain of this tax of a dollar? A.—Not those who are reasonable. A good workman does not complain of such a tax.
- Q.—Do you know the condition of workmen in general—their financial position? A.—A great number are proprietors; a good number are tenants, but a good number also are proprietors.
- Q.—Are any of them depositors in the bank? A.—It is more than I can say.
- Q.—Do you often meet with workmen who, in consequence of their poverty, are unable to pay their taxes? A.—There are a certain number who complain when they come to the office; they find us a little too pressing in our demands; we frighten them a little. At other times we send them threatening letters, they attend to them, but always complain. But a man in health, willing to work, can always meet his demands as long as he does not waste his wages in liquor. I think that such a man can very easily make his way here.
- Q.—Have you any idea what number there are here? If I go by your statistics there should be 483? A.—But there are more than that.
- Q.—Have you any idea how many of these workmen are proprietors? A.—I can't say from memory. By examining the books one can see. All those that own property are in our books.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—You have already informed us that the tax collected from the tenants in the year 1887 amounted to \$1,900? A.—That is the amount assessed.

Q.—How much of it was collected? A.—\$1,665 was collected.

Q.—Can you tell us, not to go too far back, what was the tax assessed in rents in 1884? A.—The tax assessed on rents in 1884 amounted to \$1,500 and some dollars.

Q.—And what was the amount collected? A.—\$1,100 and some dollars, was the amount collected from tenants.

Q.—Do proprietors pay a tenant's tax? A.—No, sir; they pay the property tax of half a cent in the dollar on the amount at which the property is valued.

Q.—Does the proprietor who lives in his own house pay a tax on the property, and also a tenant's tax? A.—If he is a tenant elsewhere. It is the persons who occupy the house that pay the tax.

Q.—But when they occupy their own house? A.—No; they only pay the property tax.

Q.—Then a property which is occupied by the proprietor himself only yields to the city a property tax? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—And a property which is occupied by a tenant yields to the city the property tax and also the tenant's tax? A.—Yes; if the proprietors only paid the taxes, the tenants would pay nothing. It is to compel everybody to contribute, that this tax is levied on tenants. Tenants not being proprietors do not pay the property tax; it is only just, therefore, that they should contribute their quota.

Q.—It is well understood then that a proprietor that occupies his own house only pays a property tax? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—And a house occupied by a tenant yields a property tax and a tenant's tax? A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—By whom is the tenant's tax paid? A.—By the proprietors, except in rare cases.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are the manufacturers who received bonuses, exempt from paying taxes? A.—Yes, sir; if they pay rent they do not pay a tax on their rental, and if they are proprietors they do not pay the property tax either. There is, at the present time, including the religious communities about \$5,000 worth of property exempt from taxation.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Is a tax levied on the stock of the manufacturers? A.—No; those who have received bonuses do not pay any.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Did the municipality issue debentures for these bonuses? A.—No; not outside of the loan they made.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Are these bonuses returnable? A.—Nothing is returnable but the loan. The other amounts are gifts.

Q.—How do you ascertain if the obligations imposed on the factories, are fulfilled? A.—By visits made by the employees of the Corporation. The obligations are set forth in the by-laws. By these obligations the manufacturers are bound to pay so much in wages, and to employ so many hands.

Q.—Are they obliged to furnish a sworn statement? A.—No; at least such a statement has never been exacted up to this time. We are guided by their books.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is the tax of \$1, which is imposed on workmen supposed to be employed to pay the bonuses? A.—All the revenue is employed for this purpose. The bonuses are taken from the revenue.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Can you give us the total revenue of the municipality for last year? A.—\$19,000 and some cents. This includes the revenue from all sources.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Can you furnish us with a statement of the exemptions from taxation of the real estate of the town? A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Does the water belong to the City of St. Hyacinthe? A.—No.

Real estate exempt from taxation in the City of St. Hyacinthe:—

Government property.....	\$ 50,000
County property.....	5,000
Corporation property.....	73,300
Property in cultivation.....	17,150
Church property and property of religious corporations.....	503,400
Factories.....	53,500

Total..... 702,350

Bonus granted and paid by the Corporation of the City of St. Hyacinthe to the following persons:—

		Amount	Paid.
31st July, 1874.....	To the McMartin Hamel Company.....	\$4,000.00	
December, 1874....	“ “ “ “		\$2,000.00
(Is not now in operation)			
30th Sept., 1881....	A. S. Beauchemin, Manufacturer Shirts, Collars, &c... ..	\$2,000.00	
In 81-82.....	“ “ “ “		\$1,000.00
(Is not now in operation.)			
June 1883-84-85-86.	Knitting Factory.....	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
Dur'g 1883-84-85-86.	Séguin & Lalime Shoe Factories.....	\$15,000.00	\$9,000.00
May, 1886.....	A. J. Carriveau, Manufacturer Silks.....	\$15,000.00	
(Not now in operation.)			
28th July 1887....	Manufacturing Company of St. Hyacinthe. Lent on hypothec. Debentures issued, 25,000.....		
22nd October, 1887.	E. F. Mosely, tannery; further loan on hypothec \$10,000 paid.....	\$15,000.00	\$2,500
29th Dec., 1887....	James Aird, Shoe Factory.....	\$15,000.00	
20th Jan., 1888....	R. W. King, Manufacturer of Knitting Machines, &c... ..	\$5,000.00	
(Not yet in operation.)			

Mr. HELBRONNER wishes it to be recorded that Mr. Francis Lewis Morrison having been notified to appear before this Commission, has made default.

(Translation).

JOSEPH CLAVER CASAVANT, of St. Hyacinthe, Organ Manufacturer, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—What is your employment? A.—I manufacture organs.

Q.—Can you inform us whether there are inspectors of factories and workshops here? A.—I do not know of any.

Q.—Is there any engine in your factory? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Has the engineer a good knowledge of his business? A.—We believe so.

Q.—Do the city by-laws exact that those occupying the position of engineers should possess certificates? A.—Our factory is not in the city, and I do not know what are the by-laws on that subject.

Q.—Has the introduction of steam in factories such as yours had the effect of raising the rate of wages, or has it lowered prices? A.—Neither, in our factory.

Q.—How many men do you employ? A.—Eight.

Q.—What are the highest wages paid to your best hands? A.—Eighteen dollars a week.

Q.—And what are the lowest? A.—Two dollars a week.

Q.—How old is the boy that earns that? A.—Fourteen years old.

Q.—How much do the men, who are mechanics, earn? A.—The joiners earn ten and eleven dollars a week.

Q.—Are wages higher or lower these last few years in your line of business? A.—They are higher.

Q.—At what rate have they increased? About five per cent., ten per cent.?

A.—Not more than ten per cent., and that only in certain kinds of work, not in all.

Q.—Do you contract directly with your workmen, or do you give out work to sub-contractors? A.—Directly with our workmen.

Q.—When do you pay your men? A.—Every Friday night.

Q.—Otherwise than in money? A.—Always in money.

Q.—Do you take apprentices? A.—No, sir.

Q.—What is the height of your factory? A.—One part of it is two stories high, and the other is one story high.

Q.—Do women work in your factory? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do you hire your workmen here, or do you bring them from elsewhere? A.—We are obliged to bring them from elsewhere. We have brought one.

Q.—Do you bring them for some special contract, or is it for general work? A.—For a special kind of work.

Q.—What are the hours of work in your factory? A.—Ten hours.

Q.—Have there ever been strikes among your workmen? A.—No, sir.

Q.—How do your workmen generally live, comfortably? A.—Yes, comfortably enough.

Q.—Do any of them own their own houses? A.—Yes, sir; they have bought their houses since they have worked for us.

Q.—Do you think many of them have been able to put by money? A.—Certainly.

Q.—Are your workmen ever fined for poor work, or anything else? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do you ever work on feasts of obligation, or on Sundays? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Is there an industrial school here, a school of arts and manufactures? A.—I do not know of any.

Q.—Do you know what kind of houses your men generally inhabit, are they in good condition generally? A.—Yes, I think so.

Q.—Do your men ever leave you to go to other countries? A.—One did so.

Q.—Are there other organ factories here? A.—There is one other.

Q.—Do you manufacture all the different parts of the organs here? A.—Yes, sir. That is, we have all the necessary appliances to do so, but we sometimes import parts, but it is only occasionally.

Q.—What is the protection on your organs? A.—25 per cent.

Q.—And what duty do you pay on the parts you may import? A.—25 to 35. 25 per cent. for the greater number.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Do you pay more duty on the parts of an organ you manufacture yourself? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you make any agreement, by contract, with your men before they begin to work for you? A.—No.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Were you given a bonus? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Were you exempted from taxation? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Did the municipality grant you any favor whatsoever, for having established your factory here? A.—No.

Q.—Is the other factory within city limits? A.—Yes.

Q.—Were they given a bonus? A.—I do not think so.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—At what part of the organ do the men work, who earn \$18 a week? A.—At the organ pipes.

Q.—Do the men work at every portion of the organ, or has each one his particular work? A.—Each has his special work.

Q.—What do those who make the keys earn? A.—\$11 a week.

Q.—And those who make the reeds? A.—We do not use reeds.

Q.—What wages do polishers get? A.—We count three special sorts of work in our factory; the organ pipes, the wood-work, and the mechanism.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Is work pretty regular all the year round? A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How many men in your factory earn \$18 a week? A.—Two.

Q.—How many earn \$2 a week? A.—One

Q.—How many earn less than \$10? A.—Two.

(Translation.)

MICHAEL ALEXANDER CONNELL, of St. Hyacinthe, Superintendent of the Aqueduct, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—What is your profession? A.—I am superintendent of the Aqueduct.

Q.—Can you inform us whether, by your charter, the citizens of St. Hyacinthe are obliged to take water from the Aqueduct? A.—No.

Q.—Can they, if they choose, oblige you to put water in their houses? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Can you inform us about how many houses have water in them? A.—About 500.

Q.—What is the rate per family? A.—\$7, a family.

Q.—Does the number of the family make any difference? A.—None whatever.

Q.—What are the rates for water-closets? A.—From \$2 to \$4 a year.

Q.—How much for baths? A.—From \$6 to \$8 a year.

Q.—And if there are two or more tenements in one house what do you charge? A.—When the proprietor attends to that, he charges \$6 per family.

Q.—Have you had occasion to visit many houses in the city? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—In what state do you find workingmen's houses, in general? A.—They seem to be well enough.

Q.—Are many houses here provided with privies? A.—Not very many.

Q.—Are their situation and the state in which they are generally kept prejudicial to health? A.—No, sir.

Q.—You think then, they are satisfactory enough? A.—Yes; satisfactory enough.

Q.—Has the company had any serious trouble with the municipal authorities, or with the citizens who get their water supply from the Company? A.—No.

Q.—Do you use water power or steam, in the water works? A.—Steam.

By MR. HEAKES:—

Q.—How many workmen do you employ in the works? A.—Two.

Q.—What wages do they get? A.—The head man gets \$8.50 a week, and the other \$1 a day.

Q.—Have you, yourself, anything to do at the Aqueduct? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Will you please state what salary you are paid? You are not obliged to answer? A.—I do not care to answer that question.

By MR. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are you not the agent here, for the telephone company? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you employ women? A.—Only one.

Q.—What wages is she paid? A.—\$3 a week.

Q.—How many hours a day, does she work? A.—10 hours.

Q.—Does she work at night? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Does she work extra hours? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Is she obliged to work on Sunday? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Are you, likewise, the agent for the telegraph company? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What do you pay to a first-class operator? A.—I do not pay any one; my sister attends to the telegraph.

By MR. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Did you not state that, when the proprietor was responsible for water supplied his tenants, he was charged only \$6 per family? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you limit the number of taps? A.—No, sir; that is according to the needs of the family.

Q.—Then you charge \$6, whether the house be very large or very small? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you not think that, if the tax were imposed according to the rental, as is done in some cities, more workingmen would be disposed to take water from the Aqueduct? A.—I think not.

Q.—Supposing water to be introduced into a house, and that there is a change

of tenants, is the last tenant obliged to take the water, or is he free to refuse it? A.—He is free.

Q.—What do you charge when the proprietor does not become responsible for the water rates? A.—\$7.

Q.—How do you collect water-rates? A.—Every three months.

Q.—Do you allow a discount when the rates are paid in advance? A.—No, sir. We always charge three months in advance.

Q.—And when the rates are not paid you cut off the supply? A.—Well, there may be reasons why we should wait.

Q.—Where is the water taken from? A.—From the river.

Q.—How far from the city? A.—Above the dam, about 100 feet above. The suction pipe is 550 feet from the building.

Q.—Does it come in contact with no sewer, no impurity? A.—No impurity, no sewer.

Q.—Have you ever had the water analysed? A.—Yes, sir. I will forward the analysis.

Q.—Is there a yearly increase in the number of houses supplied with water? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Is there any annual increase in the number of what may be called working-men's houses, from the amount of rent paid, supplied with water? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—When there is a bath without a water tap over it, do you still charge for water? A.—No; if we do not supply water.

Q.—There might be a house in which there was a bath upstairs, and no other tap in the house? A.—Then we do not charge for the bath.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do the rates lower, as the number supplied increases? A.—No, they are always the same.

Q.—When the water rates are not paid, what course do you pursue? A.—We cut off the supply.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Is yours an incorporated Company? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the amount of capital? A.—\$50,000.

Q.—All paid up? A.—Not all.

Q.—Can you state what dividend was paid last year? A.—I cannot say.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Are the shareholders mostly from St. Hyacinthe? A.—The greater number are.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Are you obliged to provide a certain supply to the city? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—For which you receive how much? A.—\$600.

Q.—The supply is for fire and street watering purposes? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you provide public drinking places for the cattle? A.—There is one but I have not charged for it.

(The witness produced a copy of the analysis of the water from the St. Hyacinthe Aqueduct.)

Q.—Is this an exact copy of the analysis of the water supplied by the Aqueduct? A.—Yes.

Q.—According to this certificate, one sample of water is declared to be impure. Has the aqueduct been modified since the month of October, 1884, in such a way as to rectify this defect? A.—Yes.

Q.—Has the water been analysed since the certificate was given? A.—No, sir.

Q.—How do people provide themselves with water, whose houses are not supplied from the Aqueduct? A.—Some have wells, and others have it carried from the pump.

Q.—Do they take water from the river, or anywhere they can? A.—There is a place in front of the city.

Q.—Is that place situated far from the sewers? A.—It is quite near.

Q.—Then it is evident the water must be very impure? A.—It should be.

Q.—Does the corporation indicate the place from which the water is to be taken, by the water carriers? A.—No, sir, they go of their own free will.

Q.—Are the wells, from which water is taken, situated far from privies? A.—It is hard to tell.

Q.—Has no sickness been traced to impure water? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Do you know what is the system of drainage in the city? A.—No, sir.

EDWARD FRANK MOSELY, of St. Hyacinthe, Tanner, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—I believe you own a tannery here for the manufacture of leather? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many men do you employ? A.—Eighty.

Q.—What class of leather do you manufacture? A.—We are making a specialty of what we call Imperial kid. Mr. Boivin knows something about that.

Q.—How many skilled workmen will there be among these eighty men? A.—Do you mean out of these eighty men, how many are capable of carrying on the whole business?

Q.—Yes. A.—None.

Q.—What wages do the men receive? A.—From four dollars and a half to eighteen dollars a week.

Q.—What age would the men be who receive four dollars and a half a week? A.—They are from eighteen to forty years of age.

Q.—How many men receive as low as four dollars and a half a week? A.—Three.

Q.—Are these married men? A.—I do not know.

Q.—What would be the next highest wages, to four dollars and a half a week? A.—Five dollars and a half a week.

Q.—How many men receive five dollars and a half a week? A.—The highest after that is six dollars and a half a week.

Q.—How many men do you employ at six dollars and a half a week? A.—Fifteen.

Q.—How many men in the Tannery receive less than eight dollars a week? A.—Probably half, perhaps a little more.

Q.—More than forty. And these receive less than eight dollars a week? A.—I should think so.

Q.—Out of the remaining forty, how many receive less than ten dollars a week? A.—Twenty.

Q.—What hours do they work? A.—Ten hours a day—fifty-nine hours a week.

Q.—Have you any rules printed up in the tannery? A.—No.

Q.—Do your employees sign any agreement on entering your service? A.—No.

Q.—Have you any system of fines imposed in your work? A.—No.

Q.—You impose no fines? A.—Not at all.

Q.—If a man is late in the morning, if he is late in getting to his work, how much time does he lose? A.—If it is only once, he loses nothing.

Q.—And if he is late a second time. Supposing he is late five minutes, how much does he lose? A.—Nothing.

Q.—How much does he lose if he is late, say an hour? A.—He is docked a quarter of a day. He loses a quarter of a day.

Q.—How frequently do you pay your men? A.—Every week.

Q.—Are they paid in cash? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you keep any money back? A.—One week's wages.

Q.—So that you are always one week behind in paying them, and have they got to give one week's notice before they leave? A.—Yes.

Q.—Supposing a man does leave without giving notice, do you confiscate his wages? A.—We have done it about twice in five years.

Q.—Is it understood that if a man leaves without giving you the required notice, he shall forfeit a week's wages which you hold back? A.—Yes.

Q.—When they leave do you pay them? A.—Yes; we pay him at the time he goes.

Q.—Have you any boys in your tannery? A.—What do you call boys?

Q.—Children under fifteen years of age? A.—There is one there, I do not know how old he is; I think probably he is fifteen or sixteen years of age.

Q.—Did you ever have any trouble with the men? A.—No.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—How many tanneries are there in St. Hyacinthe like yours? A.—One.

Q.—Did you ever receive a bonus from the municipality to commence this industry? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are all your buildings and stock exempt from taxation? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do your workmen pay the annual poll tax of one dollar to the municipality? A.—I do not know. I have not been here long enough myself.

Q.—For what time are you exempt from taxation? A.—Ten or fifteen years.

Q.—Under what conditions? A.—That I employ seventy hands and pay out thirty thousand dollars in wages in St. Hyacinthe every year.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Have you read the Master and Servant Act of the Province of Quebec? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know anything about it? A.—No.

Q.—You are not aware of the law requiring a certain notice to be given? A.—No; I am not. I only knew there was such an Act, but I never had any trouble about my employees, and so I never had any cause to find out.

Q.—How long has your firm been in existence? A.—Thirty-one years.

Q.—You said that you kept the salary of two men who left you without giving notice? A.—Yes.

Q.—That came under the Master and Servant Act? A.—Under what head of the Act.

Q.—I will show you. A.—How do you mean? That I violated the Act or that there is an Act to protect me.

Q.—No. What I mean is that a Master has no right to make justice for himself, and that the law provides for such cases? A.—Does the law protect an employer in the same way?

Q.—Yes. A.—Then the employee is bound to give notice.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—That all depends upon the nature of his agreement? A.—That is the rule in our establishment.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—No matter if it comes under the terms of the shop or not, the law is the law? A.—I have never seen that law.

Q.—You had better look it up.

(Translation)

HUBERT TREFFLE CHALIFOUX, of St. Hyacinthe, Manufacturer of Agricultural Implements, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—What is your occupation? A.—I manufacture agricultural implements.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How many men do you employ? A.—Ten.

Q.—How many descriptions of agricultural implements do you manufacture; do you make all sorts, or do you make a special line? A.—We manufacture threshing machines, hay rakes, hay presses, and cribblers.

Q.—How much do they receive, who do the wood work? A.—\$8 and \$9 a week.

Q.—How much do the blacksmiths receive? A.—\$8 a week.

Q.—Do you employ founders? A.—No.

Q.—Where do you get your casting? A.—From Montreal.

Q.—Do you employ painters? A.—Yes, one.

Q.—How much does he earn? A.—\$7.50 a week.

Q.—How many hours a day do the men work? A.—Ten hours.

Q.—Are they employed from one end of the year to the other? A.—Yes, all the year round.

Q.—Have you ever had any difficulty with your men, any strikes? A.—None.

Q.—Are the relations between masters and workmen of an amicable nature? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Does the wood, which you use, come from Canada, or from foreign countries? A.—It comes from the Townships.

Q.—Where do you sell your products? A.—In the Townships, in Beauce, and above Montreal, in Vandreuil, Soulanges, and also in Prescott, Ontario.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Have you received a bonus? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—How long have you been in business? A.—The house has existed since 1849, but I have been there with my father since 1879 only.

Q.—How long has your father been with you; how long have you both been in business? A.—Nine years.

Q.—Have you any men in your employment who are proprietors? A.—Yes, I have five.

Q.—Do you know if the majority of the workmen in St. Hyacinthe, are proprietors? A.—I don't think so. I don't know.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Would you be willing that the municipality of St. Hyacinthe, should grant a bonus to a factory similar to your own? A.—I would be willing, but I think St. Hyacinthe pays enough at present.

Q.—Would you see with pleasure, you personally, a bonus granted to a manufacturer making the same goods as you do yourself? A.—I would have no objection.

as my trade is not immediately within the environs. I have to go long distances to sell my goods.

(Translation.)

HORMIDAS CORDEAU, of St. Hyacinthe, laborer, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

- Q.—Have you ever worked at the Granite Mills? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—When? A.—I began working there the day after Epiphany, in the month of January.
- Q.—What was your work? A.—I was a cutter.
- Q.—Did you work by the day or by the job? A.—By the job.
- Q.—What wages were you given? A.—I earned well enough when I had plenty of work; I earned \$1.50 a day. Afterwards it grew less and less, till it came to be next to nothing.
- Q.—How was that? Did they not give the same price for the same work? A.—The prices remained the same, but the work grew so poor that we could earn nothing. By poor work I mean cloth that is full of holes, and over which we are obliged to lose a great deal of time. We call that poor work.
- Q.—What was the smallest amount you earned in a month? A.—The smallest wages I earned was when I worked three weeks, four days and a half, and only earned \$7.55.
- Q.—Are you married? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—Have you any children? A.—Yes, four.
- Q.—Have you been living long in St. Hyacinthe? A.—I have been living here since last fall. I have not always lived here, but I was brought up here.
- Q.—Did you ever draw the attention of the foreman to the fact that the work was poor? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—What did he say? A.—He told the girl who had spoken for me that he would tell Mr. Boas, senior, and that if there were any means of giving me a higher price he would do so.
- Q.—Who is Mr. Boas? A.—He manages everything.
- Q.—What is his baptismal name? Is it Maurice or Feodore? A.—I don't know them by name. The answer I got was that they could not give me a higher price. He said that he believed the cloth would be better; that he would give better cloth.
- Q.—Were all the cutters as badly treated as you? A.—I can't say. I know there was one, a German, who worked with me, and after I had left he told me in French, and with a laugh, that he did not work for low wages, no he; that he worked by the day. And I had been made to work by the job. Before I left, I went to Mr. Chagnon.
- Q.—Who is Mr. Chagnon? A.—He is foreman below Mr. Murphy. I went to him and asked him to speak to Mr. Murphy for me, for I could not continue to work in that way. I told him: I have worked four days and a half, and I have only earned 65 cents. Then I left him, saying: I will leave this noon if you don't give me a higher price.
- Q.—Were your wages paid in full when you left, or were any kept back? A.—Part of my wages are due yet, but I do not know whether it is paytime yet or not.
- Q.—How long is it since you left? A.—Nearly three weeks.
- Q.—Did you ever ask for your money? A.—My wife did.
- Q.—What answer did she get? A.—They said: Yes. I went for it, and was told they would pay me later, that the clerk was away, and they asked me to work there.

- Q.—Did you speak to the president of the company? A.—No.
- Q.—At all events, you have not been paid your wages? A.—No. My wife drew a part of them, but not all, and there are wages due her too.
- Q.—Did your wife draw her own wages? A.—She drew hers and part of mine.
- Q.—What was said to her when she drew part of your wages? A.—They said they would pay me, and when I went, the clerk was out. I spoke to Mr. Boas and he told me to come back.
- Q.—Did you sign any sort of agreement when you first began to work at the factory? A.—No, sir.
- Q.—Did your wife sign an agreement when she began to work there? A.—No.
- Q.—Nothing was said to you? A.—Nothing whatever.
- Q.—Where you given a book? A.—Yes.
- Q.—When you entered? A.—The day after.
- Q.—Were you informed that there were printed regulations in the book? A.—No, nothing was said of them. All I know is that I was told, that is, Miss Bousquet told me to take heed, that fines were imposed.
- Q.—The foreman did not warn you? A.—No.
- Q.—Did you ever have to pay a fine? A.—No, I only had to pay for two chemises, in which were two small defects which I had not noticed.
- Q.—How much did you pay a piece? A.—Sixty cents a piece.
- Q.—Was that the entire value of the article? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Did they keep the chemises? A.—No, I took them away. Not that they were worth that.
- Q.—Had your wife ever to pay fines? A.—No.
- Q.—Are young children employed in the factory? A.—I noticed that there were some there the first month I worked there, but they were sent away.
- Q.—When were they dismissed? A.—I think it was at the end of February.
- Q.—What age are those you call young children? A.—Below fourteen years of age.
- Q.—How old was the youngest boy? A.—About twelve years old, I think.
- Q.—And the youngest girl? A.—The youngest girl did not work in the same room as I did, so I cannot say. The youngest boy worked at a table behind me, and he told me his age. I cannot tell what his age is, with perfect certainty, but I believe it was about twelve; he was sent away on account of his youth.
- Q.—Have you any knowledge of any of the employees having to pay fines? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Do you know what is the highest amount of fines paid? A.—The highest amount, to my personal knowledge, is that paid one morning by a young girl. She showed me her book, and she had been fined twice, ten cents the first time and twenty five cents the second.
- Q.—What had she been fined for? A.—Because she had come a little late.
- Q.—She was fined according to the third paragraph in the rules, which says: Any employee arriving late to work shall pay a fine of a cent for each minute late? A.—I do not think she was fined at the rate of a cent a minute that last time because she was not twenty-five minutes late, and she was fined twenty-five cents. I saw her book, she showed it to me.
- Q.—Do you know whether any of the employees were fined for having gone through one door instead of another? A.—I heard of it, but that is all. I have no personal knowledge of it.
- Q.—Did you seek work elsewhere, on leaving the Granite Mills? A.—Yes.
- Q.—To what mill did you go? A.—I went to the woollen factory. I ask Mr. Caouette, who is the foreman in the woollen factory, to give me work. He asked me whether I was still working at Knitting; I answered that I was not, that it did not pay. I said; I cannot earn my living at it, I have four children to support, and earning nothing, I cannot pay rent, etc. He then answered: "I have no work."

Q.—Were you alone when you asked for work? A.—No. There was some one with me.

Q.—Did he also ask for work? A.—Yes, and he would probably have been given work.

Q.—Did Mr. Caouette promise to give him work? A.—Not immediately, but he promised him work in a week or two, at the latest.

Q.—At all events, Mr. Caouette refused to take you? A.—He said he had no work for me.

Q.—He did not refuse to engage you? A.—No, he said there was no work for me.

Q.—Be good enough to examine these rules? (The witness having examined the rules, says: I have read these rules.)

Q.—By whom are they signed? A.—By the President, Mr. Morrisson.

Q.—Are you acquainted with Mr. Morrisson? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did you frequently see him at the factory? A.—He came in occasionally.

Q.—Did you ever complain to him? A.—No, I never spoke to him; I was busy at my work.

Q.—Do you know whether any of the other workmen ever complained to him? A.—No. I cannot say.

Q.—Do any other than Canadians work at the Granite Mills? A.—Yes. There are Germans, and there are American Girls.

Q.—Are any of the work people specially engaged and bound by contract? A.—I cannot say.

Q.—Did you ever see any one in the factory, beaten? A.—No.

Q.—Did you ever hear the foreman use bad language? A.—No. They behaved well towards me, only they would not pay, and that is all.

(Translation.)

VICTOR BOUCHARD of St. Hyacinthe, employee in a shoe factory, formerly employee in the granite mills, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—You have just heard the name of Mr. Boas mentioned. Of which Mr. Boas was the witness speaking? A.—Mr. Feodor Boas is considered the manager, and Mr. Maurice Boas the superintendent.

Q.—Who has most to do with the shop and with the workmen? A.—Maurice most of all.

Q.—You have worked in the Granite mills? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—For how long a time? A.—A little more than a month.

Q.—Was it long since? A.—Last autumn.

Q.—Did you leave of your own free will? A.—I left of my own free will, because I could not get sufficient work; they put me off from day to day, until I could not wait any longer.

Q.—How much did you earn while you were there? A.—I do not exactly remember. I worked by the job.

Q.—Did you give notice before you left, or did you leave without giving such notice? A.—When I left, work was scarce, and there was another workman of the same nationality as the foreman of the department, and the foreman favored him.

The foreman was a German I think, and the man who worked with me was a Bulgarian.

Q.—Do you know if the Bulgarian came here under contract, or whether he was

a simple emigrant? A.—I think he came simply as an emigrant. He had never before done any work in the line to which they put him.

Q.—You left? A.—Yes, I left.

Q.—Were you paid on the same day you left? A.—No, sir.

Q.—How long before you were paid? A.—One week.

Q.—Did you ask for your wages when you were leaving? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Did you know the rules? A.—I knew that it was not customary to pay wages before pay day.

Q.—Did you sign an agreement? A.—No, none.

Q.—Did you ever pay fines? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Would you tell us what amount you were fined, and the reason for it? A.—A fine of \$1.25 was deducted from the last wages I received, I did not know for what reason, nor did I ask, as I thought it was useless. Those who tried before me to get back their fines, were sent back without getting any answer. I did not give myself the trouble to ask why they fined me.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Did you ever appeal to the director or president? A.—Never, because I never heard of a fine having been remitted.

Q.—What were the hours of work? A.—When I worked there, it was ten hours a day; when I began to work there, I worked during the night for twelve hours. I began to work at seven o'clock at night, and worked until seven the next morning.

Q.—Did you work by the job? A.—I worked by the hour.

Q.—How much did you get an hour? A.—Eleven cents an hour. They did not allow us any time for meals. If we wanted to eat during the night, we had to eat while working.

Q.—Did you work from seven until seven, without stopping? A.—Without stopping; if we were obliged to eat during the night, we had to do so at our work.

Q.—They did not fine you for that, for eating? A.—If they had taken the notion, they would have done so.

Q.—Did the girls work at night also? A.—There were some that worked at night.

Q.—About what were these ages of the girls? A.—About twenty years of age.

Q.—Was it in summer or winter? A.—It was in autumn.

Q.—How was the shop lighted? A.—By gas.

Q.—Was the shop warm? A.—Warm enough.

Q.—Was it too hot to be comfortable? A.—Not during the night.

Q.—Were the girls allowed any time for sleep, during the night? A.—None at all, they were obliged to work like the men.

Q.—At what time last autumn, did this occur? A.—It occurred in the month of October, I think.

Q.—Did this night work last long; was it usual? A.—It was not usual, in all the department. It occurred only in one or two of them, where the work was more pressing than in others. It lasted for about fifteen days, and I think they were unable to continue it, as the gas was too bad. It happened even during the night, between one and two o'clock, that the gas failed entirely, and the whole shop was left in darkness.

Q.—Did you then leave the shop, or did you wait? A.—We did not leave the factory before the foreman had seen the manager to ascertain what should be done. He left us an hour, or an hour and a half there, while he went to ascertain whether we should be allowed to leave, or sleep in the factory.

Q.—Were you paid for that hour and a half? A.—Far from that, the gas went out at about one, and we remained until two o'clock, yet, they only allowed us four hours' work, though we had worked from seven o'clock.

Q.—Did you claim the balance? A.—Not at all, I thought it would have been useless to do so.

Q.—Can you read? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Have you read the rules? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—When you entered the factory did the foreman tell you to read them? A.—No, sir, I only got my book, fifteen days or three weeks' after I entered. I never saw it before that time.

Q.—Did you pay the fine of \$1.25 during the time you had no book? A.—No; the fine was imposed during the last part of the time I was working there. It was on the last pay day that I went for my envelope, and saw on it, \$1.25.

Q.—You never asked your foreman about it? A.—Not at all.

Q.—Did you allow them to take one \$1.25 from you, without saying anything?

A.—It would have been useless to speak about it. I would only have received abuse if I had asked for it.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Have you a book like that every month? A.—They change it every month.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Do you know Mr. Morrisson, the president? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Have you seen him in the workshops? A.—I saw him once only, during the time I work there.

Q.—Do you know if the complaints, about the fines, are stated to the president by the foreman? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—Did you see Mr. Morrisson, during the night work? A.—No.

Q.—Did you see either of the Mr. Boas' during the night work? A.—I saw them a couple of times. They came about eight, and left about nine o'clock.

Q.—Have you ever heard the foreman make use of bad language? A.—Never.

Q.—It is to your knowledge, that others besides yourself paid fine? A.—I heard several names mentioned.

Q.—But you don't know personally? A.—No, I don't remember, nor have I any personal knowledge of it.

Q.—You have just told us, that when you worked at night, you were not allowed to go out for your meals? A.—No, sir.

Q.—And that you eat during your work? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did they not point out to you that article 18; says: "It is not permitted to remain in the factory, during the time of meals"? A.—Not at all. The doors were fastened during the night, and we could not leave even if we had wished to do so.

Q.—Had fire taken, what means of escape had you? A.—The foreman had the key.

Q.—Did the foreman leave during the night, or did he remain in the shop? A.—He allowed some of the children, a couple of nights to go out, and steal apples from the Fathers; apart from that he allowed no one to go out.

Q.—You state that the foreman allowed some of the children, to go out during the night. There were children, then, that worked all night? A.—There were children who worked all night, and when I stopped working at night, it was because we were replaced by children to whom they paid 25 cents a night. They thought it would cost less.

Q.—What were the ages of these children? A.—About 15 or 16 years of age.

Q.—During the time you worked at night, did the foreman go out sometimes? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—If fire had taken, you would have had to wait until the foreman opened the door? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—In what story did you work? In the upper story? A.—In the middle story.

Q.—How many stories are there? A.—There are two stories, and a third, that may be called a "sky window."

Q.—There are two stories above the bridge? A.—There is one story below the hill, and one above the hill, and besides that, a sky window.

Q.—Are there safety ladders outside? A.—I never saw any.

Q.—How many stairways are there, that communicate from one story to another? A.—I only know one.

(Translation.)

MISS PHILOMÈNE DESGRANGES, of St. Hyacinthe, employee in a knitting factory, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Will you tell us where you work? A.—Yes, sir; I have been working for the last four months in the carding room.

Q.—How many hours do you work a day? A.—Eleven hours; we begin at seven in the morning and finish at seven in the evening.

Q.—Do you work by the piece or by the day? A.—By the day.

Q.—How much do you earn a day? A.—Fifty cents.

Q.—Did you sign any contract when you engaged? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Are there any printed regulations in the factory? A.—I did not notice any. I don't think there are any.

Q.—Did they tell you when you were engaged what were the regulations of the factory? A.—Yes, sir,

Q.—Have you in your possession regulations like these, a book like this? (The book is produced). A.—Yes, sir, we had some.

Q.—Can you read? A.—No, sir.

Q.—But you know that it is a book something like this, that you got? A.—Yes, it is the same as that, I recognize it.

Q.—Are fines imposed in that factory? A.—Yes, sir, there are fines.

Q.—Have you paid any? A.—Yes, sir, I paid one.

Q.—How much did you pay, and for what reason did you pay it? A.—Ten cents for being late in the morning.

Q.—How much too late were you? A.—Two minutes.

Q.—Did you ever work in the evening, after seven o'clock? A.—Yes, we have already worked in the evening until nine o'clock.

Q.—Did you leave to go to supper? A.—No, we did not go, but three-quarters of an hour are allowed for supper.

Q.—Do you know if any young children work in the factory? A.—No, sir, I don't know of any.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—When you work in the evening, do they pay you extra for those hours? A.—Yes, sir, they pay us extra.

Q.—How much do they pay you an hour? A.—Five cents an hour.

Q.—Did you leave the factory lately? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How long is it since you entered? A.—Four weeks.

Q.—Why did you leave the factory? A.—We were working by the job, and they told us we must stitch over the corners of the stockings, and we were not able to do so. He said: "If you are not able to stitch over the stockings, go, all of you," and we left.

Q.—When they told you to stitch over the stockings did they say it had to be done at once, or within fifteen days? Did they give you fifteen days' notice? A.—No; they did not speak of that.

Q.—Then you left? A.—Yes, sir; we left.

- Q.—Did they owe you money when you left? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—Did you ask for your money? A.—Yes, we returned and we asked him, that is, we asked the "super" Mr. Murphy, and he answered that we would not get our wages,—that we would be paid, less the damage caused.
- Q.—Was it Mr. Murphy that ordered you to stitch over the stockings? A.—No, sir, it was Mr. Lagowitz.
- Q.—Did you receive your money since you entered the factory? A.—Yes, sir; they paid me excepting \$2 they kept back.
- Q.—Why did they keep back \$2? A.—They told me they kept back \$2 to cover the damage caused by my leaving them.
- Q.—How much did they owe you? A.—\$9.50.
- Q.—And they kept back \$2 out of \$9.50? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—Did they state how much damage you had caused them? A.—No, sir; they did not speak of it.
- Q.—Did you have a lawyer's letter sent to the factory? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—Do you know if they answered it? A.—No, sir; they did not answer it.
- Q.—Did they make you pay for the lawyer's letter which was sent to the factory? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—To whom did you pay the lawyer's letter? A.—To Mr. Mallette, advocate.
- Q.—Did you pay any other fine than the ten cents? A.—No, sir.
- Q.—Did you ever ask any of the directors of the factory for the return of the \$2, or did you ever ask Mr. Boas, or Mr. Morrisson? A.—No, sir.
- Q.—When they kept back ten cents for being two minutes late, did you state that you were only two minutes late? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—To whom did you state it? A.—To all the people of the factory that were there.
- Q.—Did you state it to the foreman? Did you tell him that you only owed two cents? A.—No, sir; I only spoke to the people who were working with me.
- Q.—Did they tell you when you came in late that you would have to pay ten cents? Did they tell you at the very moment of your coming in? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—Who said it? A.—A Mr. Lambert, the second boss said to me and to another girl "you will pay ten cents." I answered "how's that"? and he replied "for being late."
- Q.—Is the carding department managed by a foreman? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—How many young girls work in that department? A.—We are nine girls.
- Q.—Do children work there? A.—The youngest is a little boy of sixteen. There are none younger than that.
- Q.—Does the foreman give his orders in proper language? A.—I can't say, he never said anything to me.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

- Q.—Have you any remarks to make to the Commission, any complaint to make beyond the questions put to you? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

- Q.—Since you returned to the Granite Mills have you been compelled to stitch over the stockings? Have you agreed to the reduction they wished to make? A.—No, sir; I changed work.

(Translation.)

Miss ALPHONSINE BLANCHETTE, of St. Hyacinthe, employed in the knitting factory, sworn :—

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do you work at the Granite Mills at present? A.—No, sir, I don't work there.

Q.—When did you work there? A.—It is two weeks since I left.

Q.—How long did you work there? A.—I had been two months there when I left.

Q.—Did you work by the day or by the job? A.—By the job.

Q.—How much did you earn? A.—Some days I made 60 cents, others 50, others 75 cents; some days I made more, and some days less.

Q.—How often were you paid? A.—On the fifteenth of each month.

Q.—Were you then paid what you had earned the previous month? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How many hours did you work a day? A.—Ten hours a day.

Q.—Why did you leave? A.—Because they ordered us to go over the thin parts, and we left.

Q.—At what hour did you commence work? A.—At a quarter to seven o'clock.

Q.—And at what hour did you finish? A.—At twelve, and we began again at a quarter to one in the afternoon and finished at six.

Q.—Did they pay you when you left? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Have you since been paid? A.—No, sir.

Q.—How much is owing to you now? A.—\$12.66.

Q.—Did you ask for your money? A.—I sent them a lawyer's letter, but they also refused to pay me.

Q.—Were you ever compelled to pay a fine while you worked there? A.—No, sir, I never was behind with my work, and I never paid a fine.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Did they give any reason for not paying you? A.—Yes, sir. They sent us away themselves, and afterwards, in order to cover the difficulty, they asserted that they had not sent us away, but that we had gone away of ourselves, and that we had caused them much damage. But they did not suffer any damage, for, though thirteen of us left in one week, our places were filled at once.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Did you sign any paper whatever when you entered the factory? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Did they show you the regulations when you entered the factory? A.—No, sir.

Q.—The regulations which are in this book? A.—We saw a book like the one shown me to mark down our work.

Q.—Did they not give you the book the day you entered? A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Did you ever read the regulation on the cover? A.—Yes, sir. I have read them.

Q.—Well, what are you going to do for your wages now? Do you acknowledge yourself guilty? A.—We left because they told us to go. We could not earn more than 30 or 40 cents at the work they wanted us to do, and for persons boarding that was not sufficient.

Q.—Is your case still in the lawyer's hands? A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

- Q.—Did you ever work in the evening? A.—Yes, sir; but not more than three times.
- Q.—Until what hour did you work? A.—Until nine o'clock.
- Q.—Were you allowed the time to go to your supper? A.—Yes, sir.

(Translation.)

MISS EUGÉNIE TRUDEAU, of St. Hyacinthe, employee in the Knitting Factory, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

- Q.—Are you working at the Granite Mills now? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—How long have you worked there? A.—Only two years.
- Q.—Did you ever leave the mills? A.—Yes, sir; about two months ago.
- Q.—Did you give fifteen days' notice before you left? A.—There was no more work and they let us go.
- Q.—How did you leave, did they tell you to go? A.—Yes, sir; I afterwards returned to work and I am working there now.
- Q.—Did they give you fifteen days notice before they discharged you? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—They warned you fifteen days in advance? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—Have you ever worked at night? A.—No, sir.
- Q.—Do you know, if during the two years you worked at the mill, the men in some of the departments worked all night? A.—No, sir.
- Q.—You do not know? A.—No.
- Q.—Have you ever worked in the evening? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Until what hour? A.—Until nine o'clock.
- Q.—Did you work by the piece or the job two years ago? A.—By the job.
- Q.—How much could you make a week? A.—75 cents, 60 cents, 50 cents, 40 cents and 33 cents a day.
- Q.—I suppose this difference in your wages is caused by your having to wait for work during the day? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—How much do you earn now? A.—33 cents and 40 cents these days.
- Q.—How many hours a day do you work? A.—Ten hours.
- Q.—Do you work by the job? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—Have you constant work or are you sometimes without work? A.—Some days we are several hours without work.
- Q.—Were you ever compelled to pay a fine during the two years that you worked there? A.—No, sir.

AMÉDÉE PALLARDY, of St. Hyacinthe, Stocking-maker, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

- Q.—Are you working in the Granite Mills at the present time? A.—No, sir.
- Q.—How long is it since you left there? A.—A fortnight.
- Q.—What was your reason for leaving? A.—My wages were not high enough.
- Q.—Were your wages to be lowered? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—Do you work by the job or by the day? A.—By the day.
- Q.—What were you earning when you left? A.—Taking one day with another, I was earning a dollar a day.

Q.—What reduction was to be made? A.—A reduction of half my wages.

Q.—How long did you work at the mills? A.—A year.

Q.—Did you give fifteen day's notice before leaving? A.—No, sir.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—You left because they were going to lower your wages? A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Did they not give you fifteen day's notice? Did they not tell you, ~~we will~~ lower your wages in another fortnight? A.—No.

Q.—When were you warned of it? A.—On Saturday, and we left on Saturday.

Q.—On the same Saturday, the same day they gave you notice of the reduction?
A.—Yes.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—What kind of work were you doing? A.—I shaped stockings.

Q.—How much were you paid by the piece, or the dozen? A.—Three cents a dozen.

Q.—And how much were you, afterwards offered? A.—A cent and a half.

Q.—How long does it take to shape a dozen stockings? A.—It does not take very long, I cannot say how long.

Q.—Were you paid your wages when you left? A.—No, not all.

Q.—How much was due you? A.—They paid us for the month then due, but there is another amount due the 15th of May.

Q.—Can you remember the date of your leaving? A.—No, sir; I do not remember.

Q.—Did you leave in the month of April? A.—Yes, sir. Before the 15th.

Q.—Did they say whether they would or would not pay you? A.—They did not say. On the 15th we went to get our pay, and were paid for the month previous.

Q.—Were you ever fined during the time you worked there? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Did you ever have to work in the evening? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did you ever have to work at night? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How late were you obliged to work, when you had to work at night?
A.—Till nine, or half past nine or ten o'clock.

Q.—Till what hour did you work, when compelled to work at night? A.—I only did so once, and then I worked all night. I worked till six o'clock in the morning.

Q.—You worked from the day before, to six o'clock the next morning?
A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—All day and all night? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did you rest, when you had finished at six o'clock in the morning?
A.—Yes, sir. It was Saturday I worked, and at six o'clock on Sunday morning, I went home to rest. I had worked from Saturday morning to Sunday morning.

Q.—Were you compelled to work that length of time, or did you do it of your own free will? A.—No. The foreman told us that work was pressing, and that we must work; I was therefore obliged to work.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Were you paid at the same rate as for day work? A.—The same.

Q.—Do you know whether any persons were ever fined? A.—Not to my knowledge.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—What rest did you get during the 12 hours, when you worked at night?

A.—I worked all day and all night, and I rested on the Sunday. I took my dinner at mid-night, that was all the rest I had.

Q.—Have you ever lost time, waiting for work? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much time have you lost? A.—I can't say. We lose time every day waiting for work.

Q.—Do the men and women work in the same room? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Are the closets separate for men and women? A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How many dozen stockings can you shape, in a day of ten hours? A.—50 or 55 dozen a day. That is to say, if work is plentiful during the ten hours, but we generally have to wait for work.

(Translation.)

NOEL BOUCHER, of St. Hyacinthe, foreman in the shaping department, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Are you now working in the Granite Mills? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What position do you hold? A.—I am foreman in the shaping department.

Q.—Are you paid by the day or by the job? A.—By the day.

Q.—What wages do you get? A.—15 cents an hour, making a \$1.50 a day.

Q.—Do you work 10 or 11 hours a day? A.—10 hours.

Q.—At what hour do you begin in the morning? A.—At 7 o'clock.

Q.—And at what o'clock do you leave work at night? A.—At 6 o'clock at night.

Q.—How long have you been working ten hours a day? A.—I can't say exactly how long, about a year I think. I have worked 11 hours.

Q.—How long a time have you been working at the factory? A.—28 or 29 months.

Q.—Have you ever been obliged to work at night? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How late? A.—To different hours. Sometimes to 8, 9 or 10 o'clock, according to the press of work.

Q.—Were you ordered, by the foreman, to work at night or did you decide to do so of your own free will? A.—The head foreman gives the order, and then I decide whether I shall remain or not.

Q.—Do girls work in your department? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do you work at night? A.—Only once, since I am in the factory.

Q.—Is it you, who, as foreman, carry out the rules given in the beginning of this book? A.—Yes, sir; such are my orders.

Q.—Do you often impose fines in your department? A.—I may say that I have not imposed more than \$1 or \$1.50 worth of fines since I have been in the factory, and that is now 28 or 29 months, and I have 9 men under me.

Q.—For what offence are fines imposed? A.—Because they come to work too late.

Q.—Are they exacted at the rate of a cent a minute? A.—Such are the rules; we are obliged to do so by the rules.

Q.—And you obeyed the rules? A.—Yes; but not in every instance.

Q.—Did you never exact fines oftener? A.—No.

Q.—Is there a clock in your department? A.—No, sir.

Q.—You carry a watch? A.—No; I do not.

Q.—How could you ascertain that the men were late? A.—Because at each arrival I went downstairs and looked at the clock.

Q.—Did you go down each time a man came in late? A.—No, sir.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Who regulates the clock? A.—The owners of the factory; the clock is for the whole factory, we must all rely on it.

Q.—Does it keep good time? A.—That is more than I can tell.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—What time does it take you to go from where you work to the clock? A.—About half a minute; I have only to go down stairs.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do the workmen in your department, work by the piece, or by the day? A.—By the job.

Q.—Is work plentiful enough to employ them the whole ten hours, or do they have to wait for work? A.—They have to lose time.

Q.—Since they work by the job, will you please explain why they are fined? Their being late could injure no one but themselves? A.—We have to follow the rules, the rule is that they are to be fined.

Q.—At what time do you begin work in the afternoon? A.—At 1 o'clock.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Are you aware of the reduction in the men's wages which was spoken of some two weeks ago, I believe? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did the directors consult you as to the quantity of work each man is able to do in a day? A.—Well, they did not wait till then to ask me; I had been consulted long before that.

Q.—The directors understood thoroughly then what amount of work a man could do in day, that is, 50 or 55 dozens a day? A.—Yes; in 10 hours' work.

Q.—They were, therefore, perfectly aware that, in making such a reduction, the men could earn no more than 75 cents a day? A.—But their intention was to prevent the men losing so much time, by reducing the number of hands.

Q.—Even so, the men could not have made more than 75 cents a day since they can not make more 55 dozens a day? A.—We calculate that a man can make from 55 to 60 dozens in 10 hours.

Q.—Have the workmen, in your department, the right to leave the shop before the whistle sounds? A.—It is forbidden by the rules, but they are never prevented doing so. They leave as soon as their work is done.

Q.—Do none of the men in your department work by the day? A.—There are two now. Two young fellows.

Q.—Are they obliged to wait for the sound of the whistle? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you know whether the whistle always sounds exactly at the hour? A.—There is no clock in our department, and I can't always go down stairs to see whether the whistle blows at the right time or not.

Q.—But from your own observation, can you not say whether it sounds after 6 o'clock at night? A.—I do not know.

Q.—How old are the children? A.—Thirteen or fourteen years old.

Q.—What wages do they get? A.—One gets 30 cents, and the other 40 cents a day.

Q.—For 10 hours work? A.—Yes, sir. When they work 11 or 12 hours, they are paid extra.

Q.—Do they ever have to work overtime? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—To what hour? A.—To nine o'clock, from seven to nine, two hours.

Q.—They are allowed an hour for dinner? A.—An hour for dinner, and an hour for supper.

Q.—Do the men eat in the workshop? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Before this reduction was made in wages, did the men in your department, allowing for loss of time, make more than a dollar a day? A.—Allowing for loss of time, there were five men earned more than a dollar a day.

Q.—How much more than a dollar did they make in a day? A.—They could make \$1.25 in ten hours work, when there was enough work to keep them busy.

Q.—How many men could earn more than a dollar a day? A.—There were five, when they did not have to wait for work.

Q.—But tell what they did earn, not what they could earn? A.—They earned about \$1 a day.

Q.—How much do they earn since the reduction, working the same number of hours? A.—From ninety cents to one dollar a day.

Q.—But how is it they earn one dollar since their wages have been lowered by half? A.—Wages have been raised again, they are no longer one and a half cents.

Q.—How much would they have earned had not wages been raised again? A.—About seventy-five cents a day.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—How much is now paid for a job of three hundred? A.—They get two cents, and we are obliged to allow them two young assistants.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Could they, being paid two cents, and having two assistants, still earn the same wages as before? A.—There is still about a quarter of a cent difference on the dozen.

Q.—There is still a difference of twelve or thirteen cents in ten hours work? A.—Yes.

Q.—During the twenty-eight months you worked at the Granite Mills, were you aware of a fine of one dollar having been imposed on some of the employees for having passed through one door instead of another? A.—I heard of it, but had no personal knowledge of it.

Q.—Do you know whether, during the twenty-eight months you worked there, any of the employees were fined twenty five cents for having stayed outside the factory door? A.—No, sir; not to my knowledge.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do you know of any fine having been imposed in any department? A.—I have heard of fines having been imposed but I never verified it by the books.

(Translation).

CYPRIEN ROBIDOUX, of St. Hyacinthe, laborer, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Do you work at the Granite Mills? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How long have you worked there? A.—Two months and a half.

Q.—Are you paid by the day or by the job? A.—By the day.

Q.—How much do you earn? A.—One dollar.

Q.—What do you do? A.—I work in the dye-house, where they dye the wool.
 Q.—Is it a healthy, or unhealthy work? A.—At present it is a healthy work. I dry the wool, and the drying-room is warm.

Q.—Is that room very warm? A.—It is very warm.

Q.—Is there a thermometer to indicate the degree of heat? A.—I can't say; but, however, in a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes one gets quite wet.

Q.—How long do you stay in that room? A.—I can't say positively the number of minutes; I stay as long as I can stand it, the time to turn the wool and cover it; a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes is as long as I can bear it. I stay as long as I can stand it, and then I leave and again return to it.

Q.—Were you ever compelled to pay fines? A.—No, sir; I was threatened with a fine, but never paid one.

Q.—Why were you threatened? A.—It was when I began. When going home, I wished to go out by a particular door, as it was my shortest way home. The stoker stopped me, saying, "Don't pass there, or you will have to pay a dollar fine." I answered, "In that case I will not go through. One dollar! why that is what I earn a day." I went out by the other door.

Q.—Is there a notice on that door warning you not to go through? A.—Well, yes; but I knew nothing of it, as I can't read. There are notices forbidding us to smoke; these are the only ones I know of.

Q.—Did they give you a book like this (producing a book) when you began to work in the factory? A.—Yes, sir; but, as I stated, I don't know how to read.

Q.—No person told you what was in it? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are you married? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Have you any children? A.—Yes, sir; four children.

Q.—Can you support your wife and family, pay your rent and save money on the wages you get? A.—No, sir; I have not enough for my pressing needs.

Q.—Do you think you are paid enough for your work? A.—Well no, I think I should get more for the work I do, but as I can't get more I must be content.

Q.—How long have you worked here? A.—I have been here sixteen years.

Q.—Has the cost of living increased within the last five years? A.—Yes; the manufactures here have increased the cost of living, they employ more people, but everything is higher, the cost of living is greater.

Q.—Have workmen's wages increased within the last five years? A.—Yes; when I first came here we earned four shillings or ninety cents a day, and now I can earn a dollar, and last summer I earned a dollar and ten cents.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—You said just now when you went into the drying room you remained a certain time, did any one tell you to remain longer? A.—No; nobody told me to remain longer; I can't say I was ill-treated by my superiors, they have never said anything to me.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Do you own, or lease the house you live in? A.—I am a lessee.

Q.—How long have you lived in the house you now occupy? A.—We move often: I moved to where I am now last autumn, on St. Michael's day.

Q.—Can you tell us if rents have increased? A.—Yes, sir; a good deal. A great number complain.

Q.—What rent do you pay? A.—\$4.

Q.—How much would you have paid five years ago for a similar house? A.—Two dollars and fifty cents.

(Translation).

HERMÉNÉGILDE GAGNÉ of St. Hyacinthe, employee in the knitted goods factory,
sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

- Q.—Where do you work? A.—I am not working just now.
 Q.—Have you ever worked at the Granite Mills? A.—Yes, sir.
 Q.—How long ago? A.—Six months ago.
 Q.—How long did you work there? A.—About seven months.
 Q.—How old are you? A.—I am 19 years old.
 Q.—How old were you when you worked there? A.—I was eighteen.
 Q.—Were you obliged to work at night? A.—Yes.
 Q.—How late had you to work? A.—To near nine o'clock.
 Q.—Do you work by the day or by the job? A.—By the job.
 Q.—What were your wages? A.—I was paid 30 cents a dozen.
 Q.—What was your work? A.—I made socks.
 Q.—How much did you earn a day, or by the week? A.—I made 60 or 75 cents a day.
 Q.—For 11 hours work? A.—Yes, for 11 hours work.
 Q.—Did you ever have to work all night? A.—No.
 Q.—When you first began work at the factory, were you given a book like this (showing the book)? A.—Yes, sir.
 Q.—Can you read? A.—No.
 Q.—Were the contents of the book read to you? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Who read it to you? A.—The workmen.
 Q.—But did not one of the foremen, or one of the directors read it to you? A.—No, sir, none of them.
 Q.—Were you ever fined while you were there? A.—Yes, I was fined twenty-five cents.
 Q.—What for? A.—For having spit in a box.
 Q.—What was in the box? A.—Sweepings.
 Q.—Was it the foreman fined you? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Did you ever pay any other fines? A.—No, sir.
 Q.—Who sent you away from the factory? A.—No one, I left of my own will, because my wages were lowered.
 Q.—What were you paid the dozen? A.—I was getting 30 cents, and was cut down to 18 cents.
 Q.—Were you given a fortnight's notice before your wages were lowered? A.—They never mentioned it.
 Q.—You left as soon as you were told of it? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Were you paid all that was owing you? A.—Yes.
 Q.—Where are you working now? A.—I am working nowhere.

(Translation.)

PHILIPPE LARIVÉE, employee in a Knitting Manufactory of St. Hyacinthe,
sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

- Q.—You work at the Granite mills? A.—Yes, sir.
 Q.—How long how you worked there? A.—About four months and a half.
 Q.—Do you work in the same department as Mr. Robidoux who has just been heard? A.—Yes; but only for the last two or three weeks.

Q.—How much do you usually earn? A.—One dollar a day.

Q.—Do you also complain of the heat? A.—No, sir; he hangs up the wool to dry, I wash it; mine is not such warm work.

Q.—What did you do, before you began to work in this department? A.—I was night watchman.

Q.—How much did you earn a night? A.—One dollar a night.

Q.—Have you ever been fined during the time you worked there? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Is yours a hard and unhealthy work? A.—Yes, somewhat.

Q.—Did some one work in your place before? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you know how much he got a day? A;—I think he got about the same wages as I get, a dollar a day.

Q.—Have you been long in St. Hyacinthe? A.—I have been here about five years.

Q.—What rent do you pay? A.—Four dollars a month.

Q.—Have you a house to yourself, or do you live in a tenement? A.—I have a house to myself.

Q.—How many rooms have you? A.—Four rooms.

Q.—How many persons live in the house? A.—We are seven.

Q.—Have you lived long in that house? A.—No, sir. I have only been there three weeks. I leased it from the first of May, but as it was vacant I went into it a little before the time.

Q.—Have rents risen since you came to St. Hyacinthe? A.—Yes, very much.

Q.—What rent did you pay at that time? A.—I paid three dollars for three rooms, but they were much larger than the rooms I now occupy; the house was about the same size.

Q.—Why did you leave the other house? A.—Because they had not decided to lease it again.

Ry Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—You say that you have been watchman of the Granite Mills? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Can you tell us if the factory is in good sanitary condition, if it is well aired, and are there sufficient stairways and ladders in case of fire? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do the doors open outwards or inwards? A.—Some open outwards and some inward.

Q.—How do the doors open by which you come out? A.—All inwards that is to say no, there are three that open outwards and one that opens inwards. The door by which the hands generally come out opens outwards.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are the doors locked during the working hours? A.—No; they are, during work at night.

Q.—Are the employees allowed to take their meals in the factory? A.—I have seen some take their meals there, I don't know whether they did so without permission, or whether they got permission from the boss.

Q.—There is no room set apart for meals? A.—No sir.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Who has the key of the doors when they are locked? A.—The watchman. They are locked also in the morning so as to collect fines from those who are late. The day watchman locks the door.

Q.—But at night did you leave the factory, or go away from the door? A.—Sometimes I had to go away to make my rounds.

Q.—If fire had taken while you were making your rounds how would the workmen have escaped? A.—I don't know how they would have managed. Sometimes I

left the key with some person on whom I could rely, but apart from that I kept it with me.

Q.—By whose orders did you open the door? A.—By the order of the masters, Mr. Boas or Mr. Murphy?

Q.—Which Mr. Boas, Maurice? A.—I don't know his name, he is the smaller of the two.

(Translation.)

ANDRÉ PICHETTE, of St. Hyacinthe, employee in the knitted goods factory, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Do you not work in the knitted goods factory in the Granite Mills? A.—Yes, sir. I am employed in the picker-room.

Q.—How long a time have you been working there? A.—Two years and a half.

Q.—You never worked before in that mill? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Are there any young girls or boys working in the department with you? A.—No, sir.

Q.—What do you earn? A.—\$1 a day.

Q.—Is that for 10 hours work? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you ever work at night? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—To what hour do you work? A.—Sometimes to 7 o'clock, sometimes to 9 o'clock.

Q.—Are you allowed time to take your supper when you work overtime? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you get extra pay for work done overhours? A.—We are paid 10 cents an hour.

Q.—Is there any danger to be apprehended from the machines in your department? A.—There is, from some of them.

Q.—From which ones? A.—From those in the centre.

Q.—What is the danger? A.—The opening in front is too large; a person might be caught in it.

Q.—Did you ever notify the foreman of the danger? A.—No.

Q.—Had any accident ever occurred there? A.—Yes, there has been an accident.

Q.—What accident? A.—A man had his arm caught there not long ago. I was not working in the room at the time.

Q.—Who is foreman in your department? A.—Mr. Lemieux.

Q.—Do you know what his other name is? A.—I don't remember it.

Q.—Do you know the man that got lamed? A.—No.

Q.—Have you ever been compelled to pay fines? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do you possess a book such as the others have? A.—Yes, I was given one a fortnight after I went to work there.

Q.—Can you read? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Was your book read to you? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Were you warned that when you entered the factory as a workman that you were thereby bound by contract? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Are you now aware that if you left the factory without giving due notice that you would lose the wages due you? A.—No, sir.

(Translation.)

Miss ALBINA LORANGE, employee in a knitting factory of St. Hyacinthe, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do you work at the Granite Mills at the present time? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Did you work there, and did you work there long? A.—I worked there about two years.

Q.—Did you work by the day or by the piece? A.—I worked by the job.

Q.—About how much did you make a month? A.—About \$18 a month.

Q.—Why did you leave the mill? A.—I left the mill the last time on the 20th March, because they compelled us to go over the thin parts of the stockings, and we were not able to do that work for the price given us.

Q.—Were you paid what was due you? A.—No, sir.

Q.—How much is due you? A.—Thirteen dollars and something, I can't say exactly.

Q.—Do you think you will be paid shortly? A.—No, sir. They told us we had nothing to get, as we left without notifying them. They also stated that they had nothing to give us, because we had caused them damage.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Did you leave only because they reduced your wages? A.—They gave us extra work to do for the wages we were getting, and in that way reduced our wages. We would only have received 30 or 40 cents, and on our best days we were getting 60 or 70.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Did they make this reduction without notifying you? Did they not give you fifteen days' notice? A.—No, they told us to take up the dropped stitches in the stockings, and when we refused they said, "If you don't do this work you must go."

Q.—Who said that? A.—It was a Mr. Delisle.

Q.—Was he your foreman? A.—No, not our foreman; our foreman had gone to breakfast, and I suppose he represented him, as it was he that gave us the order.

Q.—How long have you worked in the Granite Mills? A.—I worked two years, but the last time I had only worked two months and a half, when I left.

Q.—While you worked there had you sometimes to work at night? A.—Some times.

Q.—Until what hour? A.—Until nine o'clock.

Q.—Were you allowed a certain time for supper? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did you ever work all night? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Did you ever pay fines? A.—No, sir.

Q.—When you entered the mill, did they give you a book like this? (The book produced.) A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did they tell you that it contained the rules? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Can you read? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did you not think you were obliged to give fifteen days' notice from the day your wages were reduced? A.—No, sir.

Q.—How was the factory lighted when you worked at night, by gas or oil? A.—By gas.

Q.—Was the factory hot at night? A.—About the same as in daytime.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—As it was not the foreman who spoke to you, do you think that the man who gave the order was his representative? A.—I believe it was he who always represented the foreman when the latter was out.

Q.—It was this Mr. Delisle who told you that you must darn the thin stitches in the stockings? A.—He told us that Mr. Lagowitz had given the order, and he said, "If you won't do it, you know what you will have to do."

(Translation.)

HERMINE LEMOINE, of St. Hyacinthe, employee in the Knitting Factory, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do you work at Knitting? A.—I did work at it, but do not work now.

Q.—How long is it, since you left the factory? A.—I left on the twentieth of last month.

Q.—How long did you work there? A.—I did not work steadily all the time. I worked there three years ago, and for the last two years, I worked all the time.

Q.—When you worked there three years ago, did you work by the day or by the job? A.—I worked by the day and also by the job.

Q.—How much did you earn when you worked by the day? A.—I got twenty-five or thirty cents a day.

Q.—At that time you had to work eleven hours? A.—Yes.

Q.—When you worked there two years ago, did you work by the day or by the job? A.—By the job.

Q.—What sort of work did you do? A.—I took up stitches in the stockings.

Q.—About how much did you earn? A.—From 25 to 60 cents a day, we were sometimes without work.

Q.—Did it depend on what work was given you? A.—Some days paid better than others.

Q.—Were you ever obliged to work in the evening? A.—No, not two years ago, but were lately.

Q.—Until what hour did you work, when you worked in the evening? A.—Until nine o'clock.

Q.—Were you working by the job or by the day, when you worked in the evening? A.—By the job.

Q.—Were you ever obliged to work all night? A.—No.

Q.—Did you ever pay fines? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you remember how much you paid in fines? A.—Fifteen cents.

Q.—How long ago was that? A.—About a year ago.

Q.—For what were you fined? A.—Once, because I was talked while working, and another time, because I cleaned my machine before the hour named.

Q.—Do you know how to read? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Had you a book like this, every month? A.—Yes.

Q.—On the different occasions you engaged to work there, did they notify you of certain regulations? A.—When I engaged in the factory the first time, there was no book, they gave the book afterwards.

Q.—When you paid the fine, did you know what was in that book? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How did you know? Did your fellow workers, or the foreman tell you? A.—The foreman did not tell me, but those who worked with me, did.

Q.—You left for the same reason, given by the girls who have first testified before this Commission? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—They wanted you to go over the heels and toes of the socks without paying you for it? A.—Yes.

Q.—Were you paid what was due you? A.—No.

Q.—How much is due you? A.—I cannot exactly say; eleven or twelve dollars.

Q.—Did you demand your wages? A.—Yes.

Q.—What was your answer? A.—They answered that I had no wages to get.

Q.—Did you, yourself, ask for the wages? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Whom did you ask? A.—I asked Mr. Murphy and Mr. Boas.

Q.—Which Boas? A.—The younger.

Q.—What did he answer? A.—He answered that we had no right to leave, and that those who sent lawyers' letters might go on with their cases. I had not sent a lawyer's letter, but nevertheless I was not paid.

Q.—Neither those who sent lawyers' letters nor those who did not were paid?
A.—That's so.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What is the usual cost for board for young girls? A.—Seven or eight dollars a month.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Were you working by the piece when they fined you for cleaning your machine before the hour? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—When you had no work in the evening, say about five o'clock, were you allowed to leave? A.—Yes. Sometimes they told us to wait, but when they did so, it was because they expected to have work for us.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Did you lose much time in the factory waiting for work? A.—Yes.

Q.—When you made twenty-five or thirty cents a day, was it because there was not sufficient work? A.—At that time I was working by the day. If we did not make more than that when working by the job, it would be because work was wanting.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are there young girls in the department in which you work? A.—During the time I worked, there was one of twelve years of age.

Q.—Do you know of little girls having been beaten? A.—No.

Q.—Is bad language used in the shop? A.—Our "boss" sometimes swears at us.

(Translation.)

GEORGIANA BACHAUD, of St. Hyacinthe, Employee in a Knitting Factory, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Where do you work? A.—At the Granite Mills.

Q.—Do you work there now? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you work by the day, or by the job? A.—I now work by the day, but I left for a while, and before I left I worked by the job.

Q.—How much do you earn a day? A.—The first month I earned forty-five cents, and the second fifty cents.

Q.—Do they ever impose fines on those working by the day? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Are you satisfied with the treatment you receive at the factory? A.—Yes; well enough.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Did you leave for the same reasons as those given by the other young women? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much was due you when you left? A.—\$10.45.

Q.—Did you ask for your wages? A.—Yes; I asked for them, but they would not pay me. They only kept two dollars from the others who went back, but they refused to pay me anything.

Q.—Did they promise to pay you? A.—They told me they would pay me if I went back. I went back, and they told me to commence anew, as they would not pay the arrears.

Q.—When did you leave? A.—The 20th April.

Q.—Did you send them a lawyer's letter? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do you know when pay-day was this month? A.—They were paid on the fourteenth.

Q.—Did you go in on the fourteenth? A.—No; I went there to be paid on the sixteenth, and I began to work on the seventeenth. When I asked for my pay on the sixteenth they told me if I would go back to work they would pay me, but I had not left the place when they told me I might go back to work if I liked, but they would not pay me.

Q.—They have not paid you? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do you know how to read? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Have you read the rules? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Were you ever compelled to pay a fine during the time you worked there? A.—No, sir.

(Translation.)

AMÉDÉE LAPIERRE, of St. Hyacinthe, workman in a knitting factory, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—You work at knitting? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How long have you worked in that factory? A.—For three years.

Q.—What age are you? A.—Eighteen years old.

Q.—Did you work by the day, or by the job, during the first year? A.—By the day.

Q.—How much did you earn? A.—Thirty-three cents and a third.

Q.—For how many hours work? A.—Eleven hours.

Q.—In what department were you? A.—In the department of machines.

Q.—Did you ever work in the evening? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Until what hour? A.—Nine o'clock.

Q.—Until what hour did you work in the evening the first year? A.—Nine o'clock.

Q.—Did you ever work all night? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Often? A.—Not very often.

Q.—Do you remember how often? A.—About twice.

Q.—How much were you paid when you worked all night? A.—I was paid so much for every hundred pounds of work I did.

Q.—When you worked all night did you go home in the morning, and then return to the shop? A.—I went home, but did not return to the shop.

Q.—Did you leave the factory lately? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do you work by the job? A.—At present I work by the day.

Q.—And how long have you worked by the day? A.—Since the first of January.

Q.—How much did you earn a day in the month of January? A.—\$1.25 by the job.

Q.—You told us that since the month of January you worked by the day? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How much did you get a day in the month of January? A.—One dollar.

Q.—Do you still work by the day? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How much do you earn. A.—\$1.

Q.—Your wages were not reduced? A.—No, sir.

Q.—When you worked by the job before the month of January, how much did you make a day? A.—One dollar and twenty-five cents.

Q.—Who changed you from the job to the day's work, was it the foreman, or were you changed at your own request? A.—It was the super.

Q.—Did he give you any reason? A.—No, sir.

Q.—How many pounds of wool did you do a day before the month of January? A.—Six or seven hundred pounds, according to the day.

Q.—Do you know how much you do at present? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do you do about the same quantity? A.—I don't do the same work. I used to make shirts, but I now make bodies, drawers and mittens.

Q.—Have you been compelled to pay fines, during the time you have been at the factory? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Often? A.—Two or three times.

Q.—Why had you to pay the fines? A.—Once for badly done work, and another times for having dressed too soon before the hour for leaving.

Q.—When you were fined for dressing too soon before the hour of leaving, were you working by the day, or by the job? A.—By the day.

Q.—How much were you fined for that? A.—Twenty-five cents.

Q.—How long before six o'clock did you begin to dress on that occasion? A.—Four minutes.

Q.—What fine was imposed each time for badly done work? A.—The first time, twenty-six cents, and I don't remember what it was the second time, but it was less than a dollar.

Q.—What was this, badly done work? A.—Needles broken.

Q.—You were working at knitting at that time? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—They were machine needles? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Why did you break them, was it your fault? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Does it often happen that the needles break? A.—Yes, often.

Q.—Have you ever seen other workmen fined for breaking needles? A.—No, sir.

Q.—You don't know why they fined you, more than others? A.—They made others pay also.

27th APRIL, 1888.

MAURICE BOAS, St. Hyacinthe, Manager of the Granite Woollen Mills, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How many people have you at work in the Granite Woollen Mills? A.—In the neighborhood of two hundred inside, and over one hundred outside.

Q.—How many of these working people, inside, would be females? A.—I have never referred to these statistics, you might ask them from the secretary-treasurer, who is present.

Q.—Would you kindly tell us what are the conditions under which the operatives, in your factory, are working for you? A.—The regulations are laid down in printed form, and posted up in the factory. They are also on our pass books.

Q.—Is this a true copy of the rules and regulations of your factory, now shown to you? A.—That is a true copy of the rules and regulations, under which they

work. There is a slight modification in one part. The hours of labor have been changed.

Q.—Now will you kindly tell us what is the form of contract entered into between your employees and the Company? A.—Well, I suppose these are entirely private matters between myself and the Company.

Q.—You have stated to-day that these are your rules and regulations, and at the end of these rules and regulations, immediately after the rule number twenty, you say: "These rules and regulations are hereby made a part of the contract between the Company and every person in their employ." Will you please give us the particulars of that contract? A.—You ask what is my contract?

Q.—No. Not what is your contract. I ask what is your contract between your employees and the Company. It is stated at the foot of these rules that these rules and regulations only form a part of the contract, if they are only a part, what is the contract. That is a simple question? A.—That it is before you. Those rules have been adopted for a certain number of years by the Company.

Q.—You say they form a part of the contract, if these rules are only a part, please give us the remainder? A.—Well, the rest is the price of the work.

Q.—Do your employees sign any contract with you? A.—No; they do not.

Q.—What constitutes the contract between yourself and the employees? A.—The explanations are on the pass books under which they receive their pay.

Q.—That is not the whole of the contract; this is only a part of it? A.—That is the contract.

Q.—If this is the whole of the contract entered into between the employees and the Company owning this Mill, will you please state if they are told when they make this agreement what each of these rules and regulations are? A.—No; but they agree to it.

Q.—You suppose that they naturally conform to the rules? A.—No.

Q.—Is there any other form of contract besides these rules, which is entered into between the employees of the mill and the Company? A.—No.

Q.—Will you tell us whether these rules are read to every employee of the Company? A.—No. They are never read to anybody.

Q.—Are all your employees able to read and write? A.—I do not know.

Q.—You state here in these rules that any employee not conducting himself or herself properly, or not obeying orders, may be fined by the overseer of the department or dismissed immediately, in which case, however, the wages due such employee, shall not be paid before the regular pay day of the other help. Why should they be compelled to wait until the regular pay day of the other help? A.—Certainly. That is correct. I do not know the capacity of the Court for the management of business, but we know our own affairs and we think we can manage them in a way most suitable to our own interests, and the interests of our hands without outside interference.

Q.—Will you give any reason why a person should not receive the money due him when he has completed his contract—when the work is done? A.—Certainly, there are many reasons. One is in order not to cause additional trouble in making up the pay list there and then, and then we would not wish to pay them if they were liable to further deductions. Very often help is troublesome, and I suppose, as business men, you know (any of you that have the care of a large firm) that it is not customary to pay people you are discharging before the regular pay day. I do not confine myself to this line of business, but to any line of business.

Q.—Still you have not answered the question. You have a bookkeeper? A.—

Yes.

Q.—Then what is your reason for not paying an employee any money that is due to him on his being discharged from your service and thus allowing him to proceed to wherever he pleases in search of work, without waiting around St. Hyacinthe until your regular pay day for his wages? A.—I have given you the reasons, it is to save ourselves trouble, and we do not often expect such a thing to occur.

Q.—But you recently reduced the wages of the employees, did you not? A.—There is no price that cannot be reduced.

Q.—But without any notice. Did you recently reduce the wages of your employees without giving them notice? A.—Yes, we did.

Q.—Did you, or some person under you, tell somebody in your factory that they could accept this reduced pay or leave? A.—That may have been. It is not unlikely.

Q.—Will you tell us why they were not paid their salary immediately they were discharged? A.—They have been paid. The secretary-treasurer can be examined, he can give sufficient evidence, and can show the books of the company as well.

Q.—When you changed the prices, did you not expect them to accept the change of prices without any notice, there and then? A.—Yes.

Q.—And you say that all these employees have been paid? A.—All those that have conformed to the rules.

Q.—Then if any of these employees have not been paid, the company will pay them? A.—Yes.

Q.—Well, the only reason they were discharged was because they objected to do more work for the same pay? A.—There was no reduction in the wages of these women. I thought you were referring to a number of men who were discharged. You seem to be mixing up the cases as to the reducing of the pay. The young women left without notice without any change of pay. They asked for their pay, and left without giving any notice to the overseer for leaving. They left at an hour after the overseer had left to get his breakfast. I was not in at the time. They left when the overseer and myself were away. These women left without notifying anybody.

Q.—Did the overseer tell these young women, that they would either have to do a certain amount of work or leave? A.—There was no threat made. This price was given, and they were required to do their work properly. The amount of work done at the time had become in a way lost to the Company, by not being properly done, and we naturally expected that the work should be done properly. I suppose the girls thought they were not sufficiently paid at the time, and as I have already told you, they left without making any complaint, either to the Superintendent or myself, and without mentioning the fact to the overseer. After they left, we got new help who are making excellent pay, although they do not get the same prices, we were giving at the time of this strike.

Q.—Did not the overseer tell these young women, that they must do a certain amount of work for the same money as they were getting before, or leave. A.—He simply asked them to do their work correctly—that was the mending of the stockings. They were not half doing it, and he never expected anything but correct work—not extra work, and the prices paid are higher than the prices paid in Cornwall, where similar work is done—but for some reason, for which I cannot give a particular account, the help became careless in doing the work, and for the benefit of the Company, to complete the work and make up for lost time, on account of the great deal of trouble occasioned by this carelessness, I put on extra hands. The work was so bad that I was obliged to put on three girls at one dollar a day to finish the work. We always put on three girls on such emergent work. This strike put us to a great deal of inconvenience, and loss of time, in order to teach the new help. We have no difficulty in getting new help, as there are plenty of people in St. Hyacinthe, to do the work, and who are anxious to be employed.

Q.—Did the overseer say that they would have to do a certain amount of work at a certain price, or leave it? A.—He asked them to do correct work, at the prices they were receiving.

Q.—Have you asked for any work to be done over again heretofore, before this trouble? A.—I could not say, we may have asked them simply, to do certain work at the prices contracted for.

Q.—But, as for darning hose, you did not? A.—No.

Q.—Did you have any difficulty in re-placing these young women by other?

A.—We had no difficulty. The applications were more numerous than the positions we had to fill, but unfortunately they had no skill in the work.

Q.—Is your factory now supplied with skilled labor in the work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Now as you were able to get the help you required, and to get the work done satisfactorily, what loss did you sustain by their leaving? A.—It was the loss of work; the work was checked—thrown back three or four days to the great inconvenience of the Company and everyone else in the factory, and it puts the Company on as short a time as possible in completing a contract, and, anyway, it costs us a direct loss. Moreover, we had to begin new work and teach the new hands. Then they gave us inferior work; they gave us a class of seconds which is a direct loss again.

Q.—Then you really do not know what loss you suffered? A.—Certainly. The Company suffered more loss than the amount they ever earned in the way of wages.

Q.—You really do not know what loss you suffered. Cannot you state the amount of loss? A.—We suffered loss.

Q.—What reason has the Company given for not paying these young women their arrears of wages? A.—The Company has had no discretion about the matter nor I either.

Q.—The management then, what reason do they give for not paying these young women? A.—I have none to give.

Q.—I see one of your rules reads—"persons leaving the service of the Company without serving the notice required, shall forfeit the arrears of pay due them, so as to compensate the Company for the loss such leaving may cause"? A.—If they caused the Company loss as they did in this case?

Q.—The overseer told them they must do the work or leave? A.—Excuse me—he simply exacted that the work should be done, which he had a right to exact.

Q.—Your young women operatives were dissatisfied up to that time, were they not? A.—They did not say so.

Q.—Did they do the work up to that time? A.—No; not properly.

Q.—Can you give the amount of fines imposed for the last twelve months approximately? A.—It is within twenty-five dollars.

Q.—Has the foreman or overseer full control of the system of fining, or is it under the control of the manager? A.—He has full control, but they can appeal to me.

Q.—Can you tell me whether fines were imposed without good reasons? A.—No; never without good reason.

Q.—Can you state the reason the operatives appealed against the imposition of fines in some of these cases? A.—No; I have no recollection of any particular case.

Q.—You could not tell us whether the appeals were well taken in any case? A.—They were not.

Q.—You maintained the fine? A.—I never have to maintain them. The reason is more than sufficient.

Q.—Your Company objects to employees standing outside the factory, when they are not engaged in work, and for the infringement of this rule they are fined twenty-five cents for each offence? A.—Yes; for the reason that they are in the habit of smoking, and that endangers the buildings. In fact, it was found imperatively necessary to have such a rule, as one of the precautions against fire. We have no objection to their standing about, and smoking, provided they do so at a reasonable distance from the factory so as not to endanger the buildings.

Q.—Is a fine imposed if they stand on the street. It says, employees will be under penalty of a fine of twenty-five cents, if they stand around the entrance to the factory. Does that include entrance from the street? A.—It means the entrance to the factory. That does not require any explanation. The entrance to the factory, is not the street. They are not to stand about the entrance to the factory.

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Q.—Then, you have not fined them if they are on the street, at the entrance to works? A.—We do not want them near the entrance to the factory. We have found it very dangerous for them to smoke around the factory. We have requested them not to do so, and that had no effect on them, so those few who will do so have to suffer the penalty of their acts.

Q.—Can you give us an estimate of the amount of earnings of the young people in the factory. What do they earn? A.—They vary from fifty cents up to one dollar, and one dollar and forty cents.

Q.—What would be the average of the youngest? A.—I cannot say. Fifty to sixty cents; smart ones, seventy-five cents a day.

Q.—What are the wages of the men, as reduced twenty-five per cent? A.—These men work, the greater portion of the day, outside, wherever they please. They just work for the Company (or are supposed to work) three or four hours a day, perhaps five, and we give them pay for what they earn. I believe they obtain a dollar for three, four, or five hours work.

Q.—When these men are not working, is it because there is no work, or because they are waiting for material? A.—They only do a certain class of work, which occupies them for three or four hours a day. When they have done that properly, they can go.

Q.—Do you consider these men competent hands? A.—Yes, at their work; but they showed themselves to be very careless in their work, showing that they have too much idle time on their hands. I may say that we had a "black sheep" here; but he did not have a great majority in his favor, and he got no sympathy from the Company.

Q.—If a man only earns a dollar a day, by reducing his pay twenty-five per cent., how much would you pay him if he worked twelve hours in a day? A.—Well, mathematics I learned at school, but I do not think it proper to answer such a question now.

Q.—You consider that seventy-five cents a day is quite sufficient for the work that was done? A.—I do not say anything of the kind, nor do I consider so. They work only five or six hours, or less, and they make a dollar a day, and more, and they do that work carelessly.

Q.—How frequently are the hands paid? A.—Once a month.

Q.—How much of the operatives' pay do you retain in your possession on pay day? A.—We pay on the fifteenth day of the month, and for the month previous— from the fifteenth day of the last month.

Q.—Can you give any reason why two weeks' pay should be retained by the Company? A.—There is no reason, but it is a customary rule made by the promoters of the Company, and it is a custom in the trade.

Q.—Are you aware that most employers pay their hands every week, and up to the date of payment, and find it no inconvenience to them? A.—Well, there is no Hosiery Knitting Factory but ours in the country, nor have they any of the heeling work that we have. But I believe it is the custom in all factories to keep back a certain amount, in order that they may know when an employee is going to leave, so that they can fill his place, and thus save having the machinery idle.

Q.—Has the Company ever given it any consideration—the question of paying employees more frequently? A.—Yes; at different times.

Q.—Would it not be better to pay them fortnightly, and up to date? A.—No; it would not be of any advantage to the help.

Q.—Would you not consider it an advantage to the employees to pay them more frequently? A.—No; for the reason that we oblige them. When they require money, it is advanced without any difficulty.

Q.—Are you able to tell us what wages you pay in your spinning-room? A.—We pay them at the best, and their wages average from one dollar and twenty cents a day to one dollar and fifty cents a day.

Q.—Are the spinners obliged to wait for material? A.—Very rarely. It de-

pend entirely upon circumstances. They have not had to wait for many, many months.

Q.—How many hours a day do the operatives work on the whole—on the average? A.—Ten hours, and on Saturdays we close at four o'clock. As I told you before, they are changed sometimes; it is according to the rules and regulations of the Company.

Q.—Do any work more than ten hours a day? A.—Yes; some of them.

Q.—Can you tell us the hours they work overtime? A.—Two hours; sometimes two hours and a half.

Q.—What is the rate you pay for overtime? A.—They are paid at the same rate as any other time if they are allowed to work at all. It is entirely a benefit to them, and a benefit required by them, to work overtime in our factory.

Q.—Does your mill, at any time, work all through the night? A.—We do not now.

Q.—Has it been the practice, within recent date, to work all night? A.—We have worked all night some months ago.

Q.—And then when you had men working all night, was that owing to an extra press of work? A.—It was owing to an extra press of work and for other reasons.

Q.—How was it that the mill worked all night? A.—Because it suited our business.

Q.—I think you told us a little while ago that the men were standing idle at times and that what work you had to do, you were able to do in the day? A.—Did you ever work in a woollen factory?

Q.—Yes. A.—When?

Q.—A long time ago. A.—Yes; it must have been a long time ago. It certainly could not have been very lately or you would not put such a question. Sometimes we are more busy than at other times, that is my answer, and we work in our factory at such hours, and for such times, as will best suit our business.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Are you acquainted with the law concerning masters and servants? A.—Yes; I am fully acquainted with it.

Q.—Why, when your servants leave you, do you not seek the redress afforded you by this Act instead of keeping their pay? A.—For the reason that we manage our affairs properly to suit the requirements of our business.

Q.—Do you believe the law is made for your factory? A.—Certainly; but there are reasons for which we have got these rules, and we infer that they are such as to make it naturally possible to run our factory in our own way. We infer that they are in full conformity with the law, and we consider them sufficient for the satisfactory running of our business.

Q.—Do you believe the interests of your shop are to be put before the interests of the law? A.—The rules of our factory conform with the spirit of the law. We treat our men humanely.

Q.—And you believe, in accordance with the law? A.—Well, you gentlemen seem to have an idea that we are in conflict with our help, and that they have not been fairly treated in our factory. Now, in our factory they are well treated—they are as well treated as in any other factory in the country. That is our belief; and I will say this: that you have not seen proof to the contrary.

Q.—Do you know the fourth section of the "Master and Servant Act"? A.—I do not study law like a lawyer. I am well acquainted with the spirit of the law.

Q.—So you declare yourself the only judge to know whether you must keep the pay of one of your hands or not? A.—We claim to be masters of our own actions, and that every one of our actions is subject to be enquired into by the law, and that any help who may consider that they are unfairly dealt with, know how to deal with us in the law courts.

Q.—Did any one of your hands appeal to the law? A.—Not since a long time.

Q.—What do you call a long time? A.—Since I became manager there was only one case in which I appeared before courts.

Q.—How long ago is that? A.—Nearly two years.

Q.—Did you gain your case? A.—We gained the case.

Q.—What was the name of the employee? A.—I do not remember the name, but I remember the circumstances of the case.

Q.—Do you know Mr. Joseph Barbeau? A.—I believe that was the party who sued some years ago. I know the name, but I do not remember the person.

Q.—Do you know that Mr. Joseph Barbeau claimed his pay before a Justice of the Peace—nineteen dollars and fifty cents wages, and also compensation for fourteen days' notice which you failed to pay him? A.—Yes; that is the case to which I refer.

Q.—And that he gained the case? A.—I gained the case. The case was decided to the effect that we were perfectly entitled to the action we made. We paid his wages up the time he left. He claimed fourteen days notice, and wished to have a fortnight's pay because we dismissed him without notice, and he never made any demand. We kept the nineteen dollars and fifty cents, and when the case was decided we paid him the nineteen dollars and fifty cents for the amount due him, and claimed that he was not entitled to the fourteen days' pay in the absence of the notice, as he was paid for the work he had done.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You never disputed his right to the nineteen dollars and fifty cents? A.—No.

Q.—You were asked if you were not sued for nineteen dollars and fifty cents, the amount you owed and also for the fourteen days' notice—you are asked if you were sued for the nineteen dollars and fifty cents which you owed to the man, and for fourteen days' wages besides? A.—We were sued for nineteen dollars and fifty cents and the equivalent of fourteen days' notice which would have been twelve dollars more. We offered to pay the nineteen dollars and fifty cents before, we never disputed payment of that.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You say you never disputed payment of this nineteen dollars and fifty cents, do you mean to say that you merely contested because he asked you for something else? A.—He asked for us fourteen days notice.

Q.—Which he had a right to receive. Did you pay to Joseph Barbeau the nineteen dollars and fifty cents when he left? A.—We offered it and he demanded fourteen days' notice.

Q.—Did he ask you for the fourteen days' notice. Did he not ask to have the right to work the fourteen days' notice before witnesses? A.—We did not want him.

Q.—He was refused the opportunity to work his notice? A.—We did not want him.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Did he refuse to take the nineteen dollars when you offered it to him? A.—He did certainly.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you oblige your employees to work at night? A.—I do not oblige them to.

Q.—What do you do when you tell one of your employees to work at night and he does not work at night? A.—We have no such cases.

Q.—Do you give a book, like that produced before this Commission, when you

wish to change your mode of paying. You changed your mode of paying only last month—do you put it down in a book like that? A.—Yes.

Q.—Does it happen that some of your employees only get their book two weeks after coming into your factory? A.—They get it immediately. I have no right to deal with this individual mode of paying.

Q.—At the same time being without a book, an employee would be supposed to be under the rules? A.—I do not know of any case where they were without the books.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Are you acquainted with the machinery in your factory? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any of your machinery that is dangerous to some of the mechanics there? A.—No, none.

Q.—Is it true that a man got his arm cut by a piece of machinery a little while ago, or a few months ago? A.—Yes, there was.

Q.—Tell us what occurred?

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—I would ask if the case is in Court? A.—We have notice that it is in Court.

Then you cannot go any farther.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Is it true that it is in better shape than it used to be? A.—No, it is placed in the same way.

Q.—Then it has been re-arranged if that is the case? A.—Of course I am not so well acquainted with the machinery as the superintendent is. We gave instructions for it not to occur again, and we have been informed that it did not run satisfactorily so it has been removed—it is gone.

Q.—The machine is out of order—the machine you refer to? A.—Yes.

Q.—You have said the amount charged on bad work is worth about twenty-five dollars—the work? A.—Yes, the fines inflicted in the mill is less than twenty-five dollars for the year.

Q.—Do you include in that amount the salary confiscated when they went away? A.—No, they did not appear in the pay list at all.

Q.—In what department were these charges made the most, was it in the job department or in the day work department? A.—I could not tell you. I never enquired into the question of fines at all. In fact it is in accordance with the damage done or the carelessness shown—the direct damage done on the part of the party.

Q.—Can you tell us the amount of wages confiscated by employees (who have left the service of the company during the past year) because they did not give the company sufficient notice? A.—I would require to refer to the overseers of the departments.

Q.—You said a little while ago that you never told a girl to do work a little different than before, did any of your foremen tell them so? A.—Probably they did tell them it was to be a little different than it was before as we expected it to be done well, instead of being done bad or imperfectly.

Q.—Have you any second foreman in the factory. That is, if any of your foremen go away, is there anyone to put in their places over the laboring men in the departments that you refer to? A.—There are no second foremen. There are only the foremen and the superintendent (who superintends the managing of the whole mill) and myself. There are no other men over the help.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How much per dozen do you give for moulded stockings? A.—At present one and a half to two cents.

Q.—Did you ever give any more? A.—We did for sometime.

Q.—How long is it since you came down to one cent and a half to two cents? A.—Two weeks.

Q.—How much notice did you give before the reduction took place? A.—None.

Q.—Did any of your men leave? A.—Some of them left.

Q.—Did you pay them their wages at once, as soon as the work was finished? A.—No.

Q.—How much in a week, of ten hours a day, will a person earn in moulding the stockings as soon as they have had sufficient practice? A.—One dollar, to one dollar and fifty cents a day.

Q.—Are they employed constantly? A.—Constantly and more. They are the best employed laborers in the mill.

Q.—Does it require much skill to do that work? A.—No.

Q.—These young women that left, were they on piece work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you tell us how many you owe money to? A.—I do not owe them any money.

Q.—I understand you. To how many were you in arrears of wages at the time they left, and to what amount? A.—There were seven or eight; I do not know the amount.

Q.—If these young women had remained would you have paid them their wages? A.—Certainly. If they had remained I would have paid them their pay.

Q.—Then, under the consideration that they left you without notice as you say, you will not give them the pay due them for work done, and which is actually owing them? A.—They did not come back.

Q.—You keep that to re-imburse you for the damage you suppose that they did you in leaving? A.—According to the rules they confiscated it.

Q.—Did you pay them in accordance with the value of the work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then, if the wages paid was in accordance with the value of the work, the damage done was insignificant? A.—No; it was not.

Q.—If you paid them in accordance with the value of their work, if the damage was considerable, they must not have been paid in full for their labour? A.—If you wish me to explain this, I will do so; this help was engaged from time to time. After the starting of the factory we were constantly changing, from time to time, our instructions to them. We always required a large staff, and we required them to do the work properly. We always required that, although we did not get it. At first, their wages did not amount to much, until they got skilled, then they got a fair amount of wages. If fourteen hands, or twelve or fourteen leave us, without proper notice, they do us more damage than, perhaps, can be imagined under the circumstances, because we are obliged to put in twelve or fourteen other help, that is unskilled, to take their places, and then it was not done sufficiently well, at times, and then they gave us seconds, they put in a number of seconds that are not merchantable, at the same price.

Q.—You say these girls were on piece work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do not you know that the law says, that when a girl has done the piece of work that she has on hand, she has done her work, that she has fulfilled her contract, I think it is mentioned somewhere in the Act. A.—If that is so, the proper place for them to go, is to go to law and find it out. If you will allow me, I wish to impress you with the fact that it is utterly impossible to allow anything of that kind to happen without stopping the work of the factory, and putting us to a great deal of damage. Any manufacturer will bear out my assertion on that point.

Q.—What is the average length of time these girls were in your factory? A.—Some of them were there for several years.

- Q.—Were they good hands? A.—Some of them were.
- Q.—What would their pay average? A.—They would average seventy-five cents to a dollar a day. The youngest girl would earn no less than fifty cents.
- Q.—Do any of them earn two dollars and a half to three dollars and a half a week? A.—Most of them earn more. In fact some of them put nine and ten dollars to their good in a fortnight.
- Q.—How long would they have to be there before they earn the wages you say; how old would they be when then they commenced? A.—I do not recollect. Our wages are not always paid according to age.
- Q.—Were they little girls or young women? A.—They were of the age of from fifteen to twenty, or thereabouts.
- Q.—Do you not know that they earn their wages hard for girls who have to keep themselves, and clothe themselves, and who have got to wait four or five weeks for their wages? A.—They are paid what they earn.
- Q.—And they have to wait six weeks for their pay after they enter your service. Will you say if you fine in your establishment, a girl who loses a minute. Is that a fact, that a girl is fined for every minute she loses? A.—There is a rule for which she is fined a cent for every minute she is late. This is done to secure punctuality; to prevent loss of time, and to secure uniformity in the output of the work.
- Q.—Did any of these young ladies send a lawyer's letter to you? A.—Yes. They did.
- Q.—Can you tell us what the Company did in reference to these letters? A.—Our firm, or rather the lawyer's firm, took no notice of them; he simply placed them on file.
- Q.—Did any of these young women ask, of some person in authority, to allow her to go back to work and did or did not the firm say that she might work if she pleased, but that the firm would give her no wages? A.—I believe you refer to a case in which one of these strikers asked the foreman of her own room to be employed there again. He asked my permission to be given; he stated that she was a skilled hand in her department, and I agreed to it, on condition that we had nothing to do with the pay. That she had forfeited—according to my judgment.
- Q.—Is that young woman working for you now? A.—Yes. I believe that is the case referred to.
- Q.—The young women were discharged because they were asked to do mending at the same price as they had hitherto done the rest of their work? A.—No. They were asked to do that for which they were paid—to mend stockings. When the stocking comes of the Knitting machine it has to be further mended. We keep the stuff for mending for which they are paid so much a dozen. This work has been done for years. They are accustomed to do it.
- Q.—Were they accustomed to do it and did they do it all along? A.—Yes.
- Q.—Did they do it before the strike as you call it? A.—Certainly. They have done it for years.
- Q.—The young women consider it extra work? A.—No. It is not extra work, as I explained before, they were asked to do the work properly.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

- Q.—Are there two ways of mending stockings? A.—There is only one way of mending them, and that is to mend them, if that is any description for this Court.
- Q.—Are there not two different ways of mending them, a tight and a loose way? A.—I claim the same ignorance as some of the gentlemen who ask the questions.
- Q.—The question does not enter into details. I do not expect to be skilled on all points respecting your manufacture? A.—We require them to mend them; there is only one way that I know of.
- Q.—You cannot tell whether the foreman wanted more work of the hands than before? A.—As I said before, he simply wanted the work done properly and there is only one way of doing it properly, and that is to do it.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—With reference to the suit brought against you, who was it paid the costs?
A.—I believe we paid our own portion of it on account of not having tendered the money in proper form. We offered it in an off hand way, but we deposited it. As soon as the suit was made we deposited it in Court for eleven days. Owing to our neglect in the form of tendering it and depositing it we paid, but not otherwise.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Will you tell us if your business has increased during the past five years?
A.—That is a peculiar question to ask.

Q.—It is not an unusual question to ask, it is asked of every manufacturer?
A.—It is a peculiar question to ask in its way. Certainly we have increased our factory very largely.

Q.—How much have you increased it? A.—Taking the estimate by the machinery I would say one-quarter. We have put in one more set of cards.

Q.—Where do you find a market for your goods? A.—We find a market for our goods in the whole of Canada—a very limited market indeed.

Q.—Do you sell anything in the United States? A.—I am sorry to say we do not. We wish we could.

(Translation.)

HERMINE LEMOINE, of St. Hyacinthe, knitter, sworn.

By Mr. HELLBRONNER :—

Q.—You gave your evidence yesterday? A.—Yes, sir; last night.

Q.—I believe you are one of the workmen who left the factory? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What was the matter, was it having to go over the thin part of the stockings? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—As neither Mr. Boas nor the Commissioners fully understand the work, please explain to this Commission what the difficulty really is? A.—The difficulty was that they wanted us to go over the narrowing of the heels and toes of the stockings when there were no dropped stitches. When the stitches were dropped we could easily go over them as usual, but they wished us to go over these narrowings for the same price we earned before, we refused and left the factory.

Q.—Then if I understand rightly, the work you were engaged to do and for which you were paid was to go over the dropped stitches? A.—Yes; to go over the holes.

Q.—And the work they tried to make you do, was to go over the holes, and the thin places besides? A.—Yes; what we call the narrowings.

Mr. HELLBRONNER wishes to have it recorded at the end of this deposition, that when this witness was called to give evidence before this Commission, Mr. Maurice Boas left the room.

FEODOR BOAS, of the City and District of Montreal, Merchant and Manufacturer of the Town of St. Hyacinthe and the City of Montreal, both in the Province of Quebec, sworn :—

By Mr. HELLBRONNER :—

Q.—I believe you are connected with the manufacture in question carried on at the Granite Mills? A.—Yes; I am the largest shareholder.

[I wish to explain, in reply to the remark I have just heard, that I was simply saying a moment ago that Mr. Boas had to go to the mill, and that his business called him away. He did not go away because he expected that more questions would be asked him. I thought your questions were fully answered by him, and so I allowed him to go.]

Q.—Have you anything to state connected with these particular incidents in the history of your factory, or with regard to the working of the mill in general? A.—No; I have no knowledge of these particular incidents connected with the factory.

Q.—Then you had only this one thing to state? A.—I would say this: I do not think the help engaged in our factory has reason to be dissatisfied with the treatment they received, any more than the help in other mills. In our mill I have asked them over and over again to do their work better, and I know that the foremen have not given them extra work; additional work has not been imposed upon them, but the work they had to do they were required to do well. We have to compete with other woollen mills in Canada, and if we do not produce as good an article, we cannot remain in the trade. For some time back we have received a great many refusals of orders, because the goods have not been accepted, and a great many complaints come to me as the selling agent of the mill. I enquired into it, and found that the fault was in the finishing department. Of course, as any of you gentlemen will know who may be engaged in manufactures, if the work comes out unfinished, that is to say, not properly finished, the goods are not accepted, and you lose not only the value of the article, but the freight charges also. These employees were doing job work; they were working on the article by the dozen, and if the firm passed bad work, they take the responsibility.

Q.—That is, the foreman over the girls? A.—Yes. They were not fined their wages. The foreman looked into the work and found the work faulty, and told them they must rectify it, or the goods could not be accepted by the firm, which was the proper thing to do.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—You confiscated the wages of the girls, because the girls did not conform to your wishes, so you would say. Now, did not the firm tell them that they were to leave, and accordingly, they simply left? A.—I do not know anything about it. I simply know the cause of the trouble. I know that the work came back. I know that the work was thrown on our hands, and that it might cost us the loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Q.—Do you know anything of what transpired in that factory? A.—I am the selling agent, and I know when the work is right, and when it is wrong.

Q.—You have heard the evidence of the last witness? A.—Yes, I did.

Q.—What have you to answer to it? A.—I simply say that the work was done in mending a dozen stockings, or to mend the faults that might be in part of them.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—And they have been all done? A.—Certainly. That is what caused the whole trouble.

Q.—How long were these young girls in your factory before they left? A.—I cannot tell you.

Q.—What time was it found out? A.—Lately; when the goods were put out from the mill.

Q.—I suppose if the girls had not left, the faults would not have been found out? A.—That is what I find from the evidence; because I do not know that at all, personally.

Q.—These young men were in the work several years? A.—Well, lately there was less fault. After the fire at St. Hyacinthe I heard a great deal of complaint about the work, and I had a great deal of trouble with our customers because

work was faulty, and it was only when I came to complain to the foremen in the mill that the cause was ascertained.

Q.—The last witness spoke of different kinds of work in the mending of stockings—tight and loose finishing? A.—I do not see that there should be any difference whatever in the matter. If there should happen to be a tear or a rip or a hole left by the machine, these have to be seen to. They have to be looked over and repaired; all the defects in the stocking must be repaired before it leaves the mill.

Q.—From what Mr. L—— said, there are two ways of mending stockings, a loose way and a tight way? A.—All that I can say is, that is to be naturally supposed that the stockings require to be looked over, and that all defects can be mended. If not mended, they go out imperfectly made, and are sent back by our customers—thrown on our hands, and that causes loss to us and dissatisfaction to our customers.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—You consider the mending of the stocking to be part of the work of the making of the stocking? A.—Certainly; because you cannot pass them if they are imperfectly made, and in the process of mending them they pass through two or three different hands.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—How do you account for so many complaints about the same part of the factory? The complaints are that they were fined for putting on their coats five minutes before their time was finished. Then some complaints were made about the machines not being perfect, as I understand it, and some complaints were made because the wages were not paid. In a good many cases they were the same complaints. Were all these complaints made by employees under the same foreman? A.—Yes.

Q.—How do you account for these statements that have been made by the witnesses?

Q.—Well, with regard to the fines, I will tell you that the fact is, during the whole year only twenty-five dollars was imposed, that does not speak much in favor of the statements that have been made to you with regard to the heavy fines that have been imposed, when you bear in mind that upwards of sixty thousand dollars have been paid in wages during the year. I do not say that there is nothing to complain of in the running of this factory, but when the total amount of fines imposed during the year is only twenty-five dollars, I do not think there is much reason for complaint.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you not think they have some reason for complaint against the enforcement of such a rule as this one: "Every employee coming late to work will be fined one cent a minute for every minute lost?" A.—But how can it amount to anything if only twenty-five dollars are levied in fines during the year. I simply say this, unless there is a certain amount of discipline in a factory where two hundred hands are employed, you cannot run it.

Q.—Do you not consider it an injustice to fine an employee sixty cents an hour for being late when their pay is only a few cents an hour? A.—They are not fined that.

Q.—It is in your rules? A.—They are not fined that. During the whole year the fines only amounted to twenty-five dollars.

Q.—Still they are fined? A.—They are fined when they do anything serious.

Q.—But may not a young girl who only earns three dollars a week lose the greater part of her earnings in fines? A.—There is not one girl loses twenty-five dollars in a whole year. Those who lost their wages lost them as stated by the evidence, not otherwise.

Q.—If the foreman had given the girls additional work, and told them they would have to do that work at the same rate or quit, would he be justified in confiscating their wages? A.—No.

(Translation)

MISS MÉLINA BOMDEAU, of St. Hyacinthe, employee in the Tanneries of Payant and Duclos, sworn.

By MR. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Where do you work? A.—At Messrs. Payant and Duclos', in the stiffening department.

Q.—How many hours a day do you work? A.—Ten hours.

Q.—At what hour do you begin in the morning? A.—We begin at seven o'clock in the morning, and stop at six at night.

Q.—Have you any hour for dinner? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you work by the job, or by the day? A.—By the job.

Q.—About how much do you make a week? A.—From two dollars and fifty cents to three dollars.

Q.—Is the room in which you work very comfortable? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—You have no heavy jobs to do; it is not you who press the stiffening? A.—No, sir.

Q.—That work is done by the men? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—I believe you use cement for sticking them? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Is it not unhealthy there, it is clean work? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do they ever impose fines? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Have you anything to complain of in the factory? A.—No, sir, we are well satisfied.

(Translation.)

MISS VIRGINIE LÉONARD, of St. Hyacinthe, employee in the department of Slip Soles, sworn.

By MR. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Where do you work? A.—At Payant and Duclos'. I am at the same factory as the witness who preceded me.

Q.—Is your work the same? A.—Yes, sir, it is almost the same work, for I cut

Q.—Do you work by the day, or by the job? A.—By the day.

Q.—How much do you get? A.—Ten dollars a week.

Q.—You are in the cutting department? A.—I am the only girl working by the week.

Q.—How much do the other girls, that work with you, earn? A.—If they work by the job, they earn \$3.50 to \$4; it depends how long they want to work.

Q.—Is the room in which you work very comfortable? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Is there no machinery, nothing dangerous? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Have you any remarks, or any complaints to make? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do they ever impose fines in your department? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Are you forewoman in your department ? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How many girls work in your department ? A.—There are about twenty.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do any young children work in your department ? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Are you fined when you come in late ? A.—No, sir.

(Translation.)

TÉLESPHORE GUAY, of St. Hyacinthe, Tanner and Carrier, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Where do you work ? A.—At Messrs. Payant & Duclos.

Q.—How many hours do you work ? A.—Ten hours.

Q.—How much do you get a week for your work ? A.—Nine dollars.

Q.—How many are employed in your department ? A.—I can't say.

Q.—Are children employed in the tanner's department ? A.—No.

Q.—What are the lowest wages paid to tanners in your department ? A.—Four dollars; from three dollars and fifty cents to four dollars.

Q.—Are the men who work for four dollars a week, old employees or young fellows ? A.—Young fellows.

Q.—Is the shop clean and in good sanitary condition ? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you think that the machinery when in motion is sufficiently guarded to prevent accidents to the workmen ? A.—For my part I think so.

Q.—You stated that they were young fellows who earned from three to four dollars a week, are there no married men among them ? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Are there married men who earn five dollars ? A.—Yes, it is according to how long they have been at the trade.

Q.—Do you make soles at your place ? A.—No, we make them in the same shop, but not in the same room.

(Translation.)

CHARLES BIENVENU, of St. Hyacinthe, Tanner, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—How long have you worked at Messrs. Payant & Duclos ? A.—Twelve years.

Q.—What wages did you get twelve years ago ? A.—Six dollars a week.

Q.—How much do you get now ? A.—Seven dollars.

Q.—Are there many workmen in that department ? A.—We are nine.

Q.—Are there any who earn higher wages than you do ? A.—No, sir.

Q.—What are the lowest wages paid ? A.—Five dollars a week.

Q.—Are the workmen, who earn five dollars a week, very able workmen ? A.—No, they are laborers.

Q.—Are children employed in your department ? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Were the workmen ever obliged to strike ? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Is the shop warm enough in winter to work in ? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Is it well aired in summer ? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any complaint to make to this Commission ? A.—No, sir.

(Translation.)

GEORGE-CASIMIR DESAULLES, Mayor of St. Hyacinthe, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

- Q.—Are you the President of the St. Hyacinthe Manufacturing Company?
 A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—Are you familiar with the working of the factory? A.—I am, somewhat.
- Q.—How many persons do you employ? A.—At present there are fifty-nine; we generally employ 60 to 62 workmen in the woollen factory. Apart from this, we have employees in the carding mill, which is not now in operation, having been burnt down last autumn, and also in the Grist mill.
- Q.—Are children employed in the woollen factory? A.—There are two, one of fifteen and the other of fourteen years of age. They run errands and help the man who sets the work.
- Q.—Have you printed rules in your factory? A.—We have, but it is a long time since I have seen them.
- Q.—Are fines imposed on the workmen in the factory? A.—Fines were sometimes imposed for bad work, but to the best of my knowledge it is three or four years since; it is many years since.
- Q.—This is the manufacturing company that received a loan of \$25,000 from the Corporation? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—On bonds of the Corporation? A.—Yes; to assist the Company to re-construct the buildings which were burned.
- Q.—Were these bonds discounted in the Canadian market? A.—Yes.

SILAS T. DUCLOS, of St. Hyacinthe, Manufacturing Tanner, sworn.

By Mr. BORVIN:—

- Q.—You also are a Manufacturing Tanner, in St. Hyacinthe? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—Do you manufacture anything else but black leather? A.—Stiffening and Slip Soles.
- Q.—About how many employees have you in the Tanners' Department, and in the curriers? A.—75.
- Q.—Are they all men that work in the Tannery, or are there boys also? A.—There are men and boys.
- Q.—What are the highest wages paid to the men, who work either in the tannery or in the curriers' shop? A.—\$12 a week.
- Q.—What are the lowest wages paid to boys, who work either in the shoe finishings, or curriers' shop? A.—\$3.50.
- Q.—Can you say if there are many of your employees who have saved money, and are either Bank depositors, or proprietors? A.—We have 25 who are proprietors.
- Q.—About what is the value of their properties? A.—From \$300 to \$1000.
- Q.—Have you ever had trouble in your factory, such as strikes? A.—Never.
- Q.—They are mostly women who work in the department stiffening and making soles? A.—Women and men, the men for punching, and the women for sticking them together.
- Q.—What are the highest wages paid to the woman who earns most? A.—\$10 a week, she worked by the job for sometime, and made \$2 a day.
- Q.—About how much wages do the others get? A.—The men make \$5 or \$6 a week. The girls work by the job. There are some who make fifty cents, and others

\$2, working at the same work and for the same wages. It depends on the ability of the person.

Q.—Can you tell us if you export any of your goods, and if so, which of them?
A.—We export buff and split leather.

Q.—Do you import from other countries any material? A.—Yes. Skins.

Q.—Do you pay any duty on them? A.—No.

Do you think, if matters were better managed in the foreign market, that we could sell leather at a higher price, and in greater quantity? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Have you any suggestion to make to this Commission? A.—No.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—How much do you pay a year for the use of the bridges? A.—I believe we pay \$15 or \$18 this year.

Q.—To whom do these bridges belong, to the Municipality? A.—No, sir, they belong to Mr. Morrisson, that is to say, two belong to Mr. Francis Morrisson, and the other belongs to a Company.

Q.—How much did you pay for the use of the bridges, say 5 years ago? A.—Five years ago, we paid about \$10.

Q.—Can you tell us why the rate has been increased? A.—We have more cartage, and we pass more frequently over them.

Q.—Do you pay in advance, or after the year has expired? A.—At the beginning of each year, on the first of January.

Q.—Do you know if this increase is personal to you, or is it general? A.—I think.

Q.—Is it based on the general increase of cartage? A.—I don't know.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH CORÉ, of St. Hyacinthe, foreman in a boot and shoe factory, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—What do you do? A.—I am foreman in a boot and shoe manufactory.

Q.—Can you tell us about how many employees you have in your manufactory?
A.—About 170.

Q.—Of that number about how many are men? A.—120 to 130, 130 at least.

Q.—Have you any young children in the factory? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What age are they? A.—With the exception of a couple, they are all over 14 years of age. They entered the manufactory almost against our will.

Q.—Is there not a little boy working with you whose father asked you to keep him as he could not send him to school? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Is that why you employ so young a child? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Can you tell us about how much wages on an average, the men get in your factory? A.—The wages vary from \$6 to \$10 a week.

Q.—And have you any idea about how much the women earn? A.—The women who work on the machines earn \$, and \$7, a week. Those who earn \$4 get the same price and do the same work as those who earn \$7.

Q.—Are those who get \$7 quicker workers? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much do the women who prepare work get? A.—They get from about \$1.30 to \$2.50.

Q.—Have you exported any of your goods to foreign countries? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you export at the present time? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Have you any objections to tell us to what country you export? A.—To England.

Q.—Do you think, if the subject received more serious study, that we would be able to export on a larger scale? A.—I think so.

Q.—Are any of your workmen proprietors, have any saved anything? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Can you say about what number are proprietors? A.—30 out of 62 are proprietors. I mean to say that out of 62 married men 30 are proprietors.

Q.—Have you ever had any serious "strikes," or have you ever had any at all? A.—Never.

Q.—You are on good terms then, with your workmen? A.—Always, generally as far as I know.

Q.—Are your water closets for men and women separate? A.—Yes, sir; the men have their's in the third story and the women in the second, they are completely separate one from the other.

Q.—Are fines ever imposed in your factory for bad work or other things? A.—Very rarely. It sometimes happens, but very rarely, that a charge is made for a pair of badly made boots and the person paying, takes the boots and raffies them in the factory and sometimes makes more money than he pays.

Q.—Have you anything to suggest to this Commission? A.—Not that I know of.

By MR. McLEAN:—

Q.—What are the wages of the lasters? A.—The lasters earn from \$5 to \$10 a week.

Q.—How many lasters earn \$10 a week? A.—There are about six or seven that earn from \$8 to \$10 a week.

Q.—How many earn \$5. and how many less than \$5? A.—There are none of the lasters, from the moment they get work, that earn less than \$5.

Q.—How much do those who work on the sewing machine and on the McKay pegging machine earn? A.—They can make \$10 to \$12 a week with the sewing machine when there is work. There are times, naturally, when they have to wait for work.

Q.—How much do the cutters get? A.—From \$8 to \$10 a week.

Q.—Do you know anything about the sale of the goods? A.—As a general rule I know something of every department.

Q.—Can you tell us if you sell goods in the Province of Ontario? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How far west do you go? A.—I cannot exactly name the places, but I know we export goods as far as the North-West.

Q.—Do you send them to London, Ontario? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you export leather to Ontario? A.—No; not that I know of. I don't

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(Translation.)

ERNEST THIBAudeau, of St. Hyacinthe, leather-cutter, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Did you reside in St. Hyacinthe last year, or outside St. Hyacinthe? A.—Outside St. Hyacinthe.

Q.—In what locality? A.—In Providence; that is to say, in the village of Providence. I have lived there since last May.

Q.—Is there a Mayor and a Municipal Council in Providence? A.—I don't know, but very likely.

Q.—Is it another municipality than that of St. Hyacinthe? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you work in St. Hyacinthe last year? A.—I worked in St. Hyacinthe.

Q.—Whereabouts? A.—At the factory of Messrs. Séguin & Lalime, boot and shoe manufacturers.

Q.—Did you pay the workman's tax last year—the tax of one dollar a year? A.—Yes, sir; that is, I paid it on the 4th of January of this year, but it was for last year.

Q.—Where was the notification addressed that was sent you to pay this tax? Was it addressed to Providence or to your place of employment? A.—To the factory, here.

Q.—Do you know what would have been done if you had not paid the tax? A.—I asked my employer, and he said it would be better to pay. I remarked that I did not live in St. Hyacinthe, but he said, "You do not live in St. Hyacinthe, but you work here, and you had better pay," so I paid it.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do you think it would be better for you if there were more shoe factories in St. Hyacinthe, even with this tax of \$1 a year? A.—Yes, I think it would be more to my interest at a workman.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Do you think it would be to your interest if there were more factories in St. Hyacinthe, and that you had not to pay this tax of \$1 a year. A.—Still more.

Q.—Do you believe that this dollar a year is collected for the purpose of contributing to the bonuses given to manufacturers? A.—I have heard say that it was for that purpose.

(Translation.)

ZOTIQUE GAUTHIER, of St. Hyacinthe, Shoemaker, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Where do you work? A.—For Messrs. James Aird & Company just at present.

Q.—Is not that a new factory which has just been started here? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Where did you work before you began to work for Mr. Aird? A.—I worked at Messrs. Séguin & Lalime's factory.

Q.—What wages were you paid at Messrs. Séguin & Lalime's? A.—We earn well when there is plenty of work, we earned as much as from nine to twelve dollars a week.

Q.—What are you earning now at Mr. Aird's? A.—I cannot say as I only began to work there last Monday. The week is not up.

Q.—Have you worked in any other factory other than Messrs. Séguin & Lalime's, do you know anything about any other? A.—I went only twice to Mr. Côté's, and not to work.

Q.—Do you think that the general sanitary condition of factories here is good? A.—From what I know of them I should say yes.

Q.—When are you paid? Every week or every month? A.—Every week.

Q.—Have you ever been fined for badly done work, or other causes? A.—Never.

Q.—Have you any suggestion to make to this Commission about matters concerning yourself? Any suggestion by which you would be enabled to earn money without working, something in that way? A.—I would like to if I could, but I cannot.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

- Q.—Have you ever worked in Montreal? A.—Yes, sir.
 Q.—For how long a time? A.—About eighteen years.
 Q.—How long is it since you left Montreal? A.—Sixteen or seventeen months.
 Q.—Can you tell us whether wages are better in Montreal than here in St. Hyacinthe? A.—They are better in some factories in Montreal because work is more continuous, and there are not so many apprentices to bother us, as there are here.
 Q.—Is living dearer in Montreal than here? A.—It is about the same thing.
 Q.—Are you a married man? A.—Yes, sir.
 Q.—Were you married when you lived in Montreal? A.—Yes, sir.
 Q.—How do rents here compare with those of Montreal? Are they lower here?
 A.—This is the first year I have rented here, and I pay the same price as in Montreal. I paid five dollars there, and I paid five dollars a month here.
 Q.—Have you a better house here, for that price than you had in Montreal? A.—About the same thing.
 Q.—How many rooms have you here? A.—Four.
 Q.—How many had you at that rent in Montreal? A.—Four also.
 Q.—Did you pay water rates in Montreal? A.—Yes, sir.
 Q.—What amount did you pay in Montreal? A.—\$6.25.
 Q.—Did you pay no other tax? A.—No, we had no labor tax there.
 Q.—And no tax on your rent? A.—No.
 Q.—Is water put in your house? A.—Not in the house I am going to move to.
 Q.—What will you have to pay for water? You will have to have it carried?
 A.—I cannot say what amount I will have to pay, for I don't know what they sell it at.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

- Q.—Is there a well on your premises? A.—No, there is no well. We will rely on the carriers.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

- Q.—You will have to pay a tax here of five per cent. on your rent, are you aware of that? A.—No.
 Q.—Do you know whether that tax is included in your lease? A.—I know only that I have to pay \$5 a month, and that is all I have to pay.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

- Q.—Where do those who sell water in barrels, get the water? A.—They ought to get it from the river.
 Q.—Do you know if they do get it from the river? A.—They get it from the river, at the riverside.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

- Q.—In front of the City or higher up? A.—I saw two water carriers getting water from the river. One took it from the end of the Company's bridge. He took water from that spot to carry it through the city. The other took it from the river right in front of St. François Street. Those are the only two I have seen taking water.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

- Q.—What kind of work do you do in the factory? A.—I am a laster.
 Q.—What are the wages of lasters in the factory in which you are employed?
 A.—Good lasters get \$6 or \$7 a week the year through. We could make more than

that by the week, but on account of want of work we only make from \$6 to \$7 a week.

Q.—How much do lasters get for a case of work done on the McKay machine?
A.—There are different prices. Each kind of work has a different price.

Q.—What are the lowest prices? A.—\$1.60 for a case of 60 pairs.

Q.—What is the highest price? A.—\$3 a case.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—I suppose you get \$1.60 for children's shoes? A.—No, for slippers in "split."

Q.—Slippers for men or women? A.—For both. The price is the same for both, or at least, as I think.

Q.—And what is the kind of work for which you get \$3? A.—There is what we call polished calf in men's work, and the "fancy full box," at \$3 a case; and we have women's work of the same quality called "soft box"; but the latter is \$2.50 a case.

(Translation.)

MARC DUPONT, of St. Hyacinthe, baker, sworn :—

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—What do you do? A.—I am a baker.

Q.—Do you work on your own account? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Are there bread inspectors here? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do they often inspect the bread? A.—Not since I have been in St. Hyacinthe, some twenty-one months.

Q.—You make the six pound loaves? A.—The three and six pound loaves.

Q.—At what price do you sell your bread to the groceries. A.—Thirteen cents.

Q.—At what price do you sell it to families? A.—Fourteen cents.

Q.—Do you give the thirteenth loaf? A.—Not I.

Q.—Do you know how long it was before you came to live here that the inspector went round? A.—I don't know.

Q.—Did you carry on business on your own account before coming to live here?
A.—I was a farmer.

Q.—Have you any men in your employ? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Many? A.—I have two in the shop, and hire help to deliver the bread.

Q.—How much do you pay your bakers? A.—I pay the best \$14, and he engages and pays his own apprentice.

Q.—And how much do you pay the man who assists you to deliver the bread?
A.—\$2 a week. He is a little boy of thirteen years of age.

Q.—Has the boy received any education; can he read? A.—Pretty well.

Q.—Do you know how much your baker pays the boy that helps him? A.—I don't know what he pays this last one; he changes every two or three months.

Q.—Do you not think that these frequent changes are caused by his not paying enough to these boys? A.—I think it is.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Would it not be better if you hired all your help yourself? A.—I am not the "boss" now. In the beginning I engaged them, but there was quarrelling between the baker and the apprentice, and the apprentices would leave, and I was obliged to hire new ones. So I told him: "Since you cannot keep the apprentices I engage, you must engage them yourself."

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

- Q.—Have you water in the house? A.—Yes, sir.
 Q.—Water from the water works? A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q.—What are the hours at which the bakers work? A.—It depends on the temperature of the shop. They are obliged to make two or three bakings a week, that is say two or three bakings a week according to the days of the week.

(Translation.)

DAMIEN BOUCHARD, of St. Hyacinthe, shoemaker, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

- Q.—In what department do you work? A.—In the cutting department.
 Q.—Do you work by the day or by the job? A.—By the job.
 Q.—Have you ever worked by the day? A.—Yes, sir.
 Q.—How much were you paid by the day? A.—I earned \$9.
 Q.—And you now work by the piece? A.—I do not work in the factory now. I work neither by the day nor by the piece. I did work by the piece up to the present time.
 Q.—What were the last wages you earned when you worked by the piece?
 A.—I could have earned between \$9 and \$9.50, if I had had continual work, but as I had not work all the time, I averaged \$8 a week.
 Q.—Is there anything you would suggest to this Commission? A.—No, not for my department. I am one of the best workers in my department. There are others working by the job who earn less than I do.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

- Q.—How much are you paid per case? A.—There are different prices.
 Q.—Do cutters lose much time? A.—I lose 25 or 30 days in a year, and there are others who lose more time still.

(Translation.)

AMEDEE GOSSELIN, of St. Hyacinthe, worker in knitted goods, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

- Q.—What do you do? A.—At present I work at Mr. Cassavant's the organ manufacturer.
 Q.—Are you engaged by contract? A.—No, sir.
 Q.—How much do you earn? A.—\$2, a week
 Q.—How many hours do you work a day? A.—Ten hours.
 Q.—Have you worked at the Granite Mills? A.—Yes, sir.
 Q.—How long did you work there? A.—I worked nearly a year.
 Q.—Is it long since? A.—About three months ago.
 Q.—Did you work in the evening? A.—Yes, sir.
 Q.—Until what hour? A.—Nine, ten and eleven o'clock.
 Q.—Did this occur often? A.—Sometimes we worked twice and three times a week.

Q.—For many weeks? A.—All the time I worked there we worked sometimes every week and sometimes every two weeks.

Q.—What is your age? A.—I am 15 years of age.

Q.—Were you engaged to work by the day or by the job? A.—By the job.

Q.—How much did you earn a week? A.—During the last weeks I worked there I sometimes earned \$1 and sometimes less.

Q.—Did you earn anything the first week you were there? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you earn money every week, or were there some weeks that you earned nothing? A.—I earned something every week.

Q.—What were the lowest wages you earned in a month? A.—During the last month just before I left, the lowest wages I earned were \$5 for the month.

Q.—Did you sometimes work at night? A.—Yes; I worked at night for a month and a half.

Q.—Did you work continuously—every day? A.—Every night.

Q.—What age were you? A.—I was fourteen years of age at the time.

Q.—At what hour at night did you commence to work? A.—From half-past six at night until half-past six in the morning.

Q.—Had you any time to rest during the night? A.—At first we had an hour for eating at midnight, but lately we were only allowed the time to eat.

Q.—Did you leave the factory to eat, or did you eat there? A.—We eat in the factory.

Q.—Did you get more wages for the night work than the day work? A.—We were paid more, but it amounted to the same thing. We worked at night only five nights a week. We were paid more but it came to the same thing.

Q.—But when you worked at night, did you work by day or by the job? A.—By the day.

Q.—You had to give twelve hours of work, and you worked as much in five nights as if you had worked six days? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much did you receive a night? A.—I got 50 cents a night.

Q.—Did you ever pay fines while you were at the factory? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did you pay much? A.—I paid as high as 25 cents.

Q.—Why did they impose these fines? A.—It was for work.

Q.—Did you ever pay fines during the time you worked at night? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How much did you get when you began to work? A.—When I began to work I got \$2 a week.

Q.—What age were you when you began to work? A.—I was thirteen years of age.

MICHAEL T. MURPHY, St. Hyacinthe, Superintendent of the Granite Woollen Mills, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Are you superintendent of the whole mill? A.—Yes.

Q.—Were you superintendent of the mill at the time some young women left the mill, or were discharged? A.—That is what I came here to-night to find out.

Q.—Will you answer? A.—Well, they left without anybody's orders.

Q.—What were the circumstances that induced these young women to leave, then? A.—There must have been some trouble. I cannot tell you; they left without my knowledge, and the knowledge of the overseer.

Q.—You know nothing about it? A.—I was at breakfast when they went out.

Q.—Do you know that the overseer wanted them to do more work than they were accustomed to do for the money—had he asked them to do more than they

were accustomed to do for the wages they received? A.—He asked them to do just what they were accustomed to be doing—right.

Q.—Did he ask them to do more work than they had been accustomed to do for the wages received? In other words: did he ask them to do more work without extra pay? A.—He asked them to mend the stockings that they were hired to do, and to pay them for it.

Q.—Did he ask them to do more work than they had been doing? A.—That is a question I cannot answer.

Q.—Do you know if the work he wanted them to do was work that they had not been accustomed to do, and it was on that account they left? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Can you tell us if the young women working in the mill are bound by any agreement with the firm? A.—They are, according to the rules and regulations of the firm.

Q.—Do you enter into any agreement with them when you employ them? A.—That is printed on their pass book—that is given to each one of them.

Q.—When do you give them this book? A.—When they are hired.

Q.—Are the monthly payments entered in it? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it not some weeks before employees receive these rules? A.—No; they are given every week.

Q.—You have never known an operative to work there some weeks before receiving a book? A.—Yes; I have.

Q.—Do you know if all the operatives in the factory are able to read? A.—I do not think they are.

Q.—Are the rules read to those who cannot read for themselves? A.—I cannot say.

Q.—How do you expect operatives to obey rules if they do not know what is contained in the rules? A.—It is understood when they come in that they are to work for a fortnight without receiving any pay, and that they are to give a fortnight's notice when they wish to leave, or forfeit this pay.

Q.—Is that told them when they engage to work for the mill, or do they learn that from the book? A.—That is told them when they engage.

Q.—Then, if the foreman gives the operatives more to do than they have been accustomed to do for a certain amount of money, they would be obliged to give two weeks' notice before leaving? A.—They did not give them.

Q.—I say, if the foreman wished to give them extra work for the same amount of pay than they had been receiving for a less amount of work, and they objected to do it they would have to give a fortnight's notice, and do this extra work without any extra pay before you allowed them to go? A.—I do not see what you mean.

Q.—If the foreman asked them to do more work than they had been accustomed to do in a day for the wages they were receiving, would they be required to give fourteen days' notice? A.—That is something that they are not asked to do, so I cannot answer.

Q.—Are these young women working by the day or by the piece? A.—They all work by the piece.

Q.—The young women that left, were they supposed to be working by the piece? A.—Yes.

Q.—They were working on piece-work and yet were required to give two weeks' notice? A.—Yes.

Q.—Would they be furnished with work during the whole two weeks? A.—Yes.

Q.—Supposing you did not furnish the young woman with work, would she be obliged to stay there all the same? A.—She would not be obliged to if we did not furnish her with work, but we generally furnish them with work.

Q.—When operatives go to work in a factory first, are they on day-work or

piece-work? A.—It is according to how you hire them. You hire them sometimes by the piece and sometimes by the day.

Q.—As a rule you put them on piece-work from the start. A.—Yes, that is the rule.

Q.—How can your agreement bind them when they have finished their contract. Supposing you give them fifty dozen stockings to make, how would the contract bind them when they are finished? A.—We do not give it to them that way—we give them all the work they can do.

Q.—You cannot tell us whether these young women were told to leave? A.—They were not ordered to leave at all.

Q.—Were you present when the foreman spoke to them? A.—He and I went to breakfast together, and we returned together.

Q.—Were you present when the foreman told these young women about the work? A.—I was there.

Q.—You said a little while ago that they went away while you were at breakfast, and that you did not know what was said to them? A.—I said they went while we were at breakfast. They went and took advantage while we were away.

Q.—Then you do not know whether the foreman said anything to them or not? A.—He was not there.

Q.—Can you tell for what reason the wages of the men who moulded stockings were reduced? A.—Yes, I can. We were paying more than any firm were in the Dominion of Canada or in the United States, and we could not afford it—and more than that, we will not afford it.

Q.—I did not ask you that. A man stated here on oath that they earned one dollar a day. Do you consider that extravagant wages? A.—I do when they work no more than three hours a day and get a dollar for it.

Q.—Do they have to stay in the factory for the rest of the day? A.—No, they do not.

Q.—How much do the men earn at the present rates? A.—From eighty cents to one dollar a day, they are new beginners.

Q.—How much notice do you give the operatives before you cut their wages down? A.—I went up and notified them, and they went right out.

Q.—Do you consider their contract bound them to work for lower wages than it provided for? A.—No.

Q.—Then if the operatives were given other additional work for the same rate of wages, would you not consider the contract bound them to do it? A.—No.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Can you tell us what is the amount of fines imposed upon the employees during last year throughout the factory? A.—Between twenty and twenty-five dollars.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Can you tell us what was the amount of wages confiscated for one reason or another during the year on your hands? A.—I could not.

Q.—Cannot you tell us what is the amount of wages confiscated, for one reason or another, during the year on the hands employed in your mills? I understand these young ladies did not get paid, and your boss could not tell us; and he said that you would tell what was the amount of wages confiscated from these young ladies?

A.—Two weeks' pay.

Q.—On how many was this confiscation practised? A.—On all those that left.

Q.—How much was it altogether? A.—Oh, I cannot tell you.

Q.—How many of them left your service? A.—I think it was thirteen, I would not say for sure. I never took much notice.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Were not wages confiscated that were due to those men whose wages you reduced—whose job prices you reduced? A.—Not to my knowledge.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—You have no idea what amount of money has been confiscated for wages during the year. A.—No.

Q.—Who could tell us that? A.—Our clerk could tell you—Mr. Rushton.

Q.—Did one of these young women who left, return to work, and was she promised that if she did so her wages would be paid her? A.—No.

Q.—Did one of them return to work at all? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Was she told, two or three days after, that she would not be paid her wages? A.—She was fined just the same.

Q.—Was she told, two or three days after she returned to work, that she would not be paid? A.—I could not tell you.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Those females that went away, did they do any damage, when they went away, to the firm? A.—No.

Q.—And you say there were twelve or thirteen? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then they did some damage to the Company by leaving their work? A.—

Yes.

Q.—Then how much damage would they do? A.—The value of their work, anyway, and more.

Q.—About the same damage? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it true that some of them had to lose ten to fifteen dollars, and some only two dollars? A.—I could not tell you that.

Q.—Is it true that some only lost two dollars when you paid the balance? A.—I could not tell you.

Q.—Do not you manage that department? A.—I do not do the paying.

Q.—When a girl does not do her duty, who has the telling of the clerk, to pay or not to pay them? A.—Their Overseer.

Q.—What is your duty as Superintendent of the factory, is it to see to the machinery, or to attend to the whole department? A.—To see that they have stock to go on with their work, and to see that all things are in running order. I look to my overseers for their work, and I hold them responsible for it.

Q.—Then you decide if any fine should be imposed or not. You decide if the work is well done, or if it is not well done? A.—Yes.

Q.—It is true that some girls only got two dollars reduced, while others had thirteen dollars reduced from their pay—that some had to lose the whole amount?

A.—Those that came back and worked got their pay. Those that did not come back left the whole of their pay.

Q.—Well, now, how do you explain, what made you make that difference, between one getting his own pay taken away, and one getting nothing at all? A.—Because they came back and worked their notice. They worked right along.

Q.—Then the damage was not very great, except that they did not respect the rules of the factory? A.—The damage was great, we had to teach the new hands all over again.

Q.—How long was it before you got them into the work? A.—In a few days, but it was a number of days before we could get them well into the work.

Q.—The proprietor said this afternoon, that he obtained better help than those that went away? A.—Well, perhaps we will have a better class of operatives.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—These young women that left, what might their average wages be? A.—I should say from seventy-five cents to one dollar a day. I should say they were getting that, of course our books will show.

Q.—Then they would average ten dollars a fortnight? A.—I should say so.

Q.—You say ten to thirteen persons left, and that they were owed one hundred and thirty dollars? A.—Yes. Perhaps that.

Q.—Was any fault found with their work? A.—Well, We had to find fault.

Q.—How long were any young girls, working in the room? A.—I was away for an hour.

Q.—Was any fault found previous to this difficulty? A.—Yes.

Q.—Were they told to rectify the fault? A.—A little.

Q.—But they were not told to do the same quantity as you expect from them now? A.—Well, the quantity was about the same.

Q.—But were they not asked this time to do more than they did previously? A.—No. They were not asked to do any more work, they were asked to do their work better, and that work had to go through two or three different hands.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Your pretension is that the work should be done well? A.—Yes.

Q.—And they say they did the work the same as before? A.—Yes. That is what they say.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Was any bad language used by the foreman? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—Would you be surprised to hear that there was? A.—I should be surprised to hear that there was.

Q.—Was any complaint made to you in that respect? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—How much per dozen did stocking moulders receive at the time of the reduction? A.—I could not say. we have different prices—different classes of goods.

Q.—What was paid after the reduction, was it the same price after it was reduced? A.—We did not reduce it at the time they went out.

Q.—We are speaking now of stocking moulders? A.—One and three quarter cents, three and a half cents and three and three quarter cents. One cent, two cents, and two and a half cents, are what they receive at the present time.

Q.—There has been no increase since then? A.—No.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—When you leave the factory who takes your place—when you leave the factory for a day or an hour, who takes your place? A.—Mr. Maurice Boas.

Q.—There is no one besides him, if you are both out? A.—No.

Q.—You have no other one? A.—No.

Q.—Is it not true that some of these young ladies went back a short time afterwards, and you refused to take them back? A.—I think we took back all that came back.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—On what terms did you receive them back? A.—That they should pay a fine of two dollars.

Q.—For leaving? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you pay them the back wages? A.—Yes.

Q.—You say they took advantage of you when you went to breakfast? A.—Yes.

Q.—If you had been present would you have stopped them from going out? A.—Well, I would want to know the reason. We did not want to keep them if they did

not want to work, and we should tell them if they were dissatisfied to go and get their pay.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—But you would expect them to conform to the rules of the mill? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—You would expect them to give you two weeks notice? A.—Yes. If they were dissatisfied we should tell them to serve their time and get their pay.

SAMUEL LOGOWITZ, St. Hyacinthe, Overseer in the Granite Woollen Mills,
sworn:—

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What position do you occupy in the Granite Woollen Mills? A.—I am overseer in the mending and finishing rooms, and shipping department.

Q.—Is that the factory that these young women worked in? A.—It is.

Q.—Will you tell us, please, what difficulty there was, that caused the young women to leave? A.—No; I do not remember what difficulty there was. I was proceeding to see into it, but they were gone when I came back from breakfast.

Q.—Did you give them any instructions as to the work previous to going to breakfast? A.—No.

Q.—Have you at any time given them any instructions about their work? A.—No instructions whatever; they worked as they did all along.

Q.—You had not told them to do more work, or different work? A.—No.

Q.—You did not want them to do more work for the same money? A.—No.

Q.—You do not know if anybody else did? A.—I do not see that anybody else had the right or business to do it. Furthermore, I do not know that they did.

Q.—You do not know of any cause for their leaving? A.—No.

Q.—You did not interfere in any way? A.—No; I had no interference whatever.

Q.—Did these ladies give you satisfaction previous to leaving—previous to the strike? A.—No, they did not.

Q.—What was the cause of the dissatisfaction in the room? A.—Well, I do not see that I have any right to go into the private affairs of the mill.

Q.—I think that is a fair question. What was the cause of the dissatisfaction? What was the cause of their leaving? A.—Well, the cause was, the work was not done right.

Q.—Had you passed the work? A.—Yes; I had just been engaged as overseer at the time; I was a new hand entirely.

Q.—How long previous to these young women leaving had you been in that room? A.—Probably a month or two; a month and a half.

Q.—Had you inspected their work during the month or two that you had been there? A.—No, I had not.

Q.—Had they been paid for the work done during that month? A.—Yes.

Q.—They were paid for everything they did? A.—Yes.

Q.—If the work was not done to your satisfaction, why were they paid? A.—Well, that was a mistake; it should have been done right, before. When I came there they were too lenient.

Q.—It was a case of a new broom sweeping clean, then? A.—Yes.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH BARBEAU, of St. Hyacinthe, Laborer, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Have you worked at the Granite Mills? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—For how long? A.—I worked for the space of two years and a half.

Q.—What did you do; what work did you do? A.—I began by shaping the stockings.

Q.—How much wages did you get a dozen for stockings? A.—We were engaged by the week, by the day.

Q.—What wages did you get? A.—\$1 a day.

Q.—Do you remember how many dozen you were able to do? A.—I don't remember, it depended upon whether the shaping was easy or not.

Q.—Did you ever work by the job? A.—I have worked only fifteen days by the job.

Q.—In shaping stockings? A.—Yes, sir, I engaged to do a job which did not pay me, so I left it there.

Q.—How much did they pay you a dozen? A.—They paid me at the time three cents and a half a dozen.

Q.—Were you obliged to pay fines during the time you were there? A.—No, sir, there was no rule about fines.

Q.—Is it long since you worked there? A.—A year and a half.

Q.—Did you leave without giving notice? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did you ask for your wages when leaving the factory? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Why not? A.—I thought they would be reasonable enough to give a man his wages, when they discharged him.

Q.—Was it they who discharged you? A.—Yes, they discharged me.

Q.—Did you ask for your money, when pay came? A.—My pay was not due on pay day.

Q.—Did they offer to pay you? A.—No, sir.

Q.—How much did they owe you? A.—\$20.

Q.—Did no one in the office or factory, offer you your \$20, when you left, or later on? A.—No, sir.

Q.—What did you do? A.—I went to a lawyer. First, it occurred in this way: I wanted to give notice to leave, as the work was too hard. I had three drying rooms, where the wool is dried, to attend to, the temperature was 170 degrees, and I had to do the work alone. Then the "boss" said to me, "Don't leave, when you need a man, you will have him." So I decided to stay. When I wanted help, I asked for a man, and they gave me one. This continued for two or three days, then they would not send me a man, and after that they wanted me to work in the evening. I promised to go, and I worked two or three evenings.

Q.—You were working by the day then? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did they pay you extra for night work? A.—No, sir, another evening he said, through the medium of one Beaugard, who acted as interpreter, as I could not understand English, "tell Barbeau to come and work this evening, we are going to work." I replied, that I was not able to work in the evening, that I was too tired.

Q.—When did he discharge you? A.—The next morning, when I got to the factory, and was about to commence work, he sent Mr. Beaugard to ask me why I did not come the previous evening. I told him that I was too tired with the work I was doing there, and that it was impossible for me to work in the evening. The day passed in this way. He told me if I was not able to work in the evening I might stay at home, that I might give notice.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Did you give notice? A.—Yes, sir, I gave them notice. I worked two days after having given notice, and then they wanted me to work at night, during the remainder of the time, that is, until the time of the notice had expired. I refused to do so, and they discharged me.

Q.—And you employed a lawyer to enforce payment? A.—Then I notified Mr. Boas, as he would not allow me to complete the time required by the notice, that I would go to a lawyer, and try and get my money, as I had a right to be paid. I then went to a lawyer, who told me to take a witness with me, and to notify them. I took a man with me, and I notified Mr. Boas, young Boas, Maurice, who answered that I might do as I liked.

Q.—Did he offer to pay you the \$20 that you demanded? A.—No, sir.

Q.—What did your lawyer do? A.—He put them to costs, he sued them, it went to court, I paid \$10 costs and they paid \$20 costs.

Q.—And you got nothing? A.—There remained the balance that was coming to me, but I had costs to pay.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Have you anything else to tell us about the Granite Mills? A.—No, sir.

(Translation.)

MISS CORINNE COTÉ, of St. Hyacinthe, Employee at Shoemaking, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Where do you work? A.—At Mr. Louis Coté's.

Q.—Do you work by the job or by the day? A.—By the day.

Q.—What age are you? A.—Twelve years of age.

Q.—How long have you worked there? A.—Since last spring.

Q.—Does your father work there also? A.—No.

Q.—What work do you do? A.—I do all kinds of work.

Q.—They don't compel you to work too hard? A.—No, sir.

Q.—How much do you earn a day? A.—\$1.00 a week.

Q.—How many hours do you work a day? A.—I begin at seven in the morning and finish at six at night.

Q.—Do any of your sisters work there? A.—No.

(Translation.)

MISS ROSANNA PLAMONDON, of St. Hyacinthe, Employee at Shoemaking, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Where do you work? A.—At Mr. Louis Coté's. I am fourteen years of age, and I will be fifteen on the 14th July.

Q.—How long have you been working? A.—I think about two years.

Q.—How much do you earn a week? A.—I can't say, as I work for my father.

Q.—You work with your father at Mr. Coté's? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—You help your father? A.—Yes, sir.

(Translation.)

OCTAVE DELAGE, of St. Hyacinthe, Leather Cutter, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Where do you work, and what kind of work do you do? A.—I am a leather cutter in Mr. Seguin & Lalime's factory.

Q.—What are the hours of work? A.—Ten hours and a half for the first five days of the week, and seven hours and a half for the last; and average of sixty hours a week.

Q.—Do you work by the day or by the piece? A.—By the day.

Q.—What wages do you get? A.—\$10 a week for eight months, and \$9 a week for four months of the year.

Q.—Do the other cutters earn about the same as you, or do some earn more and others less? A.—Working cutters earn about \$9 a week generally. Apprentices who are not very capable earn a little less.

Q.—Is there a system of apprenticeship—are apprentices taken? A.—A great number are taken, but they are not bound by indenture.

Q.—Do their employers bind themselves to teach their apprentices their trade thoroughly? A.—Not that I know of, sir.

Q.—What wages are given an apprentice for the first months? A.—\$1 a week.

Q.—How long a time is he paid that amount? A.—That is according to the young man's ability.

Q.—What is the sanitary condition of the factory in which you are employed? A.—It is good enough, as far as I have had any experience.

Q.—Have there been strikes or any trouble with the masters? A.—None at all.

Q.—Are the workmen, in general, on good terms with the masters? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you know whether any of the workmen own property—whether they have been able to save? A.—That is more than I can tell. I know that some of them own property, but I cannot tell exactly how many they are.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Are you bound by contract with Messrs. Seguin & Lalime? A.—By a verbal contract.

Q.—For what length of time are you bound by such contract? A month; a year? A.—A year.

Q.—When does your contract expire? A.—On the first of May.

Q.—Have you renewed the contract? A.—On the contrary, sir, I have been dismissed.

Q.—Had your dismissal anything to do with work? A.—It is because I belong to a Labour Union.

Q.—Are you sure that is the reason? A.—Yes, sir. They told me so.

Q.—Has any amount been retained for your work? A.—None whatever. They said that they were more than satisfied with my work.

Q.—Are many apprentices taken in the shoe factories of St. Hyacinthe? A.—In the department I am in, we are nine men, and twelve apprentices, but I must remark, at the same time, that some of the apprentices are more able than others.

Q.—How old are they? A.—They are different ages. Some are but 14 years old, whilst others are married men.

Q.—They are styled apprentices because they do not know their trade as well as a journeyman? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do the doors of the factory open outside or inside? A.—Inside.

Q.—How many doors are there, that give egress to the streets? A.—Two doors open on the street, but the work people, men and women, only use one door.

- Q.—But in case of fire, could you easily escape by the other door? A.—By going around the store we might be able to get out by the office door.
- Q.—Are there any fire escapes outside the factory? A.—No, sir; not that I know of.
- Q.—How many stairways from one shop to the other? A.—Only one.
- Q.—Is that staircase in a sort of tower surrounded by brick walls? A.—I believe the work people could easily escape by it.
- Q.—But if the staircase itself caught fire, or fire were anywhere near it, what then? Is the stairway in a tower surrounded by four brick walls? A.—No, sir.
- Q.—Is there only one stairway? A.—Only one stairway.
- Q.—How many workpeople are there in the factory? A.—I think there are about 200.
- Q.—How many stories high is the factory? A.—Four stories, including the basement.
- Q.—One story for offices, and three stories for workshops? A.—One story or garret, is used for storing stock, but, in summer, those that clean the boots work there.
- Q.—How many stories then, are actually used as workshops? A.—All the work is done in two stories.
- Q.—The 200 people employed in the factory, work in two stories? A.—Yes, sir; I could not swear that there are 200 people, but that is about the number.
- Q.—Have you been long a resident of St. Hyacinthe? A.—For four years. It will be four years next May.
- Q.—Have rents been raised in St. Hyacinthe during these four years? A.—Very much.
- Q.—What rent did you pay four years ago? A.—Four dollars.
- Q.—For how many rooms? A.—For four rooms.
- Q.—What cent do you pay now? A.—Five dollars and fifty cents now.
- Q.—How many rooms have you at that price? A.—Six small rooms.
- Q.—At what time of the year are leases passed, when are houses rented? A.—From the first of May to the same date next year. We are obliged to give up our houses in the month of February.
- Q.—Is the house you are in the one you intend to occupy next year? A.—No, sir. I am going to Montreal.
- Q.—Do you know what this house is to be rented at next year? A.—It is let at seven dollars a month.
- Q.—Is it let? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—What is the sanitary condition of the houses in which you have lived here, were they generally in good sanitary condition? A.—The houses are well enough.
- Q.—Do the premises connect with the sewers? A.—I think the system in St. Hyacinthe is a very bad one.
- Q.—I ask you whether the privies connect with the sewers? Are there sewers in St. Hyacinthe? A.—No, not that I know.
- Q.—How often are the privies cleaned during the year? A.—We sometimes clean them once a year. Sometimes once in two years.
- Q.—Are no complaints made on the subject? No complaints to the municipality? First of all is there a health inspector? A.—There should be one.
- Q.—Did you never see him? A.—I never saw him. I do not know him.
- Q.—Do you pay a tax of five per cent. on the rental? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—What rates do you pay? A.—Seven dollars a year.
- Q.—Do you pay the workingman's tax? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—How much is the tax? A.—One dollar a year.
- Q.—Have you a right to vote? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—As a tenant? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—Have you ever worked at night? A.—Yes, sir.
- Q.—How late? A.—Till nine o'clock.

Q.—Is work done at night better paid than day work? A.—No, sir, it is paid at the same rates.

Q.—Can a workman earning nine dollars a week live and yet put by something? A.—No misfortune must occur to him if he is to put by anything during the course of the year. I know this from experience.

Q.—Have you a large family? A.—No, sir, I have only one child.

Q.—Is there anything you would like to suggest to this Commission? A.—Nothing.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Is it an understood thing, in the factory, that no person belonging to a labor union is to be employed there? A.—No, sir, matters are not carried so far as that.

Q.—You have been discharged because you belong to a labor union? A.—Yes.

(Translation.)

MISS PHILOMENE PALARDY, of St. Hyacinthe, worker in a woollen factory, sworn:

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Where do you work now? A.—At the woollen manufactory.

Q.—In which department? A.—In the flannel department.

Q.—In the weaving? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do you work by the piece or by the day? A.—By the piece.

Q.—How long have you worked there? A.—Three years.

Q.—What wages do you get a month? A.—\$5 some weeks, and \$6 in others.

Q.—Are there regulations imposing fines? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do you sometimes work in the evening? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do they sometimes work in the evening at the factory? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Until what hour? A.—Until nine o'clock.

Q.—In which shop do they work in the evening? A.—In the upper part.

Q.—Are they men or young girls that work? A.—Both men and young girls.

Q.—Do they sometimes work all night? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Did you ever work in the evening? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they pay more for night work than for day work? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Did you work at the Granite Mills? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Were you ever fined at the Granite Mills? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Did you give notice before leaving, or did you leave without giving such notice? A.—I left without giving notice.

Q.—Did you lose what was due you? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Were you paid? A.—Yes, sir.

(Translation.)

HERMINIGILDE CASAVANT, of St. Hyacinthe, printer, sworn:—

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you own a printing office, or are you employed in one as a workman? A.—I am a workman.

Q.—Do you print a newspaper, or do you do job printing? A.—Job work, or whatever is given me to do.

Q.—How much do job printers get on books? A.—There is no difficulty about that, whether it be job printing or any other, there is a fixed yearly rate.

Q.—How much a week do you get? A.—\$7 a week. I alone.

Q.—How long a term do apprentices serve to learn their trade? A.—I never heard.

Q.—Can you state what wages are given them? A.—That is a secret matter; no one has ever found out what the amount is.

Q.—Do any of the compositors on newspapers work by the day? A.—I know nothing whatever about it. They never leave that department, and I know nothing of what they might do elsewhere.

Q.—But are those who work at newspapers journeymen? A.—Yes, they are journeymen.

Q.—Are they paid by the thousand or by the week? A.—They are paid by the week.

Q.—Are the men working at newspapers paid the same price as those who work at job printing? A.—I must first state that there are not many of us employed at job printing.

Q.—Are there any young girls among the number? A.—No, sir.

Q.—How many journeyman printers are there in the city? A.—I never looked into the matter. There are many who pretend to be journeymen printers, and others who do not; in fine, I know nothing about it.

Q.—Are you paid every week, every fortnight, or every month? —Every week.

Q.—Paid in money? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—Do you know whether there are printers who earn less than \$7 a week?

A.—Some of the apprentices.

Q.—Do any of the journeymen? A.—I know of none.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q.—Do any of the printers work both at the press and at the case? A.—That is a matter to be settled between the master and the workman. It is a clearly defined question, and one easily and satisfactorily defined between the master and the workman. We lay the matter before the master, and he settles it satisfactorily. What is your last question?

Q.—Do any of the working printers of St. Hyacinthe do pressmen's work? A.—No, sir.

(Translation.)

ALPHONSE DENIS, of St. Hyacinthe, master printer, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Do you print a newspaper? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Are you, yourself, a printer? A.—I never learned the trade.

Q.—Is there a scale of prices for printers, in St. Hyacinthe? A.—No, sir.

Q.—What is generally paid to compositors? A.—My compositors are not all equally able. To some I pay \$9 a week, others \$7, and to others again \$6 a week.

Q.—Do any of the working men work by the piece? A.—No, sir; they all work by the week.

Q.—Have you any apprentices? A.—I have two.

Q.—How long a time do they serve? A.—Three years. They are bound for three years.

Q.—Can you teach them their trade properly, in three years? A.—They are supposed to know enough of their trade at the expiration of three years, to become journeymen compositors on newspapers. They have to serve a longer time in order to become journeymen job printers.

Q.—Do you employ children or men to set the type for advertisements? A.—Men.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—They are not numerous? A.—I employ more men than children.

Q.—I mean advertisements? A.—We have no reason to complain.

Q.—Do you use stereotyped plates for the newspapers? A.—No. We sometimes use stereotyped plates for the advertisements, but not for newspaper articles.

Q.—Are the stereotyped plates used for advertisements sent from other places? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do your men work at night? A.—Sometimes.

Q.—Are they paid extra for such work? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is such work paid at the rate of day labor, or is it more? A.—At the same rate, but the work is voluntary, they are not obliged to work at night.

Q.—Do your apprentices generally remain with you after they have served their time? A.—Well, none of my apprentices have been with me three years, seeing that I have only lately started a printing office, but I was manager of *L'Union* for many years, and they generally remained with us. I may say that they all remained the first year.

Q.—What did they get for the first year? A.—\$1 a week, \$2 a week for the second year, and \$3 a week for the third year.

Q.—Is an apprentice paid a journeyman's wages the fourth year? A.—Their wages are generally increased at the rate of a dollar a week every year.

Q.—Let us suppose he remained with you 12 years, would he be paid \$12 a week? A.—I am not prepared to assert that, but there was a foreman who had been with us nearly that length of time, and he was paid \$11, \$12. He worked at job printing, and not on the newspaper.

(Translation.)

FELIX FOURNIER, of St. Hyacinthe. Leather-cutter, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—With whom are you working just now? A.—With Messrs. Séguin and Lalime.

Q.—In the cutting department? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Are you working by the day or by the piece? A.—By the day.

Q.—What wages do you get? A.—\$9 a week.

Q.—What are your hours of work? A.—Ten hours and a half a day for five days in the week, and seven hours and a half for the sixth day.

Q.—Have you constant employment? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Is there any loss of time? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do you know what is the number of licenses issued for the sale of liquor in St. Hyacinthe? A.—I think there are 17 local licenses in the town of St. Hyacinthe.

Q.—Apart from grocer's licenses? A.—Yes; apart from grocer's licenses.

Q.—Do you know what is the number of grocer's licenses? A.—I never noticed how many there are of them, but I know there are several.

Q.—Do you think there are too many licenses for the size of the city of St. Hyacinthe? A.—A great deal too many.

Q.—How many licenses, do you think, should be issued, at the utmost? A.—I think that half the present number would be quite enough.

Q.—Besides the licenses issued in St. Hyacinthe, are many issued for the surrounding parishes? A.—Each parish has two or three licenses more.

Q.—Do you believe so many licenses to be prejudicial to workingmen? A.—According to my ideas, they are the main cause of workingmen's troubles and poverty.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do you know whether any of the men in the factory where you are employed are owners of property, whether any of them have savings? A.—I am a land owner myself.

Q.—Are you an exception, or are there any others? A.—There are others.

(Translation.)

EVARISTE ROSARIO PAGÉ, of St. Hyacinthe, book-keeper, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—What is your business? A.—I am book-keeper in Messrs. Séguin & Lalime's factory?

Q.—How long have you been in your present employment? A.—Four months.

Q.—Where were you employed before that? A.—At the Granite Mills.

Q.—In what department? A.—In the packing department.

Q.—Had you access to the room in which are the carding machines? A.—Yes; I went everywhere.

Q.—Do you think the machinery is sufficiently well protected to prevent accidents? A.—I believe it is now, but I have never seen it since then.

Q.—Were you, yourself, never hurt by the machinery? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know of any one else having been lamed? A.—Yes.

Q.—Seriously hurt? A.—Yes.

HULL.

(Translation.)

JEAN OLIVIER LAFERRIÈRE, Secretary-Treasurer of the City of Hull, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Will you tell us, if you have many policemen in the city of Hull? A.—We have just seven, including the chief.

Q.—Will you tell us how much these men are paid? A.—The chief gets \$730 a year. Two are paid \$700 a year each, and four \$450 each.

Q.—Have your men to work on the roads, and to do the ordinary work of the City? A.—We have none at present, but we often employ them.

Q.—What is the lowest wages given to men who work at the roads, or at other work of the Corporation? A.—When they are employed directly by the Corporation, they are paid at the rate of \$1.25 a day.

Q.—And when they work indirectly, what is the lowest wages paid? A.—This winter we employed a contractor who undertook to do the work, connected with our Water-Works, and he paid his men 75 to 80 cents a day, perhaps as much as a dollar

Q.—Do you think if people could buy land at a reasonable price in Hull, it would advance the prosperity of the town? A.—There is no doubt about that.

Q.—How many are there in the first ward of the City that are proprietor? A.—In the most populous Ward, Ward No. 3, there are not more than ten proprietors.

Q.—Have you ever heard that three men, some tenants, who were badly treated by the proprietors? A.—Not for some years past.

Q.—But formerly, was not something of this kind done? A.—It is to my knowledge, that 12 or 15 years ago, tenants who could not strictly discharge their obligations, were illtreated, and many, to my knowledge, were ejected.

Q.—But if these lands changed hands to-morrow, and came into the possession of persons less charitable and more exacting, would not these scenes be repeated? A.—Yes, they might be, I don't exactly know under what tenure these lands are held, but the same abuses might be repeated, if the lands passed into other hands.

Q.—Can you tell us if the Corporation has bought the land on which the City of Hull is built, or are they tenants? A.—The Corporation is the proprietor of that land.

Q.—Was the land bought or given? A.—It was bought, we bought 12 lots there.

Q.—Is it long since? A.—It was in 1877, eleven years ago, or in 1876, twelve years ago.

Q.—Did you pay dearer in proportion than your neighbours, or did you get it at a cheaper rate? A.—I think we paid dearer than the usual price paid for such lots at that time.

Q.—How much a lot did you pay? A.—We paid \$10,000 for the twelve lots.

Q.—What is the size of a lot? A.—Sixty-six feet by 99. It was a good price for that time. It was on account of the twelve lots being contiguous.

Q.—Do you know if many lots were sold? A.—For a couple of years past many have been sold, particularly in Ward No. 4, where the City Hall is situated.

Q.—How much do they sell this land? Do they really sell it? A.—Yes, yes;

we can buy any lots we like in any part of the town. The price varies accordingly from \$200 to \$1000 a lot of 66 by 99 feet.

Q.—Have you water in the Town of Hull? A.—Yes, sir. Water is now supplied to 575 dwellings, and we have, besides, the main pipes of 12,000 feet in length, to which connections have not yet been made.

Q.—What is the water rate for each family? A.—The water tax is rated according to the value of the property. The lowest rate is \$2 a month, \$8 a year.

Q.—Is it to your knowledge that many workmen lose their wages in navigating to different places? Some work for companies here and lose the price of their work?

A.—It came to my knowledge last autumn that a man who had charge of a barge and carried wood from Ottawa to Whitehall, lost all his season.

Q.—Can you tell us how it occurred that he lost his wages? A.—His master, or masters, it seems, became insolvent; they were worth nothing; they displayed much ill-will towards him.

Q.—As Secretary of the City of Hull, have you anything to suggest that would benefit the working-man? A.—I do not know much about these questions. I attend exclusively to the business of my office, and I am there from eight in the morning until eight o'clock at night. I have not much knowledge of what is passing around me.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are the properties on which the workmen build their houses, in the hands of a few? A.—They are in the hands of one family—the Wright family.

Q.—Are they generally willing to give a clear deed for these properties? A.—Yes, certainly. Such is my impression. I, myself, bought, and got a clear deed.

Q.—How do you account for the workmen putting themselves in a position to be ejected from these lands? A.—Leases are given to them, which must be renewed every five years.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Do you know if, in general, the parents of the children who work in the mills require their children's work for their support? A.—A great number of parents rely upon the work of their children for their support.

Q.—Is this because the fathers are not sufficiently industrious, or because they do not earn enough? A.—I think there is much apathy on the part of fathers of families, and that is the reason they do not give their children the schooling that they could give them, and this is done with the object of profiting by their labor.

Q.—Do you know the case of the man who was ejected some years ago, of whom the witness (Dorion) spoke yesterday? A.—Yes. It occurred about ten years ago. This case occurred more likely through the stubbornness of the tenant.

Q.—Do you know why he was ejected? A.—It was, I believe, because he would not submit to the conditions of his lease. In his case, this was the principal cause of his troubles with the proprietors.

Q.—Had he lived long in his house? A.—About three or four years, I think. He had bought the house with the land. He had bought the house, I think, from the proprietor of the land on a lease for the holding of the land, an ordinary lease, and he would not fulfil the conditions of this lease. He was badly advised. The truth was that the man had not much judgment; he has been at Longue Pointe Asylum for seven or eight years. But there are more serious cases than that one. There is the case of a man named Cloutier, the case of a man named Trépanier, and of a man named Pilon. They were ejected from their houses in the middle of winter, and thrown upon the snow, without any form of law. A large number of men went forcibly to eject them—about thirty men.

Q.—Had they built the houses? A.—It was they who had built the houses. They were three neighbors, three brothers-in-law. It is difficult to explain the rea-

son. There was some ill-feeling against these three, and they went there without any legal process, or anything of the kind.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Were they good citizens, well-conducted persons? A.—They were well-conducted persons, altogether respectable, good citizens.

Q.—Did these persons get their properties later, or were they obliged to leave them. A.—I think that one of them got back his property later by paying a certain sum. It was Pilon, This occurred before the incorporation of the city. We were then a township, the old township of Hull.

(Translation.)

EMMANUEL DORION, of Hull, Chair Manufacturer, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Have you been long a resident of Hull? A.—Yes, sir; 13 or 14 years.

Q.—Have you anyone in your employ? A.—Sometimes.

Q.—Do you work for the retail, or the wholesale trade? A.—I do not work for myself, but I work in other shops, a few years ago.

Q.—Have you retired from business, or are you still in trade? A.—I do a small business, very small.

Q.—Are there furniture factories here in Hull? A.—No, sir. There are some persons make furniture by hand, but very few.

Q.—Are you acquainted with the state of the working class, in general? A.—Very little.

Q.—Do you believe that they earn enough to live comfortably? A.—Not too comfortably. There are some who have good chances, they are employed by the year, and there are others who work when they can. I speak in a general way.

Q.—Do parents generally strive to give their children an education? A.—Some of them. There are others who are a little negligent, who set their children to work a trifle young, but they are not all.

Q.—Do you think that if they did not permit them to go so young to work in factories, it would be better for the children? A.—Much better.

Q.—Do you think that it is always through necessity these young children go to work; through the poverty of their parents, or might they not in some cases, do without? A.—I think some are obliged to, they are poor enough, and they have to let their children earn something. In some cases the fathers are careless, and the mothers have to send the children out young to help the family.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Are you aware that parents are liable to a penalty who allow children under 12 years of age to go out to work? A.—They should be punished.

Q.—But do you know whether such is the case or not? A.—No, sir.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do you know whether work in factories is still done by sub-contract, whether work in the factory is given out to men who afterwards hire others to do the work? A.—Yes, sir; there are some. I cannot say whether there are any now, but I know there were last year, or a couple of years ago; at Mr. Eddy's there were foremen, and the foremen employed young children. I know of one, among others, who made wash boards, who employed young people altogether.

Q.—What were the ages of these young people? A.—10 to 12, or 14 years of age.

Q.—Are children also taken as apprentices in any line of business? A.—No, sir. I think not about here. They only hire them by the day. I think they can discharge them any Saturday. There may be cases in which they take one or two, but I do not know.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—After working two, three or four years in these factories, the children do not know how to do anything? A.—They might, if they continued, get a place, become capable, useful to the master.

Q.—But they do not learn a trade? A.—I do not call it a trade.

Q.—Do you know whether during the time you were there, many children were lamed in the mills? A.—Yes; a hand cut from time to time, or perhaps a hand cut, or a finger, or a foot.

Q.—So many, as to be noticed on the street? A.—No.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do you know if match factories are in a proper state? What is the ventilation, etc? Do you think it is as good as could be desired? A.—I cannot say.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—But, first of all, do you know the place? A.—No, I do not, for I have never visited it.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Are you acquainted with the children that work in match-factories, are complaints ever made that these children are paler than others, less healthy, anything? A.—I have never noticed. I knew young men who worked, and were obliged to leave. Two of them—brothers—are dead, and the other, the third, left because the doctor forbade him to work any longer.

Q.—How long ago did that happen; last year. A.—No, it was ten or twelve years ago. Two young men, as I said, worked there and they are dead, and the third worked there too, but the doctor forbade him to do so, saying, that if he continued to work, he would die; he left according to the doctor's orders, and became healthy and strong.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do you know whether there are many among the children in factories, who know how to read and write? A.—I cannot say.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Are the schools free or are they expensive? A.—All they are obliged to give is ten cents a month, and that they have to give whether they go or not.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Is that ten cents per family, or ten cents per child? A.—Per child. The school-tax is one dollar a year, that is, ten cents a month.

Q.—All the children are taxed? A.—The parents are obliged to pay it. A man has to pay one dollar for every child he sends.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Is there an inspector of bread here? A.—No.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—How long have you been employed in making chairs? A.—I was twenty-six years and a half, in one place; besides that I was twenty-two years at Mr. Oliver's.

Q.—Did you own property when you came to Ottawa? A.—I owned some in Lower Canada, I have none here. By Lower Canada, I mean, St. André d'Argenteuil for Hull is also in Lower Canada.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Do you think a workman can make money here? A.—Yes, if he is careful, and capable.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—How much can a workman save? A.—Some years I saved \$200, and \$300.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—In all? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q.—You worked twenty-two years for Mr. Oliver? A.—Yes.

Q.—And during the time wages were low? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many houses do you own now? A.—Six dwellings besides my own.

Q.—Do you know of any other workmen, in a similar position to yours, owning houses as you do? A.—Not many.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do you suppose that is due to want of economy? A.—I suppose so.

Q.—Are their families larger? A.—I do not think that causes the difference, for I am bringing up ten children.

(Translation.)

EDMOND ST. AMOUR, of Hull, foreman in a saw mill, sworn:—

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—How many men are under you? A.—About 50.

Q.—Do these men all earn about the same wages? A.—No; there are young men at 50 cents a day, and others at \$1.50.

Q.—What is the age of the youngest there? A.—We have not yet worked at night, only during the day. I think there are a couple about thirteen years old; the others are older.

Q.—Do you not think the work is too hard for these children? A.—I don't think so.

Q.—Would you let your own children work there if you could prevent it? A.—I provided they were under my care; provided I were there, I would let them. I have had some whom their fathers brought to me, and who were in my charge.

Q.—But do you not think it would be better for the children to have a year or two more at school, do you not think it would assure them a better position? A.—Certainly, it would be preferable, but many people have not the means to keep them at school. You sometimes see children come to work who are half-clad. They are obliged to work.

Q.—Do such poor persons belong to the place, or do they come from the country parts? A.—Two or three come from the country, but some also from other places.

Q.—Do these children, after they have worked a few years there, know any trade? A.—There is very little of a trade to be learned in a saw-mill, without they learn to file saws. Some may have a chance, but it is one, or at most two, in a hundred.

Q.—Do these people, generally, pass their lives there? A.—A part of their lives. They work there in the summer, and they go to the shanties in the winter; or, if they do not go to the shanties, they do a day's work here and there.

Q.—Have you any difficulty in procuring work people, or are there always as many as you need? A.—Sometimes, when the men begin to go up to the shanties in the fall, men become a little scarce.

Q.—And then what do you do? You take younger ones, children? A.—No, it is rarely we take children. They are men. Sometimes two or three men do the work of an extra one, or we keep a spare hand or two. It is rare that we have not a spare man, and in the fall we make him work.

Q.—Do you know that you have not the right to employ a child under 12 years of age? A.—No; but we have none under 12 years of age in our department; at least, I think not.

Q.—Do you think there are any anywhere else, either in this mill or in others? A.—I do not know much about other places. I have been a long time there, but I do not know much about anywhere else.

Q.—Generally speaking, what is the conduct of the work people? Are they sober? A.—In general, they are sober.

Q.—Have you had any "strikes," any trouble, with them? A.—Not since I am foreman there.

Q.—How long have you been there? A.—It is two years I am foreman, and I have been working there nearly eleven years.

Q.—How much a month does a workman pay for a dwelling? A.—\$4, \$5 or \$6 a month.

Q.—Is a \$5 house comfortable? A.—Yes, a \$5 house, and even a \$4 house for a poor man, is a comfortable house.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How many rooms would there be in a \$4 house? A.—I have one at \$4 which contains 4 rooms.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Is there water in your house? A.—Water is not put on everywhere yet.

Q.—In what state are the yards generally, are they kept in good order, are they clean, does the city of Hull get them emptied? A.—Yes; the inspectors see to that here.

Q.—Did you ever here say that in some factories here, in Hull, children have been ill-treated? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do any of the men, the foreman, use bad language? A.—No; I have never heard of it. It is more often the men who use bad language to the foreman. A master does not care to quarrel with his men; when he does not like a man he sends him away at once.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—You have just said that when night work begins you will employ more children? A.—More children, and men.

Q.—Is it customary to work all night during the season? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the hours of work, at night? A.—Nine hours and a half at night. We begin at 7 o'clock in the evening, and we finish at 5 o'clock in the morning, and we have half an hour at midnight.

Q.—The children are obliged to remain the whole nine hours? A.—Yes.

Q.—How old are they, generally? A.—Last summer they were generally 12 or 13 years old, the youngest was about 13.

Q.—Have you began to work? A.—Not yet.

Q.—Do you begin to-night? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do those children, who work at night, change places frequently during the season, or do they always remain the whole season? A.—Some do not lose one hour the whole season. Of course there are always some who change to go and work elsewhere, sometimes to get higher wages.

Q.—Do those children who work all night, appear robust, or do they appear less strong than the others? A.—I do not find that they look less strong than the others.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do they sleep during the day? A.—They have from 5 o'clock in the morning to 7 o'clock at night.

Q.—But do you usually see them on the streets? A.—I suppose some go on the streets, but I think they rest as well.

Q.—How much wages can they earn at night? A.—The same prices as during the day for the same places as during the day.

Q.—And how much do they earn? A.—The youngest gets 50 cents, then 75 cents, \$5 a week, \$6 a week according to their ages.

Q.—Do you know the factory law that was passed in Quebec? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do you know whether or no, it is lawful to employ children at night? A.—No; I do not.

By Mr. HELLBRONNER :—

Q.—Is the mill in which you work situated in Hull or in Ontario? A.—In Ottawa, in Ontario.

Q.—Have you an inspector of factories? A.—I do not know him.

Q.—During the two years you have been foreman you have never seen a man come to inspect the machines? A.—No, sir; I happened to have worked at night, and he may have come during the day.

Q.—Were you notified that, as foreman, you ought to have book in which were entered the ages of the children? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Were you notified that the Factory Act should be posted on the walls of the workshop? A.—No.

Q.—Last year, were you day foreman? A.—No; at night.

Q.—Are the machines in your department well guarded so as to prevent accidents? Are there guards? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have accidents ever happened? A.—Small accidents, small mishaps, and often they happened when they were not working. I have no knowledge of accidents having happened since I am there.

DENNIS CASEY, of Hull, Foreman in the Eddy Manufacturing Company's employ, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—In what department are you foreman? A.—In the match department.

Q.—How many hands are employed in your branch or department? A.—There are something about one hundred girls, in my department, and about fifteen men and twenty-five boys.

Q.—What would be the earnings of these men, working there, from the highest

to the lowest? A.—The average is about one dollar to one dollar and fifty cents per day.

Q.—Would the lowest be one dollar a day? A.—Well, the young men, of about eighteen or nineteen, get one dollar; some get a dollar and a quarter a day, and the older hands get one dollar and fifty cents a day.

Q.—The men who work in the Dipping-room, what do they receive? A.—One dollar and fifty cents.

Q.—And the girls who work in the Dipping-room? A.—Something like fifty to seventy-five cents per day.

Q.—Those who work in the Packing-room, what do they get? A.—Something like from thirty-five cents to seventy-five cents per day. It depends upon the smartness of the girls.

Q.—Those hands, you have been speaking of now, are they employed steadily, all the year round? A.—Yes, they are employed all the year round. There are times, of course, in the mid-summer, when they get a month off. Sometimes they get three or four weeks off.

Q.—What are the hours for the girls? A.—Something like seven in the morning till four, and half past four in the afternoon. They get done, generally, about that time. Those that get done at half past four, are all on piece work, and they quit work when they consider they have done a day's work. Generally they get out at about four, and the day girls, it may take them until five to finish up, it may take them from seven in the morning, till five at night.

Q.—Do all the day girls start at seven? A.—Yes; they get an hour and a half at noon, that is, they get an hour and a half for dinner, and they leave at half past eleven, and go home, and do not commence again until one o'clock.

Q.—Have they got a certain amount of work to do, and after that work is done, do they go home? A.—Yes, they generally do go. They put so much a day, and then they go out of the shop. I have known them to be done as early as half past three and four o'clock.

Q.—Have you ever had any trouble with any of your hands, in any way, that is general trouble? A.—Well, no. Of course, when they get to be unruly, we send them quietly home.

Q.—Do you have any system of fines in your establishment? A.—We never intended to impose any fines. We have occasionally imposed a fine when they have wilfully destroyed work, but we have not the last two years. We have done it, but we do not do anything of the kind now. Generally, what we do now is to send them home, to discharge them out of the shop. During the last few years, we have made alterations in our dipping and rolling rooms, so as to make it better for our hands. We have put in fans, and one thing and another, to take away the fumes, so as to make it better.

Q.—Is it the desire of the firm to do as much as possible for their hands? A.—Well, there is one thing, they do as much as possible for their hands, and they seem to spare no money to improve the premises.

Q.—What would be the age of the youngest of these hands? A.—The youngest would likely be thirteen.

Q.—Have you any younger than that? A.—Well, little ones may drop in and misrepresent their ages, but we do not make it a practice to give them a table, to themselves. They might drop in and we might not know their ages for a day or two, but as soon as we find out they were under age we would not allow them to remain in the shop.

Q.—How many do you have that are thirteen years of age? A.—Fifteen or seventeen.

Q.—What do they earn? A.—Thirty-five cents a day, some of them, and some of them a quarter a day.

Q.—Are these men who are working for a dollar and a half and a dollar and a quarter a day married? A.—Yes; all that are working now, but one are married.

Q.—How long have they been employed there? A.—I have had one party there for fifteen years. Some have been there for two or three years, and so on.

Q.—Do you know anything about the condition of the working classes in the Town of Hull, financially? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know if many of them own their own houses? A.—Yes; at least apparently. They apparently own the houses they live in. They live in what are called their own houses. Of course, some own their own houses. That is a difficult question. I cannot exactly say. It is in this way. The land itself is generally leased. A good deal of the property in Hull is leased—that is the land, but most of them own their own houses.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Do you know if these children employed in your factory can read and write?
A.—I cannot say that all of them do. Some of them can.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What hours does the man in the mixing room work? A.—From half-past seven o'clock in the morning until four o'clock in the afternoon. He sometimes gets away at four and sometimes a little later.

Q.—Is it not considered very hard on a man's health—working in that room?
A.—Well, I have one party who has been working there for the last fifteen years. Of course he is not in that room all the time—that is the mixing room.

Q.—Can you tell us what effect the continued handling of phosphorus has upon a man's health, that is to say the chemicals used for the purposes of ignition? A.—It depends upon the party working—handling it. I have known a man to be at the business more than thirty years,

Q.—We are speaking of the mixing department, the chemical department, the workman who is employed in mixing the matter which forms the igniting part of a match? A.—Yes; I may say we have one party who has been there for about fifteen years, and I do not consider that there is anything wrong with him to-day. In fact he is the same as when he went in there.

Q.—Is it true that the phosphorus attacks the teeth and also the bones, and in fact eats away the jaw? A.—It might if you work over it long enough.

Q.—Has not this sort of thing occurred in match factories? A.—I believe it has, but not much of it has occurred here, that I know of.

Q.—Is it true that the average life of a mixer in a match factory is only eight years? A.—That cannot be true.

Q.—What would be the average life, in your opinion? A.—I believe if a man took care of himself, he could stand it his life time.

Q.—What are the earning in the mixing room? A.—One dollar and seventy-five cents a day.

Q.—Do they earn as much as formerly? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it true that the man in the mixing-room worked only about four hours a day one time? A.—Well, the mixer in our establishment here always used to work, as I said before, eight hours a day.

Q.—I am speaking of four or five years ago? A.—Four or five years ago, they worked longer than they do to-day.

Q.—How many children are there working in the factory, that would be younger than thirteen years of age? A.—Something like fifteen to twenty. I could not exactly say the number.

Q.—You are not able to tell us the age of the youngest child? A.—I do not know that, but I can just now.

Q.—Do you think there are any of nine years of age? A.—There might be one drop in occasionally, but not one that works by itself.

Q.—Do these little children work the same hours as the others who are older in years? A.—Sometimes they drop in during the forenoon—the younger ones—but

they do not stop there all day. They might stop in there for two or three hours a day.

Q.—What are the earnings of the boys who made the boxes? A.—Forty-five and seventy-five cents a day.

Q.—They are on piece-work, are they not? A.—They are all on piece-work.

Q.—How many boxes does the boy have to make in a day in order to earn forty-five cents? A.—We give him something like fifty cents a thousand—five cents per hundred.

Q.—How many gross of matches does a girl have to put up in those little paper boxes, in order to make fifty cents a day? A.—Twenty-five gross.

Q.—That is the rate of two cents a gross? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you able to tell us anything about the other departments, the pail and broom departments? A.—No, I have no knowledge of the other departments at all.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Do you export any of your product? A.—Not outside the Dominion, but I have nothing to do with that branch. Mr. Mullin can tell you all about that.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have you any children employed in your department that earn about a dollar a week? A.—In fact, they earn a good deal more than that—most of them—the average earnings of most of them is from fifty-five to sixty-five cents a day in the packing department.

Q.—Have you any that earn less than thirty-five cents a day? A.—It depends. In taking on new hands they cannot earn so much the first week.

Q.—How long would a little girl be there before she would earn twenty-five cents a day, after the first week? A.—She would improve as she went on. It requires some practice to get hold of it.

Q.—How often are they paid? Are they paid weekly? A.—They are paid fortnightly.

Q.—Is any of their pay held back? A.—No.

Q.—They are paid right up? A.—Yes.

Q.—In cash? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—In the manufacture of the boxes, does it pass through a number of boys' hands? A.—Yes. The older one is the elder brother generally, and the others help him.

Q.—So that the elder brother is the boss? A.—Yes, generally, and his brothers help him to put the boxes together.

Q.—What do they generally earn? A.—He generally earns from seventy-five cents to a dollar a day.

Q.—Do they look to him for their pay, or do you engage them yourself? A.—As I say, it is generally an elder brother, but there is no rule against their having a helper. We do not ask them whom they get.

Q.—Do you employ boys who are only nine years of age? A.—Not if we know it. Of course, when they drop in there, we make it a point not to allow them in the building.

Q.—Does the boy pay his own helpers, or does the firm pay them? A.—The boy pays his own help.

Q.—He is a sort of sub-contractor? A.—He gets them to assist him.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Do you know there is a Factory Act in force, in the Province of Quebec?
A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Do you know that that law is proclaimed regulating the ages and hours of labor of children, and women in factories? A.—No. I suppose others would see about that.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Is the firm responsible for the payment of these helpers? A.—No; I do not consider it responsible, but they get paid every fortnight, and none are cheated out of their pay.

Q.—And the boys pay their helpers? A.—Yes, of course; it is like this. Two brothers work together, and both get paid together alike, and sometimes there is an older boy who takes in others to help him, and none of them are cheated out of their pay.

Q.—Are the names of the helpers on the books of the firm? A.—They are.

Q.—Well, then, the firm pays all the helpers? A.—Yes; it pays all the hands. Of course, the time is made up.

Q.—All their names are on the books? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—In case of fire, how many doors are there in the factory? A.—It is two stories high, and there are something like eight or nine doors on the lower flat. Mostly all the help work on the lower flat.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are the water closets in the department for both sexes? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are they kept in a sanitary condition? A.—Yes; there is one for men and one for women.

Q.—Is the men's in a separate part from the women's? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Can you tell us the means taken in the match factory for the purpose of ventilation? A.—The rooms are ventilated now by means of using these fans; then we have fans that draw fresh air into the room.

Q.—Is it considered a healthy business? A.—If there was anything very, very bad about it, some of us would have been dead long ago.

Q.—Could you tell us the effect it would have upon the constitution of younger children? A.—I could not tell you that.

WILLIAM H. J. GARRIOCH, of Hull, Manager for the E. P. Eddy Manufacturing Company's Sash and Door Department, sworn.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—How long have you been engaged in that department? A.—About twelve years.

Q.—At the present time, what number of men have you under your charge? A.—I have seventy-two.

Q.—Are these all joiners? A.—Joiners and laborers.

Q.—Of these how many are skilled laborers? A.—A small proportion; in fact about twenty.

Q.—Do you mean by skilled mechanics men who are thoroughly skilled in the trade? A.—Yes, who work at the bench. There are about twenty of them.

Q.—In taking boys do you take on apprentices with the intention of teaching them the trade? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you take them on with the intention of working all round—at all the machines, or do you work them up so that they will prove handy and efficient all round? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then, in taking on these hands, what wages are they paid? A.—Never less than fifty cents a day when we first take them on.

Q.—Are they put right on a machine? A.—No, some of them take the lumber away from the planer.

Q.—They are not put on to a machine before they understand its principle? A.—No, it takes three or four years before they are put on a machine.

Q.—What would the earnings of a man on the bench average? A.—From one dollar and forty cents to one dollar and seventy-five cents a day.

Q.—Would one dollar and sixty-five cents be the average? A.—That would be too much, just now. Of course, there are a number of young men working up who receive from one dollar and forty cents to one dollar and sixty cents, and so on.

Q.—Their pay is advanced as their skill increases? A.—Yes.

Q.—About how many men have you working on the shapers and planers? A.—Six.

Q.—Is that all the machine hands you have? A.—Yes, that is all the steady ones.

Q.—What wages do they receive? A.—One dollar and seventy-five cents a day.

Q.—Do they get steady work? A.—Every day.

Q.—Do they have to work over time? A.—No.

Q.—What hours do they work? A.—Ten and a half hours a day. They start at half past six in the morning, and have an hour for dinner.

Q.—That would be sixty-three hours a week? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is that their time all the year round? Do they get work all the year round? A.—Yes; all the year round.

Q.—What are the wages of the salesmen in the yard? A.—One dollar and seventy-five cents a day to two dollars a day.

Q.—They have to work, I suppose, the same number of hours? A.—They are all in connection with the department, and they work the same number of hours.

Q.—Have you anything to do with them? A.—I have nothing to do with them.

Q.—Have you ever had labor troubles in your concern? A.—No.

Q.—Have you many in your employ belonging to labour organizations? A.—Not that I know of.

Q.—How many men in your employ own their own property? A.—Well, nearly all the grown up men own their own property—the married men.

Q.—I mean their own houses? A.—Yes; that is what I mean. I suppose all these skilled hands—every one of them owns his own property.

Q.—Could you form any value or any estimate of the value of these houses? A.—No; I could not give you any idea at all.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—What class of goods do you manufacture? A.—We manufacture doors, blinds, double windows, windows and every requisite for house building, anything that requires plain lumber and building lumber of any dimension—in fact everything that is required for house building—sashes, doors, and everything.

Q.—Any outside work? A.—No; not outside work, except what can be put together in the shop.

Q.—You take no contract for buildings? A.—No.

Q.—Any boy that enters your employ, does he learn only one branch of the

trade, or does he learn several branches? A.—He learns carpentry or machine work whichever he has a taste for.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—These men own their own property, do they pay for it out of their own individual wages? A.—I should fancy so. I know of no other means.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q.—Are they likely to have obtained money, or earned money outside their wages? A.—I think not.

Q.—Have many of them got their children working around the factory? A.—There is only one that I know of. He has two boys working in the shop.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—How many apprentices have you? A.—None.

Q.—Do not you take on apprentices? A.—We do not have them. We take on the boys, we pay them a regular salary, and if they are smart, they pick it up and are paid accordingly. If they are smart, they learn their trade; otherwise, they do not.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Have the wages of good men increased during the five past years? A.—They have.

Q.—Could you tell the percentage of increase? A.—It would be a little over five per cent.

Q.—Are the houses of the working classes, in a comfortable condition, apparently? A.—Those that I know of, are.

RUGGLES WRIGHT, of Hull, Manufacturer of Cement, Brick, &c., sworn.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—How many men have you in your employ? A.—Between seventy-five and hundred.

Q.—Are these men working now, in the winter time? A.—We have about forty men, working about the kilns and quarries, and there are about thirty or thirty-five employed at the brick yard, and some are working at the farm.

Q.—Can you tell us what the quarry men earn? A.—Yes, good hands earn one dollar and fifty cents a day in the summer, but they only get one dollar in winter.

Q.—Is that quarry situated near the City? A.—Yes, well, at present, what work we are getting done, is by piece work. Last year we had most of the work done by piece work, and the men have a contract to supply it at so much the ton, at so much the foot and yard, according to quality.

Q.—The men making the cement, are they on piece work? A.—No, none of them are on piece work, except those filling the barrels and packing the cement.

Q.—What are the earnings of a man who attends the kilns? A.—Well, the fireman earn from one dollar and twenty-five cents to one dollar and a half a day. It depends of the number of kilns they have to fire, and I think there is one who gets a dollar and a half all the summer through, irrespective of the amount of work he does.

Q.—Do the same men attend the kilns night and day? A.—Well, sometimes when we are short, we get them to put in a night, but it is not very often, and they receive extra for that.

Q.—As to the men working in the brick-yard, do you manufacture bricks by machinery? A.—Yes.

Q.—What do the men get who work at the machines? A.—The men dumping the brick get two dollars a day, and the men attending the machines, last year, some got one dollar and sixty cents a day, and the man setting the brick in the kiln— one man earns two dollars and fifty cents a day, and the ones who assist him earn one dollar and fifty cents a day.

Q.—These men burn kilns too? A.—Well, they assist [the fireman in burning the kiln, when required.

Q.—How frequently do you pay your men? A.—We pay them every fortnight.

Q.—Do you pay them in cash? A.—We pay all of them in cash.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Do you ship any lime West? A.—Well, we ship as far as Brockville, and we send it up by the Canadian Pacific Railway to the North-West along the line to Algoma and Sudbury, and places like that up in the North-West—not up in the North-West, but in that direction.

Q.—Do you find the demand increasing in that direction? A.—No, it is not increasing.

Q.—Do you manufacture your own barrels? A.—No; we are not prepared to do it yet. So far, we have had to use second-hand barrels.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—When the men work extra hours, are they paid extra for it? A.—Certainly.

Q.—At the rate of day wages? A.—Sometimes they are paid extra, and sometimes they are paid day wages.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do your men have to work on Sundays? A.—Yes, sometimes we are obliged to work on Sundays.

Q.—How frequently are your men obliged to work on Sundays? A.—Well, in the summer time, at the kilns, they are obliged to work. They have to keep the kilns going continually.

Q.—They are only employed in the burning of cement at the kilns? A.—They are only employed at burning at the kilns and drawing wood in connection with it.

JAMES HENRY KERR, of Hull, postmaster, sworn.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Can you tell me of what class the greater number of depositors are in the Post Office Savings Bank of Hull as a rule—what class? A.—That is the principal depositors?

Q.—Yes. A.—The labouring classes. I do not include the mechanics.

Q.—Do the mechanics deposit money frequently? A.—Very often.

Q.—Do these depositors frequently reach the limit that the Savings Bank allows? A.—Yes; three hundred dollars. The mechanics reach it every year generally.

Q.—About what is the average amount of the labouring classes paying to the Savings Bank annually? A.—The average, I think, is from one to two hundred dollars yearly.

Q.—Are these deposits made regularly during the year, or are they made one season more frequently than another? A.—During the summer months.

Q.—Do they make these deposits during the month regularly? A.—Not very regularly; sometimes fortnightly, sometimes monthly and sometimes weekly.

Q.—Are there many female depositors? A.—Yes, a considerable number.

Q.—Do they pay their own board or live with their parents? A.—Well, some are married ladies, and they deposit for themselves; that is, in their own names. I presume it is their husband's money—that is, their husband's earnings; and they deposit it in their own names.

Q.—Are you aware that many of these depositors own property? A.—Well, as a general rule, the majority of them own their own houses.

Q.—Before you were appointed postmaster of Hull, I believe you were in the grocery business? A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you give us the cost, generally, of groceries, from 1877 to 1882? A.—Yes; I took a slight memorandum out of our books in 1877.

Q.—They will be the retail prices, will they not? A.—Yes. In September and October, 1877, bread at that time was retailing at 12 cents per loaf of four pounds; pork was 10 cents per pound; common sugar was 11 cents to 13 cents per pound; sugar that was retailed then at 11 cents per pound—that is, in 1877—is worth about $6\frac{1}{2}$ cents now, and the sugar that was retailed at that time for 13 cents a pound would be about $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 cents per pound at the present time. Tobacco was 50 to 80 cents per pound; at the present time it averages from 35 to 70 cents per pound. Tea was from 40 to 60 cents per pound; the same quality of tea averages now 35 to 40 cents per pound. Butter was 25 cents per pound; it is something of a similar price to-day. Eggs were then 16 cents a dozen. Lard was 16 cents per pound; now it is 10 cents to 12 cents; it was 16 cents a pound then. Syrup was 75 to 85 cents per gallon in 1877; it is, I think, now from 60 to 70 cents. Molasses, which cost then 40 to 50 cents per gallon, will be now about from 30 to 40 cents per gallon, to the best of my opinion. These were the only items I took down.

Q.—At that time, you were foreman over Mr. Eddy's men. Had you the hiring of those men in 1875 and 1876? A.—Yes.

Q.—What would pilers get at that time? A.—In 1875 and 1876, up to 1877?

Q.—Yes; 1875 and 1876? A.—We were paying them at that time an average of about a dollar a day.

Q.—For how many hours? A.—From six in the morning till six at night, with an hour for dinner.

Q.—Eleven hours a day? A.—Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—How much do they receive now? A.—From one dollar and twenty-five cents a day to one dollar and fifty cents a day. I think one dollar and thirty-three cents a day is the average earning.

Q.—Has the number of depositors in the Savings Bank increased during the past seven years? A.—They have increased during the past five years from 75 to 100 per cent.

Q.—And this increase is from the working classes? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many mechanics in Hull are able to deposit \$300 a year—or say, from \$200 to \$300 a year? A.—I could not say exactly, but I know several that have accounts.

Q.—Would you say what position they occupy? A.—They are principally millwrights, machinists and carpenters.

Q.—A first-class joiner, who earns \$1.75 a day in the Town of Hull, how much would he be able to deposit? A.—It is pretty hard for me to say.

Q.—Can he save \$300 in a year? A.—I do not think you could get a first-class joiner for \$1.75 a day. The average price is \$2.00 and upwards a day.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—I understand you to state positively that you know there are mechanics who deposit \$300 a year in the Post Office Savings Bank on the average? A.—There

are mechanics who put by \$300 a year in the City of Hull. Of course, I do not know what they are doing. They describe themselves as mechanics. Some of these mechanics—I may say with reference to some of them—they are small jobbers, and take contracts for themselves in building houses.

Q.—Do you know that there are men who do not build houses, and who are merely working mechanics, that save \$200 or \$300 a year? A.—Yes; there are.

(Translation.)

Miss ROSE DECHENES, of Hull, employee in a match factory, sworn.

By Mr. BOYD:—

Q.—Have you been long employed in the making of matches? A.—Seven years, I am forewoman.

Q.—What age were you when you began to work there? A.—I think I was thirteen years of age.

Q.—How much did you earn when you began to work. A.—I only earned twenty-five cents a day.

Q.—How much do you earn at present? A.—Sixty cents.

Q.—Have you many little girls in your charge? A.—I think we have about ten.

Q.—Do you mean ten in all, or ten young ones? A.—Ten young ones, I cannot say how many I have in all.

Q.—Do you know the age of the youngest little girl that works there? A.—No, I cannot tell the age of the youngest, I think she is about thirteen years of age.

Q.—This is in the packing department? A.—Yes, there are three rooms for the packers and I have to oversee these three rooms.

Q.—How much does the youngest earn a day? A.—There are some who earn 25 cents and others 40 cents.

Q.—Do you think any among them work too hard for their strength? A.—No, sir, we do not make them work too hard.

Q.—Is the building well ventilated? A.—Oh yes,

Q.—Do the young children who are there generally know how to read and write? A.—Some know how to read, but I cannot say whether the others do so or not.

Q.—Do you not think it would be better for them to go to school for a longer time than to work? A.—I think it would be better. It is their parents' wish, I think it would be better.

Q.—Is there a foreman above you? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do the foremen sometimes make improper remarks? A.—No.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Do any little boys work in the packing-room? A.—No, sir, none. There are some who come to assist their little sisters.

Q.—Is there one who is not more than nine years of age? A.—Yes, he comes to help his sister.

Q.—How long has he been there? A.—It is not long that this little boy has been there, about a month or two.

Q.—Does he come at the same hour in the morning as his sister? A.—Yes, and he leaves at noon with her.

Q.—At what hour does he arrive? A.—He comes at half-past six.

Q.—At what hour does he leave? A.—He leaves at four o'clock, half-past four at latest.

Q.—Can you tell us how much the brother and sister earn in a week? A.—By the week, I cannot say.

Q.—Or by the day? A.—They may earn, I think they do earn over 60 cents.

Q.—The two together? A.—Yes.

Q.—What age is the sister who works with him? A.—I cannot say, I think she is about fifteen or sixteen years of age, I cannot say. I never asked the sister her age.

Q.—Did the foreman, who is above you, not make any objection when that child entered the factory? A.—No, at least I did not notice it. Perhaps he spoke to him and I did not notice it.

Q.—Is it customary to allow children as young as that to come and help their sisters? A.—Yes, there are some not, perhaps, so young, not altogether so young. Sometimes they do not continue, they come one or two days and do not return, it is a long time before they return.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—When you first went there, how long did you continue to earn 25 cents?
A.—Only a month, and then I got higher wages, I received 30 or 35 cents, I think; I am not sure.

(Translation.)

MISS JULIE DORION, of Hull, Packer, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—At what hour do you begin in the morning? A.—I always arrive at a quarter past seven.

Q.—Are the others obliged to be there at half-past six? A.—Work begins at half-past six.

Q.—Are you scolded if you get there later? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you all work by the job there? A.—Yes. There are a few that work by the day, but I work by the job.

Q.—Did you hear the evidence of the last young girl given just now? A.—I did not hear much of it.

Q.—Have you any complaint to make against the manufactory or against any of its managers? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do you work until six o'clock at night? A.—No, sometimes I finish four, sometimes at five o'clock.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—At what age did you begin to work at the mill? A.—I was eleven years old.

Q.—At that time did you also commence to work at half past six o'clock in the morning? At what hour did you commence to work when you were eleven years old? A.—At the same hour.

Q.—And did you finish at the same hour? A.—I sometimes finished at four, sometimes at five o'clock.

(Translation.)

MISS MARIE DUFAUX, of Hull, Worker at Match Making, sworn.

By Mr. BOVIN:—

Q.—Do you work in the packing room? A.—No, I am in the roll department, where they put the matches in rolls.

Q.—What age were you when you began to work? A.—Fourteen years of age.

Q.—What wages did you get? A.—Thirty-five cents.

Q.—How much do you earn at present? A.—I work by the job just now. I sometimes earn forty-five cents, sometimes fifty and sometimes sixty.

Q.—Don't you think that this work is too heavy for women? A.—I don't think so.

Q.—Does it not fatigue you? A.—No, I did not notice anything since I worked there.

Q.—Have you anything to complain of in your department? A.—No.

Q.—Do you find it clean enough? A.—Yes.

Q.—Were there not some young girls in that department who became ill from the bad smell? A.—I did not notice it.

By MR. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—How much does a young girl have to pay for board at Hull? A.—Two dollars and seventy-five cents and three dollars a fortnight.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Can you get pretty good board for that? A.—Yes.

(Translation.)

MISS ADELINÉ OUMET, of Hull, worker in matches, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—What work do you do? A.—I put the matches in the boxes.

Q.—At what age did you enter the factory? A.—At fifteen years of age.

Q.—Have you anything to complain of in your department? A.—I have nothing to complain of, I am satisfied.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH VAILLANCOURT, of Hull, carpenter, sworn :—

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Where do you work? A.—I work in the sash factory.

Q.—What are your hours of work? At what hour in the morning do you begin? A.—I begin at twenty-five minutes past six.

Q.—At what hour do you take your dinner? A.—At five minutes to one. But the five minutes at noon we give back on Saturdays. We finish at half past five on Saturday.

Q.—What wages do you earn? A.—\$1.60.

Q.—Are those the largest wages, apart from the foreman's? A.—No, sir.

Q.—What are the highest wages paid? A.—I can't quite say. There are some at \$1.75, I think.

Q.—And carpenters—the common hands—what are they paid? A.—There are different prices. There are some at \$1.30. These are apprentices you may say. There are some from \$1.50; there at some at all prices.

Q.—Do young children, young boys, work there? A.—No, there are none. The young children working there are 16 or 17 years old; none under that.

Q.—Are apprentices taken there? A.—Yes, they are as I said before, at the lowest wages.

Q.—Are they indentured? A.—No. Their wages are raised every year.

Q.—From the way the factory is conducted, can a man learn his trade there? A.—Yes, sir, a man can learn his trade in a factory.

Q.—Are there many men who understand geometry, who can draw their own designs, their plans for stairways or things like that? A.—There may be two, I think.

Q.—If there were a free school, would you attend it? A.—Not I, at any rate.

Q.—But do you think that workmen, in general, would attend? A.—That is more than I can say.

Q.—Do you not think that when a man understood that by learning drawing, geometry, he could earn fifty or seventy-five cents a day more, he would be willing to attend? A.—It is very hard to say. I know that at my age, when my day is done, I am glad to rest. Perhaps if there were schools I might attend. I don't know.

Q.—Do you know whether money has been appropriated to these schools, and that you have only to ask for them to get them? A.—No, sir, I do not know.

Q.—You do not know that these schools exist and that the best workmen in Montreal are formed there? A.—No.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Have you work all the year round, or have you any slack time? A.—We have work all the year round.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Are there able workmen in your department who own houses? A.—Yes, sir, I do.

Q.—Did they acquire these houses by their savings? A.—Yes; I got my property by what I saved.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :

Q.—Do you own the land? A.—No, sir.

Q.—How is the land leased? A.—I pay \$6.25 a year.

Q.—For how many years? How many years does your lease run? A.—For five years.

Q.—It is you built the house on the land? A.—Yes.

Q.—What will you do if, at the expiration of the five years, the owner of the land refuses to lease you the land, what will you do? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Have any of your companions built houses under the same circumstances, leasing the land for five years? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know whether the owner raised the price at the end of the five years? A.—Not to my knowledge. As for myself, it is five years since I built, and he has not raised the price yet.

Q.—But is your first lease out? A.—It will end this summer.

Q.—Do you know whether others, whose leases are out, have had their rents raised? A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—Has it ever occurred that the owner has rented the land, and driven away the man who built the house? A.—That I do not know either.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—Does the Eddy Company own the land where workmen reside? A.—It does not own my house at all events, nor my land, and I know of none it does own in that way.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—But what are the conditions of your lease? By paying a certain sum, can

you become the owner of the land? A.—It is a *constitut*. I have to pay \$6.25 a year, as long as my house is there, and when I wish to buy and pay the price, I can do so. I can't say how much he wants though.

Q.—Do you know whether any of your companions have been able to buy the land on which their houses stand? A.—I think there are some.

Q.—Is it expressed in your lease that you can buy the land, or do you only suppose so? A.—I do not know how to read. I do not know if it is in my lease, but I have been told so.

Q.—Are there many in your position? A.—Yes; nearly the whole of Hull.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Have you a copy of your lease? A.—Yes.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—Do you know whether there are any contractors “jobbers,” who have not paid their men? A.—No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q.—What is the average value of the houses, owned under these conditions, that you put on these lands? A.—They are of all prices, from \$200 to \$300, and others at \$500 to \$600, and others at \$1000.

Q.—Are those at \$1000 the more numerous? A.—No.

Q.—What is the value of the most numerous class? A.—Between \$350 and \$400.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—If you do not pay every year, would they sue you? A.—That is a thing I could not say. I have always paid every year, and when we pay every year, they cannot sue us.

(Translation.)

DOMINA DUPUIS, of Hull, laborer, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—What work do you do at present? A.—I work at Eddy's.

Q.—What sort of work do you do? A.—I pile wood.

Q.—Do you work there by the job or by the day? A.—By the day.

Q.—At what hour do you begin in the morning? A.—In winter we begin at six, we finish at twelve; we recommence at one, and finish at six.

Q.—Have you constant work? A.—Almost always.

Q.—What wages do you get? A.—\$1.25 per day.

Q.—All the year round? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do the men who work at the same work as you do get the same wages? A.—I think so, I am not positively certain, but I think so.

Q.—Are there any young children that do that work? A.—No; not in the department where I am.

Q.—Do any very young boys work there? A.—Not in my department.

Q.—Do you know of any in other departments? A.—Yes; I know of some.

Q.—What is the age of the youngest? A.—I cannot tell the age of these children, they look young but I cannot tell their age.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :

Q.—Tell us about what age? A.—They are fourteen or fifteen years of age, I think, I am not certain and I swear to nothing.

Q.—Do you own the house you live in? A.—I am proprietor of my house but do not own the land.

Q.—How long is it since you built that house? A.—The house was built when I got it and I have had it five years.

Q.—Do you know whether you could buy the property if you wished? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there a clause to that effect in your lease? A.—It is not in my lease, but I already asked to buy it and they told me I might do so at anytime.

Q.—Do you know of workmen who bought houses or built houses and men afterwards turned out? A.—I remember that a man named Bergevin was turned out some years ago, but I do not know for what reason. I know it was something about his lease, but I cannot state the particulars.

Q.—Did he lose his house? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Does that man still live in town? A.—No, sir; he is crazy and is at Longue-Pointe.

Q.—He became crazy after he was put out of his home? A.—I cannot say whether that or anything else was the cause.

Q.—He became crazy afterwards? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How much did you earn a year or two ago? A.—The same wages as I get now.

Q.—And how much did you get five or six years ago? A.—I got the same wages six years ago as I get to day. I have worked nineteen years in the same concern.

Q.—How long is it since you worked for less wages? A.—About thirteen years ago I got \$1 and for the last six years I have been getting \$1.25.

HORMISDAS DUPUIS, Foreman at Eddy's, of Hull, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—How many men have you under your control? A.—From thirty-five to forty-five.

Q.—What wages do you get as Foreman? A.—Two dollars a day.

Q.—How much do the carpenters get? A.—\$1.25 a day. They are not properly speaking carpenters, they are laborers who work in wood.

Q.—Do any young children work there? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Are the hours which have already been given correct, that is from half past six in the morning, till six at night? A.—Yes, sir, with the exception of five minutes Mr. Vaillancourt, has spoken of; on account of the five minutes, we finish on Saturday at half past five.

Q.—Have you any suggestion to make to the Commission, in regard to these workmen? Have you anything to complain of, anything to suggest to ameliorate your position? A.—I have nothing to say on the subject.

Q.—Have any accidents occurred in your department? A.—One or two have occurred, I think.

Q.—Is it long since the accidents occurred? A.—I don't exactly remember three or four years ago.

Q.—Did these accidents occur through the fault of the workmen, or by a defect in the machines? A.—Not by the machines. It was caused by the negligence of the men in chaining the machine.

(Translation.)

ALPHONSE GRATTON, of Hull, carpenter, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

- Q.—Where do you work? A.—At Mr. Eddy's.
 Q.—Do you work at the bench or at the machines? A.—At the bench.
 Q.—How much do you earn? A.—One dollar and seventy-five cents.
 Q.—Have you continual work? A.—All the year round.
 Q.—Do you consider that the machinery is sufficiently protected to prevent accidents? A.—In certain places.
 Q.—Is the shop comfortable in winter? A.—Perfectly so.
 Q.—And in summer? A.—In summer also.
 Q.—What are the lowest wages paid to workmen less competent than you?
 A.—I really do not know, but I think it is \$1.35 or \$1.40.

(Translation.)

EUCHER, CARRON, of Hull, joiner, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

- Q.—What do you do? A.—I work at Mr. Eddy's as a joiner.
 Q.—You have heard the evidence of the witnesses who spoke just now. A.—
 Yes, sir.
 Q.—Was it correct? A.—Yes, according to what I myself know.
 Q.—How much do you earn a day? A.—One dollar and fifty cents.
 Q.—You have nothing to suggest? A.—No, not I; I am well treated.

(Translation.)

ARTHUR COURVILLE, of Hull, Laborer, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

- Q.—Are you proprietor of the house you live in? A.—No, sir; I am a tenant.
 Q.—Have you with you a copy of the lease that you had to sign for the property?
 A.—No, sir.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

- Q.—Would you state to the Commission what you have to suggest? A.—I
 have to say that since I was nine years of age I worked in the Eddy "concern,"
 and I am now twenty-four years old. It is about two weeks since I left there. I
 never was in confinement in my life. I worked there for twenty cents a day, and
 more than that, when I left there was money due me, and they were not just enough
 to pay me. At present I work on the other side, and I am happy; I feel as if I
 were in Paradise. Like many, I had no trade, and I was driven like a hog.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

- Q.—Did you leave without giving notice—did you give fifteen days notice? A.—
 No; I did not give any notice.

- Q.—Did you ask for your wages when you left? A.—Yes, sir; I asked for my wages.
- Q.—What did they say? A.—They said they would not give them to me.
- Q.—Why? A.—Because I had not finished; but I worked by the hundred; I worked by the job. I had not finished. I hammered and riveted the nails of our line, and they wanted me to rivet three lines—that was to kill me sooner.
- Q.—How much did you lose? A.—Six dollars.
- Q.—To whom did you make your claim? To your foreman? A.—Yes.
- Q.—How long did you work? A.—I worked in that shop seven years.
- Q.—How long is it since you left there? A.—Just three weeks ago.
- Q.—How much do you earn now? A.—I earn \$7.60 a week.
- Q.—How much more do you earn now now than formerly? About the same thing. I cannot say how much I earn, but I will give you the average. Some days I have made \$3.00, but there are other days that I had nothing to do.
- Q.—Do you work as many hours now as formerly? A.—Yes.

GEORGE CHA PAGNE, of Hull, Laborer, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

- Q.—What sort of work do you do as a laborer? A.—“*Mener un guage,*” attending to a gauge.
- Q.—At what hour do you begin to work? A.—At six o'clock.
- Q.—At what time do you finish? A.—At half past six.
- Q.—Do you know what time is allowed for diuner? A.—Three quarters of an hour.
- Q.—And do you also finish at six o'clock on Saturday? A.—Yes, sir, at six o'clock.
- Q.—Do all the hands, in all the departments work as long as that? A.—Yes just now, as there are workmen building, a new mill, and they finish at six o'clock. They commence at seven, and finish at six o'clock.
- Q.—You refer to those who work at the building? A.—Yes, to the workmen in the building.
- Q.—How much do you get for this work? A.—\$1.50 a day.
- Q.—Are there any workmen there, who get less than you? A.—There are some that get less, but those who do the same work, get the same price, but all do not do the same work.
- Q.—But what do those that help you get? A.—There are seven that get \$3 a week, \$1.25 a day.
- Q.—Was it always the rule in the factory, to work as long as that? A.—Ah! Yes.
- Q.—Have you constant work? A.—No. We work in winter during the time they required us, and when they don't want us, we dont work. The mill burned down this winter, and this gave us work.
- Q.—What is the age of the youngest boy that works there? A.—Thirteen or fourteen years of age.
- Q.—How much does he earn? A.—I can't say, I know that some earn fifty cents, and others less than that, forty cents.
- Q.—How many of these young boy work there? A.—There are about fifteen them, that work at the lathes. I don't believe they all get the same wages.
- A.—Don't you think this work is too hard for these children? A.—I think it is too hard for some of them.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Does the mill work at night? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do the young boys work at night? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the age of the boys that work at night? A.—About the age of those who work in the day time.

Q.—How much rest do they get during the night? A.— et half an hour at midnight, I believe.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q.—How many children are there of about thirteen years of age? A.—I can't say.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—What are the hours of night-work? A.—Ten hours.

Q.—From seven to six o'clock? A.—They commence at seven and finish at five o'clock.

Q.—Have any accidents occurred at the mill? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it long since? A.—Again last summer.

Q.—What occurred? A.—A little boy was caught in a shaft, and was killed.

Q.—Was he at his work? A.—I believe it was a little boy who went to see some other little boys that were working there.

Q.—Could the "shaft" be protected? A.—I think that they should surround the shaft with planks, so that the boys could not go near it.

Q.—Was the shaft on the floor? A.—No; it was about four feet or four feet and a half from the floor.

Q.—Do you know if any men have been lamed in the mill? A.—Yes; some have died from the effects of injuries; one worked at the edger, and a plank bounded back and struck him, and he died.

Q.—Did any of the children lose a hand, an arm or a leg there. A.—Not to my knowledge.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH CARRIÈRE, of Hull, Filer, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—At what hour do you begin to work? A.—Just now, I begin at 7 o'clock.

Q.—You are a saw-sharpener? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you work at that all day? A.—Yes.

Q.—At what hour do you finish? A.—Just now, we finish at 7 o'clock. Some evenings we finish before that.

Q.—How much do you get for this work? A.—\$1.75.

Q.—Is an apprentice required to become a saw-sharpener? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Are there many working at this business in the mill? A.—There are.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q.—Do they get the same wages as you? A.—There is one that gets more, he is at the head. I think he gets about \$2, I think he gets \$11 a week, but he may not get that altogether.

Q.—What are the lowest wages? A.—\$1.75 are the lowest.

By Mr. BOIVIN :—

Q.—Have you constant work? A.—Yes, all the year round.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—At what hour in the morning do the other workmen go to their work?
A.—At six o'clock.

Q.—And at what hour do they finish? A.—At a quarter past 6 in the evening.

Q.—Do you know the age of the youngest child, the youngest boy? A.—I do not know exactly the age of the youngest child, but there are some 12, 13 and 14 years of age.

Q.—Do these children work every evening? A.—Not at present, as the mills do not yet work in the evening.

By Mr. BOIVIN:

Q.—But they sometimes work in the evening in the mill? A.—It is customary for the mill to work all summer. It has not begun to work yet, it will begin on Monday next.

Q.—When the mill works in the evening, do the boys of 12 to 13 years work?
A.—Yes.

Q.—What rest do they get in the evening? A.—Half an hour.

(Translation.)

AUGUSTIN THIBEAU, of Hull, filer and saw sharpener, sworn.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Have you heard the evidence of the other witness? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you think it correct? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any complaint to make? A.—No.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Would you furnish to the Commission a copy of the lease made with those who lease lots of land? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—When will you give us a copy? A.—To-morrow.

Before me, J. O. Archambault, the undersigned notary public, for the Province of Quebec, residing in the city of Hull, in the District of Ottawa, personally came and appeared DAME MARIE LOUISA WRIGHT, of the said city of Hull, widow of the late Honorable Judge John Scott, in his lifetime of Goderich, in the Province of Ontario.

Who did and doth hereby lease for and during the term of five successive years, to be accounted from the first day of May next 1886, Aristide Thibault, of the city of Hull, in the County and District of Ottawa, in the said Province, laborer, hereto present and accepting lessee, for himself, his heirs and assigns, all that piece or parcel of land known and described according to the Official Plan and Book of Reference for Ward number three, in the said City of Hull, as Lot No. 387.

The present lease is made for and in consideration of the rent or sum of five dollars, current money of Canada, per year, which sum the said lessee binds and obliges himself, his heirs and assigns, to pay to the said lessor, his heirs and assigns, by quarterly instalments of one dollar and twenty-five cents, current money aforesaid, payable on the first day of each quarter, the first whereof to become due on the 1st August, 1886, together with all taxes or other assessments that may be imposed during the present lease on said lot and premises, including all city school taxes. It is especially understood by and between the said parties, that at the end of the present lease, if the said lessee does not accept the sum which then may be offered him by the said lessor or her representative, for the improvements or ameliorations which

he shall have then made on the said lot or premises, he shall have the right to remove the same at his own cost and expense.

In case the said Lessee, at any time, during the present lease, should fail to pay his rent or should become in arrears of his payments for the amount of one year's rent, it is agreed by and between the said parties that this lease shall then expire, and the said Lessor shall become entitled to the immediate possession of the said leased lot, and premises, with all the improvements made or to be made on the said leased lot, and premises, without any indemnity whatever for such improvements or ameliorations to the said Lessee, or his representatives, and it is further agreed between the said parties that the said Lessee shall not have the right to sub-let or assign his lease of said lot, and premises, or any part thereof, without the consent of the said Lessor. To these presents came and witnesseth Philomene Tremblay, wife of Theophile Leclair, of the said city of Hull, herein acting by and in virtue of lawful power of attorney, who, for and in consideration of the sum of \$240 in hand now paid, whereof a full and final acquittance is hereby granted, doth hereby transfer to the said Aristide Thibault, all the rights she has or may have on the sa

And for the execution of these presents, the said parties have elected at their ordinary places of residences above mentioned.

Whereof, act done and executed at the said city of Hull, in my office, on the 24th day of the month of February, in the year of our Lord 1886, under the number 4665 of my repertory, and signed by the said parties and notary, these presents having been first duly read over and explained to them in their presence.

(Signed,)

NANCY LOUISA WRIGHT,
PHILOMENE TREMBLAY,
ARISTIDE THIBAUT,
J. O. ARCHAMBAULT, N.P.

A true copy of the original hereof remaining of my record in my office.

(Signed,)

J. O. ARCHAMBAULT, N.P.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH LATULIPPE, of Hull, corder of blocks at Eddy's, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—What do you work at, and where do you work? A.—I work at Mr D'Orsonnen's at present.

Q.—What do you do? A.—I am learning the trade of painter.

Q.—Where did you work before? A.—At Mr. Eddy's and at Grier's.

Q.—What did you do at Eddy's? A.—I worked at Mr. Eddy's three or four years ago, and last year also cording blocks.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—What is your age now? A.—I will be 14 years old on the 20th May.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—What age were you when you began to work at the mill? A.—I can't say exactly, but I think I was ten years and a half or eleven years old.

—Had you worked elsewhere before? A.—No, sir.

—At what hour did you go to work in the morning? A.—At six o'clock.

—At what hour did you leave off work at night? A.—At half-past or twenty minutes past six.

- Q.—At what hour did you dine? A.—At twelve o'clock.
 Q.—At what hour did you recommence work? A.—After three-quarters of an hour.
 Q.—How much did you earn? A.—70 cents a day.
 Q.—Was your work heavy? A.—Heavy enough.
 Q.—Did you carry them in a small cart? A.—No; I carried them in my arms.
 Q.—Did you work at the mill at night? A.—No.
 Q.—Is it long since you began to chew tobacco? A.—Pretty long.

(Translation.)

PHILIPPE LALIBERTÉ, of Hull, Hotelkeeper, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Did you get a subpoena? A.—No, sir; and what I think strange is, that although I did not get a subpoena I am obliged to swear to tell nothing but the truth.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q.—Have you kept a hotel long? A.—Only two years.
 Q.—Is it at Hull? A.—Yes, sir, I have sold liquor at my place for three years.
 Q.—Do you employ men? A.—Yes.
 Q.—How much do the men earn who work for you? A.—Three-quarters of a dollar a day and dinner for good workmen, and a dollar a day for first-class workmen.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH VINCENT, of Hull, employee in a mill, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—Where do you work? A.—At Perley's.
 Q.—What department? A.—In the large mill.
 Q.—Do children work in the mill? A.—There are three or four.
 Q.—About what age are they? A.—Twelve or thirteen years of age.
 Q.—Are there some over thirteen years, up to fifteen and sixteen? A.—Yes, there are some.
 Q.—How many men over eighteen and twenty years are there who work in the department with you? A.—I think there are from forty to fifty.
 Q.—And how many children are there between the ages of twelve and fifteen years of age? A.—Not many in this mill, where the work is heavy, there are perhaps ten or twelve.
 Q.—What are the wages of those who work in your department—the highest and lowest wages? A.—The lowest wages given to the little boys is perhaps sixty cents a day, the others a dollar a day. The older ones get from nine dollars and fifty cents to ten dollars a week.
 Q.—What do the children work at? A.—They take away the wood.
 Q.—How long have you worked in that mill? A.—Eighteen years.
 Q.—How many accidents have occurred? A.—Not many in that mill.
 Q.—Did any occur lately? A.—No, there were a couple of accidents last year to the hands and fingers of some of them.

Q.—Were they children that were injured? A.—None of the children of the large mill.

Q.—Do you work at night in your department? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do children work at night? A.—We have not begun this year to work at night, but last year as many boys worked at night as in the day time.

Q.—Were the hours from seven to half-past six? A.—Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—When are the workmen paid? A.—Every fifteen days, on Wednesdays.

Q.—Are they always paid in money? A.—Yes.

Q.—And in full? A.—There are three days begun on the next month when we paid.

(Translation).

NÉRÉE DROUIN, Foreman in the Match Factory, of Hull, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—You are foreman in the box department, at Mr. Eddy's? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—How many men work in that department? A.—Only three men.

Q.—What do these men do? A.—One cuts paper, and there is another who does not work all the time. He only works at times and does all sorts of work. He cuts the stamps for the boxes.

Q.—How many children are there? A.—I have 10 or 13.

Q.—What is the age of the youngest child working in your department? A.—12 years.

Q.—You are sure there are none under 12 years of age? A.—I am certain there are none under 12 years.

Q.—They all work in couples do they not? A.—Yes; I put them that way to accustom them to work. When I take on a new man, I put him to work with one who is accustomed to the work.

Q.—What do you pay those children? A.—Those who work by the job have five cents the hundred.

Q.—And those who work by the day? A.—They get from 35 to 40 cents.

Q.—For how many hours of work? They begin at half-past six in the morning, and they have an hour and a quarter for dinner, and they finish work at a quarter to five o'clock, sometimes before that, never later than a quarter to five.

Q.—Am I to understand that when these children have made 100 boxes, they are paid five cents between the two? A.—Yes.

Q.—The two children together make 100 boxes? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you divide the money between them, or do you give it all to one? A.—We divide the work.

Q.—But how do you pay them? Do you give five cents to one of them, he having to pay the other? A.—The one that mounts the boxes, the newest one gets less than the other.

Q.—But are they paid by the establishment? A.—It is the man that makes the boxes who pays them.

Q.—In a word, there are in your workshop sub-contractors who hire help? A.—Yes, certainly. It is not they who hire them.

Q.—Who hires these children? A.—I am generally the one who places them.

Q.—You give five cents a box for so many boxes made by the one who mounts them, the most able one; this one is helped by a new hand. If the new hand does not work well, so much the worse for the other. It is he who mounts the boxes who

is obliged to lose; he gets five cents for one hundred boxes whether his assistant is capable or not? A.—Yes, certainly.

Q.—Then the fact is, that the little boy who mounts the boxes pays for the other to learn. A.—He does not pay for the other to learn.

Q.—But if the other does not work well—? A.—He gives him less; he gives him just about as much as he earns. If he makes 1,500, he gives him 500 and keeps 1,000.

Q.—When you say that these children are not hired by the establishment, do you mean that it is not the establishment that places the children there, but that they are paid by the establishment. A.—Yes, they are paid by the establishment.

Q.—Who settles the price? A.—The price is settled; they get five cents the hundred.

Q.—Five cents the hundred to him who mounts the boxes? A.—No; five cents for the two.

Q.—But who settles the price for the beginner; is it the establishment, or the one that mounts the boxes? A.—The establishment gives five cents the hundred.

Q.—For the two? A.—It gives five cents the hundred, whether they be two or three.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—But it may occur that a boy is learning, but does not understand his duties? A.—If he is not willing to learn, we do not keep him.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—It appears that the Eddy establishment places children who do not know the business with those who do, and it is these latter who pay for the others to learn. The establishment places them, and the pay is divided between them? A.—Yes.

Q.—When a child you have placed, a new hand, has learned his business, you set him to work elsewhere, and put another in his place? A.—You must understand that I do not put another one there, without first speaking to the one who has the place. I ask him if he will take him to teach, and if he does not wish to, I do not put the new there.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—They are partners? A.—They are partners as to the work, but the pay is separate.

Q.—How is the pay separate? A.—They make 1,500, and I mark 1,000 for him who mounts them, and five hundred for the other.

Q.—Then, it is you who settle the price? A.—Yes, certainly, I settle the price for the other, according to his price. I ask him, how much will you give him, and he will give him 500, or 300 or 400, according to the work he has done. I mark it as he tells me.

Q.—How many hundred boxes can a child make, who works from seven in the morning to five at night? A.—One, working alone, can make 1,700 boxes in a day.

Q.—He can put them together, and put the bottoms on? A.—He put them together, puts on the bottoms, and finishes them.

Q.—Are there many can do that? A.—No, they are rare.

Q.—Are there any, with you just now, who can make 1,800 boxes in a day? A.—Yes, sir.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—How often are they able to do so much; can they do it for a week? A.—If the stock was furnished them, they could do it for a week.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q.—Are the children's names all on the books of the "concern"? A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q.—Did you ever hear a man complain that Mr. Eddy had sent him away without paying him his wages? A.—No, not to my knowledge.

Q.—Do you know why he was sent away? A.—I know him, but I know nothing of his affairs.

(Translation.)

JOSEPH CORNEAU, of Hull, labourer, sworn.

By Mr. HELBRONNER:—

Q.—What work do you do? A.—All sorts of work. I work in the quarries, at carpenters' work, in mills, I understand all kinds of work.

Q.—Did you work lately for a contractor who failed to pay you? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Be good enough to give us the particulars of the case? A.—Two of us were in partnership last autumn and we undertook to make a canal through stone for the water works, but nothing was said about the price. Afterwards when the canal was finished they refused to settle with us. The contractor who had the job in hand tried to set our claim aside.

Q.—Did you work for the contractor himself or for the sub-contractor? A.—For the contractor himself.

Q.—Was there a difficulty about the price or did he altogether refuse to pay you? A.—He refused to pay me. He said that no price had been named and he gave what he thought sufficient for our support.

Q.—Did he pay you something? A.—Yes, sir; he gave us small sums on account, one month \$8 and another month \$15.

Q.—According to your calculation how much did he owe you? A.—The engineer estimated our work at \$1 a square foot, and according to that there was \$45.50 coming.

Q.—Were you ever paid that? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Did you ever make any claim? A.—Yes, sir. I even threatened to sue, but my means would not permit me to go to law.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q.—When did this occur? A.—We finished one job in the month of March, we had worked five months.

FRANCIS WHITE, of Hull, Journeyman Carpenter, sworn,

By Mr. CARSON:

Q.—I believe you are employed in Mr. Eddy's Sash and Door Factory? A.—Yes.

Q.—You have heard the evidence given by the other witnesses, Mr. Vaillancourt and Mr. Gratton? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you corroborate them in all they said? A.—Yes.

Q.—You would say the same thing? A.—Yes.

Q.—What wages are you paid? A.—One dollar and sixty cents a day.

Q.—Are you regularly employed all the year round? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you satisfied with your work? A.—Yes.

EDWARD MURPHY, of the Town of Hull, employed in Messrs. Eddy's Match Factory, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES —:

You mix the material in Messrs. Eddy's & Co's Match Factory—the igniting material, placed upon the ends of the matches? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long have you been employed in their works? A.—Fifteen years.

Q.—As a mixer—in the mixing department? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many hours a day do you work? A.—I work from seven in the morning, till five at night.

Q.—Are you engaged all day long, in the mixing room? A.—Pretty much so.

Q.—Do you find the phosphorous have any bad effect upon your health? A.—I have not found it to have any bad effect upon my health yet.

Q.—What wages do you receive for mixing the chemicals? A.—One dollar and seventy cents a day.

Q.—Is that the wages that have always been paid in that department? A.—I could not tell you. I have been there fifteen years.

Q.—Is that the wages that were paid four years ago? A.—In eighteen hundred and seventy-five.

Q.—Yes, four years ago? A.—Yes, in eighteen hundred and seventy-five.

ST. HYACINTHE GRANITE MILLS.

RULES AND REGULATIONS TO BE OBSERVED BY THE EMPLOYEES OF THIS FACTORY.—

1. Working hours are from 6-30 in the morning until noon, and from 12.45 until 6.30 p.m. Saturdays the factory closes at 4 p.m.

2. All the employees must be at their work punctually at the hours mentioned in rule 1, and must not leave their work before the whistle sounds, except by special permission of their overseers. Every absence no matter how short, will be deducted from their time.

3. Every employee coming late to work will be fined 1 cent for every minute lost.

4. Employees staying away from work, except in case of sickness, or by special permission of the Superintendent, will be fined from 25c to one dollar, according to the importance of their work. Cases of sickness must be reported without delay.

5. Employees who leave their places or neglect their work will be fined by their overseers from 5 to 15 cents for each offense.

6. Every employee who, from negligence or inattention, deliberately destroys or damages any machinery, article or property of the factory, shall pay the full value of such article or the cost of repair or other loss in case of machinery.

7. The overseers shall deduct the fines daily from the wages and make a proper entry on the passbook.

8. The overseers shall not engage in their departments any person dismissed for cause from any other department of the factory, without the special permission of the superintendent.

9. The wages for each month will be paid in the course of the 3rd week of the month following.

10. Every ordinary employee wishing to leave the service of the factory, must give 14 days notice, the overseers must give one month's notice for the same purpose.

11. Any employee not conducting himself or herself properly, or not obeying orders, may be fined by the overseer of the department, or dismissed immediately.

in which case, however, the wages due such employee shall not be paid before the regular pay day of the other help.

12. Persons leaving the service of the factory without serving the notice required as in rule 10, shall forfeit the arrears of pay due them so as to compensate the company for the loss which such leaving may cause.

13. Employees are forbidden to read papers or books in the factory during working hours, also to sing or talk or laugh in an unbecoming manner, or to do any other work except such as is for the benefit of the company.

14. Employees must see to it that each jet of gas which is used to give them light during work hours, is well turned out before leaving, or where such light is no more wanted, and every omission of this rule is liable to a fine of 5 cents.

15. The employees are forbidden, by a fine of 25 cents, to gather round the entrances of the factory.

16. Employees entering the mill by any door except the one set apart for their entrance, will be fined one dollar each offense.

17. Employees entering, without special permission, any of the departments which are set apart to examine and check the articles manufactured, or which are reserved for the samples, etc., are liable to a fine of one dollar for each offense.

18. No one is permitted to remain within the mill during meal hours without special permission of the overseers of the department.

19. It is strictly forbidden to smoke and to introduce matches into the buildings of the company, and it is moreover asked in the interest of the company and their own, from all persons employed here, to use at all times great prudence and to avoid all that might expose the property of the company to be destroyed by fire.

20. The overseer of each department shall be present at leaving when the work stops, and in the evening shall be the last to leave his department, so as to see that all lights are extinguished, and that the water and hose are in good order and ready in case of need.

These rules and regulations are hereby made a part of the contract between the company and every person in their employ.

L. F. MORISON,

President.

St. HYACINTHE, October, 1886.

ANALYTICAL INDEX

ARRANGED IN THE

ALPHABETICAL ORDER OF THE NAMES OF WITNESSES.

- AHEARN, ARTHUR, Secretary Quebec Steamship Company, Quebec - 855-857**
Crews for vessels cruising in the Gulf obtained in Quebec. Wages paid sailors. Duties of sailors. Men employed in Quebec during the summer. Wages. Overtime paid extra. Wages paid ship carpenters. Wages paid laborers, 855. Canadians given preference in employing crews for vessels of Company running from New York to Bermuda. Mode of engagement. Advantages of engaging crews by the season rather than by the trip. Tug boats on the St. Lawrence River on which men have to eat their meals without tables. Constancy of employment of ship laborers engaged in loading. Wages paid ship laborers. Ship laborers paid while waiting for steamers overdue, 856. Preference for old employees. Shipping Master's fees. Duties of Shipping Master, 857.
- AINSWORTH, JOB, Weaver, Sherbrooke - 1191-1193**
Has charge of Mr. Patton's woollen factory. Number of weavers employed; about two-thirds of whom are females; as well as four or five children under fifteen years of age. Wages. Hours of labor. Fines, 1191. Wages and treatment of children employed. Supply of drinking water. Means of escape in case of fire. Wages or earnings of female weavers. Sanitary condition and ventilation of the workrooms. Fines, 1192. Overtime, 1193.
- ALAIRE, THEODORE, Quebec, Leather Cutter - 1115**
Some masters employ cutters both by the day and by the job, 1115. Explains reasons why, 1115. Wages same as given by preceding witness, 1115. Thinks regular system of apprenticeship should be established, 1115. Only two cutters in my shop able to reduce or enlarge their own patterns; they know they can learn these things at School of Arts and Trades, 1115. Cutter can work eight months in year, 1115.
- ALLAN, HUGH & ANDREW, Agents of the Allan Steamship Line, Montreal 735-737**
Letter from them giving, in answer to enquiries made by the Commission, the following information regarding ship laborers employed by them at the port of Montreal, viz:—The number under contract with them during the seasons of 1886 and 1887. The number who did not receive the ten per cent. kept off their salary and the amounts so forfeited during the seasons of 1886 and 1887. The reason why these amounts were retained. The amounts retained by them from laborer's wages to cover the premium of one per cent. for insurance against accident and death, under policies with the Citizens' Insurance Company, and amounts paid to that Company for that purpose, also a letter from the Citizens' Insurance Company's manager, Mr. G. E. Hart, showing the amounts paid the Insurance Company for that purpose and the amounts paid by the Insurance Company to the assured or their families under said policies during the years 1886 and 1887. The Messrs. Allan state that no ship laborer is "obliged to work without any rest" for a longer period than ten out of the twenty-four hours; any hours longer than that being voluntary on the part of the men themselves, 735 to 737.

- ALEXANDER, CHARLES, *Confectioner, Montreal* - - - - - **251-253**
 President of the House of Industry and Refuge. Immigrants without means are a burden to the community when they come in the fall; appeal to the Government to stop that immigration, 251, 253.
- AMYOT, GEORGE E., *Corset Manufacturer, Quebec* - - - - - **810-812**
 Number of employees. Children employed. Female labor. Age of youngest girl employed. Rate of wages paid children. Piecework. Hours of labor. Wages paid women, 810. Overtime. Sanitary condition of factory. Waterclosets. Wages earned by girls. Fining of employees, 811. Reduction of wages consequent on the introduction of machinery, 812.
- ANDERSON, THOMAS, *Montreal, Railway Conductor on the Grand Trunk Railway*, **629**
 Corroborates the evidence of the last two witnesses Messrs. L. L. Peltier and E. Townsend (624), (628), 629.
- ANDERSON, CHARLES, *Moulder, Montreal* - - - - - **466-467**
 Foreign contract labor, 466. Apprenticeship system. Strikes. Arbitration. Wages, 467.
- ANDREWS, FREDERICK H., *Merchant and Secretary Board of Trade* - **803-807**
 Decrease in export business from Quebec and the causes. Falling off of square timber business. Lumber business between Canada and England, 803. Import trade of Quebec. Ship Laborers' Society. Correspondence between Council of the Board of Trade and the Ship Laborers' Society, regarding number of men to be employed loading steam vessels, 804. Danger in using steam winches in loading vessels. By-laws of Ship Laborers' Society and objections made to some of them by the Board of Trade, 805. Conferences between Board of Trade and Ship Laborers' Society respecting objectionable by-laws, 806. Loading of timber ships, 807.
- ARCOUETTE, E., *Cigarmaker, Montreal* - - - - - **82-83**
 Age and apprenticeship. Punishment and for what, 82. Fines and amount, 83.
- ARIEN, LOUIS, *Shoemaker, Quebec* - - - - - **909-910**
 Wages of men engaged in lasting department. Wages paid shoemakers. Child labor. Female labor. Sanitary condition and ventilation of boot and shoe factories in Quebec, 909. Closets improperly ventilated. Wages paid children in lasting department, 910.
- * * * Miss, *Sewer in Shoe Factory, Quebec* - - - - - **990-991**
 Number of women in her factory. Age of youngest, 990. Work by the piece. Make complete article—her work. How much paid her for a case of boots. The buttonholes. Earnings in a week. Works about three months of the year. Earnings of other women. Foreman gives out work. Good condition of factory. Work and earnings of children. Employees free to come to work when they will. Employees contented. Sewing on of buttons. Special work, 991.
- * * * Miss, *Spinster, Quebec* - - - - - **980-981**
 Fifteen; worked for Riverside Worsted Company. Discharged June 13th. Wages, three cents an hour; ten hours a day during winter. Why discharged: did not receive her regular wages. Part kept back. Men employed. Paid fortnightly, 981.
- * * * Miss, *Shoemaker, Quebec* - - - - - **982-984**
 Works by the piece in large manufactory. Stitching the silk by machine. All kinds of common work. Seventy-five cents for forty pairs of boots. The wages of little children. Factory comfortable and clean. Night winter work. Children well enough treated, 982. Thinks that the children who remain until eight p. m. get extra wages. Reason for winter night work. Danger from straps of machines. Accident in another factory. Three children work for nearly nothing. Kind and amount of work and pay. Largest wages earned by women who employ others. Age of children who black ball shoes, 983. Great deal of slack time. Able women workers net per annum, 983.

- * * * DAME, *Widow, Shoemaker, Quebec* - - - - - **984-985**
Employed in factory. Thirty-two women. Works near the machines. Pressing the silk and waxing the work. Very hard work. Earnings by the week on a waxing machine. Factory ill ventilated. Workers subject to frightful colds. Otherwise very well treated, 984. No fines, 985.
- * * * Miss, *Stitcher in Shoe Factory, Quebec* - - - - - **985-986**
An engineer has charge of engine. She works by the piece "in the straps." Different girls to different work. Hours and earnings. Two or three children. Work hard for earnings. Night hours. Liberty to eat. The little children work by the day. Factory clean, 985. Paid for extra work, 986.
- * * * Miss, *Employee in a Corset Factory, Quebec* - - - - - **986-988**
Worked at shoe stiffenings fourteen years. Forewoman. Hired the employees who were paid by the firm. Glued the leather. Number of employees at different times. Different rates of wages according to smartness. Wages of the children. Their slow increase. Bad smelling glue. Factories comfortable. Pay day. Complaints of hardness of first foreman to workpeople, 986. Sole work. Fine for defective work. Not always the worker's fault. Prices of faultless and defective soles. Profit to the employer from defective soles. Price to the employee of good soles. Fines on children for spoiling work. Reason for the imposition of fines. One employee in debt for her work, 987. Competent engineer. Glueing is dirty work. Children crippled at machines. Hours of work where women work machines by foot, 988.
- * * * Miss, *Stitcher in Shoe Factory, Quebec* - - - - - **990-99**
Does stitching. Sewing machine worked by steam. Does her piece in parts. Works by the piece. Average earnings in a week of able stitcher. Earnings of the less able. Age of youngest girl. Work of apprentices. Their earnings. They have been at school. Factory clean and comfortable. Complains of inequality of wages where work is equally hard. Come to work at the hour they please. Cause of inequality of wages. On whom the distribution of the work depends, 990.
- * * * Miss, *Forewoman Boot Factory, Quebec* - - - - - **988-989**
Slip soles and stiffenings made in factory. In department where girls work it is cold, 988. Factory required repairs. Walls of factory still unrepaired. Much suffering from the cold state of floor. Work in rubbers. Coughs. Fines. Earnings of a full week at ten hours a day. Amount paid by employees for spoilt soles. Cases of young girls who received nothing or who were in debt. No fines on children. Decent board in Quebec at \$2 a week, 989.
- * * * Mrs, *Employed at a Waxing Machine in Shoe Factory, Quebec* - - - - - **991-992**
Works by the piece. Earnings by the week. Suggests that water from the aqueduct be put up stairs instead of in basement as at present. The effect from reservoir water, 992.
- * * * Miss, *Employee in a Corset Factory, Quebec* - - - - - **992**
Worked for a year. Earnings on good days. Steam engine in factory. Her wages decreased since introduction of steam engine. Reason given by master for deduction of wages when she began to work at a machine. Her former work. Earnings of girls on steam machines more than on machines worked by foot. Condition of factory, 992.
- * * * *Cigarmaker, Montreal* - - - - - **54**
Witnessed corporal punishment as given by former witness. Cause of punishment, 54.
- * * * *Cigarmaker, Montreal* - - - - - **41-46**
Mr. ———, employed as foreman at Mr. Fortier's. Corporal punishment. How inflicted, 41. Cause of fines, 43. No reward given for good conduct, 44. Workingmen made pay for gas, 44. Treatment of workingmen and apprentices in cigar

factories in general. No Canadian tobacco used in the manufacture of cigars, 45.
Rate of wages, 46.

* * * *Tobacco Worker, Montreal* - - - - - **682-683**
Fines imposed and what for. Wages, 682. Discharged without notice. Difficult to get work in winter, 683.

* * * *Tobacco Worker, Montreal* - - - - - **679-682**
Female and child labor in tobacco factories. Hours of labor. Fines, 679, 680, 681. Wages, 680, 681. Constancy of employment, 680. Sub-contracting or the hiring of help by employees, 680, 681. Closets separate for each sex, 681. Employees who do not go home have to sit on the floor to eat their meals. Employees discharged for being Knights of Labor, 682.

* * * *Mr., Stairbuilder, Montreal* - - - - - **641-643**
Wages. Constancy of employment, 641. Not difficult at present for a first-class workman to get employment. Percentage of really competent workmen in Montreal. Benefits of technical education for apprentices. Sanitary condition of workshops in Montreal. Number of carpenters' unions in the city, 642. Carpenters of Montreal not sufficiently educated to know the benefits of organized labor. Sanitary condition of workingmen's houses in Montreal. Thinks something ought to be done by Government regarding the unsanitary condition of the homes of the working classes, 643.

* * * *Messenger, Montreal* - - - - - **618-619**
Is a messenger for the Citizens Insurance Company. Has been eight years employed in the sewing machine business. Evils of piecework among sewing machine factory employees. Wages of boys in sewing machine factories, 618. Wages of men employed in sewing machine factories. Age of children employed at piecework. Hours of labor. Girls employed in the japanning room which is very unhealthy, 619.

* * * *of Montreal, Journalist. Member of the Staff of the Montreal Daily Witness* - - - - - **603-604**
The instalment plan of selling sewing machines, organs and pianos a fraud on the public. Describes the methods of canvassing and working it. The cost of production and selling prices. The leases canvassers and agents get purchasers to sign, 603, 604. Cost prices, retail cash prices and retail credit prices of sewing machines. Placing the name of a high-priced piano on an inferior one for the purpose of selling it. How it is done, 605, 606.

* * * *Miss, Clerk in a Dye Shop, Montreal* - - - - - **593**
Hours of labor. Wages, 593.

* * * *Miss, Dressmaker, Montreal* - - - - - **592-593**
Is engaged as a clerk in a millinery shop. Hours of labor. Wages. Hours of labor of dressmakers, 592-593.

* * * *Gateman, Grand Trunk Railway, Montreal* - - - - - **427-428**
Works twelve hours a day all the week long, and every other Sunday. Gets eighty-five cents per day. Other gatemen receive more, having harder work to perform. Two men at each crossing. Every week change from day work to night work. Is insured in class 2D of Grand Trunk Provident Society for \$750, and pays an average of one dollar a month. Is paid on the twelfth of each month. The man at Richmond street crossing, attending the two switches and three semaphores, receives \$1.10 a day; in the yard, for same work, would receive \$45 per month. Has to pay five cents per death of all men who die in all the classes, but per death of a member of his class fifteen cents. His work has increased but not his pay, 427. Does not know how he would do if he was married, 428.

* * * *Miss, Employee Match Factory, St. Romuald* - - - - - **1147**
Corroborated evidence of last witness, 1147. Age and rate of wages of girls working in factory. Punishment of boys, cause. No fines, 1147.

- * * * Miss, *Employee Match Factory, St. Romuald* - - - **1145-1146**
 Length of time at work, and rate of wages earned, 1145. Number of girls employed
 at the same wages, and hours of work, 1145. Factory cold, from different causes,
 1145. Fines imposed, and for what reasons, 1146. Punishments, cause, 1146. No work
 on feast days, 1146.
- * * * Miss, *St. Romuald, Employee in Match Factory* - - - **1148**
 Statements of last witness correct, 1148. Works by the piece, 1148. Complaint of
 not air enough, 1148.
- * * * Miss, *Employee Match Factory, St. Romuald* - - - **1147-1148**
 Corroborated evidence of two last witnesses, 1147. Complaint of working over time,
 and not allowed, 1148. Rate of wages and hours of work, 1148.
- * * * *Quebec, Labourer* - - - - - **1139**
 Working on board ferry steamer, 1139. Rate of wages, hours of labour, 1139.
 Length of time of service, 1139. Wages supplemented by wife's help, 1139. Danger
 attending the work, 1139. Sleeping accommodation very poor, cause, 1139.
- * * * Miss, *Quebec, Employee Woollen Factory* - - - - - **1122**
 Corroborates former witness, 1122. Work too hard. Nature of work. Working
 hours, 1122. Wages, rate of, etc., 1122. Feast days, working on, 1122. Children
 ill-treated, 1122.
- * * * *Machinist, Montreal* - - - - - **271-278**
 Works at the Hochelaga Mill; there are about 1,100 hands there, 500 of whom are
 men, as many women, and the balance children, several of whom are ten years old.
 The salary of the latter averages 25 cents a day; that of the girls from 75 to 80 cents;
 most of the latter work by the piece. Men earn from 80 cents to a dollar, but some
 receive as little as 60 cents. The average time is sixty hours a week; sometimes
 they work thirteen hours a day,—children and all, 271. Children barefooted in the
 factory; hands imported from the Saguenay district; one week always in arrear for
 payment; company does not redeem the pledges given to the Saguenay hands, 272.
 Never saw any one beating a child, but heard of it; about fines for dropping a tub
 on the floor, or using paper to curl the hair, or making bad work with bad material;
 injustice of those fines, 273. Hours of labour from 6.25 a.m. to 6.25 p.m., with forty-
 five minutes for lunch at noon; on extra days, work till 9 p.m. for children and
 adults; no time for supper, 274. No night schools for the children; Montreal fam-
 ilies, replaced by Saguenay people, immigrate to the United States, 277. Copy of an
 engagement with the company; girls discharged for refusing to work on holy days,
 and their wages confiscated, 277.
- ARTIZANS' DWELLING HOUSE COMPANY, Montreal - - - - - **733**
 Copy of their Rules and Requirements, 733.
- BABB, GEORGE, *Ore-dresser, employed by the Oxford Copper and Sulphur*
Company, Capelton - - - - - **1253-1255**
 Wages. Constancy of employment, 1253. Pay-days. Sick and Accident Association.
 Accidents. Rents of houses owned by the Company. Possibility of saving money out
 of his earnings, 1254. Accidents. School fees. Night school. Wages. Price of fuel,
 1255.
- BACHAND, GEORGIANA, *Knitting Factory employee, St. Hyacinthe* - - - **1296-1297**
 Works at the Granite Mills. Did work by the job, but now works by the day. Wages.
 Fines, 1296. Left because of the reduction of wages, and was refused payment of
 wages due her on that account, 1297.
- BAILLE, JOHN, *Manager of the Oilcloth Company, Montreal* - - - - - **577-578**
 Number of men and boys employed. Wages. Hours of labour. Where the raw materials
 are procured. Where the designs are procured. Salary of a first-class floor oilcloth
 designer in England. Does not pay to do block-cutting here, therefore it is all done
 in the United States and England. Hand-printing by piecework. Machinery not
 dangerous, 577. Accidents, 577-578.

- BALDON, THOMAS J., Paymaster at Ives & Co., Montreal** - - - - - **500-502**
 Explanation regarding the statement that men were "docked" each pay day. Benefit society or insurance scheme. Healthiness of moulders. Wages of moulders. Laborers do work the moulders refused to do: wages they make at it, 500. Boys employed, their age and occupation. His method of paying the men outside and his reasons for it. Earning of laboring men who do certain kinds of moulding, 501. Ventilation and sanitary condition of the moulding shops. Location and condition of the closets. Temperature of the moulding shops, 502.
- BARBEAU, JOSEPH, Laborer, St. Hyacinthe** - - - - - **1326-1327**
 Worked for two years and a half at the Granite woollen mills. Wages he earned. Piece work. Fines. Left without giving notice. Reasons why he thus left. Did not get the balance of his wages till he sued for it, 1326. How the law suit ended, 1327.
- BARBEAU, JEAN JOSEPH, Contractor and Roofer, Quebec** - - - - - **908**
 Number of employees. Wages of slaters. Constancy of employment. Accidents to roofers. Hours of labor. Wages of roofers in felt and paper, 908.
- BARCLAY, CAPT. JOHN, Marine Superintendent Allan Line Steamship Co., Montreal** - - - - - **167-171**
 Loading of cattle on steamers. Space of cattle stalls. Mortality of cattle, 167. Duty of Government Inspector. Loss of cattle from Montreal to Sorel. Loading of freight. Rate of wages, 168. Meals served to night gangs. Loading regulated by "Plimsoll" mark. Selection of men in loading grain. Signing of contract by employees, 169. Shippers of cattle consulted before loading. Number of men employed by Allan Line. Sunday labour. Accident and its cause, 170. Overtime work, 171.
- BARCLAY, CAPT., Allan Steamship Co., Montreal (re-called)** - - - - - **200-201**
 Statement with regard to year, 200. Hulls of steamers. Inspected in England. Rules for discharging vessel. Men sent to Quebec paid full time, 201.
- BARON, ALBERT, Carpenter and Caulker, Levis** - - - - - **1138**
 Caulkers' wages. Number of men employed on board ships. Length of time employed. Amount earned in a year. Number of men employed at Mr. Davis. Their rate of wages, 1138.
- BAUMGARTEN, ALFRED, Manager for the St. Lawrence Sugar Refinery Co., Montreal** - - - - - **620-622**
 Number of men the Company employs. Wages. Company started since the inauguration of the National Policy, 620. Beet sugar. How to ascertain the sweetening power of sugar. Constancy of employment. Hours of labor. Possibility of exporting refined sugar. Sunday work. Night work, 621. The use of muriate of tin in refining sugar, 622.
- BLAIS, A., Tanner, Quebec** - - - - - **913-914**
 Complains of hardness of work, 913. Complaints against the foreman, 914.
- BEATTY, JOHN, Printer, Montreal** - - - - - **355-361**
 Superintendent of the Witness office; employs 55 journeymen printers and six apprentices; has 34 compositors on the paper; type-setters paid according to their work; the ordinary type-setter gets 25 cents per 1,000 ems; others get 27, 28 and 30 cents, 355. Employs 15 girls setting type; they get from 15 to 24 cents per thousand. The fat matter goes to the men who take charge of the stones; then they make about \$16 a week; advertisements reserved for week hands, 356. His objections to the indentured boys; good sanitary condition of the place; they have canary birds and 200 plants; in the job office, has 10 job hands; they earn from \$9 to \$12; competition very hard with places which work on Saturday afternoons, 357. Had a strike 16 years ago and that was the cause of his engaging girls; his reasons for giving advertisements to week hands, 359. Complains of public schools where pupils freeze on the sidewalk, waiting for the doors to be opened, 360.

- BEAUDOIN, GEORGE, Moulder, Quebec** - - - - - **899-902**
 Piece work, 899. Wages. Hours of labor. Wages from 1879 to 1884. Since 1884 the hours of labor have increased and wages decreased. Constancy of employment. Not so many moulders in Quebec now as there were previous to 1884, 900. Price of stoves same as it was in 1884. Moulders' wages in Levis ten per cent. higher than in Quebec. Constancy of employment in Levis. Pay days in Quebec. Sanitary condition of moulding shops. Apprentices. Workmen's dwellings and rents thereof. Cost of living. Does not know any moulders who own their own houses, they cannot save anything to buy property. Wages of moulders who work by the day. Law required to ensure more comfort in foundry, 901. Cost of living and rents in Levis, 902.
- BEAULIEU, STANISLAS, Ship laborer, President Levis Section, Levis** - - - **1132**
 Have letter from Board of Trade, "Contents, etc.," 1132. Society at Levis and Quebec same, 1132. Same prices, 1132. Number of members of Society, etc., 1132. Average wages. Kind of work done, 1132. Kind of work done in winter, 1132.
- BEAUMONT, C., Carter, Quebec** - - - - - **1043-1044**
 Approves Shea's testimony. The Richelieu Company give "busses" leave to stand on their wharves. Carriages always behind. The "busses" stand on land belonging to Railway Company, 1043. Case of a lost fare. No redress from police. Law to protect carters exists in Montreal and other cities. Complaint against transfer omnibusses, 1044.
- BEAUREGARD, CHARLES, Shoemaker, Sherbrooke** - - - - - **1234**
 Wages of shoemakers he employs. Hours of labor. Overtime, 1234.
- BECKETT, ROBERT A., Ice Merchant, Montreal** - - - - - **671**
 Number of men he employs cutting ice, and wages he pays them. Hours of labor. Wages of ice-drivers; accidents to ice-cutters, 671.
- BECKETT, THOMAS, of firm of Dobell, Beckett & Co., Merchants and Exporters, Quebec** - - - - - **880-887**
 Difficulty between Ship-Laborers' Society and lumber export houses regarding certain by-laws of the Association. Objects to number of hours of labor of Quebec ship-laborers. Reasons. Relates effect of arbitrary rules of Ship-Laborers' Society on trade of the port, instances case of vessel "Frederick," where lumber was sent from Quebec to Montreal simply to be loaded. He argues that use of steam winches is not any more dangerous in Quebec than in other places where used, 881. He describes how steamships can save money by loading and unloading at Montreal instead of Quebec. Ship-Laborers' Society responsible for much of trade leaving Quebec, 882. Class of labor he employs. Accidents to men loading lumber. Loading of square timber. Time lost by ship-laborers, 883. Ship-laborers not paid while waiting for vessels to load. Gangs required to load an ocean vessel. Wages of ship-laborers not extortionate. Loading of mixed cargoes, 884. Decrease in square timber business at Quebec and causes thereof. Holidays, men allowed to knock off work on all holidays. Trouble over number of men employed loading the vessel Frederick. Causes of the trouble, 885-886. Tips paid to stevedores and captains by merchants. Reasons why ship-laborers object to ships being loaded by their crews. A better understanding between merchants and Ship-Laborers' Society regarding handling of mixed cargoes would increase number of vessels chartered. He is in favor of captains and stevedores deciding on number of men necessary to load a ship. Vessels refuse to come to Quebec owing to difficulty in loading and unloading caused by rules of Ship-Laborers' Society, 886. Believes ship-laborers employed in loading square timber should be well paid because of the skill required in the work, 887.
- BECKINGHAM, JOHN, Captain Salvage Department of Fire Brigade, Montreal** - - - - - **690-695**
 Number of hours firemen are on duty. Firemen unable to spend any night at home

unless occasionally by permission of the Chief, 690. Difference between the duties and pay of guardians of stations and ordinary firemen. Benevolent Association for firemen in Montreal and qualifications necessary to join it. Sleeping accommodation at fire stations, 691. Supply of bedding at fire stations. Rate of wages paid to Montreal Brigade 25 per cent. less than in Toronto and 50 per cent. less than in New York and Boston. Supply of clothing insufficient. Smallness of the Montreal Brigade as compared with Toronto, 692. Method of appointing firemen in Montreal. Meal hours. Number of firemen wounded and killed while on duty, 693. Advisability of furnishing firemen with plans of large buildings showing exits to aid them in case of fire. Pay days, 694. Insurance policies on lives of firemen kept up by the Corporation. Assistance rendered by the city to firemen disabled at fires, 695.

BELANGER, P., *Master Joiner, Quebec* - - - - -

996-997

Differs from Boivin in the wages he pays. The wages he pays in summer and winter. Man worth less in winter because he works less. Reason why shops kept warm enough. Apprentice. Number of men he employs. Paid fortnightly in cash. Rates and hours in summer and winter, 996. Why men often better paid than contractor, 996. How contractors are often badly paid. The law protecting the workman's wages in Quebec and United States. Bill prepared by the Contractors' Society of Montreal. Clause in it upholding *bailleur du fonds*. Witness suggests that the proprietor lending on house under construction should see that he who builds pays the workmen, 997.

BELANGER, VINCENT, *Plasterer, Montreal* - - - - -

247-248

Wages of plasterers in the city. Ten hours a day in summer. Work slack in April, May and June. Twenty-five cents an hour in daytime; thirty-five at night; \$1.25 for setting laths, 247. Wages of *manœuvres*, 248.

BELANGER, W., *Labourer, St. Romuald* - - - - -

1142-1143

Match boxes for Match Factory. Hours of work and rate of wages. No fans for removing dust. Number of girls employed and their ages, 1142. Number of boys and their ages. Room in which they work comfortable. No punishment to his knowledge. Machines dangerous for children. Accidents sometimes happen. Wheeling blocks hard work for children. No change of work, 1143.

BELCOURT, FERDINAND NAPOLÉON, *Secretary and Director of "La Canadienne" Assurance Company* - - - - -

719

Monthly paying system on accident assurance policies for workingmen. Workings of "La Canadienne" Association, 719.

BENJAMIN, HENRY, *Quarry Owner, Montreal* - - - - -

541-542

Owens and works limestone quarries near St. Johns and marble quarries near Philipsburg. Varieties and quality of the marble he produces, 541. Marbles found in his Philipsburg quarries compared with Italian marble, 542.

BENOIT, OLIVIER DAVID, *Boot & Shoe Maker, Montreal* - - - - -

364-369

Wages in his trade, lowered from 15 to 20 per cent. in the past ten years. Apprentices do not learn how to make a shoe or boot, but only certain pieces, there are few shoemakers now a day who can make a shoe, owing to machines; hence wages were lowered, 364. Moreover one machine takes the place of six men; goods may be cheaper, but workmanship inferior; but as a rule, old prices are maintained; a shoe may be made as cheaply by hand as by machinery; but the latter being equivalent to 20 men, throws the hand shoemaker upon the street; hours of work in a shoe factory, ten hours and a half; closing on Saturdays at 3 o'clock; salaries for men, from \$7 to \$8; and for girls, in the upper department, from \$3 to \$4.50; of weekly payments on Saturdays at 3 o'clock, for week ending on Friday evening, 365. But on a ladder outside for 300 hands, 366. Workmen doing the pegging and sewing by machinery get \$10 and \$12 a week; those who work by the case of 60 pairs of shoes, average from \$1.50 to \$2.75; but for the Goodyear welt, men make \$3.50 to \$4

per case, a man will make three or four cases a week; men working by the piece lose much of their time, waiting for work, sometimes the whole day; but they have to go to the factory at the same hour; in certain departments they lose 30 hours a week, 367. Abuses of the *team-runner* system; he works five hours and clears \$20 a week; his second works nine hours, and gets \$3. The workman has above his head the *team-runner*, the foreman, the manager and the employer, to enslave him; damaged goods raffled for among the workmen, 368.

BERTHAUME, L., *Boatman, Quebec* - - - - - **954-955**

Percentage of pay left with employer, when repaid to boatmen, average of boatmen's earnings. Higher average in time of Bargemen's Society. Bargemen required to replace broken boathooks, handles, oars and hooks, but the "concern" for whom they work furnish these in spring. Delays. Case of the *Lake Huron*. Time spent in cleaning, painting and caulking boats without pay, 954. Signing agreement is signing bargeman's own condemnation. Complaints disregarded by agent, 955.

BAILLARGÉ, CHAS., *Quebec, City Surveyor* - - - - - **1109-1110**

Laborers working for Corporation of Quebec, wages rate of	1109
Carters " " " " " "	1109
Carpenters " " " " " "	1109
How paid.....	1109
Pay sometimes delayed.....	1109
Sanitary condition of City.....	1110

BIBAUD, O., of 56½, *Montcalm Street, Montreal* - - - - - **731**

Letter from him regarding alleged irregularation in assessment for, and collection of water rates, 731.

BELLINGSLEY, FREDRICK, of the firm of *John Burstall & Co., merchants, Quebec* - - - - - **887-892**

Difference in cost of loading lumber at Quebec and Montreal. Reasons why Ship Laborers' Society is an impediment to loading lumber at Quebec. If steam winches were used at Quebec no lumber taken out of forests near Quebec would be sent to Montreal to be loaded. Reasons why ocean vessels have to visit Montreal, 888. Loss of trade to Quebec due to action of Ship Laborers' Society. Lumber loaded quicker in Montreal than in Quebec. Thinks it a hardship to merchants that ship laborers at Quebec, only work eight hours a day, reasons why, 889. Deepening of channel between Montreal and Quebec has been one of the reasons of exodus of trade from Quebec to Montreal, but not principal reason, principal reason was action of ship laborers at Quebec. Refusal of ship laborers to allow his firm to use steam winches to hoist oak timber on board steamer, result was steamer had to go to Montreal to be loaded. Overtime employers sometimes work eight days and a half a week. Constancy of employment. Earnings in six months, 890. Complains of certain rules of Ship Laborers' Society and says action of that society renders it necessary for his firm to spend \$5,000 in wages at Montreal, which could just as well be spent at Quebec. Possibility of settling dispute between Ship Laborers' Society and merchants by arbitration, 891. He thinks there is a desire on the part of a majority of the members of the Ship Laborers' Society to have obnoxious rules rescinded, 892.

BILODEAUX, IGNACE, *Stonecutter, Quebec* - - - - - **852-853**

Rate of wages paid stonecutters. Rate of wages paid marble polishers. Condition of shops where marble polishing is done. Apprentices system. Wages paid apprentices, 852. Competition with stonecutters in St. Albans. Imported stone from United States, 853.

BILODEAU, S., *Dry Goods Clerk, Quebec* - - - - - **1093**

Corroborates preceding witness. Sanitary condition of store. Time for meals. Make women's clothing, 1093.

- BLACK, JAMES F. D., *City Treasurer, Montreal* - - - - **218-222**
Documents in regard to houses 31 to 33 on DeSalaberry street, 219-221. About water rates and delays for their payment, 222.
- BLANCHET, JEAN-BAPTISTE, *Blacksmith, Montreal* - - - - **510-511**
Number of blacksmiths employed at the Reformatory. How the Reformatory School boys are taught the trade. Wages of the blacksmiths employed, 510, 511.
- BLAIS, ALEXANDER, *Dry Goods Clerk, Quebec* - - - - **1096**
Rate of wages. Sanitary condition of store. Working hours. Nature of work, 1096.
- BLANCHETTE, MISS ALPHONSIME, *of St. Hyacinthe, Employed in the Knitting Factory* - - - - **1284-1285**
Piecework at the "Granite Mills." Wages. Pay days. Hours of labor. Refused to pay her wages after dismissing her without notice, 1284. Overtime, 1285.
- BLUE, JOHN, *Superintendent of the Oxford Mine, Capleton, P. Q.* - - - - **1247-1250**
The mine is owned by the "Oxford Copper and Sulphur Company," the members of which company are New Yorkers. Number of men and boys employed. Wages or average earnings of miners. Hours of labor. Wages of laborers. Sick and Accident Association among the miners, 1247. Accidents, 1247, 1248. Hours of labor and constancy of employment, 1248. No boys work in the mine. Accident five years ago and how it occurred. The company furnishes a school and a certificated English teacher. About sixty or seventy children attend the school. Discipline in and about the mine. Ore all shipped to the United States. Reasons why the company discontinued smelting at the mine. Wages of boys, 1249. Work in the mine is done by contract. Method of measuring the work. Wages now and five years ago compared. Method by which men enter and leave the mine, 1250.
- BLUE, W., *Dry Goods Merchant, Sherbrooke* - - - - **1170-1171**
Merchant tailor. Employees work outside and are responsible for wages. Work mostly done by women. Wages vary according to circumstances. Examination of work. Work if spoiled not employed again. Sanitary arrangements in good condition, 1170. Hands employed paid every week. No truck system, 1171.
- BOAS, FEODOR, *Merchant and Manufacturer of St. Hyacinthe and Montreal* - - - - **1308-1311**
Describes the cause of the difficulty with the employees at the "Granite Knitting Mill," of which he is selling agent and principal shareholder, 1309-1310. Fining of employees, 1310.
- BOAS, MAURICE, *Manager of the "Granite Woollen Mills" St. Hyacinthe.* **1298-1308**
Number of people employed. Identifies a copy of the Rules by which the employees are governed, 1298. Reasons why an employee when discharged is made to wait till the regular monthly pay day for wages due him or her, 1299. Recently reduced the wages of employees without giving notice. Gives his reason for not paying the wages due the young women who left; stating that they left without giving due notice, and not because of a reduction of wages, but because they were being made to do their work properly; they having been doing the work carelessly for some time past, 1300. Had no difficulty in replacing the young women who left, but their successors were unskilled and had to be taught, and thus the Company sustained a loss. Amount of fines imposed and collected during last twelve months, 1301. Wages and earnings of employees. Wages and hours of labor of the men whose pay was reduced twenty-five per cent. Pay days monthly. Considers it would be no advantage to employees to be paid fortnightly up to date and an inconvenience to the Company. Average wages earned by employees in the spinning room. States that spinners very rarely have to wait for work, 1302. Hours of labor of employees gen-

erally. Overtime. Reasons why employees have to work all night sometimes. Reason why the Company does not seek the redress afforded by law when employees leave without giving notice instead of taking the law in their own hands by retaining wages due. Considers that the Company's rules are in perfect harmony with the spirit of the law, 1303. The case of Joseph Barbeau who was dismissed by the Company without notice, and claimed at law fourteen days' notice. Night work, 1034. Accident caused by dangerous machinery. Fines. Cannot tell the amount of wages of employees confiscated (who have left the Company's service during the past year), because they did not give sufficient notice, 1305. Admits having within two weeks reduced prices paid for a certain class of work without giving notice thereof. Wages an employee can earn at moulding stockings, 1306. The confiscation of wages, 1306-1307. Company's business has increased. Sell their goods all over Canada. Export none, 1308.

BOUVIN, L., Joiner and Contractor, Quebec - - - - - 994-996

Makes doors and sashes. About a dozen first-class workers out of seventeen employees, 994. Wages of first-class joiner. Work constant. Difference of wages by the hour in summer and winter. Wages of apprentices. Time they serve. Engaged by written contracts. Taught all sorts of work. Work inside and outside. Wages the same for both kinds of work. Giving out work by contract, 995. Give out the finishing of a house sometimes. Wages of workmen at factory, 996.

BOUVIN, MICHAEL, Joiner, Quebec - - - - - 861-862

Hours of labor of joiners. Wages paid joiners less in winter than in summer. Constancy of employment, 861. Pay days weekly. Education possessed by joiners, Quebec. Proportion of joiners, Quebec, who attend night schools. Advantage of night schools not known by workmen. Deduction of quarter of a day from wages of joiners during winter, despite the fact that they work full day. Meal hours workmen obliged to bring their dinner to shops during winter months. Machinery effect on joiners in Quebec. High rental and small wages makes it almost impossible for joiners to live in Quebec.

BOURDEAU, MISS MELINA, Employee at the Tanneries of Payant & Duclou, St. Hyacinthe - - - - - 1311

Hours of labor. Piece work in the stiffening department. Wages. No fines imposed. Work clean and nothing to complain of, 1311.

BORLAND, WM. F., Montreal, General Superintendent of the North American Glass Company - - - - - 586-590

Number of hands employed. Number of furnaces kept going. Classes of goods made and when they are sold. Wages, 586. Apprentices. Canadian iron not suitable for making glass-makers mould. Quantity and kind of lumber used for making packing boxes. Make their own crucibles, 587. Sanitary condition and ventilation of the factory. Closets. Constancy of employment. Hours of labor. Night work. Proportion of boys employed, age of the youngest, and their wages, 588. Boys' night work. Sunday work. Use Lower Port coal altogether. Proportion of apprentices to journeymen. Foreign labor, 589. A few of the employees own their own houses. Gross amount of wages paid annually, 590.

BOSWELL, VESEY, Brewer, Quebec - - - - - 1016-1017

Malting season. Number of malsters employed. Wages. Length of season. How malsters are employed during idle season. Hours of work. Wages and the hours of work of the coopers. One regular cooper. Hours of men on piecework, 1016. Finds market in Quebec. Canadian malt used. Bavarian hops. What is done with beer returned to factory. Sour beer. Porter, 1017.

BOUCHARD, DAMIEN, Shoemaker, St. Hyacinthe - - - - - 1319

Is employed in the cutting department. Works by the job. Wages for day work and piecework. Constancy of employment of piece hands, 1319.

BOUCHARD, VICTOR, *Employed in a Shoe Factory, formerly employed in the "Granite" Mills* - - - - -

1279-1282

Reasons why he left the Granite Mills, 1279. Immigrants. Fining of employees. Hours of labor. Wages. Night work. Female labor. Males and females work twelve hours continuously—no time for eating—from seven a. m. to seven p. m., 1280, 1281. Doors were locked at night. Could not get out in case of fire unless the foreman was there. Child labor employed at night and wages paid to the children, 1281. Means of escape in case of fire, 1282.

BOUCHER, DAME A., *Workwoman, Sherbrooke* - - - - -

1181

Had three sisters worked in cigar factory. Ages and length of time they worked. What wages earned. Fines paid. Left for the United States. Reasons, 1181.

BOUCHER, NOEL, *Foreman of the Shaping Department, "Granite Knitting Mills," St. Hyacinthe* - - - - -

1287-1289

Wages. Hours of labor. Overtime. Fining of employees, 1287. Piecework. Basis upon which the reduction of wages took place. Children employed; their ages. Wages and hours of labor, 1288. Possible earnings of piece hands before the reduction of wages. Fining of employees, 1289.

BOUDREAU, LOUIS Z., *Printer, Montreal* - - - - -

419-425

Is President of the Montreal Typographical Union. There are in the city about three hundred English printers, about one hundred are employed, as well as fifty female printers, 419. The Union's scale for piecework on newspapers is 28 cents for evening paper and 32 for morning. The highest rate for women is 29 cents, the average about 20 cents. Not many stereotyped plates are used in Montreal. Their use detrimental to journeymen. Printing done in the Reformatory to the injury of outside printers, and at the Mackay Institute, too. Good female hands ought to receive the same rates as men, 420. Average compositors earn from \$14 to \$16 a week. Employers opposed to convict or Reformatory work. Present apprentice system not approved of. Apprentices ought to be indentured for five years. Some printing offices never cleaned. Union men all competent, 421. No fire escapes in all printing offices. Is strongly in favor of a Bureau of Labor Statistics. Hours of labor on a morning paper from twelve to thirteen. No pay for idle hours. Scale of wages framed on the lowest minimum rate. Rate of day work per week from \$9 to \$10 per week. It is not right that a slow hand should receive a less rate than a quicker one. Cost of living has largely increased in Montreal in last twelve years, 422. Price of composition advanced but little. Rentals increased about twenty per cent. Young men received in Union. Use of type under the standard. Unfairly measured. Children's wages in compositor's room 13 cents per 1000 ems. By the week their wages are about \$1.75. Children allowed to work by the piece though against the Union's rule, 423. In Philadelphia the prices per thousand ems for night work, day work and per week are respectively 40 cents, 37 cents and \$13; in Boston, 45 cents, 39 cents and \$15; in New York, according to information, 46 cents, 50 cents and \$18. For job work in Philadelphia, \$18 a week. In Canada, the prices are 37½ cents, 32½ cents and \$11 a week. In Toronto, 30 cents, 28 cents and \$11 a week for fifty-four hours. Men are paid weekly in Montreal. Typographical Union in favor of arbitration, 424. Children employed sometimes too young to carry materials. Union protested against the way contracts are given out by the Corporation. Hands on morning papers at work at seven o'clock on Sunday evenings. When piece hand is put on time he is not paid at the rate of piecework; he gets twenty cents an hour. The Union has no sick benefit but a funeral benefit, 425.

BOURGUINON, CLEOPHAS, *Cabinetmaker, Sherbrooke* - - - - -

1233-1234

Wages of bench hands, 1233. Wages of machine hands. Child labor employed. Hours of labor. Pay days, 1234.

- BOULÉ, WILLIAM, Tanner, Quebec** - - - - - **863-864**
Tanners in Quebec employed by master tanners for a year, then discharged during winter before year is up, and fifty cents deducted from wages. Condition of tannery during winter months. Wages paid tanners. Hours of labor. Effect of stench in some tanneries on workmen. Sanitary condition of tanneries. Ventilation of tanneries, injurious smel could be prevented by proper ventilation. Working skins with the feet, 863. Effect of this work on workmen. Child labor, children employed in tanneries. Possibility of working skins by machinery, 864.
- BOYD, WILLIAM, Moulder, Montreal** - - - - - **309-310**
Bench moulding done by the piece; wages from \$1.50 to \$1.60; rates reduced if moulders earn more than the average; is opposed to employing laborers in foundries; foundry apprentices not well trained; but result of their working by the piece, 309.
- BRENNAN, J., Stevedore, Montreal** - - - - - **150-155**
Rates of wages. Sunday work. Number of hours employed in the hold of vessels, 150. Inspection of loading ships. Condition of ship's hold. Accidents through loading cattle. Difference in longshoremen's pay as between this port and other ports, 151; no different rate of wages paid for loading and discharging steamships and sailing vessels, 152; times of payment; unhealthiness of loading grain, 152; precautions taken; no men engaged by the season; Sunday labour, 153; proper loading of ships of vital importance; danger from dust in grain, 154; difference of working in grain and coal dust; organization and its effect, 155.
- BRENNAN, JOHN, (recalled)** - - - - - **267-271**
A certificate of capacity should be required from stevedores; wages paid in the port of Montreal, insufficient; ill treatment of cattle on board vessels, 267. Cattle are shipped directly from the cars without rest, 268; once, 15 died on board the vessel before it left the port; gangways are too narrow, they burst apart sometimes, and cattle fall into the water, 269. Ten hours a day ought to be sufficient for a man who labors on the wharves, 270.
- BRISSETTE, ALEXANDER, Pattern maker and Moulder, Quebec** - - - - - **831-834**
Rate of wages paid stove moulders, 831. Rate of wages paid machinery moulders. Overtime. Apprentice system, 832. Wages paid apprentices. Labor organization among Quebec moulders. Strikes among Quebec moulders and their causes. Sanitary condition of foundry, 833. Methods of ventilation. Pay days, weekly, 834.
- BRISSETTE, F., Cigarmaker, Montreal** - - - - - **28**
Term of apprenticeship. Rate of wages. Fines, amount of and why imposed, 28.
- BRISSON, J., Laborer, Quebec** - - - - - **1070-1071**
Appears voluntarily. Complains of bad treatment in working on a canal under a Government contractor, 1070-1071. Obligated to work two tides for a day. Hours of work at low tide. No work between the tides, 1071.
- BROSSARD, MOISE, Merchant, Montreal** - - - - - **711-712**
Comparison in prices of flour in 1877 and at present date, 711. Improvement in quality of flour. Superiority of Manitoba wheat, 712.
- BROSSEAU, JOSEPH, Currier, Quebec** - - - - - **1128-1129**
Wages, rate of. Nature of work, 1128. Amount possible to earn, 1128-1129. Could earn more in Montreal and elsewhere. Engineer, 1129.
- BROWN, GEORGE, Stevedore, Montreal** - - - - - **644-647**
Wages paid to ship-laborers in Montreal. Constancy of employment. Hours of labor. Benefits of organization to ship-laborers, none, 644. Condition of machinery used for loading and unloading vessels. Accidents from defective machinery. Accident insurance of ship-laborers, 645. Wages of ship-laborers and cost of living in

Boston, New York and Montreal compared, 646. Machinery used. Wages for night work and Sunday work, 647.

BROWN, JOHN, *Cordage Manufacturer, Quebec* - - - **864-866**

Number of employees. Child labor; girls and boys employed. Hours of labor. Wages paid women, 864. Wages paid men. Average wages of workmen. Competition with others in same trade. Training of unskilled labor. Ventilation and sanitary condition of factory. Where raw material is obtained, 865. Possibility of farmers in Canada raising hemp, now imported by manufacturers. Attempt made by Hon. Mr. Joly to induce farmers of Lotbinière to raise hemp, 866.

BRUNET, EMILE, *Carriage Upholsterer, Montreal* - - - **512-514**

Scarcity of first-class workmen in Montreal. Wages in the United States and Montreal, 512. Piece work. Constancy of employment of first-class workmen. Apprentices. Would like to have certain materials used in carriage-making imported free of duty. Reason why, 513-514.

BRYANT, GEORGE GILMAN, *Contractor and Manufacturer, Sherbrooke* - **1240-1243**

Carpenters' wages and hours of labor. Wages of wood-working machinists. How boys in his lumber factory are employed. Protection of machinery against accidents. House painters' wages. Carpenters' apprentices and their wages, etc., 1240. Wages of bricklayers, stonemasons and plasterers. Price per thousand paid to lathers. Constancy of employment in the building trades. No organization among the building trades. Pay days. A good many of building trades mechanics in Sherbrooke own their own houses. Wages of builders' laborers. Rents of workingmen's houses. Wages now and five years ago compared. Cost of living now and five years ago compared, 1241. Contractors and sub-contractors leaving without paying employees. Thinks it would be well to pass laws making the proprietor liable for men's wages as well as the contractor, and to prevent a workingman's wages from being seized, 1242. Weekly payments to prevent garnisheeing of wages, 1243.

BUCHANAN, MARY, *Forewoman Russell House Steam Laundry, Quebec* - **818-819**

Hours of labor. Number of employees. Rate of wages. Female labor. Night work during the summer. Overtime, rate paid for. Sanitary condition of laundry. Vapor from the hot water injurious to health. Cost of living in Quebec as compared with Montreal. Age of youngest girl employed, 818. Ventilation of laundry not good. Cost of board in Quebec, 819.

BUCK, FRANCIS P., *Manufacturer of Chemical Pulp, Sherbrooke* - **1194-1198**

Location of factory. Number of men employed, 1194. Wages. Pay days. Owns a store, and his men get what they want, and on pay day it is deducted from their pay, but they are not obliged to buy there. Houses owned by the Company and rented to employees. An association among the workmen, which retains 50 cents a month to pay doctor's fees. Rents of workmen's houses. Irregularity in paying the hands. Method of paying. Fifteen days' notice required before an employee can leave. Fines. The pulp is made from wood fibre, 1196. Where they sell the pulp. Wages of skilled hands. Where and how they get their raw material. Wages of their saw-mill employees. Constancy of employment, 1197. Benefit Association among the workmen, 1198.

BIENVENU, CHARLES, *Tanner, at Payant & Duclos, St. Hyacinthe* - - **1312**

Has worked for Payant & Duclos for twelve years. Wages he got twelve years ago and now. Wages. Child's labor. Condition and ventilation of the shop. No complaints to make, 1312.

BURGESS, J., *Government Steamboat Inspector for Montreal Division, Montreal* **89-91**

Divisional Inspector. Inspectorship defined, 89; Passenger laws observed. Freight regulations. Times of inspection. Power of inspectors, 90. Pressure of steam regulated by "Act." Certificated Engineers, 91.

- BURKE, RICHARD, Ship laborer, Quebec - - - - - 741-743**
 Wages paid ship laborers since 1853. Quebec Ship Laborers' Benevolent Association and its objects, 741. Hours of labor, 742. Increased facilities in loading ships since 1862, makes ship laborers work harder, 743.
- BUSSIÈRES, R., Milkman, Quebec - - - - - 998-999**
 One man (of 19) in his service. Hours of beginning and finishing work. Have to make up for the time lost by oversleep. How the man is employed until bed-time. Wages. Work and wage of former employee, Maheux, who boarded himself. An orphan. Left master because being great eater. He did not earn enough for food, 999.
- CAMP, LILIAN WEST, Operator, Bell Telephone Company, Montreal - - - 524-525**
 Females employed at the telephone exchanges. Hours of labor, 524. Wages. Night work and Sunday work, 525.
- CAMPEAU, FRANÇOIS G., Joiner and Machinist, Montreal - - - - - 653-655**
 Accidents in lumber factories from improperly placing of dangerous machinery, 653, and also from putting incompetent men to run the machines. Intense heat of the drying rooms where men are employed taking in and bringing out lumber. Children employed in saw mills. Accidents to children in lumber factories, 654. Carpenters are not recouped for loss of tools in case of fire, 655.
- CANTIN, MISS ROSALIE, Employee in a Rope Factory, Quebec - - - 968-969**
 Years in factory. Hours of winter and summer work. Wages. Lowest price paid. Fines for sitting at work and coming late to. Time lost by disordered machine made up by girls. Means of escape in case of fire. Sanitary condition of factory not good. Subpoenas, 968. How time lost by machine breaking is made up. Guides machines that comb hemp. Not permitted to sit at work though often not necessary to stand. Hours of commencing work summer and winter. No closets, 969.
- CAOINETTE, L., Employee in Boot Factory, St. Romuald - - - - - 1152**
 Corroborates statement of last witness. Length of service and nature of work, 1152.
- CARREL, J., Proprietor Quebec Daily Telegraph - - - - - 922-927**
 Number of boys and men in employ. Wages of foremen of different departments, 923. Tariff variances between Typographical Unions. Nine hour system. Advantage of the same. Reasons why men belonging to labor organizations preferred. Settlement of last labor difficulty generally beneficial. Signing the iron-clad document, 924. Benefit to the country of reduction of printer's charges but not under conditions leaving printer no profit. Low wages mean starvation. Cost of necessities sugar and flour, 926. Usefulness of schools of arts and manufactures, 927.
- CARRIER, W., Flour and Grain Merchant, Quebec - - - - - 1067**
 Get their goods from the wharves. Wages of men they employ taking goods from wharves. Eleven hours work. No extra pay. Cause why business is not so good at Quebec as at Montreal. Elevators, men and money wanted. Want of organization among business men. Prepared flour vs. baking powder. Their flour inspected. Sell to the lower ports—from Quebec to Rimouski. Freights from Upper Canada to lower ports cheaper than from Upper Canada to Quebec, 1067.
- CARRIÈRE, JOSEPH, Saw Filer, Hull - - - - - 1357-1358**
 Hours of labor. Wages. Apprentices, Constancy of employment, 1357. Child labor employed in lumber mills. Night work, 1358.
- CARRON, EUCHER, Joiner, Hull - - - - - 1355**
 Works in the Eddy sash factory. Corroborates evidence of last witness (Mr. A. Nathan, see p. 1355). Wages, 1355.

- CARSLEY, S., *Dry Goods Merchant, Montreal* - - - - - **14-21**
 Time of opening and closing dry goods establishments. Ages of cash boys. Female labor and treatment. Sanitary arrangements. No inspection made by municipal authorities. Wages of apprentices and skilled clerks. Difference of wages between casual workwomen and skilled. Hours of work, 15. Times of payment. Means taken to try and get the Factory Act put into operation in places where it does not apply. Garnishment of wages, 16. Complaint of working classes not being able to get houses at reasonable rents. Age of girls when taken to work in factory, 17. Conditions, 18. Fining of employees, 19. Hours that children should be employed selling papers on the street. No good tenements nor any owned by factories, 20, 21.
- CARTER, CHRISTOPHER B., *Advocate, Montreal* - - - - - **718-719**
 Charges of lawyers and courts an injustice to the working classes. Establishment of a Circuit Court judge in Montreal to deal with small cases, 718.
- CASEY, DENNIS, *Foreman of the Eddy Manufacturing Co., Hull* - - - - - **1340-1344**
 Is foreman of the match department. Number of girls, men and boys employed there, 1340. Wages. Constancy of employment. Hours of labor. Fining of employees, 1341. Financial condition of employees; some of them apparently own their own houses, but most of the land in Hull is held by lease. Educational condition of children employed. Hours of labor of men in the mixing room. Healthiness of the occupation. Wages, 1342. Ages of children employed and their hours of labor, 1342-1343. Pay days. Sub-contracting of boys who make boxes. Does not know of any Factory Act in force in the Province of Quebec, 1343-1344. Means of escape in case of fire. Closets separate for each sex. Sanitary condition of the premises, 1344.
- CASEY, FELIX, *Builder and Contractor, Montreal* - - - - - **540-541**
 Apprentices. Introduction of machinery a benefit to the trade of carpentering, 540. Low wages the cause of good skilled mechanics leaving the city, and thus creating a scarcity of good men, 541.
- CASSAVANT, HERMENIGILDE, *Printer, St. Hyacinthe* - - - - - **1330-1331**
 Wages. Apprentices. Newspaper hands are paid by the week. No female printers. Pay days, 1331.
- CASAVANT, JOSEPH CLAVER, *Organ Manufacturer, St. Hyacinthe* - - - - - **1270-1271**
 Factory Inspectors. The engineer who runs his factory engine. The effect of the introduction of machinery on wages. Wages. Pay days. No apprentices. Hours of labor. Possibility of his employees living comfortably or saving money. No fines, 1270. Workmen's dwellings. Protective duty on organs. Sometimes imports parts of the instruments. Constancy of employment. Wages, 1271.
- CARMEL, ADJUTEUR, *Printer, Montreal* - - - - - **450-451**
 The effect of illegal competition from work done in the Reformatory and institutions sustained by Government on the printing trade. Instances the institution of Friars at Coteau St. Louis and another on Coté street as examples, 450. Petitions have been sent to the local Government to have this evil remedied, but with no result, 451.
- CHALIFOUX, HUBERT TREFFLE, *St. Hyacinthe, Manufacturer of Agricultural Implements* - - - - - **1276**
 Wages of employees. Hours of labor. Kind of implements he makes. Uses Canadian lumber, and gets his castings from Montreal. Workmen in St. Hyacinthe who own property. Bonusing of industries, 1276.
- CHAMBERLAND, NAPOLEON, *Painter, Quebec* - - - - - **782-784**
 Rate of wages. Difference in wages during summer and winter, 782. Hours of

- labor. Demand for painters in Quebec. Pay days. Irregularity of pay days. Payment of wages by promissory note, 783. Discount of one dollar to cash note charged by broker to whom the men were sent by their employers. Inconvenience suffered through irregularity of pay days. Employees discharged without receiving wages due them, 784.
- CHAMPAGNE, EDOUARD OCTAVE, Boiler Inspector, Montreal - - - 708-710**
 Engineers' and stokers' examination in Montreal. Number of engines in Montreal. Only boilers placed in buildings examined, 708. Alarm signals for high and low pressure engines. Tax levied on engineers and its effect. Boilers under the control of insurance companies, 709. Wages paid to stokers and engineers in Montreal. Condemned boilers removed from the city for use in the country districts, 710.
- CHAMPAGNE, GEORGE, Laborer, Hull - - - - - 1356-1357**
 Attends a guage in the mills. Hours of labor. Wages. Constancy of employment. Child labor. Night work, 1356. Hours of labor night work. Accidents. Protection of machinery to prevent accidents, 1357.
- CHANDIER, EDMOND, Cooper, Montreal - - - - - 595-596**
 The introduction of machinery for coopers' work, 595. Comparison of the prices of hand made and machine made barrels. Wages of coopers. The number of coopers is great but good coopers are scarce. How unskilled laborers are employed making barrels in sugar refineries. Wages of laborers who make barrels, 596.
- CHAPUT, EDMOND, Baker, Montreal - - - - - 563-567**
 Number of bakers in Montreal. Apprentices. Wages. Hours of labor, 563. Advantages of paying bakers by the 100 loaves. Sunday work, 564. Bad effect of too many apprentices, how it ought to be remedied. Sanitary condition of bake-shops. Machinery employed in baking and its effect on wages. Lowering of wages from journeymen bakers crowding in the city at certain seasons, 565. Sunday work in Quebec and Toronto. Price of bread in Montreal. Wages paid by the Co-operative Society less than paid elsewhere; but it is not a co-operative society of working bakers. Variety and quality of materials used in making bread, 566-567.
- CHARRON, TH., Journeyman Cigarmaker, Montreal - - - - - 24-25**
 Time of service, 24. Rate of wages, how regulated. Hours of work. Fines and corporal punishment, 25.
- CHARTRAND, J., Cigarmaker, Montreal - - - - - 107**
 Statement of corporal punishment and the reasons for, 107.
- CHARTRAND, P., Carriage-maker, Montreal - - - - - 194-197**
 Number of pupils of Reformatory employed in shops. Mechanics employed. Obligation to teach children. Statement of what becomes of work done by the boys. Payment of the boys, 195. What they are taught. Pay of an apprentice. Hours of work. Education. Men when paid, 196. What part of the work the boys do. Not allowed to punish the boys. Other factories at the Reformatory other than carriage, 197.
- CLAUDE, J., Cigarmaker, Montreal - - - - - 83**
 Term of apprenticeship. Causes of disagreement, 83.
- CLINE, EDWARD, Marble Polisher, Montreal - - - - - 469-472**
 Female labor employed at marble polishing. The work altogether unsuitable for women, 469. Healthiness of marble-cutting as an occupation. Wages of marble cutters and polishers. Wages of polishers in the United States and Canada compared. Hours of labor, 470, 472.
- CLIFT, ROBERT S., Merchant and Insurance Surveyor, Montreal - - - 622-623**
 Loading of vessels in the port of Montreal. Competency of stevedores. Supervision of Marine insurance companies over the loading of vessels, 622-623.

- COAILLIER, AUGUSTE, *Joiner, Montreal* - - - - - **246**
 Lost an arm in an oil cloth factory, was dismissed. Company gave no damages. Paid no bill of sickness, and he was upbraided for staining with his blood a scrap of cotton on which he was lying. Has five children. Will be unable to work for a long time, 246.
- CODERRE, F., *Hardware Merchant and Tinsmith, Sherbrooke* - - - - - **1160**
 Number of hands employed. Have apprentices. No indentures signed. Rates of wages. No strikes. Object to employ men belonging to Union, etc. Reasons, 1160.
- COHN, LEWIS, *Montreal* - - - - - **413-414**
 Has a grievance on account of the cost of patent, 413. Government ought to grant them free and receive a royalty for ten years; now they come to as much as \$100. 414.
- CONNELL, MICHAEL ALEXANDER, *Superintendent of the Aqueduct of St. Hyacinthe* - - - - - **1271-1274**
 Citizens not obliged to take water from the Aqueduct. Water rates. Sanitary condition of workmen's houses. Wages of Water Work's employees. Is agent for the telephone company. Employs one female. Her wages and hours of labor, 1272. Method of collecting water rates. Water supply. Water works company incorporated with a capital stock of \$50,000. Supply of water provided to the city and price received therefor. Purity of the water ascertained by analysis, 1273. Where people who do not take water from the Aqueduct get their supply, 1274.
- CONNOLLY, JAMES, *Foreman of Job and Book Department of the Montreal "Gazette"* - - - - - **333**
 \$10 a week the standard for his hands; three, respectively at \$11 and \$12, and \$14; has five apprentices in his room; are supposed to serve five years; piece hands get 28 cents; work never culled, unless there are standing tables; no indentured boys; a good job man with a family of three cannot save ten cents a year; house rent and cost of living, increased during the past five years in Montreal, 333.
- COOK, DANIEL, *Superintendent of Ste. Anne's Cotton Mill* - - - - - **337-350**
 Rules about fines are not included in the engagements signed by the hands, 337. Most fines are due to carelessness from the part of workmen; fines for bad work and breakage, 338. Last year, on \$71,426 wages paid, amount of fines was \$1,029; he the only judge of fines, 340. Girls engaged on day work, changed to piece work; refused to work and were fined, 342. Cause of a strike, 343. Girls 10 years old, engaged at the mill, 345. Hands discharged for refusing to work on legal holidays, 346. Those fines unlawful. Hours of labor from 6.30 a. m. to 6.15 p. m. On Saturdays, close at noon. Sometimes, work till 9; but hands double up, 347. A nine year girl, a spinner, 348.
- COOKE, J., *Printer, Quebec* - - - - - **1046-1047**
 Refused to work because he would not sign an agreement to *La Justice*, 1046. Wages paid according to the scale of the printers of Quebec. Condition of printers improved under present system. Ill feeling between printers of the Union and those outside it, 1047.
- CORDEAU, HORMIDAS, *Laborer, of St. Hyacinthe* - - - - - **1277-1279**
 Was a cutter at the "Granite Knitting Mill." Wages. Piece work. Left because he could not earn enough to live on. Part of his wages due yet, 1277. Child labor employed. Fining of employees. Female labor employed. Asked for work at the woollen mill, after leaving the Knitting factory, but after Mr. Caouette heard why he had left the Knitting factory, he told him he had no work, 1278-1279.
- CORNEAU, JOSEPH, *Laborer, Hull* - - - - - **1363**
 Retention of earnings of laborers by a waterworks contractor, 1363.

- CORRIVEAU, ALBERTINE, Accountant, Sherbrooke - - - 1219**
Wages or salary he gets. Hours of labor. Wages of young girls employed in the factory of Mr. Octave Gendron. Sanitary condition of the factory. Fining of employees, 1219.
- CORRIVEAU, ONESPHORE, Printer, Montreal - - - 432-435**
Hours of labor. Fining of employées. Accidents. Describes an accident which he saw happen to a boy, 10 years of age. Apprentices made to do work the men should get. Foremen working at the case to the detriment of the men and the apprentices, 432. Printers working by the piece not paid for office corrections as they should be. Regulation made in each office by the Union men formed into a committee; quotes some regulations to show they are advantageous to the employer as well as the men. Impossible for apprentices to become good journeymen under the present system; reasons why. Apprentices from the Reformatory, 433. Age of the youngest apprentices. Results of the Jacques-Cartier Typographical Union on printers and their employers. Children who work on presses. Danger to the health of apprentices from working in unwholesome places wetting paper. Printers made to pay for spoiled work when the fault lies with the employers, 434.
- COSTIGAN, WM. T., 78 Osborne Street, Montreal - - - 732**
Letter from him regarding the discrepancy between the income of our bread winners and the cost of living. The overcrowding of the poorer classes into dwellings in many cases unfit to live in. The necessity for increased wages and a better class of dwellings in order to raise the social status. The inadequate remuneration given to lady and gentleman teachers in our common schools, 732.
- COTÉ, CELESTIN V., Machinist and Manager Furniture Factory - - - 1111**
Number of men employed. Wages, rate of. Hours of work. Machinery in factory. Accidents occur; cause. Guards around machinery. Ages of boys employed. Pay. Nature of work. Shaper, pay of. Chairmakers, pay of. Apprentices, 1111.
- COTÉ, MISS CORINNE, Employee at Shoemaking, St. Hyacinthe - - - 1327**
Works at Louis Coté's by the day. Is twelve years old. Wages. Hours of labor, 1327.
- COTÉ, C. TOUSSAINT, Manufacturer of Farm Implements, Quebec - - - 1004-1007**
The business not very prosperous about Quebec. Number of Ontario machines sold here. Reason of the poor success of the industry in the Province of Quebec. The banks will not discount farmers' notes. General condition of workmen in Quebec. How it could be made better. Technical schools necessary, 1004. Among shop employees the same want of education. Excessively difficult for master to engage competent clerk. Would workmen be inconvenienced by the closing of stores on the eve of holidays and on Saturdays. How to stop the emigration of young people from the country into town. By making of roads in new places. Carters' tariff. Tolls. What is done in Montreal. Loss of time to carters, 1005. Remedied by customer paying fare in advance. Products that would be manufactured in Quebec and exported. How to encourage home industries. Depots in foreign countries. Factory law absolutely necessary. Workmen's debts. Notaries' charges excessive. Does not know that great many children work in factories. Many women, who work making clothes, paid in goods, 1006. And goods at higher price. Condition of houses of workmen in Quebec, 1007.
- COTÉ, I., Carter, Quebec - - - 1125**
Hours of work. Wages, rate of. Extra work. Sundays, 1125.
- COTÉ, JOSEPH, Foreman in a Boot and Shoe Factory, St. Hyacinthe - - - 1314-1315**
Number of employees in the factory in which he is employed. Proportion of men. Child labor. Wages. Female labor. Export goods to England, 1314. Savings of employees. Workmen as proprietors of real estate. Closets are separate for each

sex. Fining of employees. Wages of lasters, machine hands and cutters. Sell goods largely in Ontario and the Northwest, 1315.

COTTON, FRANK, *Laborer, aged fifteen, Capelton* - - - - - **1255-1256**

Works at the mouth of the mine, 1255. Wages. Length of term he attended school. Night school, 1256.

COURVILLE, ARTHUR, *Laborer, Hull* - - - - - **1355 1356**

States that after working for the Eddy "concern" for fifteen years, he left, without giving notice, because they were killing him with work, and was refused payment of his wages, 1355. Wages, 1356.

COUSINEAU, LUDGER, *Builder, Montreal* - - - - - **581-584**

Sub-contracting. Wages of masons. Carpenters' wages, 581. Bricklayers' wages. Wages of bricklayers' laborers. Plasterers' wages. Efficiency of workmen in the building trade. Effect of immigration on the working classes. Class of houses being built to rent to the working classes and rents thereof, 582. Sanitary condition of workmen's houses now being built. Drainage and conveniences of workingmen's houses now being built. Carpenters and joiners in Montreal more skilfull than formerly. Canadian compared with foreign workmen. Apprentices and the present system of apprenticeship, 583. Contractors' Association. Legislation asked for by the Contractors' Association and its object, 584.

CRUIKSHANK, FRED, *Cigar maker in the factory of Messrs. Nutter & Webster, Sherbrooke* - - - - - **1229-1231**

Wages. Piece work; rate per thousand cigars. Apprentices. Age of the youngest boy. Wages boys get while learning. Number of cigars a boy can make in a week, 1229. Fining of employees. Piece work. The weighing out of stock, 1230-1231.

CULLEN, J., *Stevedore, Quebec* - - - - - **1087-1089**

Describes the days of oppression and poverty for the ship laborers before the formation of the society. Organization absolutely necessary for self-defense of laborers. Personal illustration, 1087-1089.

DAGENAIS, A., *Cigar maker, Montreal* - - - - - **26-27**

Apprenticeship service. Wages now regulated, 25. Fines, now collected. Corporal punishment now inflicted. Black hole as a means of punishment. Special constable to keep order. Constable not a factory hand. Could not say as to the health of children, 27.

DAGENAIS, ADELAÏDE, *Employed at the Ste. Anne Cotton Factory* - - - - - **481-482**

Moral condition or character of the employees. Fining of the employees, 481. Numbers of looms one girl is expected to keep running, 482.

DAIGLE, L., *Cigarmaker, Sherbrooke* - - - - - **1182**

What he earns, and what is kept back. Explanations, 1182.

D'AMOUR, CHARLES, *Montreal, Agent for the "Doncaster" Sewing Machine, of New York* - - - - - **658-660**

Cost and selling prices of "Doncaster" sewing machines. Duty on sewing machines. Explains the cause of the difference between cost and selling price, 658. Cost and selling prices of the "Williams" (Canadian) sewing machines. How the machines are sold. Taking back machines, 659. Reason why he prefers selling the American machine he is agent for to Canadian machines, 660.

DALTON, P. J., *Longshoreman, Montreal* - - - - - **181-188**

General statement of work performed on wharves and on vessels, 181. Length of time on long shifts. Grain trimming injurious. Amount of wages paid for trimming. Means used to keep awake, 182. Contract system, 182, 184. Insurance

scheme. Agents interfering in the payment of benefits, 183. Sunday labor. Difference of wages paid in Montreal and other ports, 184. Company not carrying out their agreement with the men, 185. Accidents from deficient gear. System of payment, 186. Inspection of gearing and orders for hoisting, 188.

DARVEAU, T., *Currier, Quebec* - - - - - **1046**

Time he has worked at trade. Length of apprenticeship. How he works. Wages by the week. "Jobbers" and their wages. Condition of shop. Only persons who have served an apprenticeship should be allowed to work. A tanner must be very economical to buy a house, 1046.

DAVIDSON, R., *Chief of Sherbrooke Fire and Police Department, Sherbrooke* - - - - - **1173-1174**

Evidence as to the sanitary condition of factories and dwellings. Removal of night soil and other offensive matter, 1173. Method of carrying out sanitation explained, 1174. How fire brigade is kept up. His opinion of fire escapes, 1174.

DAVIS, A. H., *Cigar Manufacturer, Montreal* - - - - - **135-138**

Number of hands employed. Average earnings of cigarmakers. Hours employed. Apprentices, 135. No corporal punishment. Condition of cigarmakers. Increase of business. Importation of foreign labor, 136. Decrease of duty and the results, 137. Union rate of wages. Difference of wages paid for different grades as between Montreal and Toronto, 138.

DAVIS, CHARLES A., *Agent for Messrs. Bryant, Powis & Bryant, Lumber Exporters, Quebec* - - - - - **893**

Agrees with former witnesses in regard to detrimental results of certain rules of Ship Laborers' Society. Rate per standard charged for loading deal timber at Montreal. Difference between charges for loading deal at Quebec and Montreal. Ship laborers more constantly employed in Montreal than in Quebec, 893.

DECHENES, MISS ROSE, *Match Factory Employee, Hull* - - - - - **1349-1350**

Child labor at the match factory. Wages. Ventilation of the factory. Educational opportunities and capacity of the children. Hours of labor, 1350.

DEGROW, DOUGLAS MCGREGOR, *Doctor of Medicine, Montreal* - - - - - **606-610**

Mechanics' and laborers' dwellings and tenement houses. Average number and size of rooms in each. Number of families and persons usually occupying each. Water closets, water services, trapping of waste pipes, 606. Condition of waste pipes and drains. Mortality greater among people occupying such houses than among people who can afford to occupy better houses. Thinks that if sanitary laws were properly enforced the outlay would be profitable. Water closets and cesspools. Imperfections of the law regarding the cleaning of cesspools, 607. The sanitary laws now in existence sufficient, if properly enforced, to enable the authorities to look after the health of the city efficiently and to ensure good drainage. The general impracticability of workmen living in the suburbs caused by want of cheap and rapid means of transit, 608. The impossibility of forcing landlords to put their houses in proper sanitary repair, 608, 609. Increase in the expense of living has created a tendency in poor people to crowd into small houses or "double up" in larger ones. Has known instances where expenses have increased rapidly but wages have not. Mortality could be reduced if cases of contagious diseases were isolated. Considerateness of the English Hospital authorities in such cases. Not the same fear of contagious diseases among the lower classes as among the upper classes, 609. Hospitals for contagious diseases, 610.

DELAJE, OCTAVE, *Leather Cutter, St. Hyacinthe* - - - - - **1328-1330**

Works for Messrs. Seguin & Lalime. Hours of labor, wages, apprentices, sanitary condition of the factory. Some of the workmen own property but does not know

many. Dismissed for belonging to a labor union, 1328-1330. Means of escape in case of fire, 1328, 1329. Description of the factory and the number of people employed in it. Workingmen's houses and rents in St. Hyacinthe. Rents now and four years ago compared. Closets. Sewers. Health inspector. Taxes. Night work, 1329. Possibility of a man saving anything with wages at nine dollars a week, 1330.

DELANETTE, A., *Shoe-laster, Quebec* - - - - - **1010**
Defies any laster in Quebec to earn \$12 to \$13 a week. Lasts men's, women's work. The price he gets for cases of different work. How many boots a man can last. Witness lasts one case of women's boots a day. The usual pay for a case. Cause of losing time. Wages not high enough for living, 1010.

DEMERS, A., *Shoemaker's Apprentice, Quebec* - - - - - **1044-1045**
Works in a factory. In the sewer's department. Machine work. Has served two years out of three and half the term of his apprenticeship. Master obliged to teach him pegging as well as sewing. His wages not high enough. The terms of agreement with his master, 1044. Apprentices. Time of going to and leaving work. Works for his master after leaving factory. Works at the sewing machine for the soles. Five other apprentices. But not in the same house. Their wages. Their term of apprenticeship, 1045.

DEMONTIGNY, B. A. T., *Recorder of Montreal* - - - - - **388-391**
Is of opinion that the master has the right of correction on the person of the servant and of the apprentice. In the latter's case, the right of the master goes as far as that of the father, 389. Does not see anything unreasonable or illegal in the fact of an employer locking up his people in a black-hole, 390. Considers as immoral any engagement an employee may have signed to work on holidays, and as such, not binding. There is an appeal from his decisions, 391.

DENIS, ALPHONSE, *Master Printer, St. Hyacinthe* - - - - - **1331-1332**
Printers' wages. Apprentices, 1331-1332. Children employed. Stereotyped plates. Night work and rate of wages therefor, 1332.

DEPATIE, JOSEPH, *Leather Cutter, Quebec* - - - - - **904-906**
Wages of leather cutter, piecework, 904-905. Cutting furnishings is done by young girls. Sanitary condition of boot and shoe factories. Separate rooms for each sex, 905. Wages now and six years ago, 906.

DESAULLES, GEORGE-CASIMIR, *Mayor of St. Hyacinthe* - - - - - **1313**
Is President of the St. Hyacinthe Manufacturing Company. Number of people employed by the Company. Child labor. Fining of employees. The Company received a loan of \$25,000 from the Corporation, 1313.

DES CARRIES, M. L'ABBÉ, *Curé of St. Henri, Hochelaga County* - - - - - **701-702**
Moral condition of employees in Cotton Manufactories. Employment of immoral foremen, 701-702.

DESGRANGES, MISS PHILOMÈNE, *of St. Hyacinthe, employed in a Knitting factory* - - - - - **1282-1283**
Hours of labor. Wages. Fining of employees. Overtime. Ordered to leave and then fined two dollars for leaving without notice, 1282. Child labor in the carding room, 1283.

DESJARDINS, ROCH, *Bailiff, Montreal* - - - - - **602**
Execution and bailiff's sale in the case of Brunet vs. Greatorex, 602.

DESNoyERS, JOSEPH, *Bargeman, Quebec* - - - - - **815-817**
Rate of wages. Weekly pay days. Lost time, 815. Earnings for five months.

- Workmen dissatisfied with the agent or foreman, because he distributed work unfairly, 816. Hours of labor. Rate of wages paid ice-cutters. Hours of labor, 817.
- DICK, JOHN, *Port Warden, Quebec, and Surveyor for the English Lloyds* **762-766**
Duties of Port Warden. Survey of vessels. Overloading of vessels, 763. Ship carpenters at Quebec. Insurance of vessels, 764. Condemned vessels burned. Deck loads, 765. Decrease of commerce at Quebec, 766.
- DICK, JAMES R., *Superintendent of Boys' Home, Montreal* - - **223-229**
Home is neither for boys under sentence, nor for those who are assisted by charitable associations. The homeless go thither for shelter. Boys admitted from 12 to 19 years of age. They are sometimes kept there for a year. Employment found for them. Classes in winter evenings, 223. They pay when they earn wages. A savings' bank for them. Religious tuition. Increasing number of waifs and stowaways in Montreal, 224. Charitable organizations in the Old Country and reformatories send to Canada a great number of bad boys. The Redhouse Reformatory School, Surrey, England, sends as many as 100 boys every year, through Mr. Gould, of Melbourne, Richmond, and Rev. T. W. Fyles, of Quebec. Those boys are very bad and unwilling to work; one of them had seven situations in four weeks; they spoil the Canadian boys with their pernicious example and advice, 225. The Home Savings' Bank's success; it was in operation for four years; it receives deposits from \$0.02 to \$50; a boy deposited \$95.75; savings banks in connection with Sunday schools; eight or nine in Montreal. Newsboys not admitted in the Home, the institution is self-supporting, and charitable people contribute for the rent and superintendent's salary. The influx of stowaways ought to be stopped. As many as a dozen and a half come sometimes on board a steamship, 226. The Self-help Emigration Society of London sends bad young men to Canada. Want in this country of a law similar to the United States Immigration Law. In one year 997 immigrants were sent back to Europe from New York, as being worthless. Unable to go to the States, they now come here, 227. The boys sent out by Dr. Barnardo and Miss Rye are doing well here, 228.
- DICKSON, WILLIAM, *Foreman, Government Cartridge Factory, Quebec* **797-800**
Accident to children in factory and their causes, 797. Children employed working machinery. Fining of employees. Wages of children employed. Employees fined to prevent thieving, 798. Proceeds of fines paid to the Government, 799. Fines imposed without authority of the Superintendent, 800.
- DINSMORE, JAMES, *Cloth Cleaner, Sherbrooke* - - - **1220-1224**
Has charge of the cleaning department of the woollen mill of the Patton Manufacturing Company. Hours of labor, 1220. Wages. Overtime, 1221. Mining at the Capelton Copper Mines. Wages of miners. Piece work at the Capelton Copper Mines. Pay days at the Capelton Copper Mines. Boys employed at the copper mines. Precautions taken to prevent accidents in copper mines, 1222. Recklessness and carelessness in mines the cause of accidents, 1222, 1223. Carelessness in handling explosives, 1223. Boys allowed to handle explosives at the Capelton Copper Mines, 1224.
- DION, ADOLPHE, *Apprentice Cigarmaker* - - - - **266**
- DIXON, REV. S. H., *Rector of St. Jude's Church, Montreal* - - - **60-62**
Acting chaplain to emigrants coming from the Old Country the last four years, 60. The status of emigrants arriving. By whom sent out. No ex-convicts, 61. Dr. Barnardo's class of emigrants. The distribution of emigrants, as suited to their capacity for different works, 62.
- DOHERTY, CHARLES J., *Advocate, Montreal* - - - - **210-218**
Explains the law in regard to the seizure of wages; it attaches to wages due at the

time of seizure only. 50 per cent. of the wages of laborers are seizable. The whole of the wages due to any other person, except a public employee or a school teacher, is seizable to the amount due at the time, with costs. The cost of a judgment against a debtor, who is a laborer earning \$7 a week, is about \$5.25; the cost of the seizure, \$4.55. As \$3.50 only of the salary would be seizable, the debtor would still owe \$1.05 on the amount of costs; so that, every week, he would lose the half of his salary, and see his indebtedness increase by \$1.05, 210. Creditor might have judgment against debtor for his lawyer's cost; it would be better for the debtor, were the law allowing the seizure of all his wages. Debtor may have his household furniture seized and sold, and yet get deeper into debt, on account of costs. Legal delays between judgment, seizure, publication and sale, 211. Minimum limit at which a *capias* may be taken out against a debtor in Quebec and Ontario. A debtor may not be *capiased* if he leaves Quebec for Ontario, or *vice-versa*. By the Montreal by-law, employees working under a contract, may be imprisoned if leaving employer's service, even in case the latter does not pay the wages agreed upon. Redress of employees by civil action only, at the end of their term, for amount of wages due, 212. All employees working under a verbal or written contract, assimilated to apprentices in Montreal. Under that by-law, an employer, who does not pay his employee, may refuse him leave of absence, either by day or by night, to seek redress in courts, or to execute his civil duties, or his duties to his family, in case of sickness, 213. Employee may be fined and sent to prison in Montreal for neglecting to give fifteen days' notice when leaving; but employer not bound to give notice for discharging employee. Cases when employers may be fined or imprisoned. Revival of the old indenture system under another name. Uncertainty as to the legal meaning of the words *compagnon* and journeyman, 214. The law of ejection—a tenant may be ejected and prosecuted for rent of the house due for a period following his ejection. Legal delays for ejection. Redress of tenants in cases of repairs, 215. Cost of notice to landlord; tenant to pay for the protest. Employees' privilege on what is in the workshop for arrears of wages. Workmen have no privilege on the building they assisted in putting up. Unfair results of the Montreal by-law in regard to masters and servants. No municipal council should be authorized to pass such a by-law, 216. Apprentices, when minors, may be corrected by their masters. Employees of the Provincial Government of Quebec may have their wages seized. Law in regard to seizure of laborer's wages, mischievous, and ought to be abolished, 217.

DOOLAN, JAMES, *Fireman, Montreal*

His opinion regarding admission of firemen into the Benevolent Association. Duties of firemen and station guardians. Danger incurred while working at fires from telegraph and telephone wires. Firemen killed by electric currents passing over electric light wires, 695. Effect the establishing a system of nights off from duty would have on the brigade, 696.

DORÉ, ERNEST, *Butcher, Montreal*

No change in the price of meat within the last ten years. Prices and qualities of meat. No law carried out regarding the time for selling meat. Improvement in beef since ten years ago, 716.

DORÉ, FRANK, *Employed in the Mines at Capelton*

Aged fifteen years. Wages. Schools, 1256. School fees. Wages his father earns in the mine. Hours of labor in the mine. Night work in the mine, 1257.

DORION, EMANUEL, *Chair Manufacturer, Hull*

Condition of the working classes in general. Education of children. Children sent to work too soon. Was not aware of any law to prevent children under twelve years old being sent to work. Sub-contracting of work in factories and the hiring by the sub-contractor of child labor to perform the work, 1336. Children do not learn any trade working in the factories. Accidents to children. Healthiness of the match

- factory and the occupation. School tax, one dollar a year for each child. No inspector of bread, 1337. Savings of working men, 1338.
- DORION, (GEORGIANA, of Sherbrooke. employee in a wollen factory - - - - - **1233**
Is employed in the weaving room. Hours of labor. Wages. Women work by the job. Has never been fined in this factory, 1233.
- DORION, MISS JULIE, *Employee in the packing department of the match factory, Hull* - - - - - **1350**
Hours of labor. Child laborer. Piece work and day work, 1350.
- DOUGLASS, GEORGE, *Laborer, Montreal* - - - - - **584-586**
Is the caretaker of the Thistle curling rink. Constancy of employment, as caretaker of the rink. Wages and duties, 584. Has been employed as checker by the Allan Steamship Co. Checkers for the Allan Line obliged to work at night without being paid therefor. Wages of checkers. Hours of labor of checkers, 585-586.
- DROLET, ALPHONSE, *Mechanician Cartridge Factory, Quebec* - - - - - **789**
Corroboration of evidence of two proceeding witness. Apprentices, 789.
- DROLET, G., *Shoemaker, Quebec* - - - - - **1123**
Work too hard. Kind of work done. Prices paid, 1123. Wages amount earned, 1123. Contractors, profits of, 1123. Men badly treated in some factories, 1123.
- DROUIN, E., *Rope-maker, Quebec* - - - - - **970-972**
Explains about subpoenas. No necessity to work standing. Only the rule, 970. Standing to work fatiguing. Explains about the closets. Does not remember case where children were beaten. Age average of youngest child. How time lost by stoppage of machine is made up. Lost time average to workers. Rate of extra work. Ten hours work must be given for a day of ten hours, 971. Workers may sit while machine is being repaired. Height of factory. How doors open. The engineer. Dust, 972.
- DROUIN, NERÉE, *Foreman in the Match Factory, Hull* - - - - - **1361-1363**
Is foreman of the box department of Eddy's Match Factory. Men employed there. Child labor. Piece work by the children. Wages. Hours of labor, 1361. Sub-contracting, 1361, 1362, 1363.
- DROUIN, O., *Moulder, Levis* - - - - - **1140-1141**
Working at stoves, 1140. Rates of earnings, and hours of work, 1140. Time given for meals. Apprentices and their ages, 1140. Weekly payments. Number of moulders employed, 1141. Length of time employed, 1141. Ventilation of the shop bad, 1141.
- DUBÉ, A., *of the Fire Brigade, Quebec* - - - - - **1049-1050**
Forty men in Brigade. Three classes. Wages of each class. The days they remain at the station. Meal hours. Must have permission to leave station. Vacation. Condition of the stations. Bad ventilation. Want of sleeping room. The firemen's duties, 1049. No pay for extra work. What the firemen with families pay for rent. Insurance and its benefits. Firemen pay the doctor. Firemen's pay continued through illness. Pay not sufficient for the nature of the work. The citizens sometimes make donations. The clothes supplied. Firemen's work not increased, 1050.
- DUBOIS, MRS. JULIA, *Carder, Hochelaga Cotton Mills, Montreal* - - - - - **485**
Moral condition and character of the employees, 485.
- DUBÉ, C., *Manager Bateaux, Quebec* - - - - - **1023-1029**
Length of time in service. Terms of written agreement between the Company and their men; a man can leave when he finds a man to replace him. Agreement

sanctioned by men; wages paid by Messrs. Dobell, &c. Men paid for delays, 1023. Getting demurrage in a ship. Pay of the men for demurrage insisted on. Fitting out of the bateaux; men told to make their complaints directly to their employers. Cause of the falling off of the earnings of boatmen; Messrs. Dobell's offer of help to bateaux men after their society was broken up. Messrs. Dobell's conditions of sale of bateaux. Statement of average earnings of bateaux men between 1877 and 1887 inclusive, 1024-1025. Earnings of bateaux men pretty equal. Men furnish their own bateaux and provide their own grub; Company furnishes broken hooks; men paid for repairing, not for cleaning or painting. Pay and agreement with men outside their own bateaux men, 1025. Their pay less than the regular men. Men who buy Messrs. Dobell's bateaux on same terms as their regular men. Agreement read to men before they are asked to sign. Not interest of Company to keep men idle alongside a ship. How demurrage is incurred and by whom paid, 1026. Case of the "Pandora." Cases where Messrs. Dobell did not pay men. On whom the responsibility falls for time lost by waiting on ship. Notice from men before leaving. Messrs. Dobell's men work by the load, they cannot force the Company to give them constant work; they must wait until work is got for them. Not many men obliged to give the fifteen days' notice. Percentage of wages kept back paid in full, 1027. Copy of agreement referred to by the above witness, 1028.

DUCLOS, SILAS T., *Manufacturing Tanner, St. Hyacinthe* - **1313-1314**
Manufactures black leather, stiffening and slip soles. Number of employees. Wages. Child labor or boys employed and their wages. Savings of the employees. Female labor employed in the stiffening and slip sole department. Wages of men and women in that department. 1313. Exports buff and split leather. Imports hides free of duty. Fee charged for the use of the bridges and to whom paid, 1314.

DUFAUX, MISS MARIE, *Employee in the Match Factory, Hull* - **1350-1351**
Works in the roll department, 1350. Child labor. Wages. Female labor. Price young girls' pay for board, 1351.

DUFFY, JOHN JAMES, *of Sherbrooke, Lumberer and Railway Laborer* - **1187-1188**
Was employed last winter in the lumber camps near Sherbrooke, and last summer as a railway laborer. Constancy of employment in the lumber camps. Wages. Describes how the men in a lumber camp were defrauded of their wages. Lost part of his pay while working for a sub-contractor, or on the Canadian Pacific Railway near Sherbrooke. Others besides him did not get paid, 1187. Suggests, in order that men be not defrauded of their earnings, that the Company as well as the contractor be made responsible and that the men be paid weekly. Triple sub-contracting and paying in goods, 1188.

DUFFY, OWEN, *Moulder, Montreal* - **459-461**
Piece work, 459. Piece work compared with day work. Defrauding moulders of part of what they have earned. Examples of how it is done. Sanitary condition of the foundries and closets. 460. Locking out moulders for being late, so that they loose two hours, 461.

DUFRESNE, F.X., *Notre-Dame Des-Bois, Farmer* - **1156**
Have knowledge of trade in wood. Explains how employees lose money and are defrauded by contractors. Remedy, 1156.

DUGAS, CALIXTE AIME, *Judge of Sessions of the Peace of Montreal* - **447-450**
His opinion regarding the issuing of licenses. The law responsible for the great number of licenses issued annually, 447. The law regarding the issuing of licenses. His opinion regarding its interpretation, and how it (the law) ought to be amended, 447, 448. Deplores the use of intoxicating liquors, understanding that at least 80 or 90 per cent. of crimes committed have liquor as their excuse. Opposed to the present system of fining for breaches of the liquor laws: his reasons therefor. The present

- system of classifying prisoners demoralizing and one of the causes of great injustice. Danger of bringing young people, sentenced for the first time to a term of imprisonment into contact with criminals while two or three years in the Reformatory may be too long for the offence. The effect of sending children to the Reformatory, 449. Drunkenness too prevalent among the working classes. Healthful amusements as a remedy for intemperance, 450.
- DUGAS, LEON, *Employed in the Circuit Court Office, Montreal* - - - - - **602-603**
- Explanations *in re* the case of Brunet vs. Greatorex. Judgment and the various costs of Court, Bailiff, *saisie gagerie*, executions, &c., &c., 602, 603.
- DUMAS, T., *Quebec, Foreman Shoe Factory* - - - - - **1112**
- Overseer women's department. Nature of work. Age of employees. Wages, rate of. Employees trouble with. No fines. Inspector of factories, 1112.
- DUMONT, F.X., *Laborer, Quebec* - - - - - **1048-1049**
- Works in a factory for making earthen pipes. Hours of work, winter and summer. Wages. Work unendurable. The weights to be carried, 1048. Mid-day hour rest. Four other laborers, 1049.
- DUPONT, MARC, *Baker, St. Hyacinthe* - - - - - **1318-1319**
- Bread inspection and inspectors. Price of bread. Wages he pays his bakers. Apprentices. Has a boy to deliver bread, wages he pays him, 1318. Hours of labor. Water supply, 1319.
- DUPUIS, DOMINA, *Laborer, Hull* - - - - - **1353-1354**
- Piles lumber at Eddy's. Hours of labor. Constancy of employment. Wages. Child labor employed in other branches of the Company's business, 1353. Owns the house he lives in but not the land on which is built; holds the land by lease. Case of a man named Bergevin who was ejected from leasehold property and lost his house. Wages now and thirteen years ago, 1354.
- DUPUIS, JOSEPH-ODILON, *Dry Goods Merchant, Montreal* - - - - - **711**
- Comparison in price of dry goods used by working classes as they are now and as they were fifteen years ago. Tweeds suitable for workingmen's clothing cheaper than formerly, 711.
- DUPUIS, HORMISDAS, *Foreman for the E. B. Eddy Manufacturing Co., Hull* - - - - - **1354**
- Wages he gets. Wages of laborers who work in wood. Hours of labor. Accidents in the sash factory, caused by negligence on the part of the men, 1354.
- DURAND, JOSEPHINE, *Employee of the Hudon Cotton Factory, Hochelaga* - - - - - **475**
- Protection of the morality of employees.
- DUSSAULT, FRANÇOIS-XAVIER, *Tobacco Manufacturer, Quebec* - - - - - **851-852**
- Number of employees. Female labor. Rate of wages. Hours of labor. Overtime paid extra. Necessity of fining employees. Water closets; only one closet for male and female employees, 851. Fire escapes, 852.
- DUSSAULT, J., *Master-Printer, Quebec* - - - - - **940-945**
- Job printing establishment. Number of men. Apprentices. Wages. His action at time of late strike. Respects Typographical Union, but refuses to be directed by it, 940. Violent conduct of one old workman. Master Printers' Association. Seeking men outside the city (Quebec), 941. On signing contract. And at Union prices. Demands of Typographical Union. Not a question of wages with masters, but of principle, 942. Circular to the masters. Document signed by the men. Way of dictation by Typographical Union. Rules of a body of men. Despotism. The reason, 944. Ability of intelligent man to regulate his affairs without intervention of any association. Difference between good and inferior workmen. Quebec

work done in Montreal, 944. Why Montreal work is cheaper. Wages there. Competition with disastrous rivalry in Quebec, 945.

DUSSAULT, J., *Master-Printer, Quebec* (re-called) - - - - - **975-979**

Produces circular of the Typographical Unions 159-160, and from the Franklin Association Knights of Labor. The latter signed by A. Langlois, a witness who declared he was not aware that the Knights of Labor had informed the masters of their decision at the same time as the Typographical Unions, 975. Circular read, 976. Question as to circular. Discussion over question. Did Knights of Labor encourage the printers's strike as Knights of Labor, 987. All knowledge witness had of the Knights of Labor being implicated in strike was through the circular read. Belongs to the Union of Master-Printers. Their threat to boycott Mr. Read, 978. Did not close his establishment during the strike, 979.

DUSSAULT, NAPOLEON-TIMOLÉON, *Merchant-Tailor, Sherbrooke* - - - - - **1220**

Number of men and women he employs and their wages. Hours of labor. The cloth he uses is nearly all imported. Piece work. Female labor he employs. Prices for piece work, 1220.

DUVAL, A., *Cigar-Maker, Montreal* - - - - - **70-71**

Apprenticeship. Rate of wages. Fines and corporal punishment. Rates of wages and mode of payment, 70. Sanitary arrangement very bad, 71.

DUVAL, NARCISSE, *Printer, Montreal* - - - - - **451-453**

Apprentices, 451. Piece work. Wages. Effect on the trade of competition from the Reformatory school. Wages reduced by the competition. Degree of efficiency of apprentices from the Reformatory school. Hours of labor, 452. His office non-union, 453.

EATON, R. W., *Manager of St. Henri Mills, Montreal* - - - - - **392-400**

They rather discharge operatives than fine them heavily. Most of the fines are levied on weavers for poor work. In 1886, their wages amounted to \$100,000. And their fines to \$253.73, which is less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents a week on all operatives. Five per cent of their goods are seconds. This is one twentieth upon which they lose ten per cent. On an output of \$400,000, there is a decrease of 1-200. And the fines imposed are about 1-400. Hours of labor, from 6.30 a.m. to 6 at night, 392. 45 minutes for a lunch at noon. And work stopped at 3 on Saturdays. They employ 420 operatives. There is one boy 11 years old in the spooling room. Three girls of 12. Two of 13, and the rest are above 14. In the card room there are girls of 13, of 12, and one of ten, of large appearance, 393. When they work overtime, they are paid in proportion. In the weaving room, the fine for poor work may amount to one half the price of the weaving. If a piece of 50 yards cost 40 cents for weaving, the fine may be twenty cents. Would like to see the law carried out in regard to child labor, and arrangements made for the education of children, 394. The profit of a mill might to be 20 per cent., in order to have a dividend of 6 per cent., 396. The lowest wages of little girls, from 45 to 60 cents a day. Girls earning \$3.50 a week usually live with their families. They could not afford to pay \$3.00 for board, 397. Girls like work at the factory much better than service in a family, even at \$13 a month. Girls would have a better chance to marry as servants than as operatives and they would make better wives, too, 398. Copy of the regulations, 399.

EDWARDS, JOHN BAKER, PH. D., D.C.L., *Emeritus Professor of Chemistry and Microscopy in Bishop's College, Montreal; Consulting Chemist and Public Analyst for the City and District of Montreal* - - - - -

664-666

Was appointed Public Analyst by the Dominion Government ten years ago. Results of analysis made him, as Public Analyst, to determine the purity and strength of the following articles of food (*viz.*): The wholesomeness and purity of the city water

- supply, beer or ale sold in Montreal, milk, bread, 664. Butter, mustard, coffee, tea, 665. Sugar, 666.
- EDWARDS, J. P.,** *Manager of the Canada Jute Co., Montreal* - - - **410-411**
They manufacture bags. Employ ten men and thirty females, from 15 up to 25 years of age. Girls begin at \$2.50 a week; they are paid by piece work and get as much as \$9 a week. The hours are from 7 till 12 and from 1 till 6. On Saturday they close at one o'clock. The men get \$7.50 to \$10 per week. They have same rates for night work, 410.
- ELKINS, HENRY A.,** *Manager of the Elkins Manufacturing Company, Sherbrooke* - - - **1217-1218**
Manufactures and fits up stoves. Wages of stove plate moulders. Apprentices. Constancy of employment. Savings of the employees, 1217. Condition of the working classes generally improved compared with fifteen years ago. Wages now and fifteen years ago compared, 1218.
- ENRIGHT, THOMAS,** *Ship-laborer, Montreal* - - - **757-759**
Process of unloading vessels laden with coal. Hours of labor. Accidents from defective gearing, 757. Coal dust while working, 758.
- EPHRAIM, ABRAHAM,** *Tailor, Montreal* - - - **557-558**
Makes coats for wholesale houses. Wages per week. Works for his brother who employs girls and men, 557, 558.
- ETHIER, MABIA,** *Formerly employed at the McDonald Tobacco Factory, Montreal, aged ten years* - - - **481**
Hours of labor, 481.
- FAILLE, J.,** *Cigarmaker, Montreal* - - - **74-75**
Apprenticeship. Fines why inflicted and how disposed of, 74. Amount of fines collected during apprenticeship. Rate of wages. Corporal punishment, 75.
- FORGUES, LOEL,** *Tool Machinist, Government Cartridge Factory, Quebec* **787-789**
Discharged on account of hatred of foreman, 787. Drunken foreman. Work rejected, 788.
- FAUCHER, E.,** *Cabinetmaker, Quebec* - - - **1127-1128**
Apprentices' laws effecting them, etc., 1127. Hours of labor. Overtime. Wages, rate of. Reduction of wages. Dangerous racks in shop, 1128.
- FERGUSON, G.,** *Foreman Boot and Shoe Factory, Quebec* - - - **965-967**
Number of hands. Foreman of female department. Total number of employees. Average wages of women. Age and wages of youngest child. No work done by sub-contract in his department. Reason for discountenancing such work. Fair sanitary condition of factory. Appointment of a sanitary inspector beneficial. Average wages of women. Average number of weeks' work. The girls' work. Trouble in finding perfect good female operator, 966. Hours of work. Night work. No export outside Canada of goods. Piece and week work; the latter preferred by some. Weeks of work. Wages of boot and shoe operatives rather on increase than decrease. The engineer, 967.
- FERLAND, E.,** *Clerk Dry Goods, Quebec* - - - **1095**
Time of closing too late. Time for meals. Working hours. Customers' time of purchasing, 1095.
- FERRIS, P.,** *Stevedore, Montreal* - - - **202-207**
Statement of rate of wages paid to 'longshoremen. Competition of stevedores, 202. Stevedores, the contract system and its effects, 203. Men paid according to contract. Supplying the necessary gear for loading and unloading, 204. Accidents. Number

of hours employed System of relays, 205. Higher wages for night work than day work. Custom in other ports, respecting night work and Sunday work. Difference of night work in Montreal and American ports. Compromise of stevedore with men. Two different hoists on one hatchway, 206. I.O.U. men paid by I.O.U.'s. Sunday work not allowed in this country, 207.

FINN, T. J., *Foreman "Gazette" News Room, Montreal* - - - **321-325**

Apprentices in the compositors' room are paid from 19 to 29 cents per thousand ems, and earn from \$5 to \$8 a week; for six days of 11 or 12 hours, journeymen on the *Gazette* get from \$15 to \$16 per week. Apprentices not indentured; not under 15 years of age, and not employed on night work. Piece hands not competent to set up advertisements; but they get most of the other fat matter; 25 cents an hour for time work. Some men make \$22 a week, 322. The Union rate is 32 cents per thousand ems; all the *Gazette* journeymen are Union men. The sanitary condition of the place is not what it ought to be. In 1872, the rate was 33½ cents per thousand ems; but the rate of living has increased about fourteen per cent. since that time; now women employed as compositors, and journeymen are worse off. Stereotyped plates, when imported, injurious to the printer's interest, 323. Is not in favor of indentures. Why country printing offices are the best for apprentices, 324.

FISSET, A., *Fruiterer, Quebec* - - - - - **1113-1114**

Rent of stalls too high, from \$60 to \$100. Complains that traders from country allowed to sell on same terms as farmers. Complained to clerk of market. Traders should pay for stalls. Clerks of markets sell under their own names. City merchant stopped from selling. Thick country merchant should pay tax, 1113, 1114.

FISHER, ROSWELL, C., *Economist, Montreal* - - - - - **578-581**

The causes to which the labor question is due. The extent and manner in which legislation affect the labor question, 578. The indirect effect of legislation on rents. Co-operation in Montreal and England. Example of the effect of bonus giving, or profit sharing, in Montreal. Wages of bricklayers and stone masons exceptionally high summer of 1887, 579. Reason for difference in wages in Toronto and Montreal. The "only one method of increasing the wages of the wage-earning class." Technical education as a means of increasing the efficiency of the laborer. Shortening the hours of labor as a means of social improvement. Organization of combination as a means of raising wages. Trades Unions and the Law Society, 580-581.

FITZPATRICK, C., *Advocate, Quebec* - - - - - **1074-1078**

Submits statistics to show that since 1856, the time used in loading ships is one-third less than it was before the formation of the Ship Laborers' Society. Average despatches of ships in 1855-1886 per 100 tons. Ships get greater despatch at Quebec, than any other part in North America. Statistics furnished by Norwegian Consul. Decrease in the annual export of lumber from port of Quebec in 1860 to 1886. Loading a vessel with mixed cargo occupies greater time than loading with deals alone. Causes why trade has left Quebec. Quantity of squared timber coming to Quebec greatly fallen off. Tendency of steamers with cargo to go to head of navigation. Greater cheapness of freight and of freight room in Montreal. Development of steamer. Construction of the Intercolonial and other railway centering in Montreal, and deepening of St. Lawrence ship canal, 1075. Montreal the centre of the commerce of Canada. Has the energy and capital necessary to maintain its position. Indicates the objects of the Ship Laborers' Society and the purport of its bye-laws. Upholds their legality. Gives instances of time occupied in loading vessels. Life of ship laborers hazardous, and such as warrants existence of the society. Statement concerning the average earnings of ship laborers. Copy of statistics submitted by witness, 1076-7-8.

FITZGERALD, MISS LIZZIE, *Cigar employee, Montreal* - - - - - **209**

For six years at Fortier's cigar factory. She is a stripper. Never saw any act of immorality there.

- FITZGERALD, PATRICK, Ship laborer, Quebec - - - - - 749-754**
 He relates process and danger to ship laborers in loading lumber on steamships, 750. Describes an accident to a ship laborer while working in the hold of a ship loading lumber. Danger of loading with a steam winch. Feeling among different nationalities at Quebec which divides crews, persons of one nationality always working together. Hours of labor, 751. Defective gearing as a cause of accidents. Loading of deals. Rate of wages paid ship laborers in Quebec compared with wages paid in United States, 752. Danger in using steam in loading ships explained, 753. Quebec ship laborers as good workmen, 754.
- FLAWN, T., Printer, Montreal - - - - - 428-429**
 Says in the place he was working, fat matter was reserved for female hands, such as tables, diagrams, poetry, the puzzle column. The average is more than 20 cents per thousand ems, 428. Male boys apprentices have to serve four years in that place. Girls, a few months only, because it does not pay to keep them on time, 429.
- FLEURY, PIERRE, of Sherbrooke, Contractor - - - - - 1188-1190**
 Sub-contracting on the C. P. R. at Little Lake, Magog, and results thereof. Men in this vicinity lose money every year through sub-contractors; suggests, as a remedy, that the individual who first gives out the job be made responsible. Practicability of paying men employed in the woods weekly, 1188. Paid his "boss" \$26.00 a month and still his family were in want every week. Pays in cash, 1190.
- FOLEY, E., Quebec, Advocate, &c., Clerk of Recorder's Court, Secretary to Police Board - - - - - 1098-1100**
 Explains system of insurance at length, 1098-99. Gives list of clothing supplied free to policemen. Pay not deducted for clothing, 1099. Explanation on system of insurance continued, 1099, 1100.
- FONTAINE, DEMOISELLE ALPHONSINE, Employed in the Manufacture of Cotton, Montreal - - - - - 639-640**
 Discharged from the St. Anne Cotton Factory. Reason why discharged. Fining of employees, 640.
- FONTAINE, DAME SARAH, Montreal - - - - - 640-641**
 Is mother of the last witness Demoiselle A. Fontaine, who was recently discharged from the St. Anne Cotton Factory. Has two other daughters who were discharged from the Hudon Factory: reason why they were so discharged without notice, viz.: for giving evidence against Overseer Max. Karn for striking one of her daughters. Fining of employees, 640, 641.
- FONTAINE, TELESOPHORE, Laborer, Quebec - - - - - 778-780**
 Amount of earnings. Hours of labor, 778. Received no wages for seven weeks. Fortnightly pay days, 779. Residences of Quebec laboring classes. Absence of waterworks water and privies from houses of working men. Quebec workmen pay water tax and also pay carriers for delivering water, 780.
- FOOTE, J. J., Proprietor of "Morning Chronicle," Quebec - - - - - 921-922**
 Number of men and apprentices, 921. Pay of work by the piece. Scale of wages asked by Printers' Union. Labor difficulties. Sanitary condition of printing office. Good general condition of printers. Average earnings of men. Apprentice system. Cost of nine-hour system to proprietor, 922.
- FORTIÉ, JOSEPH, Joiner, Quebec - - - - - 780-782**
 Rate of wages. Rate of wages of carpenters. Constancy of employment. Hours of labour. Fortnightly pay days. Irregularity of pay days, 781. Inconvenience suffered by workmen owing to their not being paid regularly. Increase in hours of labor with no increase in wages. Demand for joiners in Quebec, 782.

- FORTIER, J. M., Cigar Manufacturer, Montreal** - - - - - **124-134**
 Age of apprentices. Cause of, being younger. Under whose control. Punishments and method of, 124. Recorder's authority. Punishment of girl by witness, 125. Other means of correction. Searching of apprentices. Sent to Recorder, 127. Hours of work. Length of time spent in black hole. Stealing tobacco, 128. Strike on account of searching the employees. Examination of cigars by foreman. Proportion spoiled. No appeal on condemned cigars, 129. Cigars taken from the employee to give away. System of fines. Duties of special constable, 131. Cause of strike and its results. Charge for gas. Fines inflicted, what becomes of them, 132. Scott Act injurious to the trade. What tobaccos used. Rules and regulations of factory, 134.
- FOURNIER, A., Cigarmaker, Sherbrooke** - - - - - **1183-1184**
 Hired by contract. Left for Montreal. Reasons for leaving. Rates of wages, 1183. Ill treatment, 1184.
- FOURNIER, FELIX, Leather Cutter, St. Hyacinthe** - - - - - **1332-1333**
 Works for Messrs. Seguin & Lalime by the day. Wages. Hours of labor. Constancy of employment. Issuing of licenses for the sale of liquor in St. Hyacinthe and surrounding parishes, 1332. Believes the issuing of liquor licenses is the main cause of the workman's troubles and poverty. Savings of workmen, 1333.
- FOURNIER, J., Cigarmaker, Montreal** - - - - - **81**
 Black hole and corporal punishment of female. Fines and how imposed, 81.
- FRYER, CHRISTOPHER, Painter and Decorator, Montreal** - - - - - **634-635**
 House painters' wages. Constancy of employment. Average yearly earnings. Wages of sign writers. Constancy of employment. Wages of paper hangers. Constancy of employment. How boys are employed in the business, 634. Supply of and demand for good painters. Apprenticeship, 635.
- FULLER, THOMAS W., Manager of the Boston Bakery, Sherbrooke** - **1203-1205**
 Number of bakers employed, 1203. Wages. Apprentices. Sanitary condition of the shop. The Health Inspector's visit. Ventilation. Machinery used and accidents therefrom. The man who runs the engine is not a practical engineer. Wages paid in the confectionary department. Female labor employed in the confectionary department. Hours of labor. Constancy of employment. Pay days weekly on Friday nights, 1204. American vs. Canadian sugars. Some of the employees own their own houses. Operations of the Montreal sugar combine, 1205.
- GAGNÉ, HERMENEGILDE, Knitting Factory Employee, St. Hyacinthe** - **1291**
 Did work at the "Granite" Mills when eighteen years of age. Overtime. Piece-work. Wages or earnings. Hours of labor. Fining of employees. Left because of reduction in his wages, 1291.
- GAGNÉ, L. M., Dry Goods Clerk, Quebec** - - - - - **1091**
 Hours of work too long. No benefit. Rate of wages. Time for meals too short, 1091.
- GAGNON, J., Cigarmaker, Montreal** - - - - - **51-52**
 Apprenticeship, 51. Fines. How appropriated. Corporal punishment. No regulations posted in factory, 52.
- GAGNON, R., Box Factory Employee, St. Romuald** - - - - - **1150-1151**
 Nature of employment. Rate of earnings. Ages of those employed. Employees injured at saws. Nature of accidents. Proprietor does not hold himself responsible for accidents, 1150. Finds work of nailing hard, 1151.
- GAGNON, T., Laborer, St. Romuald** - - - - - **1141-1142**

Statement of employment. Rate of wages earned in St. Romuald, 1141. Cost of living five or six years ago, 1142.

GALARNEAU, JOSEPH, *Apprentice Cigarmaker* - - - - - **266**

GALE, GEORGE, *Printer, Quebec* - - - - - **1033-1035**

Fifteen years in the business. Prevailing rate of wages. Morning papers and piecework. Apprentices. Starvation wages cause of late strike. Printers willing to submit to arbitration. Their demands, 1033. Efforts to obtain increase of wages before the strike. Printers outside the city employed. The Union scale of wages generally accepted. Arrests and trial. No idle time. "Fat" matter. Difference in the scale of wages in Ottawa and Quebec. Estrangement between employer and employed. Strike vast benefit to men, 1034. Printers in Quebec as well paid as any skilled labor in the city. Arbitrary measures only in cases of extreme necessity. Sanitary condition of printing offices. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Favorable to arbitration of labor if represented on the Board. Free public library. Age of boys beginning in the printing business. In favor of compulsory apprenticeships, 1035.

GALLAGHER, WILLIAM, *Foreman in the Shoe Department of the Canadian Rubber Company, Montreal* - - - - - **684-686**

Child labor, 684. Hours of labor. All piecework. Closets separate for boys and girls. Wages. Fines. Female labor. Length of time required to make a good operative, 685. Means of escape in case of fire, 686.

GAMACHE, DAME CLARISSE. *Employed at the St. Anne Cotton Factory* **476-477**

Moral condition or character of the employees, 476, 477.

GARAND, GILBERT, *Foreman, Montreal* - - - - - **278-280**

Had under his orders children eight years old who worked as long as adults, 278. Ill treatment of children. Girls earning fifty cents a day fined one dollar, 279. Engagement signed without its being read, 280.

GARRIOCH, WILLIAM H. J., *Manager of the E. B. Eddy Sash and Door Factory, Hull* - - - - - **1344-1346**

Number of employees in his department. Carpenters and laborers. Proportion of skilled mechanics among them, 1344. Apprentices. Wages of bench and machine hands. Constancy of employment. Hours of labor. Wages and hours of labor of salesmen in the yard. Does not know of any of the men belonging to labor organizations. Nearly all the married men own their own houses. Class of work done in the factory, 1345. Savings of employees. Apprentices. Wages have increased during the last five years. Condition of workmen's houses, 1346.

GAULT, ANDREW F., *President Hochelaga Cotton Manufacturing Co.* **374-381**

Has never heard of the Quebec law making it illegal to employ in factories boys under twelve years of age and girls under fourteen, 374. Does not know of anyone going to the Saguenay district engaging people for his factories. Leaves the question of fines to the managers of the factories, 375. Will improve the condition of the closets, 376. Thinks children are as well off in the factories as they would be if left playing in the streets, 377. The stock of the company is \$1,020,000, 379. Does not see how girls could leave the factory before men's work is stopped, 380.

GAULT, ANDREW F., *Merchant, of Montreal, President of the Hochelaga Manufacturing Company, re-called* - - - - - **571**

Total amount of fines collected from employees in the Hochelaga and St. Anne's cotton mills during the five years ending 31st December, 1887, and total amount of wages paid during the same period, 571,

GAUTHIER, ADJUTOR, *Cigarmaker, Sherbrooke* - - - **1235-1236**
Apprentices' wages according to agreement. Apprentices at piecework. Fines, 1235, 1236.

GAUTHIER, E., *Journeyman Cigarmaker, Montreal* - - - **29**
Service of apprenticeship. Rate of wages. Fines, and why imposed. Corporal punishment and why inflicted, 29.

GAUTHIER, ZOTIQUE, *Shoemaker. St. Hyacinthe* - - - **1316-1318**
Works for James Aird & Co., did recently work for Seguin & Lalime. Wages at Seguin & Lalime's Factory. Sanitary condition of factories in the town. Pay days, 1316. Wages in Montreal and St. Hyacinthe compared. Apprentices too numerous in St. Hyacinthe. Rents in Montreal and St. Hyacinthe compared, also taxes and water rates. Water supply in St. Hyacinthe. Wages of lasters, 1317. Price lasters get for work done on the McKay machine, 1318.

GAUVIN, B., *Carriagemaker, Quebec* - - - **1115-1116**
Thinks Quebec carriagemakers have cause of complaint against Government for allowing Montreal Reformatory to compete with them. Explains cause of complaint. Can sell buggies 35 or 40 per cent. less than we can. They are well made. Sales enormous this year. Number of carriage-makers in Quebec decreased, 1115. Number of carriages sold same as last few years, but most of them come from Montreal. Think would have no cause to complain if Reformatory established here, or if carriages were taxed, 1116.

JELLEYMAN, R., *Paper Box Manufacturer, Montreal* - - - **407-409**
Girls in his place get \$1.50 a week to begin with, 407. A good fast hand will make from \$3 to \$8 a week; men get from \$7 to \$11 a week, 408. They work from 7 to 6 in summer, and from 8 in winter; when they work till ten o'clock, they receive one pay and a half. Not much competition in that line, because boxes cost too much freight to be exported to a great distance. Boxes are used for shirts, collars, shoes, furs, shelving boxes, hardware boxes, &c. They are all made by hand, though cut by machinery, 409.

GIGUÈRE, J., *Carpenter, Quebec* - - - **1112-1113**
Worked at Louise Basin. Wages, rate of. Nature of work. Work dangerous, cause, 1112. Accidents. Hours of work, 1113.

GIGUÈRE, PIERRE, *Inspector of Montreal Mutual Insurance Company, Montreal* - - - **713**
Most of policy holders French Canadians. Character of policy holders taken into account. Condition of houses occupied by the working classes. Rise of insurance rates on large buildings and factories in Montreal, 713.

GINGRAS, B., *Carpenter and Bargeman, Quebec* - - - **949-950**
Late Bargemen's Society of Quebec. How broken up. Wages lowered when broken up, 949. Agreement now signed by bargemen entirely in interest of masters. Work at all times when ordered. Obligated to rig and caulk the master's boats at their (bargemen's) own expense. Late Bargemen's Society did not relieve their sick. Bargemen's wages past and present, 950.

GIRANDIAS, L., *Cigarmaker, Montreal* - - - **52-53**
Apprenticeship, 52. Fines not imposed in the factory now working in. Corporal punishment. Fines in other factories, 53.

GIRARD, L., *Commercial Traveller, representing the firm of Leopold Girard, Manufacturer of Coffins and Coffin Trimmings, Three Rivers* **655-658**
Acts exclusively for the firm outside, 655. Explains the nature of the restrictions put upon the firm, in the sale of their goods, by the Undertakers' Association, 655 to

658. "Combine" of the manufacturers of undertaker's goods in Ontario and Quebec is connected with a similar "combine" in the United States, 656, 657. Where undertakers, who do not belong to the Association, get their materials. Effect of the Manufacturers' Association on price, 657. Undertakers of funerals in Ontario pass an examination, 658.
- GLASS, JOHN, *Biscuit-maker, Quebec* - - - - - **771-773**
 Number of hands employed. Hours of labor. Rate of wages, 771. Effect of the introduction of machinery. Rate of wages paid biscuit-makers in Quebec compared with wages paid in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Cost of living in Quebec. Employees now employed six months in the year, 772.
- GLOBENSKY, EUGENE, *Editor and Proprietor of the Reformatory School Printing Office, Montreal* - - - - - **453-456**
 Number of Reformatory School children he employs. Wages he pays them, 453. Length of time those children usually stay with him. Price he charges for factums compared with that charged by the last witness, Mr. Duval. Prices charged factums now and before he began his printing office at the Reformatory. Rent he pays at the Reformatory. The great bargain in rent is what enables him to work cheaper than outside offices, 454. Taxes he pays. What becomes of the wages he pays to the children. Wages he pays to journeymen, 455. Prices he charges for factums and the price fixed by the Court. Does not think that the child labor he employs at the Reformatory enables him to work cheaper than printers outside. Children allowed to choose their trade at the Reformatory. Hours of labor of the children, 456.
- GODBOUT, A., *Clerk Dry Goods, Quebec* - - - - - **1094-1095**
 Working hours of clerks boarding with employers, 1094. Wages rates of. Nature of work, 1095.
- GOLD, ISAAC, *Tailor, Montreal* - - - - - **558**
 Makes coats for wholesale houses. Employs six women and two men. Wages he pays his employees. Hours of labor. Constancy of employment. Also employs children. Price he gets for making coats, 558.
- GENDRON, O., *Sherbrooke, Corset Manufacturer* - - - - - **1157-1160**
 Number of hands employed. Several apprentices. Rates of wages of men and boys. Rates of wages of women. Rates of wages of children. Time of payment, 1157. Hours of work. Sub-contracts. No fines, except when goods spoiled. Sanitary condition of factory. Raw material imported and the kind. Heavy duties, 1158. Ratifies statements as to wages earned and ages of employees. Rules and regulations posted up in factory. Notice of fines, 1159. Extra pay for overtime, 1160.
- GORDON, CLARKE, *Brickmaker, Builder and Contractor, Sherbrooke* - - - - - **1211-212**
 Wages of brick yard employees. Night work in the brick yard. Bricklayers' wages. The employment of men in railway construction. Sub-contractors in railway construction, 1211-1212.
- GOSSELIN, ALPHONSE, *Assistant City Clerk, Montreal* - - - - - **265-266**
 On the subject of a petition from the Central Council of Trades and Labour, 266.
- GOSSELIN, AMEDÉE, *Worker in Knitted Goods, St. Hyacinthe* - - - - - **1319-1320**
 Works at present in Mr. Casavant's organ factory. Wages. Hours of labor. Did work at the Granite Knitting factory. Overtime at the Granite Mills, 1319. Is fifteen years old. Worked by the job at the Granite Mill. His earnings there. Night work. Hours of labor. Fining of employees at the Knitting factory, 1320.
- GOULET, CAPTAIN A., *Montreal* - - - - - **521-523**
 Is owner, captain and engineer of a steamer running on the Ottawa. The general

rule all over is that when a boat is not fit for passengers she is turned into a tow boat. Captains and engineers' certificates. Only boats over 150 tons require a certificated engineer. Tow and freight boats ought to have certificated engineers as well as passenger boats. Steamboat inspection. Wages of deck hands and engineers without certificates, 521. Sleeping accomodation of and board given to crews on tow steamers. Barges and their crews. Competent marine engineers not properly protected. Accidents or explosions generally due to incompetent men. Knows steam-boat hulls afloat which are unfit for service, 522-523.

GOURDEAU, F., *Tanner and Currier, Quebec* - - - - - 1065-1066

Thinks inspectors would be of no use. Introduction of machinery has raised wages. Sub-contractors. Age of children employed. System of apprenticeship. Do not like to have apprentices. They refuse to engage according to law. Hours of work and average wages, 1065. Wages of men below first class. Sanitary condition of factories. Exports to England. Special goods exported. Why often obliged to export from Montreal rather than Quebec. Imported goods received by way of Montreal. Specialties in boots and shoes could be exported. His engineer not certified, 1066.

GOYETTE, *Cigar-maker, Montreal* - - - - - 39-40

Apprenticeship, 39. Rate of wages. Fines and corporal punishment. Cause of punishment, 40.

GRAFTON, F. E., *Bookseller, Montreal* - - - - - 232-236

The evils of the liquor traffic, 232. Saloons a great deal worse than small-pox. Wants drunkards to be sent to an inebriate asylum, 233. Increase of drunkenness among women, owing to grocers selling liquor by the glass, 234. Details of the Rout tragedy. Women sent back to Europe from the female prison, 235. Miss MacPherson has brought about 4,000 children. Most of them do well. The good work of Mr. Quarrier of Glasgow, and Miss Rye, 236.

GRAHAM, HUGH, *Proprietor of the "Star" Newspaper, Montreal* - - - - - 327

Employs 175 persons, thirty of whom are journeymen. Has journeywomen besides. Wages graded according to capacity. Has about twenty-five journeygirls. The highest rate for them is twenty-nine cents per thousand ems. For men it is thirty cents. The best girl is not worth so much as the best man. Girls work eight hours and three-quarters, 327.

GRATOREX, THOMAS, *Laborer, Montreal* - - - - - 84-88

Complaining of increase of rents, 84. Overcrowding and size of tenements. Cost of ground and house, and rent of same, 85. Rates and taxes. Average wages. Cost of living, 86. Cost of living of workingman in England as compared with Montreal. Condition of workingmen in the Old Country and Canada, 87. Judgment to eject, 88.

GRATTON, ALPHONSE, *Carpenter, Hull* - - - - - 1355

Is a bench hand at the Eddy sash factory. Wages. Constancy of employment. Protection of machinery. Shop comfortable, 1355.

GRAVEL, GUSTAVE, *Representing the Canadian Rubber Company, Montreal* - - - - - 722

Rate of wages of employees and their increase since 1883. Business of firm suffers from competition from United States, 722.

GREATOREX, THOMAS, *Laborer, Montreal* - - - - - 687-688

Bailiffs' charges and Court costs in the collection of small debts, 687, 688.

GREAVES, E., *Carpenter, Montreal* - - - - - 148-149

Worked in a saw mill. Injured by saw, 148. No compensation. No guard behind saw, 149.

- GRENIER, CAMILLE J., Corsetmaker, Montreal** - - - - **700-701**
 Extent of the manufacture of corsets in Montreal. Number of persons employed at corset making in that city. Majority are girls. Use of sewing machines propelled by steam. Youngest girl in his employ fifteen years old. Wages paid to employees, 700. Sanitary condition of his factory. Fines, 701.
- GRENIER, JACQUES-AURÈLE, Valuator of Property, Quebec** - - - - **812-815**
 Value of property in Quebec. Value of property in districts occupied by working classes has decreased. Rentals at St. Roch, 812. Reason of the decrease in rents in western parts of city. Decrease in population of the city. Action of Ship Laborers' Society in increasing wages of ship laborers has driven vessels which used to load at Quebec to other places. Consequent decrease in population as many ship laborers had nothing to do. Population decreases more among poorer than rich classes. Average rental of a comfortable house for workingmen, 813. Sanitary rules for builders. City water tax paid not by tenants, but by proprietors. Seizures for taxes. Condition of the interiors of houses occupied by working classes in Quebec, 814. Working classes as tax payers. Reason for the promptitude in paying taxes, 815.
- GREGOIRE, J. D., Clerk Dry Goods, Quebec** - - - - **1094**
 Thinks in case of failure clerk should be paid for whole year. Time of engagement. Employment difficult to obtain after. Vacation. Working hours. Time of closing. No time for amusement, 1094.
- GROSE, JOHN W., Chairman of the Board of Assessors, Montreal** - - - - **525-529**
 Explanation regarding the valuation and assessment of certain property on DeSalaberry street, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529.
- GROTHÉ, O., Cigar Manufacturer, Montreal** - - - - **144-148**
 Number of apprentices. Number of journeymen. Warning used once for correction. Reason why, 144. Fines not imposed. No corporal punishment. Explanations by witness, 145. Amount of wages set down in contract paid, 146. Hours of work. Apprenticeship agreement. No tasks imposed on apprentices. Sanitary condition of factory, 146. Number of hands employed. Age of girls, 148.
- GUAY, T., Currier, Quebec** - - - - **1127**
 Wages rate of. Hours of work. No engineer, 1127.
- GUAY, TELESPHORE, Tanner and Currier, employed at Payant & Duclos, St. Hyacinthe** - - - - **1312**
 Hours of labor. Wages. Sanitary condition of the shop. Machinery properly guarded against accidents, 1312.
- GUERTIN, JOSEPH-OCTAVE, Notary and Secretary-Treasurer of the City of St. Hyacinthe** - - - - **1265-1270**
 Population of the city. Valuation of real estate in 1886. Amount of taxes levied on rental assessment and paid by tenants, 1265-1268. Industries bonused by the city, 1265-1269. Loan to the woollen factory. Have the money therefor now raised and the interest paid. Tax on workmen, under clause 94 of the city's charter, 1266-1267. Material or financial condition of workmen generally, 1267. Houses occupied by tenants pay both a property and a tenants' tax, while houses occupied by the owners thereof only pay property tax. Manufactures who have received bonuses are exempt from taxation. How the city officials ascertain if the obligations imposed on those manufactures who have received bonuses are fulfilled, 1268. Total municipal revenue of the city for 1887. Statement showing the property in the city exempt from taxation. List of bonuses granted and paid by the city, 1269.
- HALPIN, WILLIAM H., Undertaker and Livery Stable Keeper, Montreal** **635-639**
 Combination or organization of undertakers. The objects and operations of the

organizations. Qualifications for membership in the Association, 635, 636, 637, 638. Mr. Seale is Secretary of the Undertakers' Association, 639.

HOLT, JOHN H., of the firm of G. R. Renfrew & Co., Furriers, Quebec **834-836**
 Number of employees. Class of female labor employed, 834. Rate of wages to fur sewer. Child labor. Rate of wages to sewing machine operators. Overtime. Hours of labor. Night work. Meal hours. Fire escapes. Imported fur, breeder of disease, 835. Pay days weekly, 836.

HALL, JOHN S., Advocate, Montreal **384-388**
 Explains the Quebec law on seizures, 384. Salaries of public servants in Quebec may be seized, at the rate of one-fifth of monthly salary, not exceeding \$1,000 per annum; of one-fourth, when salary is from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per annum; and of one-third, when salary exceeds \$2,000, 385. Does not approve of the present system of seizing wages. Discretionary power ought to be given the judge to decide about seizure of wages. List of legal holidays in the Province of Quebec. Clerks and laborers are privileged for three months' salary in arrears, 386.

HAMILTON, ANTOINE, Chairman of Board of Assessors, Montreal **238**

HAUSEN, ANDREAS KALMEAS, Ship Broker and Merchant, Quebec **879-880**
 He describes trouble experienced in loading a vessel, the stevedore, under rules Ship Laborers' Society, demanded thirty hands and ship owners would only employ twenty to load vessel. In consequence lumber was sent to Montreal to be loaded. Better rates freight in Montreal than Quebec. Cost of loading lumber per standard, 879. Loading of ocean vessels. Practices of Quebec ship brokers, 880.

HARDY, MRS. S., Montreal **207**
 Her knowledge of the working and morality of Mr. Fortier's Cigar Factory, 207.

HART, H., Manager Jacob & Co.'s Cigar Factory, Montreal **143-144**
 No apprentices. Number of hands employed. Uniform rate of wages, 143. Average rate of woman's wages, 144.

HARVEY, HENRY, Journalist, Montreal **523-524**
 Immoral effect of admitting children under twelve years of age to many of the shows at our theatres. Immoral pictures on play bills posted in the city of Montreal and their effect on children and grown up people, 523. Remedies for these evils suggested, 524.

HEARN, HON. JOHN, Dealer in Real Estate, Quebec **795-797**
 Rent of houses occupied by workingmen. Sanitary condition of these houses. Absence of closets either in yards or houses, 795. One closet used by members of six or seven families, male and female. Water supply. Decrease in rental of tenement houses. Condition of Quebec laboring classes and their ability to pay house rents. Conditions on which mechanics could borrow money to build a house, 796. Houses without water supply. Health of the city, 797.

HEBERT, EDOUARD, Laborer, Capleton **1258-1260**
 Was employed at the chemical works in Capleton. Wages he got, 1258. Unhealthiness of the occupation. Pay days. Wages of the employees at the Albert mines. Condition of the mine. No room to change clothes at the mine but thinks there ought to be one. Dangers of the mine, 1259. Some work by the job and some by the day. Sick and accident fund, 1260.

HELLECY, J., Driver and Engine Driver, Quebec **1118-1120**
 Wants to know cause of deplorable state of gear used in discharging vessels at this port, 1118. Explains at length state of gear, 1119. Accidents not frequent; due to carelessness of men. Responsible gear inspector necessary, 1119. Explains the kind of gear used, 1119, 1120.

- HETHERINGTON, THOS. S., Baker, Quebec** - - - - - **866-867**
Machinery used entirely in the manufacture of bread and biscuits. Wages paid bakers. Reason why wages are less in winter than in summer. Apprentice system. Apprentices in biscuit department only. Labor supply. Where bakers in Quebec come from. Wages paid biscuit makers. Hours of labor of biscuit makers. Hours of labor of bakers, 866. Night work in bread bakery. Baking done at night so that bread may be fresh for next day. Sanitary condition of Quebec bakeries. Proper age of apprentices, 867.
- HENEKER, RICHARD WILLIAM, Banker, Sherbrooke** - - - - - **1199-1203**
Art School in Sherbrooke. Technical education, 1200. Schools of design in England. Technical schools. British America Land Company and their lumber mills on the St. Francis River. Wages of saw mill employees, 1201. Laborers employed at the mills get one dollar a day. Boys employed in the lath mill and shingle mill. Constancy of employment. Pay days weekly on Friday evening. Benefits of weekly payments. Sherbrooke School of Art is free to the pupils, 1202. Rate of interest in Sherbrooke now. Working class of Sherbrooke as savings bank depositors. Real estate near and in Sherbrooke held by the British North America Land Company. Water privileges, sale of, 1203.
- HENEY, EDWARD N., Wholesale Dealer and Manufacturer of Carriages and Saddlery, Montreal** - - - - - **498-500**
Employs about 50 Reformatory boys. Wages he pays for them and their hours of labor. Length of time the boys usually serve with him, and degree of proficiency they attain. Rent and taxes he pays at the Reformatory. Term of apprenticeship in outside shops of free boys. Instruction of the Reformatory boys, 498. Wages of the carriagemakers he employs, and earnings of harness-makers he employs at piece work. Probable difference between the rent he pays at the Reformatory and what he would require to pay elsewhere in the city, 499. Saddles made on his premises vs. imported saddles, 500.
- HENSHAW, FREDERICK W., General Commission Merchant and Agent for Sidney and Louisburg Coal and Railway Company Reserve Mines, Cape Breton and Nova Scotia, Montreal** - - - - - **724-725**
Loss of coal in the streets after weighing by dropping from carts. Price of coal as compared with price ten years ago. His opinion regarding the removal of duty off hard coal from United States, 724. Long ton sales, 725.
- HERSEY, EUGENE, Nail and Tack Manufacturer, Montreal** - - - - - **303-305**
Employs 230 hands. Girls in the tack department. No children under 12 years of age. Ten hours a day, nine on Saturdays; in summer, they stop at noon, 303. Wages of laboring men, from \$1 to \$1.65; for skilled workmen, from \$1.50 to \$6; for boys, from 50 cents to \$1; the same for girls; some men pay their boys, 304. Accidents by machinery, due to carelessness. The nail business, stationary, 305.
- HINGSTON, MRS. MATILDA, Weaver, Hochelaga Cotton Mills, Montreal** - - - - - **486**
Moral condition and character of the employees. Fining of employees, 486.
- HOCHELAGA COTTON MFG. COMPANY (Limited), Montreal** - - - - - **737-740**
Return, in answer to enquirers made by the Commission, giving the following information, viz.: Fines collected from employees in the St. Anne's and Hudon mills. Amount of wages paid. Wages confiscated and abandoned in both mills during the year 1887, 738. Also copies of the rules adopted by the overseers in each of the various department regulating the imposition of fines, 739, 740.
- HOGAN, HENRY, Hotel-keeper, Montreal** - - - - - **253-254**
On the Pierson coupler for railway cars, 253.

- HOGAN, THOMAS HENRY, *Fireman, Montreal* - - - - - **696-698**
 Relates how he was expelled from the Firemen's Benevolent Association, because he was over age. Benefits to firemen other than those given by the Benevolent Association, 696. Pay of firemen while suffering from injuries sustained at fires. Fines for refusing to obey orders. Improvement in the condition of married firemen with families. Impossibility of living on \$500 a year, 697. Result of firemen ventilating their grievances. Holidays. He thinks a medical examination of candidates for positions on the brigade would be beneficial, 698.
- HOLLAND, GEORGE H., *Merchant, Dealer in Fancy Goods, Wall Papers and Musical Instruments, Montreal* - - - - - **632**
 Employs foreign labor in the manufacture of willow work. German and English, or rather his brother does. How these foreigners are engaged. They are doing work Canadians cannot do, 632.
- HOLLIS, EDWARD, *Gentleman, Montreal, Secretary of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Women and Children* - - - - - **629-651**
 Society six years in existence. Is supported by voluntary contributions. Objects of the society and how the business is conducted. Dwellings of the lower classes. Rents. Destitution and its causes, 630. The Factory Act. Child labor, 631.
- HOLWELL, ANDREW, *Policeman, Quebec* - - - - - **773-776**
 Rate of wages. Hours of labor. Reduction in wages, 773. Life insurance compulsory. Extra wages. Clothing supplied by the city, 774. Strength of the force. Reason his salary was reduced, 775.
- HOPKINS, H., *Sherbrooke, Brewer* - - - - - **1171-1172**
 Number of hands employed in malting. Rate of wages, 1171. Length of time hands are employed. Scott Act, effect on business. Hops used, Canadians and Foreign. Not inclined to give evidence as to how porter is made, 1172.
- IMBEAU, ONESIME, *Tanner, Quebec* - - - - - **906-907**
 Wages. Hours of labor. Constancy of employment. Sanitary condition of tanneries, 906. Means of escape in case of fire. Educational capacity of tanners generally. Tanners' wages not enough to live on. Gardisheeing of wages. His children are prevented from going to school by having to work to make out a living for the family. Docking of his pay and dismissed without notice, 907.
- IMBEAU, O., *Tanner, Quebec (re-called)* - - - - - **992-993**
 Brings papers in suit against him. Nature of his debt. Why he would not pay, 993.
- IRVINE, JOHN, *Moulder, Montreal* - - - - - **465-466**
 The Grand Trunk Benevolent Insurance scheme, 465. Foreign contract labor brought out by the Grand Trunk Railway Co. to work in their moulding shop, 466.
- IVES, H. R., *Hardware-manufacturer, Montreal* - - - - - **254-255**
 Wages of moulders in Montreal. Ten hours of labor a day. Scarcity of founders in Montreal. Pay day every fortnight, 254. Has few apprentices, 255. No edge tool manufacturers in Montreal, 256.
- JACKSON, G., *Foreman Printer, Quebec* - - - - - **926-928**
 In office of Quebec *Morning Chronicle*. Average wages of a hand. "Fat" matter, 926. How advertisements are set. Wages before and after last strike. Strike did not stop work. Ventilation of office not good. Floors not cleanly. The custom of taking "fat" matter. Work not more energetic under nine hour system, 927. Over-time work extra. The rates of such work. Hours of "composition." Rate of tabular work, 928.

- JACKSON, JAMES, Superintendent of Hochelaga Cotton Mills** - - - **350-354**
 Fines for bad work and breakage, 350. Amount of wages paid in his mill for 1887 \$214,559. Amount of fines, one fifth of one per cent., or \$1,669 for 1,130 hands, 351. When a weaver is fined for bad work the faulty piece goes to the seconds. Cotton manufacturing impossible without a system of fines, 352. The difference in the proportion of fines between the Hochelaga and St. Anne mills comes from the inferior quality of the goods made at the latter place. A spinning room girl earns about seventy-five cents a day, 353. Never dismissed local help to engage Saguenay hands. English hands more independent than French. The latter more desirable, 354.
- JENKS, JOHN M., Secretary of the Jenks Machine Company, Sherbrooke** **1208-1210**
 Class of work the company does. Machinists' wages. Constancy of employment, 1208. Machinists' apprentices. Moulders' wages and hours of labor. Overtime. Pay days. Patternmakers' wages. Sanitary condition of workshops in Sherbrooke, 1209. Reasons for keeping back two weeks pay, 1210.
- JOBIN, J., Laborer, Quebec** - - - - - **1047**
 Works at "Spencerwood" gardening vegetables in summer. Wages and hours of work summer and winter. When paid. Works for the Government. Been three or four weeks without being paid. The regular wage for eight hours work, 1048.
- JOSEPH, A. C., Wholesale Grocer, Quebec** - - - - - **1117-1118**
 Grocers' Guild. Obligated to pay more for sugar than members of Guild. Tobacco same. Combine sugar imported on account of it. Price of imported sugar. Boycotting. Effect of burning of St. Lawrence refinery. Scotch and English sugar, 1118. Intrinsic value of sugar, 1118.
- JUDAH, FRED., Advocate and Q.C., Montreal** - - - - - **660-664**
 Tenement houses owned by him in Montreal, their rents and accommodations. Law costs in collecting small debts. Detached cottages he owns in the west end of the city. Their rents and accommodations and the class of tenants who occupy them. Comparison of rents ten, fifteen years ago and now, 660. Wages paid for building nearly double of what they were ten or twelve years ago. Many mechanics in Montreal are proprietors of their own houses, especially among the French speaking population. How they acquire the property. Frugality and industry of the French population. Deposits in the City and District Savings Bank made by the working classes, French and English. Sanitary condition of tenement houses, 661. Taxes on tenement houses generally paid by the landlord, except water rates. Accommodation of, and the class of tenants who occupy the cottages spoken of. Tenement houses and cottages as an investment compared, 662. Wages in 1870, 1876 and now compared. Law of landlord and tenant regarding keeping houses in proper condition of repair, etc., 663, 664.
- KANE, D., Stevedore, Quebec** - - - - - **1086-1087**
 Money, in time, save in loading at Quebec. Cargo could be loaded cheaper in Quebec than Montreal. Quebec laborer does his work quick and well. He agrees with the rules of the society, 1086. Loading vessels by the standard outside Quebec. Further reasons for the loss of trade in Quebec. Men abused on board a ship. Furnishing the gear, 1087.
- KANE, MRS., Operative in the Card Room, Hochelaga Cotton Mills** **484-485**
 Moral condition or character of the employees. Their moral standing compared with operatives in United States mills. Fining of employees, 484. Wages in Montreal and the United States compared, 485.
- KENNEDY, M., Stevedore, Quebec** - - - - - **1087**
 Corroborates Paul Kane's testimony, 1087.
- KENNEDY, T., Member of the Fire Brigade, Quebec** - - - - - **1078**

Waterman. Duties of. Attends also at fires. Pay. Work in addition to ordinary work is according to weather, 1073.

KERR, JAMES HENRY, Postmaster, Hull - - - - - **1347-1349**

The greater part of the depositors in Post Office Savings Bank, Hull, are the laboring classes. Mechanics as depositors. Average annual amount of deposits of the laboring classes, 1347. Female depositors. As a rule those who deposit are owners of their own houses. Retail prices of groceries in Hull from 1877 to 1882. Wages of lumber pilers in 1875 and 1876. Hours of labor. Wages of lumber pilers now. The number of depositors in the P. O. Savings Bank from among the laboring classes has increased during the past five years from 75 to 100 per cent. Wages of joiners, 1348. Laboring class depositors who do not build houses, 1349.

KEYS, WILLIAM, Machinist, Montreal - - - - - **515-518**

Wages in Montreal, 515. Constancy of employment. Men do not require so much skill now as formerly. Difficulty of workmen getting paid instances a case when a gentleman (?) in Montreal tried by altering a receipt to defraud him of amount due him for work done. Immorality in factories. Sanitary condition of blacksmith's shops, foundries and boiler shops, 516. Truck system in Montreal. Increase in rents during last ten years. Wages have not increased in proportion. Taxation of land to its full value as a remedy for high rents. Value of real estate suitable for mechanics' houses in Montreal. Black listing. Benefit of labor organization. Knights of Labor, 517. The establishment of a Bureau of labor statistics for the Dominion. Arbitration. Believes that machinists would take advantage of schools of education. Accidents at the docks of Montreal and Quebec. Absence of proper possible safe-guards when machinery is used. Desire of the workmen for a good Factory Act in the Province of Quebec, 518.

KIROUACK, F., Grain Merchant, Quebec - - - - - **1002-1003**

Business supplying flour to bakers. A great deal of flour unfit for use comes on market. Flour used in country inferior quality. Light weight in bread. Appointment of Inspector of Bread. Approved. Flour used by bakers, good. Sour flour. Grain of Lower Canada exported from Montreal. Quebec lacks facilities for exporting grain, 1002. The building of elevators necessary. A ship would be exposed to delay if loaded from Quebec. In other cities, individual persons are owners of elevators. Reasons why elevators have not been heretofore built in Quebec, and how they might now be built. Unloading. Done by men hired by the year, and partly by men hired by the hour. Wages and hours of year men. Latest hour of work. Sunday. Scarcity of capital among grain merchants, 1003.

KIRWAN, J., Member of Police Force, Quebec - - - - - **1097-1098**

Explains system of insurance. Views thereon, 1097, 1098.

KNOTT, GEORGE, Plasterer, Montreal - - - - - **248-249**

Piece work injurious to the trade, 248. Has worked in New York City; got \$4 there when he gets \$2.50 here; but it amounts to the same. All members of the Union paid the same, whether they be good or bad workmen, fast or slow workers, 249.

LABELLE, C., Carpenter, Montreal - - - - - **149**

Age of witness. Employment. Hurt at work. Compensation from firm, 149.

LABELLE, J. B., M.P., Manager of the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Co. of Montreal - - - - - **486-491**

Classes of labor the Company employs. Wages of deck hands. Length of the season or constancy of employment, 486. Liquor licenses for boats plying between the two Provinces. Pilots and wheelmen. Deck hands who own property earned in the service of the Company. Inspection of boilers, machinery and hulls. Engineers' certificates, 487. Life boats and other life preserving apparatus. Means of extin-

quishing fires. Sunday excursions. Means taken to prevent the sale of liquors on boats making Sunday excursions. Guided by the insurance companies regarding the carrying of inflammable and dangerous cargo, 488. Never carry more passengers than the law allows. Cause of the panic when one of the boats took refuge at Longueuil. Hours of rest of deck hands between Montreal and Quebec. Capacity of the crew and masters to handle the life boats, 489. Wages of men employed in the Company's machine shops at Sorel. Possibility of the Company's employees saving money out of their earnings. Value of real estate at Sorel, 490. Price of beef at Sorel, 491.

LABERGE, L., Medical Health officer, Montreal - - - - - 1-4

Workingmen's dwellings. Inadaquacy of rooms. Defective plumbing. Inspector's power to declare tenements uninhabitable. Laws as to repairs. Difficulty about separation of private and public sewers. Mortality in Montreal among children under five years. Causes, 2. Inspection of workshops, proves the majority in a satisfactory condition. The hygienic situation of public schools in a very backward state. Difficulties. Want of hygienic training among the working classes. Chief cause of mortality among children. Water supply remitted by medical officer in cases of poverty. Reasons, 3. Education a help to hygienic laws. Children should not work in factories under fourteen. Consecutive work of six weeks, injurious to children under fourteen, 4.

LABOURVEAU, STEDMAN A., Advocate, Secretary of the Law and Order League, Montreal - - - - - 299-303

Fearful increase of the number of licenses in Montreal. Besides 1,500 unlicensed places. Statement of the penalties incurred for selling liquor without a license, 299. Exertions of the League, 300. Drinking in groceries, a formidable evil. The League supported by voluntary contributions. Drunkenness on the increase in Montreal, 301. Workmen paid on Saturday, drinking on Sunday, and unwell on Monday. Mr. Armstrong opens new fields of usefulness to the League, 302. The intention of the law is not to license drinking places, but places where meals are served, 303.

LABRECQUE, J. O., Agent and Accountant, Montreal - - - - - 400-403

In the millinery and dress-making departments, girls are apprentices at 12. They go to the shop at 8 a.m., and retire at 6 or 7. They work very hard. The first year, they learn nothing, and they earn nothing. The second year, they get from 25 to 50 cents a week. Then it amounts to \$1 the third year. They are charged in case of absence. Dress-makers and milliners earn from \$1.50 to \$5 per week. The head milliner gets from \$8 to \$10 per week. The hours of work are in winter, from 8 o'clock a.m. till the closing of the store, let that be 8 or 10 o'clock at night. In April, May and June, from 8 a.m. to 11 at night, and the eve of festivals, and on Saturdays, till one or two, three o'clock of the next morning, 400. On the eve of St. Jean-Baptiste day and the Fête-Dieu, they work till five o'clock in the morning. In July, August and September, they stop working at 8 o'clock. In October, November and December, they work till eleven p.m., and on Saturdays till one o'clock a.m. The girls are not paid extra for that extra work. But if they lose 15 minutes they are charged for it. Frequently those girls are sick for over working themselves. The cash boys keep at late hours. The work done on Saturday night is distributed in town on Sunday morning. Expressmen earn from \$7 to \$8 a week. They work from 5 a.m. till half past nine p.m., in January, February and March. They finish near midnight in April, May, June and July. And on the eve of holidays and Sundays, they finish at about half past two a.m., and go back to work at 7 o'clock a.m. On Sundays or festival days, they work till half past ten in the forenoon, 401. Clerks sometimes work on Sundays, addressing circulars, making inventories, and such other work. When sick in consequence, they are charged for the day, 402. Young ladies behind the counters are strictly forbidden to take a seat. They have to stand up from 8 o'clock a.m. till midnight, 403.

- LACAILLE, CHARLES, *Merchant, Montreal* - - - - - **710**
Groceries used by working classes cheaper than they were six years ago. Comparison in prices of to-day and six years ago, 710.
- LACASSE, D., *Sergt. Police, Quebec* - - - - - **1104-1106**
Policemen duties of. Working hours. Wages rate of. Police insurance. Policemen how punished. Vacancies, 1104. Three constables reduced. Orders to report carters having no numbers, 1105. Some livery stables don't require numbers and gives reason, 1105, 1106.
- LACHANOE, JOSEPH, *Moulder, Quebec* - - - - - **903**
Wages. Constancy of employment, 903.
- LACHANCE, T., *Roofer, Quebec* - - - - - **945-947**
Journeymen. Wages not high enough as the work is mostly in summer. Wages and hours in summer and winter. Dangerous work. Routine of morning work. Indebtedness of workmen to masters. Question: Why is it done? 946. The profits of master-roofers, 947.
- LACOSTE, FLORINA, *formerly employed at the McDonald tobacco factory, Montreal* - - - - - **480**
Her age. Hours of labor. Wages. Paid weekly on Saturdays. Fining of employees, 489.
- LACROIX, PIERRE, *Inspector of Buildings, Montreal* - - - - - **705-707**
Complaints record regarding dwelling houses. Conditions imposed on parties building in Montreal, 705. House drainage. Workingmen as landlords. Defective scaffolding, 706. No salvage apparatus in public buildings and large manufactories for use in case of fire. Law compelling public buildings and churches having their doors open from the outside. Height of wooden buildings allowed by law, 707.
- LAFERRIÈRE, JEAN-OLIVIER, *Secretary-Treasurer of the City of Hull* **1334-1336**
Number of policemen and their wages. Wages of corporation laborers. Price, size and tenure of lots in the city of Hull. Price paid for the twelve lots the city hall is built on, 1334. Water supply. Water rates. Loss of wages through the insolvency of employers. The Wright family who own most of the land on which workingmen's houses are built give five years' leases but are willing to sell outright. Reason why children are sent to work early and thus prevented from getting education. Ejectment of people who had built houses on leasehold lots for non-compliance with the terms of the lease, 1335, 1336.
- LAFORTUNE, DAMASE, *Baker, Montreal* - - - - - **658**
Letter from Dr. N. Fafard expressing his opinion of the injury done to the health of bakers by night work. Handed in, 658.
- LAFRAMBOISE, H., *Cigarmaker, Montreal* - - - - - **76-77**
Service of apprenticeship. Fines and the cause, 76. Sanitary arrangements. Corporal punishment, 77.
- LAFRANCE, A., *St. Romuald, laborer* - - - - - **1151**
Nature of employment, and rate of wages. Accident, and how occasioned. Machinery now guarded against accidents, 1151.
- LAFRANCE, A., *Cigarmaker, Montreal* - - - - - **31**
Service of apprenticeship. Was not taught full trade. Rate of wages. Fines, how imposed. Hours. Corporal punishment, how inflicted, 32.
- LAFRANCE, A., *Cigarmaker, Montreal* - - - - - **38**
Mode of distributing leaves to workmen, and work done how accounted for, 38.

- LAFRANCE, A., Cigarmaker (re-called)** - - - - - **76**
 Produces cover of mould, used to inflict punishment, 76.
- LAFRANCE, F., Carpenter, Quebec** - - - - - **1007**
 Not much work for carpenters now. Competition of Government night men. Carpenters often not paid for work on vessels belonging to port of Quebec, 1007.
- LAFRANCE, T., Employee Box Factory, St. Romuald** - - - - - **1154-1155**
 Began work when 11 years old; cleared a saw. Work not dangerous. Paid 25 cents a day. Get 30 cents now. Am 15 years old now, 1154. Youngest boy 10 gets 20 or 25 cents. Boys are fined a quarter of a day. Work 10 hours a day, 1155.
- LAGACE, OCTAVE, Beadle of Church Notre Dame, Montreal** - - - - - **720-722**
 Free pews for poor people. Tax charged by Roman Catholic Church on marriage, 720. Prices paid for ringing church bells. Cost of burial and subsequent prayers for dead. Tax imposed on the faithful by the Bishop, 721. Purchase of burial lots. Distributions to the poor by the church, 722.
- LAINÉ, FRANÇOIS, Leather Dresser, Montreal** - - - - - **593-595**
 Wages. Hours of labor. Fines imposed on employees. Hands to the Commission a copy of the rules and regulations of the establishment where he worked last winter, 593, 594. Healthiness of tanning as a business, 595.
- LALIBERTÉ, PHILLIPPE, Hotel-keeper, Hull** - - - - - **1360**
 Wages of men employed about his hotel, 1360.
- LALIEU, LEOPOLD, Pressman Montreal** - - - - - **717-718**
 Unreliable information furnished Belgian immigrants by parties purporting to be Government agents, 717. Steamship and rail rates from Belgium to Montreal, 718.
- LALONDE, PIERRE, Moulder, Montreal** - - - - - **311-312**
 Bad sanitary condition of foundries, 311. Laborers when moulding earn from fifty to sixty cents a day; good moulders get from \$2 to \$2.25. Smoke and poor ventilation in the shops, 312.
- LAMONDE, J., Gardener, Quebec** - - - - - **1048**
 Second gardener. Has nothing to add to Jobin's testimony. Has sometimes not been paid for nine weeks, 1048.
- LAMONTAGNE, PHILORUM, Collector of Provincial Revenue, Montreal** - - - - - **236-238**
 Statements about licensed places in Montreal, 236, 238.
- LAMOUREUX, HENRI, Laborer, Montreal** - - - - - **514-515**
 Wages. Night work shoveling coal on the C.P.R. Hours of labor, 514. Errors in timekeeping of C.P.R. laborers. Pay day and back pay. Working 30 hours at one stretch and no extra pay for it, 515.
- LANDRY, MISS ELISE, Employee Rope Factory, Quebec** - - - - - **969-970**
 Employee in Rope Factory. Approves Rosalie Cantin's testimony. Fined twice for sitting. Age and wages of youngest child employed, 969. Leaves factory when engineer's whistle sounds. Present good condition of factory, 970.
- LANE, THOMAS, Machinist, Quebec** - - - - - **776-778**
 Hours of labor of employees in Quebec Cartridge Factory. Factory locked during working hours. Rate of wages. Boys employed, 766. Ticket arrangement. Fining of employees. Sanitary conditions. Employees paid while sick. Accidents to employees, 777. Children employed. Weekly pay days. Dangerous to employees from machinery, 778.
- LANGLOIS, A., Printer, Quebec** - - - - - **955-961**

Has worked twenty-six years in Quebec. Belongs to French Typographical Union. Statement regarding last labor difficulty. Meeting of masters at St. Louis Hotel. Answered appeal of men by "courtesy." Number of establishments who conformed to Union rules after strike. "Rats." Result of strike advantageous to the men. Comparison between wages in Montreal and Quebec. Ventilation, 956. Ages and wages of young girls who act as "feeders." The advantage of the superior men of the society. Not many printers outside society. Further statement regarding strike. The December price circular sent to the masters, 957. Circulars not sent by Knights of Labor but by Typographical Unions. What a member of the Society is permitted to do. The signing of documents, 958. Arrest of apprentices. Regarding objectionable rules of Society. Witness is President of the Typographical Union. Price circulars issued fifteen days after men asked the masters to meet them. (Questions suggested by Mr. Louis Phillipe Pelletier regarding conference between masters and men). Offer of masters to meet men individually, 959. Offer to meet made on approach of crisis. What body sent out the price circulars. Regarding the pay of printers and sub-foremen and assistants on *La Justice*. Wages of foremen, 960. Signing contracts whilst belonging to the Union. Judgement pending. Right of master to make member of Union, if not perfect in his work, work by the piece, 961.

LANGLOIS, CHARLES, Provision Merchant, Montreal - 719-720

Comparison in price of provisions, 719. Eggs exported from United States. Improvement in making of butter. Cheese making, 720.

LANCOT, P. S. Z., Merchant Clerk, Montreal - 189-194

Salaries paid in dry goods store. Length of service of apprenticeship. Hours at which stores are opened. Closing hour, 189. Early closing. Employment of young girls and women in retail stores, 190. General treatment of clerks. Payment of working people on Friday instead of Saturday, 191. Garnishee of wages, 191, 193. Sanitary condition of retail stores, 192. Clerks' expenses. Fines and how levied, 193. Advantages of early closing, 194.

LAPIERRE, AMEDEE, Workman in a Knitting Factory, St. Hyacinthe - 1297-1298

Is eighteen years of age. Has worked there for three years. Wages he got the first year. Hours of labor. Overtime. Worked all night twice. Piecework. Is paid by the day now. Wages, 1297. Fining of employees, 1298.

LAPIERRE, CHARLES, Accountant of the Montreal Water Department 264-265

More than a thousand seizures a year for non payment of water rates. Four hundred families deprived of water in a year. Water rates should be levied on the property, 264. The yearly income from water to the city is \$540,000. The loss to the Corporation amounts every year to about \$250,000. In the United States the use of the corporation's water is optional, and the tax is paid in advance, 265.

LAPIERRE, HENRI, Moulder Montreal 473-475

"Paying short," or defrauding men of part of their wages, 473-474. Sanitary condition of the shops. The condition and location of the water closets. Discounting moulders' work. Abolition of piece work. Laborers taking the place of moulders at certain kinds of work, 474. Ventilation, 475.

LAPIERRE, Z., Boot and Shoe Manufacturer, Montreal 437-439

Hours of labor of shoemakers in factories. Pay days weekly on Saturdays. Employs about one-half piece hands and the other half week hands. Wages paid. Apprentices. Proportion of female labor employed. Most of the women employed have machines at home, and work by the piece there. Sanitary condition of the work-shops in the trade in Montreal. Sanitary inspector. Means of escape in case of fire at his factory, 437. Closets for each sex separate. Female labor employed in the factory. Wages. Age of the girls. Manufacturers' combinations or associations.

- Effect of prison-made goods. First class boot and shoe fitters sometimes scarce, 438. Piece work done outside. Prices paid for piece work. Length of time it takes a young woman to become a first class operator, 439.
- LARIVÉE, PHILIPPE, Knitting Factory Employee, St. Hyacinthe - 1291-1293**
Works in the dye house of the Granite Mills, 1291. Wages. Was formerly night watchman. Wages he got as night watchman. Healthiness of his occupation in the dye house. Rent of workmen's houses and accommodations thereof. Sanitary condition of the factory. Means of escape in case of fire, 1292. Locking the doors while the hands are at work, 1293.
- LARIVIERE, ADOLPHE CLEMENT DIT, Carriage Maker, Montreal - 519-520**
Material for wheels he uses comes from Ontario and the United States. Wages of carriage painters, blacksmiths and upholsterers, also carriage wood-workers. Upholstery done by piecework. Was contractor for Reformatory work in his line for two years. Reformatory child labor he then employed, and what he paid for it, 519. Reasons why it does not pay to use Reformatory child labor. Low rent the only advantage. Effect of Reformatory labor on the trade. Finishings imported from the United States. Constancy of employment of carriage makers. Pay days. Canadian-made springs quite as good as those imported, 520.
- LARIVIERE, ALPHONSE, Working Roofer, Montreal - 676-678**
Makes metal roofs. Number of men employed in Montreal at the business. Wages of metal roofers and plate roofers. Accidents, and means taken to prevent them, 678. Apprentices, and their wages. Remuneration in case of accidents. Hours of labor. Constancy of employment, 677. Wages, 678.
- LARMONTH, A., Mechanical Engineer, Quebec - 1052-1053**
Employs skilled and unskilled labor. Wages of skilled labor. Number of skilled engineers employed. Falling off in the trade. Steamboat repairs now go to Montreal. Pay of laboring men. Apprentices. Their term and wages. Description of work done. A capable apprentice will learn his trade thoroughly in his term. Pay for overtime, 1052. Drivers of steam engines not always men of experience. Inspector of boilers and engines. Accidents through incapacity of drivers of steam engines. Condition of machine shops. Witness submits a drawback in the business to the consideration of the Commission. Inspection of boilers ought to be regular, 1053.
- LAROUQUE, DAME HENRIETTE, employed in the Hudon Cotton Factory 482-483**
Moral condition or character of the employees, 483.
- LARRY, SAMUEL, Apprentice Tobacconist, Montreal - 238-239**
Ten years old. Has been working seven months, 238. Goes to work at 6.45 in the morning. Leaves the factory at 5.45 p.m., 239.
- LORTIE, A., Mason, Contractor and Joiner, Quebec - 997-998**
Cost of good assortment of joiner's tools. Average wages of a joiner by the day and year, 997. Hasty calculation. Carpenters' wages reasonable. Earnings of bricklayers. Cost of assortment of bricklayers' tools. Coopers' wages much lower than formerly. Their hours of work, summer and winter. Knows not why their wages have decreased. Laborers wages and hours, 998.
- LATULIPE, J. E., Merchant's Clerk, Quebec - 931-934**
Employed in shop, which likewise is a manufactory. Number of hands employed. Average salaries paid to men and women, 931. Hours of work in furriers. Working rooms. Working hours of clerks. Hours of opening and closing stores at different seasons, 931-2. Hours of work. Deduct hours for meals. Sales betwixt 6 and 8 p.m. Question of closing all stores in Quebec at 6 p.m. Hours of closing holidays and Saturdays. Pay day of workmen, 933. Know the store is provided

with requisites for extinguishing or escaping from fires. Hours of work in sewing rooms. Nationality of employees. Mostly all French-Canadians. Proportion of these able to speak and read French and English, 934.

- LATULIPPE, JOSEPH, *Corder of Blocks, Hull* - - - - - 1359-1360**
Works at present at Mr. D'Orsonnen's, learning to be a painter. Formerly worked at Eddy's and Grier's mills, cording blocks. Will be fourteen years old in May next. Hours of labor, 1359. Wages, 1360.
- LARAMÉE, LOUIS HORMIDAS, *Dry Goods Clerk, Montreal* - - - - - 370-373**
Business hours in some stores from 7 a. m. to 8 p. m.; in others, from 5.45 a.m. to 11 p. m. In certain stock evening sales decreased eighty per cent. Largest stores close at six on Notre Dame street; at seven on St. Lawrence; at eight on St. Catherine, but clerks are detained till nine, ten and eleven o'clock, assorting goods. Young girls do the same. That work might be done on the next morning. Girls on Saturday kept that way till midnight, or even two o'clock on Sunday morning, 370. Milliners who trim the hats do that, and goods are delivered on Sunday. That happens in April, May, June, in the fall and in December. Young men compelled to wait to take the milliners home. Clerk's salaries kept back sometimes for a month or two. No extra pay for extra hours of attendance. Clerks are engaged by the year. Five times deponent had engagements with employers who failed in business. Under the old law clerks had three months' salary by preference, now they are allowed thirty days, but are not entitled to it. If the employer fails in June or July clerks may have to wait till next spring to find another situation, 371. The whole of their wages may be seized. They would like to be assimilated to workingmen. When clerks borrow money they pay sixty per cent. interest, sometimes \$1.50 on \$6 per fortnight. When they buy goods in their own store they are charged but cost prices, plus ten per cent., or they get a reduction of ten per cent. Cash boys stop until store closes. Boys who carry parcels stop sometimes till midnight; they often work on Sundays, 372.
- LAVIOLETTE, DUMONT, *Crockery Merchant, Montreal* - - - - - 703**
Value of crockery to-day as compared with prices ten years ago. No knowledge of wages paid by crockery manufacturers to their employees, 703.
- LAVOIE, ADELE, *Employee at St. Anne Cotton Mill, Montreal* - - - - - 280-282**
Her version of her unpleasantness with the company, 280.
- LAVOIE, ARCHANGE, *Founder, Quebec* - - - - - 903-904**
Wages. Hours of labor. No apprenticeship required for his present work viz., "finishing machinery," but served an apprenticeship of two years learning to be a founder, 904.
- DELIMA, LAVOIE DAME R., *Montreal* - - - - - 72**
Evidence of ill treatment at Fortier's Cigar Factory to her son, Stanislaus Goyette, 72.
- LAVOIE, A., *Cigarmaker, Montreal* - - - - - 73**
Corroboration of evidence given in the case of the son and widow of Stanislaus Goyette, 73.
- LAVOIE, J. B., *Working Tinsmith, Sherbrooke* - - - - - 1182**
Worked only two or three weeks at cigar factory. Reasons given for leaving, 1182.
- LAVOISE, MRS, *Cigarmaker, Montreal* - - - - - 209-210**
For three years at Fortier's cigar factory, 209. Is a mother of family. Has her girl working in the same factory. Never saw any immoral act there, 210.

- LAWRENCE GEORGE P., *Wood Merchant, Quebec* - - - - - 838-840**
 Quality of wood sold in Quebec. Prices paid. Length of wood, 838. Rate of wages paid wood carters. Monopoly in wood at Quebec during last March and April. Dimensions of a cord of wood fixed by the city. Wood a cheaper fuel than coal and consequently used more by the working classes, 839. Advantage to the poor people of having a wood inspector, 840.
- LEAHEY, RICHARD R., *Ship Laborer, Quebec* - - - - - 744-749**
 Workings of Ship Laborers' Benevolent Association at Quebec, 744. Rate of wages fixed by the Benevolent Association, 745. Steam power in loading lumber on ships dangerous, 746. Payment of wages for extra time. Rate of wages per year. Wages of ship laborers in Quebec as compared with wages of ship laborers in United States, 747. Sunday labor in cases of necessity, 748. Accidents to ship laborers. Incompetent stevedores, 749.
- LEBOURVEAU, STEDMAN A., *Secretary and Solicitor of Law and Order League, Montreal, re-called* - - - - - 411-413**
 The steamers are licensed to sell liquor during the passage by the Provincial authorities. Licenses for an inn or restaurant are delivered on an application certified by twenty-five electors in the municipal polling division in which the place to be licensed is situated, 411. The license fee ranges from \$200 to \$400, according to the rent of the premises, 412. He thinks the application ought to be certified by a majority of the voters of the division. License Commissioners are not appointed; they act *ex-officio*. They are the two judges of the Sessions of the Peace, and the Recorder, 413.
- LECLAIR, OVIDE, *Assistant Secretary of the Mutual Insurance Company, Montreal* - - - - - 712-713**
 Cost of dwelling houses insured in Montreal. Cost of fire insurance, 712. Hours of labor of employees. Causes of fires, 713.
- LEDOUX, JOSEPH, *Miner, in the Employ of the Orford Copper and Sulphur Company, Eustis Mines, Capelton* - - - - - 1257-1258**
 Wages. Hours of labor. Children employed at the mines. Education of miners' children at Capelton, 1257. Churches. Sick and Accident Association. Accidents, 1258.
- LEE, WILLIAM, *Merchant Tailor, Quebec* - - - - - 854-855**
 Number of employees. Rate of wages. Female labor. Wages paid women. Constancy of employment. Apprentices system. Scarcity of apprentices. Piecework. Earnings of women working by piece, 854. Pay days weekly, 855.
- LEJUNE, THOMAS, *Cigarmaker, Sherbrooke* - - - - - 1236-1237**
 Wages of indentured apprentices. Wages of apprentices when on piecework. Fining of apprentices, 1236. Although an indentured apprentice was made, by his employer, to work by the piece subject to fines, and was so fined that his wages were often reduced to less than the amount the indenture stipulated for, 1237.
- LEMAY, DELPHIS, *Tanner, Montreal* - - - - - 562-563**
 Wages. Hours of labor. Sanitary condition and temperature of the tanneries. Apprentices. Has known during the last three years children nine years of age employed in tanneries. Fining of employees, 562. Machinery used in tanneries, 563.
- LEMESURIER, WILLIAM J., *Tobacco Manufacturer, Quebec* - - - - - 768-771**
 Number of hands employed. Child labor in tobacco factories, 768. Rate of wages. Hours of labor. Night work. Competition with Montreal tobacco firms. Wages of boys and girls. Sanitary appliances. Modes of fire escape, 769. Proximity of closets for use of male and female employees to one another. Doors leading to the

factory open inwards, 770. Sanitary inspection. Means of exit from the factory in case of fire, 771.

LEMOINE, HERMINE, Knitting Factory employee of St. Hyacinthe - 1295-1296

Hours of labor. Wages by the job and by the day. Overtime. Fining of employees. Left because of a reduction of wages. Wages due him retained because he left, 1295. Price young girls pay for board. Lost a good deal of time waiting for work when being paid by the job. Child labor. Use of improper language by the "boss," 1296.

LEMOINE, HERMINE, Knitting Factory of St. Hyacinthe, recalled - 1308

Describes the cause of the employees of the Granite Knitting factory leaving work without giving notice, 1308.

LEONARD, MISS VIRGINIE, Employee at the tanneries of Payant & Duclos, St. Hyacinthe - 1311-1312

Works by the day in the cutting department. Wages. Rooms comfortable. No dangerous machinery. No fines and no complaints, 1311, 1312.

LEVEILLÉE, JOSEPH, ex-superintendent of Montreal Pilots - 282-284

Wages of pilots on mail boats, \$1,000. They go no farther than Quebec, 282. They work night and day when on duty. Sailors engaged for the season, but paid by the month, 283. Apprentices, 284.

LESSARD, J., Saddler, Quebec - 1003-1004

Wages of saddlers, 1003. Somewhat higher at work by the day. Many earn less than four dollars a week. Wages the same summer and winter. Shipped when work finished. Hours of work. Time lost during year. Saddlers' yearly earnings, 1004.

LÉVESQUE, G, Joiner, Quebec - 1070

Wages of joiners in Quebec. Have not work all the year. Those who work few months in luck. Hand work. No piece work. Reason why wages are lower in winter than in summer. Work for the corporation. Joiner cannot support a family without his wife's help. Joiners and carpenters worst treated class of men in Quebec. Great competition in wages, 1070.

LOGOWITZ, SAMUEL, Overseer in the Granite Woollen Mills, St. Hyacinthe - 1325

The recent labor trouble at the Granite woollen mills. What he knows of the cause of it, and how it occurred, 1325.

LOISELLE, MISS G., Cigar-maker, Montreal - 92

Corporal punishment. Why and how inflicted, 92.

LONG, GEORGE, Cabinet-maker and Carpenter, Sherbrooke - 1207-1208

Wages of carpenters and wages of cabinet makers. Boys he employs, 1207. Boys not engaged as apprentices. Wages they get. Hours of labor. Accidents from machinery in his factory and protection of machinery against accidents. The boys run some of the machines. Wages of painters. Constancy of employment. Saving capacity of his employees, 1208.

LORANGE, MISS ALBINA, Knitting Factory Employee, St. Hyacinthe - 1294-1295

Piece work at the Granite Mills and earnings thereat. Reduction of wages without notice and retention of wages, 1294, 1295.

LORD, FERMIN, Spinner, Sherbrooke - 1193-1194

Works in the same factory as last witness (Job Ainsworth). Child labor in his department. Wages they get. Length of time it takes to learn, 1193. Is paid by the job and hires his own help. Child labor in other departments. Savings of the employees. Wages and cost of living now and nineteen years ago compared, 1194.

- LOMAS, A. G., *Manufacturer Flannels and Dress Goods, Sherbrooke* 1172-1173**
 There is a demand for high class flannels at a low price, 1172. Rates of wages. Number of hours employed. Ages of employees. Imposition of fines and what for. Sanitary condition of Factory, 1173.
- LOVE, THOMAS HENRY, *Manager Montreal Steam Laundry, Montreal* 688-690**
 Number of hands he employs. Female labor. Child labor. Wages, 688. Hours of labor. Ventilation and temperature of the laundry rooms. Machines run by cheap help. Separate closets for each sex. Chinese laundries. Is not afraid of Chinese competition, but is afraid of the Good Shepherd Reformatory convict labor: reasons why, 689, 690.
- LOVELL, JOHN, *Printer and Publisher, Montreal* 328-330**
 Pays his typesetters 25 cents per 1,000 ems; he himself made \$22 a week, when setting type in 1831. He pays his week hands \$9, and \$10 the best ones, the real jobbers. Employs 18 women at type-setting; the youngest may be thirteen; he pays them 20 cents per 1,000 ems; one made \$22 in a week, setting tables; and regularly \$12; at tabular work, she gets 40 cents, 328. Work given to men is not called. Has no objection to labor organization men. Labor hours, ten; in summer, ten and a half, but they stop at one on Saturdays. Bookfolders get \$8 a week. Objects to printing done in Reformatory. He charges \$1.25 a factum page, and in Reformatory they charge 75 cents; they pay neither rent, nor taxes, 329. Christian Brcthers do their printing work; no taxes. Before he used to do \$20,000 worth of printing work for them, 330.
- LUKE, LOUIS, *Contractor, Sherbrooke* 1210-1211**
 Is employed on railway construction, 1210. Pays the sub-contractors once a month. Responsibility or irresponsibility of the original sub-contractors' liabilities. Wages of railway laborers, 1211.
- LUSHER, E., *Manager Street Railway Co., Montreal* 65-70**
 Average number of hands employed. Hours employed. Wages of drivers and conductors. Sunday work. Difference of wages, in summer and winter. Applications for positions, 65. Stablemen's wages. Rules regarding time and provision for comfort. Suspension for irregularity of attendance, 66. System of relief in case of sickness. In case of accidents. Wages of clerks. Change of horses. Length of service, 67. Savings of working men. Times of payment. Requisites required on hiring. Security required on engagement. No fines, 68. Suspended and what for. Number of suspensions in the year. Rent for house paid by employee. Length of suspension, 69. Conductors obliged to wear uniform, 70.
- LUTHELL, ALEXANDER, *Messenger, Montreal* 590-592**
 Is at present employed as messenger for Messrs. H. & A. Allan. Has been in the baking business, and brakeman and train baggageman on the Grand Trunk Railway twenty-two years ago. Improvement in the condition of brakemen compared with twenty years ago, 590. Considers a brakesman's wages better now than twenty years ago. Hours of labor as brakesman and hours of labor as messenger. Wages as messenger. Foot or running board on freight cars, 591. Bell ropes would be better dispensed with being unreliable, 592.
- LYNNAS, JOHN, *Ship Laborer, Montreal* 361-364**
 Says steamers of Allan Line are sometimes overloaded, 361. The cashier closes the ticket at 5 and not at 7, as alleged. It is not correct to state that in Portland, 'longshoremen cannot go to work before paying \$15; they pay but \$2 to the 'Longshoremen Sick & Benefit Society. The reason why the Citizens' Insurance Co. did not succeed in Portland is, that in the United States the law does not allow anyone to deduct anything from a workman's wages, 362. Wages of the men in Boston, Port-

land and New York range from 30 to 40 cents for day work, from 35 to 60 cents for night work, and \$1 an hour for Sunday work in the latter place. Montreal long-shoremen worked harder than anywhere else. Stevedores don't pay for time lost by their fault, 363.

McARTHUR, COLIN, Member of the Firm of Colin McArthur & Co., Wall Paper Manufacturers, Montreal - - - - - **575-576**

Number of hands employed. Business consists of three branches or separate businesses, viz., machine printing, block printing, and block cutting. Wages and hours of labor of block cutters. Men and boys employed at block printing; their wages. Healthiness of the business. Sanitary conditions of the factory. Value of the total product annually. Importation of American wall paper. Where designs are procured, 575. Comparison of Canadian and American wall papers. Indenturing of apprentices. Reasons why wall papers can be made cheaper in the United States than Canada, 576.

McARTHUR, FLORENCE, Cotton Factory Operative, of Sherbrooke - - - - - **1205-1206**
Wages of girls in the cotton factory. Hours of labor. Constancy of employment. Fines. Piecework. Pay days monthly, 1206.

McCARTNEY, JOHN, Teamster, Sherbrooke - - - - - **1190**
Lost \$30 of his winter's earnings through a sub-contractor. Has got lots of promises but is not paid yet, although the amount was due two months ago. Knows other men who have not received any of their pay yet. Knows that his employer, the sub-contractor, has been paid, 1190.

McCoy, ROBERT, Stevedore, Montreal - - - - - **632-633**
Wages of ship laborers in the port of Montreal seventeen years ago and now. Thinks the loading of vessels is pretty well looked after. The Port Warden has the right to supervise. Inspection of gear, 632. Loading of cattle. Accidents among stevedores, 633.

McCREADY, JAMES, Boot and Shoe Manufacturer, Montreal - - - - - **491-493**
Female labor employed in his factory. Age of the youngest girls and their wages. Wages of the women. Piecework earnings. Earnings of men who are machine hands and cutters, 491. Fire escapes and means of exit from his factory. Closets separate for each sex. Sanitary condition of the factory. Supply of and demand for fitters. Sub-contracting of work done outside, 492. Cheap labor the reason that manufacturers from Ontario find it advantageous to buy from manufacturers in Province of Quebec. Leather board. Boots made in Montreal for Toronto with the Toronto stamp thereon, 493.

McDermott, J., Carter, Quebec - - - - - **1037-1043**
Average earnings of hackmen in Quebec. Number in Quebec. Sales of licenses. License badge. How some parties do not carry badges, 1037. Case of exemption granted by the Police Board. Carters must be near their vehicles on arrival of steamers or trains, while drivers of busses and hotel porters are allowed inside depots and a more convenient place at steamboat landings. Carters claim allowance of competition, 1038. No recourse against a passenger who refuses to pay. Twenty-five teams run out on thirteen licenses. Legal proceedings taken by the Carters Society. How they lost their case. Toll gates source of constant annoyance, 1039. Payment before starting not a fair way of working. An absurd suggestion. Carters demand protection of law against passengers who will not pay, as in Montreal and other cities. Proprietors privileged above ordinary hackmen. System in Toronto as regards hackmen. Water tax, 1040. Inspector wished for amendment in the rules of the Corporation of the City of Quebec concerning carters. Tariff for outside the city limits. Carter must be on or near his vehicle in any case, 1041.

- McDONALD, WM. C., Tobacco Manufacturer Montreal 529-533**
 Child labor he employs. Female labor. Hours of labor, 529. Fining of employees. Wages, 530. Superabundance of labor the cause of the reduction of wages in the fall. Average earnings of women. Hands scarce in the summer. Sub-contracting, 531. Wages and hours of labor in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec compared, 532. Profit sharing, 533.
- McGARVEY, OWEN, Manufacturer and Dealer in Furniture Montreal 726-727**
 Prices for furniture used by working classes twenty per cent. lower than it was ten years ago. Difference in quality between hand and machine made furniture. Increase in wages. Skilled labor, 726. Tendency of the introduction of machinery to cheapen furniture, 727.
- McGEE, G., Painter, Quebec 1036-1037**
 His wages and hours summer and winter. Can give no reason for the stopping of part of his wages in winter. Paid weekly in cash. Thirty-six years in trade and never lost any part of his wages. Rule regarding expenses outside the city. Gets work only four or five months in the year. Younger men get more steady employment. The bosses find the materials of the trade. Painters report themselves at their shops every morning (1036) except when engaged on long steady job. Paid for overtime. Paper hanging, 1037.
- McGILL, JOHN JAMES, Manager Canadian Rubber Company, Montreal 569-571**
 Number of hands the Company employs, male and female. Children employed. Hours of labor. Overtime. Wages of day hands, 569. Wages for overtime. Pieceworkers. Average wages of pieceworkers. Pay days. Closets separate for each sex, 570. Highest wages a female can earn. Hours of labor necessary to earn the highest wages, 571.
- McGUIRE, C. J., Printer Montreal 426**
 Complains of work done in public institutions. The latter should be registered when they do contract work. Is in favor of fat matter going on the hook, 426.
- McWILLIAMS, W., Confectioner, Quebec 1102-1103**
 Apprentices. Few become perfect in business. Wages rate of. Working hours, 1102. Pay not stopped when sick. Shop girls. Wages rate of, 1103.
- MACGREGOR, A., Manager J. M. Fortier's Cigar Factory, Montreal 94-105**
 Familiar with the operations of working men, 94. Statement of cause of corporal punishment, and how fines are inflicted, 94 to 96. Special constable's duties. What done with culled cigars, 97. What constitutes a bad or culled cigar. Permission given by parents to punish children, 98. Searching of girls and by whom. Iron clad document. What becomes of fines exacted, 99. Price paid per thousand for making. What quantity made by a boy. Fined for not making sufficient quantity, 100. Wages earned. Sanitary arrangements. Fire escapes. Number of hands employed, 101. What the duties of an apprentice consists of. Looking after apprentice when he does not turn up, 103. Policeman's badge. Employees paying for gas, 104. Reduction of wages. Policeman's authority, 105.
- MACKINNON, T. A., General Superintendent of a C. P. Railroad Division 222-223**
 An engine driver's ordinary day's work on passenger trains is about 5 hours. The same for conductors, firemen and brakemen. For freight trains it is from seven to eight hours. About their rest, 222.
- MACPHERSON, W. M., Merchant and steamship agent, Quebec 915-921**
 Advantage of trading at Quebec alone. Difference of cost of outward freight in Montreal, and Quebec. Number of voyages during season. Loading lumber. Percentage of difference in Montreal and Quebec. Advantage of shipping cattle from Quebec. Greater proportion of passengers landed at Quebec, 915. Preference of

barge-owners on the Ottawa for Montreal. Fine goods in cargo taken in Montreal in preference to Quebec. Reasons of the Allan Line for not stopping at Quebec, 917. Ship Laborers' Society. Objections to eight hours' system. Cost of loading deal on Dominion Line. Necessity of working during meal hours to catch tides, 918. Case of men waiting for favorable tide to work. Loading birch on steamers. Refusal of Ship Laborers' Society. Quebec to permit use of steam winches, 919. Coaling in the barges. Difference in cost of night work in Quebec and Montreal. Discretion to be given stevedores as to number of men on gangs, 920. Sunday work. Effect of the deepening of the Lake St. Peter.

MAGUIRE ARTHUR J., Merchant and lumber exporter, Quebec - - - 895-898

He is engaged in the South American lumber trade and thinks rules of Ship Laborers' Society militate much against that trade. Objects to the rules of the Society distributing and naming number of workmen to be employed in loading vessels and reasons why. Does not think ship laborers are paid too high wages in Quebec and does not object to any other rules of the Ship Laborers' Society. Cost of loading lumber in Quebec and Montreal compared, 896, 897. Does not think Quebec ship laborers would be over-worked if they worked ten hours a day, 897.

MAHEUX, JOSEPH, Chandler, Quebec - - - 869-870

Extent of manufacture of tallow and tallow candles in Quebec. Number of workmen employed. Tallow used by Railway companies, 870.

MAHONEY, JEREMIAH, Cooper, Montreal - - - 560-561

Number of coopers employed at present in Montreal. Displacement of skilled coopers in making sugar and flour barrels by machinery. Wages. Hours of labor, 560. Wages and hours of labor of coopers who make spirit barrels. Effect of the use of machinery on the trade. Hand labor able to compete with machinery, 561.

MAJOR, EVANGELISTE, Carriage-maker, Montreal - - - 506-508

Apprentices. Wages of carriage blacksmiths and wook workers. Piece work. Hours of labor, 506. Pay days, and payments made to piece hands before their job is finished. Waiting for material. Reformatory made work and competition therefrom. Competition from the United States, 507. Apprentices who served their term at the Reformatory. The apprentice system, 508.

MALENFANT, N., Stenographer, Quebec - - - 979-980

Knows of one office in Quebec where business in general is conducted. A bucket shop. Describes the transactions as they take place there. The stocks generally quoted there. How stock is bought. Quotations written on blackboard. Orders to buy delivered. Charge for buying and closing. Action of Guay vs. Hanrahan. Margins, 979. The bucket-shop runners keep back quotations till they see they can wipe out a certain amount of margins. The "unfortunates" who deal with them. The bucket-shop business advertised. Losses through bucket-shop. Stock quotations from New York manipulated there. Ought to be closed as far as possible, 980.

MARCHESSEAU, ALFRED, Baker, Sherbrooke - - - 1218-1219

Wages of bakers. Price of bread. Price of flour, 1218. Hours of labor, 1219.

MARCOTTE, MAXIME, Tailor, Sherbrooke - - - 1234-1235

Wages, 1234. Is a cutter. Capacity of cutter in Sherbrooke, 1235.

MARCOUR, MRS. E., Seamstress, Sherbrooke - - - 1103-1104

Work at men's clothing. How paid. Nature of work. Wages, rate of, 1103. Women what they earn. Working hours. Nature of work, 1104.

MARIN, WILLIAM, Foreman of a foundry, Montreal - - - 310-311

Advocates weekly payments. Seventy-five members of the Society of Moulders blacklisted. Importation of foreign moulders 310.

- MARSON, D., Employee Shoe Factory, Quebec** - - - **947-948**
Works in finishing department. Sub-contracts. Large profits from ill done sub-contract work. Earnings of contractors and sub-contractors. Competition in shoe finishings in Quebec, 947. Machines worked by steam. Hours of women's work. Condition of waterclosets. Shafts and bells in satisfactory state. Accidents to many girls, 948.
- MARSON, D. J., Secretary of No. 5 Ship-laborers' Society** - - - **1089-1090**
No reason why society and men not members should not agree, etc. Corroborates Mr. Paul as to last 6 or 7 years, 1089. Mr. Marson's views on excessive labor in discharging coal vessels. Labor increased by machinery. Number of men. Hours of work. Inspector should be appointed. Accidents, 1090.
- MARSH, W. A., Shoe Manufacturer, Quebec** - - - **961-965**
Number of men employed by him. Age of youngest boy and girl employed. Difficulty of striking average of men's salaries. Average of women's wages. Work in his factory seldom done by sub-contract. No complaints by employees. His goods not suitable for English market. Help to manufacturers if represented abroad. Raw material and labor in Canada for all purposes. Greater portion of mechanics of the poorer class. Admitted advantage of having boys indentured to the trade and thoroughly taught. Ventilation of factory good, 962. Ample means of escape in case of fire. Enlightenment of the general workmen valuable to employers and employees. Lasting boots and peg work done by sub-contract in his factory. Earnings of sub-contractors. Get sole leather from London, Ont. No Ontario sole leather manufactured in Quebec, and sent back. Leather-board, 963. Sub-contractors responsible to manufacturers for pay work. Is contract work cheaper to manufacturers than work of men directly hired by the week? Wages of first-class women boot and shoe fitters. Best hands in minority. Is free labor cheaper in Quebec than prison labor in Toronto? No boy can learn entire boot and shoe business in factory. Statement regarding engineer and inspector of boilers, 965.
- MARTIN, ADELINE, Employed in the Ste. Anne Cotton Factory, Montreal** **477-480**
Moral condition or character of the employees, 477, 478. Fining of employees, 478, 479, 480.
- MARTIN, LEONCE, Employed in the Ste. Anne Cotton Factory, Montreal** **4754-76**
Morality of the employees, 475, 476. Extent of separation between the closets for each sex, 476.
- MARSON, EMMANUEL, Boot and Shoe Foreman, Montreal** - - - **702-703**
Resolution passed at a meeting of working boot and shoe men containing statement of their grievances regarding apprentices, asking that women work eight hours a day from 1st of December to 1st of April, that night schools for factory hands be established in the various wards of the city, and that premium be paid to employees by the Government on the number of different nationalities among his employees, 702, 703.
- MASSY, ELIE, Cigarmaker, Montreal** - - - **250-251**
Cigarmakers in Montreal make an average of \$7 a week; with a wife and two children, his expense cannot be below \$7.80. Without counting anything for clothing, 250.
- MASSY, ELIE, Cigarmaker, Montreal** - - - **21-24**
Number of people employed in the manufacture of cigars about thirteen hundred. The youngest child employed eleven years. Apprentices from three to four years. Wages of apprentices after serving time. Treatment of children in the factory; punishments, &c., 21. Duties of special constable. Causes of punishment. Fines, and under what pretence. Wages, and for what paid, 22. Number of hours em-

ployed, 22, 23. Sanitary condition of factory very satisfactory. Wages compared as between Canada and the United States. No cigars made by convict labor. No blacklisting at the present day, 23. Difference in the price paid. Union men and Non-Union men, 23, 24. Union organization, 24.

MATTHEWSON, JAMES A., *Merchant, Montreal* - - - - - **610-618**

The Wholesale Grocers' Association of Montreal. Its objects and operations, 610. The coal oil combination. The sugar "combine" and its operations, 612. Considers combinations to advance prices illegal as well as trades unions to advance the price of labor. The Board of Trade's action regarding the running of Sunday trains. Sunday trains a serious interference with the right of workingmen. Necessity for supervision of theatrical advertisements and plays, 616. Thinks that something ought to be done to improve the condition of the dwellings of the working classes, 617.

MÉTÉAU, H., *Carpenter and Bargeman, Quebec* - - - - - **1000-1001**

Seventeen years in Mr. Dobell's service. By contract. Does as much work as bargemen in general. Leaves ten per cent. of wages during summer. Men themselves prepare barges for navigation. Differences settled directly with Mr. Dobell. Demurrage. Proposed society of mutual protection of bargemen. Mr. Dobell's promise, 1000. If Mr. Dobell were paid, the men would be paid. Old Society of Bargemen. Document signed by bargemen entering service forbidding their joining a society. Only signed for the year. When the old society was broken up. Wages during its time. And afterwards, and at present. Bargemen paid for delays and for cleaning barges in society's time, 1001.

MERCIER, E., *Employee Shoe factory, Quebec* - - - - - **1008-1009**

Average earnings of men in large factory. Not high enough. A cause of loss of time to men. His work and wages. Wages cut down since death of the "boss." Can break the pegs off and unlast eight cases. Engineer in factory. Its condition. Currier's shop, nuisance. Situation of privies, 1008. "The commons." Great deal of work given out by contract. The broken machine. Fined by paying for tools or shoes injured. Paid too late on Saturdays. Supposed average of men's earnings taking the whole factory. Lost time. Work at night. Calculation of wages, 1009.

MERCIER, J. E., *Printer and Book-seller, Quebec* - - - - - **1133-1137**

Printers how engaged. Average wages. Number employed at Levis. Condition of printers and working classes generally, 1133. Average wages paid inexperienced laborers, 1134. Apprentices progress of, etc. Number employed. Wages. Bookbinding. Wages of women employed. Pressmen, 1135. Average wages of youngest employees. Overtime. Sundays. Time of payment, 1136. Working hours. Early closing of stores, 1137.

MERCIER, L., *Employee Match Factory, St. Romuald* - - - - - **1444-1445**

Age and length of time at work. Works at a machine, danger in getting fingers caught. Number of hours employed, and rate of wages, 1444. Ages of boys who wheel the blocks. Punishment now applied and what for, 1445.

MIDDLETON, MRS. E., *of Coaticooke, Provincial President of the Women's Christian Temperance Union in Canada* - - - - - **759-762**

Inability of inebriates to support their families, Workings of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, 759. Effect of the Scott Act on intemperance. Whether grocery or tavern licences more injurious to the people, 760. Growth of temperance principles in the city of Quebec, 761. Intemperance in Quebec. Licences issued in Quebec for selling liquor, 762.

MIGNER, O., *Boot Manufacturer, Quebec* - - - - - **972-977**

Number of employees. Proportion of men to women. The young children sent

away. Average wages to men and women, 972. Appointment of an inspector of manufactories beneficial. Suggestions as to export of goods. Workmen have all the education necessary. How workmen learn their trade. Hours of work summer and winter. Young children hired by the older girls. Their pay, 973. Sub-contractors. To be brought before the Commission, 974.

MIRON, E., *Journeyman Cigar-maker, Montreal* - - - - - **30**
Service of apprenticeship. Fines and why inflicted. Amount of fines paid by the witness. No corporal punishment, 30.

MITCHELL, ROBERT, *Brass finisher and steam fitter, Montreal* - - - - - **287-289**
Journeyman steam fitter, earns \$12 a week, 287. A brass finisher makes from \$1.50 to \$5 a day. They work ten hours. A boy to each man. But no indentured apprentices. They get from \$2 to \$5 a week. Many young men of that trade attend night schools. Very few in that line come to Montreal from abroad or the rural districts. Payment every other week. Employs two hundred fifty moulders. Manufactures heating pipes on a large scale, 288. A pattern maker get \$2 a day. Had a strike, 14 years ago, and reduced the hours from ten to nine. The reform was not followed up in other places, and he went back to the ten hours. Steam fitters get more than plumbers, 289.

Mocock, T. J., *Axe Manufacturer, Montreal* - - - - - **443-444**
Number of men employed. Class of goods he makes. Wages of axe makers. Machinery used. Hours of labor. Rate of mortality among axe grinders reduced by the use of wet stones, instead of dry, 443. Accidents from the bursting of grinding stones. Ohio and New Brunswick grinding stones compared. Wages in Montreal and the United States compared. Wages in St. Catherines, Ont., and Montreal compared, 444.

MONAGHAN, THOMAS, *Moulder, Montreal* - - - - - **306-308**
Apprentices in that trade should be bound. Seven years of apprenticeship required. Recommends study of drawing, 306. Average wages all the year round, \$1.40 a day. Moulders paid by the hour, from 14 to 25 cents. Monthly payments. Moulders black-listed, 307. The shortness of the pay causes men to drink. Laboring men employed as moulders, and underpaid. Injury to the regular moulders. As representative of the Moulders' Union, he advocates a system of arbitration between employers and employees. Approves of the creation of a Bureau of Labor Statistics. Moulders better paid in Detroit. Uniformity of salary in that place, 308.

MONTREAL BOARD OF TRADE - - - - - **731**
Letter from the Secretary regarding exemption of laborers' wages from seizure, 731.

MONTREAL MANUFACTURING COMPANY - - - - - **734**
Statement of wages paid to, and fines imposed on and collected from, the Company's employees during the past five years, 734. Also, in reply to an enquiry by the Commission, Mr. Geo. Craik, Secretary-Treasurer of the Company, states that no wages have been confiscated, 735.

MONTREUIL, A., *Quebec, Leather Cutter* - - - - - **1114**
Rate of wages. Nature of work, 1114. Cutters, how engaged, 1114. Explain how employer deceived as to quantity of leather, 1114. Apprenticeship, 1114.

MOONEY, GEORGE A., *Tanner, Montreal* - - - - - **543-545**
Classes of leather he produces and labor he employs. Wages, 543. Materials he uses in tanning. Product all used in Canada. Healthiness of the occupation. Sanitary condition and ventilation of the tanneries. Boys and girls employed, and at what occupied. Importation of leather, 544. Hours of labor. Apprentices, 545.

- MOONEY, JOHN HENRY, Tanner, Montreal** - - - - - **671**
Has not been in business for the last twelve months. He had posted up rules and regulations in his tannery, 671.
- MOORE, H. B., Secretary-Treasurer Provident Society, Montreal** - - - - - **121-123**
Description of society, how formed, etc. Assessments. Death rates, 121. Appointment of committee. Sick list. Accidents. Passes to surgeons. Remittance of fares, 122. Levies collected. Surgeons' pay. Objections to joining society, 123.
- MOORE, SAMUEL, Manager Street Railway, Quebec** - - - - - **819-825**
Number of employees. Hours of labor. Sunday labor during the summer, 819. Rate of wages. Higher wages paid in summer than in winter. Hours of labor of stablemen. Sleeping accommodations for stablemen, 820. Lower wages to stablemen during winter. Stablemen paid for overtime, 821. Payment of employees during short illnesses. Recommendations necessary before employment of workmen. Employees sign agreement to abstain from drunkenness, Employees paid higher wages as business increases. Some of employees own houses in which they live. Objection to employees belonging to labor organizations, 822. Not so much work to be done in winter, and wages lower in consequence. No change of drivers during the day. Leaves of absence. Injured employees receive half pay while not at work. Treatment of sick horses, 823. Capital of the company. Yearly dividends. Amount paid in salaries last year. Increase of wages to reliable men, 824. Employees satisfied with wages. Bonusing of employees, 825.
- MORENCY, MISS MARIE, Employee Rope Factory, Quebec** - - - - - **970**
Approves testimony of Rosalie Cantin and Elise Landry, 970.
- MORGAN, DAVID, Tailor, Quebec** - - - - - **767-768**
Wages paid coatmakers. Wages paid women for making vests. Hours of labor of tailoresses. Introduction of machinery has increased wages of tailors, 767. Rate of wages paid in Quebec less than those paid in Montreal, 768.
- MORIN, HERMÉNEGILDE, Policeman, Quebec** - - - - - **853-854**
Contracted weakness in the legs while serving at fires as policeman and in consequence was placed on half pay list. Rate of wages paid insufficient to support him, 853.
- MORIN, PHILIPPE, of Sherbrooke, Cigarmaker, aged fourteen years and six months** - - - - - **1185-1186**
Length of time at the trade. Signed an agreement when he commenced, stipulating for certain wages, but which agreement has not been carried out, 1185. Wages. Fines. Describes how he has been beaten by his master. Night work. Defrauding him of his earnings. Rate paid per 100 for making cigars. Apprentices, 1186.
- MORIN, PIERRE HUBERT, Assessor of the City of Montreal** - - - - - **551-552**
Explanations regarding the assessment of property in the City of Montreal, 551, 552.
- MORISÈTE, P., Bargeman, Quebec** - - - - - **951-953**
Corrects B. Gingras' testimony. When the Quebec Bargemen's Society was formed. Its period of existence. Prices at the time when society existed. No payment now for delays. Terms of agreement was signed by bargemen, 951. Care of bargemen for the boats. Some employers do not oblige bargemen to caulk their boats at their own expense. Time taken to put boat in good order. Why the society was broken up. Conduct of a master afterwards. Rules of the society. Disabled bargemen and widows relieved by society. Wages last season. In time of society, 952. The owners of the boats. Bargemen obliged to work in dangerous weather. They answer for the cargo. Furnish bed and provisions, 953.

- MORRICK DAVID, Montreal** - - - - - **381-382**
 Is one of the directors of the Hochelaga Cotton Manufacturing Co., and selling agent too. Never heard of the alleged immorality of the place. It is customary in Montreal factories to work on holidays, except Christmas and New Year's day, 381. When employees want leave of absence, it is seldom refused. There is a cotton association in Montreal, to regulate the output of the mills and the value of the goods, 382.
- MORRIS, A. W., Cordage Manufacturer, Montreal** - - - - - **404-407**
 They manufacture all kinds of cordage and twine. Prices are 20 per cent. lower than in the United States, 404. But there is in New York a National Cordage Company composed of sixteen American manufacturers who try to force all the others to join them; they sell very cheap. The Canadian article is superior. Canada exports cordage through New York to South America and the West Indies. The Dartmouth Company of Halifax exports to the United States, pays the American duties and makes a profit. Deponent has 190 names on the pay roll. Men get from \$1.20 to \$2 a day; girls, from \$7.50 to \$9.60 a fortnight; boys begin at 55 cents a day. They all work 60 hours a week; but few work by the piece. Sixty per cent. have been with the firm for sixteen years. The girls remain until they marry. Payments every other week, 405. They paid last year \$50,000 for wages, and the fines amounted to \$12.50. For four hours' night work they are given five hours' pay. Very few accidents; but a man was killed four years ago, 406.
- MORRISON, GEORGE W., Deputy Port Warden of the Port of Montreal** **623-624**
 Competency of stevedores. Licensing of stevedores. Does not recognize the Plim-soll mark. Is governed by the rules of the English Lloyds. Vessels cannot leave the port of Montreal overloaded. Reason why, 623, 624.
- MORTON, HENRY, Bookbinder and Printer, Montreal** - - - - - **296-298**
 Employs 55 hands; work by the week. Wages, from \$11 to \$15. Hours of labor, 57½ a week. Has nine boys; minimum age, 14 years and a half; they start at \$1.75 a week, 296. Bookbinders' wages, from \$7 to \$14 a week; girls in the book-binding start at \$1.50 and get as much as \$6 in a short time. Boys are indentured for five years; advantages of indentures, 297. Good rulers' wages, from \$10 to \$15 a week; scarcity of them. Accidents due to carelessness, 298.
- MOSELY, EDWARD FRANK, Tanner, Ste. Hyacinthe** - - - - - **1274-1275**
 Class of leather he makes. Capacity of the tanners. Wages. Hours of labor. No fines, 1274. Pay days and method of paying. Boys employed. Received a bonus from the municipality, and is exempt from taxation. Conditions on which he received the bonus. Law of master and servant regarding "notice to quit," 1275.
- MUIR, GEORGE E., Assessor of Montreal** - - - - - **258-264**
 Assessing property for what it will sell for. Rentals in Montreal vary from three to twenty per cent. on the value, 258. The rental of a house may increase, and the value of the property not change. Ten per cent. not too much for a tenement house, 259. About the increase of water rates in working classes, dwelling houses, 262. The poor man pays more for water than the man who lives in an expensive house. The proprietor of a house which is unoccupied, pays nothing for the water which may serve to save the building, should it be in fire, 263.
- MULARKY, M. C., Boot and Shoe Manufacturer, Montreal** - - - - - **444-447**
 Employs women, men, boys and girls. Cannot tell the age of the youngest child he employs. Hours of labor. Wages. Means of exit from the factory in case of fire and preparations for extinguishing fires. Closets separate for each sex. Although it is necessary they should work together in some cases, 445. Operatives sometimes scarce in Montreal. Work done outside. Sub-contracting system of doing it. Sanitary condition of the workshops. Boots and shoes exported to England, Ireland

and the West Indies as well as sold all over the Dominion. Shipping goods to wholesale dealers in Ontario, 446. Cheap labor in Montreal and its effect. Does not impose any fines, 447.

MULLEN, PATRICK, *Ship Laborer, Quebec* - - - - - **743-744**

Short hours of labor obtained through Ship Laborers' Benevolent Association, 743. Loading lumber on steamships. Dismissal of ship laborers owing to their bring no work. Hours of labor, 744.

MULRONEY, GEORGE, *Ship Laborer, Quebec* - - - - - **754-756**

Lumber swinging process in loading ships with lumber, 754. Danger in "swinging" lumber. Lumber swingers leaving the business owing to its being so hard. Danger of being drowned. Rate of wages per year, 755. Unseaworthy vessels go to sea. Insurance inspection of cargoes, 756.

MURPHY, EDWARD, *Merchant, Montreal* - - - - - **620**

Is a member of the firm of Frothingham & Workman. Denies being one of the exclusive agents of Mr. Girouard of Three Rivers. Does not know anything of an Association of funeral furnishers, 620.

MURPHY, EDWARD, *Employee in the E. B. Eddy Coy's Match Factory, Hull* - **1364**

Mixes the igniting material for the matches. Has been employed thus for fifteen years. Hours of labor. Effect of the phosphorous on his health. Wages, 1364.

MURPHY, JOHN, *Marble Polisher, Montreal* - - - - - **472**

Employment of women as polishers has lowered men's wages. Wages of women who work as polishers. The work unsuitable for women. Hours of labor. Pay days, 472.

MURPHY, DANIEL, *Saddler, Montreal* - - - - - **496-497**

Wages. Apprenticeship. Supply of, and demand for saddlers. Immigration, 496. Wages of apprentices. Effect of Reformatory work on the trade. Reformatory apprentices. Wages of harness makers. Importation of saddles, 497.

MURPHY, MICHAEL T., *Superintendent of the Granite Woollen Mills, St. Hyacinthe* - - - - - **1320-1325**

The recent labor trouble at the Granite Woollen Mills, 1320, 1325. Employees are bound by agreement according to the rules and regulations of the firm. Two weeks' notice before leaving required from piece hands as well as day hands, 1321. Wages. Total amount of fines collected from employees during the last year. Cannot tell the amount of wages confiscated during the last year, 1322. The company's loss incurred by employees leaving without giving notice, 1323. Average wages of the young women who left without giving notice. Prices stocking moulders get for their work, 1324.

NUTTER, CHARLES H., *of Messrs. Nutter & Webster, Cigar manufacturers, Sherbrooke* - - - - - **1212-1217**

Fining of employees, 1212. Apprentices, 1213. Has never heard of the factory law. Piece work, 1214. Apprentices subject to fines on piece work. Price given for making 1,000 five cent cigars. Apprentices wages, 1215. Reason why fines are imposed for being short in stock. Wages of apprentices. Arrested by the firm in Montreal, 1216.

MYERS, JOSEPH, *Tailor, Montreal* - - - - - **559**

Keeps a store and workshop. Also does extra work for wholesale houses. Ventilation of his workshop. Class of work he does for wholesale houses and prices he gets. Wages he pays girls. Their hours of labor, 559.

- NADÉAU, JOSEPH, Employed at the Albert Mine, Capelton - - - 1261-1262**
 Not yet thirteen years old. Wages, 1261. Pay days, 1262.
- NAGLÉ, C. P., Deputy Chief of Police, Montreal - - - 63**
 Mode of swearing in special constables, and their duties, 63.
- NAYLOR, W. H., Manager and Superintendent Quebec Worsted Co. 1029-1033**
 Number of females employed. Wages. Hours. Employs and discharges hands. Three cents an hour. No fines. Necessity of employees working on religious holidays. Pay the same prices as in Ontario. Never engage children by age. Sanitary condition of mills, 1029. Their condition as to conveniences and fire-escapes. Average ages of boys and girls. Average pay. Paid fortnightly in "cash." Number of men. Garnishee. Average wages. Wage of boss dyer. Work the whole year round. Accidents. The bosses attend the machinery. No fines; but better that there should be. Use of Canadian wool decreasing. Cause—Australian used, 1030. McRae & Co., of Guelph. The mills run at night. Working on holidays a question of business, not of justice. The young girl discharged, 1031. Working on holidays. The changes of fashions. Necessity of altering the breed of sheep to produce suitable wool. Permanent values of wool. Factory inspector. Favorites, 1032. Employees always paid their due. Those discharged get their pay if they apply to Secretary, 1033.
- NELSON, ALBERT D., of the Firm of H. A. Nelson & Sons, Wholesale Dealers in Fancy Goods, Wooden Ware, &c., Montreal - 538-540**
 The firm is engaged in the manufacture of brooms and whisks in Toronto, at the Central Prison. Employs four free foremen, who are also instructors of the convicts. Periods the convicts serve. Possibility of exporting prison-made goods as a solution of how to employ convicts, 539, 540.
- NICHOLLS, WILLIAM II., of Capelton, P.Q., and of the City of New York, U.S.A., one of the Firm of G. H. Nicholls & Co., Manufacturing Chemists and Miners, Proprietors of the Albert Copper Mine, Capelton - - - 1262-1264**
 Number of miners employed. Constancy of employment. They work sometimes piecework and sometimes by the day. Wages. Pay days. Fee of the Sick and Accident Association. Accidents, and precautions taken to prevent them, 1262. Explosives used. Boys employed, and at what. Schools. Drinking habits. Workingmen's dwellings. Social condition of employees. Laborers' wages. Wages of carpenters employed about the mine. Mine employees' hours of labor, 1263. Wages of boys. Benevolent, or Sick and Accident Association. How it is conducted, and by whom. 1264.
- NOLL, P., Quebec, Joiner - - - 1126-1127**
 Rate of wages. Hours of work. Contradicts evidence of certain masters, 1127.
- O'BRIEN, JAMES, Wholesale Clothier, Montreal - - - 294-296**
 Most work done outside. Wages for overwork, 294. Wages for other pieces. Buttonholes made by machinery at so much per hundred. Finds a market in all the Dominion, 295.
- O'FARRELL, JOHN, Barrister, Quebec - - - 840-842**
 Child labor in three manufactories in Quebec, 840. Causes of the falling off of the shipping business at Quebec. Robbery practised on ship laborers by captains of ships at Quebec. Labor organization in shape of Ship Laborers' Society was the result. Results achieved by this organization. Ship laborers leaving the business at Quebec

in consequence of the hardness of this labor, irregularity of employment and liability to serious accidents, 841. Superiority of hand winches over steam winches, 842.

O'FLAHERTY, JOHN, *Moulder, Montreal* - - - - - **462-465**

Wages. Sanitary condition of the shops. Closets, their location and condition. Ventilation of Montreal foundries. Locking out men for being late, 462. Piecework among moulders, and the class of men engaged at it. The apprentice system, 463. Age a boy should be before commencing the trade. Improper condition and arrangements of some of the shops for casting, and danger to men therefrom. Apprentice system. Foundries should be lighted with electric light. Reasons for the abolition of piecework. Habits of moulders regarding intoxicating drinks. Wash rooms for moulders. Supply of and demand for moulders in Montreal, 464. The establishment of a Dominion Labor Bureau. Immigration. Its effect on the trade. Foreign contract labor imported by the Grand Trunk Railway, 62. Blacklisting of moulders, 465.

O'LEARY, CHAS. A., *Builder and Contractor, Quebec* - - - - - **836-838**

Rate of wages to bricklayers. Rate of wages paid stonemasons. Rate of wages paid plasterers. Number of months in the year plasterers, masons and bricklayers can obtain work. Rate of wages paid carpenters. Rate of wages to plaster laborers, 836. Pay days fortnightly. Extent of building operations in Quebec. Stone masons and bricklayers work in Quebec in summer, and United States in winter. City inspection of new buildings, 837. No inspection of scaffolding; some accidents in consequence. Workingmen residing in houses owned by themselves, 838.

O'ROURKE, JOHN F., *Shoe-cutter, Montreal* - - - - - **243-246**

Wages in the United States, in his trade, more than double those in Canada; in the country towns of Massachusetts, not so good, 243. Factories in Montreal, which are unfit to live in; factories poorly heated in winter, and ill ventilated in summer; no fire-escapes; doors opening wide; but one stairway for 200 people. 244 men discharged on account of creed or nationality; boys working from the age of six; wages better in Upper Canada, owing to workmen being more united; danger of closets common to both sexes; deponent twice boycotted, 245.

ORTON, FREDERICK, *Machinist, Sherbooke* - - - - - **1228-1229**

Is employed in the locomotive department of the Quebec Central Railway. Wages. Pay-days. Condition of the shops, 1228-1229.

OSIRIS, BIBEAU, *Printer, Montreal* - - - - - **472-473**

Rents of workingmen's houses in Montreal. Taxes and water-rates on workingmen's houses in Montreal, 472. Exorbitant charges for water, 473.

OUMET, MISS ADELINE, *Match Factory Employee, Hull* - - - - - **1351**

Child-labor employed putting the matches in boxes, 1351.

PAGÉ, EVARISTE ROSARIO, *Book-keeper, St. Hyacinthe* - - - - - **1333**

Is book-keeper for Messrs Seguin & Lalime. Protection of machinery at the Granite Woollen mills. Accidents at the Granite Woollen mills, 1333.

PALLARDY, AMÉDÉE, *of St. Hyacinthe, Stocking-maker,* . . . - - - **1285-1287**

Left the Granite Knitting mills because wages were too low. Wages, 1285. How the wages were reduced. Piece-work. Part of his pay not received yet. Overtime. Forced to work from Saturday morning till Sunday morning at six o'clock without stopping, and only paid same rate as day work for it, 1286. Piece-hands lose time every day waiting for work, 1287.

PALLARDY, MISS PHILOMÈNE, *Woollen Factory Employee, St. Hyacinthe* - - - **1330**

Works in the flannel department of the factory. Piece-work. Wages. Overtime. Both men and young girls work overtime. Receives same pay for overtime as for

day work. Did work at the Granite mills; left there without giving notice; was paid in full, 1330.

PALMER, MALLORY, Foreman of the Manufacturing Department of the Canadian Rubber Co., Montreal - - - 683-684

Child labor. Accidents, 683. Protection to machinery. Hours of labor. Overtime. Pay children get for overtime, 684.

PAQUETTE, ABRAHAM, Carriage-maker, Quebec - - - 867-869

Number of carriage-makers in Quebec. Wages paid carriage-makers. Wages paid blacksmiths. Apprentices employed. Wages paid apprentices. Time required by apprentices to learn trade of carriagemaking, 867. Piece-work. Trimmers employed by piece. Earnings of trimmers. Constancy of employment. Capability of carriage-makers for designing styles of carriages. Night-schools, proportion of carriage-makers, Quebec, who attend them. Night-schools not situated in portions of city occupied by working classes. Hours of labor of carriage-makers. Prison labor. Carriages made at reformatories, and effect of sale of these carriages on business in Quebec, 868.

PAQUETTE, STANISLAUS Joiner, Montreal - - - 649-650

Employment of cheap incompetent workmen from the country districts near Quebec and St. Hyacinthe. Apprenticeship system, 649. Hours of labor. Employees charged for gas and lamps in winter. Wages. Working carpenters and joiners not paid equal to other workmen engaged in building, because they have no union, 650. Scarcity of good carpenters in Montreal, and reason therefor. Class of dwellings occupied by carpenters. Cost of tools. Sanitary condition of carpenters' shops. Closets. Carpenters make more debts than savings, 651. Reason why fires are forbidden in new buildings. Pay-days and methods of paying. Percentage of competent carpenters in the city. Apprentices, and what their wages ought to be. Age an apprentice ought to be. Child labor in lumber factories, 652. Accidents to children in lumber factories, 653.

PAQUETTE, ZÉPHIRIN, Merchant, Quebec - - - 807-809

Number of employees. Rate of wages. Female labor in dry goods establishment and wages paid. Value of manufactured goods, 807. Labor in Quebec as compared with labor in Montreal. Hours of labor. Payment of employees for work done after hours. Age of youngest girl employed. Conveniences for male and female employees. Rate of wages earned by girls, 808. Women compared with men as tailors. Piece work. Bonuses to employees, 809.

PAMPALON, F., Mason and Contractor, Quebec - - - 993-994

Number of men he employs in busy season. Wages. Wages of handy men. Working masons scarce in Quebec. Hire by the day. Very little winter work. Right of men to leave summer work in Quebec to go elsewhere for higher wages, 993. Few apprentices. Stone cutters' wages not kept back on account of breaking of stones. Wages of fairly able stone masons. Can working masons live comfortably in Quebec? Some masons own their own houses. Reason of scarcity of masons in Quebec, 994.

PANNETON, L. E., Advocate, Mayor, Sherbrooke - - - 1161-1163

Loss of wages by workmen through contractors. Railway men and shanty men referred to. Amount lost, opinion as to remedy, 1161. Pay of jurymen. Much loss through sub-contractors. Corporation work. How done. Applications for assistance, 1162. Corporation employees. Time of payment. Rates of wages. Applications for assistance. Taxes. Water, etc., 1163.

PARADIS, F. F., Roofer, Quebec - - - 1068-1069

Average time of work in the year. Laborers often employed as roofers. Hours of summer work. Hour of commencing work in summer, 1068. Some not obliged to

be at house on which they are working at 7 a.m. Working roofers carry tools and materials. Not paid for an hour overtime. Material for scaffolding not often given. Accidents from insufficient scaffolding. No indemnification from masters for injuries. Utmost annual earnings or working roofers. Not sufficient to support family in suitable manner, 1069.

PARENT, EDMOND, *Boot and shoe manufacturer at the Reformatory School,*
Montreal - - - - -

435-436

Number of children he employs. Number of men and girls he employs besides. Age of the children. Length of time the children serve under him. Does not think they know the trade when they leave. Wages he pays them. Pays the Reformatory authorities rent and furnishes machinery and everything else himself, 435. Workmen not allowed to correct the children; that is left to a Brother who watches over their behaviour. Hours they (the children) work. New pupils work thirty days for nothing. Children who are in for three or four years have the advantage of learning their trade. Class of goods manufactured by him and when sold, 436.

PARENT, JOSEPH, *Carriage Upholsterer, Montreal* - - - - -

511-512

Wages in Montreal. Piece work. Apprentices, 511. Reformatory school boys do not learn the trade. Reason why, 512.

PARENT, J., *Cooper, Quebec* - - - - -

938-939

Employs ten men. Some by job. Some by piece. Makes different kinds of barrels. Wages. Barrel making. Pay day. Orders in stores. Hours of work, 938.

PATON, A., *Woollen Manufacturer, Quebec* - - - - -

1163-1167

Number of hands employed. Sub-contractors. Employees paid directly. Wages paid directly, 1163. Wages fixed by sub-contractors sometimes, 1164-1166. Ages of children. Fines imposed in one department. Working hours. Overtime. Sanitary condition of factory, 1164-1166. Number of women in weaving room. What they earn, 1164. Fines continued, 1165, 1166. Paid extra for overtime. Size of factory. Fire escapes, etc., 1165. Rules and regulations, 1165, 1167. Wages, how paid. Notice to quit, 1165. Overtime continued, 1165-1166. Carders' wages, 1165. Sees that employees all paid, 1166. Canada Manufacturing Association, object of, etc. Document signed by employees, nature of, etc. Employees, condition of, etc., 1167.

PATON, JAMES, *Manager of Quebec and Levis Ferry Association, Quebec*

825-826

Number of employees. Rate of wages paid engineers, 825. Hours of labor of deck hands. Monthly pay days. Rate of wages paid deck hands. Sunday labor. Overcrowding of steamers. Life buoys for use in case of accidents. Accident to men in jumping from pontoon to steamers after casting the rope. Same wages paid winter and summer and less work in winter, 826. Meal hours. Ferry boats do not connect with trains late in the evening during winter. Drinking water on steamers. Competency of employees, 827. Lifeboats. No lights on pontoons at night. Meals supplied boat hands. Rate of wages paid employees of machine shop, 828.

PATON, WILLIAM, *Chief of Montreal Fire Brigade* - - - - -

672-676

Number of men employed on the brigade. Proportion of married men. Men all sleep at the stations. Sleeping accommodations provided at the station. Benevolent fund in connection with the brigade, 672. How the benevolent fund is supported. Donations from the citizens. Fining of firemen for dereliction of duty very rare, 673. Suspension and re-instatement. Two suits of clothes given to each man annually. No superannuation fund in connection with the brigade, although there is a general desire on the part of the men to have one. Accident and life insurance policy for each man paid for by the city. Fines and suspension. Holidays in summer. Dangers and inconvenience of telegraph wires in case of fire. How accidents occur

to firemen. A fireman's pay runs on in case of sickness or accident, 675. Applications from good men for positions in the brigade are numerous, 676.

PATRIE, ALFRED, *Leather Cutter, Montreal* - - - - - 239-243

Wages of leather cutters in Montreal. Too great a proportion of apprentices in that trade, 239. Class for cutting out patterns well attended. Shameful sanitary condition of some factories, 240. Doors of his factory open inside. Most factories without fire escapes. Workmen dismissed and denounced for belonging to a labor union, 241. Boots and shoes made at the Reformatory by the contractor, 242. Women finish boots and shoes cut at the factory. Paid every Saturday, 243.

PAUL, JAMES, *Stevedore, Quebec* - - - - - 1078-1086

Makes statement regarding Ship Laborers' Society. He was secretary of the society in 1863. The rate of spring and fall wages then. General state of dissatisfaction. Difficulty of making a basis. Increase in wages of holders. Winches. Elevators, 1078. The rules of the society blamed when the trade turned to Montreal and other ports for taking away trade from Quebec. Explains the rules against working on holy days and with sailors. Two days' pay for working on a holiday. A rule waived and afterwards resumed. Considers the number of men allowed by rule of society on vessels of a certain size not too much. Until ship is completed advantageous to stevedore to keep up his gang. The keeping up of too many men is the stevedore's loss, 1079. Time lost for want of barges. Laborer pays cost of going to his work and back home again. What often occurs when there is a rush of vessels to the port. What delay in stuff arriving for want of barges costs those who ship it and to the ship and the stevedore. Loading vessels at their own berths insisted on by merchants. Loading from wharf and batteaux. Difficulties that sometimes occur in loading some vessels with different cargoes. Remarks on the use of steam in loading and loading by hand power. The use of steam in loading birch, etc., at Quebec would not prevent steamers going to Montreal. Why merchants ship deals at Montreal in preference to Quebec, 1080. Nothing the ship laborers can do will make any difference to Quebec. Vessels loaded in Quebec cheaper now than before society. The non use of steam in loading at Quebec offers a convenient argument for the disappearance of the trade. Loading by steam abolished long ago in the Southern ports. It is dangerous to life and limb. Rate of loading coal in Quebec. Quebec laborers do as much in eight hours as Montreal men do in ten. Why steamship companies prefer Montreal. Why vessels taking advantage of tide go straight to Montreal with Quebec cargo aboard. The effect of deepening Lake St. Peter. Natural tendency in steamship companies to go to head of the navigation, 1081. Possible combine between railway companies and shipping companies. The reason for charging the same rate of wages for loading mixed cargoes as for square timber, deals, etc. Loss to parties working a mixed cargo. Time taken to load a ship of three thousand tons. Whose fault it is when a vessel is detained for want of cargo. Cost of loading vessels ten years ago. Cost last summer. Cost of loading deals per the St. Petersburg standard in Quebec and Montreal. Rules of the society no bearing on loss of shipping to Quebec, 1082. The Society would meet the Board of Trade and consider the merchants' objections to their rules. Witness explains article 56 of the by-laws of the Society, 1083. Reason barge owners go to Montreal instead of Quebec. Steam should only be put to loading coal. Timber handled quicker by hand. The amounts paid by Society in case of injury or death to members and their families. The benefits to injured before the formation of society. Case of the barque "Frederick," 1084. Explains why, since 1885, article 50 has been repealed and two new articles enacted as to putting extra men in the after winches. Number of men employed governed by extent of work. Reason of objection of laborers to work with foreign sailors, 1085-1086. A captain's returns only a general disbursement account to owner. Items unwarrantably laid to labor, 1086.

- PELLETIER, EDOUARD, *Shoemaker, Montreal* - - - **249-250**
Works at the Reformatory, 249. Children there work at the boot and shoe trade; earn 15 cents a day; are taught part of the trade only, 250.
- PELLETIER, JOSEPH, *Roofer, Montreal* - - - **678-679**
Accidents from defective scaffolding. Remuneration in case of accidents, 678, 679. It would be a great protection if the law regarding safety of scaffolding, were put in force. Inspection of scaffolds and the building inspector, 679.
- PELTIER, LOUIS LAWRENCE, *Railway Conductor, Montreal* - - **626-629**
Is a passenger train conductor. Licensing of railway conductors. Accidents on the Grand Trunk Railway through the "frogs" not being properly filled, 626. Black-listing. The signal system. Investigations of charges against G.T.R. employees, how conducted, 627. Accidents at crossings. Danger of accidents in coupling freight cars belonging to some foreign railways. Railings or guards on top of freight cars to protect brakeman. Running or foot boards, 628. Thinks Government should do something to protect the lives of railway employees, 629.
- PELLETIER, F. P., *Advocate and Journalist, Quebec* - - **935-938**
La Justice Company. Number of men employed. Few apprentices. Pay their own prices. Do not mind the prices of the Typographical Union. Earnings of apprentices. How their printing and distributions are done. Have work done by contract. Do not employ Knights of Labor. No compulsion on men belonging to Typographical Union, to sign document that they do not belong to Knights of Labor. Employ some printers who belong to Typographical Union. Decline to employ others. Active strikers. Conditions of document employees are asked to sign. Not all asked to sign, 936. Necessity of member of Bar of Quebec to pay annual tax before he can plead. No comparison between Bar of Quebec and Trades Union. Revision of tariff of fees. Not allowable to charge more than by the tariff of fees. Save by special agreement between advocate and client, 937. Lawyers' fees. Soliciting business. Printing of factums, 938.
- PELLETIER, N., *Weaver, Sherbrooke* - - - **1156-1157**
Employed in woollen mills, 1156. Work by job. Rates of wages. Times of payment. Hours of work. Time for meals. Paid in money, 1157.
- PENTLAND, CHARLES A., *Barrister, Quebec* - - - **894-895**
He gives a judgment rendered by Mr. Justice Casault against Ship Laborers' Society for damages in an action taken by a night watchman on a vessel because he was dismissed in consequence of members of the Ship Laborers' Society boycotting the vessel because he was working on her, and because he had once been a member of the society and left it, 894. He says rules of Ship Laborers' Society are held by the courts to be illegal and should not be allowed to exist, 895.
- PERODEAU, NARCISSE, *Notary, Montreal* - - - **715**
Tariff of charges made by notaries in Montreal too high. New tariff under consideration of Lieutenant-Governor in Council, 715.
- PERRAULT, J. X., *Vice-President, Montreal Chamber of Commerce* - **414-419**
The Chamber of Commerce causes tribunals to be established for the collection of sums under \$25; costs very high under the present law; but a bill presented by Mr. David to the Quebec Legislature will remedy that evil, and the claim will be settled by small instalments, at a trifling expense, 414. The tribunal recommended improvements to the Harbor Commissioners, to prevent portion of St. Ann's Ward being inundated. Sunday labor ought not to be allowed. Railway excursions recommended. Museums ought to open on Sundays, and post-office too, 415. Thinks that the number of licenses should be based on population; as a rule, French people are not for prohibition. Difficulties in Montreal in getting workmen and servants; hence the

organization of a labor exchange desired by the Chamber; his opinion of how it should work, on the Paris plan, 417. That Bureau would have nothing to do with terms or wages. In Liverpool, emigrants' certificates as to their respectability are signed blindly, 418. For letters, the Chamber desires the allowance of their weight to be one ounce instead of half an ounce, as it is in the United States, where the postage rate is two cents instead of three; a one ounce letter from that country to Canada costs two cents only; but from Canada to the United States, same letter would cost six, 419.

PERREAULT, L. A., Foreman Shoe Factory, Quebec - - - 974

Foreman of department of finishers. Mostly men under his control. Average wages of workmen. No children in his department. No persons put to work too strong for them. Very satisfactory condition of factory, 974.

PERRON, A., Quebec, Mason Contractor - - - 1108-1109

Number of men employed, 1108. Working hours. Rate of wages. Don't work when weather is bad. Pay sometimes in advance. Pay every fortnight, 1109.

PETERS, SIMON, Saw and Planing Mill Owner and Contractor, Quebec 842-845

Rate of wages paid joiners. Apprentice system out of fashion. Reluctance of young men to be apprenticed. Hours of labor. Pay day daily. Rate of wages paid general machinists, 842. Piece work done by nailers. Rate of wages to boys employed.

Rate of wages of hand sawyers. Skilled mechanics leaving Quebec for the United States and Montreal. Scarcity of mechanics due to lack of apprentices. Objection to apprentice system, as young men leave for North-West and United States as soon as they learn their trade. Rate of wages paid mechanics in United States higher than in Quebec. Sons of mechanics able to obtain a good education cheaply, and consequently do not wish to have a trade, 843. Inability of young men doing manual labor after a college education. Mechanics in Quebec owning houses. Percentage of mechanics' sons who go into learned professions, 844. Advantages from introduction of art and design schools. Sanitary inspection of factories, 845.

PHÉLAN, W., Moulder, Montreal - - - 461-462

Defrauding moulders of part of their wages, or "paying short," 461-462.

PICHÉ, GUSTAVE, Ironmonger, Montreal - - - 639

Evidence regarding the operations of the combination called the "Undertakers' Association," 639.

PICHÉ, GUSTAVE, Ironmonger, Montreal - - - 714-715

Iron goods used at present date cheaper than many years ago, 714. Importation of English, American, German and Belgian goods. Tools made in Canada compared with those made in United States. Increase in demand for Canadian goods. Mechanics' tools cheaper than they were five years ago, 715.

PICHETTE, ANDRÉ, Knitting Factory Employee, of St. Hyacinthe - - 1293

Is employed in the picker room. Wages. Hours of labor. Overtime. Machinery dangerous. Accidents. Was never fined. Has a book of rules. Was not aware that if he left the factory without giving due notice, he would lose all wages due him, 1293.

PIGEON, ALBERT P., President Typographical Union Jacques Cartier, Montreal - - - 429-432

This is the French section of the Montreal Union; it comprises 170 members, and no women. Reformatory type-setters do factums very cheap, which has a tendency to lower wages; but boys of the institutions don't turn out journeymen printers. No good system of apprenticeship in the French printing houses. They ought to be engaged by contract, and there should be a board of examiners, 429. No boys under 14 ought to be apprenticed, duration of the apprenticeship, five years. In French

places, an apprentice gets \$1.50 the first year; the second, \$3; and the last, \$5 or \$5.50. After a year or two, when they know a little of the trade, they leave and work somewhere else as journeymen. At the Reformatory, there are 15 boys at 15 cents a day, and three journeymen only. The House of Providence, the Hochelaga Convent, and other institutions have printing offices. At the Deaf-Mutes, they make bags chiefly. The Christian Brothers do some work too. An incompetent printer admitted into the Union is put back to his apprenticeship, when found out. Some journeymen do some work at home; they ought to pay a tax for keeping an office, 430. They take in work at lower prices. A duty of 75 per cent. ought to be levied on imported stereotype plates, and matrices too. In one place, journeymen are not allowed to eat their lunch in the building; those residing at a long distance, have to eat theirs on the sidewalk, 431. City inspectors seldom visit those places. Their condition is bad. No salvage apparatus, except in one. In some paper offices, advertisements are set and measured at the rate of nonpareil measurement, and paid for by advertisers at the rate of agate measure. The hours of work are 10 during the day, and 13 for the night. A journeyman on time makes up during the week for the loss of Saturday afternoons. Those working by the piece, lose their time on a newspaper. A man who works during the forenoon only, loses three or four hours in the afternoon, 451. Compositors by the week get \$9 and \$10; by the piece, 28 cents for evening papers, and 30 cents for morning papers, 432.

PIGEON FRANÇOIS, *Saddle-maker, Montreal*

508-510

Has worked twenty-six years in Montreal, and during that time, on two occasions, at the Reformatory. Reason why he left the Reformatory, 508. Incompetency of apprentices who learn their trade at the Reformatory. Reasons why they are incompetent. Wages of saddle-makers in Montreal. Apprentices not being properly taught the cause of the scarcity of able workmen in Montreal; and the cause of our having to import many articles which might otherwise be made in the country, 509. Wages in the United States compared with Montreal. Rents in the United States and Montreal. Reason why employers do not keep good workmen in Montreal, 510.

PION, A., *White Leather Dresser, Quebec*

975

Number of employees. Number of women. Average wages. Age of youngest child. The children's work. Process of white leather tanning. The women's work, 975.

PLAMONDON, MISS ROSANNA, *Employee at Shoemaking, St. Hyacinthe*

1327

Works at Louis Coté's. Is fourteen years old; has been working for two years. Does not know what her wages are; helps her father, 1327.

PLANTE, W., *Cigar-maker, Montreal*

78

Apprenticeship. Corporal punishment, how and why inflicted, 78.

PLEAU, PIERRE, *Machinist, Montreal*

314-321

Girls 10 years old employed in the St. Ann Cotton mill working from 6.25 to 6 p.m. with 45 minutes intermission for lunch; working some time till 7 or 9 o'clock, 314. Fines freely imposed; girls fined \$5 on one pay, 315. In one single family, \$30 docked off for fines in the course of five months; fine for roughly speaking; one single fine of \$5 imposed on a boy who makes half-a-dollar a day; a widow and her two daughters paying fines to the amount of \$11.60 in four weeks, on their aggregate salary of \$54, 316. Regulations signed without being read; work-girls losing their pay for leaving the place, after giving due notice; Saguenay people imported, and Montreal hands ousted; some go to the States, 318. Boys earning 25 cents a day, paying fines amounting to \$1.75 in a month; hands fined \$1 for refusing to work on holydays; closets common to all and separated by partitions nine feet high, 319. No fines for improper behaviour. The manager too free with the women. No schooling for the children, 320.

- POLE, EDWARD, *Manager of the Montreal Cash Bakery, Montreal* - 597-599**
 The Montreal Cash Bakery, a limited liability company, composed of capitalists. Number of hands employed. Wages of bakers. Hours of labor. No apprentices employed, 597. The company is increasing its business and intends to introduce female labor. Company sells bread for four cents a loaf less than the other city bakers. Bread inspection and the inspector. Possibility of dispensing with night-work. Sunday work, 598. Reasons why the company can sell so much cheaper than other bakers. Cost of delivering bread. Social, economical and sanitary advantages of employing female labor in bakeries, 599.
- PORTER, HENRY, *of the firm of Porter & Savage, Tanners and Manufacturers of Leather Goods, Montreal* - 669-671**
 Number of men employed in the tannery. Child labor. What he employs it at. Wages of men in the tannery, 669. Hours of labor. Fining of employees. Constancy of employment of piece-hands. Rules (and the enforcement of) regarding giving a week's notice, 670. Dockages and charges, 671.
- POWERS, RICHARD, *Moulder, Montreal* - 456-459**
 Piecework at machinery moulding. Blacklisting of union men. Strike or lockout at Clendenning's foundry. Foreign contract labor engaged by the Grand Trunk Railway Company. Sanitary condition of the founderies and closets. Ventilation. Supply of drinking water. Men made to wait outside in the cold with their wet clothes to get paid, 457. The desirability of washrooms for moulders. Supply of and demand for moulders in Montreal. Wages and hours of labor of moulders in the United States and Montreal compared. Constancy of employment. Wages. Rottenness of the apprentice system in Montreal. Wages in the Grand Trunk shops and other shops in the city compared. Pay days at the Grand Trunk shops. The Grand Trunk employees' insurance scheme, 458. One firm in the city keeps back \$50 from each apprentice as a guarantee that he will serve out his time. Weekly or fortnightly payments in preference to monthly, 459.
- PREVOST, OSCAR, MAJOR, *Superintendent Government Cartridge Factory, Quebec* - 800-803**
 Number of employees, men, women and children. Age of youngest child employed. Hours of labor, 800. Time lost by employees when coming to work late. Ill treatment of child employees. Fining of employees. Accidents to children while working at machinery. Smallest wages paid to children employed, 801. Children wounded while working in the factory and refused work afterwards. Fines paid to the Government. Age of children working at dangerous machinery. Doctors' bills for attendance on employees injured in the factory paid by the Government. Duties and pay of night watchmen, 802. Separate conveniences for male and female employees. Condition of flues in factory, 803.
- RACINE, G., *Tailor, Quebec* - 1071-1073**
 Newspaper reports not always correct. System of apprenticeship somewhat light. How apprentices are used. Time lost by them in jobs outside trade. Never follow a thorough course of study to enable them to become good workmen, 1071. Few apprentices finish their time in the shop in which they commenced. Two classes in tailoring. Sewers and cutters. The first serve four to five years, the second have no rule. Preferable to fix reasonable period for study than to leave apprentices to learn business as they can. Trade injured by work done by persons not tailors who are paid in goods for which they are charged twenty to thirty per cent. Hardships of women who make ready-made clothing. Tailors have to pay licenses and extra taxes to do the same work properly. The women paid in any kind of goods, 1072. Suggests that before entering an apprenticeship youths should have a certain amount of education. Reducing and enlarging patterns by the eye. School of Arts and Trades. Geometry necessary for cutters, 1073.

RACINE, G., Tailor, Quebec - - - - - **1096**
 Wages, rate of. No work four months in the year. Working hours. Wages, how they could be increased, 1096.

RADFORD, ISALAH C., Sanitary Inspector, Health Department Corporation of the City of Montreal - - - - - **666-668**

Examination and inspection of milk, 666. Inspection of bread, farm produce and meat. Sanitary inspection. Sanitary condition of the dwellings of the poorer classes. Drainage. Drain inspector. Collection of garbage, 667. System of collecting statistics of mortality. The unsatisfactory condition of the sources of the city milk supply, 668.

RAE, WILLIAM, Merchant and ship owner, a member of the firm of Allan, Rae & Company, Quebec Agent for the Allan line of steamships, Quebec - - - - - **870-879**

He attributes the falling off of the shipping business in Quebec to high rate of wage asked by Quebec ship laborers. In Montreal wages are less than half what they are in Quebec. Rules of Ship Laborers' Society made during existence of sailing vessels and are not applicable to loading of steamships. Describes manner in which Quebec shipping is being destroyed. Wages of ship laborers in Quebec compared with wages paid in United States. Double supply of coal taken on by steamships at Liverpool to obviate the necessity of coaling at Quebec on account of high rate of wages demanded by ship laborers. Superiority of Quebec ship laborers, 870, 871. Difference in cost of loading deal lumber at Quebec and Montreal. Use of steam winches in loading birch timber at Quebec would bring steamships to Quebec instead of Montreal. Reasons why it is cheaper to load deal lumber at Montreal than it is at Quebec. Grain and cattle shipped from Quebec. No rule Ship Laborers' Society that interferes with shipment of cattle, except high wages demanded, 872. Steam winches used in unloading inward bound vessels at Quebec. Costs more to handle any kind of a cargo at Quebec than at Montreal, 873. Ship laborers Quebec use steam winches in loading all cargoes, not lumber willingly. Rules of Ship Laborers' Society prohibit the use of steam winches in loading any kind of lumber even match splints which are light. Investigations of the Board of Trade, Quebec, into the reason of decrease in shipping. Decrease in square timber shipments due to natural causes. Communications between Board of Trade and Ship Laborers' Society for purpose of modification of certain by-laws of latter association, 874, 875. Vessels loading at Quebe compelled to load at merchants loading berths by threats of detention. He thinks rules of Ship Laborers' Society which were framed only to apply to sailing vessels should not apply as well to steamships, 875. Reasons why steam winches should not be used in loading sailing vessels with lumber and why they should be used in loading steamships. Cheaper to load grain from west on steamships at Montreal than to freight it either by rail or water, and load it on ocean vessels at Quebec. Difference in time of closing and opening of navigation at Quebec and Montreal, 876. Shipment of deal lumber from Quebec and Montreal rates the same. Conference between Board of Trade and Ship Laborers' Society, 877. Time could be saved by ocean steamships by loading cargoes at Quebec instead of Montreal. Permission granted some years ago to load hard wood lumber on steamships by steam winch, but permission was withdrawn. Steam winches used in loading lumber on steamships at United States ports. Necessity of ship laborers working at night so that vessels may catch tide, 878. Wages received by ship laborers for night work, 879.

RANGER, CHARLES EDMOND, Boot and Shoe Trader, Montreal - - - - - **714**
 Classes of boots and shoes sold to the working classes in Montreal. Prices of boots and shoes sold to working classes 25 per cent. cheaper than they were five years ago. Convict labor does not affect Montreal prices. Class of goods sold to the working classes, 714.

- ROY, ROUER, *Advocate, Montreal* - - - - - **703-705**
 Tariff of charges made by lawyers, 703. Taxes levied on Montreal lawyers for the payment of the cost of building the Court House there, 704. *Disceditante* or drumming for clients. Conditions of entering the Bar, 705.
- ROY, S. W., *Manager for Messrs. Price Bros. & Co., Lumber Merchants, Quebec* - - - - - **1017-1023**
 How long connected with shipping trade of Quebec. Labor troubles connected with Mr. Falkenburgh's (the Norwegian Consul) establishment, 1017. Bulk of Messrs. Price's business done outside Harbor of Quebec. Why; where the firm have their mills. They load at Batiscan. Better rates there than at Quebec. Difference of expenses of the ports outside. Quebec. Objections to rules of Quebec Ship Laborers' Society. Question of loading square and small timber by steam. Batteaux men of the firm. Preparation of the boats in spring at the masters' expense. The price paid for lightening deals, 1018. Highest and average earnings of batteaux men. Industry and watchfulness make all the difference in the pay. Why the firm pays it own batteaux men a higher daily wage than it pays to outsiders. Regarding the number of men to be employed in stowing cargo. Rule fifty-five. Against masters loading their vessels with their crews. Cost of labor in discharging coal vessels. Too high. Labor should be perfectly free. Laborers must protect themselves, but not lay down arbitrary rules. Suggestions might be made to and considered by the Society. Matters before and since formation of Society, 1022. Its rules caused more distress than existed formerly. What the Society does in way of benevolence. Difference of cost of loading at Quebec and at Montreal per St. Petersburg standard, 1023. Earning of firm's batteaux men and those of outsiders. How they are shared. Allowance given for waiting to both. Amount given to outsider in cash. When steamers detained batteaux men often wait a week without compensation, 1019. General wage of men in mills. The bulk employed the year round. Hours of work. Pilers' wages. Wages paid in cash. The same men employed year by year by the firm. Who reserve the work they have to do for their own men. How the families of the men get their supplies in winter, 1020. Witness has delivered goods from the wharf to shipping company. The rules of the Quebec Ship Laborers' Society that are detrimental to interests of the port. Rule forty. clauses seven, eight, nine. Saddle a ship with twice the men required. Rule forty-one constituting eight hours a day's work. Inconvenience of it. Rule forty-two forbidding members to work in vessels where donkey engine used. Rule forty-three disallowing members to work with outsiders. Rule forty-six regarding working overtime decidedly objectionable. Rule forty-nine against sailors being employed as ship laborers. Rule fifty-one, 1021.
- RAY, WILLIAM (re-called) - - - - - **1065**
 Submits memo with respect to the St. Lawrence route and port charges at Montreal and Quebec, 1065.
- RAYMOND, ADOLPHE, *Fish Merchant, Montreal* - - - - - **723**
 Price of fish and comparison with prices ten years ago, 723.
- REDMOND, JOHN T., *Bookseller, Montreal* - - - - - **727-730**
 Class of literature read by the working classes, 727. Decrease in the price of cheap literature. Duty on certain books a draw-back to poor people. No money forwarded Knights of Labor in Montreal from United States to aid strikes. Publication of mechanical works in Canada, 728. Growth of principle of arbitration among working classes. Association of Knights of Labor on Temperance. Classes of people excluded from Knights of Labor. Constitution and regulations of the Knights of Labor, 729.
- REID, JAMES, *Paper-maker, Quebec* - - - - - **1060-1061**
 Was informed that certain people threatened him for selling paper to *L'Artisan*.

Number of men and women employed in his factory. Wages, 1060. Hours of work. The effect of the printers' difficulty on his sale of paper, 1061.

REID, ROBERT, *Sculptor, Montreal* - - - - - **440-443**

Hours of labor of marble-cutters. Number employed in Montreal. Apprentices. Wages. Constancy of employment. Temperature of the shops. Healthiness of the business. Supply of marble-cutters equal to the demand in Montreal, 440. Immigrant stone-cutters from the United States and Scotland. Pay-days fortnightly, men prefer that to weekly payments. Apprentices indentured. Technical education at the government school. Work expected from apprentice, 441. Stone-cutters and granite-cutters' wages in Montreal. Hours of labor. Condition of the workshops. Marble imported from Italy and Vermont. Canadian and imported marble compared. Female labor employed at marble polishing. Uses machinery in working granite only, 442. Newfoundland marble and red granite, 443.

RENNIE, EDWARD E., *Cigar-maker, Sherbrooke* - - - - - **1231-1232**

Is in the employ of Messrs. Nutter & Webster. Has heard the testimony of last witness, and has nothing to add. Never saw any of the children kicked. Came to give evidence because he was asked, 1231.

RICARD, ELIE, *Shoemaker, Montreal* - - - - - **369-370**

Machines turn out more goods than are required; markets are glutted, and business men are frightened, while workmen suffer, 369.

RICHARDS, JOSEPH, *Merchant Tailor, Montreal* - - - - - **228-232**

Represents the St. George's Society, and the Board of Management of the Boys' Home. Corroborates Mr. Dick's testimony: out of 40 stowaways received at the Home, one only has turned out well, 229. The St. George's Society assists newly arrived immigrants; those from the east end of London, particularly bad. Immigrants ought to be prevented from coming from October to March; most of them are paupers on public charity; one of them would not work on Sunday, to clear the snow from the sidewalk, 230. Advocates the establishment of a sort of Castle Garden in Montreal or Quebec. A man with a trade can do well; clerks and laborers not wanted. Immigrants ought not to stay in seaport towns; but go west, 231. Does not know how to prevent a British subject from landing in a British colony, 232.

ROACH, GEORGE D., *Stevedore, Montreal* - - - - - **668-669**

Condition of the gearing used for handling cargo at the port of Montreal, 668. Describes a suit brought against him eight years ago for injury done to a man through his alleged negligence. Judgment against him but reversed on appeal, 668, 669.

ROACH, J., *Saw-mill Owner, Quebec* - - - - - **1053-1055**

Number of men employed last summer at the graving dock. Their wages. Men at graving dock paid same wage as paid carpenters and caulkers. Tide work paid for. Dirty work at low tide. Wages of millwrights and of men working in the mill. The engine drivers. Wages of booms. Men. Their hours of work controlled a good deal by the tide; lost time not charged on men. Rates paid to shippers. Wages of boys employed in mill. Hours of work each tide of men who work for the day; paid a day for a tide. Rubber suits furnished the men, 1054. Can give no opinion of condition of ships, or the accommodation in them for sailors, coming to his place for repair, from personal inspection, 1055.

ROBERGE, L., *Employee Match Factory, St. Romuald* - - - - - **1149**

Length of time employed, rates of wages, and hours of work. Sanitary condition of factory. Complains of the rate of wages paid in unloading barges. No boys employed in unloading. Paid extra for over hours, 1149.

- ROBIDOUX, CYPRIEN, Laborer, St. Hyacinthe - - - 1289-1290**
Wages he gets at the Granite Knitting Mills, 1289. Works in the dye house. Fining of employees. States that his wages are not sufficient to support his family (a wife and four children). Cost of living in St. Hyacinthe increased. Wages now and five years ago compared. Rents, and how much they have increased in five years, 1290.
- ROBIN, E., Laborer, St. Romuald - - - 1149-1150**
Works for factory, outside. Rate of wages. Loss of time. Number of months' work in a year, 1149. Management of living on 60 cents a day, 1150.
- ROBINSON, GEO., Tobacco-caser, Montreal - - - 80**
Confinement in the "Black Hole," and corporal punishment, 80.
- ROBITAILLE, CHARLES, Mechanician Government Cartridge Factory, Quebec 784-787**
Discomfort suffered through improper machinery. Hours of labor. Pay days weekly. Child labor. Rate of wages. Children eleven years old in factory. Wages paid children. Hours of labor for children. Children working at dangerous machinery. Accidents to children, 785. Fining of employees. Promise of higher wages not kept. Complaints about smallness of wages, 786. Female labor, 787.
- ROBITAILLE, J., Night Guardian, Quebec - - - 1153**
Wages eighty cents, sixty to seventy cents in autumn. Employed seven nights a week. Not enough to support family. Children no help to me. Obligated to go into debt, 1153.
- ROBITAILLE, L., Leather Cutter, Quebec - - - 948-949**
A cutter. Works by the job on the buff. Persons of both sexes and all ages engaged in it. Prices of wages for cases of men's and women's boots. Wages of good workmen. Women's work and wages. Age of girls, 949.
- ROBLEY, GEO., Cigarmaker, Montreal - - - 46-51**
Treatment of apprentices. Immorality of employees, 46. Fines and corporal punishment, 47. Hours and rates of wages. Treatment of apprentices, 49. Machinery used in the manufacture of cigars. Cigarmakers of Montreal underpaid in comparison with other cities of the Dominion, 50. Cigarmakers demand better terms, 51.
- ROGERS, J., Cigarmaker, Montreal - - - 92-94**
Apprentices, 92. Corporal punishment and why inflicted, 93. Quantity of work expected to be done, 94.
- ROLLAND, FRANK, Agent for the Citizens' Insurance Company - 334-337**
Wharf laborers insured during navigation season only. Pay premium for that season only. The accident insurance a loss to the company on account of too low rates. Eight ninths of the men insured go into it voluntarily. Compulsory insurance for laborers of some steamship lines only. They furnish a doctor all along during the time of the accident. The victim receives \$5 a week and his family \$500 in case of death. Dominion Line laborers not so good as Allan Line men. Accidents more frequent with the first, therefore amount of policy with the Dominion men had to be reduced. Men of the Allan Line get \$1 more than the others for the same amount of premium, 334. Rates of insurance, one per cent. on wages. Insurance covers accidents connected with the man's work only. Last season company paid Allan Company \$800 in claims, and the premium was about \$1000. Ten per cent. brokerage goes to the foreman who collects the insurance amounts. Insurance compulsory on the Beaver, Dominion and Allan men, 335. Men of Beaver Line pay twice the amount of the Allan Line; Dominion men pay the same as latter, but get less benefit. Company did not succeed at Portland because a man there has to pay a

\$15 fee to be admitted into the league of laborers; this besides the benevolent society's fee, which is compulsory with the Knights of Labor. Men handicapped in Portland for one hour's work, more than in Montreal for two seasons. In the latter city, if he works but one hour, he is charged for one hour, and not for the whole year, as in Portland. Is not positive men have to pay \$15 in Portland, 336.

ROLAND, OCTAVIEN, *Merchant, Montreal* - - - - - **723**

Price of school supplies compared with price of ten years ago, 723.

ROSA, NARCISSE, *Ship Builder and Stevedore, Quebec* - - - - - **898-899**

Hours of labor in Quebec. The Ship Laborers' Society keeps its members in a state of slavery, paralyzes commerce, interferes with the rights of labor and prevents ship owners from being masters on their own vessels. Attempt to boycott him. Rules of the society forces the employment of twenty men to load a ship where only ten could work at a time, 898. Shipowners in England and France told him they would not send their ships to Quebec to be at the mercy of the arbitrary rules of Ship Laborers' Society. Intimidation of, and violence to men employed to unload the barque "Glengarry" last year. Was refused the use of an engine to unload a vessel, after he had hired it, by Mr. Larmonth, and also the Messrs. Julbert because they were going to be boycotted for permitting him to have it, 899.

ROSEN, JACOB JULIUS, *Button-hole maker by machinery, Montreal* - - - - - **558-559**

Makes buttonholes for wholesale clothiers. Price he gets per hundred. Number he makes daily. Employs boys and men. Wages he pays. Average number of buttonholes each hand will make daily, 558-559.

ROUTELE, WILLIAM, *Builder and Contractor, Sherbrooke* - - - - - **1206-1207**

Joiners' wages. Constancy of employment. The employment of cheap help or inferior workmen. Apprentices, 1206. Proportion of competent workmen in the town. Technical schools. Wages of sash and door factory employees. Stair builders, bricklayers. Constancy of employment of bricklayers. Loss of wages through contractors and sub-contractors. Wages of lathers. 1207.

ROY, LOUIS, *Laborer, Quebec* - - - - - **1051**

Not working at all now. Works at any kind of work for laborers on board vessels. Worked last at the Sacred Heart. Cannot eat and serve God for fifty cents a-day, 1051.

ROY, J. A., *Clerk, Dry Goods, Quebec*. - - - - - **1092-1093**

Hours of work too long. Hours of work for boys. Age of boys. Rate of wages. Time of closing. Women employed. Paid in goods, 1092. Time for meals. Amount paid for shirts. No fines. 1093.

RUEL N., *Joiner, Quebec* - - - - - **1126**

Hours of work. Night-work. Wages, rate of. Nature of work. Complains that masters forced them to work at night, 1126.

RUTHERFORD, DOUGLAS, *Builder, Montreal* - - - - - **533-538**

Building trade of the city expanding. Carpenters' wages, 533. Wages of carpenters' assistants or inferior workmen. A lack of skilled carpenters. Apprentices. Strike among carpenters in 1866, and its results, 534. Carpenters who own their own houses, 535. Indenturing of apprentices as a remedy for the large number of inferior workmen in the trade, 534-535. Arbitration, 536. Inferiority of the mechanics of to-day, compared with twenty-years ago, and reasons therefor. Disinclination of boys to profit by education. Technical education, 537. Hours of labor. Wages, 538.

RYAN, P. J., *Cigar-maker, Montreal* - - - - - **32-33**

Prices prevailing for cigars, in Quebec, Ontario and the United States, 32. Tabulated statement of journeymen, apprentices, boys and girls, employed in cigar industry in Montreal. Reduction of wages and the cause, 33. Tabulated statement of cost and

selling prices of different qualities of cigars made in Montreal, 34. Tabulated statement of child labor and their salaries. Benefits of manufacturers derived by the system of apprenticeship in Montreal. Profits on cigars, how obtained. Extent of manufacture and average profit, 35. Cigar-makers' Union and its benefits. Child labor, 36. Rate of wages between Union men and non-Union men. Importation of foreign labor and its results, 37. Cigar-making unhealthy, 38.

SAGGERTON, WILLIAM, Marble Cutter, Montreal - - - - - 467-469

Wages and hours of labor. Pay days. Wages of laborers employed in the trade. Apprentices, 467. Wages of apprentices. Effect of immigration on the trade. Sanitary condition of the shops. Wages, 468. Wages of a foreman, 469.

SANGSTER, ANDREW, Superintendent of the Sherbrooke Gas and Water Co. 1224-1226

Number of men employed. Hours of labor. Wages. Night work. Pay days. Anthracite coal used for heating up. Water gas, 1224. Wages of laboring men employed putting in gas mains. Water supply of Sherbrooke. Tenement or working men's houses in Sherbrooke, "Castle Edward." Water rates, 1225.

SANSCHAGRIN, JOSEPH, Foreman Baker in Hetherington Bakery, Quebec 857-859

Hours of labor of bakers, 857. Night work. Advantage of working by day instead of by night. Wages paid bakers. Proportion of bakers in Quebec who are working for less than \$5 per week. Sunday labor. Apprentice system. No apprentices in baking business, Quebec. Superabundance of bakers in Quebec. Inspection of bread in Quebec. Five years since any inspection was made. Underweight bread. Bakers obliged to leave bake rooms when temperature is 80 to 90 degrees and split wood in the yard. Sickness contracted from this practice. Sanitary condition of some Quebec bakeries, 858. Weight and price of bread in Quebec, 859.

SCHRYBURT, F., Leather-cutter, Quebec - - - - - 1051

Swears that the resolutions read to him are the resolutions of the Union of Leather-cutters of Quebec, given at the sitting of the society, 9th of March, 1888, which declare that the evidence as regards wages given before Commission is completely false. States the real scale, 1051. Foreman among five cutters. Wages according to workmen, 1052.

SANSCHAGRIN, EDMOND, Baker in Hetherington Bakery, Quebec - - - - - 859-861

Apprentice system. Apprentices made journeymen after only one year. Proficiency of such bakers. Wages paid apprentices at end of first year. Duties of bakers in Quebec, 859. Introduction of piece work system instead of day wages would lead to troublesome results in Quebec. Impossibility of workman with family to live on \$5 per week. Advisability of reducing number of bakers in Quebec. Possibility of reducing hours of labor of bakers. Light weight bread sold in Quebec. No inspection of bread made by inspector for years. Hardships of night work and advantage of doing the work during the day, 860. Working classes in Quebec buy bread they require. Profit made by bakers' credit system. Bread sold on credit in Quebec. Use of dirty water by Quebec baker in making of bread, because he has no water-works and obtains water from a well in the cellar of his bakery, 861.

SOLATER, CHARLES P., Secretary-Treasurer of the Bell Telephone Company, Montreal - - - - - 403-404

Employs 50 girls as operators; they work during the day time only; the youngest is 18; they work from 8 till 6; the night operators are men; the females receive \$20 a month; they learn the business in three months, 403. Line men do outside work; there are in Montreal from 50 to 70; their salaries range from \$1.25 to \$2 a day. A half-time operator works five hours and receives \$12 a month. Operators are paid every other week. A night operator gets from \$30 to \$40 a month. Men only work on Sundays, 404.

- SCOTT, J. G., *Manager Lake St. John Railway, Quebec* - - - **1100-1102**
 Number of men employed as brakemen. Wages, rate of. Time of payment. Conductors, wages of. Engineers, wages of. Firemen, wages of. Working hours. Overtime, extra pay. Accidents caused by car coupling most frequent. Car couplers. Nature of work. Had trouble with one man. Section men, wages of. Working hours. Time for meals, 1100-1102.
- SCRIVER, JAMES F., *Manager and Secretary Montreal Gas Company* **567-568**
 Wages paid for skilled labor at the gas works. Hours of labor. Laborers' wages. Lamplighters' wages. Difficulty with the stokers in May, 1887, 567. Coal used comes from Cape Breton. Canadian and Old Country coal compared. Protection duty on English coal. Charge for meters, 568.
- SEIVRIGHT, JAMES, *Master Mechanic, Sherbrooke* - - - **1226-1228**
 Is employed on the Quebec Central Railway. Number of men employed in the shops. Wages of machinists and engine fitters. Wages of laborers. Wages of carpenters or handy men in the car shops. Wages of truck builders, blacksmiths and their helpers. Constancy of employment. Wages of car repairers. Pay days, 1226. Wages of section men, brakemen, conductors, engineers and firemen. Frogs not filled, 1227. Garnisheeing of wages, 1228.
- SHANNON, PATRICK C., *Paymaster in the Office of the Hochelaga Cotton Mills Company, Montreal* - - - **571-574**
 Fines imposed on employees of the St. Anne's and Hudon Cotton Mills during the five years ending 31st December, 1887, 571. Wages paid in both mills during same period. Reason why the detailed statement asked for by the Commission cannot be given, 572. Method of keeping the time of the employees. Rule of the Company regarding employees who leave without notice, and how the rule is enforced. How the rule affects pieceworkers, 573, 574.
- SHAUNNESY, T. C., *Assistant General Manager C. P. R., Montreal* - - - **161-167**
 Rates of wages of conductors and other employees. Accidents and how compensated, 171. Guarding against accidents. Coupling and uncoupling of cars, 162. Air brakes. Average day's work on freight trains, 163. Not required to sign agreement on entering service. Information of accidents. Rate of wages based upon service of danger. Time of payment, 164. System of fines imposed. Fines; how disposed of. Accidents from low bridges, 165. Giving of pass to discharged employee. Recommendation when discharged for any offence. Garnishee of wages, 166. Street crossings, 167.
- SHEA, PATRICK, *Member of the Quebec Fire Department* - - - **1042**
 Wages of members. The duties of firemen. The rent they pay. How firemen sleep in the station. Off days in the month. Watering the streets. Insurance for accidents. Pension in case of sickness. Promotion in the brigade, 1042. Sanitary condition of stations. An ambulance wagon would be useful at times, 1043.
- SHELLEY, THOMAS, *Machinist, Montreal* - - - **686-687**
 Is foreman of the machinists of Pillow, Hersey & Co.'s nail works, 686. Wages of machinists. Apprentices, 687.
- SHERIDAN, JOHN, *Stevedore, Montreal* - - - **633**
 Corroborates the evidence of last witness, Mr. Robert McCoy (632), 633.
- SHOREY, HOLLIS, *Wholesale Clothier, Montreal* - - - **284-287**
 Employs hands in his place and outside. Same rates for all, 284. Has 1,450 people outside and 150 inside. All on piecework. Average wages of women from \$4 to \$6 per week, 285. Inside hands work ten hours a day. A good cutter makes from \$15 to \$20 a week. Finds a market all over the Dominion. Great improvement in Canadian cloths, 286.

- SHOREY, HOLLIS, Clothier, Montreal - - - - - 725-726**
 Price of clothing for working classes compared with price ten years ago and reasons why it is cheaper, 725. Rate of wages increasing, 726.
- SHORT, ARTHUR W., Journalist, Editor of the "Canadian Workman," Montreal - - - - - 545-550**
 Statement giving statistics to prove the existence of abuses in the levying of water rates in the City of Montreal, 545. Statistics to prove the injustice of assessing on rental instead of on value of property, 545-546. Registration of water by metre. Unsanitary condition of workingmen's houses in Montreal. Disadvantages of a yearly lease, signed in mid winter, three months before the year begins, to a workingman renting a house. Necessity for more competition in real estate among landlords, 547. Cites cases of the unsanitary condition of workingmen's houses causing sickness, 548. Defects in the drainage system of the City of Montreal. The Sanitary Inspector; Examples of how house rents in Montreal are increasing, 549. Sample of the drainage system of Montreal. The City Engineer. Wages of the working classes in Montreal and Toronto compared, 550.
- SICOTTE, LOUIS WILFRED, Clerk of the Peace, Montreal - - - - - 600-601**
 School and workshop savings banks. Savings bank system in France and Canada compared, 600-601. Objects of school savings banks and the difference between them and the Post Office Savings Bank, 601.
- SIMMS, A. H., Shirt and Collar-maker, Montreal - - - - - 493-496**
 Female labor nearly altogether employed. Child labor employed. Wages. Hours of labor. Female labor in the laundry. Wages. All work by the piece. Male and female ironers receive the same pay, 494. Means of escape in case of fire, and measures taken for protection against fire. Status of the employees. Fining of employees. Most of the work done by the piece inside the factory and outside. Wages, 495. Closets separate for each sex. Advantages of piece-work, 496.
- SMITH, R. A., Allan Steamship Co., Montreal, (re-called) - - - - - 198-200**
 Tabulated statement of shipment of live-stock from the St. Lawrence, in the years 1886 & 1887, 198. Exhibit of form of Labor contract, 199. Loss of cattle and cause: no bonus expressed in agreement, 200.
- SMITH, R. A., of Messrs. H. & A. Allan, Montreal - - - - - 156-160**
 General manager; months steamers run; number of arrivals; rates decreased; cattle trade, 156; number of men employed; garnishee of wages; signing of contract by men; difficulty on account of strikes; terms of contract; disagreement between company and men, referred to firm; Sunday labor, 158. Difference between Sunday labor and week-day. Number of hours employed. Accidents and how insured, 159. No objections to organizations. No combination between steamship companies of the Dominion and United States. Length of time employed. Difference of period of employment between Montreal and United States, 160.
- SOLOMON, ISRAEL, Tailor, Montreal - - - - - 560**
 Works for wholesale clothiers and employs labor. Condition and ventilation of his workshop. Wages he pays to girls and their hours of labor. Prices he gets for making coats, 560.
- STAFFORD, LAWRENCE, Immigration Agent, Quebec - - - - - 789-795**
 Duties of Immigration Agent, 789. Information as to assisted passages. Means of steerage passengers on their arrival at Quebec. Assistance to emigrants. Three-fourths of steerage emigrants go to Ontario to settle. Demand for emigrants in Quebec, 790. Demand and supply of domestics. Children sent to Canada by charitable organizations in the old country. Welfare of these children in Canada, 791. Future conduct of emigrants who came out by assisted passage. Certificates for

assisted passages. Proportion of undesirable emigrants arriving at Quebec, small, 792. Stowaways generally turn out useless. Redhill Reformatory emigrants. Self help Emigration Society. Demand for mechanics, 793. Mechanics emigrating as farm laborers. Emigrants sent out by Dr. Bernado, Miss Rye and Miss Macpherson. Payment of emigrants' fares from Quebec to the interior. Glass blowers emigrating to Canada under contract. Landing of emigrants, 794. Accidents resulting from absence of wharf lights. Engaging emigrant girls as domestics, 795.

STANLEY, FREDERICK, *Foreman of the "Star" Composing Room, Montreal* **330-332**

Has in his room 21 journeymen, 6 apprentices, 25 girls at the case. The girls at piecework. Five men at 30 cents per 1,000 ems, two at 29, three girls at 29, eleven at 26, one at 25, two at 23, one at 20, four at 17, and three at 15. Some of the girls have been there six years. If they do men's work they get men's pay. Women and men composing in the same room, 330. Hands get nothing for idle time. Matter not culled; everything goes on the hook. Copy for the weekly reserved for special department. In the average men get six and a half hours' composition. Some compositors sixteen years on the *Star*. Union scale for evening papers cannot be more than 28 cents. The highest wage for a male piece hand was \$17.50. For a female \$13.80, he working at 30 cents, she at 29. Girls don't work so fast, therefore a greater number of them required to set up a given work. More frames and room required and incidental expense greater, 331. Compositors can distribute type when they have no copy. *Star* journeymen are paid from \$10 to \$20. Time of piece hands, eight and three-quarter hours, of time hands, nine and a half hours. Time hands are paid, one at \$20, one at \$15, two at \$14, one at \$12, three at \$11, five at \$10, and one printer, working in the office, at \$8 a week. Those getting \$12 per week work on the stones, 332.

STANLEY, ROBERT, *Managing Clerk of Messrs. Henry Fry & Co., Ship Brokers and Merchants, Quebec*

1061-1064

Remarks on the causes of the diminution of the trade of Quebec in connection with business of firm. Coaling of vessels done cheaper in Montreal. Quebec freight sent back from Montreal by railway and steamers. The case of the *Albina*, 1886. Owners will not load again at Quebec on account of cost and prolongation of time from the use of steam winches being disallowed. Too many hands employed in loading sailing vessels with square timber, 1061. The interest of ship laborers should lead them to charge the same rate of wages for all things in the way of business as charged in Montreal if they would compete successfully with Montreal. The price of loading coal greater in Quebec than in Montreal. The fifty per cent. for night work the chief objection against Quebec. The Board of Trade and the objectionable rules of the Ship Laborers' Society. Knows nothing about the rates for mixed freight in Montreal. Steamers have right by clause in bill of lading to proceed to Montreal. Do so invariably when cargo for Quebec is not large. Much more freight for Montreal than Quebec. The higher charges of Quebec alone make it for the interest of steamers to go to Montreal, 1062. Question: Is it not inevitable that the head of navigation should be preferred to "way ports?" Cases of freight sent to Montreal to load. Not cheaper to send freight from Montreal to Quebec to load. Night work in Quebec and Montreal. Compulsory from necessity of catching the tides. Dues paid on all vessels in port of Quebec whether they go to Montreal or not. Account of expenses of loading or unloading vessels sent to owners, 1063. Expense of the labor a distinct item. Knows nothing of fraudulent accounts made out against ship laborers. Persists in his statement that harbor duties are so much per ton on the quantity discharged. Moorage charges saved by vessels passing by Quebec. Ships avoid Quebec to great extent. In favor of having the difficulties between owners and laborers settled on terms favorable to both. Work of the firm done by contract. The stevedore alone obtains any benefit thereby. No difficulty in shipping grain or flour from Quebec, 1064.

- STEVENSON, J. C., Secretary Arts and Manufacturers Association and Director of Technical Schools, Montreal - 5-12**
 Public schools. Fair knowledge of work done. Cannot speak positively. No special age for children entering schools. No statistics of ages kept. Nature of education given in Technical schools, 5. Advantages to apprentices. Classes maintained by Government of Quebec. No assistance from the Municipality of Montreal. No fees for classes, 6. Instruction in French and English. Classes should be extended to all operatives. System not carried on in Canada but in many parts of Europe with success. Employers as a rule take very little interest in the education of the employed, 7. Teachers are practical men. Classes taught practical work. Apprenticeship system become obsolete. Not so prevalent as it was, 8. Subjects taught, 9. An alteration in the system of education in public schools a benefit to boys starting out in life, 11. Apprenticeship, 10-12.
- St. AMOUR, EDMOND, Foreman in a Sawmill, Hull - 1338-1340**
 Wages of saw mill employees. Child labor in saw mills, 1338. Very little of a trade to be learnt in a saw mill, except perhaps saw filing. Constancy of employment. Was not aware of a law forbidding the employment of children under twelve years of age. The workmen are generally sober. Rents. Water supply. Sanitary condition of workmen's houses and yards. Night work. Hours of labor at night, 1339. Wages children get for night work. Is totally ignorant of the existence of a factory law in the Province of Quebec. Never saw or heard of a factory inspector. Protection of machinery to prevent accident. Accidents, 1340.
- St. PIERRE, JOSEPH THEODULE, Fire Station Guardian, Montreal - 698-700**
 Duties of station guardians, 698. Discontent among the firemen over by-law compelling them to remain in the fire station while on duty. No provisions for men taking exercise. Wages of guardians. Leave of absence. No old men on the brigade. His opinion of the age by-law of the Benevolent Association. Supply of clothing, 699. Guardian's powers in granting short leaves of absence to the men, 700.
- TANQUAY, A., Engineer, Levis - 1154**
 Work on steamboat; at the boiler. Riveters earn \$1 and 75 cts. in winter; shippers 80 cents and \$1.00; my wages were 80 cents worth more. Earned \$1.25 for 4 months last summer. Earned 80 cents in January last. Wages vary according to season (at machinery work). Earned \$35 a month for 7 months. Am married; could support family on \$35, but don't always get it. Am in debt; pay \$2 a month's rent. Boys get 50 cents a day at heating rivets. Boys from 13 to 17 years old. Riveters' work inside, 1154.
- TARDIVEL, P. JULIUS, Journalist, Quebec - 928-931**
 Proprietor of *La Vérité* employs three hands; one foreman; two boys. Rate of wages, 929. Objects to employ printers who are members of a labor organization. Effect of late labor trouble in his office. Increase of wages since strike. In case of his foreman striking he would not yield to threats, 929. Men engaging on his work must sign document that they do not belong to any labor society. A one-sided document. Knights of Labor. Masonic body, 930. Asking man to sign cast-iron document not trampling on liberty of subject. Bucket shops, 931.
- TART, E., Longshoreman, Montreal - 175-178**
 Number of hours at work per day. Wages. Times of payment, 175. Difficulty in receiving wages from contractors. Accidents. Secret organization. Number of Longshoremen employed, 176. Amount of wages earned. Insurance scheme, 176-178. System of bonuses. Retention of wages. Sunday labor, 178.
- TELMOSE, CORDELIA, Employed at the Hudon Cotton Factory - 483-484**
 Moral condition or character of the employees, 483. Wages. Child labor employed in the spinning rooms, 484.

- THERBEAU, ALFRED, *Apprentice Cigarmaker*** - - - - - **266**
- TERREAU, ADJUTOR, *Moulder, Quebec*** - - - - - **902-903**
Corroborates evidence of last witness (Mr. George Beaudoin, *see p. 899*). Hours of labor. No pay for overtime. Sanitary condition of moulding shops and closets. Apprenticeship, 902. Law required to insure more comfort in factories. Has never seen an inspector. Pay days, 903.
- THIBEAU, AUGUSTIN, *Saw-filer, Hull*** - - - - - **1358-1359**
Corroborates the evidence given by last witness (Mr. Joseph Carrière, *see p. 1357*). Hands to the Commission a copy lease of land in the City of Hull, 1358, 1359.
- THIBEAUDEAU, ERNEST, *Leather Cutter, St. Hyacinthe*** - - - - - **1315-1316**
Lives in Providence and works in Seguin & Lalime's Boot and Shoe Factory, St. Hyacinthe. Although a non-resident of St. Hyacinthe he paid last year the special tax on workmen. Believes this tax is for the purpose of contributing to bonuses to industries, and consequently thinks he benefits thereby, 1315-1316.
- THIBEAUDEAU, FRANK X., *Carpenter and Joiner, Sherbrooke*** - - - - - **1237-1239**
Wages. Hours of labor. Advantage to a carpenter of being a wood-working machinist as well. Machines a carpenter should learn to use. Supply of joiners in Sherbrooke at present, 1237. Wages in Sherbrooke and the United States compared. Cost of living in Sherbrooke and the United States compared, 1238. Wages have improved during last ten years. Tenement houses ("Castle Edward"), 1239.
- THIVIERGE, F. X., *Moulder, Montreal*** - - - - - **313**
Apprentices taught how to make but one piece of a stove. Moulders employed but nine months in the year. Wages reduced when times are hard, 313.
- THOM, WILLIAM, *Principal of Mercantile Academy, Quebec*** - - - - - **829-831**
Both French and English language taught. Methods of giving a good commercial education, 829. Commercial education. Technical education, 830.
- THORNTON, CHARLES, *Woollen Mills Spinner, Sherbrooke*** - - - - - **1198-1199**
Has charge of part of the mill; is paid so much a pound for spinning, and hires his own help, 1198. Children he employs and wages he pays. Paid in cash fortnightly. Hours of labor, 1199.
- TOWNSEND, EDWARD, *Railway Conductor for the Grand Trunk Railway Company*** - - - - - **624-626**
Is a freight conductor. Running boards. Liability of railway employees to meet with accidents. Bell cords not reliable and thus a source of danger. Brakes. The use of air brakes on freight trains. Distance required to stop a freight train, 624. Car couplers. Objection to the Miller coupler for freight trains. "Deadwoods," the great killers of men, and should not be allowed. G. T. R. Provident Society. Rules for regulating the hours of labor, 625. Wages and average earnings of freight conductors, 626.
- TRUDEAU, MISS EUGÉNIE, *Employee, Knitting Factory, St. Hyacinthe*** - - - - - **1285**
Notice before dismissal at the Granite Knitting mills. Overtime. Piece-work. Wages. Not paid while waiting for piece-work. Hours of labor. Constancy of employment, 1285.
- TURCOTTE SELIM, *Foreman Shoemaker, Quebec*** - - - - - **910-913**
Number of employees. Wages of lasters. Wages paid heelers, 910. Piece-work. Finishers work by piece. Earnings of finishers. Child labor. Number of children employed in factories. Wages of young boys. Accidents which occurred through machinery, 911. Sanitary condition of factory. Advantages of having a competent health inspector in Quebec. Female employees fined because their closets were dirty,

912. Describes accident which resulted in death of boy employed in his factory. Piece-work. All women in his factory work by the piece. Night-work. Overtime extra pay, 913.

TURNER, R., Merchant, Broom and Brush Manufacturer, Quebec - 1055-1060
 Broom-making business not so prosperous as it was twenty years ago. Number of men employed. Wages by the piece in summer and winter. Reason for the reduction of wages in winter. Cheap labor increases. Working capacity of factory in winter. Broom industry in Quebec stationary. Broom corn got from Chicago and Western States, 1055. His market competition of prison labor. Wages of first-class hands. Earnings of girls. Sanitary condition of factory. Grocers' Guild. Its objects. Members must conform to prices of Guild or assign. Members sell to outsiders at advance of cost, 1056. No "black lists." Why wholesale tobacconists prefer to sell to members of the Guild. Guild benefit to trade as it regulates prices weekly. The long credits of grocers in Quebec. How credits might be shortened. Board of Trade. Is member of council, 1057. Would not "boycott" a merchant who ceased to be member of the Guild. Cause of increase of price of sugar to retailers. Prison labor has reduced output of his broom factory. Cannot compete with central prison, Toronto. Cost of material a little dearer in Quebec than in Toronto. The "Combine" only benefits the wholesale merchant. A. Joseph & Sons outside the Guild. They not "boycotted," but obliged to buy their sugar dearer than members. The Guild does not boycott, but has nothing to do with outsiders, 1058. The refiner sells at any price he wishes. Cost of unloading coal less in Montreal than in Quebec. The way to obviate the injury done to work in factories by work in prisons. Make in the prisons something not yet made in the country. Broom corn grown in Ontario not a success. Price of sugar imported last year. Is the grade of manufactured sugar lower since combine? Scotch sugars imported not equal to Canadian. Time taken to discharge coal vessel in Montreal. Wishes to encourage steamers to come to Quebec. Time and cost of discharging coal in Quebec and Montreal. Sugar imported from Scotland notwithstanding the "Combine." Effect of the burning of the St. Lawrence Sugar Refinery, in Montreal. Raw sugars on the rise last July, 1050.

URQUHART, JAMES, Paymaster, in the employ of H. & A. Allan, Montreal - 173-175
 Time of paying the men. Signing of contract. Average amount of wages paid per week, 173. Insurance of working men, 173. Reporting for work, 175.

VAILLANCOURT, JOSEPH, Carpenter, Employed at the E. B. Eddy Company's Sash Factory - 1351-1353

Hours of labor. Wages. No children under 16 or 17 years of age in the sash factory, 1351. Apprentices. Proportion of men in the factory who understand geometry, drawing and working forms and making plans. Free technical school and a guess at how they might be appreciated and attended. Savings invested in property. Leasehold property, 1352. Lease holders have the option of buying outright. Average value of houses built on lease-held property, 1353.

VALLIÈRES, M., Foreman Currier, Quebec - 1068
 Sanitary condition of factory good. Average wages of curriers. Wages of the boys. Machinery has lowered wages. No sub-contracts. Apprentices taken by indenture in some shops. Objections of young men in present day to bind themselves as apprentices, 1068.

VERMETTE, JOSEPH, Furrier, Quebec - 848-850
 Number of workmen employed. Rate of wages. Hours of labor. Process of kneading skins. Female labor. Piece work, 850.

VEVILLE, THÉOPHILE, Miner, Capelton - 1260-1261
 Wages of employees at the Albert Mines. Condition of the mine. Precautions

taken to prevent accidents. Sick and accident fund, 1260. Pay days. Price of boards. Boy who works in and about the mine, 1261.

VEZINA, O., Shoemaker, Quebec - - - - - 1123-1125
Am a laster. Nature of work. Wages, rate of. Average amount earned. Sanitary condition of shoe factories in general. Hours of labor. Engines. No engineers. Accidents, precautions against, etc., 1124. Children employed; ages of, etc., 1125.

VILLEY, JEAN BENJAMIN, Saddler, Montreal - - - - - 647-649
Is foreman for Heney & Lacroix at the Reformatory, 647. Pay days and method of paying. Custom and rule regarding men who are late, 648, 649.

VINCENT, JOSEPH, of Hull, Employee at Perley & Pattee's Lumber Mill 1360-1361
Child labor. Wages. Accidents, 1360. Night work. Pay days, 1361.

VIGER, ALFRED, Leather-cutter, Montreal - - - - - 373-374
He is a leather-cutter. they are paid on Saturdays; they get from seven to eight dollars and a half per week; their wages are too small; they have not been advanced for fifteen years; they ought to be two dollars per day. There are too many apprentices in the trade; when they know a little of it, they go to other places, and spoil the trade. Upper leathers are imported from England, 373.

VOHL, LÉON P., Chief of Police, Quebec - - - - - 845-849
Number of men on force, 845. Rate of wages. Clothing supplied by city. Medical examination of applicants for positions on force. Dismissal of men. Reduction of wages. Rewards for long service. Incapable men long in service receive half pay, 846. Benefit association in connection with the force. Gifts to policemen from citizens. Life insurance policies paid by city. Half wages paid policemen while ill. Hours of labor. Sunday labor, 847. Duties of Chief and Deputy Chief of Police. Police regulations regarding cabmen, 848. Discrimination against cabmen in favor of hotel omnibus drivers by the police. Parties wanting services of police for special duty inside the city have to pay for those services, 849.

VOHL, L., Chief of Police, Quebec - - - - - 1106-1108
Explains system of police insurance in Quebec, 1106, 1107. Salaries of police not increased. All persons having vehicles to hire compelled to take out licenses. Repeats evidence as to vehicles requiring numbers. Some carriages which don't go on the "stand" not required to be numbered, 1107. Agreement made between owners of carriages and carters. Have been told by carters that some persons have more horses than licensed. Would know if persons sent out more than licensed number of vehicles. Two bread inspectors named by Council. Not practical men. Bread not wholesome when insufficiently baked. Tradesmen on force. Take some of them when we make inspection, 1108.

YOUNG, J., Bookkeeper at Canada Sugar Refinery, Montreal - - - - - 171-173
Number of hands employed. Temperature of building. Accident and result, 171. Wages of skilled and unskilled labor. Suspension of work. Sanitary arrangements. Hours engaged at work, 172. Sick benefit society, 173.

WADE, E. HARPER, Timber Merchant, New Liverpool - - - - - 1010-1016
Summoned in connection with matters relating to the ship laborers and merchants of Quebec. No complaints from merchants of Quebec as connected with work of laborers. The timber trade. Risk incurred in stowing timber. Would prefer that square timber should not be loaded by steam. The sailing ship trade and the steamer trade resolved into a question of competition. What portion of trade Montreal has taken from Quebec. What portion will stay at Quebec. Question: Would vessels prefer to load sawn timber in Quebec if it could be loaded as cheaply as in Montreal? Allegations of Montreal shipping agents that charges of Quebec are excessive. These exaggerated purposely to make ships go to Montreal, 1011. If

steamship companies got as cheap labor in Quebec as in Montreal they would be disposed to bring trade to Quebec. The deepening of Lake St. Peter has tended to draw vessels to Montreal. Ships prefer taking cargoes to Montreal. Quebec freight taken to Montreal and reshipped to Quebec. Vessels lose time loading at Quebec. Laborers lose a great deal of time. Men leave New Liverpool to load ships in port of Quebec and when boat arrives at New Liverpool brings men to load ships at New Liverpool. How the trouble might partly be avoided. Time taken to load ships. Number of days allowed by charter party. Cost of loading since formation of Quebec Ship Laborers' Society, 1012. Does not know whether the cost of loading vessels is decreasing or increasing. Wages for timber stowing not excessive. For ordinary labor wages high. Suggestion to the Ship Laborers' Society. Steam power for loading birch, etc. Quebec could lay distinct claim to portion of cattle trade and of small lumber. Time saved by bringing cattle by rail to Quebec, 1013. How the trade in square timber has fallen off. As the country opens up new timber districts are found. Working on Sundays and holidays. Competition between Montreal and Quebec. Work in the coves on holidays. No change in the hours of labor of the loaders from log rafts desirable, 1014. To retain business Quebec must reduce itself to level of other ports. Montreal rates for ordinary work. Trade could be retained in Quebec if men consent to a reduction. Who could settle the labor question. Effect of the deepening of Lake St. Peter. Rate of discharging freight from steamers cheaper in Montreal than in Quebec, 1015. Loading of lumber in Quebec and Montreal. The length of the season there. The navigation. None but the society could give the average of the season's earnings of the ship laborers. What would retain ship laborers in the City of Quebec, 1016.

WAINWRIGHT, WM., *Assistant General Manager, G. T. R., Montreal* - **109-120**

Engineers' certificates. Hours of work. Conductors' pay. Men relieved when detained, 109. Management of bell-ropes, 110. Are running boards safe, 111. Application of our brakes to freight-trains. Wages of brakemen. Length of trains. Running trains on Sunday, 112. Promotion. Indemnity for loss of service. Experiment of air-brakes on freight-trains, 113. Coupling of cars, 114. Certificate of Guarantee Company. Detectives' duties, 115. Qualifications of superintendents. Certificate of service. Wages of gate-keepers. Garnishee for debt, 116. Times of payment. Length of time for freight-train from Montreal to Toronto, 117. To obtain employment on Grand Trunk, must pass Provident Society, 118. Color blindness. Accidents from coupling cars, &c., &c. See exhibits, 120.

WARD, J. K., *Lumberman, Montreal* - - - - **289-294**

Accidents the result of carelessness. In the shanties. Lumbermen get from \$18 to \$24 a month, and board; in the spring, from \$1.25 to \$2 a day. Hired and paid by the month. Advances made to them, 293. Drivers get from \$1 to \$3 a day, 294. Employs from 60 to 100 hands from May to November. In Winter, many go to the woods, 289. Ten hours of work. No skilled mechanics in that line. Wages of sawyers from \$1.50 to \$2. Others make from \$1.10 to \$1.25. His reasons for paying on Fridays. Is connected with cotton factories, 290. Has seen there children not quite 10 years old. Is on the Board of the Out-door Relief of the Protestant Board of Industry. Is against immigrants coming in the Fall. Great misery entailed on laborers who have to wait for payments. Air vitiated in factories by gas-light, 292.

WARD, JONATHAN, K., *Lumber Merchant and Manufacturer, of the City and District of Montreal* - - - - **542-548**

Gross yearly amount of wages paid to employees at the Coaticook Cotton mill, and amount of fines collected. Premiums for good work, diligence, &c., 542. Cloth printing works at Magog. Wages of cloth printers, color mixers and dyers, 543.

- WARD, J. K., (re-called) - - - - - **383-384**
 Is connected with four other factories, but not with St. Anne or Hochelaga, 383. Would approve of a general factory-law in the Dominion, limiting to seven hours the labor of children per day, and making their schooling compulsory, 384.
- WARREN, GEO. S., *Cigarmaker, Montreal* - - - - - **55-59**
 Employment of children in the making of cigars. Rate of wages, 55. Reduction of wages in winter and the cause. Importation of foreign labor, 56. Treatment of apprentices, 57. The cause of difficulties between employer and employed, 58. Cigar making injurious to health. Cigarmakers' Union, 59.
- WARREN, GEO. S., (re-called) - - - - - **84**
 Journeymen's evidence as to the system of apprentices and journeymen, 84.
- WATSON, JOHN C., *Wall Paper Manufacturer, Montreal* - - - - - **727**
 Decrease in price of wall paper since ten years ago, 727.
- WEARNE, JOHN, *Miner, employed by the Orford Copper and Sulphur Company, Capelton* - - - - - **1250-1253**
 Wages. Hours of labor. Constancy of employment, 1250. Accidents and precautions taken to prevent them. The last witness Mr. Blue here interposed to speak very highly of witnesses' character, and state that he had made enough out of his work as a miner to buy a farm. Wages here and in Great Britain compared. Miners in Capelton can save money, but, of course, they have to be careful in order to do so, 1251. Education. Sick and Accident Association of the employees. Condition and ventilation of the mine. Pay days, 1252. Wages of a miner's helper. Hours of labor, 1253.
- WEARNE, CHARLES, *Miner, employed by the Orford Copper and Sulphur Company, Capelton* - - - - - **1253**
 Corroborates the evidence given by his father, the last witness (John Wearne, *see p.* 1250), 1253.
- WEBSTER, WILLIAM R., *of the Firm of Nutter & Webster, Tobacco Manufacturers, Sherbrooke* - - - - - **1232**
 On the moisture or dryness of material when given affecting the weight and thus causing shortage for which piece hands might have to pay. Possibility of mistakes in weighing stock and results thereof, 1232.
- WEBSTER, W. R., *of the Firm of Nutter & Webster, Tobacco Manufacturers, Sherbrooke* - - - - - **1175-1180**
 Number of hands employed, their ages, and hours of work. Terms and condition of apprenticeship, 1175. Explanation of rules and regulations in factory, 1176. Apprentice on piece work, the condition same as journeyman. Explanation of how fined, 1177. Reward offered to boys who would not get fined. No fines for late hours. Women not fined, 1178. Searching of hands, and how punished. Earnings of hands, and how made. Apprentices, their ages, and term of indenture, 1179. Explanation of how many cigars made by apprentice from so much weight of package, and results, 1180.
- WELLS, SAMUEL WILLIAM, *Superintendent of Mr. W. C. McDonald's Tobacco Factory, Montreal* - - - - - **552-557**
 Children employed in the factory. Provincial factory law regarding the age of children employed in factories, 552. Hours of labor of the children and adults, 553. Wages. Constancy of employment. Sub-contracting by benchmen, 554-555. Fining of employees, 555. Separate closets for each sex. Fire escapes, 556. Attitude of the firm towards labor organizations and members thereof. Rules or customs regarding the correction or ill treatment of the children, 557.

- WHELAN, JAMES PATRICK, Journalist and Contractor, Montreal - - - 892**
 He is contractor for Court House, Quebec. His employees have not been paid for seven weeks because, although his contract with the Government for construction of the Court House has expired, he has not received one cent. The Government owes him \$300,000. He will not be able to pay his employees until paid himself, 892.
- WHITE, FRANCIS, Journeyman Carpenter, Hull - - - 1363**
 Is employed at Mr. Eddy's sash factory. Corroborates evidence given by Mr. Vaillancourt and Mr. Gratton. Wages. Constancy of employment, 1363.
- WEIR, C., - - - 38-39**
 Apprenticeship. Rate of wages and hours of work, 38. Fines and corporal punishment, 39.
- WEIR, MISS LYDIA, Montreal - - - 208**
 Five years at Mr. Fortier's factory. No immorality, 208.
- WILLS, E., Marble Polisher, Montreal - - - 471**
 Wages of marble polishers. Sanitary condition of the shops. Effect of immigration on the marble trade. Women as marble polishers, 471.
- WILSON, J. C., Paper Box Manufacturer, Montreal - - - 325-327**
 Prints billheads, dodgers, wrappers, etc., for grocers principally. Pays compositors from \$7 to \$14 a week. Has fourteen presses running, and but one girl among the press feeders, none to set type. Has followed the nine-hour rule since 1870. Girls make from \$2.50 to \$4.50 at bagmaking, but most of the work is made by machinery. The whole Dominion his market, but keen competition everywhere. Employs about 100 hands, half of whom are girls. None under fourteen, would have none younger, 325. Has eighteen flats in his building. Conveniences entirely separate. Old time compared with now-a-days in regard to rents. Cost of living, etc. No man ought to pay more than one-fifth of his income for rent, 326.
- WOLGER, JAMES G., Second Overseer in the Weaving Room of the Hochelaga Cotton Mill, Montreal - - - 502-505**
 Condition of the factory. Closets. Moral condition and character of the employees and precautions taken to preserve the morality of the employees, 503, 504, 505.
- WOOD, A. H., Cigar Manufacturer, Montreal - - - 138-142**
 Submits to the Commission a form of indenture. The right to impose fines, 138. The rules not posted. Fines not exacted. Corporal punishment denied, 139. Rules concerning bad cigars, 140. Charge for gas. No black hole. Not asked to work overtime, 141. Non-union and union men. Age of youngest girl in factory. Wages paid to girl laborer. Miscellaneous work, 142.
- WRIGHT, RUGGLES, Manufacturer of Cement, Brick, etc., Hull - - - 1346-1347**
 Number of men employed in his quarries, brickyard and at the kilns. Wages of quarrymen. Piecework. Wages of men employed at the kilns. Night work, 1346. Makes bricks by machinery. Wages of men in the brickyard. Pay day. Where the cement is shipped to. The trade in it not increasing. Overtime and pay therefor. Sunday work, 1247.

TOPICAL INDEX

ARRANGED ACCORDING TO THE ALPHABETICAL ORDER OF THE SUBJECTS INDEXED.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

- ABUSES** in the levying of water rates in Montreal. *A. W. Short*, **545**.
- ACCIDENTS.**
- In **AXE FACTORY** from bursting of grinding stones. *T. J. Moccock*. Montreal, **444**.
- In **BOOT and SHOE FACTORIES**. Miss * * *, Quebec, **983-988**. *D. Marsan*, Quebec, **948**. *S. Turcotte*, Quebec, **911-913**.
- In the **BUILDING TRADES** through want of inspection of scaffolding. *Chas. A. O'Leary*, Quebec, **838**.
- In the **CARTRIDGE FACTORY**, Quebec. *Wm. Dickson*, **797**. *T. Lane*, **777-778**. *M. Prevost*, **801-802**. *Chas. Robitaille*, **785**.
- To **CARPENTERS**. *Edward Greaves*, Montreal, **149**. *Chas. Labelle*, Montreal, **149**.
- At the **Docks** in Quebec and Montreal. *Wm. Keys*, **518**. Owing to absence of lights at the wharves of the Quebec and Levis Ferry Company. Life saving apparatus of the Quebec and Levis Ferry Company. Precautions taken to prevent them by Quebec and Levis Ferry Company, etc. *Jos. Patton*, **826-828**. To steamship passengers owing to absence of lights at Quebec. *L. Stafford*, **794**.
- To **FIREMEN**, Montreal. *Chief Patton*, **675**. *Beckingham*, **693**. Quebec, *P. Shea*, **1043**.
- FURNITURE FACTORY**, Sherbrooke. *George Lang*, **1208**.
- ICE CUTTERS**, Montreal. *R. A. Beckett*, **671**.
- KNITTING FACTORIES**, Granite Knitting Mills, St. Hyacinthe. *M. Boas*, **1305**. *E. R. Page*, **1333**. *A. Pichette*, **1293**.
- LUMBER MILLS and FACTORIES**, in Hull. *G. Champagne*, **1357**. *E. Dorion*, **1337**. *H. Dupuis*, **1354**. *E. St. Amour*, **1340**. *J. Vincent*, **1360**. In Montreal. *F. G. Campeau*, **653-654**. *S. Paquette*, **653**. In Sherbrooke. *G. G. Bryant*, **1240**.
- MINES** at Capelton, P. Q. *G. Babb*, **1254-1255**. *J. Blue*, **1249**. *J. Dinsmore*, **1222-1223-1224**. *J. Ledoux*, **1258**. *H. H. Nichols*, **1262**. *T. Verville*, **1260**. *J. Wearne*, **1251**.
- OIL CLOTH FACTORY**, Montreal. *J. Baillie*, **577-578**.
- PRINTING OFFICES**, Montreal. *O. Corriveau*, **432**.
- RAILWAYS**. On the Grand Trunk Railway caused by improperly filled "frogs", **626**. Danger of accidents to railway employees in coupling freight cars. *L. L. Peltier*, **628**. *James G. Scott*, Manager of the Lake St. Peter Railway, **1100**. *Thomas C. Shaughnessy*, Assistant General Manager C. R. P., **161**. *E. Townsend*, Montreal, **624**. *William Wainwright*, Assistant General Manager, G. T. R., **110**.

ACCIDENTS—Continued.

ROOFERS, Montreal. Means taken to prevent, and remuneration in case of *A. Larivière*, **676-677**. From defective scaffolding and remuneration in case of *Joseph Pelletier*, **678**. Quebec, *J. J. Barbeau*, **908**. Precautions taken to prevent. *T. Lachance*, **946**. From want of scaffolding. *F. F. Paradis*, **1069**.

RUBBER FACTORY, Montreal. *M. Palmer*, **683**.

SHIP LABORERS or LONGSHOREMAN, Montreal. *Geo. Brown*, **645**. *John Brennan*, **152**. *Patrick J. Dalton*, **187**. *R. McCoy*, **633**. *Geo. D. Roach*, **668-669**. *Edmund Tart*, **178**. Quebec. Danger in using steam winch in loading vessels. *F. H. Andrews*, **805**. Caused by defective gearing. *T. Enright*, **757**. *P. Fitzgerald*, **752**. *R. Leahey*, **744**. *Geo. Mulrooney*, **755**. *Jas. O'Farrell*, **841**. *J. Paul*, **1078**.

STEAMSHIPS and STEAMBOATS. *Capt. J. Barclay*, Marine Superintendent Allan Line, **168-200**. *John Burgess*, Government Steamboat Inspector for Montreal Division, **90**. *Capt. A. Goulet*, Montreal, **522**. *R. A. Smith*, of Messrs. H. & A. Allan, **159**. *Jas. Urquhart*, paymaster for H. & A. Allan, **174**.

SUGAR REFINERY, Montreal. *Joseph Young*, bookkeeper Canada Sugar Refinery, **171**.

WORSTED FACTORY, Quebec. *William H. Naylor*, **1030**.

In most cases due to carelessness, *Henry Morton*, Montreal, **298**. *J. K. Ward*, Montreal, **293**.

AGREEMENT between Messrs. Dobell, Beckett & Co., of Quebec, and their batteaux men. *C. Dubé*, **1028**.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, sale and manufacture of, in the Province of Quebec, *Chas. T. Coté*, Quebec, **1004**.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT FACTORY EMPLOYEES. See evidence of *Hubert, Treflé Chalifoux*, St. Hyacinthe, **1276**.

AMUSEMENTS, HEALTHFUL, as a remedy for intemperance among the working classes. *Judge Dugas*, Montreal, **450**.

ANALYSIS OF FOODS, see evidence of *Dr. J. B. Edwards*, Public Analyst, Montreal, **664**.

APPRENTICES and the APPRENTICE SYSTEM.

BAKERS. Montreal, *E. Chaput*, **563**. *E. Pole*, **597**. Quebec, *Jas. Sanschagrin*, **858**. *E. Sanschagrin*, **859**. *T. Hetherington*, **866-867**. St. Hyacinthe, *Marc Dupont*, **1318**. Sherbrooke, *S. M. Fuller*, **1204**.

IN BOOT AND SHOE FACTORIES. Montreal, *F. Lapierre*, **437-439**. *E. Masson*, **702**. Children working with shoemakers when six years old. *J. F. O'Rourke*, **245**. Too many leather cutters' apprentices. *A. Patrie*, **239**. Quebec, *Theodore Alaire*, **1115**. *Alcide Montreuil*, **1114**. *A. Demers*, **1044-1045**. *O. Migner*, **973**. *W. A. Marsh*, **961-965**. St. Hyacinthe, *F. Gauthier*, **1317**. *O. Delage*, **1328**.

BOOKBINDERS, *H. Morton*, Montreal, **296-297**.

CABINETMAKERS. *Edward Faucher*, Montreal, **1127-1128**.

CARPENTERS and JOINERS.—Montreal. *Felix Casey*, **540**. *S. Paquette*, **649-652**. *D. Rutherford*, **534**. Quebec—*P. Bellanger*, **996**. *L. Boivin*, **995**. Sherbrooke, *G. G. Bryant*, **1240**. *Geo. Lang*, **1207-1208**. *W. Routelle*, **1206**.

CARRIAGEMAKERS.—Montreal, *E. N. Heney*, **498**. *E. Major*, **506-508**. Quebec. *P. Gausin*, **1115-1116**. *A. Paquette*, **867**.

APPRENTICES, ETC—Continued.

CIGARMAKERS.—Montreal, *E. Arcouette*, 82. *F. Brisette*, 28. *T. Charron*, 24. *J. Claude*, 83. *A. Dagenais*, 26. *A. H. Davis*, 135. *A. Duval*, 70. *J. Faille*, 74. *J. M. Fortier*, 123. *J. Gagnon*, 51. *E. Gauthier*, 29. *L. Girandais*, 52. *S. Goyette*, 39. *O. Grothé*, 144. *H. Laframboise*, 76. *A. Lafrance*, 31. *A. MacGregor*, Manager *J. M. Fortier's* factory, 94. *E. Massey*, 21. *E. Miron*, 30. *W. Plante*, 78. *Geo. Robley*, 46. *P. J. Ryan*, 35. *Geo. S. Warren*, 55. *Chas. Weir*, 38. Sherbrooke.—*F. Cruikshank*, 1239. *A. Fournier*, 1188. *A. Gauthier*, 1235. *T. Legrune*, 1236. *P. Morin*, 1185-1186. *C. H. Nutter*, of *Nutter & Webster*, 1213. *W. R. Webster*, of *Nutter & Webster*, 1175.

CONFECTIONER'S, Quebec. *William McWilliams*, 1102.

In CORDAGE FACTORIES, Quebec. Training of unskilled labor. *J. Brown*, 865.

In CORSET FACTORIES, Sherbrooke. *Octave Gendron*, 1157-1158.

FOUNDRYMEN'S, Levis. *O. Drouin*, 1140-1141. Montreal. *Chas. Anderson*, 467. *W. Boyd*, 309. *T. Monaghan*, 306. *J. O'Flaherty*, 463-464. *R. Powers*, 458-459. Apprentices in foundries are but partially taught their work. *F. X. Thivierge*, 313. Quebec. *G. Beaudoin*, 901. *Alex. Brisette*, 832. *A. Lavois*, 904. *A. Therriault*, 902. Sherbrooke, *H. A. Elkins*, 1217.

In the GLASS FACTORY, Montreal. *William F. Borland*, 587-589.

In LUMBER MILLS and FACTORIES, Hull. *J. Carrière*, 1357. Children do not learn any trade working in the factories in Hull. *E. Dorion*, 1337. *W. H. Garioch*, 1345-1346. Little trade learnt in a saw mill except it be saw filing. *L. St. Amour*, 1339. *J. Vaillancourt*, 1352.

MACHINISTS and MECHANICAL ENGINEERS, Montreal, at *Pillow Hersey & Co's* Nail Works. *T. Shelley*, 687. Quebec, *A. Larmouth*, 1052. Sherbrooke, *John M. Jenks*, 1209.

MARBLE CUTTERS, Montreal. *R. Reid*, 440-441. *W. Saggerton*, 467.

MERCHANTS, Montreal. *Samuel Carsley*, Dry Goods, 14. *P. S. Z. Lanctot*, clerk, 189. Sherbrooke, *François Coderre*, Hardware, 1160.

ORGAN BUILDERS, St. Hyacinthe. *J. C. Casavant*, 1270.

PAINTERS and DECORATORS, Montreal. *C. Fryer*, 635.

PLASTERERS, Montreal. Number of apprentices allowed to plasterers. *V. Belanger*, 247.

PRINTERS, Levis. *Joseph Édouard Mercier*, Printer and Bookseller, 1135. Montreal, *O. Corriveau*, 432-433-434. *N. Duval*, 451. The best place for Printers' apprentices. *T. J. Finn*, 324. Why reformatories do not turn out good journeymen printers. *A. P. Pigeon*, 430. Quebec, *J. Carrel*, 923. *J. Dussault*, 940. *J. J. Foote*, 921-922. *Geo. Gale*, 1033-1035. Arrest of apprentices during the strike. *A. Langlois*, 959. *L. P. Pelletier*, 935. St. Hyacinthe, *H. Casavant*, 1331. *A. Demers*, 1331-1332.

ROOFERS, Montreal. *A. Larivière*, 677.

RUBBER FACTORY, Montreal. *Wm. Gallagher*, 685.

SADDLE and HARNESS-MAKERS, Montreal. *E. N. Heney*, 498. *D. Murphy*, 496-497.

STONE-CUTTERS, Quebec. *Ignace Bilodeaux*, 852.

STONE MASONS, Quebec. *T. Pampalon*, 994.

TAILORS.—Quebec. Scarcity of apprentices in tailoring establishments, *Wm. Lee*, 854. *G. Racine*, 1071-1073.

TANNERS and CURRIERS.—Montreal, *D. Lemay*, 562. *Geo. A. Mooney*, 545. Quebec, *T. Darveau*, 1046. *F. Gourdeau*, 1065. *M. Valliere*, 1068.

APPRENTICES, etc.—*Continued.*

- Apprentices and the apprentice system, *L. Cousineau*, **583**. The Montreal by-law regarding masters and apprentices covers the case of an employee working under contract, verbal or written, **213**. Masters may correct apprentices, *C. J. Doherty*, **217**. Indenturing of apprentices, *C. McArthur*, Montreal, **576**. Apprentices not being properly taught is the cause of the existing scarcity of able workmen in Montreal, and the cause of our having to import many articles which might otherwise be made in the country, *F. Pigeon*, Montreal, **509**. *Chas. T. Coté*, Quebec, **1004**. Reluctance of young men to be apprenticed, **842**. The apprentice system objected to by employers because apprentices, as soon as they learn the trade, leave for the United States or the North-West, *Simon Peters*, Quebec, **843**. Indenturing of apprentices as a remedy for the existing inferiority of a large proportion of the workmen in Montreal, *D. Rutherford*, Montreal, **535**.
- ARBITRATION in moulders' strikes, *Chas. Anderson*, **467**. Practicability of settling disputes between ship laborers and merchants by—, *F. Billingsby*, **891**. Typographical Union in favor of arbitration, *L. Z. Boudreau*, **424**. *John Brennan*, Montreal, **156**. *P. J. Dalton*, Montreal, **186**. Printers during the strike at Quebec willing to submit to arbitration, *Geo. Gale*, **1033-1035**. Rule of the French Typographical Union, Quebec, regarding arbitration, *A. Langlois*, **956-957**. Founders and moulders want a system of arbitration, *T. Monaghan*, **308**. Growth of principles of arbitration among the working classes, *J. T. Redmond*, Montreal, **728**. *D. Rutherford*, Montreal, **536**. Arbitration as a means of settling the difficulty between ship laborers and their employers, *E. H. Wade*, **1015**.
- ARREST of printers during the recent strike at Quebec, *Geo. Gale*, **1034**.
- ARTIZANS' DWELLING HOUSE COMPANY, copy of the rules and requirements of, **733**.
- ASSESSMENT of property on DeSalaberry street, Montreal. Explanation regarding, *John W. Grose*, **525**. Explanation regarding assessment of property in Montreal, *P. H. Morin*, City Assessor, Montreal, **551-552**. Statistics to prove the injustice of assessing on rental instead of on value of property, *A. W. Short*, Montreal, **545-546**.
- AXE FACTORY AND EMPLOYEES THEREOF, Montreal. See evidence of *T. J. Moccock*, **443**.
- BAILIFF'S CHARGES. In the case of *Brunet vs. Greatorex*, *R. Desjardins*, Montreal, **602**. In collection of small debts, Montreal, **687-688**.
- BAKERS AND BAKING, Montreal. See evidence of *Edmond Chaput*, **563**. Opinion of Dr. Fafard, regarding night work by the bakers. *D. Lafontaine*, **658**. See evidence of *Edward Pole*, **597**. Quebec. See evidence of *S. Hetherington*, **866**. *Edward Sanschagrin*, **859**. *Joseph Sanschagrin*, **857**. St. Hyacinthe. See evidence of *Marc Dupont*, **1318**. Sherbrooke. See evidence of *B. Marchesseau*, **1218**. *Thomas W. Fuller*, **1203**.
- BANKING.
- In the Province of Quebec banks will not discount farmer's note given for agricultural implements as they do in Ontario, thus that industry is retarded. *Chas. T. Coté*, Quebec, **1004**.
- BATTEAUX AND BARGEMEN.
- Barges on the Ottawa River and their crews. *Capt. A. Goulet*, Montreal, **522**. Quebec. See evidence of *Louis Berthiaume*, **954**. *Jos. Desnoyer*, **815-816**. *G. Dubé*, manager of Messrs Dobell, Beckett & Co's bateaux men, **1023**. *Bazil Gingras*, **949**. *Honoré Mictéau*, **1000**. *Philippe Morissette*, **951**. *W. Rae*, **1018**.

"BAR" OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC compared with a trades union. *L. P. Pelletier*, Quebec, **937**.

BEEF. Price of beef at Sorel. *J. B. Labelle*, M. P., **491**.

BEEET SUGAR. *A. Baumgarten*, Montreal, **621**.

BENEFIT SOCIETIES.

Miners' Sick and Accident Association, Capelton. *G. Babb*, **1254**. *E. Hébert*, **1260**. *Jos. Ledoux*, **1258**. *W. H. Nicholls*, **1262-1264**. *S. Verville*, **1260**. *J. Wearne*, **1252**. Firemen's Benevolent Association, Montreal. *James Doolan*, **695**. *T. H. Hogan*, **696**. *Chief Wm. Patton*, **672**. *J. St. Pierre*, **699**. At Messrs Ives & Co's Foundry, Montreal. *S. J. Baldan*, **500**. G. T. R. Provident and Insurance Fund. *Jno. Irving*, **465**. *R. Powers*, **625**. Benevolent Branch of the Bargemen's Society, Quebec. *P. Morissette*, **952**. Benefit Association in connection with the police force, Quebec. *Leon P. Vohl*, chief of police, **847-1106**. Benefit Branch Ship Laborers' Society, Quebec. *F. H. Andrews* **804-805-806**. *Richard Burke*, **741**. *R. R. Leahey*, **744**. *J. Paul*, **1084**. *W. Rae*, **1022**. Benefit Association among employees Pulp Factory, Sherbrooke. *F. P. Burke*, **1195-1198**. See also insurance fund, Quebec firemen.

BISCUIT MAKERS, Quebec. See evidence of *John Glass*, **771**.

BLACK LISTING AND CONSPIRACY LAWS.

Patrick J. Dalton, Longshoreman, Montreal, **187**. *William Keys*, Montreal, **317**. Members of the Society of Moulders black listed. *W. Marin*, **310**. *Elie Massy*, cigarmaker, Montreal, **23**. *S. Monaghan*, moulder, Montreal, **307**. *J. O'Flaherty*, moulder, Montreal, **465**. A man boycotted for organizing Labor Union. *J. F. O'Rourke*, Montreal, **245**. Men dismissed and denounced for belonging to a labor union. *A. Patrie*, Montreal, **241**. Black listing of G. T. R. employees. *L. L. Peltier*, Montreal, **627**. Black listing of union moulders, Montreal. *R. Powers*, **457**. Black listing employees Granite Knitting Mills, St. Hyacinthe. *H. Cordeau*, **1278-1279**.

BLACKSMITHS.

Montreal, see evidence of *Jean Baptiste Blanchet*, **510**. Quebec, *A. Paquette*, **867**. At the car shops, Sherbrooke, *J. Seivright*, **1226**.

BOARD.

Class of meals supplied employees on steamers of Quebec and Levis Ferry Co., *Jos. Patton*, Quebec, **828**.

BOILERS.

After being condemned used in country places, *E. O. Champagne*, Montreal, **710**.

BONUSING OF EMPLOYEES.

Quebec Street Railway Co., *S. Moore*, **825**. Paquette's clothing establishment, Quebec. *S. Paquette*, **809**.

BONUSING OF INDUSTRIES.

St. Hyacinthe, *F. F. Châtignon*, **1276**. Loan of \$25,000 to St. Hyacinthe Manufacturing Company, *G. C. Desaulles*, Mayor, **1313**. List of bonuses granted and paid by the City of St. Hyacinthe, *J. Guertin*, **1269**. *E. F. Moseley*, **1275**.

BOOKS.

Reason for the high price charged for mechanical works, *Redmond*, Montreal, **727**.

BOOT AND SHOE FACTORIES AND EMPLOYEES THEREOF.

Montreal, see evidence of *Z. Lapierre*, **437**. *James McCready*, **491**. *E. Masson*, **702**. *Chas. E. Ranger*, **714**. Boot and shoe making in the Montreal Reformatory School; how and by whom done. Class of goods made and where sold, *E. Parent*, **435-436**. Quebec, see evidence *Miss * * ** **982, 985, 869**. *Miss * * ** forewoman slip sole department, **988**. *Miss * * ** sewer, **990**. *Miss * * ** waxing machine hand, **991**. *Dame * * ** widow, **984**. *Louis Arien*, **909**. *A. Delaquette*, **1010**. *Alphonse Demers*, **1044**. *James DePattie*, **904**. *George Fergusm*, foreman *J. H. Botrell & Co.*, **965**. *Dolphis Marsan*, **947**. *W. A. Marsh*, **961**. *Edward Mercier*, **1108**. *Octave Miquier*, **972**. *Louis A. Perrault*, **974**. *Ludger Robitaille*, **945**. *Selim Turcotte*, **910**. St Hyacinthe, see evidence of *Damien Bouchard*, **1319**. *Corrine Cote*, **1327**. *Joseph Cote*, **1314**. *Octave Deloge*, **1328**. *Felix Fournier*, **1332**. *Zotique Gauthier*, **1316**. *Miss Rosanna Plamondon*, **1327**. *Ernest Thibeau*, **1315**. Sherbrooke, see evidence of *Chas. Beaugard*, **1234**.

"BOYCOTTING"

By Grocers' Guild, Quebec, *R. Turner*, **1058**. By Ship Laborers' Society, Quebec, *Chas. A. Pentland*, **894**. *N. Rosa*, **898-899**.

BREACH OF CONTRACT by his employer regarding wages *P. Morin*, **1185**.

BREAD.

Sold in Montreal, *Dr. J. B. Edwards*, public analyst, **664**. Price of bread, Montreal, *E. Chaput*, **566**. *E. Pole*, **598**. Underweight bread sold in Quebec, price of bread, etc., *Jos. Sanschagrín*, **858-859**. *F. Kirouack*, **1002**. Price of bread in Sherbrooke, *G. Marchesseau*, **1218**.

BREWING AND BREWERY EMPLOYEES.

In Quebec. See evidence of *Vessey Boswell*, **1016**.

BRICKLAYERS

In Montreal, *L. Cousineau*, **582**. Quebec, *A. Lortie*, **998**. Sherbrooke, *G. G. Bryant*, **1241**. *C. Gordon*, **1121**.

BRICKYARD EMPLOYEES.

Hull, *Ruggles Wright*, **1346**. Sherbrooke, *Clarke Gordon*, **1211**.

BROOM MAKING AND BROOM MAKERS

In Montreal by convict labor. See evidence of *Albert D. Nelson*, **538**. In Quebec, see evidence of *Richard Turner*, **1055**.

"BUCKETT SHOPS"

In Quebec. See evidence of *H. Malenfant*, **979**. *J. P. Tardivel*, **193**.

BUILDING INSPECTION AND INSPECTORS. See INSPECTION AND INSPECTORS.

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS FOR THE DOMINION, establishment of. *Geo. Gale* **1035**. *Wm. Keys*, **158**. *T. Monaghan*, Montreal, **308**. *J. O'Flaherty*, Montreal, **465**. Advocates it on the plan of the Paris Bureau, *F. X. Perrault*, Montreal, **417**.

BUTTER

Sold in Montreal. *Dr. J. B. Edwards*, public analyst, **665**. Improvement in making, *Chas Langlois*, Montreal, **720**.

BUTTONHOLE MAKERS. See TAILORS.

CABINETMAKERS.

Sherbrooke. See evidence of *Cleophus Bourguignon*, **1233**. *George Lang*, **1207**.

CANADA RUBBER CO'Y, Montreal. See evidence of *John James McGill*, **569**.

CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.

Employed at the Albert Mine, Capelton. See evidence of *W. H. Nichols*, **1263**. Employed in the sash factory, Hull. See evidence of *Francis White*, **1363**. Montreal. Stair builders. See evidence of *Mrs * * **, **641**. *Felix Casey*, **540**. *Ludger Cousineau*, **581**. *Stanislas Paquette*, **649**. *Douglass Rutherford*, **533**. Quebec. See evidence of *Pierre Bélanger*, **996**. *L. Boivin*, **994**. *Michael Boivin*, **861**. *Jos. Fortier*, **740**. *Ferdinand Lafrance*, **1007**. *Geo. Lévesque*, **1070**. *Alfred Lortie*, **997**. Sherbrooke. See evidence of *Geo. G. Bryant*, **1240**. *Geo. Lang*, **1207**. *Wm. Routelle*, **1206**. *J. Seivright*, **1226**. *Frank Thibeaudeau*, **1237**.

See also SASH and LUMBER FACTORY EMPLOYEES.

CARTERS OR HACKMEN.

Quebec. See evidence of *Chas. Beaumont*, **1043**. *C. S. Coté*, **1005**. *James McDermott*, **1037**.

CARRIAGE MAKERS AND CARRIAGE MAKING.

Montreal. See evidence of *Edward N. Heney*, **498**. *Adolphe Clément dit Larivierre*, **519**. *Evangéliste Major*, **506**. Quebec. *Abraham Paquette*, **867**.

CARRIAGE UPHOLSTERERS.

Montreal. See evidence of *Emile Brunet*, **512**. *A. Clément dit Larivierre*, **519-520**. *Joseph Parent*, **511**.

CARTRIDGE FACTORY EMPLOYEES.

Quebec. See evidence of *Wm. Dickson*, foreman, **797**. *Zoel Forgues*, **787**. *Major Prevost*, **800**. *Chas. Robitaille*, mechanician, **784**.

CATTLE FOR EXPORTATION.

Advantages and disadvantages of loading at Montreal instead of Quebec. *W. M. Macpherson*, Quebec, **916**. Loading of cattle at Montreal. *R. McCoy*, **633**. Shipment of cattle at Quebec. *E. H. Wade*, **1013**. *W. Rae*, **872**.

CHANDLERS.

Quebec. See evidence of *Jos. Maheux*, **869**.

"CHECKERS," for the Allan Steamship Company, Montreal. See evidence of *Geo. Douglass*, **585**.

CHEESE MAKING. *Chas. Langlois*, Montreal, **720**.

CHILD LABOR.

BOOT AND SHOE FACTORIES, Montreal. *J. McCready*, **491**. *M. C. Mularky*, **444-445**. *E. Parent*, **434**. Quebec. *Miss * * **, **983-984-98**. **986**. *Miss * * **, Sewer, **990**. *Miss * * **, Stitcher, **990**. *Dame * * **, **985**. *F. Arien*, **909**. *Geo. Drolet*, **1123**. *Geo. Ferguson*, **965**. *D. Marsat*, **947**. *W. A. Marsh*, **961**. *O. Mignier*, **972-973**. *T. Patton*, **905**. *L. A. Perrault*, **974**. *L. Robitaille*, **949**. *S. Turcotte*, **911**. *Ortave Vezina*, **1124-1125**. *St. Hyacinthe*. *C. Coté*, **1327**. *Jos. Coté*, **1314**. *Miss Rosanna Fimondon*, **1327**. *St. Romuald*. *Louis Caouette*, **1152**.

BOX FACTORY, St. Romuald. *Regis Gagnon*, **1150**. *Alfred Lafrance*, **1151**. *T. Lafrance*, **1155**.

BRUSH FACTORY, Quebec. *R. Turner*, **1056**.

CABINET MAKING, Sherbrooke. *C. Bourguignon*, **1234**.

CARRIAGE MAKING, Montreal. *Paul Chartrand*, **195**. At the Reformatory. *Adolphe Clément dit Larivierre*, **519-520**.

CHILD LABOR—Continued.

CARTRIDGE FACTORY, Quebec. *Wm. Dickson, 798. Thomas Lane, Machinist, 776-778. Major Prevost, Superintendent, 800-801. Chas. Robitaille, 785.*

CIGAR FACTORIES, Montreal. *T. Charron, 25. A. H. Davis, 136. Leon Girandias, 53. Ovide Groihé, 145. J. M. Fortier, 124. Alex. Macgregor, 94-106. Elie Massy, 21. George Robley, 46. John Rogers, 92. Patrick J. Ryan, 33-35. Geo. S. Warren, 55-58. Sherbrooke. Dame Bagle Boucher, 1181. F. Cruikshank, 1229. Alphonse Fournier, 1183. Wm. Webster, of Messrs Nutter & Webster, 1175.*

CONFECTIONERS, Quebec. *William McWilliams, 1102.*

CORDAGE FACTORIES, Quebec. *J. Brown, 864. L. Drouin, 971. E. Lardry, 970.*

CORSET FACTORIES, Quebec. *G. E. Amyot, 810. Sherbrooke. Octave Gen-dron, 1157.*

COTTON FACTORIES, Montreal. A President of cotton mill who never heard of the law regarding child labor in factories, **374**. His opinion regarding child labor. *A. F. Gault, 377. Long hours for children in a cotton factory. P. Pleau, 314. At the Hudon Cotton Mills. Cordelia Telmosse, 484. J. K. Ward, 291.*

DRY GOODS STORES, Montreal. *Samuel Carsley, 14-18.*

ENGINE SHOPS, Levis. *Alfred Tanguay, 1154.*

FOUNDRIES, Levis. *O. Drouin, 1140. Montreal. T. J. Baldon, 501.*

FURNITURE FACTORY. *Geo. Long, 1207-1208. Vincent C. Coté, Quebec, 1111.*

HERRIERS' SHOPS, Quebec. *J. H. Holt, 835.*

GLASS FACTORY, Montreal. *Wm. F. Borland, 588.*

KNITTING FACTORIES. Granite Knitting Mills, St. Hyacinthe. *Victor Bourci, 1281. H. Cordeau, 1278. Miss P. Desgranges, 1283. A. Gosselin, 1320. A. Laperrière, 1297. H. Lemoine, 1296.*

LAUNDRIES, Montreal. *Mary Buchanan, 818. Quebec. T. H. Love, 688.*

LUMBER MILLS AND FACTORIES, Hull. *J. Carrière, 1358. Geo. Champagne, 1356. Employed cording blocks. Joseph Latulippe, 1359. Z. St. Amour, 1338. Sas' factory. Joseph Vaillancourt, 1351. Joseph Vincent, 1360. Montreal. F. Campeau, 654. S. Paquette, 652. Quebec. J. Roach, 1054. Sherbrooke. A. G. Bryant, 1240. R. W. Heneker, 1202.*

HATCH FACTORIES, Hull. *D. Casey, 1340-1344. Miss Rose Deschênes, 1340. J. Dion, 1350. N. Drouin, 1361. M. Dufaux, 1351. Domina Dupont, 1353. Miss Adeline Ouimet, 1357. St. Romuald. Miss * * * 1145-114. 1148. William Belanger, 1142. L. Mercier, 1144. Louis Roberge, 114.*

MINES, Cap Iton. *J. Blue, 1247-1249. Frank Cotton, 1235. J. Dinsmore, 1222. F. Doré, 1256. Jos. Ledoux, 1257. Jos. Nadreau, 1261. W. H. Nichols, 1263. T. Verville, 1261.*

ORGAN FACTORY, St. Hyacinthe. *A. Gosselin, 1319.*

PRINTING AND DECORATING, Montreal. *C. Fryer, 634.*

PRINTING OFFICES, Levis. *Jos. E. Mercier, 1136. Montreal. Children employed too young in printing offices. L. G. Boudreau, 425. O. Corriveau, 432-434. At the Restorative school printing office. E. Globensky, 453. Quebec. P. Tardif, 926. St. Hyacinthe. A. Denis, 1332.*

RUBBER FACTORY, Montreal. At the Canadian Rubber Coy's factory. *Wm. Gallagher, 684. J. J. McGill, 569. M. Palmer, 683.*

CHILD LABOR—Continued.

SEWING MACHINE FACTORY, Montreal. Messenger, Citizens Insurance Coy., **618-619**.

SHIRT AND COLLAR FACTORY, Montreal. A. H. Simms, **494**.

TANNERIES, Montreal. D. Lemay, **562**. Geo. A. Mooney, **544**. H. Porter, **669**. Quebec. W. Boulé, **864**. F. Gourdeau, **1065**. Leather dressing. A. Pion, **975**. St. Hyacinthe. C. Bienvenu, **1312**. S. T. Duclos, **1313**. E. F. Moseley, **1275**.

TOBACCO FACTORIES, Montreal. * * *, tobacco worker, **679**. Maria Ethier, **481**. Florina Lacoste, **480**. W. C. McDonald, **529**. S. W. Wells, **552**. Quebec. W. J. Le Mesurier, **769**.

WALL PAPER FACTORY, Montreal. Boys. C. McArthur, **575**.

WOOLLEN FACTORIES, Quebec. Miss * * *, **1121-1122**. Wm. H. Naylor, **1030**. St. Hyacinthe. Geo. C. Desautels, **1313**. Sherbrooke. John Ainsworth, **1191**. Firmin Lord, **1193**. Andrew Patton, **1163**. Chas. Thornton, **1198**.

A general Dominion factory law regarding child labor required. J. S. Hall, **384**. E. Hollis, Montreal, **635**. Louis Laberge, Medical Health Officer, Montreal, **4**. Children at the Montreal Reformatory. E. Massey, **250**. J. O'Farrell, Quebec, **840**. Hours of labor of a child ten years old. A. Patrie, Montreal, **239**.

CHINESE LAUNDRIES. See Laundries.

CIGAR MAKERS AND CIGAR MAKING.

Sherbrooke. See evidence of F. Cruikshank, **1229**. Tutor Ethier, **1235**. Thomas Lejeune, **1236**. Philip Morin, **1185**. Chas. H. Naylor, of Webster & Nutter, **1212**. Edward E. Rennie, **1231**. W. R. Webster, of Webster & Nutter, **1232**.

CLOSETS.

Hull. Match factory. D. Casey, **1344**. In the tobacco factory. * * *, tobacco worker, **681**. At Messrs Ives & Co's foundry. T. Baldoni, **502**. At the North American Glass Co's factory. Wm. F. Borland, **503**. Closets and cesspools at the dwellings of the poorer classes. Dr. Decrow, **96-98**. At Foundries, their condition and location. O. Duffy, **460**. At Canadian Rubber Co's factory. Wm. Gallagher, **685**. Condition and location of moulding shops. H. Lapierre, **474**. Separate for each sex at his factory. Z. Lapierre, Rubber Co's factory. T. H. Love, **689**. At the Canadian Rubber Co's factory. J. J. McGill, **570**. Extent of the separation of the cesspools set apart for each sex at the St. Anne Cotton factory. Leonce Martin, **476**. At his Boot and Shoe factory. M. C. Mularky, **445**. Condition and location of foundries. John O'Flaherty, **462**. At the moulding shops. R. Powers, **457**. At his shirt factory. A. H. Simms, **496**. At McDonald's tobacco factory. J. M. Welton, **556**. At the Hochelaga Cotton Mills. J. G. Wolger, **503**. Quebec. At boot and shoe factory, Dame * * * **984**. At his corset factory, George E. Angot, **811**. At the boot and shoe factories. Z. Arien, **910**. At the cordage factory, R. Cantin, **969**. F. Drouin, **971**. Only one closet for the both sexes at the tobacco factory. F. X. Dussault, **851**. Absence in workingmen's houses and yards. Hon. J. H. Hearne, **795**. Insufficiency of, in workingmen's houses. Only one for six families, Hon. John Hearne, **796**. Proximity of, used by male and female employees of his tobacco factory to one another, W. J. LeMesurier, **770**. At boot and shoe factory. J. Marsan, **948**. E. Mercier, **1008**. At worst factory. Wm. H. Naylor, **1030**. Separate for each sex at his clothing establishment. Paquette, **808**. At Government cartridge factory, Major Prevost, **80**. St. Hyacinthe. Separate for each sex at his boot and shoe factory. J. Coté, **75**.

CLOTH PRINTING AND CLOTH PRINTERS.

Montreal.—See evidence of *J. K. Ward*, **543**.

COAL OIL COMBINATIONS.

See combinations.

COAL.

Montreal. Altogether lower port coal used in glass factory, *Wm. F. Burland*, **589**. Price of coal now compared with price ten years ago, *F. W. Henshaw*, **724**. Used in making gas, *J. F. Scriver*, **568**. Quebec.—Cost of unloading; *R. Turner*, **1059**.

COFFEE sold in Montreal. See evidence of *Dr. B. Edwards*, public analyst, **665**. COMBINATIONS.

Montreal. Contractors' Association, *L. Cousineau*, **584**. Operation of sugar combine, *T. W. Fuller*, **1205**. Undertakers Association, its objects and operations, *Wm. J. Halpin*, **635-639**. Of boot and shoe manufacturers, *Z. Lapierre*, **438**. Undertakers' Association, operation of it, *Gustave Piché*, **639**. The sugar combine, *James A. Mathewson*, **612-618**. Coal oil combine, *James A. Mathewson*, **612**. Wholesale Grocers' Association, *James A. Mathewson*, **610**. Association of funeral furnishers, *E. Murphy*, **620**. Quebec. Mechanical M Association, *J. Carrell*, **924**. Master Printers' Association and its action during strike, *J. Dussault*, **941-978**. *L. P. Pelletier*, **935**. Of wood price of wood, *G. P. Lawrence*, **839**. Master Printers' Association, *Ardivil*, **929**. Grocers' Guild, *R. Turner*, **1056, 1057, 1058**. Through-Undertakers' Association, nature of its operations, *Louis Gerard*, **656**. Combine of manufacturers of undertakers' goods in Ontario and Quebec also connected with similar combines in United States, *Louis Gerard*, **656-657**.

"COMPAGNON." Uncertainty regarding the legal meaning of the word, *C. J. Doherty*, Montreal, **214**.

COMPETITION.

Montreal. Illegal competition in the printing trade from institutions supported by Government, *A. Carmel*, Montreal, **450**. Effect on printers in Montreal of competition from the Reformatory, *N. Duval*, **452**. The effect of unjust competition from employment of Reformatory school children on the printing trade in Montreal, *Polbensky*, **454**. The business of the Canadian Rubber Company suffers from competition, *Gustave Gravel*, Montreal, **722**. Competition in carriage making from Reformatory made work and the United States, *E. Major*, **507**. Quebec. From stonecutters in St. Albans, Vt., *Ignace Bilodeaux*, **853**. Competition between printers receive from members of the Typographical Union, *J. Dussault*, **941**. Competition carpenters meet with from Government night guards, *F. L. Lawrence*, **1007**. Quite able to compete with Montreal firms in the tobacco trade, *L. Mesuerier*, **769**.

CONDITION OF WORKMEN GENERALLY in Quebec, *C. T. Coté*, **1204**. *S. Hyacinthe*, *J. O. Martin*, **1267**. Sherbrooke. General improvement when compared with ten years ago, *Henry A. Elkins*, **1218**.

CONFECTIONERS. Sherbrooke. See evidence of *L. A. Fuller*, **1204**.

CONFISCATION OF WAGES. See WAGES.

CONSTANCY OF EMPLOYMENT.

BAKERS AND SWEET FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Quebec. At Glass' biscuit factory, *J. Glass*, **772**. Sherbrooke. At the "Boston Bakery," *T. W. Fuller*, **1204**.

BATTEAUXME. Quebec. *P. Morrissette*, **952**.

CONSTANCY OF EMPLOYMENT—*Continued.*

BOOT AND SHOE FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Quebec. Miss * * * **986**. Miss * * * sewer, **991**. *G. Ferguson*, **966-967**. *Edmond Mercier*, **1008-1009**. St. Hyacinthe, *O. Bouchard*, **1319**. *F. Fournier*, **1332**.

BUILDING TRADES MECHANICS.—Quebec, *Chas. O'Leary*, **836-837**. Sherbrooke, *G. G. Bryant*, **1241**.

CARETAKER.—Montreal, of the Thistle Curling Rink, *Geo. Douglas*, **584**.

CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.—Montreal, *Mr. * * ** **641**. Quebec, *L. Boivin*, **995**. *M. Boivin*, **861**. *J. Fortier*, **781**. *Geo. Levesque*, **1070**. Sherbrooke, *W. Routelle*, **1206**.

CARRIAGE MAKERS.—Montreal, *A. Clement, dit Larivierre*, **520**. *E. Major*, **507**. Quebec, *A. Paquette*, **868**.

CARRIAGE UPHOLSTERERS.—Montreal, *E. Brunot*, **513**.

CAR SHOP EMPLOYEES.—Sherbrooke, *J. Seivright*, **1226**.

COTTON FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Sherbrooke, *F. McArthur*, **1206**.

FOUNDRYMEN.—Levis, *G. Beaudoin*, **901**. Montreal, *R. Powers*, **458**. Quebec, *G. Beaudoin*, **900**. *J. Luchance*, **903**. Sherbrooke, *H. A. Elkins*, **1217**.

FURNITURE FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Sherbrooke, *Geo. Long*, **1208**.

GLASS FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal, *Wm. F. Borland*, **588**.

GRAVING DOCK EMPLOYEES.—Quebec, *J. Roach*, **1054**.

KNITTING FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—St. Hyacinthe, Granite Mills, *M. Boas*, **1302**. *E. Trudeau*, **1285**.

LABORERS.—Hull, *D. Dupuis*, **1353**.

LABORERS, SHIP.—Montreal, *Geo. Brown*, **644**. Quebec Not paid while waiting for ships, *F. Beckett*, **884**. *F. Billingsby*, **890**. In the employ of the Quebec Steamship Co. paid for time lost while waiting for ships, *A. Hearn*, **856**. Leaving Quebec because they cannot get constant work, *J. O'Farrel*, **841**. *E. H. Wade*, **1012**. Montreal and Quebec compared, *A. G. Davis*, Quebec, **893**. *E. H. Wade*, **1016**.

LUMBER MILL AND FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Hull. Saw-filers, *J. Carrière*, **1357**. *G. Champagne*, **1356**. *W. H. Garrioch*, **1345**. *A. Gratton*, **1355**. *Z. St. Amour*, **1339**. *F. White*, **1363**. Sherbrooke, *F. P. Bucke*, **1197**. *R. W. Heneker*, Banker, **1202**.

LUMBER CAMP EMPLOYEES.—Near Sherbrooke, *J. J. Duffy*, **1187**.

MACHINISTS.—Montreal, *Wm. Keys*, **516**. Sherbrooke, *G. M. Jenks*, **1208**.

MALSTERS.—Quebec, *V. Boswell*, **1016**.

MARBLE-CUTTERS.—Montreal, *R. Reid*, **440**.

MATCH FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Hull, *D. Casey*, **1341-1343**.

MINERS.—Capelton, *G. Babb*, **1253**. *J. Blue*, **1248**. *W. H. Nicholls*, **1262**.

IRON FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—St. Hyacinthe, *J. C. Cassavant*, **1271**.

PAINTERS AND PAPER HANGERS.—Montreal, *C. Fryer*, **634**. Quebec, *Geo. leGee*, **1036**.

PULP FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Sherbrooke, *F. P. Bucke*, **1196**.

QUEBEC STEAMSHIP CO.'S EMPLOYEES.—*A. Hearne*, **856**.

RICHELIEU AND ONTARIO NAVIGATION CO.'S EMPLOYEES.—*J. B. Labelle*, *M.P.*, **86-496**.

ROOFERS AND SLATERS.—Montreal, *A. Larivière*, **677**. Quebec, *J. J. Barabau*, **908**. *T. Luchance*, **946**. *F. F. Paradis*, **1078**.

SADDLERS.—Quebec, *J. Lessard*, **1004**.

CONSTANCY OF EMPLOYMENT—*Continued.*

SIGN WRITERS.—Montreal, *C. Fryer*, **634**.

SUGAR REFINERY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal, *A. Baumgarten*, **621**.

TAILORS.—Montreal. Of sub-contractors who do work for wholesale clothers, *Isaac Gold*, **558**. Quebec, *Wm. Lee*, **854**.

TANNERS AND LEATHER FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal, *H. Porter*, **670**. Quebec, *W. Boulé*, **863**. *O. Imbeau*, **906**.

TOBACCO FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. * * * , *tobacco worker*, **680**. *S. M. Wells*, **554**.

WORSTED FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Quebec, *Wm. H. Naylor*, **1030**.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

Not the same fear of contagious disease among the lower classes as among the upper classes in Montreal, *Dr. Decrow*, **609**. Spread by furs, *J. H. Holt*, **835**.

CONTRACTORS AND BUILDERS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES.

Quebec, see evidence of *Chas. A. O'Leary*, **836**.

CONVICT LABOR AND ITS EFFECTS.

BLACKSMITHING.—How it is taught to the Montreal Reformatory school boys, *J. B. Blanchet*, **510**.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.—Effect on the trade. Montreal, *Z. Lapierre*, **435**. How and by whom boots and shoes are made at the Montreal Reformatory. See evidence of *E. Parent*, **435**. Effect of convict labor on prices in Montreal, *C. E. Ranger*, **714**.

BROOMMAKING AND BROOMMAKERS.—Montreal, see evidence of *Albert D. Nelson*, **538**. Quebec, *R. Turner*, **1055-1058**.

CARRIAGEMAKING AND CARRIAGEMAKERS.—Montreal. Reformatory boys employed at carriagemaking. See evidence of *Edward N. Heney*, **498**. Reformatory made carriage work and competition therefrom, *E. Major*, **507**. Reformatory School boys do not learn carriage upholstery; reason why, *Joseph Parent*, **512**. Quebec, see evidence of *Penoin Gauvin*, **1115-1116**. Effect on carriagemakers, *A. Paquette*, **868**.

CIGARMAKERS.—Montreal, *Eliè Massy*, **23**.

LAUNDRY BUSINESS.—Convict labor at the Good Shepherd's Reformatory, Montreal, and its effect, *T. H. Love*, **689-690**.

PRINTERS.—Montreal, objections to printer's work being done in Reformatories, *F. Stanley*, **330**. Views of the President of the Typographical Union on work at public institutions, *L. Z. Boudreau*, **421**.

SADDLE AND HARNESSMAKERS.—Montreal. See evidence of *Edward N. Heney*, **498**. *D. Murphy*, **497**. Reformatory apprentices to saddle making, their incompetency and reasons therefor, *F. Pigeon*, **509**.

The effect of sending children to reformatory schools, *Judge Denis*, **44**. Reformatory school printing office and employees thereof. See evidence of *Globensky*, **453**. The possibility of exporting prison made goods as a solution of the question how to employ convict labor, *A. D. Nelson*, **539-540**. Convict labor at Quebec, *R. Turner*, **1058**.

CO-OPERATION.

Montreal. The co-operative association of bakers is not composed of working bakers, *E. Chaput*, **566**. Co-operation in Montreal and England compared. *B. C. Fisher*, **579**.

COOPERS AND COOPERING.

Montreal, see evidence of *Edmond Chandier*, **595**. *Jeremiah Mahoney*, **560**.
 Quebec, see evidence of *V. Boswell*, **1016**. *A. Lortie*, **998**. *Isadore Parent*,
938.

CORDAGE FACTORY AND EMPLOYEES THEREOF.

Quebec. See evidence of *J. Brown*, **860**. *Miss Rosalie Cantin*, **968**. *Miss E. Landry*, **969**. *Francis Drouin*, **970**.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.

Montreal, in cigar factories, **54-51**. *Edward Arcouette*, **83**. *Theophile Charron*,
25. *Jules Chartrand*, **107**. *Achille Dagenais*, **27**. *Augustin Duval*, **70**. *Joseph Faille*,
75. *J. M. Fortier*, **123**. *Joseph Gagnon*, **52**. *Edmond Gauthier*, **29**.
Leon Girandias, **52**. *Stanislaus Goyette*, **40**. *Ovide Grothe*, **144**. *Horace Laframboise*,
77. *Alphonse Lafrance*, **31**. *Adelard Lavoie*, **73**. *Dame Rose de Lima Lavoie*,
 widow of *Stanislaus Goyette*, **72**. *Miss Georgina Loiselle*, **91**.
Alexander Macgregor, **94**. *Eli Mossy*, **21**. *William Plante*, **78**. *George Robley*,
46. *John Rogers*, **92**. *Patrick J. Ryan*, **36**. *Chas. Weir*, **39**. *A. H. Wood*,
139. *Sherbrooke, P. Morin*, **1186**.

CORSET FACTORIES AND EMPLOYEES THEREOF.

Montreal.—See evidence of *L'Abbe DesCarres*, *Hochelaga*, **707**. *Camille J. Grenier*,
700. Quebec.—See evidence of *Miss * * **, **992**. *G. E. Amyot*,
810-812.

COST OF LIVING.

Capelton. Price of board, *T. Verville*, **1261**. Hull. Price young girls pay for board,
M. Dupuis, **1351**. Retail price of groceries, *J. H. Kerr*, **1348**. *Levis, George Beaudoin*,
902. Montreal. Comparison of prices of flour in 1877 and now, *Moise Brossard*,
712. Discrepancy between income of working classes and cost of living. See letter from
Wm. T. Costigan, **732**. Increase of cost of living has created a tendency among the poorer
 classes to crowd into small houses or "double up" in larger ones, *Dr. Decrow*,
609. Prices and quality of meat, *E. Doré*, **716**. Comparison of prices of dry goods used by
 the working classes 15 years ago and to day, *J. O. Dupuis*, **711**. Comparison of price of
 groceries used by the working classes now and six years ago, *Chas. Lacaille*, **710**.
 Price of provisions, *Chas. Langlois*, **719**. Comparison of prices of boots and shoes used
 by the working classes now and four years ago, *C. E. Ranger*, **714**. Price of fish compared
 with prices ten years ago, *Adolphe Raymond*, **723**. Price of clothing for working
 classes compared with ten years ago, and reason why cheaper, *Hollis Shorey*,
725. Quebec. Price of board for young girls, *Miss * * **, **989**. *G. Beaudoin*,
901. Price of board and cost of living Quebec and Montreal compared, *Mary Buchanan*,
818-819. *J. Carrol*, **924-925-926**. *J. Glass*, **772**. Cost of living Quebec and
 Montreal compared, *A. Langlois*, **956**. Wood a cheaper fuel for working classes than
 coal, *G. P. Lawrence*, **839**. Impossible for a working man and family to live on
 \$5.00 a week, *E. Sanschagrin*, **860**. St. Hyacinthe. Price of board, *M. Dupont*,
1318. Price young girls pay for board, *H. Lemoine*, **1296**. Increased, *C. Robidoux*,
1290. Sherbrooke. Now and five years ago compared, *E. G. Bryant*, **1241**.
 Now and nineteen years ago compared, *F. Lord*, **1194**. Of ship-laborers in Boston,
 New York and Montreal compared, *Geo. Brown*, **646**.

COTTON FACTORIES AND EMPLOYEES THEREOF.

Coaticooke. See evidence of *Jonathan K. Wfird*, **542**. Montreal. See evidence of
Adelaide Dagenais, **481**. *Mrs. Julia Dubois*, **485**. *Josephine Durand*, **475**.
Dame Sarah Fontaine, **640**. *Demoiselle A. Fontaine*, **639**. *Dame Clarissa Gamache*,
476. *Andrew F. Gault*, **571**. *Mrs. Matilda Hingston*, **486**.

CORSET FACTORIES, ETC.—*Continued.*

Mrs. Kane, **484**. *Dame Henrietta Larouche*, **482**. *Adeline Martin*, **477**. *Leonce Martin*, **475**. *Patrick Shannon*, paymaster, Hochelaga Cotton Mills, **571**. *Cordelia Telmosse*, **483**. *James G. Wolger*, **502**. Sherbrooke. See evidence of *Florence McArthur*, **1205**.

COURT COSTS AND BAILIFF'S CHARGES in collecting small debts, Montreal, *Thomas Greatorex*, **687-688**.

CREDIT SYSTEM.

Quebec, employees of the Court House compelled to live on credit because they received no pay, *Napoleon Chamberland*, **784**. Bread sold on credit in Quebec, *E. Sanschagrin*, **869**. *R. Turner*, **1057**.

CRIME.

The use of intoxicating liquors the excuse for at least eighty per cent. of the crime committed, *Judge Dugas*, Montreal, **449**.

CROCKERY.

Price of crockery to-day compared with price ten years ago, *D. Lavoilette*, Montreal, **703**.

CURRIERS. See TANNERS AND CURRIERS.

DESIGNERS AND DESIGNS.

Designs of wall paper, where procured, *C. McArthur*, Montreal, **575**. Salary of a first-class floor oilcloth designer: in England. Where designs for floor oilcloth are procured, *John Bailie*, Montreal, **577**.

DESTITUTION and its causes, *E. Hollis*, Montreal, **730**.

"DISCREDITANTE," or drumming among lawyers, *Rouer Roy*, Montreal, **704**.

"DISCOUNTING" moulders' work, Montreal, *H. Lapierre*, **474**.

DIVIDENDS. Amount of yearly dividends of the Street Railway Co., Quebec, *S. Moore*, **823**.

"DOCKING" WAGES. Docking his pay and dismissal without notice, *C. Imbeau*, Tanner, Quebec, **907**.

DOMINION STEAMSHIP COMPANY. See evidence of *W. M. Macpherson*, Agent, **915**.

DRAIN PIPE FACTORY AND EMPLOYEES THEREOF. See evidence of *F. X. Dumont*, Quebec, **1048**.

DRAINAGE, Montreal. Drainage and conveniences of workingmen's houses now being built, *L. Cousineau*, **583**. *I. C. Radford*, **667**. Drainage system of the city, *A. W. Short*, **549-550**.

DRINKING HABITS.

Capelton miners, *W. H. Nichols*, **1263**. Drunkenness too prevalent among the working classes, *Judge Dugas*, Montreal, **450**.

DRY GOODS STORE AND CLOTHING HOUSE EMPLOYEES.

Quebec, *C. T. Cotté*, **1005**. *J. Paquette*, **807**.

DRYING ROOM EMPLOYEES in lumber mills, Montreal, *T. B. Campeau*, **654**.

DWELLINGS OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

Capelton, *W. H. Nicholls*, **1263**. Hull, *W. H. Garrioch*, **1246**. *Z. St. Amour*, **1339**. Montreal. MRS * * * , **643**. Copy of the Rules and Requirements of the *Artisan's Dwelling House Co.*, **733**. *Samuel Cursley*, **17**. Over-

DWEELLINGS OF THE WORKING CLASSES—Continued.

crowding of the working classes into buildings unfit to live in. See letter of *Wm T. Costigan*, **732**. *L. Cousineau*, **582**. See evidence of *Dr. Decrow*, **606-609**. Cost of notice of landlord for repairs. *C. J. Doherty*, **216**. *Réné Giguere*, **713**. *E. Hollis*, **630**. See evidence of *Fred. Judah*, **660**. *J. A. Matthewson*, **616-617**. *B. Osiris*, **472**. Of working carpenters. *S. Paquette*, **661**. *T. C. Radford*, **667**. Disadvantage to workmen of the present system of leasing. *A. W. Short*, **547**. Proportion of income which ought to be paid for rent. *J. C. Wilson*, **326**. Quebec. *G. Beaudoin*, **901**. *C. T. Côté*, **1007**. No water-works or privies in some sections of the city. *T. Fontaine*, **779**. Decrease in value of property in quarters of the city occupied by workmen. *J. B. Grenier*, **812**. Average rental *J. B. Grenier*, **813**. Constitution. *J. B. Grenier*, **815**. *Hon. John Hearne*, **595-596**. *O. Imbeau*, **993**. *S. Moore*, **822**. *Charles O'Leary*, **838**. Accomodations firemen get at the stations and rents they pay. *P. Shea*, **1042**. *St. Hyacinthe*. *J. C. Cassavant*, **1271**. *O. Delage*, **1329**. *P. Larrivière*, **1292**. *Sherbrooke*. *G. G. Bryant*, **1241**. Of employees of the Pulp Factory. *F. P. Bucke*, **1195**. *A. Sangster*, **1225**. *H. Thibeau*, **1239**.

DYERS. At Magog. *J. K. Ward*, Montreal, **543**.

EDUCATION.

Capelton. School fees. Night schools, *G. Bable*, **1253**. Schools for miners' children provided by the Orford Copper and Sulphur Company, *J. Blue*, **1249**. *F. Cotton*, **1256**. Schools and school fees, *F. Doré*, **1256-1257**. For miners' children, *Jos. Ledoux*, **1257**. *W. H. Nicholls*, **1203**. *J. Wearne*, **1252**. Hull. Educational condition of children working in the match factory, *D. Casey*, **1341**. Children working classes, *E. Dorion*, **1336**. Educational opportunity and capacity of children in the match factory. *R. Deschenes*, **1349-1350**. Free technical schools and a guess at how they might be appreciated and attended. *Vaillancourt*, **1352**. Montreal.—Benefits of technical education to carpenters and stair builders, *Mr. * * ** **642**. Hours for opening public schools, *J. Beatty*, **360**. Industrial and technical schools for carriage builders, *Paul Chartrand*, **195**. Inadequate remuneration given to teachers in common schools. See letter from *W. T. Costigan*, **732**. Boy's Home, *J. R. Dick*, **223**. Technical education, *B. C. Fisher*, **580**. For machinists, *Wm. Keys*, **518**. Night schools for factory employees established in various wards of the city, *E. Masson*, **702**. Drawing for moulders, *T. Monaghan*, **306**. Class for leather pattern cutters, *A. Patrie*, **240**. Technical education at the Government school, Montreal, *R. Reid*, **441**. Price of school supplies now and ten years ago compared, *Octavien Rolland*, **723**. Disinclination of boys to profit by, also technical education, *D. Rutherford*, **537**. Industrial and technical schools, see evidence of *S. C. Stevenson*, Secretary of the Arts and Manufactures Association, and Director of Technical Schools, **58**. Quebec.—Of joiners, *M. Boivin*, **862**. Schools of Arts and Manufactures, *J. Carrel*, **926**. Want of education among dry goods clerks and necessity for it among workmen, *Chas. T. Côté*, **1004-1005**. Extent of education required by printers' apprentices. Free public libraries, *Geo. Gale*, **1035**. Educational proficiency of tanners. His children prevented from going to school because of having to eke out a living for the family, *O. Imbeau*, **907**. Necessity for technical education, *W. A. Marsh*, **962-963**. Among boot and shoe factory employees, *Octave Migner*, **973**. Night schools, *A. Paquette*, **868**. The cheapness of higher education enables the sons of mechanics to enter learned professions. Effect of education on labor. Desire of sons of mechanics to enter learned professions, *Simon Peters*, **843**. Young men, after spending years at college, are not in condition, nor do they desire to learn a trade, *Simon Peters*, **844**. Advantage of art and design schools to mechanics, *Simon Peters*, **845**. Technical schools for

EDUCATION—*Continued*

tailors, *G. Racine*, **1073**. Commercial and technical education, *W. A. Thom*, **829-830**. Art school and technical education, *W. R. Heneker*, **1200-1201**. Technical schools, *W. Routelle*, **1207**. England.—Schools of design, *R. W. Heneker*, **1201**.

ELECTRIC LIGHT.

The use of electric light in loading and unloading ships. *W. M. Macpherson*, Quebec, **917**.

EMPLOYER'S LIABILITY.

See evidence of *Patrick J. Dalton*, Longshoreman, Montreal, **183**. *C. J. Doherty*, Montreal, **214**. *Edward Graves*, Carpenter, Montreal, **149**. *James Kirwan*, Policeman, Quebec, **1097**. *Charles Labelle*, Carpenter, **149**. Plight in which dry goods clerks are when masters fail. *L. H. Laramée*, **371**. *Edward Lusher*, Manager of Montreal Street Railway, **67**. Canadian steam overhauled. *J. Lynnas*, **361**. Ship owners are liable for ship laborer's wages in case the stevedore does not pay. *W. M. Macpherson*, **918**. *Dolphus J. Marsan*, Secretary of No. 5 Ship Laborers' Society, **1090**. *Henry B. Moore*, Secretary-Treasurer G. T. R. Provident Society, **120**. *Geo. D. Roach*, Stevedore, Montreal, **668-669**. *Thos. C. Shaunnessy*, Assistant General Manager of the C. P. R., **161**. *R. A. Smith*, of Messrs H. & A. Allan, Montreal, **159-200**. *Edmund Tarte*, Longshoreman, **176-181**. *James Urquhart*, Paymaster for Messrs H. & A. Allan, Montreal, **174**. *William Wainright*, Assistant General Manager G. T. R., **113-119**. *Joseph Young*, Book-keeper, Canada Sugar Refinery, at Montreal, **173**.

ENGINEER, CITY. Montreal. *A. W. Short*, **550**.

ENGINEERS, MECHANICAL.

Quebec. See evidence of *Alexander Larmouth*, **1052**.

ENGINEERS, MARINE.

See evidence of Capt. *A. Goulet*, Montreal, **521**. *J. B. Labelle*, M.P., **487**.

ENGINEERS, STATIONERY.

Montreal. Examination of—. *E. O. Champagne*, **708**. Quebec. At the Boot and Shoe factory. Miss * * *, **988**. Miss * * *, sewer, **991**. Foreman of the tannery runs the engine and is incapable. *A. Blais*, **914**. *T. Darveau*, **1046**. At the Rope factory, *F. Drouin*, **972**. At his tannery. *F. Gourdau*, **1066**. *A. Larmouth*, **1053**. *D. Marsan*, **948**. *W. A. Marsh*, **965**. *E. Mercier*, **1008**. *John Roach*, **1054**. St. Hyacinthe. At the Organ factory. *J. C. Cassavant*, **1270**. Sherbrooke. The man who runs the engine at the Boston Bakery is not a competent engineman, *T. W. Fuller*, **1204**.

E. T. CORSET MANUFACTURING COMPANY'S Rules and Regulations, **1243**.

EXECUTION OF JUDGMENTS.

Legal delays between judgment against a debtor. Seizure of his household effects, publication and sale, *C. J. Doherty*, Montreal, **211**. In cases of non-payment of house rent, *C. J. Doherty*, **215**. *Thomas Greatorex*, laborer, Montreal, **88**. *Peter S. Z. Lanctot*, clerk, Montreal, **191**.

EXPLOSIVES.

Used at the Albert Mines, Capelton, *W. H. Nicholls*, **1263**.

EXPORTATION.

Of manufactured products, *Chas. T. Coté*, Quebec, **1006**. Of boots and shoes to England from St. Hyacinthe, *J. Coté*, **1314**. Quebec goods not suitable for the English market, *W. A. Marsh*, **962**. *Octave Migner*, **973**. From Mon-

EXPORTATION—Continued.

treal to England, Ireland and West Indies, *M. C. Mularkey*, **446**. Of flour from Quebec, *W. Carrier*, **1067**. Of grain, *F. Kerouack*, **1002**. Of leather from Quebec, *F. Gourdeau*, **1066**. From St. Hyacinthe, *J. T. Duclos*, **1314**. Of square timber falling off, *F. H. Andrews*, Quebec, **803**. Of refined sugar, Possibility of, *A. Baumgarten*, Montreal, **621**.

FACTORY LAWS.

Samuel Carsley, Montreal, **16-17-20**. Is not aware of the existence of, *D. Casey*, Hull, **1343-1344**. *C. T. Cote*, Quebec, **1006**. Is not aware of any law to prevent employment of children under 12 years of age, *E. Dorion*, Hull, **1336**. Regulating hours of labor, *J. Dassault*, Quebec, **943**. *E. Hollis*, Montreal, **631**. Desire of workmen for a good Factory Act for the Province of Quebec, *W. Keys*, **518**. Never heard of them, *C. H. Nutter*, Sherbrooke, **1214**. *Andrew Patton*, woollen manufacturer, Sherbrooke, **1165**. Not aware of the existence of any law regulating employment of children, *Z. St. Amour*, **1339-1340**. *George S. Warren*, Montreal, cigarmaker, Montreal, **58**. *William R. Webster*, Sherbrooke, **1176**. *S. W. Wells*, Montreal, **552**.

FACTUMS.

Rule of the Court fixing price for printing factums, *J. Dassault*, Quebec, **944**. Reduction on the price for printing factums, *L. P. Pelletier*, Quebec, **988**.

FEMALE LABOR.

BAKERIES.—Montreal. *E. Pole*, **598-599**.

BOOT AND SHOE FACTORIES.—Montreal. *O. D. Renoit*, **366**. *Z. Lapierre*, **437-439**. *J. McCready*, **491**. *Emanuel Masson*, **702**. *M. C. Mularkey*, **414-415**. Quebec. *Miss * * **, **986**. *Mrs. * * **, **982-983-985**. *Miss * * **, sewer, **990-991**. *Miss * * **, stitcher, **990**. *L. Arien*, **909**. *Joseph Depatie*, **905**. *Treffle Dumas*, **1111-1112**. *Geo. Ferguson*, **965**. *D. Marsan*, **948**. *W. A. Marsh*, **961-964**. *O. Mignier*, **972-973**. *L. A. Perreault*, **974**. *L. Robitaille*, **949**. St. Hyacinthe, *J. Coté*, **1314**.

BRUSH FACTORY.—Quebec. *R. Turner*, **1056**.

CARTRIDGE FACTORY.—Quebec. *Major Prevost*, Superintendent Government factory, **800**. *Chas. Robitaille*, **787**.

CIGAR FACTORIES.—Montreal. *A. H. Davis*, **135**. *Ovike Grothe*, **148**. *Erie Massy*, **21**. *Patrick J. Ryan*, **33**. *A. H. Wood*, **142**. Sherbrooke. *Dame Aglaé Boucher*, **1181**. *P. Morin*, **1186**. *Wm. R. Webster*, **1175**.

CONFECTIONERY DEPARTMENT Boston Bakery, Sherbrooke, *T. W. Fuller*, **1204**.

CORDAGE FACTORY.—Quebec. *R. Cantin*, **968**. *J. Brown*, **864**.

CORSET FACTORIES.—Montreal. *C. J. Grenier*, **700**. Quebec. *G. E. Amyot*, **810**. Sherbrooke. *A. Corriveau*, **1219**. *Octave Gendron*, **1157**.

COTTON FACTORIES.—Hochelaga Mill, Montreal. *Adelaide Dagenais*, **481-482**. *Mrs. Julia Dubois*, **485**. *Mrs. Matilda Hingston*, **486**. *Dame Henrietta Larouche*, **482-483**. *Mrs. Kane*, **484**. *Cordelia Telmasse*, **483-484**.

DRY GOODS STORES.—Montreal. *Sam Carsley*, **14**. *Peter S. Z. Lanctot*, **190**. Quebec. *Z. Paquette*, **807**. *Joseph A. Roy*, **1092**. Sherbrooke, *Walter Blue*, **1170**.

DRESSMAKERS' AND MILLINERS' SHOPS.—Montreal. See evidence of *Miss * * ** **592**. *J. O. Labrecque*, **400**.

DYE SHOP CLERKS.—Montreal. *Miss * * ** **593**.

FURRIERS' ESTABLISHMENTS.—Quebec. *J. H. Holt*, **836**. *J. E. Latulippe*, **931**. *Jos. Vermette*, **850**.

FEMALE LABOR—Continued.

KNITTING FACTORY.—St. Hyacinthe. *G. Bachand*, 1296. *V. Bouchard*, 1280. *Miss A. Blanchette*, 1284. *H. Cordeau*, 1278. *Miss Philomene Desgranges*, 1282. *H. Lemoine*, 1295-1296. *O. Loranger*, 1294. *Eugenie Trudeau*, 1285.

LAUNDRIES.—Montreal. *T. H. Love*, 688. *A. H. Simms*, 494. Quebec Steam Laundry. *Mary Buchanan*, 818.

LEATHER GOODS FACTORY.—Montreal, *H. Porter*, 669.

MARBLE POLISHING.—Montreal. *E. Cline*, 469. *John Murphy*, 472. *E. Wills*, 471.

MATCH FACTORIES.—Hull. *D. Casey*, 1340-1344. *N. Dufaux*, 1351. St. Romuald, *Miss * * ** 1145-1147. *William Belanger*, 1142.

PAPER MILLS.—Quebec. *J. Reed*, 1060.

PRINTING OFFICES.—Levis. *Joseph Edouard Mercier*, 1135. Montreal. Female type setters on a Montreal newspaper, *J. Beatty*, 356. In a compositors' room the best girl is worth the best man, *H. Graham*, 327. Short apprenticeship of females in printing offices, *A. P. Pigeon*, 429. Rates for female type-setters, *F. Stanley*, 331. Quebec, *A. Langlois*, 957.

RUBBER FACTORY.—Montreal. *Wm. Gallagher*, 685. *J. J. McGill*, 569.

SEAMSTRESS.—Quebec. *Mrs. Elie Marcoux*, 1103.

SEWING MACHINE FACTORY.—Messenger, *Citizens Insurance Co.*, 619.

SHIRT AND COLLAR FACTORY.—Montreal. *A. H. Simms*, 494.

TANNERIES.—Quebec. *A. Pion*, 975. St. Hyacinthe. *M. Boudreau*, 1311. *S. T. Duclos*, 1313. *Virginia Leonard*, 1311.

TELEPHONE OFFICES.—Montreal. See evidence of *Lilian West Camp*, 524. St. Hyacinthe. *M. A. Connell*, 1272.

TAILOR SHOPS AND CLOTHING HOUSES.—Montreal. Females who do work outside for wholesale houses, *A. Ephraim*, 557. *Isaac Gold*, 558. *Joseph Myers*, 559. *Israel Solomon*, 560. Quebec. *Wm. Lee*, 854. *David Morgan*, 768. *Z. Paquette*, 808. *G. Racine*, 1072. Sherbrooke. *N. T. Dussault*, 1220.

TOBACCO FACTORIES.—Montreal. * * *, tobacco worker, 679. *W. C. McDonald*, 529. *S. W. Wells*, 552. Quebec. *F. X. Dussault*, 851.

WOOLLEN FACTORIES.—Quebec. *Miss * * ** 1122. *W. H. Naylor*, 1029. Sherbrooke. *Job Ainsworth*, 1191. *G. Dorion*, 1233. Flannels and dress goods, *Alexander G. Lomas*, 1172. *Andrew Patton*, 1164. Desirability of French female labor, *J. Jackson*, 354. Female labor, *Louis Laberge*, Medical Health Officer, Montreal, 4. A manager too free with his female employees, *P. Pleau*, 320.

FINING OF EMPLOYEES.

BOOT AND SHOE FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. Does not fine his employees, but sometimes finds it necessary to discharge them, *M. C. Mularky*, 447. Quebec. *Miss * * ** 987. *Miss * * ** forewoman, slip sole department, 989. *E. Mercier*, 1009. Female employees fined because closets dirty, *S. Turcotte*, 972. St. Hyacinthe, *J. Coté*, 1315.

BOX FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—St. Romuald. *Telesphore Lafrance*, 1155.

CARTRIDGE FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Quebec. *Wm. Dickson*, 798-799-800. *Thomas Lane*, 777. *Major Prevost*, 801-802. *Chas. Robitaille*, 786.

CIGAR FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. * * * 42. *Edouard Arcouette*, 83. *Ferdinand Brissette*, 28. *Theophile Charron*, 25. *Jacques Claude*, 83. *Achille Dagenais*, 26. *Augustin Duval*, 70. *Joseph Faille*, 74. *J. M. Fortier*, 130-132. *Joseph Fournier*, 81. *Joseph Gagnon*, 51. *Edmund Gauthier*, 29. *Leon*

FINING OF EMPLOYEES—Continued.

Girandais, 53. *Stanislaus Goyette*, 40. *Ovide Grothe*, 145. *Horace Laframboise*, 76. *Alphonse Lafrance*, 31. *Alexander McGregor*, 96. *Elise Massy*, 22. *Edouard Miron*, 30. *William Plante*, 78. *George Robley*, 47. *Charles Weir*, 39. *A. H. Wood*, 139. *Sherbrooke*. *F. Cruikshanks*, 1230. *Louis Daigle*, 1182. *A. Fournier*, 1183. *O. Gauthier*, 1235. *F. Legrine*, 1236-1237. *C. H. Nutter*, 1212-1215. *Wm. R. Webster*, 1235.

CORDAGE FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Quebec. *R. Cantin*, 968. *F. Dorion*, 970. *E. Landry*, 970.

CORSET FACTORY EMPLOYEES. Montreal. *Camille J. Grenier*, 701. Quebec. *Geo. E. Amyot*, 811. *Sherbrooke*. *A. Corriveau*, 1219. *Octave Gendron*, 1158.

COTTON FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Coaticook Cotton Mills, *J. K. Ward*, 542. Montreal. *D. Cook*, 337-340. *R. W. Eaton*, 393. *Demoiselle A. Fontaine*, 640. *Dame Sarah Fontaine*, 640-641. *Andrew F. Gault*, 571. *Mrs. Matilda Hingston*, 486. *J. Jackson*, 351-352. *Mrs. Kane*, 484. Injustice of fines imposed at the Hochelaga Mills, — *Machuet*, 273. *Adeline Martin*, 478-480. *P. Pleau*, 315, 316, 318, 319. Fines imposed on the employees of the St. Anne and Hudon cotton factories during five years ending 31st December, 1887. *P. C. Shannon*, 571-572. Statement of fines imposed and collected by the Montreal Manufacturing Company during last five years, 734. Statement of fines collected by the Hochelaga Manufacturing Company during 1887, 738. Rules regulating fining of employees, adopted by the overseers in each of the various departments of the Hochelaga Cotton Mills, 739-740. *Sherbrooke*. *F. McArthur*, 1206.

DRY GOODS STORE EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. *Samuel Carsley*, 19. *Peter S. Z. Lanctot*, 193. Quebec. *Joseph A. Roy*, 1093.

FIREMEN.—Montreal, *T. H. Hogan*, 697. *Chief Wm. Patton*, 673-675.

HACKMEN.—Quebec. *J. McDermott*, 1041.

KNITTING FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—St. Hyacinthe, *G. Bachand*, 1296. *J. Barbeau*, 1326. *Feodore Boas*, 1310. *Maurice Boas*, 1301-1305. *V. Bouchard*, 1280. *N. Boucher*, 1287-1289. *H. Cordeau*, 1278. *P. Desgranges*, 1282. *H. Gagné*, 1291. *A. Gosselin*, 1320. *A. Lapierre*, 1298. *H. Lemoine*, 1295. *C. Robidoux*, 1290.

LONGSHOREMEN.—Montreal. *Edmund Tarte*, 178.

MATCH FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Hull. *D. Casey*, 1341. St. Romuald, *Miss * * ** 1146-1147.

PRINTERS.—Montreal. *O. Corriveau*, 432.

PULP FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Sherbrooke. *Francis P. Buck*, 1196.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.—See evidence of *Thomas C. Shaunessy*, Assistant General Manager C. P. R., 165.

RUBBER FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. *Wm. Gallagher*, 685.

STREET RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. *Edward Lusher*, Manager Montreal Street Railway, 68.

TANNERS.—Montreal. *Francois Lainé*, 593. *D. Lemay*, 562. *H. Porter*, 670.

TOBACCO FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. * * * tobacco worker, 679, 680, 681, 682. *Florina Lacoste*, 480. *W. C. McDonald*, 530. *S. W. Wells*, 555. Quebec. *F. X. Dussault*, 851.

WOOLLEN FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Quebec. *Wm. H. Naylor*, 1030. *Sherbrooke*, *Job Ainsworth*, 1191-1192. *G. Dorion*, 1233. Flannel and dress goods, *A. G. Lomas*, 1173. *Andrew Patton*, 1165. St. Hyacinthe. *G. C. Desauls*, 1313.

FIRES, CAUSES OF. *O. Leclair*, Montreal, **713**.

FIRE ESCAPES.

Hull. Match Factory, *D. Casey*, **1344**. Montreal. Canadian Rubber Co.'s Factory, *Wm. Gallagher*, **686**. At his boot factory, *Z. Lapierre*, **437**. Arrangement in Montreal, *Pierre Lacroix*, **706**. *J. McCreedy*, **492**. At his boot and shoe factory, *M. C. Mularky*, **445**. At his shirt factory, *A. H. Simms*, **495**. At McDonald's Tobacco Factory, *S. W. Wells*, **556**. Quebec. At the Rope Factory, *R. Contin*, **968**. *F. Drouin*, **972**. Tobacco Factory, *F. X. Dussault*, **852**. At Renfrews' Fur shop, *J. H. Holt*, **835**. At the tannery, *O. Imbeau*, **907**. Paquette's Fur Store, *J. E. Latulippe*, **941**. At his tobacco factory, *W. J. LeMescurier*, **771**. At his boot and shoe factory, *W. A. Marsh*, **963**. At the Quebec Worsted Factory, *Wm. H. Naylor*, **1030**. St. Hyacinthe. At the Granite Knitting Mills, *V. Bouchard*, **1287**. *P. Lavoie*, **1292-1293**. At Seguin & Lalime's Boot and Shoe Factory, *O. Delaje*, **1328-1329**. Sherbrooke. At the woollen factory, *Job Ainsworth*, **1192**.

FIRE EXTINGUISHING ARRANGEMENTS.

On the Ontario and Richelieu Navigation Co.'s Steamers, *J. B. Labelle*, *M.P.*, **488**.

FIREMEN.

Montreal. See evidence of *J. Beckingham*, **690**. *Jas. Doolan*, **695**. *Thos. H. Hoyan*, **696**. Chief *Wm. Patton*, **672**. *J. St. Pierre*, **698**. Quebec. See evidence of *Abraham Dubé*, **1049**. *Thomas Kennedy*, **1073**. *Pat. Shea*, **1042**.

FLOUR.

Improvement in quality, *M. Brossard*, **712**. Sold in Quebec. *F. Kirouack*, **1002**. Price in Sherbrooke, *A. Marchisseau*, **1218**.

FOODS.

Inspection of, in Montreal. See evidence of *Isaiah C. Radford*, Sanitary Inspector, **666**. Result of analysis to ascertain the purity of food sold in Montreal. See evidence of *Dr. J. B. Edwards*, Public Analyst, **664**.

FOREIGN CONTRACT LABOR.

At the Montreal Glass Factory, *Wm. F. Borland*, **589**. *A. H. Davis*, cigar manufacturer, Montreal, **136**. Imported by the Grand Trunk Railway Co., as moulders, *J. Flaherty*, **465**. *John Irvine*, **466**. *R. Powers*, **457**. Employed at willow work, Montreal. See evidence of *Geo. H. Holland*, **632**. Class of laborers emigrating to Canada under contract. *Lawrence Stafford*, **794**.

FOUNDRYMEN.

At Levis. See evidence of *George Beaudoin*, **901**. At Montreal. See evidence of *Charles Anderson*, **466**. *T. J. Baldon*, **500**. *Owen Duffy*, **459**. *John Irvine*, **465**. *Henri Lapierre*, **473**. *John O'Flaherty*, **462**. *R. Powers*, **456**. At Quebec. See evidence of *Geo. Beaudoin*, **899**. *Alex. Brissette*, **831**. *Joseph Lachance*, **903**. *A. Lavoie*, **903**. *A. Theriault*, **902**. At Sherbrooke. See evidence of *H. A. Elkins*, **1217**. *J. M. Jenks*, **1208**.

FRAUDULENT IMITATION.

Placing the name of a high priced piano on an inferior one for selling purposes. — — Journalist. Montreal, **605-606**.

FREIGHT CHARGES.

Ocean freights, *W. M. Mrepherson*, **915**. On flour, cheaper from Ontario to the Lower Provinces than from Ontario to Quebec. *W. Carrier*, Quebec, **1067**.

FUEL.

Price of fuel in Capelton, *G. Babb*, **1255**.

FURNITURE.

Difference in the quality of hand and machine made furniture. Price of furniture used by the working classes twenty per cent. cheaper than twenty years ago, *Owen McGarvey*, **726**.

FURNITURE FACTORY EMPLOYEES.

Montreal. See evidence of *Owen McGarvey*, **726**.

FURRIERS AND FURRIERS' EMPLOYEES.

Quebec. See evidence of *J. H. Holt*, **834**. *Jean E. Latulippe*, **931**. *Jos. Vermette*, **949**.

GARNISHMENT OF WAGES. See LIEN LAWS AND GARNISHMENT OF WAGES.**GAS AND WATER COMPANIES' EMPLOYEES.**

Montreal. See evidence of *James F. Scriver*, Manager and Secretary Gas Company, **567**. Sherbrooke. See evidence of *A. Sangster*, **1224**.

GLASS MAKING AND GLASS FACTORY EMPLOYEES.

Montreal. See evidence of *Wm. F. Borland*, **586**.

GRAIN ELEVATORS.

Reasons why there are none in Quebec, *F. Kirouack*, **1003**.

GRAIN, EXPORTATION OF, *F. Kirouack*, 1002.**GRAIN MERCHANTS' EMPLOYEES.**

Quebec. See evidence of *W. M. Carrier*, **1066**.

GRANITE.

Newfoundland granite compared with Scotch, *R. Reid*, Montreal, **443**.

GRAVING DOCK EMPLOYEES.

Quebec. See evidence of *John Roach*, **1053**.

GROCCERS' ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL. See COMBINATIONS.**HACKMEN. See CARTERS.****HARNESTMAKERS. See SADDLERS.****HEALTH OF THE CITY OF QUEBEC. *Hon. John Hearne*, 797.****HEALTH INSPECTORS. See INSPECTION AND INSPECTORS.****HEALTHINESS OF OCCUPATIONS.**

Baker in Hetherington's bakery, Quebec, *Jos. Sanschagrin*, **858**. Chemical works laborer, Capelton, *E. Hebert*, **1259**. Dyer, Granite Knitting Mills, St. Hyacinthe, *P. Larivierre*, **1292**. Quebec Steam Laundry, *Mary Buchanan*, **818**. Match Factory, Hull, *D. Casey*, **1341**. *E. Dorion*, **1337**. *E. Murphy*, **1364**. Tanner, *F. Lainé*, Montreal, **595**. Wall paper factory, Montreal, *C. McArthur*, **575**.

HEMP.

Possibility of farmers in Canada raising the hemp now imported by cordage manufacturers, *J. Brown*, **866**.

HOLIDAYS.

Firemen, Montreal, *Chief Wm. Patton*, **675**. *T. H. Hogan*, **698**. Firemen, Quebec, *A. Dubé*, **1049**. Works at the Hochelaga Mills, obligatory on holidays, ——— machinist, **277**. Leave of absence granted employees when asked for by Quebec Street Railway Co., *S. Moore*, **823**. Employees Quebec Worsted Factory dismissed for refusing to work on religious holidays: reason why, *Wm. H. Naylor*, **1029-1031**. Employees of the Riverside Worsted Co., dismissed

HOLIDAYS—Continued.

for staying at home on statutory holidays, *Miss * * ** **981**. If factories closed at one on Saturdays, stores will be closed at six or seven, *C. T. Coté*, **1005**. Holidays in Quebec, *E. H. Wade*, **1014**.

HOSPITALS FOR CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

Montreal. *Dr. Decrow*, **610**.

HOTEL EMPLOYEES.

Hull. See evidence of *Phillippe Labiberte*, **1360**.

HOURS OF LABOR.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—St. Hyacinthe. *H. T. Chalifoux*, **1276**.

AXE MAKERS.—Montreal. *T. J. Moccock*, **143**.

BAKERS AND BISCUIT FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. *E. Chaput*, **563-564**. *E. Pole*, **597**. Quebec. Biscuit bakers, *J. Glass*, **771**. Bakers, *T. Hetherington*, **866**. *J. Sunschaqrin*, **857**. *E. Sanschaqrin*, **860**. St. Hyacinthe, *N. Dupont*, **1319**. Sherbrooke. *T. W. Fuller*, **1204**. *A. Marchesseau*, **1218**.

BARGEMEN.—Quebec. *Jos. Desnoyers*, **817**.

BOOKBINDERS.—Montreal. *H. Morton*, **296**.

BOOT AND SHOE FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. *O. D. Benoit*, **367**. *Z. Lapierre*, **435**. *M. C. Mularky*, **445**. *A. Patrie*, **240**. Quebec. *Miss * * ** **982-985**. *A. Demers*, **1045**. *Geo. Ferguson*, **966**. *D. Marsan*, **948**. *O. Mignier*, **973**. St. Hyacinthe. *C. Coté*, **1327**. *O. Delage*, **1328**. *A. Fournier*, **1332**. Sherbrooke. *C. Beauregard*, **1234**.

BOOM-MEN.—Quebec. *J. Roach*, **1054**.

CABINET-MAKERS.—Sherbrooke, *C. Bourguignon*, **1234**.

CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.—Montreal. *S. Paquette*, **650**. *D. Rutherford*, **538**. Quebec. *P. Belanger*, **996**. *L. Boivin*, **995**. *N. Boivin*, **861**. *J. Fortier*, **781**. *Simon Peters*, **842**. Sherbrooke. *F. X. Thibaudeau*, **1237**.

CARRIAGE-MAKERS.—Montreal. *E. Major*, **506**. Quebec. *A. Paquette*, **868**.

CARTRIDGE FACTORY.—Quebec. *Thomas Lane*, **776**. *Major Prevost*, **800**. *Chas. Robitaille*, **785**.

CHECKERS.—Montreal. Employed by the Allan Steamship Company, *George Douglas*, **585-586**.

COAL HEAVERS. — Montreal. Employed by the C. P. R. Co., *H. Lamoureux*, **514-515**.

COOPERS.—Montreal. *J. Mahoney*, **560-561**. Quebec. *V. Boswell*, **1016**. *A. Lortie*, **998**. *J. Parent*, **939**.

CORDAGE FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—*J. Brown*, **864**. *R. Cantin*, **968**. *F. Drouin*, **971**.

CORSET FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Quebec. *G. E. Amyot*, **810**.

COTTON FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. *D. Cook*, **348**. ———, machinist, **271**. Sherbrooke, *F. McArthur*, **1206**.

DRESSMAKERS.—Montreal. *Miss * * **, **592**.

DRY GOODS CLERKS.—Montreal. *L. H. Laraméo*, **370-371**. Quebec, *C. T. Coté*, **1005**. *J. E. Latulippe*, **941**.

DYER'S SHOP CLERK.—Montreal. *Miss * * **, **593**.

ENGINEERS, MECHANICAL.—Quebec. *A. Larmonth*, **1032**.

EXPRESSMEN.—Montreal. *J. O. Labreque*, **401**.

HOURS OF LABOR—Continued.

- FIREMEN.**—Montreal. *J. Beckingham, 690. J. St. Pierre, 699. Quebec. A. Dubé, 1049. P. Shea, 1042.*
- FOUNDRYMEN.**—Montreal compared with the United States, *R. Powers, 458. Quebec. G. Beaudoin, 904. A. Lavoie, 904. A. Theriault, 902. Sherbrooke, J. M. Jenks, 1209.*
- FURNITURE FACTORY EMPLOYEES.**—Sherbrooke. *Geo. Long, 1208.*
- FURRIERS' EMPLOYEES.**—Quebec. *J. E. Latulippe, 931-934. 940-942. J. H. Holt, 835. Jos. Vermette, 850.*
- GAS HOUSE EMPLOYEES.**—Montreal, *J. F. Scriver, 567.*
- GLASS FACTORY EMPLOYEES.**—Montreal. *Wm. F. Borland, 588.*
- ICE CUTTERS.**—Montreal. *R. A. Beckett, 671. Quebec. Jos. Desnoyers, 817.*
- INSURANCE COMPANIES' EMPLOYEES.**—Montreal. *Ovide Leclair, 713.*
- KNITTING FACTORY EMPLOYEES.**—St. Hyacinthe (Granite Mills), *A. Blanchette, 1284. M. Boas, 1303. H. Bouchard, 1280. N. Boucher, 1287-1288. P. Desgranges, 1282. H. Gagné, 1291. A. Gossetin, 1321. A. Laperriere, 1297. H. Lemoine, 1295. A. Pichette, 1293. E. Trudeau, 1285.*
- LABORERS.**—Quebec. *J. Bresseau, 1071.* Grain merchants' laborers. *W. Carrier, 1067.* Employed in the earthenware pipe factory, *F. X. Dumont, 1048.* Employed at "Spencerwood." *J. Jollen, 1047.* Grain store laborers, *F. Kirouack, 1003.*
- LABORERS, SHIP.**— ———, Montreal, *Geo. Brown, 644.* ———, machinist, *271.* Quebec. *T. Beckett, 880.* Thinks it a hardship to merchants that ship laborers only work eight hours a day, *F. Billingsley, 889. R. Burke, 742. Thos. Enright, 757. Fitzgerald, 745. W. M. Macpherson, 917, 918, 920. A. J. Maguire, 897. P. Mullen, 743-744. W. Rosa, 898. E. H. Wade, 1014.*
- LAUNDRY EMPLOYEES.**—Montreal. *T. H. Love, 689. Quebec. Mary Buchanan, 818.*
- LUMBER MILL AND SASH FACTORY EMPLOYEES.**—Quebec. *Walter S. Ray, 1020. Hull, J. Carriere, 1357. G. C. Champagne, 1356. Domina Dupuis, 1354. Hormidas Dupuis, 1354. W. H. Garrioch, 1345. J. H. Kerr, 1348. J. Latulippe, 1360. E. St. Amour, 1339. J. Vaillancourt, 1351.*
- MALSTERS.**—Quebec. *V. Boswell, 1016.*
- MARBLE CUTTERS AND POLISHERS.**—Montreal. *E. Cline, 470. John Murphy, 472. R. Reid, 442. W. Saggerton, 467.*
- MATCH FACTORY EMPLOYEES.**—Hull. *R. Duchenes, 1349-1350. J. Dorion, 1360. N. Drouin, 1361. E. Murphy, 1364.*
- MESSENGERS.**—For Messrs. H. & A. Allan, Montreal. *A. Luttrell, 591.*
- MILKMEN.**—Quebec. *R. Bussières, 998.*
- MILLINER'S CLERK.**—Montreal. *Miss * * * 592.*
- MINERS.**—Capelton. *J. Blue, 1245-1247. F. Doré, 1257. Jos. Ledoux, 1257. W. H. Nichols, 1263. J. Wearne, 1250-1253.*
- NAIL FACTORY EMPLOYEES.**—Montreal. *E. Hersey, 303.*
- OIL CLOTH FACTORY EMPLOYEES.**—Montreal. *John Bailie, 577.*
- ORGAN FACTORY EMPLOYEES.**—St. Hyacinthe. *J. C. Casavant, 1270. A. Gosselin, 1319.*
- PAINTERS.**—Quebec. *Nap. Chamberland, 783. Geo. McGee, 1036.*
- PAPER-MAKERS.**—Quebec. *J. Reid, 1069.*
- PLASTERERS.**—Montreal. *J. Belanger, 247.*

HOURS OF LABOR—Continued.

PRINTERS.—Montreal. *O. Corriveau*, 432. *N. Duval*, 452. At the Reformatory School Printing Office, *E. Globensky*, 456. Quebec. *J. Carrol*, 923-926. *J. Dussault*, 941-942. *Geo. Gale*, 1034. *J. J. Foote*, 922. *G. Jackson*, 927. *A. Langlois*, 956. Montreal and Quebec compared. *J. Dussault*, 925.

POLICEMEN.—Quebec. *A. Holwell*, 773. *Louis P. Vohl*, 847.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.—On the C. P. R., *J. R. Dick*, 223. *T. A. Mackinnon*, 222. Rules for regulating the hours of labor of conductors on the G. T. R., *E. Townsend*, 625.

ROOFERS.—Montreal. *A. Larivière*, 677. Quebec. *N. Barbeau*, 908. *T. Lachance*, 946. *F. Paradis*, 1068.

RUBBER FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. *Wm. Gallagher*, 685. *J. J. McGill*, 569-571. *M. Palmer*, 684.

SADDLERS.—Quebec. *J. Lessard*, 1004.

SEWING MACHINE FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. *Messenger, Citizens Insurance Co.*, 619.

SHIRT AND COLLAR FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. *A. H. Simms*, 494.

STEAMBOAT EMPLOYEES.—In the employ of the Ontario and Richelieu Navigation Co., *J. B. Labelle, M.P.*, 489. Employed by the Quebec and Levis Co. *Jas. Patton*, 825.

STREET RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.—Quebec. *S. Moore*, 810.

SUGAR REFINERY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. *A. Baumgarten*, 621.

TAILORS.—Montreal. *Isaac Golch*, 558. *Joseph Myers*, 559. Quebec. *D. Morgan*, 768. *Sherbrooke, N. T. Dussault*, 1220.

TANNERS.—Montreal. *F. Laine*, 593. *D. Lemay*, 562. *Geo. O. Mooney*, 545. *H. Porter*, 670. Quebec. *N. Boulé*, 863. *F. Gourdeau*, 1065. *O. Imbeau*, 906. *St. Hyacinthe, M. Bourdeau*, 1311. *T. Guay*, 1312. *E. F. Mosley*, 1274.

TELEPHONE OPERATORS.—Montreal. *Lilian W. Camp*, 524. *C. P. Sclater*, 404. *St. Hyacinthe, M. A. Connell*, 1272.

TOBACCO FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. * * *, tobacco worker, 679. *Maria Ethier*, 481. *Florina Lacoste*, 480. *W. C. McDonald*, 529. *S. W. Wells*, 553. Quebec, *LeMesurier*, 769. In the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec compared, *W. C. McDonald*, 532.

WALL PAPER FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. *C. McArthur*, 575.

WATER AND GAS COMPANY'S EMPLOYEES.—Sherbrooke. *A. Sangster*, 1224.

WOOLLEN FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Quebec. *Miss * * **, 987. *Wm. H. Naylor*, 1029. *Sherbrooke Job. Alnsworth*, 1191. *J. Dinsmore*, 1224. *G. Dorian*, 1233. *Thornton*, 1199.

Shortening hours of labor as a means of social improvement, *B. C. Fisher*, Montreal, 580.

For further evidence on the subject of hours of labor see next item, HOURS OF LABOR AND RATES OF WAGES.

HOURS OF LABOR AND RATES OF WAGES.

BOOT FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Quebec. *Theodore Alain*, 1115. *Geo. Drolet*, shoemaker, 1123. *Trefflé Dumas*, 1112. *Alcide Montreuil*, leather cutter, 1114. *Octave Vezina*, 1123. *St. Romuald, Louis Caouette*, 1152.

BOX FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—*St. Romuald, Regis Gagnon*, 1150. *Alfred Lafrance*, 1151. *Telesphore Lafrance*, 1154.

BREWER.—*Sherbrooke, H. Hopkins*, 1171.

HOURS OF LABOR AND RATES OF WAGES--Continued.

- CABINET MAKERS.—Quebec. *Edward Faucher*, **1128**.
- CARPENTERS.—Quebec. *Joseph Giguire*, **1112-1113**.
- CARRIAGEMAKERS.—Montreal. *Paul Chartrand*, **195**.
- CARTERS.—Quebec. *Isaie Côté*, **1125**.
- CIGAR FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. *Ferdinand Brissette*, **28**. *Theophile Charron*, **24**. *A. H. Davis*, **135**. *Augustin Duval*, **70**. *J. M. Fortier*, **128**. *Stanislaus Goyette*, **49**. *Ovide Grothe*, **147**. *Henry Hart*, **144**. *Alphonse Lafrance*, **31**. *Alexander MacGregor*, **101**. *Elie Massey*, **22**. *George Robley*, **49**. *Patrick J. Ryan*, **36**. *George J. Warren*, **56**. *Charles Weir*, **39**. *A. H. Wood*, **141**. Sherbrooke. *A. Fournier*, **1183**. *W. R. Webster*, **1175**.
- CORSET FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Sherbrooke. *Octave Gendron*, **1157-1158**.
- CONFECTIONERS.—Quebec. *William McWilliams*, **1102**.
- DRY GOODS CLERKS.—Montreal. *Samuel Carsley*, **15**. *P. S. Z. Lanctot*, **189**. Quebec. *Alex. Blais*, **1096**. *Ernest Ferland*, **1095**. *Louis Michel Gagné*, **1091**. *Arthur Godbout*, **1094**. *Joseph D. Gregoire*, **1094**. *Joseph Arsene Roy*, **1092**. Sherbrooke. *Walter Blue*, **1170**.
- ENGINEERS.—Levis. *Alfred Tanguay*, **1154**.
- FOUNDRYMEN.—Levis. *O. Drouin*, moulder, **1140-1141**.
- FURNITURE FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Quebec. *V. C. Côté*, **1111**.
- TINSMITHS.—Sherbrooke. *François Coderre*, **1160-1161**.
- HEALTH OFFICERS' Reply to question regarding hours of labor of children, *Louis Laberge*, Medical Health Officer, Montreal, **4**.
- JOINERS.—Quebec. *Prudent Noel*, **1126-1127**. *Nap. Ruel*, **1125-1126**.
- LABORERS.—St. Romuald. *T. Gagnon*, **1141**. *André Lisabel*, **1152**.
- LONGSHOREMEN OR SHIP LABORERS.—Levis. *Albert Baron*, **1137**. *Stanislaus Beaulieu*, **1132**. Montreal. *John Brennan*, **150**. *Patrick J. Dalton*, **181**. *Peter Ferns*, **202**. *Edmund Tarte*, **175**.
- MATCH FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—St. Romuald. *Miss * ** **1145-1147-1148**. *William Belanger*, **1142**. *Zerpherin Mercier*, **1144**. *Louis Roberge*, **1148**. *E. Robin*, **1149**.
- NIGHT GUARDIAN.—St. Romuald. *J. Robitaille*, **1153**.
- POLICEMEN.—Quebec. *Léon P. Vohl*, **1107**.
- PRINTERS.—Levis. *Joseph Edouard Mercier*, **1133-1137**.
- RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.—See evidence of *James G. Scott*, Manager of the Lake St. John Railway, **1100**. *Thomas C. Shaunnesy*, Assistant General Manager of the C. P. R., **161**. *Wm. Wainwright*, Assistant General Manager of the G. T. R., **108-120**.
- SCHOOLS.—Montreal. *S. C. Stevenson*, Secretary of the Arts and Manufacture Association, and Director of Technical Schools, **6**.
- SEAMSTRESSES.—Quebec. *Mrs. Elie Marcoux*, **1104**.
- STEAMSHIP COMPANY'S EMPLOYEES.—See evidence of *Capt. John Barclay*, **168-201**. *R. A. Smith*, **159**. *James Urquhart*, **173**.
- STONE MASONS.—Quebec. *Augustin Perron*, **1108-1109**.
- STREET RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. *Edward Lusher*, Manager, **65**.
- SURVEYOR, CITY.—Quebec. *Charles Baillarge*, **1109**.
- SUGAR REFINERY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. *Joseph Young*, Bookkeeper, Canada Sugar Refinery, **172**.
- TAILORS.—Quebec. *George Racine*, **1096**.

MOURS OF LABOR, ETC.—Continued.

TANNERS AND CURRIERS.—Quebec. *T. Guay*, **1127**. *Joseph Brosseau*, **1128-1129**.

WOOLLEN FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Quebec. *Miss * * ** **1120-1121-1122**. *Sherbrooke*. *A. G. Lomas*, manufacturer of flannels and dress goods, **1172**. *Andrew Patton*, **1163**. *N. Pelletier*, **1156-1157**.

For further evidence on the subject of wages. See WAGES.

HULL, CITY OF. See evidence of *J. O. Laferriere*, secretary-treasurer, **1334**.

ICE CUTTING AND ICE CUTTERS. Montreal. See evidence of *Robert A. Beckett*, **671**.

IMMIGRATION.

If the money spent on immigration were employed opening up colonization roads it would stop the influx of people into towns, *C. T. Cott*, **1005**. Effect on the working classes, *L. Cousineau*, Montreal, **582**. See evidence of *J. B. Dick*, **225, 226, 227, 228**. False information given Belgian immigrants by bogus Government agents, *Leopold Laliere*, Montreal, **717**. Boys brought out by *Miss McPherson*, *Miss Rye* and *Mr. Quarrier*, *P. Lamontagne*, **236**. Effect on moulders in Montreal, *J. O'Flaherty*, **465**. Immigrant stonecutters from the United States and Scotland, *R. Reid*, Montreal, **441**. Immigrants ought to be prevented from coming to the country between the months of October and March, *J. Richards*, Montreal, **230**. Effect on marble cutters in Montreal, *W. Saggerton*, **468**. Immigrants arriving at Quebec. See evidence of *Lawrence Stafford*, Immigration Agent, **789**. Effects on the marble trade, *E. Wills*, **471**.

IMMORAL AMUSEMENTS AND PLAY BILLS. See evidence of *Henry Harvey*, Montreal, **523**.

IMMORALITY IN FACTORIES. *Wm. Keys*, Montreal, **516**.

IMPORTATIONS. The import trade of Quebec, *T. H. Andrews*, **804**. Sometimes imports parts of the organs he makes; reason why. *J. C. Cassavant*, **1271**. Hides imported free of duty, *S. T. Duclos*, **1314**. Imported saddles compared with Canadian, *E. N. Heney*, Montreal, **509**. Of stereotyped plates for use on newspapers injurious to the interests of printers, *T. J. Finn*, **323**. Of American wall paper, *C. McArthur*, Montreal, **575**. Of leather, *Geo. A. Mooney*, Montreal, **544**. Of saddles, *D. Murphy*, Montreal, **497**. Of English, American and German hardware. See evidence of *Gustave Piché*, Montreal, **715**. Of labor, *P. Pleau*, Montreal, **318**.

INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION. See EDUCATION.

INSPECTION AND INSPECTORS.

OF BOILERS.—Montreal. See evidence of *Edward Octave Champagne*, Inspector, **708**. Quebec, *A. Blais*, **914**. *F. Gourdeau*, **1065**. An inspector of boilers and engines in Quebec a necessity, *A. Larmonth*, **1053**. *W. A. Marsh*, **965**. Of boilers, hulls and machinery on Ontario and Richelieu Navigation Company's boats, *Capt. J. B. Labelle*, *M. P.*, **487**.

OF BREAD.—Hull, *E. Dorion*, **1337**. Montreal, *E. Pole*, **598**. Quebec, *F. Kirouack*, **1002**. *E. Sanschagrin*, **860**. *J. Sanschagrin*, **858**. St. Hyacinthe, *M. Dupont*, **1318**.

OF BUILDINGS AND BUILDERS' SCAFFOLDING.—Montreal, *Pierre Lacroix*, **705-706**. *Joseph Pelletier*, **679**. Quebec, *Chas. A. O'Leary*, **837**.

OF DRAINS.—Montreal, *I. C. Radford*, **667**.

OF FACTORIES.—*J. O. Cassavant*, **1270**. *F. Gourdeau*, Quebec, **1055**. *O. Maguire*, **973**. *Wm. H. Naylor*, **1032**. *E. St. Amour*, of Hull, never heard of ^a

INSPECTION AND INSPECTORS—Continued.

factory inspector, **1340**. *A. Therriault*, of Quebec, never saw an inspector of factories, **903**.

HEALTH INSPECTORS.—Quebec. See evidence of *S. Turcotte*, **912**. St. Hyacinthe, *O. Delage*, **1329**. Sherbrooke. *T. W. Fuller*, **1204**.

SANITARY INSPECTION AND INSPECTORS.—Montreal. See evidence of Sanitary Inspector, *I. C. Radford*, **666**. *Z. Lapierre*, **437**. *A. W. Short*, **549**. Quebec. *Geo. Ferguson*, **966**. *Lemésurier*, **771**. *Simon Peters*, **845**.

OF STABLES.—Quebec, *J. McDermott*, **1041**.

OF STEAMBOATS.—Capt. *A. Goulet*, Montreal, **521-522**. Capt. *J. B. Labelle*, *M. P.*, **487**.

OF WOOD.—Advantage to the working classes of having a wood inspector, *G. P. Lawrence*, Quebec, **840**.

INTEMPERANCE, healthful amusements as a remedy for, *Judge Dugas*, Montreal, **450**.

INSTALMENT PLAN, of selling sewing machines, organs and pianos. See evidence of ———, of Montreal, journalist, **603**.

INSURANCE.

ACCIDENT AND LIFE.—Of firemen, Montreal, *J. Beckingham*, **695**. Chief *Wm. Patton*, **675**. Quebec, *A. Dubé*, **1050**. *P. Shea*, **1042**. Of policemen, Quebec. *A. Howell*, **774**. *L. P. Vohl*, **847**. Of ship laborers, *Geo. Brown*, Montreal, **645**. See letter of *H. & A. Allan*, Montreal, **735**. Accident and Life, monthly payment system for workmen. See evidence of *Ferdinand N. Belcourt*, Montreal, **719**.

BOILER INSURANCE.—Montreal, *E. O. Champagne*, **709**.

FIRE INSURANCE.—Montreal. See evidence of *Pierre Giguire*, Inspector of the Montreal Mutual Insurance Company, **713**. *A. Leclaire*, **712**.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Quebec. *J. Dick*, **764**. *G. Mulrooney*, **756**.

Insurance compulsory, *F. Rolland*, **334-336**.

INVESTMENTS.—Montreal. Tenement houses and cottages as an investment compared, *Fred. Judah*, **662**.

IRON.—Canadian iron not suitable for making glassmakers' moulds, *Wm. F. Borland*, Montreal, **587**.

"IRONCLAD CONTRACTS."

See evidence of *J. Carrel*, **924-925**. Required at *La Justice* printing office, Quebec, *Geo. Cook*, **1046**. *P. J. Dalton*, Montreal, **182**. Members of the Typographical Union not allowed to sign such documents. Printers in Quebec refused work unless they sign "ironclad" documents, *A. Langlois*, **951-958**. *Alexander MacGregor*, Montreal, **99**. Bargemen at Quebec are forced to sign such agreement as a condition of employment, *H. Mecteau*, **1001**. Exacts from all who seek employment at his office a declaration that they do not belong to the Knights of Labor; reasons why he does so, *L. P. Pelletier*, Quebec, **935**. Requires his men to sign a document that they do not belong to a labor organization, *J. P. Tardivel*, Quebec, **930-931**.

JOURNEYMAN.

Synonymous with the word *compagnon*. Uncertainty regarding the legal meaning of the expression. *C. J. Doherty*, **214**.

KNITTING FACTORY EMPLOYEES.

St. Hyacinthe. See evidence of *Miss Georginia Bachaud*, **1246**. *Joseph Barbeau*, **1326**. *Victor Beauchard*, **1279**. *Feodore Boas*, **1308**. *Maurice Boas*, **1298**. *Noel Boucher*, **1287**. *Hormidas Cordeau*, **1277**. *Hermenegilde Gagné*, **1291**. *Amédée Gosselin*, **1319**. *Amédée Lapierre*, **1297**. *Hermine Lemoine*, **1295-1308**. *Samuel Logawitz*, **1325**. *Albina Larouge*, **1294**. *S. Murphy*, **1320**. *André Pichette*, **1293**. *Amédée Pallardy*, **1285**. Rules and regulations signed by the Secretary of the Company, **1364**.

LABORERS.

Capelton. Employed chemical works, *Ed. Hebert*, **1258**. At the Albert Mines, *W. H. Nicholls*, **1263**. At the Copper and Sulphur Mines, *J. Blue*, **1247**. *Frank Cotton*, **1255**. *Frank Doré*, **1256**. Hull. Corporation, *J. O. Laferrrière*, **1334**. Montreal. At Ives & Co.'s Foundry, *T. J. Baldwin*, **500**. Employed as coopers, *E. Chaudier*, **596**. Employed as bricklayers, *L. Cousineau*, **582**. Laborers, see evidence of *George Douglas*, **584**. *Henri Lamoureux*, **514**. Employed at the gas works, *J. F. Scriver*, **567**. SHIP LABORERS.—See letter, Messrs. H. & A. Allan, **735**. See evidence of *Geo. Brown*, **644**. *R. S. Cleft*, **622**. *Robert McCoy*, **632**. *John Sheridan*, **633**. Quebec. See evidence of *Jean Brisson*, **1070**. *Francois Xavier Dumont*, **1048**. *Telesphore Fontaine*, **778**. At Spencer Wood, *Jos. Jobin*, **1047**. *Jos. Lamonde*, **1048**. Employed as builders, *A. Lortie*, **998**. Laborers, see evidence of *Louis Roy*, **1051**. Ship Laborers, see evidence of *Thos. Beckett*, **880**. *T. Billingsley*, **887**. *Richard Burke*, **741**. *Thos. Cullen*, **1087**. *Thos. Enright*, **757**. *Patrick Fitzgerald*, **749**. *Charles Fitzpatrick*, **1074**. *Daniel Kane*, **1086**. *Michael Kennedy*, **1087**. Ship or barge unloading grain, *F. Kirouack*, **1003**. Ship laborers, see evidence of *Richard Leahy*, **744**. *A. J. Maguire*, **896**. *Patrick Mullen*, **743**. *George Mulrooney*, **754**. *James Paul*, **1078**. *Wm. Rae*, **870**. *Narcisse Rosa*, **898**. *Ed. Harper Wade*, **1010**. St. Hyacinthe. Employed in the dye house, Granite Knitting Mills, *Philippe Larvère*, **1291**. *Cyprien Robidoux*, **1289**. Sherbrooke. Employed as builders, *G. G. Bryant*, **1241**. Laborers, see evidence of *A. Sangster*, **1225**. Employed in car shops, *J. Seivright*, **1226**.

LABOR DIFFICULTIES. See STRIKES.

LABOR QUESTION.

Montreal. The causes to which it is due. See evidence of *B. C. Fisher*, **578**.

LABOR SUPPLY.

Quebec. Female employees, boot and shoe factory, *Miss * * ** **984**. Decrease in the number of moulders since 1884. *G. Beaudoin*, **900**. Difficulty in getting first-class boot and shoe fitters, *G. Ferguson*, **967**. Demand for labor, *Joseph Fortier*, **782**. Labor supply bakers, *T. Hetherington*, **866**. Dismissal of ship-laborers for want of work, *P. Mullin*, **744**. Labor supply masons, *S. Pampalon*, **993-994**. Labor supply lawyers, *L. P. Pelletier*, **938**. Superabundance of bakers, *Jos. Sanschagrin*, **858**. Advisability of reducing number of bakers, *Ed. Sanschagrin*, **750**. Demand for immigrant mechanics, *Lawrence Stafford*, **793**. Supply and demand immigrant domestics, *Lawrence Stafford*, **791**. Demand for immigrants, *Lawrence Stafford*, **790**. Montreal. Number of applications for positions on Fire Brigade, *Chief Wm. Patton*, **676**. Difficulty experienced by tobacco workers in securing work in winter, *Miss * * ** **683**. Supply of carpenters and stair-builders, *Mr. * * ** **641**. Scarcity of first-class carriage upholsterers, *E. Brunet*, **512**. Scarcity of good workmen consequent on low wages which cause them to leave, *Felix Casey*, **541**. Plentiful supply of coopers, but few good workmen, *E. Chaudier*, **596**. Supply and demand of moulders, *J. O'Flaherty*, **464**. Supply of good painters, *C. Fryer*, **635**. Scarcity of first-class boot and shoe fitters, *Z. Lapierre*, **438**. Supply and demand shoe fitters,

LABOR SUPPLY—*Continued.*

J. McCready, **492**. Superabundance of labor the cause of reduction of wages this fall in McDonald's Tobacco Factory, *Wm. C. McDonald*, **531**. Supply and demand boot and shoe factory employees, *M. C. Mularky*, **446**. Supply and demand saddlers and harnessmakers, *D. Murphy*, **496**. Scarcity of good carpenters, *S. Payette*, **651**. Supply and demand moulders, *R. Powers*, **458**. Labor supply marble cutters, *R. Reid*, **440**. Scarcity of skilled carpenters, *D. Rutherford*, **534**. Labor supply marble cutters, *W. Saggerton*, **467**. St. Hyacinthe. Labor supply Granite Knitting Mills, *M. Boas*, **1301**. Sherbrooke. Labor supply joiners, *F. X. Thibeau*, **1237**.

LAMPLIGHTERS. Montreal. See evidence of *J. F. Sriver*, **567**.

LAUNDRIES.

Quebec. See evidence of *Mary Buchanan*, **518**. Montreal. Employees of, See evidence of *Thos. Henry Love*, **688**. Chinese laundries, *Thos. Henry Love*, **689**. Employees of steam laundries, *A. H. Simms*, **493**.

LAW COSTS.

Montreal. Extortionate charges of lawyers and law courts in small cases, *C. B. Carter*, **718**. In collecting small debts, *Fred. Judah*, **660**. Law costs, see evidence of *Rouer Roy*, **703**. Quebec. In collecting debts from workingmen, *C. T. Cotté*, **1006**.

LAW OF LANDLORD AND TENANT.

Montreal. Regarding keeping houses in proper repair and condition, *Fred. Judah*, **663-664**.

LAW REGARDING HACKMEN. Injustice in the application of, see evidence of *J. McDermott*, **1040**.

LAWS REGARDING FACTORIES. See factory laws.

LAWS REGARDING MACHINERY. See machinery.

LEATHER BOARD. Montreal. See evidence of *J. McCready*, **493**.

LEATHER DRESSERS. Quebec. See evidence of *Auguste Pion*, **974**.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE. Montreal. Firemen. See evidence of *J. St. Pierre*, **699-700**.

LEGISLATION REQUIRED.

Montreal. Regarding exemption of laborers' wages from seizure, *Letters Secretary Board of Trade*, **731**. To prevent the present unsanitary condition of workingmen's houses, *Mr. * * **, **643**. By Contractors' Association, and its objects, *L. Cousineau*, **584**. The extent and manner in which it affects the labor question, and its indirect effect on rents, *B. C. Fisher*, **578-579**. To protect the lives of railway employees, *L. L. Peltier*, **629**. Quebec. To insure more comfort to workingmen in factories, *A. Therriault*, **902**. *G. Beaudoin*, **901**. Sherbrooke. A law to prevent workingmen's wages from being seized, *G. G. Bryant*, **1242**. A law to make proprietors liable for their employees' wages, as well as contractors, *G. G. Bryant*, **1242**. *J. J. Duffy*, **1188**. *P. Fleury*, **1180**.

LIBRARIES. See education.

LIQUORS.

Montreal. The use of intoxicating liquors the cause of at least 80 or 90 per cent. of crime committed, *Judge Dugas*, **449**.

LIQUOR LAWS.

Montreal. Opposed to the present system of fining for breaches of liquor law and reasons therefor. *Judge Dugas*, **449**.

LIFE-SAVING APPARATUS.

Montreal. Arrangements on the steamboats of the Ontario and Richelieu Navigation Company, *J. B. Labelle, M.P.*, **488**.

LICENSES.

Montreal. Laws regarding the issuing of liquor licenses, its interpretation, and how it ought to be amended, *Judge Dugas*, **447-448**. For the sale of liquor on board steamboats plying between the two provinces, *J. B. Labelle, M.P.*, **487**. Licensing of railway conductors, *L. P. Peltier*, **626**. Quebec. Hackmen, *J. McDermott*, **1037**. Licensed steamboats, *R. Jellyman*, **411**. Licenses, *S. A. Lebourveau*, **413**. Opinion of a member of the Montreal Chamber of Commerce on licenses, *J. X. Perreault*, **417**. St. Hyacinthe. For the sale of liquor, issuing of in St. Hyacinthe and surrounding parishes, *F. Fournier*, **1332-1333**.

LIEN LAWS AND GARNISHMENT OF WAGES.

Montreal. Lien laws and garnishment of wages dry goods establishment, *Sam. Cassidy*, **16**. Workmen have no lien on buildings put up by them for arrears of wages, *C. J. Doherty*, **216**. Workmen's lien on contents of workshop for arrears of wages, *C. J. Doherty*, **261**. A *capias* cannot be taken out against a debtor going from Ontario to Quebec, or vice-versa. Limit of debt at which a *capias* may be taken out, *C. J. Doherty*, **212**. Disadvantages of the present law and advisability of abolishing it, *C. J. Doherty*, **217**. Cruel operation of the law on garnishment of wages, *C. J. Doherty*, **210**. The law on seizures expounded by an advocate, *J. S. Hall*, **385-388**. In dry goods establishments, *Zephyrin Lanctot*, **192**. Desire of clerks to have lien law changed, *L. H. Laramée*, **372**. Reforms advocated by Chamber of Commerce, *J. X. Perreault*, **414**. In connection with railway companies, *Thos. G. Shaughnessy*, **166**. In connection with steamship companies, *R. A. Smith*, **157**. In connection with railway companies, *William Wainwright*, Assistant General Manager Grand Trunk Railway, **116**. Quebec. Lien laws in Ontario and Quebec compared with those in United States, *P. Belanger*, **297**. Garnishment of wages, *C. T. Coté*, **1006**. Garnishment of wages, tanners, *O. Imbeau*, **907**. Garnishment of wages, worsted factory, *Wm. H. Naylor*, **1030**. Sherbrooke. Garnishment of wages, railway employees, *J. Seirright*, **1228**. Garnishment of wages, *Louis E. Pennecon*, **1161-1163**. *Francois Xavier Dufresne*, **1156**.

LITERATURE.

Montreal, class of, read by working men, *J. S. Redmond*, **727**.

LOADING OF VESSELS.

Montreal. In that port see evidence of *R. S. Cleft*, **622-623**. With cattle for export; *R. McCoy*, **633**. Loading of vessels, *R. McCoy*, **632**. *George W. Morrison*, **623**. Quebec. With timber for export, see evidence of *F. H. Andrews*, **807**.

LOANS.

Conditions on which mechanics can borrow money to build houses, *Hon. J. Hearne*, **796**. By master roofers to their men, *T. Lachance*, **946**.

LOCKOUTS. See STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS.

LOST TIME.

Montreal. Piece hands, carriage making, waiting for material, *E. Major*, **507**. Quebec. Ship laborers employed by Quebec Steamship Company paid for time lost waiting for vessels, *A. Hearne*, **856**. Printers on piecework, *W. H. Naylor*, **1034**. Batteaumen, *W. Rae*, **1019**. *E. Dubé*, **1023-1027**. Employees Government Cartridge Factory lose half a day's work by being five minutes late for work, as factory doors are closed against them, *T. Lane*, **776**. *Major Prevost*, **801**. While loading lumber from barges to steamships, *Joseph Desnoyers*, **815**.

LUMBERMEN'S EMPLOYEES.

Hull. Lumber mill employees, see evidence of *Jos. Carriere*, **1357**. *A. Thibeau*, **1358**. *Geo. Champagne*, **1356**. Lumber pilers, *D. Dupuis*, **1353**. Lumber mill employees, *Ed. St. Amour*, **1338**. *Jos. Vincent*, **1360**. Montreal. Lumber mill employees, see evidence of *F. P. Campeau*, **653**. Quebec. Saw and planing mill mechanics, *Simon Peters*, **842**. Lumber shanty employees, *W. Rae*, **1020**. Lumber mill employees, *W. Rae*, **1020**. *J. Roach*, **1054**. Lumber swingers leaving the business because of its hardness, *Geo. Mulrooney*, **755**. Sherbrooke. Lumber camp employees, see evidence of *J. J. Duffy*, **1187**. Employees British America Lumber Company, *W. R. Heniker*, **1201**.

LUMBER AND LUMBER BUSINESS.

Montreal. Quality and class of lumber used in making packing boxes in glass factory, *W. F. Burlant*, **587**. Lumber business between Canada and England, see evidence of *F. H. Andrews*, **803**.

MACHINERY.

CHEAPENING OF PRODUCTION BY USE OF.—Machine-made shoes glut the market, *E. Ricard*, **369**.

EFFECT ON WAGES.—Corset factories, Quebec, see evidence of Miss * * *, **992**. *G. E. Amyot*, **812**. Shoemakers injured by the use of, *O. D. Benoit*, **364-365**. On joiners, *M. Boivin*, **862**. A benefit to carpenters, Montreal, *Felix Casey*, **540**. On organ builders, *J. C. Cassavant*, Sherbrooke, **1270**. On coopers' work, *E. Chamberlin*, Montreal, **595**. On biscuit makers, *J. Glass*, Quebec, **772**. On tanners, *F. Gourdeau*, **1065**. Machines in his laundry run by cheap help, *T. J. Love*, Montreal, **689**. Displacement of labor among coopers by the use of, *J. Mahoney*, Montreal, **560-561**. Tendency of introduction to cheapen furniture, *O. McGarvey*, Montreal, **726**. Introduction of has increased wages in Quebec, *D. Morgan*, **767**. Shoemakers suffer from the use of, *E. Ricard*, **369**. Introduction of, effect on carriers, *M. Vallières*, **1068**.

LAWS REGARDING.—Effect on furniture factory employees, *V. C. Coté*, Quebec, **1111**. Effect on box factory employees, *Regis Gagnon*, St. Romuald, **1150**. Effect on engine drivers, *Jno. Helley*, Quebec, **1119-1120**. Effect on box factory employees, *Alfred Lafrance*, St. Romuald, **1150**. Effect on match factory employees, *Z. Mercier*, St. Romuald, **1144**.

PROTECTION OF, AGAINST ACCIDENTS.—Not dangerous in oil cloth factory, Montreal, *Jno. Bailis*, **577**. In lumber factory, *G. G. Bryant*, Sherbrooke, **1240**. Accidents from improper placement of and improper attendance to, *F. G. Campeau*, Montreal, **653**. Precautions taken to prevent accidents, Hull, *G. Champagne*, **1357**. In sash factory, Hull, *A. Grattan*, **1355**. In Payant & Duclos' tannery, St. Hyacinthe, *S. Guay*, **1312**. Absence of proper safeguards to, *Wm. Keys*, Montreal, **518**. In Government cartridge factory, *T. Lane*, Quebec, **778**. Danger to employees from placement of in Government cartridge factory, *T. Lane*, Quebec, **778**. In furniture factory, Sherbrooke, *Geo. Lang*, **1208**. In boot and shoe factory, Quebec, *E. Mercier*, **1009**. In Granite Knitting Mills, St. Hyacinthe, *E. R. Pagé*, **1333**. In Canadian Rubber Company's factory, Montreal, *M. Palmer*, **684**. Danger to employees from machinery in picking room, Granite Knitting Mills, St. Hyacinthe, *A. Pichette*, **1293**. Machinery and gearing used in loading vessels at Montreal and its condition, *Geo. D. Reach*, **668**. Discomfort consequent to employees from use of improper machinery in Government cartridge factory, *Chas Robitaille*, **785**. In Eddy's factory, Hull, *E. St. Amour*, **1370**.

USE OF, LOADING AND UNLOADING VESSELS.—Argues that use of steam machinery in loading vessels, Quebec, is not more dangerous than elsewhere, *T. Beckett*, **881**. Condition of at Montreal, *Geo. Brown*, **645-647**. Danger of steam power, Quebec, *P. Fitzgerald*, **750**. *R. Leahey*, **746**. Benefits of steam

MACHINERY—*Continued.*

power in loading certain kinds of lumber, Quebec, *W. M. Macpherson*, **919**. Superiority of hand winches over steam, *Jno. O'Farrell*, **842**. Reason why ship laborers object to the use of steam machinery, Quebec, *J. Paul*, **1080**. Class used at Quebec, *W. Rae*, **873-874**. Use of in loading timber, Quebec, *W. Rae*, **1018**.

IN BOOT AND SHOE FACTORIES.—See evidence *Miss * * **, Quebec, **988**. Run by steam power, *Miss * * **, Quebec, **990**. *D. Marsan*, Quebec, **948**.

IN TANNERIES.—Possibility of working skins by means of machinery, *W. Boulé*, **864**.

IN BAKERIES.—Its kind and effect on wages, *E. Chaput*, **565**. That used in Boston Bakery, Sherbrooke, *T. W. Fuller*, **1204**. That used in his bakery, *T. Hetherington*, Quebec, **866**.

IN GOVERNMENT CARTRIDGE FACTORY.—See evidence of *Thos. Lane*, **776**.

IN AXE FACTORIES.—See evidence of *T. J. Moccock*, Montreal, **443**.

IN MAKING BRICKS.—See evidence *R. Wright*, **1317**.

MACHINISTS.

Montreal. See evidence of *Wm. Keys*, **515**. At Pillow, Hersey & Co.'s nail works, *Thos. Shelley*, **686**. Sherbrooke. See evidence of *J. M. Jinks*, **1208**. In Quebec Central Railway car shops, *F. Orton*, **1228**. See evidence of *James Seivright*, **1226**.

MARBLE AND WORKERS IN MARBLE.

Montreal. Philipsburg marble compared with Italian, *H. Benjamin*, **542**. Varieties and qualities of marble from the quarries near Philipsburg, *H. Benjamin*, **541**. Marble cutters and polishers, see evidence of *Edward Cline*, **469**. Polishers, *John Murphy*, **472**. Newfoundland marble, see evidence of *R. Reid*, **443**. Cutters of, *R. Reid*, **440**. Imported from Italy and Vermont. Canadian and imported marble compared, *R. Reid*, **442**. Cutters of, see evidence of *Wm. Saggerton*, **467**. Polishers of, see evidence of *E. Wills*, **471**.

MASONS. See STONECUTTERS.

MASTER PRINTERS' ASSOCIATION. See COMBINATIONS.

MASTERS' AND SERVANTS' ACT.

Montreal. Liability of employees even in case an employer does not pay wages agreed upon. See evidence of *C. J. Doherty*, **212**. An employee may be prevented by his master from seeking redress in courts or from executing his civil duties or his duties to his family under the, *C. J. Doherty*, **213**. Uncertainty as to the legal meaning of the words "Compagnon" and journeyman, *C. J. Doherty*, **216**. No municipal council ought to have authority to pass a by-law such as governs the relations between masters and servants in Montreal, *C. J. Doherty*, **217**. Opinion of a Montreal magistrate regarding Masters' and Servants' Act. See evidence of *B. A. Testard DeMontigny*, **389-391**.

MATCH FACTORY EMPLOYEES.

Hull. See evidence of *Dennis Casey*, **1340**. *Névéé Drouin*, **1361**. *Miss Mary Dufaux*, **1350**. In mixing room, *Ed. Murphy*, **1364**.

MEAL HOURS.

Quebec. Says he knows of tugs on St. Lawrence River on which men have to eat their meals off the floor, no chairs or tables, see evidence *A. O'Hearn*, **856**. In Renfrew & Co.'s furrier establishment, see evidence *J. H. Holt*, **835**. Employees on steamer of the Quebec and Lewis Ferry Co., *Jas. Patton*, **827**.

MECHANICAL MASTERS' ASSOCIATION. See Combinations.

MILK SUPPLY AND EMPLOYEES OF MILKMEN.

Montreal. Milk supply, see evidence of *Dr. J. B. Edwards*, **664**. *Isaiah C. Radford*, **666-668**. Quebec. Milk supply, see evidence of *R. Bussières*, **998**. Milkmen's employees, *R. Bussières*, **998**.

MILLINERY CLERKS.

Montreal. See evidence of *Miss * * ** **592**.

MINING AND MINES.

Capelton. At Oxford Copper and Sulphur Mines, see evidence, *John Blue*, **1247**. *J. Dinsmore*, **1222**. At Albert Mines, see evidence of *E. Herbert*, **1259**. At Oxford Copper and Sulphur Mines, *Jos. Ledoux*, **1257**. At Albert Copper Mines, *W. H. Nicholls*, **1262**. *T. Verville*, **1260**. At Oxford Copper and Sulphur Mines, *John Wearne*, **1250**. *Chas. Wearne*, **1253**.

MONTREAL CASH BAKERY.

Montreal. See evidence of *E. Pole*, **597**.

MORAL CONDITION FACTORY EMPLOYEES.

Montreal. Moral condition and character of employees at Hochelaga Cotton Mills, and precaution taken to prevent immorality of employees, see evidence of *T. J. Baldon*, **503-505**. In St. Anne Cotton Factory, *Dame Clarisse*, **476-477**. *Adelaide Dagenais*, **481**. In Hochelaga Cotton Mills, *L'Abbé Des Carries*, **701**. *Mrs. Julia Dubois*, **485**. In Hudon Cotton Mills, *Josephine Durant*, **475**. *Mrs. Kane*, **484**. *Dame Henriette Larouche*, **483**. In St. Anne Cotton Mills, *A. Martin*, **477-478**. In Hudon and St. Anne Cotton Mills, *Leonée Martin*, **475-476**. In the Hochelaga Cotton Mills, *Mrs. Matilda Kingston*, **486**. *Cordelia Telmosse*, **483**. Moral condition of factory employees in Montreal and United States compared, *Mrs. Kane*, **484**.

MORTALITY.

Montreal. Greatest among classes forced to occupy poorer class of dwellings *Dr. Decrow*, **607**. Would be decreased if cases of contagious diseases were properly isolated, *Dr. Decrow*, **609**. Among axe grinders reduced by use of wet instead of dry stones, *T. J. Moccock*, **443**. System of collecting statistics of, *I. C. Radford*, **668**.

MOULDERS. See Foundrymen.

MURIALIAL, TIN.

Montreal. Use of in refining sugar, *A. Baumgarten*, **622**.

MUSTARD.

Montreal. See evidence of *Dr. J. B. Edwards*, *Public Analyst*, **665**.

NATIONALITY.

Quebec. Preference shown Canadians by Quebec Steamship Co. in employing crews for their line from New York to Bermuda, *A. Ahearne*, **856**.

NECESSARIES OF LIFE. See cost of living.

NIGHT WORK.

Capelton. In Oxford Copper and Sulphur Co.'s mine, *F. Doré*, **1257**. Hull. In lumber mills, see evidence of *J. Carriere*, **1358**. *G. Champagne*, **1356-1359**. In limekilns, *R. Wright*, **1346**. In lumber mills, *E. St. Amour*, **1339**. *J. Vincent*, **1361**. Montreal. In sugar refineries, see evidence of *A. Baumgarten*, **621**. In North America Glass Co.'s factory, *Wm. F. Burland*, **588-589**. Ship-laborers, *Geo. Brown*, **647**. Female telephone operators, *Miss L. W. Camp*, **525**. Checkers, Allan Steamship Line, *Geo. Douglas*, **585**. Baker's opinion of *Dr. Fafard re, D Lafortune*, **658**. Coal shovelers *C. P. R., H. Lamoureux*, **514-515**.

NIGHT WORK—Continued.

Bakers, *E. Pole*, **598**. Rope factory, *F. Drouin*, **971**. Quebec. In boot and shoe factories, see evidence of *Miss * * **, **982**. *Geo. Ferguson*, **967**. Bakers, *T. Hetherington*, **867**. Renfrew's furrier establishment, *J. H. Holt*, **835**. Mechanical engineers, *A. Larmouth*, **1052**. In tobacco factories, *W. J. Le-Mesurier*, **769**. In boot and shoe factories, *E. Mercier*, **1009**. In worsted mills, *Wm. H. Naylor*, **1031**. Bakers, *Jos. Sanschagrin*, **858**. Advantage and possibility of bakers working by day instead of by night, *Jos. Sanschagrin*, **959**. Ship-laborers, *E. Stanley*, **1062-1063**. Boot and shoe factories, *S. Turcott*, **913**. St. Hyacinthe. In Granite Knitting Mills, *V. Beauchard*, **1280-1281**. Reasons why employees sometimes work at night at Granite Knitting Mills, *M. Boas*, **1303-1304**. Boot and shoe factory, *O. Delage*, **1329**. Printers, *A. Dennis*, **1332**. In Granite Knitting Mills, *G. Gosselin*, **1320**. *A. Lapierre*, **1297**. Sherbrooke. Cigar makers, *P. Morin*, **1186**. Gas and Water Company employees, *A. Sangster*, **1224**.

NIGHT WATCHMAN.

Quebec. Duties and pay of night watchman in Government cartridge factory, *Major Prevost*, **802**. St. Hyacinthe. In Granite Knitting Mills, see evidence *P. Larivée*, **1292**.

NON-PAYMENT OF WAGES.

Quebec. Employees contractor Court House paid by promissory note, and note cashed by a broker named by the contractor, see evidence of *Nap. Chamberland*, **787**. Reason why *P. J. Whalen*, contractor for the Court House, did not pay his men for seven weeks, *P. J. Whalen*, **892**.

NOTARIES' CHARGES.

Montreal. See evidence *Narcisse Perodeau*, **715**. Quebec. See evidence *C. T. Coté*, **1006**.

OCEAN FREIGHTS.

Quebec. Cheaper from Montreal than from Quebec and reason why. See evidence of *A. K. Hansen*, **879**.

ORGAN FACTORIES AND EMPLOYEES THEREOF.

St. Hyacinthe. See evidence of *Jos. C. Cassavant*, **1270**. *Amedée Gosselin*, **1319**.

OIL CLOTH FACTORIES AND EMPLOYEES THEREOF.

Montreal. See evidence of *Jno. Bailys*, **577**.

ORGANIZED LABOR.

Montreal.—See evidence of *Miss * * **, **642 643**. Cause the existence of too many masters over men in factories, *O. D. Benoit*, **368**. See evidence of *Jno. Brennan*, **155**. In Montreal no benefit to ship laborers: *George Brown*, **644**. Its effect on printers in Montreal, *A. Corriveau*, **433-434**. See evidence of *C. J. Doherty*, **210**. Trades unions and the law societies, *B. C. Fisher*, **580-581**. As a combination to increase wages, *B. C. Fisher*, **580**. Knights of Labor, *Wm. Keys*, **517**. Benefit accruing from, *Wm. Keys*, **517**. Effect on plasterers, *G. Knatt*, **249**. Ontario and Richelieu Navigation Company's employees, evidence of *J. B. Labelle, M. P.*, **486**. Working carpenters not paid equal to other workmen engaged in building because they have no union, *S. Paquette*, **650**. Classes of persons excluded from the Knights of Labor, *J. Redmond*, **729**. Rules of Knights of Labor regarding temperance, *J. Redmond*, **729**. Attitude of Superintendent McDonald's Tobacco Factory towards members of labor organizations, *S. W. Wells*, **557**. Quebec. Tobacco factory employees discharged for being Knights of Labor, *Miss * * **, **682**. Exports and imports at Quebec. Rights of Ship La-

ORGANIZED LABOR—Continued.

borers' Society, *Fred. Andrews*, **803**. Ship laborers, see evidence of *Stanislaus Beau-
 lieu*, **1132-1133**. Reason why Ship Laborers' Society is an impediment to loading
 lumber at Quebec, *T. Billingsley*, **890**. Thinks there is a desire on the part of
 majority of ship laborers to have obnoxious rules rescinded, *T. Billingsley*, **892**.
 Vessels refuse to come to Quebec owing to the difficulty experienced in loading
 and unloading vessels caused by the rules of Ship Laborers' Society, *T. Beckett*,
800. Effect of existence bargemen's society on wages, *T. Berthiaume*, **954**.
 Moulders, see evidence of *Alex. Brisette*, **833**. Reasons why he prefers union
 printers to non-union, *J. Carrell*, **924**. Two typographical unions in Quebec,
J. Carrell, **923**. See evidence *Geo. Cook*, **1017**. Condition of ship laborers
 before and after the formation of ship laborers' society, *T. Cullen*, **1088**. Ship
 laborers forced to organize in self defence, *T. Cullen*, **1088**. Cigar manufactory,
A. H. Davis, **137**. Effect of rules of ship laborers' society on shipping, *C. G.*
Davis, **893**. His attitude towards typographical union and part they took in the
 printers strike; *J. Dussault*, **940**. Knights of Labor, *J. Dussault*, **940-943**.
 Connection between Franklin Association, Knights of Labor, and Typographical
 Unions 159 and 160 during printers' strike, *J. Dussault*, **976**. Copy of circular
 issued previous to printers' strike by Knights of Labor and Typographical Union,
J. Dussault, **976**. Thinks it is perfect nonsense to blame Ship-Laborers' Society
 because vessels do not come to Quebec, *Chas. Fitzpatrick*, **1074**. Printers' strike
 was instituted by the Typographical Union; Knights of Labor had nothing to do
 with it, *Geo. Gale*, **1035**. The part it took in printers' strike, *Geo. Gale*, **1034**.
 Bargemen's Society, how it was broken up and the results, *Boulé Gingras*, **949**.
 Action of Ship-Laborers' Benefit Association in raising wages of ship-laborers
 caused vessels to load at other ports, consequent exodus of population, *J. B.*
Grenier, **813**. Effect of the rules of the Ship-Laborers' Society on the shipping,
A. K. Hansen, **879**. Rules Ship-Laborers' Society, *D. Kane*, **1086**. Relations
 between Typographical Union and Franklin Association, K. of L., during printers'
 strike, *A. Langlois*, **960**. Typographical Union has no connection with K. of L.,
A. Langlois, **958**. French Typographical Union and its abandoning strike, *A.*
Langlois, **956**. Wages ship-laborers raised and standard fixed by Ship-Laborers'
 Association, *R. R. Leahy*, **745**. Effect on working classes, *Dolphis J. Marsan*,
1089. Benefit the Society of Bargemen was, *H. Maclean*, **1001**. Mr. Dobell's
 action in the breaking up of Bargemen's Society, *H. Maclean*, **1000**. Effect of
 rules of Ship-Laborers' Society on shipping trade, *W. M. Macpherson*, **917**.
 Objection made by Quebec Street Railway Co. to their employees belonging to, *S.*
Moore, **822**. Prices during the existence of Bargemen's Society and now, *P.*
Morrisette, **951**. How Bargemen's Society was broken up, *P. Morrisette*, **952**.
 Rules of Ship-Laborers' Society militate much against South American lumber
 trade, *A. J. Maguire*, **896**. Cause of falling off of shipping business and condition
 of ship-laborers, *J. O'Farrell*, **840**. Ship-Laborers' Society formed to prevent
 captains of ships from robbing ship-laborers, *J. O'Farrell*, **841**. Believes Ship-
 Laborers' Society would change rules if merchants would show sensible reasons
 why they should, *J. Paul*, **1083**. Effect of formation Ship-Laborers' Society on
 wages ship-laborers, *J. Paul*, **1078**. Does not employ Union printers, reasons
 why, *L. P. Pelletier*, **935**. His attitude towards trades unions, *L. P. Pelletier*,
936. Trades unions compared with the "Bar" or society of laws in Province of
 Quebec, *L. P. Pelletier*, **937**. Rules of Ship-Laborers' Society held by courts to
 be illegal, *Chas. A. Pentland*, **895**. Boycotting of vessels by Ship-Laborers'
 Society, *Chas. A. Pentland*, **894**. Rules of Ship-Laborers' Society applicable only
 to loading of sailing vessels, not to steamships, *W. Rae*, **870**. Shipping of Que-
 bec being destroyed by rules of Ship-Laborers' Society, *W. Rae*, **870**. Rules of
 Ship-Laborers' Society prevented use of steam winch in loading any kind of lum-
 ber, even light match splints, *W. Rae*, **873-874**. Effect Ship-Laborers' Society
 has on port of Quebec, *W. Rae*, **1022-1023**. Rules Ship-Laborers' Society

ORGANIZED LABOR—Continued.

which he considers injurious to port, *W. Rae*, **1021**. Rules of Ship-Laborers' Society which he considers unfair, *W. Rae*, **1018**. Price Bros. & Co. do most of their shipping business outside Quebec because of action of Ship-Laborers' Society, *W. Rae*, **1018**. Effect of Ship-Laborers' Society on commerce and its members, *N. Rosa*, **898-899**. Leather Cutters' Union resolution *re* evidence given before Royal Labor Commission, *Francis Schuybert*, **1051**. Steamships, *R. A. Smith*, **160**. Effect of action of Ship-Laborers' Society on trade, *R. Stanley*, **1061-1062**. K. of L., believes them to be a Masonic body, *J. P. Tardivel*, **930**. Wages printers received, as well as hours shortened by strike, *J. P. Tardivel*, **929**. Objects to employing Union printers, reasons why, *J. P. Tardivel*, **929**.

St. Hyacinthe.—Dismissed from Seguin & Lalime's factory for belonging to labor union, *O. Delage*, **1328-1330**. Building trades now in, *A. G. Bryant*, **1241**. His attitude towards Knights of Labor and trades unions, *Francis Coderre*, **1160-1161**.

ORE DRESSERS.

Capelton.—At mines of Oxford Copper and Sulphur Company, *George Babb*, **1253**.

OVERCROWDING OF STEAMERS.

Quebec.—On line of Quebec and Levis Ferry Company, *Jos. Patton*, **826**.

OVERTIME.

Hull.—See evidence of *R. Wright*, **1347**.

Montreal.—Ship laborers' letter from *H. & A. Allan*, **735**. *T. Billingsley*, **890**. Canadian Rubber Company, *J. J. McGill*, **569-570**. Canadian Rubber Company, *M. Palmer*, **684**.

Quebec.—Men engaged in loading vessels paid for by Quebec Steamship Company, *A. Ahearn*, **855**. Employees work till nine p. m. during fall, corset factory, *G. E. Amyot*, **811**. Paid for it in Brisette's foundry, *Alex. Brisette*, **832**. Wages paid for Quebec Steam Laundry, *Mary Buchanan*, **818**. Paid for in tobacco factory, *J. Dussault*, **851**. Paid for in Renfrew's furrier establishment, *J. M. Holt*, **835**. Mechanical engineers, *O. Larmonth*, **1052**. Printers, *Geo. Jackson*, **927**. Painters, *Geo. McGee*, **1037**. Paid for by Quebec Street Railway Company, *S. Moore*, **820**. Roofers, *F. F. Paradis*, **1069**. Paid for work done after hours, *S. Paquette*, **808**. Boot and shoe factory, *S. Turcotte*, **913**. Moulders, *A. Therriault*, **902**.

St. Hyacinthe.—In Granite Knitting Mills, *A. Blanchette*, **1285**. *M. Boas*, **1303**. *M. Boucher*, **1287**. Females employed in Granite Knitting Mills, *P. Desgranges*, **1282**. Granite Knitting Mills, *H. Gagné*, **1291**. *A. Gosselin*, **1319**. *A. Lapierre*, **1297**. *H. Lemoine*, **1295**. *A. Pichette*, **1293**. *P. Pallardy*, **1330**. Forced to work from Saturday morning till Sunday morning without stopping and only paid day wages, Granite Knitting Mills, *A. Pallardy*, **1286**. Females, Granite Knitting Mills, *E. Trudeau*, **1285**.

Sherbrooke.—Woollen factory Employees, *J. Ainsworth*, **1193**. Shoemakers, *C. Beauregard*, **1234**. Woollen mill employees, *A. Dinsmore*, **1221**. Moulders and machinists, *J. M. Jinks*, **1209**. Woollen mill employees, *A. Patton*, **1167**.

PAINTERS AND DECORATORS.

Montreal. See evidence of *Christopher Fryer*, **634**. Quebec. See evidence of *Nap. Chamberland*, **782**. *Geo. McGee*, **1036**. Sherbrooke. See evidence of *G. G. Bryant*, **1240**.

PAPERMAKING.

Quebec. See evidence of *James Reid*, **1060**.

PATENTS.

Montreal. See evidence of *J. X. Perrault*, **414**.

PATTON MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

Sherbrooke. Woollen factory rules and regulations and statement regarding fines and wages, **1244-1246**.

PAY DAYS AND WEEKLY PAYMENTS.

Capelton.—At Orford Copper and Sulphur Mines, *J. Babb*, **1254**. At Albert Copper Mines, *W. H. Nicholls*, **1262**. Laborers' chemical works, *E. Herbert*, **1259**. Albert Mines, *Jos. Nadeau*, **1262**. *T. Verville*, **1261**. Orford Copper and Sulphur Mines, *J. Wearne*, **252**.

Hull.—At match factory, *D. Casey*, **1343-1344**. At Perley & Pattee's Mills, Ottawa, *J. Vincent*, **1361**. At Wright's Quarries, *R. Wright*, **1344**.

Montreal.—His method of paying outside and reasons therefor, *T. J. Baldon*, **501**. Fireman, *J. Beckingham*, **694**. Shoemakers, *O. D. Benoit*, **366**. Moulders, *C. Drouin*, **1140-1141**. Dry goods store, *Samuel Carsley*, **16**. Carriage factory, *P. Chartrand*, **196**. Stevedores, *John Brennan*, **152**. Long-Carriermen, *P. J. Dalton*, **186**. Cigar factory, *A. D. Davis*, **135**. Foundry employees, *H. R. Ives*, **254**. At McDonald's Tobacco Factory, *F. Lacoste*, **480**. Carsley's dry goods store, *Z. Lanctot*, **189**. C.P.R. laborers, *P. Lamoureux*, **515**. Carriage-makers, *A. Clement*, **520**. Street Railway Co., *Ed. Lusher*, **68**. Cigar factory, *Alexander Macgregor*, **105**. Canada Rubber Co., *J. J. McGill*, **570**. Carriage factory, *E. Major*, **507**. Moulders, *T. Monaghan*, **307**. Marble polishers, *John Murphy*, **472**. Leather cutters, *J. O'Rourke*, **243**. Methods of paying carpenters and joiners, *S. Paquette*, **652**. Weekly payments vs. monthly, *R. Powers*, **459**. At G.T.R. moulding shops, *R. Powers*, **458**. Boot and shoe factories, *Z. Laporte*, **437**. Marble cutters, *R. Reid*, **441**. *W. Saggerton*, **467**. Railway employees, *T. C. Shaunesy*, **164**. Steamship companies, *R. A. Smith*, **157**. Saddlers at the Refractory, *J. B. Villey*, **647**. Weekly payments, good reasons for paying on Fridays, *J. K. Ward*, **290**. Misery caused by deferred payments, *J. K. Ward*, **292**. Railway employees, *Wm. Wainwright*, **116**.

Quebec.—Riverside Worsted Co.'s Mills, *Miss * * ** **981**. Boot and shoe factories, *Miss * * ** **986**. *Charles Baillarge*, **1109**. Moulders, *G. Bedouin*, **901**. Joiners, *P. Belanger*, **996**. *M. Boivin*, **862**. Brisette's foundry, *Alex. Brisette*, **834**. Painters employed at construction of Court House not paid, for seven weeks, *Nap. Chamberland*, **783**. Painters, *Nap. Chamberland*, **783**. Barge-men, *Jos. Desnoyers*, **815**. Inconvenience suffered by workmen owing to irregularity of pay, *Jos. Fortier*, **782**. Irregularity of pay joiners, *Jos. Fortier*, **781**. Joiners, *Jos. Fortier*, **781**. Laborers, *T. Lafontaine*, **779**. Laborers not paid for seven weeks, *T. Fontaine*, **779**. At Renfrew's furrier establishment, *J. H. Holt*, **836**. Contractors' employees, *Chas. O'Leary*, **837**. At Spencer Wood, *J. Jolien*, **1017**. *J. Lamonde*, **1048**. Government Cartridge Factory, *Thos. Law*, **778**. Advantages of paying on Fridays, *J. Z. Latwippe*, **941**. Tanners, *Wm. Lee*, **855**. Painters, *Geo. McGee*, **1036**. Confectioners, *Wm. McWilliams*, **1103**. Worsted Factory, *Wm. H. Naylor*, **1030**. Quebec and Levis Ferry Co., *Jos. Patton*, **829**. Coopers, *J. Parent*, **939**. Mason contractors' employees, *A. Perron*, **1109**. Saw and planing mill employees, *Simon Peters*, **842**. Government Cartridge Factory, *Chas. Robitaille*, **785**. Moulders, *A. Therriault*, **903**.

St. Hyacinthe.—At Granite Knitting Mills, *A. Blanchette*, **1248**. Reasons why employees, Granite Knitting Mills, when discharged are made to wait till the monthly pay day for wages due them, *M. Boas*, **1299**. Considers it would be no advantage to employees to be paid fortnightly up till date and an inconvenience to the Granite Knitting Co., *M. Boas*, **1302**. Printers, *H. Cassavant*, **1331**. Organ Factory, *J. C. Cassavant*, **1270**. Seguin & Lalime's Boot and Shoe Factory, *Z. Gauthier*, **1316**. Method of paying at Moseley's Tannery, *F. Moseley*, **1275**.

PAY DAYS AND WEEKLY PAYMENTS—*Continued.*

Dry goods establishment, *Walter Blue*, **1071**. Weekly payments to prevent garnishing of wages, *G. G. Bryant*, **1243**. Cabinet makers, *C. Bourguignon*, **1234**. Pulp Factory, *F. P. Burke*, **1195-1196**. Weekly payments, *J. J. Duffy*, **1188**. Boston Bakery, *T. A. Fuller*, **1294**. Practicability of paying men employed in woods weekly, *P. Feurey*, **180**. Corset Factory, *Octave Gendron*, **1157-1159**. British-American Lumber Co.'s mills, *R. W. Heneker*, **1202**. Benefit of paying weekly, *R. W. Heneker*, **1202**.

Sherbrooke.—At Jinks & Co. works, *J. M. Jinks*, **1209**. Flannel and dress goods, *Alex. G. Lomas*, **1173**. Cotton Factory, *F. McArthur*, **1206**. Woollen factories, *Andrew Paton*, **1165**. Gas Company, *A. Sangster*, **1224**. Car shops, *J. Seivright*, **1226**. Locomotive shop, Quebec Central Railway, *F. Orton*, **1228**. Advocates, *L. E. Panneton*, **1160-1163**. Woollen mills, *Chas. Thornton*, **1199**.

PAYING SHORT.

Montreal. At Ives & Co.'s Foundry, explanation regarding statement to that effect, *T. J. Baldon*, **500**. How moulders are defrauded of their wages by it, *O. Duffy*, **460**. Moulders, *H. Lapierre*, **473**. *W. Phelan*, **461-462**.

PLANING MILLS. See LUMBER MILLS AND FACTORIES.

PLASTERERS.

Montreal. See evidence of *L. Cousineau*, **582**.

Sherbrooke. See evidence of *G. G. Bryant*, **1241**.

POSTAGE.

Montreal. Reform to postal tariff proposed, *L. Z. Poudreau*, **419**.

PIECE WORK.

Capelton. At copper mines, *J. Dinsmore*, **1222**. *E. Hebert*, **1200**. *W. H. Nicholls*, **1262**.

Hull. At Match factory. Children, *J. Dorion*, **1360**. *M. Drouin*, **1361**. Wright's Quarry employees, *R. Wright*, **1346**.

Montreal. Evils of,—sewing machines factory employees—**618-619**. Montreal Oil Cloth factory, *Jno. Bayllis*, **577**. Carriage Upholstering, *E. Brunet*, **513**. Moulders, *O. Duffy*, **457-460**. Painters, *M. Duval*, **452**. *J. O'Flaherty*, **463-464**. Canadian Rubber Co.'s factory, *Wm. Gallagher*, **685**. Harness makers, *E. N. Heney*, **499**. Moulders, *H. Lapierre*, **474**. Boot and shoe making, *Z. Lapierre*, **437-439**. Carriage Upholstering, *A. Clement dit Larivière*, **491**. Boot and shoe factory, *J. McCreedy*, **491**. Canadian Rubber Co., *J. J. McGill*, **570**. Carriage making, *E. Major*, **506**. Done outside for *M. C. Mularky*, **446**. Carriage upholstery, *Jos. Parent*, **512**. Porter and Savage's tannery, *H. Porter*, **670**. Moulders, *R. Powers*, **456**. Shirt and Collar factory, *A. H. Simms*, **498**. Advantages of in shirt and collar factory and laundry, *A. H. Simms*, **496**. Hudon and St. Anne's Cotton Mills, how affected by Camp's rule *re* leaving without notice, *P. C. Shannon*, **573**.

Quebec. Boot and shoe factory, *Miss * * **, **984**. *Miss * * **, **985**. *Miss * * **, **982**. *Miss * * **, **986-987**. *Miss * * **, **991**. *Miss * * **, **991**. *Miss * * **, **990**. Women employed in his corset factory, *G. E. Amyot*, **810**. Moulders, *G. Beaudoin*, **899**. Printers, *J. J. Foote*, **94**. *Geo. Gale*, **1033-1034**. *Geo. Jackson*, **926-927**. Earning of women on piece work in tailoring establishments, *Wm. Lee*, **852**. Boot and shoe factory, *D. Marsan*, **947**. *W. A. Marsh*, **961-964**. *Jos. D. patie*, **904-905**. Coopers, *I. Parent*, **939**. Paquette's clothing establishment, *S. Paquette*, **809**. Carriage trimmers, *A. Paquette*, **868**. Nailers in Peters' saw and planing mill, *Simon Peters*, **843**. Boot and shoe factory, *L. Robitaille*, **948-949**. Bakers, *F. Sanschayrin*, **859**.

PIECE WORK—Continued.

Printers, *J. P. Tardival*, **928**. Broom makers, *R. Lumer*, **1055**. Boot and shoe factory, *S. Turcotte*, **911-913**. Furriers establishments, *Jos. Varville*, **850**.

St. Hyacinthe. At granite knitting mills, *G. Bachard*, **1296**. *J. Barbeau*, **1326**. *A. Blanchette*, **1284**. Tanneries, *M. Boud-au*, **1311**. Boot and shoe factory, *D. Bouchard*, **1319**. Granite knitting mills, *N. Boucher*, **1287**. *H. Cordeau*, **1277**. *H. Gagné*, **1291**. Children, *A. Gosselin*, **1320**. *A. Lapierre*, **1297**. *A. Loronge*, **1294**. *H. Lemoine*, **295**. Woolen factory, *P. Pallardy*, **1330**. Granite knitting mills, stocking department, *A. Pallardy*, **1286**. Piece hands lose time every day in granite knitting mills waiting for work, *A. Pallardy*, **1287**. Granite knitting mills, *E. Trudeau*, **1285**.

Sherbrooke.—Cigar makers, *F. Cruickshanks*, **1229-1230**. Weaving room woolen mills, *A. Dorian*, **1233**. Tailoring, *N. T. Dussault*, **1220**. Apprentices, cigar makers, *A. Gauthier*, **1225**. Cigar makers apprentices, *T. Lejune*, **1236**. Cotton factory, *F. McArthur*, **1206**. Cigar makers, rate paid per 100 cigars, *P. Morin*, **1186**. Cigar factory, *C. H. Nutter*, **1214**.

POLICE PROTECTION.

Quebec.—Insufficiency of police protection given to hackmen, *C. Beaumont*, **1044**.

POLICEMEN.

Quebec.—See evidence, *Andrew Halwell* **773**. *Herméngilde Morin*, **853**. *Leon P. Vohl*, **845**.

POLICE REGULATIONS.

Quebec.—Discrimination by police in favor of hotel omnibusses against cab men, *Louis P. Vohl*, **848**.

POPULATION.

St. Hyacinthe in 1886.—*J. O. Guertin*, **1265**.

PRICES.

Montreal.—Cost and selling prices of sewing machines, *C. D'Amour*, **658**. Difference between manufacturers' prices and cost to consumers, and is this difference greater or less in the case of imported articles as compared with articles of having consumption wholesale groceries, *A. C. Joseph*, **1166-1168**.

PRINTERS AND PRINTING.

Montreal.—See evidence of *Onesphore Corriveau*, **432**. *A. Casmel*, **450**. At Reformatory School Printing office, *E. Globensky*, **453**. Quebec.—*Geo. Cook*, **1046**. *Geo. Gale*, **1053**. *Antoine Langlois*, **955**. *Jas. Dussault*, **935-940**. *Louis P. Pelletier*, **935**. *Julius P. Tardival*, **928**. *Geo. Jackson*, **926**. *James Carroll*, **922**. *John J. Foote*, **921**.

St. Hyacinthe.—See evidence of *H. Cassavant*, **1330**. *A. Denis*, **1331**.

PRISONERS.

Montreal.—The present system of classifying them demoralizing and one of the causes of great injustice, *Judge Dugas*, **449**.

"PROFIT SHAVING.

Montreal.—See evidence of *B. C. Fisher*, **579**. *Wm. C. McDonald*, **533**.

PROTECTIVE DUTIES.

Montreal.—St. Lawrence Sugar Refinery Co. started in Montreal on N. P., *A. Baumgarten*, **620**. Would like to have certain material used in carriage making imported free, *F. Brunet*, **513**. His opinion regarding duty on hard coal from U. S., *F. Henshaw*, **724**. Duty on certain classes of books a drawback to

PROTECTIVE DUTIES—*Continued.*

education of working classes, *J. T. Redmond*, **729**. Its effect on English coal, *J. F. Serine*, **568**.

St. Hyacinthe.—On organs, *J. C. Cassavant*, **1271**.

Quebec.—Effect on cost of living, *J. Carroll*, **924**.

PULP MANUFACTURERS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES.

Sherbrooke.—See evidence of *F. P. Bucke*, **1194**.

PURCHASING POWER OF WAGES.

Montreal.—Printers not as well off as formerly, *L. J. Baudreau*, **423**. Rents and cost of living in Montreal now and five years ago, *J. Connolly*, **333**. Compositors are not so well off now as sixteen years ago, although they are paid the same wages, *T. J. Finn*, **323**. Laborers, *Thos. Greatorax*, **86**.

QUEBEC AND LEVIS FERRY CO.

Quebec.—See evidence of *Jas. Patton*, **825**.

QUEBEC STEAMSHIP CO.

Quebec.—See evidence of *Arthur A'Hearn*, **855**.

QUEBEC CENTRAL RAILWAY CO.

Sherbrooke.—Car and Locomotive shop employees, *J. Seivright*, **1226**.

QUARRIES AND QUARRYMEN.

Hull.—See evidence of *Rugg vs. Wright*, **1346**.

Montreal.—See evidence of *Henry Benjamin*, **541**.

RAILWAY APPLIANCES.

BELL CORDS.—*A. Luttrell*, Montreal, **592**. *E. Townsend*, Montreal, **624**.

BRAKES.—*E. Townsend*, Montreal, **624**.

CAR COUPLERS.—*E. Townsend*, **625**.

RAILINGS or guards on top of freight cars to protect brakemen in discharge of their duty, *L. L. Peltier*, Montreal, **628**.

RUNNING BOARD.—*A. Luttrell*, **591**. *L. L. Peltier*, **628**. *E. Townsend*, **624**.

SIGNAL SYSTEMS.—The signal system of the G. T. R., *L. L. Peltier*, Montreal, **627**.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

See evidence of *Thomas Anderson*, Montreal, **629**. *J. J. Duffy*, **1187**. *Louis Luke*, Sherbrooke, **1211**. *A. Luttrell*, Montreal, **590-591**. *L. L. Peltier*, Montreal, **626**. *J. Seivright*, Sherbrooke, **1227**. *E. Townsend*, Montreal, **624**.

RAILWAY FACILITIES.

At Montreal superior to those of Quebec the cause of the decrease of the shipping trade at Quebec. *C. Fitzpatrick*, **1075**.

REAL ESTATE.

In Hull.—*D. Dupuis*, **1354**. *J. O. Laferrière*, **1334-1335**. Copy of a land lease, *A. Thibeau*, **1358-1359**. *J. Vailaincourt*, **1352-1353**. Montreal.—Value of land suitable for workingmen's houses, *Wm. Keys*, **517**. Quebec.—See evidence of *J. A. Grenier*, city valuator, **812**. Sherbrooke.—Held by the British American Land Co., *Heneker*, **1203**. Sorel.—*J. B. Labelle, M.P.*, **490**.

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS. See CONVICT LABOR.

RENTS.

Capelton.—Of workingmen's houses owned by the Orford Copper and Sulphur Co., *G. Babb*, **1254**. Hull.—Of workingmen's houses, *E. St. Amour*, **1339**.

RENTS—Continued.

Levis.—*G. Beaudoin*, **902**. *Joseph E. Mercier*, **1133**. *Alfred Tanquay*, **1154**.
 Montreal.—Of workingmen's houses, *L. Cousineau*, **582**. The indirect effect of
 legislation on rent, *B. C. Fisher*, **579**. *Thomas Gratton*, **84**. Probable difference
 in the rent he pays at the Reformatory, and that he would have to pay elsewhere
 in the city, *E. N. Heney*, **499**. *E. Hollis*, **630**. *Fred. Judah*, **660**. Increase
 of rents in Montreal during last ten years. Taxation of land to its value as a
 remedy for high rents, *Wm. Keys*, **517**. *Edward Lusher*, Manager Street Rail-
 way, **69**. *B. Osiris*, **472**. Quebec.—Of workingmen's houses, *G. Beaudoin*,
901. *M. Boivin*, **860**. *J. Carroll*, **924**. Rents paid by firemen for accom-
 modation at the station, *A. Dubé*, **1050**. Inability of the working classes to pay
 rent, *Hon. J. Hearne*, **796**. *E. Mercier*, **1009**. Rents paid by firemen for the
 accommodation they get at the stations, *P. Shea*, **1042**. St. Hyacinthe.—Of
 workingmen's houses, *O. Delage*, **1329**. *S. Gauthier*, **1317**. *P. Lavoie*, **1292**.
C. Robitoux, **1290**. Sherbrooke.—Of workingmen's houses, *G. G. Bryant*,
1241. *F. P. Bucke*, **1191**.

RIVERSIDE WORSTED COMPANY AND EMPLOYEES THEREOF.

See evidence of *Miss * * **, Quebec, **980**.

ROADS, COLONIZATION. Necessity for, *C. T. Cotté*, **1005**.

ROOFERS.

Montreal.—See evidence of *Alphonse Larivière*, **676**. *Joseph Pelletier*, **678**.
 Quebec. See evidence of *Joseph Burbeau*, **908**. *Théophile Lachance*, **945**.
François Ferdinand Paradis, **1068**.

ROPE FACTORY EMPLOYEES. See CORDAGE FACTORY.

RUBBER FACTORY EMPLOYEES.

Montreal.—See evidence of *William Gallagher*, foreman shoe dept. Canadian
 Rubber Co.'s factory, **684**. *Gustave Gravel*, **722**. *John J. McGill*, **569**. *Mal-
 lory Palmer*, **683**.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

Of the Granite Knitting Factory, St. Hyacinthe, **1364**. *E. T. Corset Manu-
 facturing Co.*, Sherbrooke, **1243**. *Patton Manufacturing Co.*, Sherbrooke, **1244**.
Webster, Nutter & Co.'s Cigar and Tobacco Factory, Sherbrooke, **1243**.

SADDLERS AND HARNESS MAKERS.

Montreal.—See evidence of *Edward N. Heney*, **498**. *Daniel Murphy*, **496**.
François Pigeon, **508**. *Jean Benjamin Villey*, **647**. Quebec.—See evidence of
Joseph Lessard, **1003**.

SAILORS, SHIPPING OF.

Advantage of engaging crews by the season instead of by the trip, *A. Hearne*,
 Quebec, **856**.

ST. HYACINTHE, CITY OF.

See evidence of *Joseph O. Guertin*, Secretary Treasurer, **1265**.

ST. LAWRENCE SUGAR REFINERY.

Effect the burning of it had on the price of sugar in 1887, *R. Turner*, **1060**.

SANITARY ARRANGEMENTS AND CONDITIONS.

BAKERIES.—Montreal. *E. Chaput*, **565**. Quebec. *J. Hetherington*, **867**.
Jos. Sanschajrin, **858**. Sherbrooke. *T. W. Fuller*, **1204**.

BOOT AND SHOE FACTORIES.—Montreal. *Z. Lapierre*, **437**. *J. McCready*,
492. *M. U. Mularky*, **446**. *J. F. O'Rourke*, **244**. Quebec. *Miss * * **,
982-985-986. *Miss * * **, forewomen, **988**. *Miss * * **, sewer, **991**.

SANITARY ARRANGEMENTS AND CONDITIONS—Continued.

Miss * * *, *stitcher*, **990**. Dame * * *, **984**. T. Arien, **909**. Jos. Dépatie, **905**. Geo. Ferguson, **966**. D. Marsan, **948**. E. Mercier, **1009**. W. A. Marsh, **962**. L. A. Perrault, **974**. S. Turcotte, **912**. St. Hyacinthe. O. Delage, **1328**.

BROOM FACTORY.—Quebec. R. Turner, **1056**.

BUILDER'S REGULATIONS.—Montreal. Pierre Lacroix, **705**. Quebec. J. B. Grenier, **814**.

CARPENTER'S SHOPS.—Montreal. Mr. * * *, **642**. S. Payette, **651**.

CARTRIDGE FACTORY.—Quebec. T. Lane, **777**. Major Prevost, **803**.

CIGAR FACTORIES.—Montreal. Augustus Duval, **71**. Ovide Grothé, **147**. Alexander MacGregor, **101**. Elie Massy, **23**.

CORDAGE FACTORY.—Quebec. J. Brown, **865**. R. Cantin, **968**.

CORSET FACTORIES.—Montreal. Camille J. Grenier, **701**. Quebec. G. E. Amyot, **811**. Sherbrooke. A. Corriveau, **1219**.

COTTON FACTORIES.—Montreal. P. Pleau, **319**. J. G. Wolger, **503**.

DRY GOOD STORES.—Montreal. Samuel Carsley, **14**. Peter Z. Lancot, **192**. Quebec. Simon Bilodeau, **1043**. Sherbrooke. Walter Blue, **1170**.

DWELLINGS, WORKING CLASSES.—Hull. E. St. Amour, **1339**. Montreal. Miss * * *, **643**. I. Cousineau, **583**. Dr. DeCrow, **606**. Thomas Grestorex, **85**. Fred Judah, **661**. I. C. Radford, **667**. A. W. Short, **547-548**. St. Hyacinthe. M. A. Connell, **1272**. Sherbrooke. Louis Edmond Panneton, Mayor, **1163**.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—St. Hyacinthe. Zotique Gauthier, **1316**. Sherbrooke. J. M. Jinks, **1209**.

FIRE STATIONS.—Montreal. Chief Wm. Patton, **672**. Quebec. A. Dubé, **1049**. P. Shea, **1043**.

FOUNDRIES AND MACHINE SHOPS.—Montreal. T. J. Baldon, **502**. O. Duffy, **460**. Wm. Keys, **516**. H. Lapierre, **474-475**. W. Marion, **311-312**. J. O'Flaherty, **462**. R. Powers, **457**. Quebec. G. Beaudoin, **901**. Alex. Brisette, **833-834**. A. Larmonth, **1053**. A. Therriault, **902**.

GLASS FACTORIES.—Montreal. Wm. F. Borland, **588**.

KNITTING FACTORIES.—St. Hyacinthe Granite Knitting Mills. P. Larivière, **1292**.

LAUNDRIES.—Montreal. T. H. Love, **689**. Quebec. Mary Buchanan, **818-819**.

MARBLE CUTTERS' SHOPS.—Montreal. R. Reid, **442**. W. Saggerton, **468**. E. Wills, **471**.

MATCH FACTORIES.—Hull. D. Casey, **1344**. Miss Rose Deschenes, **1349**. St. Romuald. Miss * * *, **1146-1148**. Louis Roberge, **1148-1149**.

MINES.—Capelton. J. Wearne, **1252**.

MONTREAL, CITY OF.—Louis Laberge, Medical Health Officer, **1-4**.

PRINTING OFFICES.—Quebec. J. J. Foote, **922**. Geo. Gale, **1035**. Geo. Jackson, **927**. A. Langlois, **956**.

SASH AND DOOR FACTORIES.—Hull. See evidence of W. H. Garrioch, **1344**.

SCHOOLS.—Montreal. S. C. Stevenson, Secretary of the Arts and Manufacturers Association, and Director of Technical School, **8**.

SHERBROOKE.—See evidence of Robert Davidson, Chief of the Fire and Police Department, **1173**.

SUGAR REFINERY.—Montreal. See evidence of Joseph Young, Bookkeeper at the Canada Sugar Refinery, **172**.

SANITARY ARRANGEMENTS AND CONDITIONS—Continued.

TAILORS' WORKSHOPS.—Montreal. *Jos. Myers*, 559. *J. Solomon*, 560.

TANNERIES.—Montreal. *D. Lemay*, 562. *Geo. A. Mooney*, 544. Quebec. *A. Blais*, 914. *W. Boule*, 863. *T. Darveau*, 1046. *F. Gourdeau*, 1066. *O. Imbeau*, 906. *M. Vallières*, 1068. St. Hyacinthe. *Chas. Bienvenu*, 1312. *T. Guay*, 1312.

TOBACCO FACTORIES.—Quebec. *Wm. J. Le Mesurier*, 769.

WALL PAPER FACTORY.—Montreal. *C. McArthur*, 575.

WOOLLEN FACTORIES.—Quebec. Miss * * *, 1121. *Wm. H. Naylor*, 1029. Sherbrooke. *Job Ainsworth*, 1192. *Alex. G. Lomas*, 1173. *Andrew Patton*, 1164.

SANITARY INSPECTORS.—See INSPECTION AND INSPECTORS.

SANITARY LAW, now in existence, if properly enforced, is sufficient to enable the authorities to look after the health of the city and ensure good drainage. *Dr. Decrow*, Montreal, 608.

SASH AND DOOR FACTORIES AND EMPLOYEES THEREOF.

In Hull.—See evidence of *Eucher Carron*, 1355. *Hormisdas Dupuis*, 1354.

W. H. Garrioch, 1344. *Alphonse Gratton*, 1355. *J. Vaillancourt*, 1351.

SAVINGS BANKS. See evidence of *Louis Wilfred Sicotte*, Montreal, 609.

SAVINGS OF THE WORKING CLASSES AND THEIR INVESTMENT.

At Capelton.—*G. W. Babb*, 1254. *J. Wearne*, 1251.

At Hull.—*E. Dorion*, 1338. *W. H. Garrioch*, 1345-1346. Laboring classes of Hull as Post Office Savings Bank depositors. See evidence of *John Henry Kerr*, 1347. Savings of working classes invested in property, *J. Vaillancourt*, 1352.

At Montreal.—Glass factory employees who own their own homes, *Wm. F. Borland*, 590. *S. Carsley*, 17. *J. R. Dick*, 224. Mechanics who are property holders; how the property was acquired. Deposits in the City and District Savings Bank made by the working classes, English and French, *Fred. Judah*, 661. *Edward Lusher*, manager of the Street Railway, 67. Carpenters make more debt than savings, *S. Paquette*, 651. Carpenters who own their own homes, *D. Rutherford*, 535.

ONTARIO AND RICHELIEU NAVIGATION COMPANY'S EMPLOYEES.—Deck hands who own their own property earned in the company's employ, *J. B. Labelle*, *M. P.*, 487-490.

At Quebec.—Moulders, *G. Beaudoin*, 901. Tanners, *T. Darveau*, 1046. Boot and shoe factory employees, *W. A. Marsh*, 962-964. Stone masons, *T. Pampalon*, 994. Coopers, *J. Parent*, 939.

At St. Hyacinthe.—Organ factory employees, *J. C. Cassavant*, 1270. Workingmen who own property, *F. X. Chalifoux*, 1276. Boot and shoe factory employees, *J. Cotté*, 1315. *O. Delage*, 1328-1330. Tanners, *S. T. Duclos*, 1313. Workingmen, *F. Fournier*, 1333.

At Sherbrooke.—A good many mechanics own their own houses, *G. G. Bryant*, 1241. Stove factory employees, *H. A. Elkins*, 1217. Boston Bakery employees, *T. W. Fuller*, 1205. *R. W. Heneker*, 1203. Furniture factory employees, *Geo. Long*, 1208. Woollen factory employees, *F. Lord*, 1194.

SAW FILERS. See LUMBER MILL EMPLOYEES.

SCHOOL AND WORKSHOP SAVINGS BANK. See SAVINGS BANKS.

SCOTT ACT. Its effect on intemperance, *Mrs. E. Middleton*, Quebec, 760.

SEWING MACHINE FACTORY EMPLOYEES. Montreal. See evidence of —, messenger, **618-619**.

SEWING MACHINES AND THE SEWING MACHINE BUSINESS.

Montreal. See evidence of *Charles D'Amour*, **658**. —, journalist, **605**.

SHIPPING BUSINESS.

Quebec. See evidence of *Thomas Beckett*, **880**. *Fred. Bellingsley*, **887**. *Chas. G. Davis*, **893**. *Chas. Fitzpatrick*, **1074**. *Andrew R. Hansen*, **879**. *W. M. Macpherson*, **915**. *Arthur J. Maguire*, **895**. *J. O'Farrell*, **841**. *William Rae*, **870** and **1065**. *Walter S. Ray*, **1017**. *N. Rosa*, **898**. *Robert Stanley*, **1061**. *E. H. Wade*, **1010**.

SHIP LABORERS. See LABORERS.

SHIPPING MASTER.—Quebec. His duties and fees. *A. Hearn*, **857**.

SHIRT AND COLLAR FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. See evidence of *A. H. Simms*, **493**.

SHOEMAKERS AND SHOE FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—See BOOT AND SHOE FACTORY EMPLOYEES.

SIGN WRITERS.—Montreal. *C. Fryer*, **634**.

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN.—See evidence of the Secretary, *E. Hollis*, **629**.

STEAMBOATS USED FOR TOWING ON THE OTTAWA AND THEIR CREWS.—See evidence of *Capt. A. Goulet*, Montreal, **521**.

STOCKING MAKERS.—See KNITTING FACTORY EMPLOYEES.

STONE CUTTERS AND MASONS.—Montreal. *L. Cousineau*, **581**. *R. Reid*, **440**. Quebec. *Ignace Bilodoux*, **852**. *Thomas Pampalan*, **993-994**. *Sherbrooke*. *G. G. Bryant*, **1241**.

"STORE PAY."—*J. J. Duffy*, **1188**.

STREET RAILWAY CO'Y.—Quebec. Yearly dividends. *S. Moore*, **823**. Employees thereof. *S. Moore*, **819**.

STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS AND THEIR RESULTS.

CARPENTERS.—Montreal, in 1866. *D. Rutherford*, **534**.

CIGARMAKERS.—Montreal. *J. M. Fortier*, **129**.

COTTON MILLS.—Montreal. Ste. Anne's Factory. *D. Cooke*, Superintendent, **243**.

FOUNDRYMEN.—*C. Anderson*, **467**. Locking out men for being late. *J. O'Flaherty*, **462**. Lockout at Clendinneng's foundry. *R. Powers*, **457**. Among Quebec moulders; their causes and mode of settlement. *Alex. Brisette*, **833**.

GAS WORKS.—Montreal. Of stokers in May, 1887. *J. F. Sriver*, **567**.

KNITTING FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—At the Granite Mills, St. Hyacinthe. Description of the cause of the recent trouble. *Feodore Boas*, **1309**. *Maurice Boas*, **1298-1308**. *H. Lemoine*, **1308**. *S. Logomitz*, **1325**. *M. Murphy*, **1320** to **1325**.

PRINTERS.—Montreal. A strike in a Montreal newspaper office. *J. Beatty*, **359**. Quebec. *J. Carrell*, **923-924**. *J. Dussault*, **940** to **943**. Copy of Circular issued by the Knights of Labor and Typographical Union previous to printer's strike. *J. Dussault*, **976**. Result of the printer's strike beneficial to the men. *Geo. Gale*, **1033-1034**. Strike for the nine hour system. *Geo. Jackson*, **927**. *A. Langlois*, **955**. *J. P. Tardival*, **929**.

STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS AND THEIR RESULTS—Continued.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.—*Thomas C. Shaunessy*, Assistant General Manager C. P. R., Montreal, **164**.

SHIP LABORERS.—Montreal. *John Brennan*, **156**. Quebec. Labor trouble between Mr. Falkenburgh and the Ship Laborers' Society. *W. Ray*, **1017**. Labor trouble between Ship Laborers' Society and the owners of the barque "Frederick." *James Paul*, **1084**.

STEAMFITTER.—Montreal. *R. Mitchell*, **289**.

STEAMSHIP COMPANY'S EMPLOYEES.—*R. A. Smith*, of Messrs. H. & A. Allan, **158**.

SUB-CONTRACTING AND SUB-CONTRACTORS.

BOOT AND SHOE FACTORIES.—Montreal. Of work done by him outside his factory, *J. McCready*, **492**. *M. C. Mularky*, **446**. Quebec, *Dame * * **, **984**. *Miss * * **, **986**. Reasons against, *Geo. Ferguson*, **966**. *D. Marsan*, **947**. *W. A. Marsh*, **962-964**. *O. Mignier*, **973**.

BUILDING TRADES.—Montreal, *L. Cousineau*, **581**. Quebec, *L. Boivin*, **996**. Sherbrooke, *W. Routelle*, **1207**.

MATCH FACTORY.—Hull, *D. Casey*, **1343-1344**. *E. Dorion*, **1336**. *N. Drouin*, **1361-1363**.

PRINTING OFFICES.—Quebec, *L. P. Pelletier*, **935**.

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.—*Pierre Fleury*, Sherbrooke, **1188**. *Clarke Gordon*, Sherbrooke, **1211-1212**. *Louis Luke*, Sherbrooke, **1210**.

TAILORING ESTABLISHMENT.—Montreal, *A. Ephraim*, **557**. *Isaac Gold*, **558**.

TANNERS AND CURRIERS.—Quebec, *T. Darveau*, **1046**. *F. Gourdeau*, **1065**.

TOBACCO FACTORIES.—Montreal, * * *, tobacco worker, **680-681**. *Wm. C. McDonald*, **531**. *S. W. Wells*, **554-555**.

WOOLEN FACTORIES.—Sherbrooke, *F. Lord*, **1194**. *Chas. Thornton*, **1198**.

Evils of sub-contracting, *J. J. Duffy*, **1187**. Men in the vicinity of Sherbrooke lose money every year through sub contractors, *P. Fleury*, **1180**. Men losing their wages through sub-contractors at Sherbrooke, *John McCartney*, teamster, **1190**. Contractors leaving without paying their employees, Sherbrooke, *G. G. Bryant*, **1242**.

SUGAR sold in Montreal, *Dr. J. B. Edwards*, Public Analyst, **666**. American compared with Canadian, *T. W. Fuller*, **1205**. Importation and manufacture of sugar, *R. Turner*, **1059**.

"SUGAR COMBINE." See COMBINATIONS.

SUGAR REFINERY EMPLOYEES.

Montreal. See evidence of *Alfred Baumgarten*, of the St. Lawrence Sugar Refining Company, **620**.

SUNDAY EXCURSIONS.

Ontario and Richelieu Navigation Company's boats, *J. B. Labelle*, *M. P.*, **488**.

SUNDAY LABOR.

BAKERS.—Montreal, *E. Chaput*, **564-566**. *E. Pole*, **598**. Quebec, *Jos. Sanschagrín*, **858**.

CARTERS.—Quebec, *Isaïé Côté*, **1125**.

COTTON FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—*D. Cook*, **346**.

DRY GOODS STORE EMPLOYEES.—Montreal, *J. O. Lebreque*, **403**.

SUNDAY LABOR—*Continued.*

GLASS FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal, *Wm. F. Borland*, **589**.

GRAIN STORE LABORERS.—Quebec, *F. Kerouack*, **1003**.

MESSENGER BOYS.—Montreal. *L. H. Laramée*, **372**.

POLICEMEN.—Quebec. *Louis P. Vohl*, **847**.

PRINTERS.—Montreal. *O. Corriveau*, **432**.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.—*William Wainwright*, Assistant General Manager G. T. R., Montreal, **112**.

SHIP LABORERS—Montreal. *John Brennan*, **150**. *Geo. Brown*, **647**. *P. J. Dalton*, **184**. *Edmund Tart*, **178**. Quebec. *R. R. Leahey*, **749**. *W. M. Macpherson*, **921**. *E. H. Wade*, **1014**.

STEAMBOAT EMPLOYEES.—Quebec and Levis Ferry Co., *Jas. Patton*, **826**.

STEAMSHIP EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. *Capt. John Barclay*, Marine Superintendent Allan Steamship Line, **170-206**. *R. A. Smith*, of Messrs. H. & A. Allan, **159**.

STREET RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. *Edward Lusher*, **66**. Quebec. *Samuel Moore*, **819**.

SUGAR REFINERY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. *A. Baumgarten*, **621**.

TELEPHONE OPERATOR.—(Female.)—Montreal. *Lillian West Camp*, **525**. Girls working from 8 a. m. Saturday till 3 a. m. Sundays, *J. O. Lebreque*, **401**. Sunday work among his employees. *Ruggles Wright*, Hull, **1347**.

SUNDAY TRAINS.

Montreal.—*J. O. Mathewson*, **616**.

SUPERVISION.

Of Marine Insurance Companies over the loading of vessels in the port of Montreal, *R. S. Cleft*, **622**. Of theatrical advertisements and plays, *J. A. Mathewson*, **616**.

SURVEYING OF VESSELS at Quebec.

See evidence of *John Dick*, Port Warden and Surveyor for English Lloyds, **762**.

TAILORS.

Montreal.—See evidence of *A. Ephraim*, **551**. *Isaac Gold*, **558**. *Joseph Myers*, **559**. *Jacob Julius Rosen*, **558**. *Israel Soloman*, **569**. Quebec. See evidence of *Wm. Lee*, **854**. *David Morgan*, **767**. *Geo. Racine*, **1071**. *Sherbrooke*. *N. T. Dassault*, **1220**. *Maxime Marcotte*, **1234**.

TANNERIES AND EMPLOYEES THEREOF, at Montreal.

See evidence of *Francois Laine*, **593**. *Dolphis Lemay*, **562**. *George A. Mooney*, **543**. *Henry Porter*, of Porter & Savage, **669**.

At Quebec.—See evidence of *Alfred Blar*, **913**. *Wm. Boulé*, **863**. *T. Darveau*, **1046**. *Felix Gourdeau*, **1065**. *Onesmine Imbeau*, **906**. *Michel Valierres*, **1068**.

At St. Hyacinthe.—See evidence of *Charles Bienvenu*, **1312**. *Miss Melina Bomdeau*, **1311**. *Silas T. Duclou*, **1313**. *Telesphore Guay*, **1312**. *Miss Virginie Leonard*, **1311**. *Ed. F. Moseley*, **1274**.

TAXATION.

Hull.—School tax levied yearly for each child, *E. Dorion*, **1337**.

Montreal.—Tax levied on engineers, *E. O. Champagne*, **709**. Taxes on tenement houses generally paid by the landlord, *Fred Judah*, **662**. Taxation of land to its full value as a remedy for high rents in Montreal, *Wm. Keys*, **517**. Taxes

TAXATION—Continued.

levied by the Roman Catholic church for prayers, burial and marriage services, *Octave Legacé*, **721**. On Workingmen's houses, *B. Osiris*, **472**. Tax levied on Montreal lawyers to pay for construction of Court House, *Rover Roy*, **704**.

QUEBEC.—Personal tax paid by firemen, *A. Dubé*, **1050**. Laborers pay city water tax and have to buy water from carriers there being no waterworks, *T. Fontaine*, **780**.

St. HYACINTHE.—*O. Delage*, **1329**. Taxes in Montreal and St. Hyacinthe compared, *Z. Gauthier*, **1317**. Taxes and how they are levied, *J. O. Guertin*, **1265** to **1268**. Special tax on workmen under clause No. 94 of the city charter, *J. O. Guertin*, **1261-1267**. Houses occupied by tenants pay both property and tenant's taxes while those occupied by owners pay only the property tax, *J. O. Guertin*, **1268**. Statement showing property exempt from taxation, *J. O. Guertin*, **1269**. Exemptions from taxation, *E. F. Moseley*, **1275**. Although not a resident of St. Hyacinthe paid last year the special tax on workmen. Believes the special tax on workmen is to contribute to bonuses to industries consequently thinks he benefits thereby, *E. Thibideau*, **1315-1316**.

TEA. Sold in Montreal, *Dr. J. B. Edwards*, Public Analyst, **665**.

TECHNICAL SCHOOLS. See EDUCATION.

TELEGRAPH WIRES.

Danger to firemen in Montreal while working at fires from the present arrangement of telegraph wires, *James Doolan*, **695**. The present arrangement of them a source of danger and inconvenience to firemen in case of fires, *Chief Patton*, Montreal, **675**.

TELEPHONE OPERATORS.

Montreal. See evidence of *Lilian West Camp*, **524**.

TEMPERANCE PRINCIPLES.

Growth of, *Mrs. E. Middleton*, **761**.

TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES.

Quebec.—See evidence of *Mrs. E. Middleton*, President W. C. T. U. in Canada, **759**. Employees of the Quebec Street Railway Co. have to sign an agreement to abstain from drunkenness, *S. Moore*, **822**.

TENEMENT HOUSES. See DWELLINGS' WORKINGMEN.

THEATRICAL ADVERTISEMENTS AND PLAYS.

Necessity for a supervision of, *J. Mathewson*, **616**.

TIMBER MERCHANTS' EMPLOYEES.

Quebec.—*E. H. Wade*, **1015**.

TIMBER TRADE.

Quebec. *E. H. Wade*, **1010**.

TIME-KEEPING.

Method of keeping the employees time of the Hochelaga Cotton Mills Co., Montreal, *J. C. Shannon*, **573**.

TOBACCO FACTORY EMPLOYEES.

Montreal.—See evidence of *** tobacco worker, **679-682**. *Maria Ethier*, **481**. *Florina Lacoste*, **480**. *Wm. C. McDonald*, **529**. *S. W. Wills*, **552**.

Quebec.—See evidence of *F. X. Dussault*, **851**. *Wm. J. Lemesurer*, **768**.

Sherbrooke.—Rules and regulations of Messrs. Webster & Nutter's factory, **1243**. See evidence of *Wm. R. Webster*, **1232**.

See also CIGAR FACTORY EMPLOYEES.

TOLL GATES an injustice to hackmen, Quebec, *J. McDermott*, **1039**.

TOOLS.

Cost of a complete set of bricklayer's tools, *A. Lortie*, **997**. Cost of a complete set of joiner's tools, *A. Lortie*, **998**. Comparison of prices of mechanics' tools now and seven years ago *Gustave Piché*, **714**. Price of mechanics' tools made in Canada and the United States, *Gustave Piché*, Montreal, **715**.

TRADES UNIONS. See ORGANIZED LABOR.

TRUCK SYSTEM.

Montreal.—*Peter Ferns*, **207**. *Wm. Keys*, **517**.

Quebec.—*C. T. Coté*, **1006**. *Mrs. Eliè Marcoux*, seamstress, **1103**. Gives orders on stores for payment of work very rarely, *I. Parent*, **939**. *Augustin Perron*, contractor, **1109**. Among tailors, *G. Racine*, **1072**. *Joseph Arsène Roy*, dry goods clerk, **1092**.

Sherbrooke.—*Walter Blue*, dry goods merchant, **1171**.

TRUSTS.—*Andrew Cohen Joseph*, wholesale grocer, Quebec, **1116-1117**.

UNDERTAKER'S ASSOCIATION. See COMBINATIONS.

UNDERTAKERS OF FUNERALS. See evidence of *Louis Gerrard*, Three Rivers, **655**.

VENTILATION. See SANITARY ARRANGEMENTS AND CONDITIONS.

WAGES.

ACCOUNTANTS.—See evidence of *A. Corriveau*, Sherbrooke, **1219**.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—See evidence of *H. F. Chalifoux*, St. Hyacinthe, **1276**.

AXELMAKERS, wages of in Montreal and United States compared, *T. J. Moccock*, **443**. In St. Catharines and Montreal compared, *T. J. Moccock*, **444**. See evidence of *T. J. Moccock*, **443**.

BAKERS in Hetherington's bakery, Quebec, *Jos. Sanschagrín*, **858**. Proportion of bakers in Quebec working for less than five dollars per week, *Jos. Sanschagrín*, **858**. Bakers, Quebec, *T. Hetherington*, **866**. *T. Fuller*, Sherbrooke, **1204**. *G. Marchesseau*, **1218**. *E. Chaput*, Montreal, **563-565**. *E. Pole*, **597**. *M. Dupont*, St. Hyacinthe, **1318**.

BATTEAUXMEN.—See evidence of *W. Rae*, Quebec, **1018**. Messrs. Dobell, Beckett & Co.'s employ, *C. Dubé*, **1023-1027**. Average earnings in 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886 and 1887, *C. Dubé*, **1025**. Reasons why earnings decreased during past few years, *C. Dubé*, **1024**.

BARGEMEN.—See evidence of *H. Maclean*, Quebec, **1001**. *L. Berthiaume*, **954**. His earnings for season of 1887 and during existence of Bargemen's Society, *P. Morrissette*, **952**. Prices paid them for lumber and for delays during existence of Bargemen's Society and since, arrangements with the owners, *P. Morrissette*, **951**. Prices bargemen get for lumber, *B. Gingras*, **949-950**. *Jos. Desnoyers*, **815**.

BISCUITMAKERS.—See evidence of *J. Glass*, Quebec, **771**. Comparison wages paid in Quebec and Nova Scotia, *J. Glass*, **772**. Effect of introduction of machinery, *J. Glass*, **772**.

BLACKSMITHS.—At Reformatory School, Montreal. *J. B. Blanchet*, **510-511**. Carriage, Quebec, *A. Paquette*, **867**. And their help, Car Shops, Sherbrooke, *J. Seivright*, **1226**.

BOILERMAKERS.—See evidence of *J. Roach*, Quebec, **1054**.

WAGES—Continued.

BOOMSMEN.—See evidence of *J. Roach*, Quebec, **1054**.

BOOKBINDERS.—See evidence of *H. Morton*, Montreal, **296**. Girls, *H. Morton*, **297**.

BOOT AND SHOE FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. See evidence. *O. D. Benoit*, **364**. Women, *J. McCreedy*, **491**. *M. C. Mularky*, **445**. Prices paid for piece work, *G. Lapierre*, **439**. *G. Laporte*, **437-439**. Child labor in Reformatory School, *E. Parent*, **435**. Leather Cutters, *A. Patrie*, **239**. Leather Cutters overpaid, *A. Viger*, **373**. Quebec, see evidence of Miss * * *, **985**. Miss * * *, **984**. Miss **982-983**. Miss * * *, **986**. Miss * * *, **989**. Miss * * *, **990**. Miss * * *, **990**. Miss * * *, **991**. Miss * * *, **991**. *S. Arien*, **909**. *A. Delautie*, **1010**. *J. Depatie*, **904**. Now and six years ago compared, *J. Depatie*, **906**. Apprentices, *A. Dimers*, **1044-1045**. Child labor, *Geo. Ferguson*, **965-966**. *D. Marson*, **947**. *W. A. Marsh*, **964**. Women and Girls, *W. A. Marsh*, **961**. See evidence of *C. Mignier*, **972**. *E. Mercier*, **1008-1009**. Finishers, *L. H. Perreault*, **974**. Cutting Department, *L. Robitaille*, **949**. Leather Cutters, *F. Schryburt*, **1051**. *S. Turcotte*, **911**. *St. Hyacinthe*, *D. Bouchard*, **1319**. *J. Coté*, **1314-1315**. Child Labor, *C. Coté*, **1327**. Leather Cutters, *O. Delage*, **1328**. *F. Fournier*, **1332**. Montreal and *St. Hyacinthe* compared, *G. Gauthier*, **1317-1318**. *J. Gauthier*, **1316**. *Sherbrooke*, *C. Beauregard*, **1234**. United States and Montreal compared, see evidence *J. F. O'Rourke*, **243**.

BRICKLAYERS.—Hull. *R. Wright*, **1347**. Montreal. *L. Cousineau*, **582**. Paid to Bricklayers and Stonemasons, exceptionally high, during summer of 1887, *B. C. Fisher*, **579**. *O. Lortie*, **998**. *Chas. O'Leary*, **836**. *Sherbrooke*, *G. G. Bryant*, **1241**. *C. Gordon*, **1211**. *M. Robitaille*, **1207**.

BROOMMAKERS.—See evidence of *R. Turner*, Quebec, **1055-1056**.

BUILDING TRADES.—Montreal. *Fred. Judah*, **661-663**. *Sherbrooke*. *G. G. Bryant*, **1241**.

CARETAKER.—Montreal Thistle Curling Rink. *G. Douglas*, **584**.

CARPENTERS.—Capelton. At Albert Mines, *W. H. Nicholls*, **1263**. Hull.—In sash factory, *E. Carron*, **1355**. Bench carpenters, *A. Gratton*, **1355**. *J. H. Kerr*, **1348**. Sash factory, *J. Vaillancourt*, **1354**. *T. White*, **1363**. Montreal. *Mr. * * **, **641**. *L. Cousineau*, **581**. *S. Paquette*, **650**. Apprentices, *S. Paquette*, **652**. *D. Rutherford*, **538**. Assistants, *D. Rutherford*, **533-534**. Quebec. Ship carpenters Quebec Steamship Co., see evidence of *A. A'Hearn*, **855**. Joiners, *P. Belanger*, **996**. *L. Boivin*, **995**. *M. Boivin*, **861**. Carpenters, *Jas. Fortier*, **781**. Joiners, *Jas. Fortier*, **781**. Carpenters, *F. Lafrance*, **1007**. Joiners, *A. Lortie*, **997**. Carpenters, *Chas. O'Leary*, **836**. Joiners, *Simon Peters*, **842**. Carpenters and caulkers, *J. Roach*, **1004**. Joiners, *G. Laveque*, **1070**. *Sherbrooke*. *G. G. Bryant*, **1240**. *Geo. Lang*, **1207**. Stair builders, *W. Robitaille*, **1207**. Joiners, *W. Robitaille*, **1206**. Car shops, *J. Seivright*, **1226**. Carpenters, *F. X. Thibeau*, **1237**. United States and *Sherbrooke* compared, *F. X. Thibeau*, **1238**.

CARRIAGE MAKERS.—Montreal. See evidence of *E. U. Heney*, **499**. Blacksmiths and upholsterers, *A. C. Larivière*, **519**. Blacksmith and, *E. Major*, **506**. Upholsterer, *Jas. Parent*, **512**. *A. Paquette*, **867**. United States and Montreal compared, *E. Brunet*, **512**.

CARTRIDGE FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Quebec. See evidence of *Wm. Dickson*, **798**. *Thos. Lane*, **776**. Paid when sick, Government cartridge factory, *Thos. Lane*, **777**. Children, Government cartridge factory, *Major Prevost*, **801**. Government cartridge factory, *Major Prevost*, **800**. *Chas. Robitaille*, **785**. Children, *Chas. Robitaille*, **785**. Promise of increase disregarded, *Chas. Robitaille*, **786**.

WAGES—Continued.

CHECKERS.—Montreal. Allan Steamship Line, *Geo. Douglas*, **585**.

CIGAR MAKERS.—Montreal. Cigar maker cannot live on his salary and support family, *E. Massy*, **250**. Sherbrooke. *F. Cruikshanks*, **1229**. *T. T. Lyon*, **1236**. *P. Morin*, **1186**. Price given for making 1000 cigars, *C. H. Nutter*, **1215**. Apprentices, *C. H. Nutter*, **1215**.

CLERKS.—Montreal. In millinery store, *Miss * * **, **592**. In Dye shop, *Miss * * **, **593**. Store clerk, *J. É. Latulippe*, Quebec, **934**.

CLOTH PRINTER.—Montreal. At Magog, *J. K. Ward*, **543**.

COLOR MIXERS. Montreal. At Magog Cloth Printing Mills, *J. K. Ward*, **543**.

COOPERS.—Montreal. *E. Chandier*, **546**. *J. Mahoney*, **560-561**. Quebec. *M. Boswell*, **1016**. *J. Parent*, **939**. Now and five years ago compared, *A. Lortie*, **998**.

CORDAGE FACTORY.—Montreal. *A. W. Morris*, **406**. Quebec. *R. Cantin*, **968**. Children, *E. Landry*, **970**. *F. Drouin*, **971**. *J. Brown*, **864-865**.

CORSET FACTORY.—Montreal. *Camille J. Grenier*, **700**. Quebec. *Miss * * **, **992**. Children, *G. E. Amyot*, **810**. Women, *G. E. Amyot*, **810**. Effect of introduction of machinery, *G. E. Amyot*, **812**. Sherbrooke. Women at Gendron's factory, *A. Corriveau*, **1219**.

COTTON MILLS.—Montreal. At the Hochelaga mills. — —, *Machinist*, **271**. Girls, *R. W. Eaton*, **397**. Females in spinning room, Hudon mills, *Cordelia Telmosse*, **484**. Sherbrooke. *F. McArthur*, **1206**. In Montreal and U. S. compared, *Wm. Kane*, **485**.

DRY GOODS ESTABLISHMENT.—Quebec. See evidence of *S. Paquette*, **807**.

DESIGNERS.—Montreal. Salary in England of good oil cloth designer, *John Baylis*, **577**.

DYERS.—Montreal. At the Cloth Printing Works, Magog, *J. K. Ward*, **543**.

ENGINEERS.—Montreal. *E. O. Champagne*, **710**. Steamboat engineers on the Ottawa River, *Capt. A. Goulet*, **521**. Quebec. Skilled engineers, *A. Larmouth*, **1052**. In the employ of the Quebec and Levis Ferry Company, *J. Patton*, **825**.

FIREMEN.—Montreal. *Jno. Beckingham*, **692**. Wages paid while suffering from injuries received at fires, *T. H. Hogan*, **697**. Chief *Wm. Patton*, **672-675**. *J. T. St. Pierre*, **679**. Quebec. *A. Dubé*, **1049**. *T. Kennedy*, **1073**. *P. Shea*, **1042**. United States and Montreal compared, *J. Beckingham*, **692**.

FOUNDRYMEN.—Mouler. *Chas. Anderson*, **467**. *T. J. Baldon*, **500**. *H. R. Ives*, **254**. *T. Monaghan*, **307-308**. *J. O'Flaherty*, **462**. *R. Powers*, **458**. Quebec. *G. Beaudoin*, **900-901**. *Alex. Brisette*, **831-832**. *P. Lachance*, **903**. *A. Lavoie*, **904**. Sherbrooke. *H. A. Elkins*, **1217**. Pattenmakers, *J. M. Jenks*, **1209**. United States and Montreal compared, *T. Monaghan*, **308**. *R. Powers*, **458**.

FURNITURE FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. *Owen McGarvey*, **726**. Sherbrooke. *C. Bourguinon*, **1233-1234**. *Geo. Lang*, **1207-1208**.

FURRIERS' EMPLOYEES.—Quebec. *J. H. Holt*, **835**. *J. E. Latulippe*, **931-940**. *Jos. Vermette*, **850**.

GAS AND WATER COMPANIES' EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. *J. F. Sriver*, **567**. Sherbrooke. *A. Sangster*, **1224**.

GLASS FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. *Wm. Borland*, **586-588**.

GRANITE CUTTERS.—Montreal. *R. Reid*, **442**.

GRAVING DOCK EMPLOYEES.—Quebec. *John Roach*, **1054**.

WAGES—Continued.

- HOTEL EMPLOYEES—Hull. *P. Laliberté*, **1360**.
- ICE CUTTERS.—Montreal. *Robert A. Beckett*, **671**. Quebec. *Jos. Desnoyers*, **817**.
- ICE DRIVERS.—Montreal. *Robert A. Beckett*, **671**.
- JUTE BAG FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. *J. P. Edwards*, **410**.
- KNITTING FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Sherbrooke. Granite Mills, *G. Bachaud*, **1296**. *J. Barbeau*, **1326**. *A. Blanchette*, **1294**. *M. Boas*, **1302-1306**. *Victor Bouchard*, **1280**. *Noel Boucher*, **1287-1288**. *H. Cordeau*, **1277**. *P. Desgranges*, **1282**. *H. Gagné*, **1291**. *A. Gosselin*, **1320**. *A. Lapierre*, **1297**. *A. Lavoie*, **1294**. *H. Lemoine*, **1295**. *M. Murphy*, **1322**. *André Pichette*, **1293**. *A. Pallardy*, **1285-1286**. *E. Trudeau*, **1285**.
- LABORERS.—Capelton. At the Orford Copper and Sulphur Co.'s mines, *J. Blue*, **1247**. *F. Cotton*, **1255**. At the chemical works, *E. Herbert*, **1258**. At the Albert Mines, *W. H. Nicholls*, **1263**. Hull. Who work in wood, *H. Dupuis*, **1354**. Corporation laborers, *J. O. Laferrière*, **1334**. Montreal. *T. J. Baldon*, **500-501**. Ship-laborers, *Geo. Brown*, **644-647**. Laborers who make barrels, *E. Chandier*, **596**. Builders' laborers, *L. Cousineau*, **582**. Laborers in foundries earn one-fourth the wages of good moulders, *P. Lalonde*, **312**. Who shovel coal for the C. P. R. Co., *H. Lamoureux*, **514**. Employed in marble cutting shops, *W. Saggerton*, **467**. Employed at the gas works, *J. F. Scriver*, **567**. Quebec. Builders' laborers, *A. Lortie*, **998**. *Chas. O'Leary*, **836**. *T. Pampalon*, **993**. Employed in the Drain Pipe Factory, *F. X. Dumont*, **1048**. General laborers, *J. Brisson*, **1071**. *Telesphore Fontaine*, **778**. *Jas. Jobin*, **1047**. Employed in grain store, *W. Carrier*, **1067**. *F. Kirouack*, **1003**. Employed at the "Sacred Heart" Church, *L. Roy*, **1051**. Ship-laborers, *T. Beckett*, **884**. *F. Billingsley*, **890**. *Richard Burke*, **741**. *P. Fitzgerald*, **752**. *A. L. Hearn*, **855**. *T. Leahey*, **745**. *W. M. Macpherson*, **918-920**. *A. J. Magwire*, **896**. *G. Mulrooney*, **755**. *J. Paul*, **1081**. *W. Rae*, **870-879**. *R. Stanley*, **1061-1062**. *E. H. Wade*, **1013**. St. Hyacinthe. At the dye house, Granite Mills, *P. Larivière*, **1292**. *C. Robidoux*, **1289-1290**. Sherbrooke. Builders' laborers, *G. G. Bryant*, **1241**. At the B. A. L. Co.'s saw mills, *R. W. Heneker*, **1202**. Railway laborers, *Louis Luke*, **1211**. Employed putting in gas mains, *A. Sangster*, **1225**. Employed at the car shops, *J. Seivright*, **1226**. United States and Canada compared. Ship laborers, *John Brennan*, **151**. *Geo. Brown*, **646**. *P. J. Dalton*, **184**. *T. Leahey*, **747**. *W. Rae*, **870**. *J. Lynnas*, **363**. *Thomas Greatorex*, **87**.
- LAMPLIGHTER.—Montreal, *J. T. Scriver*, **567**.
- LATHERS.—Sherbrooke, *G. G. Bryant*, **1241**. *M. Routelle*, **1207**.
- LAUNDRY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal, *T. H. Love*, **688**. *A. H. Sims*, **494**.
- LIME BURNERS.—Hull, *R. Wright*, **1346**.
- LUMBER CAMP EMPLOYEES.—*J. J. Duffy*, Sherbrooke, **1187**. *J. K. Ward*, Montreal, **290-293**.
- LUMBER MILL EMPLOYEES.—Hull. *J. Carrière*, **1357**. *D. Dupuis*, **1353-1354**. *J. H. Kerr*, **1348**. *J. Latulippe*, **1360**. *E. St. Amour*, **1338**. *J. Vincent*, **1360**. Quebec. *Simon Peters*, **843**. *John Roach*, **1054**. *W. Roy*, **1020**. Sherbrooke, *F. P. Burke*, **1197**. *R. W. Heneker*, **1201**.
- MACHINISTS.—Montreal. At Pillow, Hersey & Co.'s nail works, *T. Shelley*, **687**. *Wm. Keys*, **515**. Quebec, *J. Patton*, **828**. Sherbrooke, *J. M. Jenks*, **1208**. *F. Orton*, **1228**. *J. Seivright*, **1226**. Sorel, *J. B. Labelle*. *M. P.*, **490**.
- MALSTERS.—Quebec, *V. Boswell*, **1016**.

WAGES—Continued.

MARBLE POLISHERS AND CUTTERS.—Montreal, *E. Cline*, **470**. *John Murphy*, **472**. *R. Reid*, **440**. *W. Saggerton*, **467-468**. *E. Wells*, **471**. Quebec, *Ignace Biodeau*, **852**. United States and Canada compared, *E. Cline*, **470**.

MATCH FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Hull, *P. Casey*, **1341**. *R. Deschenes*, **1349**. *N. Drouin*, **1361**. *M. Dutoix*, **1351**. *E. Murphy*, **1364**.

MESSENGER.—For Messrs. H. & A. Allan, Montreal, *Alex. Luttrell*, **591**.

MILKMEN'S EMPLOYEES.—Quebec, *R. Bussières*, **999**.

MILLWRIGHTS.—Quebec, *John Roach*, **1054**.

MINERS.—Capelton, *G. Babb*, **1253-1255**. *J. Blue*, **1247-1250**. *J. Dinsmore*, **1222**. *F. Doré*, **1256-1257**. *E. Hébert*, **1259**. *Jos. Ledoux*, **1257**. *Jos. Nadeau*, **1261**. *W. H. Nicholls*, **1262-1264**. *T. Verville*, **1260**. *J. Wearne*, **1253-1260**. Great Britain and Capelton compared, *J. Wearne*, **1257**.

NAIL FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal, *E. Hersey*, **304**.

NIGHT WATCHMAN.—At the Government Cartridge Factory, Quebec, *Major Prevost*, **802**. At the Granite Knitting Mills, St. Hyacinthe, *P. Larivière*, **1292**.

OILCLOTH FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal, *John Baylis*, **577**.

ORGAN FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—St. Hyacinthe, *J. C. Casavant*, **1270-1271**. *A. Gosselin*, **1319**.

PAINTERS AND PAPER HANGERS.—Montreal, *C. Fryer*, **631**. Quebec, *Nap. Chamberland*, **782**. *Geo. McGee*, **1036**. Sherbrooke, *G. G. Bryant*, **1240**.

PAPER BOX AND BAG MAKERS.—Montreal, *R. Jellyman*, **409**. *J. C. Wilson*, **325**.

PAPERMAKERS.—Quebec. *J. Reid*, **1060**.

PLASTERERS.—Montreal. *V. Belanger*, **241**. *L. Cousineau*, **582**. Quebec. *Charles O'Leary*, **836**. Sherbrooke, *G. G. Bryant*, **1241**. United States and Canada compared. *V. Belanger*, **249**.

PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS.—Montreal. *R. Mitchell*, **288**.

POLICEMEN.—Hull. *J. O. Laferrrière*, **1334**. Quebec. Reduction of wages, after long service, because of incapacity and failure to make many arrests. Reasons why his salary was reduced. *J. Hallwell*, **773-775**. Policemen, rendered partially incapable after long service, have their wages reduced. *H. Morin*, **853**. Rates of Wages. *Léon P. Vohl*, **845**. Men rendered incapable through long service kept at half pay. *Léon P. Vohl*, **846**. Gifts to Policemen from Artisans. *Léon P. Vohl*, **847**. Policemen paid for Special Duty. *Léon P. Vohl*, **849**.

PRINTERS.—Montreal. *J. Beatty*, **355**. *N. Duval*, **452**. *T. J. Finn*, **322**. *E. Globensky*, **453-455**. *H. Graham*, **327**. *J. Lovell*, **328**. *C. J. McGuire*, **426**. *F. Stanley*, **330**. Quebec. *J. Carrel*, **923-926**. *J. Dussault*, **940-942**. *J. J. Foote*, **921-922**. *Geo. Gale*, **1033**. *Geo. Jackson*, **926-927**. *A. Langlois*, **956-960**. *J. P. Tardivel*, **928-929**. St. Hyacinthe. *H. Casavant*, **1330**. *G. Denis*, **1331**. Montreal and Quebec compared, *J. Dussault*, **945**. *A. Langlois*, **956**. Ottawa and Quebec compared, *Geo. Gale*, **1034**. Of Printers and other highly skilled mechanics *G. Gale*, **1035**. United States and Canada compared, *L. Z. Boudreau*, Montreal, **424**.

PULP FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Sherbrooke. *F. P. Bucke*, **1195**.

QUARRYMEN.—Hull. *R. Wright*, **1346**.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.—Brakemen on the G. T. R. better than 22 years ago, *A. Luttrell*, Montreal, **591**. Car Repairers at the Shops, Sherbrooke, *J. Seivright*, **1226**. Freight Conductor G. T. R., *E. Townsend*, Montreal, **626**. Gate-men,

WAGES—Continued.

Montreal, * * *, Gateman G. T. R., **427**. Railway employees at Sherbrooke, *J. Seivright*, **1229**.

RETENTION AND CONFISCATION.—By water works contractor, Hull, *Jos. Corneau*, **1363**. Ship laborers, Montreal, letter, *A. & H. Allan*, **735**. By E. B. Eddy Manufacturing Company, Hull, *Arthur Courville*, **1355**. Inconvenience suffered through retention of wages due workmen on Court House, Quebec, *Nap. Chamberland*, **784**. Confiscated and abandoned at mills, Hochelaga Manufacturing Company, 1887, **738**. Reasons for retention of wages at Granite Knitting Mills, St. Hyacinthe, *G. Bachand*, **1297**. Reason why Granite Knitting Company do not seek redress afforded by law when employees leave without giving proper notice instead of taking the law into their own hands by retaining wages due, *M. Boas*, **1303**. At Granite Knitting Mills, St. Hyacinthe, *H. Cordeau*, **1277**. Retention Granite Mills, *A. Lavouge*, **1294-1295**. *H. Lemoine*, **1295**. Cannot tell amount of wages confiscated by Granite Knitting Company during the past year, *M. Murphy*, **1322**. Retention after dismissal without notice, Granite Knitting Mills, *A. Blanchette*, **1284**.

Confiscation Granite Knitting Mills, St. Hyacinthe, *M. Boas*, **1306-1307**. Situation Granite Knitting Mills, *J. Barbeau*, **1326-1327**. *P. Pallardy*, **2861**. Loss of, through contractors and sub-contractors, Sherbrooke, *W. Routelle*, **1207**.

Necessity of increased wages for working classes, *W. T. Costigan*, Montreal, **732**. Working classes now and twelve years ago, *H. A. Elkins*, **1218**. Now and nineteen years ago compared, *T. Lord*, Sherbrooke, **1194**. Now and five years ago compared, *C. Robidoux*, **1290**.

The only way of increasing the wages of wage earning classes, *R. C. Fisher*, Montreal, **580**. Have not been increased in proportion to rent in Montreal during last eleven years, *Wm. Keys*, **517**. Paid general mechanics, Quebec, *Simon Peters*, **842**. Better rates in suburbs than in Montreal, *J. F. O'Rourke*, **245**. Of working classes in Toronto and Montreal compared, *A. W. Short*, **550**. Reasons for the difference in wages in Montreal and Toronto exists, *R. C. Fisher*, **580**. Of mechanics in United States and Montreal compared, *Simon Peters*, **843**. Skilled mechanics leaving Quebec for Montreal and United States, owing to low wages, *Simon Peters*, **843**.

ROOFERS AND SLATERS.—Montreal. *A. Larivière*, **676 to 678**. Quebec. *J. J. Barbeau*, **908**. *T. Lachance*, **946**. *F. F. Paradis*, **1069**.

RUBBER FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. *Wm. Gallagher*, **685**. *J. J. McGill*, **569, 570, 571**.

SADDLE AND HARNESS MAKERS.—Montreal. *E. N. Heney*, **499**. *D. Murphy*, **496-497**. *F. Pigeon*, **509**. Quebec. *J. Lessard*, **1003**. United States and Montreal compared, *F. Pigeon*, **510**.

SAILORS.—In the employ of the Quebec Steamship Co. *A. Hearn*, **855**.

SASH AND DOOR FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Hull. *H. Dupuis*, **1354**. *W. H. Garrioch*, **1354**. Quebec. *L. Boivin*, **996**. Sherbrooke. *W. Routelle*, **1267**.

SEWING MACHINE FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. — *Messenger*, Citizens' Ins. Co., Montreal, **618-619**.

SHIRT AND COLLAR FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. *A. H. Simms*, **494-495**.

SIGN-WRITERS.—Montreal. *C. Fryer*, **634**.

STEAMBOAT EMPLOYEES.—In the employ of the Quebec and Levis Ferry Co., *Jas. Patton*, **826**. In the employ of the Ontario and Richelieu Navigation Co., *J. B. Labelle, M.P.*, **486**. On tow steamers on the Ottawa, *Capt. A. Goulet*, **521**.

WAGES—Continued.

STONE MASONS AND CUTTERS.—Montreal. *L. Cousineau*, 581. *R. Reid*, 442. Quebec. *Ignace Bilodeau*, 852. *Chas. O'Leary*, 836. *T. Pampalon*, 993-994. Sherbrooke. *G. G. Bryant*, 1241.

STREET RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.—Quebec. *Samuel Moore*, Manager, 820-822.

SUGAR REFINERY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. *A. Baumgarten*, 620.

TAILORS' AND WHOLESALE CLOTHING MANUFACTURERS' EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. *Isaac Gold*, 558. *Joseph Myers*, 559. *J. J. Rosen*, 558-559. *Hollis Shorey*, 285-726. *Israel Solomon*, 560. Quebec. *Wm Lee*, 854. *David Morgan*, 767. *Z. Paquette*, 808. *G. Racine*, 1071. Sherbrooke. *N. T. Dussault*, 1220. *M. Marcotte*, 1234. Quebec compared with Montreal, *D. Morgan*, 768. *Z. Paquette*, 808.

TANNERY EMPLOYEES.—Montreal. *F. Laine*, 593. *D. Lemay*, 562. *Geo. A. Mooney*, 543. *H. Porter*, 669. Quebec. *A. Blais*, 914. *W. Boulé*, 863. *T. Darceau*, 1046. *F. Gourdeau*, 1065. *O. Imbeau*, 906-907. *A. Pion*, 975. *M. Vallières*, 1068. St. Hyacinthe. *C. Bienvenu*, 1312. *N. Bourdeau*, 1311. *S. T. Duclou*, 1312. *F. Guay*, 1312. *V. Leonard*, 1311. *Ed. F. Moseley*, 1274.

TEACHERS.—Inadequate remuneration given to teachers in our common schools. See letter from *W. T. Costigan*, Montreal, 732.

TELEPHONE OPERATORS.—Montreal. *Lillian W. Camp*, 525. *C. P. Sclater*, 404. St. Hyacinthe. *W. A. Connell*, 1273.

TOBACCO FACTORIES.—Montreal. See evidence of *Miss * * **, 680-681. *Miss * * **, 682. Children in McDonald's factory, *Florence Lacoste*, 480. *Wm. C. McDonald*, 530-531. In Ontario and Quebec compared, *Wm. C. McDonald*, 532. In McDonald's factory, *S. W. Wells*, 554. Quebec. *F. V. Dussault*, 851. Children in Le Mesurier's factory. *W. J. Le Mesurier*, 769.

WALL PAPER FACTORY.—Montreal. In *C. McArthur & Co.'s* factory, *C. McArthur*, 575.

WATERWORKS EMPLOYEES.—St. Hyacinthe. *W. A. Connell*, 1272.

WOOD WORKERS.—Sherbrooke. See evidence of *G. G. Bryant*, 1240.

WOOLEN FACTORY EMPLOYEES.—Quebec. Riverside Worsteds Co.'s Mills, *Miss * * **, 981. *Wm. H. Naylor*, 1029-1030. St. Hyacinthe. In woolen factory, *P. Pallurdy*, 1330. Sherbrooke. Female weavers, *J. Ainsworth*, 1192. Woolen factory employees, *J. Ainsworth*, 1191. Cloth cleaners, *J. Dinsmore*, 1221. Weavers, *G. Dorton*, 1233. Child labor in spinning room, *F. Lord*, 1193. *Chas. Thornton*, 1199. Statement of amount of wages paid by the Hochelaga Manufacturing Co. during 1877, 738. Amount of wages paid to employees by the Hochelaga Cotton Co. during five years, ending 31st Dec., 1887, *P. C. Shannon*, Montreal, 572. Statement of wages paid by Montreal Manufacturing Co. during the past five years, 734. Gross amount paid annually by the North American Glass Co., Montreal, *W. F. Burland*, 590. Total amount paid for wages in Hochelaga and St. Anne's Cotton Mills during the five years ending 31st Dec., 1887, *A. F. Gault*, 571. Gross yearly amount paid for wages at the Coaticooke Cotton Mills, *J. K. Ward*, 542.

WALL PAPER MANUFACTORY AND EMPLOYEES.

Montreal.—See evidence of *Colin McArthur*, 575. Canadian and American wall paper compared, *Colin McArthur*, 576. Decrease in price now and 12 years ago, *Jno. C. Wilson*, 727.

WASH ROOMS FOR FOUNDRY MEN.

Montreal.—Iron moulders, *J. O'Flaherty*, 464. *R. Powers*, 458.

WATER GAS.

Sherbrooke.—See evidence of *A. Sangster*, **1224**.

WATER PRIVILEGES.

Sherbrooke.—Held by British American Lumber Co., *R. W. Heneker*, **1203**.

WATER SUPPLY.

Hull.—Supply and rates, *J. C. Laferriere*, **1335**. *E. St. Amour*, **1339**.

Montreal.—Wholesomeness of water supply, *Dr. J. B. Edwards*, **664**. Moulding shops, *R. Powers*, **457**.

Quebec.—Boot and shoe factories, *Miss * * **, **992**. Tenement houses, *Hon. Jno. Hearne*, **796**. Bakeries, *E. Sanschagrin*, **861**.

St. Hyacinthe.—See evidence of *M. A. Connell*, **1273**. *M. Dupont*, **1319**. *Z. Gauthier*, **1317**.

Sherbrooke.—Drinking in Patton's Woolen Factory, *J. Ainsworth*, **1192**. *A. Sangster*, **1225**.

WATER RATES.

MONTREAL.—Delay in payment of. *T. D. Black*, **222**. Irregularity in assessment for and collection of. *C. Bibaud*, **731**. Various working of water rates system in Montreal. *H. R. Ives*, **263**. On workingmen's houses, generally paid by the tenant. *Fred. Judah*, **662**. On workingmen's houses. *B. Osiris*, **772-773**. Abuses in levying of. *A. W. Short*, **545**. Registration of by metre. *A. W. Short*, **548**.

QUEBEC.—Laborers pay city water tax and then have to buy water from carriers, because water system is not on their street. *S. Fontaine*, **780**. Paid by proprietors, not tenants. *J. B. Grenier*, **314**. For hackmen's horses. *J. McDonald*, **1040**.

ST. HYACINTHE.—Method of collecting. *M. A. Connell*, **1272-1273**.

SHERBROOKE.—See evidence of *A. Sangster*, **1225**.

WATERWORKS.

ST. HYACINTHE.—See evidence of *M. Alexander Connell*, **1271**.

WHEAT.

MONTREAL.—Superiority of Manitoba wheat. *Moïse Brossard*, **712**.

WOOD INSPECTION.—See INSPECTION.**WOOD MERCHANTS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES.**

QUEBEC.—See evidence of *G. P. Lawrence*, **838**.

WOOL.

QUEBEC.—Canadian. See evidence *W. H. Naylor*, **1032**. Canadian vs. Australian. *W. H. Naylor*, **1030**.

WORKINGMEN'S HOUSES.—See DWELLINGS WORKINGMEN.**WOOLLEN FACTORIES AND EMPLOYEES.**

QUEBEC.—Riverside Worsted Co. *Miss * * **, **980**. *Wm. H. Naylor*, **1029**.

ST. HYACINTHE.—In Woolen Factory. *G. C. Desaulles*, **1313**. *Philomon Pallardy*, **1330**.

SHERBROOKE.—See evidence *Job Ainsworth*, **1191**. *Jas. Dinsmore*, **1220**. *G. Dorion*, **1233**. *F. Lord*, **1193**. *Chas. Thornton*, **1198**.